



Ministry of External Affairs

Annual Report 2012-2013







Annual Report 2012-2013

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

The inside of back cover shows displays at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan

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Introduction and Synopsis

India's foreign policy, rooted in the national ethos, supports the processes of national development and transformation through the furtherance of the country's national interests. Ensuring India's security, promoting its socio-economic development, maintaining the country's strategic autonomy and working towards a more just global order, are integral to the policy. India aspires for a peaceful and secure periphery, expanding ties with its extended neighbourhood, cordial and balanced relations with major powers and mutually beneficial partnerships with developing countries. India's foreign policy also has a strong multilateral dimension with the country working closely with partners in international bodies and fora to tackle global challenges of today such as terrorism, climate change, sustainable development, energy and food security and cyber and space security. India seeks reform of international institutions to reflect the global reality of the present day world and to ensure an appropriate role for India.

India desires close and good neighbourly relations with its neighbours. Its policies are directed towards promoting peace and stability and establishing networks of interconnectivity, trade and investments so that benefits of development are shared in the neighbourhood. India's unique relations with Bhutan are underpinned by a strong commitment for Bhutan's socio-economic development. The relations were strengthened with the visit of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Her Majesty Queen Jestun Pema Wangchuck to India as the Chief Guest for the 64th Republic Day celebrations in 2013. India's enduring support to Afghanistan as it undergoes a phase of transition, and thereafter, was reflected in the launch of several initiatives during the year. The visit of President Karzai to India in November 2012 highlighted our mutual commitment to the strategic partnership. India's close relations with Bangladesh were further consolidated with the two countries working for the implementation of the understandings reached during the high-level visits in 2010 and 2011. India and Bangladesh also engaged closely to strengthen their common bonds of culture and heritage. Relations with Sri Lanka saw close interaction at the highest political level. India's developmental projects in Sri Lanka including those for internally displaced persons saw good progress. India continued to extend support to Nepal's

transition process as the country works for democracy and stability. High level political interaction was maintained with the visit of President Dr Ram Baran Yadav to India in December 2012. India's relations with Myanmar were taken forward with the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Myanmar in May 2012. India and Maldives remained engaged, with President Waheed and leaders of major political parties visiting India during the year. Relations with Pakistan witnessed some progress in the areas of trade and a liberalised visa regime and maintenance of dialogue, but the incident on the LoC in January 2013 cast a shadow on the process. Pakistan has to fulfil its stated commitment to stop all forms of terrorism emanating from its soil, and bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice. India continued its proactive approach at SAARC, which it believes could be an effective instrument of regional development and cooperation.

Relations with China progressed well during the year with interactions at the leadership level on the sidelines of multi-lateral events. The meetings of the bilateral dialogue mechanism in the areas of counter-terrorism, trans-border rivers, policy planning and economy were held. Defence exchanges were strengthened with the visit of China's Defence Minister General Liang Guanglie to India in September 2012. Both countries remained committed to resolving the boundary question through peaceful negotiations, in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner, as a strategic objective.

India continued to expand and deepen its relations with its extended neighbourhood - East and South East Asia, Gulf and the Central Asia. The year marked the 20th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership and the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-India Summit-level interactions. India hosted the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 20-21 December 2012 during which ASEAN-India relations were raised to the level of a Strategic Partnership. Economic relations received an impetus with the conclusion of negotiations on ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investment. Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari visited Vietnam in January 2013. India participated in the ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 19-20 November 2012.

India-Japan relations moved on an upward trajectory. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda in November 2012 in Phnom Penh on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. New dialogues were launched including on cross-cutting economic issues led at the level of Foreign Ministers and on maritime affairs and cyber security. India and Japan signed agreements in the areas of social security and rare earths industry. India continued to be the largest recipient of Japanese overseas development assistance.

India consolidated its relations with Australia with the visit of Prime Minister Julia Gillard to India in October 2012. Australia's decision on uranium sales to India has been welcomed and the two countries have agreed to commence negotiations on a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement.

India announced in June 2012 a new Connect Central Asia policy to strengthen relations with Central Asia. The elements of the policy include exchange of high-level visits, strengthening of strategic and security cooperation, stepping up multilateral engagements, improving land and air connectivity and people to people contacts. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon visited India in September 2012.

India monitored closely the developments in Gulf and other parts of the Middle East. The Gulf region is home to about 6.5 million Indians. India, therefore, naturally desires peace and stability in the region. India's engagement with the region was strengthened with the visits of Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of Bahrain Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa to India in April and May 2012, respectively.

India-US relations strengthened during the year. The 3rd round of Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Secretary of State Ms Hillary Clinton, was held in Washington DC in June 2012. The two countries agreed to expand their strategic and political consultations. It was decided to launch a tri-lateral dialogue with Afghanistan. Dialogues were held in a range of areas including counter-terrorism, cyber security, defence cooperation, trade and investment, energy, civil nuclear energy, agriculture, education, science & technology, health and women's empowerment. The US remained India's largest trading partner with over US\$ 100 billion trade in goods and services.

Relations with Russia are a priority in India's foreign policy. The relationship maintained momentum with annual Summit-level meetings. President Putin visited India in December 2012. The annual meetings of the Inter Governmental Commissions on Military Technical Cooperation

and on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation were held in New Delhi in October 2012. The two countries continued their engagement to deepen relations in defence, counter-terrorism, science & technology, space, civil nuclear energy and hydrocarbons.

India values its relations with the European Union which remains one of India's major trading partners. The relations have gradually diversified into political and security areas particularly since the Lisbon Treaty of 2010. Negotiations to conclude India-EU Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) continued during the year. High-level contacts were maintained with European countries. The visit of King Juan Carlos-I of Spain to India in October 2012 imparted fresh momentum to the relationship.

India's relations with Canada were imparted momentum with the visit of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India in November 2012, during which it was decided to establish an annual Strategic Dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers, a ministerial level Energy Dialogue and a Security Dialogue. The two countries also decided to work out an appropriate arrangement to operationalise the agreement on peaceful use of nuclear energy.

India's relations with Africa are underpinned by historic ties and more recent developmental cooperation. These were strengthened through exchange of high-level visits and enhanced engagement under the India-Africa Forum Summits. The then President Pratibha Devisingh Patil visited Seychelles (29 April-1 May 2012) and South Africa (1-7 May 2012). President of Mauritius Rajkeswur Purryag and President of Burundi Pierre Nkurunziza visited India in January 2013 and September 2012, respectively. India continued its focus on human resources development and establishing institutes of capacity building in Africa.

India's relations with the Caribbean and Latin America were institutionalized with the holding of the 1st India-CELAC Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi in August 2012.

Development Cooperation is an important component of India's Foreign Policy. Major development projects are under implementation in India's neighbouring countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka) in areas ranging from infrastructure and hydro-electricity to agriculture and industry to education and health. An important component of India's development assistance is extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) to developing countries. During the year LoCs of about US\$ 200 million were allocated to countries in Africa and Latin America and US\$ 500 million to Myanmar. India continued assisting other developing

countries in capacity building through training and scholarship programmes.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh participated in the G-20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico in June 2012 where India announced a contribution of US\$ 10 billion to the additional firewall of IMF. The 4th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi in March 2012. India chaired the 12th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in Gurgaon in November 2012. The 6th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial meeting was held in September 2012 in New Delhi during which India announced annual commitment of US\$ 1 million towards India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam) Quick Impact Projects Revolving Fund. India also participated in other international fora such as the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the XVI NAM Summit in Tehran in August 2012. Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamallesh Sharma undertook an official visit to India in February 2013.

India played a constructive role as a member of the UN Security Council in 2012 and contributed inter alia to debates on Syria, Sudan-South Sudan, Somalia, Palestine and issues like international terrorism, piracy and peacekeeping. India took balanced positions in the Council on issues of international peace and security, based on fundamental principles of India's foreign policy including respect for state sovereignty, peaceful settlement of disputes, the use of force as a last resort, and opposition to all attempts to reorder societies from outside with military force. India also chaired the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea, in addition to the Council's Working Group concerning threats to international peace and security by terrorist acts. India co-sponsored and supported the UN General Assembly Resolution, which was adopted in November 2012, to upgrade Palestine's status in the UN to a Non-member observer State. President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas visited India in September 2012. Reform and restructuring of the global institutions, including the United Nations, remained an important priority for India.

Neighbours

Afghanistan: 2012-13 was an active year in India-Afghanistan relations, reflected in the State Visit of President Hamid Karzai to India in November 2012 and other high-level exchanges. The first meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council was held on 1 May 2012. India hosted the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan on 28 June 2012. India also actively participated

in the major international conferences on Afghanistan. India's assistance programmes in Afghanistan, amounting to around US\$ 2 billion, including major projects such as the Salma Dam, the construction of a Parliament building etc., and small development projects were appreciated by the Government and people of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh: Pursuant to the visits of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010 and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in September 2011, the focus of bilateral cooperation in 2012-13 was on the implementation of the Agreements, Protocols and MoUs signed between the two countries as well as the initiatives agreed upon in the 2010 Joint Communiqué and in the 2011 Joint Statement.

India-Bangladesh multifaceted cooperation was taken forward through exchange of high level visits and holding of meetings of various institutional mechanisms.

Building upon the bonds of common cultural heritage, the two countries commenced the Joint Celebrations of the 90th Anniversary of the publication of *Bidrohi* by Kazi Nazrul Islam and successfully concluded the year-long Joint Celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore.

Bhutan: India-Bhutan special, close and friendly relations were further strengthened by the State Visit of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Jestun Pema Wangchuk as the Chief Guest for the 64th Republic Day celebrations. Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuk visited India in January 2013 and inaugurated the exhibition "Textile Arts from the Land of Peaceful Dragon" in Delhi. Prime Minister of Bhutan Jigmi Y. Thinley visited India in September and External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Bhutan in January 2013.

India remained the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. Both countries continued to work together closely on developmental cooperation in key socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, ICT, health, education, capacity building, energy, culture and infrastructure, as well as, execution of the three hydro-electric projects, namely, Punatsangchhu-I & II and Mangdechhu with total installed capacity of about 3000 MW.

China: India continued to pursue its policy of developing friendly and cooperative relations with China in the framework of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership established in 2005. The "Shared Vision for the 21st Century", adopted by the two countries, reflects their congruence of interests on regional and international issues, and their willingness to work together in those areas.

Bilateral relations witnessed all round progress in 2012-13, which was designated as "Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation". President Hu Jintao visited India for the BRICS Summit in March 2012. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met President Hu Jintao in Los Cabos, Mexico on 18 June 2012 on the sidelines of G-20 Summit and met Premier Wen Jiabao at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on the sidelines of Rio+20 Summit on 21 June 2012 and subsequently in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on the sidelines of 7th East Asia Summit on 19 November 2012. Foreign Ministers of the two countries met four times during the year.

As part of the bilateral dialogue mechanism, the following meetings were held: 6th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism; 6th meeting of Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers; 5th meeting of Policy Planning Dialogue; 9th meeting of the Joint Economic Group; and 2nd meeting of Strategic Economic Dialogue.

Confidence and trust building measures between the two armed forces were undertaken during the year. Defence Minister of China paid an official visit to India from 2-6 September 2012. The 5th Annual Defence Dialogue was held on 14 January 2013 in Beijing.

India and China are committed to resolving the boundary question through peaceful negotiations, in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner, as a strategic objective. The Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, which was established during the 15th round of Special Representatives (SRs) talks on the Boundary Question in January 2012, met twice during the year on 5-6 March 2012 in Beijing and on 29-30 November 2012 in New Delhi. India's Special Representative and National Security Advisor visited China on 3-4 December 2012 for an informal round of discussion with his Chinese counterpart.

Maldives: India and the Maldives remained engaged to further strengthen their bilateral relations. President Dr Mohamed Waheed paid an official visit to India in May 2012. Government facilitated, as part of its outreach to the multiparty democratic polity in Maldives, visits to India of leader of the Maldives Democratic Party Mr Mohamed Nasheed, leader of the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party Mr Ahmed Thasmeen Ali, and former President and leader of Progressive Party of Maldives Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Myanmar: The multifaceted relations between India and Myanmar, based on strong bonds of shared historic and commonalities of culture, religion and spirituality, gathered further momentum during 2012-13 with new initiatives and agreements. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh paid a State

visit to Myanmar in May 2012 which was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 25 years. This was followed by a bilateral visit by the Minister of External Affairs to Myanmar in December 2012 and that of the President of Myanmar to India in the same month for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited India in November 2012 to deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture in New Delhi.

Nepal: India and Nepal share a special and unique relationship, rooted in shared culture with extensive people-to-people ties across an open border. India continued to work closely with Nepal to further strengthen bilateral relations. President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav paid an official visit to India from 24-29 December 2012.

Meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms which took place during the year included the 9th Meeting of the India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues, the 8th Director General Level Talks on Refund of Indian Excise Duty to Nepal, the 12th Meeting of the Joint Team of Experts on Saptakosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi Storage-Cum-Diversion Scheme, the 1st delegation level talks between Shasasthra Seema Bal of India and the Armed Police Force of Nepal, 10th meeting of India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management and the 7th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources.

India continued its cooperation with Nepal for latter's socio-economic development in various sectors including through small development projects, capacity building and human resource enhancement, as well as, undertook projects including construction of roads, Integrated Check Posts and cross-border railway links. India remained Nepal's largest trade partner and largest source of foreign investment and tourists.

Pakistan: Government's engagement with Pakistan continued on the premise that a democratic Pakistan at peace with itself offers India the best opportunity to build peaceful and cooperative relations. Maintaining the sanctity of the Line of Control remains, however, one of the most important Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between the two countries. The year saw modest successes in Government's efforts with Pakistan in the areas of trade normalization and liberalization of the visa regime. Relations, however, can only grow in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The elimination of the terror infrastructure in territories under Pakistan's control, therefore, is important for the region and the world at large. India remained committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral dialogue. Government looked forward to building upon the progress

made so far, mindful of the need for Pakistan to take credible action against terrorist groups and the related infrastructure on its soil, and its scrupulous implementation of CBMs agreed upon by both countries. Incidents like the brutal attack on Indian soldiers which occurred on 8 January 2013 along the LoC pose a challenge to these efforts.

Sri Lanka: The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is built upon a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic exchanges. President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka paid an official visit to India in September 2012. During the year there were other close contacts at high political levels, and relations were marked by constructive dialogue, growing trade and investment, cooperation in the fields of infrastructure development, education, culture and defence as well as a broad mutual understanding on major issues of international interest. The extensive Indian development assistance programme has contributed to the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons and reconstruction of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. During the year the large scale assistance programme for housing in the Northern and Eastern Province was launched on 2 October 2012.

South East Asia and Pacific

India's relations with the countries in South East Asia and Pacific regions have witnessed a significant transformation in recent years. The expansion and deepening of our Look East Policy, the steady trend of economic growth and stability in the region and the continuing geopolitical shift towards Asia have imparted new momentum to our engagement, both bilaterally with individual countries as well as regionally. India's relations with the countries are characterized by mutual goodwill and a strong desire to strengthen cooperation; they are multifaceted and forward-looking; and they have acquired a strategic dimension with five of the countries (Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam) and with ASEAN.

The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit was held in New Delhi on 20-21 December, 2012. The Vision Document that was adopted proclaimed a Strategic Partnership and underlined the importance of regional integration and connectivity. The Commemorative Summit was attended by the Sultan of Brunei, Presidents of Indonesia and Myanmar, Vice President of the Philippines and PMs of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The year witnessed the incoming bilateral visits of the Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong (July 2012) and Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard (October 2012) and private visits by President of Fiji (August 2012) and Prime Minister of Fiji Commodore Josia Voreque Bainimarama (April and

September 2012). Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari visited Vietnam (January 2013) and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh attended the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit, at Phnom Penh (November 2012). Speaker Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar's visit to New Zealand and Tonga and visits of parliamentary delegations from Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and ASEAN strengthened parliamentary exchanges, during the year.

Relations in the fields of security and defence have strengthened through regular exchanges and dialogues and concrete cooperation. There is closer cooperation in counter terrorism, law enforcement issues, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) besides formal arrangements on defence cooperation with key partners.

Economic relations with South East Asian countries have emerged as a major pillar of the relationship. With the implementation of India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods, trade with ASEAN has grown by 37% to a level of almost \$80 billion, in 2011-12. The agreement to conclude India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investments and future engagement in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership demonstrates the commitment of all partners to provide further impetus to economic cooperation and regional integration. Bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements are under negotiation with Thailand and Indonesia and Free Trade Agreements with Australia and New Zealand. India's economic interaction with the region has become important for the country's development priority as South East Asia countries have emerged as major trade and investment partners; Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are key players in infrastructure development; and Australia and Indonesia are long-term sources of resources and energy security.

India expanded its engagement with Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) through dialogue on issues of common interest and assistance for projects, in accordance with their development priorities. New projects were taken up on road connectivity and establishment of institutions for entrepreneurship development, ICT and English language. India continued to extend assistance in the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites such as Siem Reap, Wat Phu and My Son.

India and Vietnam commemorated the year 2012 as the Friendship Year to mark the 40th Anniversary of full diplomatic relations and the 5th anniversary of our strategic partnership. India also expanded its cooperation with CLMV within the Mekong Ganga Cooperation framework.

The relations between India and the Pacific island nations were strengthened through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and regular interactions with partners at the Post Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting, held in Cook Island, in 2012. India extended diplomatic recognition to Niue. Cooperation activities with the countries of the Pacific Island were stepped up through new initiatives in small development projects, institutional assistance and training programmes.

East Asia

Japan: A steady upward curve was maintained in our relations with Japan during the year which marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda on 18 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.

A new dialogue to discuss cross-cutting economic issues was launched in April 2012, which was co-chaired at the level of Foreign Ministers. The 6th meeting of the Strategic Dialogue between the two Foreign Ministers was also held in April 2012. Two new dialogues at the working level were announced during the meeting; a Maritime Affairs Dialogue, the 1st meeting of which was held in January 2013 in New Delhi, and a Dialogue on Cyber Security, the 1st meeting of which was held in Tokyo on 5 November 2012. The 2nd and 3rd meetings of the trilateral dialogue with Japan and the United States at senior officials' level were held in April 2012 in Tokyo and in October 2012 in New Delhi respectively.

India and Japan signed a Social Security Agreement and a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Rare Earths Industry in Tokyo in November 2012. A bilateral swap arrangement was signed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Japan in December 2012 in Mumbai.

Bilateral trade reached US\$16 billion between January-November 2012. India continued to be the largest recipient of Japanese Overseas Development Assistance for the 9th consecutive year. This is being used mainly in infrastructure projects in various parts of India, including the Dedicated Freight Corridor - West, and metro rail projects in Delhi and Chennai. Flagship projects like the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project witnessed steady progress during the year. Preliminary study is being conducted for the development of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor with Japanese technical assistance.

Republic of Korea (RoK): India and the Republic of Korea share a strategic partnership, established in January 2010. The momentum generated in bilateral relations in 2011 with the

State visit of the President of India was further built upon in 2012-13 with the visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Seoul in March 2012. The Joint Statement outlined a roadmap for future cooperation.

High level exchanges in 2012 included the visit by Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram in November 2012, visits of RoK Minister of Defence in November 2012, RoK Minister of Education, Science & Technology and RoK Minister of Culture, both in December 2012.

Trade and Investments constitute the bedrock of India's engagement with the Republic of Korea and continued to be the driver of the relationship. During the visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the bilateral trade target was raised to US\$ 40 billion by 2015.

Mongolia: Relations with Mongolia developed under the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries. There was progress in defence and strategic ties. The Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation was held during the year. India and Mongolia participated in the annual bilateral military exercise. Cooperation in civil nuclear energy progressed with the Working Group meeting in December 2012. India continued to expand its economic and trade ties with Mongolia.

Eurasia

Russia: India and Russia completed 65 years of diplomatic relations in 2012. The two countries continued their engagement to deepen relations in sectors like defence, counter-terrorism, science & technology, space, civil nuclear energy and hydrocarbons. Trade levels in 2012 grew by more than 30%. Russia is a key priority in India's foreign policy. High-level political exchanges continued as is customary between the two countries which share a privileged and strategic relationship. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh during his visit to New Delhi for the 4th BRICS Summit in March 2012. President Putin visited India on 24 December 2012 for the 13th Annual Summit.

The annual meetings of the Inter Governmental Commissions on Military Technical Cooperation and on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation were held in New Delhi in October 2012. Foreign Office Consultations were held on various issues, including non-proliferation, situation in Central Asia, and South West Asia. The two countries took important initiatives in order to reach the target of US\$ 20 billion in bilateral trade by 2015.

Belarus: Relations with Belarus continued to be warm and friendly. Belarus was the partner country in the India International Trade Fair. Prime Minister Mr Mikhail V

Myasnikovich visited India on 13-14 November 2012 at the head of a large business delegation. Trade continued to show an upward movement. The year saw development of cooperation in defence related research and development.

Ukraine: Bilateral relations with Ukraine intensified with the visit of Ukrainian President Mr Viktor Yanukovich from 9-12 December 2012. Cooperation intensified in sectors including defence, civil nuclear energy, space technology, fertilizers, agriculture and mining. The 4th Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) meeting was held in Ukraine. The year marked the 20th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. A short term ICCR Chair on Indian Studies was established in an University in Kyiv. Bilateral trade registered a 48.26% increase over the previous year.

Central Asia

India shares cultural, historical, spiritual and trade links with the region, and the fabled Silk Route wound its way across the continent. India sees Central Asia as a part of its extended neighbourhood. India sought to strengthen its ties with the countries of the region - Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. In June 2012, a new "Connect Central Asia" policy was announced by India at the first ever India-Central Asia Dialogue in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The elements of the policy include exchange of high-level visits, strengthening of strategic and security cooperation, stepping up multilateral engagement through e-networking, improving land and air connectivity and people to people contacts.

Energy is an important focus of India's policy in the region. Progress was made in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project which when completed would link Central Asia and South Asia in the energy sector.

President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon visited India from 1-4 September 2012, when a strategic partnership was announced. India has strategic partnerships with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Overall trade with the region showed an increase from US\$ 500 million in 2010 to more than US\$ 670 million in 2012. Air connectivity is expected to improve with India's Civil Aviation Ministry granting 14 flights a week to each of the five countries in the region. Presently Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are operating flights to India.

Caucasus

Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia share historical ties with India. Bilateral relations continued to consolidate and strengthen. Economic engagement with the region was enhanced.

Cooperation with Armenia in capacity building was strengthened. Hindi is being taught in the Yerevan State Linguistic University under an ICCR sponsored program.

Steps were taken to ensure the welfare of Indian businessmen and student community in Georgia which has grown significantly.

The 2nd meeting of the India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission was held in Baku on 16 April 2012. A Protocol and an Air Services Agreement were signed and expansion of trade and economic relations were discussed. An ICCR Hindi Chair is imparting Hindi language education in the University of Languages in Baku.

The Gulf and West Asia

India's close engagement with the countries of the Gulf region, gained accelerated momentum during the year. Bilateral trade reached US\$ 167 billion in 2011-12 up from about US \$ 130 billion in 2010-11 making the Gulf region our largest trading partner in the world. About 60% of India's oil and gas needs were met by the Gulf region during 2011-12, up from 50% in 2010-11, playing a significant role in India's energy security. There are now about 6.4 million Indian expatriates in the Gulf region. India has a vital stake in the peace, stability, progress and prosperity of the countries in the Gulf.

India's policy on the internal developments in some Arab countries has been guided by our long standing ties with the region, our commitment to democracy, free expression, human rights and the rule of law, and also our policy not to interfere in the internal affairs of States.

India is engaged with the governments in transition of Egypt, Tunisia and Libya and has conveyed its readiness to extend all possible cooperation. On Syria, India has strongly condemned all violence and violations of human rights. India supports the 6-point plan of the former Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan for Syria and the Geneva communiqué for resolution of the Syrian crisis.

Africa

The historic and civilisational relations India enjoys with Africa were further strengthened during 2012-13 through exchange of visits including those of President of Burundi Pierre Nkurunziza (in September 2012) and President of Mauritius Rajkeswur Purryag (in January 2013) to India. The then President Pratibha Devisingh Patil visited Seychelles from 29 April-1 May 2012 and South Africa from 1-7 May 2012, respectively. India-Africa partnership was further consolidated through implementation of India Africa Forum Summits

decisions in the areas of cooperation programmes, capacity building, human resource development initiatives, extension of concessional lines of credit, and promotion of India-Africa trade and investment.

India's association with the West African region is marked by consultation, undertaking and mutual appreciation of each others' capabilities. Similar historical experiences have engendered a common world view. India's engagement with countries in West Africa continued to grow in 2012-13. India's trade with the region is now in excess of US\$ 25 billion.

Europe

West Europe

India's relationship with countries of Western Europe continued to deepen and strengthen during the year. India shares common values of democracy, rule of law, civil liberties with countries of this region. The depth of India's relationship can be seen from frequent high-level exchanges between Governments at the federal and the state level, besides high-level parliamentary exchanges. There is a growing recognition in West Europe about the strength of Indian economy and increasing interest in investing in India. Despite the sovereign debt crisis in the region, the European Union remains one of India's largest trading partners. Efforts to strengthen commercial and economic ties with the region have continued at the meetings of Joint Economic Commissions and exchanges of business delegations. High level official exchanges continued through Foreign Office Consultations and other dialogue mechanisms. Regular interaction at the Foreign Minister level with key West European countries continued to impart depth to our relations with the region. Indian Missions in the countries of the region organized a number of activities to project the richness and diversity of Indian culture. In particular, 'Days of India' in Germany was organized by ICCR under the rubric of the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. King Juan Carlos-I of Spain was on a State visit to India on 26 October 2012. This visit imparted a new maturity and momentum to the relations between the two countries. Incoming visits of Head of State / Government from France and the United Kingdom are scheduled for February 2013.

Central Europe

The process of deepening and diversifying of India's relations with countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Nordic and Baltic countries continued. There exists good mutual understanding on political issues - bilateral and multilateral. India's recognition as one of the world's fastest growing

economies offering manifold opportunities for trade and investment saw the sustained focus by these countries on the economic dimension of bilateral relations. Overall, India continued its policy of broad-based engagement with the region through regular political, cultural and scientific exchanges while strengthening economic cooperation. The period also witnessed the first ever ministerial visits from India to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Macedonia in July 2012.

The Americas

United States of America: India and the United States continued to deepen their bilateral engagement in 2012, with a growing convergence of views on bilateral, regional and global issues. The year saw an intensification of political and strategic consultations, greater trade and investment, and growing cooperation in a wide range of areas.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met thrice in 2012. They co-chaired the third India-US Strategic Dialogue on 13 June 2012 in Washington DC which was preceded by the visit of Secretary Clinton to India in May 2012. The 13th JWG on Counter-Terrorism was held in Washington in June 2012. The two countries launched several new initiatives - India-US Higher Education Dialogue (Washington in June 2012); and dialogues on Afghanistan, global energy trends, and projects of energy cooperation, Internet Governance and low carbon growth. A new Strategic Cyber Dialogue was held in July 2012. The bilateral Political-Military Dialogue was resumed and discussions were initiated on a new phase of joint collaboration in defence production and development.

The year witnessed the launch of a US\$ 2 billion Infrastructure Debt Fund with the participation of Indian and US financial institutions, a new US\$ 20 million 5-year clean energy programme and the signing of a MoU to operationalize the bilateral Civil Nuclear Agreement of 2008.

A "Vivekananda Chair" was established at the University of Chicago and the first eight grants under the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative as well as the first consortia awardees under the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre were announced along with several new collaboration initiatives in the area of science and technology.

The United States continued to be India's largest trade partner with more than US\$ 100 billion of trade in goods and services in 2011, demonstrating continued double-digit growth.

Canada: India-Canada relations saw intensification during the year, with the State visit of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India in November 2012. Both countries committed

to upgrade the Strategic Dialogue and the Energy Dialogue, while enhancing the institutional framework for collaboration between the private sectors of the two countries.

India and Canada identified priority areas of mutual interest for enhancing cooperation such as counter-terrorism, energy, agriculture, higher education, advanced technology, mining and infrastructure development. Negotiations on an appropriate arrangement were concluded for commercial cooperation under the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed in 2010.

Bilateral agreements were signed during the year in areas such as social security, Information and Communications Technology, defence research and road transportation.

Both countries demonstrated their commitment to deepen trade and investment ties through continued progress in the negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

Latin America and Caribbean

India's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean region grew in the last year with exchange of high level visits and enhanced interactions at all levels. India nurtures strong historical and cultural linkages with the Caribbean region which is home to a large Indian Diaspora. During the year there were important visits from the region including those by President of Brazil Ms Dilma Rousseff in March 2012, President of Paraguay Fernando Armino Lugo Mendez in May 2012, Prime Minister of Guyana Samuel Hinds and Vice President of Costa Rica Luis Liberman Ginsberg, both in October 2012. In a significant development, India's relations with the region have been institutionalized with the holding of 1st India-CELAC Foreign Ministerial Meeting in troika format in New Delhi in August 2012.

Bilateral trade with Latin American region in 2012 is expected to cross US\$ 30 billion and our cumulative investments in the region are estimated to be over US\$ 16 billion. The region is important from the point of view of India's energy security, food security and is an important source of raw materials for our growing industry. India also assists several developing countries of the region through the ITEC programme and IT Centres as part of our commitment to South-South cooperation.

United Nations and International Organisations

The year 2012 was a period of intense diplomatic activity and significant achievement for India at the United Nations, in

large measure due to India's membership of the UN Security Council during 2011-2012. The Security Council saw considerably increased activity, especially on account of significant geo-political developments in the Middle East and North African region, as well as the continuing crisis in the global economy. As a member of the Council, India played a constructive and positive role and was able to shape the nature of critically important and evolving debates on Syria, Sudan-South Sudan, Somalia, Palestine and issues like international terrorism, piracy and peacekeeping. Indian delegations took balanced positions in the Council on issues of international peace and security, based on fundamental principles of India's foreign policy, such as respect for state sovereignty, peaceful settlement of disputes, the use of force as a last resort, and opposition to all attempts to reorder societies from outside with military force.

During its term on the Security Council, India chaired the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea, in addition to the Council's Working Group concerning threats to international peace and security by terrorist acts. As the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, India was able to impart a renewed momentum to global counter-terrorism efforts. Building on its efforts to introduce 'zero' tolerance for terrorism in the United Nations, India organized a special meeting of the Security Council on suppression of terrorist financing during its second Presidency of the Council in November 2012. India also organized an open debate of the Council on maritime piracy in November 2012 which resulted in the adoption of a Presidential Statement that stressed the need for a comprehensive response to suppress piracy and called for all States to cooperate to secure an early release of hostages including through sharing of information and intelligence. As one of the largest and most consistent contributors to UN peacekeeping operations, India also lent its support to the demand for greater involvement of troop-contributing countries in the decision-making process for preparing mandates for UN Peacekeeping Missions. India's role in the Council during 2012 reaffirmed its growing importance in global governance both in economic and security terms and bolstered its reputation as a champion of the values and principles espoused in the UN Charter.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation at the General Debate of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York from 27 September - 2 October 2012. In the UN General Assembly, India co-sponsored and supported the historic Resolution adopted in November 2012 to upgrade Palestine's status in the United Nations to a Non-Member Observer State. India also continued

its efforts for an early reform and expansion of the Security Council in collaboration with like-minded countries in the G-4 and L-69 groups. UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon undertook an official visit to India from 27 - 29 April 2012.

India also played a leading role in other international fora such as the Non- Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the XVI NAM Summit held in Tehran in August 2012. The Commonwealth Secretary General, Shri Kamalesh Sharma undertook an official visit to India in February 2013. India chaired the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia from September - December 2012, including the plenary session of the Contact Group held in New York on 11 December 2012, which adopted a communiqué highlighting, inter alia, the need for more measures to be taken for the welfare of hostages held by the pirates. India also took an active part in the activities of the Community of Democracies, the Bali Democracy Forum, and made voluntary contributions to the UN Democracy Fund and the UN Department for Political Affairs dealing with conflict resolution and related issues.

The year 2012 was significant in terms of consolidation of India's presence in the UN system. Dr Justice Dalveer Bhandari was elected to the International Court of Justice in April 2012 by an overwhelming majority. Dr S. Rajan, India's nominee to the Committee on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) was also re-elected in June 2012. India was elected to the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat, the Commission on Sustainable Development and International Sea-Bed Authority (ISBA). India's nominee to the International Sericulture Commission (ISC) Ms. Ishita Roy was elected as its Secretary General in June 2012. India was re-elected to the Councils of Universal Postal Union i.e Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council in October 2012. At present India is represented at all the major UN bodies - UN Security Council, Human Rights Council (HRC), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

India's National report for the second Universal Periodic review was held on 24 May 2012 in Geneva at the UN Human Rights Council Working Group. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Goolam E. Vahanvati, Attorney-General of India. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited India on 19-20 December 2012 for the Fourth Annual Open-Ended Bilateral Consultations between India and UNHCR.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) was signed between UNESCO and India in Paris on 10 July 2012 and the MGIEP, the first Category

I UNESCO Institute in the Asia Pacific region, was inaugurated in November 2012. Director General UNESCO Irina Bokova visited India from 9-13 November 2012.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro from 20-22 June 2012. The Conference decided to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India hosted the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held from 8-19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, following the sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 6).

The 7th meeting of the Women Speakers of Parliament was jointly organized by the IPU and the Parliament of India in New Delhi on October 3-4, 2012.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

India continued its pro-active approach to catalyse regional engagement among the SAARC countries in 2012-13. It focussed on themes that are germane to the vision that inspired SAARC, namely, connectivity, trade, economic cooperation, agriculture, social development, environment and security. The new Secretary General of SAARC Ambassador Ahmed Saleem called on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and met Foreign Secretary in April 2012. India participated in the Ministerial meetings in the fields of health and home affairs; Speaker of Lok Sabha participated in the 6th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians in November 2012 in Islamabad. India hosted the SAARC Cultural Festival comprising of South Asian Band Festival, Exhibition of Paintings by SAARC Artistes and would host SAARC Festival of Literature in March 2013. Apart from organising many training programmes in the fields of agriculture, environment, health, security, science & technology, election management and anti-trafficking. India also continues to drive major projects within SAARC such as South Asian University, SAARC Development Fund, SAARC Food Bank and other projects relating to social-economic development. India remains steadfast in its support to SAARC and its related processes. It continues to stimulate the implementation of several regional and sub-regional projects focussed on grassroots development.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India continued to pursue its policies on disarmament and non-proliferation, especially the priority issue of nuclear

disarmament, in various related forums including at the bilateral level and took forward its dialogue with the multilateral export control regimes. India participated in the Diplomatic Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). India also participated actively in the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The Ministry executed its responsibilities in the implementation of India's export control laws and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Act of 2005. India hosted a "1540 Workshop on Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security". A National Outreach Conference on Global Nuclear Disarmament was organised by Indian Council of World Affairs.

Multilateral Economic Relations

The 4th BRICS Summit was hosted by India in March 2012. The Summit underscored the collective will and capacities of the BRICS countries to contribute constructively to the global efforts in addressing contemporary challenges.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the G-20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico in June 2012. Announcement of India's contribution of US \$ 10 billion to the additional firewall of the IMF was well received.

The 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in Gurgaon in November 2012 manifested the growing salience of this apex organization in the Indian Ocean region under India's Chairmanship. The Union of Comoros joined IOR-ARC as a full member and USA became a Dialogue Partner of the Association.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the 11th Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China in Moscow in April 2012. BRICS and G-15 Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2012. India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed at the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in February 2012.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The commemoration of India's 20 years of Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN and 10 years of summit level interaction was held in New Delhi on 21-22 December 2012 in a Commemorative Summit, which witnessed the upgradation of the relationship to a Strategic Partnership. Negotiations were concluded on the ASEAN-India FTA in Services and Investment. Trade volumes registered 37% increase to reach

US\$ 79.3 billion, crossing the target of USD 70 billion by 2012. The 10th ASEAN-India Summit at Phnom Penh on 19 November 2012, Foreign Ministerial level Meeting on 11 July 2012 at Phnom Penh and related Senior Officials Meetings were held during the year. Ministerial level consultations continued in tourism, agriculture and trade and new Ministerial level dialogues were initiated in environment and renewable energy and official level dialogues on transport connectivity and the SME sector. The first ever meeting of the Heads of Space Agencies, workshops on climate change, mitigation and adaptation technologies in agriculture and renewable energy were held. The priority on people-to-people linkages continued, with the institutionalization of the media exchange programme, an enhanced students exchange programme, the annual diplomats training programme and the initiation of a farmers exchange programme. People across ASEAN countries and India participated in the two flagship events in the run up to the Commemorative Summit - the 2nd ASEAN-India Car Rally and the Shipping Expedition to ASEAN countries by INS Sudarshini as also the related "Markers" in term of business events, tourism road shows and cultural performances. Track one and a half interaction continued through Delhi Dialogue IV and V and the first meeting of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks.

The 6th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held on 4 September 2012 in New Delhi. India announced a commitment of US\$ 1 million annually for the India CLMV Quick Impact Projects Revolving Fund. Forward movement was registered towards the establishment of the BIMSTEC permanent Secretariat in Dhaka.

India participated in the 7th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Phnom Penh on 20 November 2012 preceded by the 2nd EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related Senior Officials' Meeting on 12 July 2012. India hosted an EAS - India Workshop 2012 on Building Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management on November 8-9, 2012. India also participated in the 1st EAS Education Ministers' Meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on July 5, 2012, the 6th EAS Energy Ministers Meeting at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 13 September 2012 and the Informal Meeting of the EAS Finance Ministers in Tokyo, Japan on 13 October 2012.

India hosted the 29th Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Board of Governors' Meeting in New Delhi from 11-13 October 2012 and participated in the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 5-6 November 2012 and related SOM meetings through the year, as also the 5th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 18-19 September 2012 and the 10th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-15 October 2012.

Development Cooperation

Development Cooperation occupies an important place in India's foreign policy. India's development programmes abroad have expanded considerably in recent years, both in geographical spread and sectoral coverage. They encompass Lines of Credit, grant assistance, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes, including short-term civilian and military training courses.

In January 2012, the Ministry of External Affairs took the important initiative of setting up a Development Partnership Administration (DPA) for ensuring efficient execution of India's development projects through the stages of concept, launch, implementation and commissioning.

Major developmental projects are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka - in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and other sectors identified by the host government as priority areas for its development. Initiatives to strengthen cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are making progress. Bilateral projects are being undertaken in archaeological conservation, information and computer technology (ICT) and small & medium enterprises in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A key element of India's development assistance in recent years has been the extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms to other developing countries.

In 2012-13, over 8500 civilian training slots were offered under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of Colombo Plan for nominees from 161 developing countries. About 1500 Defence personnel from several partner countries were imparted training in various defence institutions in India. Civilian and defence experts have been deputed to many developing countries for capacity building.

Investment and Technology Promotion

Investment and Technology Promotion (ITP) gives a definite direction and focus to the economic diplomacy strategy. The Ministry regularly engages with Export Promotion Councils, Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Industry Associations and Government Departments/ Ministries in promoting common objectives of facilitating trade, investment & technology acquisition. The Ministry actively participates in the formulation and implementation of policies in conjunction

with other key Government Ministries/Departments in furtherance of India's international economic engagement.

The Ministry provides support to the Indian Missions abroad to enable them to provide information on investment climate in the country, identify new business opportunities by undertaking promotional activities and respond effectively to the expectations of the corporate sector. Considering the significance of potential markets in the Latin American, African and Asia-Pacific regions as identified by a strategy paper prepared by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), these focus regions have been accorded greater importance in export strategy.

The website India In Business (<http://www.indiainbusiness.nic.in>) hosted by the Ministry provides information on investment opportunities, sectoral developments, legal and regulatory framework in India, facilitates business match-making by responding to investor queries, provides backup support to Missions and is regularly updated.

An information booklet and guide titled 'India in Business' is brought out with the intent of providing an overview of India's economy and potential business and investment opportunities that India offers to the global community.

The Ministry actively liaised with State Governments in promoting investment opportunities. Trade & investment obstacles/disputes and other bilateral outstanding issues were also addressed by the Ministry.

Energy Security

Energy Security has emerged as one of the critical non-traditional security issue for India and is an important component of its international diplomacy. During 2012, structured energy dialogues with United States, Japan, Australia and European Union were held. India and Canada also decided to have a dialogue at the Ministerial level during the visit of Prime Minister of Canada. India continued its active participation in deliberations of energy related international bodies such as International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC), the Clean Energy Ministerial [CEM], Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), SCO High Energy Club, International Energy Forum (IEF), Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) and UN-ESCAP.

The proposed TAPI pipeline project made progress during the year with the signing of Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement with Turkmenistan in May 2012. Subsequently the participant countries of the project held road shows in order to identify a consortium that will finance, build and operate the pipeline.

Given the high dependence on imported energy resources, India maintained sustained diplomatic interventions and international engagements including acquisition of energy assets abroad. India organised various conferences including the Asia Gas Partnership Summit in March 2012 and Petrotech Conference in October 2012. India successfully bid to host the 36th International Geological Congress [IGC] in 2020.

Consular, Passport and Visa Services

The Ministry delivered passport services to Indian citizens through the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its country-wide network of 37 Passport Offices (besides Headquarters and Andaman and Nicobar Administration) and 77 Passport Seva Kendras; and consular, visa and passport services to overseas Indians/foreign nationals through 180 Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

In 2012, a record number of 73.89 lakh passport services were rendered, registering almost a three-fold increase since 2000. During January-December 2012, the 37 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration issued 59.40 lakh passports (inclusive of 2301 Diplomatic passports and 22010 Official passports) and rendered 3.14 lakh passport-related miscellaneous services including Police Clearance Certificates. 180 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 11.35 lakh passports and other passport-related services. The total revenue generated from passport fees in 2012-13 estimated to be Rs. 1200 crore. The Government revised Passport and related service fees with effect from 1st October 2012, after ten and a half years. The total strength of the Central Passport Organization Cadre was 2697 as on 31st December 2012 and an amount of Rs. 559.72 crore was allocated to the Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2012-13.

The highlight of the year was the successful implementation of the Cabinet-mandated Passport Seva Project which was undertaken to comprehensively overhaul passport issuance and delivery system. The Project, which was launched in a pilot mode in May 2010 in Bangalore, reached its goal of complete project execution in June 2012 when the 77th Passport Seva Kendra in Delhi was unveiled for public service. The project's timely completion - from the pilot phase to the complete rollout in two years- has set a new benchmark for successful project implementation. Some of the other important steps to make the passport issuance system simpler, speedier and secure included strengthening of the public grievance redressal system, setting up of a national call centre operating in 17 languages, revamping of portal, holding of Passport Melas and Adalats to address grievances, timely

disposal of appeal cases, improvement in physical infrastructure in Passport Offices and introduction of new security features in passport booklets.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 5 million visas approximately. The procedures for grant of visas by Missions/Posts have been further simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services. The introduction of biometric procedures with implementation of IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) system in Indian Missions/Posts abroad would enhance the security aspects for issuance of visas to foreigners. At present, IVFRT scheme (without biometrics) has been introduced in 108 Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

In 2012, the Government of India received six requests for extradition from various countries and made 13 requests for extradition to foreign Governments. During the year, 3,07,672 personal and educational documents and 1,86,926 commercial documents were attested by the Ministry. During the same period, 2,61,749 documents were apostilled for use abroad in the Apostille member countries. The Ministry outsourced the work relating to collection/delivery of documents for attestation to five companies. An agreement was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and these five companies on 16th July, 2012 for two years.

Coordination

The Ministry of External Affairs coordinated the interaction between the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries, State Governments/Union Territories, and also autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs.

The Ministry handled Political Clearances for Official/private visits of Ministers, elected representatives and government officials. The Ministry also processed clearance for organising seminars/conferences/workshops in India in which foreign nationals were invited, sports tournaments in India and abroad in which foreign participants were invited, landing/overflying clearances of all foreign non-commercial and diplomatic flights and visit of naval ships etc.

The Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination, and admission, of foreign students, from 63 friendly, neighbouring, and developing countries, for MBBS, BDS, BE, B.Pharmacy, and diploma courses, in various institutions in India, under the Self Financing Foreign Students Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, and Human Resource Development, respectively.

Administration and Establishment

Administration

The Ministry continued with its core function of expansion, capacity building and optima deployment of human resources. The 10-year Indian Foreign Service Expansion Plan which was launched in the year 2008 successfully reached its halfway mark with all important channels being fully operationalised. Separately, the cadre review of the Indian Foreign Service 'B' branches approved towards the end of 2011 was largely implemented through enlarged intake at various grades. These two initiatives have succeeded in addressing to a great extent the growing manpower needs of the Ministry. Special emphasis has been attached to timely career progression as well as better matchmaking in terms of deployment of human resource. Efforts have also been initiated to streamline and simplify various rules and regulations. Work has also begun on developing a comprehensive training framework for the entire Ministry. The year under review witnessed further expansion of India's global diplomatic presence with the upgradation of the erstwhile Consulate General of India in Juba to a full-fledged Embassy.

Establishment

All the offices of the Ministry of External Affairs located in Akbar Bhawan and some offices from South Block, ISIL building and Shastri Bhawan have shifted into Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan. Od'A items, which have been specifically selected for Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan have been installed. CPWD has begun the exercise for checking the structural soundness of the offices of MEA located in the South Block. Living conditions at Ministry's housing complexes at Chanakypuri and Dwarka as well as at hostels at K.G. Marg and at R.K. Ashram Marg have been upgraded through proper and regular maintenance of the buildings and other facilities provided at these locations. To facilitate renting of better residential accommodations for India-based officials posted abroad, rental ceilings for several Missions/Posts were revised.

Projects

The Ministry continued to construct and acquire properties abroad during 2012-13, to use as Chanceries / Residences. Falling real estate property prices across the world presented many opportunities to acquire properties abroad. A built-up property was acquired in Atlanta for the Chancery and a plot of land was purchased in Bangkok for construction of residential complex. The rented Chancery in Yerevan (Armenia) was also purchased. Through concerted efforts, considerable progress was achieved in the on-going Chancery / Residential complex

construction projects at Brasilia, Abuja, Islamabad, Dhaka and Kathmandu. The Ministry was able to award the contract for Chancery-cum-Residences Construction Project in Warsaw and Chancery Renovation project in Dubai after successfully carrying out the tendering process.

Implementation of the Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry of External Affairs organized the 9th World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa from 22-24 September 2012 in addition to a range of regular activities for promotion and propagation of Hindi through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The Indian official delegation for the World Hindi Conference was led by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur. The South African Finance Minister Mr Pravin Gordhan was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony, which was also attended by Mr Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Art and Culture, Mauritius. The conference was attended by over 700 scholars from India and abroad. The World Hindi Day was also celebrated by the Ministry in Delhi and in all Indian Missions/Posts abroad on 10 January 2013.

Public Diplomacy

The Ministry organized and participated in various activities and programmes with a view to generate interest and appreciation of India in general and different aspects of India's foreign policy in particular. The Ministry reached out to a wide cross-section of people ranging from decision makers, media, academics, experts, students and people in general. A number of people to people diplomatic initiatives were initiated and supported by the Ministry, which continued to expand its presence in social media. This effort was recognized with Web Ratna award for innovative use of technology. Commissioning of documentary films and books, publication of monthly magazine India Perspectives in print and digital formats, were also undertaken to help our Missions project a positive image of India abroad.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was set up in 1950, with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. The Council participated in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and peoples; to promote and strengthen cultural relations and mutual

understanding between India and other countries; and to establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

The ICCR maintains 37 Cultural Centres abroad and 20 Regional Offices within India in keeping with its outreach activities. The Council has 95 Chairs in universities abroad, administers a large number of scholarship schemes for overseas students on behalf of the Government of India and other agencies, is the nodal agency for welfare of international students in India; organized a large number of exhibitions, conferences and seminars during the year; organized "Festival of India" in countries abroad; regularly organizes exchanges of performing artists and groups, and organizing related performances and lecture-demonstrations. The groups sent abroad by ICCR represent India's diverse cultural heritage from classical art forms and folk dances and music to contemporary fusion performances, rock/jazz bands, Bollywood dance etc. During the year, the Council sponsored around 150 groups/artists for events abroad, and organized more than 100 performances in India. Council organized prestigious festivals like the Latin American Music & Dance Festival, Festival of Africa, Days of Russia, SAARC Festival, Indo- ASEAN Festival, Delhi International Arts Festival, the Delhi International Jazz Festival, to name a few. Besides, Council regularly invites dignitaries under its Distinguished Visitor's programme and brings out six journals in five different languages, besides maintaining a well stocked library with a rare collection of books and manuscripts.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The Indian Council of World Affairs continued to pursue its active programme of research and study of political, strategic and economic developments in Asia, Africa, the EU, and Latin America, as also other regional and global developments of wider significance. Over 100 publications were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs, and Reports. A wide range of Conferences, Lectures, and Outreach Activities were also organised. International Dialogues were conducted with several countries, such as Maldives, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, China, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Chile, and the EU. The ICWA Library was upgraded during the year.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, specialising in international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS is

mandated to function as an advisory body to the government on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues. During the period, RIS provided inputs to the Government of India on: the views of the BRICS countries on the "Preparatory Process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development" (Rio+20 Conference); Global Peace and Security: Role of the BRICS; Access to Affordable Medicines: Opportunities for Co-operation among the BRICS; Towards Cooperative Regionalism in IORARC; and on the agenda items of the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties, held in Hyderabad in October 2012. The institute organised a number of Policy Dialogues, Conferences, Workshops, etc. among others, included: Brainstorming Session on India- Myanmar Trade and Connectivity; International Conference on ASEAN-India Connectivity and Northeastern Region of India; International Conference on Facilitating Trade in South Asia; Dialogue with New Development Partners; Seminar on Poverty Alleviation; Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT); International Conference to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Cooperation; Panel Discussion on Socio-Economic Considerations under Biosafety Protocol; Sixth Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference; Workshop on the Technology and Innovation Report 2012; and Panel Discussion on Global Financial Crisis and the Challenges of dealing with Public Debt. RIS also organised capacity building programmes in collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives.

External Publicity

The Ministry continued to articulate the position of the Government of India on various foreign policy issues in the international and domestic media, through press conferences, regular press briefings, backgrounders, dissemination of statements, effective use of the MEA website and through electronic communications. Special attempts were made by the Ministry for dissemination of information on India's relations with its immediate neighbours as also with key countries of the world. The Ministry also continued to run its wide ranging familiarization programmes for foreign journalists. The Ministry processed requests for documentary films in India and extended facilitation to the ever-increasing foreign press corps based in India. The Ministry made all media-related arrangements for the incoming and outgoing visits at the levels of Heads of State/Government and Foreign Minister. This year the Ministry also launched the new revamped user-friendly MEA web portal which is social media compatible and has the latest web 2.0 features. The process of bringing a uniform look to websites of all the Indian Missions and Posts abroad is

currently underway. To engage a wider audience both in India and abroad, the Ministry has also launched its presence on social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, Flickr and Google+. The MEA YouTube channel now regularly hosts live webcasts of press briefings/media interactions. While translation of press releases and statements into Hindi, Urdu and Arabic continued to be provided on a timely basis, the Ministry has also extended them to include regional languages like Tamil, Malayalam and Bangla this year.

Foreign Service Institute

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) continued to conduct training programmes for the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) probationers, officers and staff of the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as for foreign diplomats.

IFS batch of 2010 completed its training programme at FSI in May 2012 and 2011 batch of IFS probationers joined FSI in December 2011 for a yearlong training programme.

The fourth Mid-Career Training Programme (MCTP) for Joint Secretary level officers was held from 18-29 June 2012. The email based MCTP for Director level officers of 1995 batch were completed in 2012. A special training module on Delivery of Effective Consular Services to Indian Citizens Abroad was conducted on 23 May 2012 for senior MEA officers including Additional Secretaries.

One Refresher Course for Section Officers and two Basic Professional Courses for officials of the Ministry were conducted during the period of report. FSI also conducted ten training programmes from April-December 2012 for training MEA officials in Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS).

FSI conducted two Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), one Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats and another Special Course for IOR-ARC Diplomats. During these courses, in addition to class room training, the Foreign Diplomats were taken on study tours to various places of historical, political, cultural and economic importance in and outside Delhi.

A MoU between FSI and the Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of Korea was signed on 21 March 2012.

Legal and Treaties

During the current year, the Ministry participated actively in discussions in the United Nations General Assembly (Sixth Committee) and its various Sub-Committees, the United Nations Commission on International Trade (UNCITRAL), the Ad-hoc Committee on International Terrorism, the United Nations Charter Committee, the International Institute for Unification of Law (UNIDROIT), the Hague Conference on

Private International Law, the meeting of State parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, XXXV Meeting of the Antarctic Consultative Committee (ATCM), meetings of the Contact Group on Piracy, as well as on disarmament issues.

Though India is not a party to the Rome Statute of the ICC, the Ministry followed the work of the ICC and participated in the 11th Session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP). The Ministry also participated in the annual sessions of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation and in bilateral negotiations with various countries on free trade agreements, investment protection agreements and agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

The Ministry was actively involved in preparatory meetings with the legal counsels and other experts towards preparation of India's response to Bangladesh's memorial in the case concerning maritime delimitation. India's counter-memorial was filed with the Arbitral Tribunal in July 2012. The Ministry also participated in the site visit at the Kishenganga hydroelectric project in Kashmir and the Neelum hydroelectric project in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in which all the judges of the International Tribunal as well as the experts from India and Pakistan participated. The Ministry also participated in the 'Kishenganga Arbitration Hearing' at Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague.

Electronic Governance and Information Technology

International Cyber issues drew increasing attention of the Ministry during the year. India participated in the UN Group of Government Experts on International Information Security and held bilateral dialogues on international cyber issues with United States, United Kingdom, Japan and European Union. India's proposal to form a Working Group to examine and make recommendations for implementation of the World Summit on Information Society mandate on enhanced cooperation relating to internet governance was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The Ministry continued to provide special emphasis on cybersecurity training to its officers. The Visa online component of Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking Project (IVFRT) was implemented in 108 Missions/Posts, Integrated Missions Accounting Software (I-MAS) software was implemented in 7 Missions/Posts and the outsourcing of visa/passport/consular services was completed in 10 Missions, bringing the total number of Missions/Posts where these facilities have been implemented to 130, 179 and 73 respectively.

Nalanda

"The East Asia Summit initiative on Nalanda University has gathered momentum. After the Nalanda University Act, 2010 came into force on 25 November 2010, the President of India became the Visitor, and Professor Amartya Sen, Chairman of the Governing Board, was appointed Chancellor. The Vice Chancellor and other staff function from the university's project office in New Delhi. The Architectural Design Competition has been launched, and Phase I of construction

at Rajgir is expected to begin in the second half of 2013. Teaching in the Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment Studies is expected to begin in the academic session 2014.

On 20 December 2012, at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in Delhi, the Minister of External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid, launched Nalanda University's first publication, "Civilisational Dialogue: Asian Inter-connections and Cross-cultural Exchanges."



Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan have built extensive and mutually beneficial relations, manifested in the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2011. As Afghanistan prepares itself for political, security and economic transitions in 2014, India has sought to allay fears about the future by making a long-term commitment to the security and development of Afghanistan.

Sustainable development of Afghanistan requires a long-term investment in Afghanistan that can help the country exploit its natural resource wealth. India is at the forefront of promotion of investment in Afghanistan. A consortium of public and private Indian companies was selected to make one of the biggest investments in Afghanistan's mining sector, in the Hajigak iron ore reserves. Indian Government increased the budget to complete the ongoing Salma Dam project and also enhanced the number of scholarships for Afghan students.

President Hamid Karzai paid a State Visit in November 2012 during which he delivered the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture. President Karzai held delegation-level discussions with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The Prime Minister assured President Karzai of India's continued support as Afghanistan completes the crucial period of transition by 2014. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress in implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the convening of the 1st meeting of the Partnership Council on 1 May 2012. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement in all areas, including the expansion of political, security, economic and cultural cooperation.

The two leaders welcomed the steps taken towards promotion of business links between India and Afghanistan. They supported India's efforts at encouraging investment in Afghanistan through the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan, held on 28 June 2012. The Summit aimed at meeting Afghanistan's needs in developing its natural resources and infrastructure, agriculture and agro-industry, small and medium industries, education and training, and health, as an alternative economic route to stabilization during the Transformation Decade by generating revenues and

employment. The leaders acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity for Afghanistan's political and economic progress. They welcomed the Indian stewardship of the two commercial Confidence Building Measures under the Istanbul Process that seek to inspire new trust and confidence in the region by acknowledging and capitalizing on Afghanistan's position at the 'Heart of Asia'.

During this visit 4 MoUs were signed, on Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Projects through Local Government Bodies, Community Organizations, Charitable Trusts and Educational and Vocational Institutions; on Cooperation in the Field of Fertilizer Sector; on Cooperation in Youth Affairs; and on Cooperation in the Field of Development of Coal Mineral Resources.

Other high-level political engagement included the visit of the then Minister of Law and Justice Shri Salman Khurshid in June 2012 for the Heart of Asia Conference in Kabul and the visit of Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma in April 2012 for signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Iron and Steel Sector.

From Afghanistan, a high-level delegation comprising of Dr Zalmai Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Anwar-ul-Haq Ahady, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance, Mr Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines and Mr Asef Rahimi, Minister of Agriculture was in Delhi on 28 June 2012 for the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul also co-chaired the 1st Partnership Council meeting in New Delhi on 1 May 2012, while the Minister of Mines Mr Shahrani visited Kolkata in December 2012, for the CII Global Mining Conference.

A MoU between the Afghan Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India for training courses in civil aviation was signed in December 2012.

Bangladesh

During the year, relations between India and Bangladesh strengthened with the broadening of cooperation and implementation of decisions taken during the visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in September 2011.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then Finance Minister visited Dhaka on 5-6 May 2012 to attend the concluding ceremony of the year-long Joint Celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. A delegation led by the then Minister of Law and Justice and Minority Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid visited Bangladesh from 24-27 May 2012 to participate in the Joint Celebrations of the 90th Anniversary of the publication of 'Bidrohi' by Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water & Sanitation Shri Jairam Ramesh visited Bangladesh from 4-6 August 2012 to attend an International Conference on People's Empowerment and Development; Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Dhaka from 10-12 November 2012 to attend the 17th Annual Meeting and the 21st Executive Committee meeting of 'Partners in Population Development'; Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde visited Dhaka on 28-29 January 2013 to attend the 4th Home Ministers' Meeting; and Minister of State for Defence Shri M.M. Pallam Raju visited Bangladesh on 25-26 March 2012 to receive the Friends of Liberation War Honour on behalf of the Indian Armed Forces.

From Bangladesh, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni visited India from 4-8 May 2012 to attend the closing ceremony of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and the Joint Consultative Commission Meeting; Information and Culture Minister Mr. Abul Kalam Azad visited India from 10-13 September 2012 for bilateral consultations and for presentations of the Padma and Chapola boats to the Visva Bharati University and Rabindra Bharati University, respectively; Local Government and Rural Development Minister Mr. Syed Ashrafur Islam visited India from 18-22 September 2012 for bilateral discussions with the Minister of Rural Development Shri Jairam Ramesh; Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury visited India from 8-10 November 2012 to discuss bilateral cooperation in agriculture and related areas; and Home Minister Dr. Muhiddin Khan Alamgir visited India to attend the 3rd Home Ministers' meeting from 4-9 December 2012.

As part of India's ongoing engagement with a democratic and multiparty polity in Bangladesh, Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party President General H M Ershad visited India from 28 October - 3 November 2012 and 13-18 August 2012, respectively.

The 1st meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held on 7 May 2012 in New Delhi. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni led their respective delegations. The JCC reviewed progress in implementation of

the 2011 Joint Statement and 2010 Joint Communiqué. Foreign Office Consultations at the level of Foreign Secretaries were held in New Delhi in July 2012. The 2nd Meeting of the JCC is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on 16-17 February 2013. The JCC Meeting would be preceded by a visit by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai to Dhaka from 9-11 February 2013. President Pranab Mukherjee is scheduled to visit Bangladesh from 2-4 March 2013. This will be the first ever visit by a President of India to Bangladesh.

Cooperation in the areas of security and border management was discussed during institutionalised talks at Home Minister level (February 2012, December 2012, and January 2013); at the Home Secretary Level Talks (October 2012); and Director General, Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh Level (March 2012 and September 2012). Director General Level Talks between the Narcotics Control Agencies of India and Bangladesh as well as the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Task Force on Human Trafficking were also held. During the visit of Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde to Bangladesh in January 2013, India and Bangladesh signed the Extradition Treaty and Revised Travel Arrangements.

Both sides discussed cooperation in the area of water sharing and related issues through Technical Level Meetings of the Joint Committee on the monitoring of Ganga waters in February 2012 and October 2012. Meetings of the Sub-Group on the Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project, under the aegis of the Joint Rivers Commission, were held in August 2012 and February 2013.

Cooperation in the areas of trade, commerce, connectivity, power, renewable energy and conservation of Royal Bengal Tiger continued through Commerce Secretary Level Talks in March 2012 and December 2012, Shipping Secretary Level Talks in July 2012, Power Secretary Level Talks in February 2012 and January 2013, the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Renewable Energy Cooperation in August 2012 and talks on Joint Conservation Efforts for the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderbans in June 2012.

The Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade and the Bilateral Agreement on Trade were renewed for three and two years, respectively. Progress was made in the implementation of the Government of India's US\$ one billion Line of Credit. India announced the conversion of US\$ 200 million from the US\$ One billion Line of Credit into grants-in-aid.

As part of continuing exchanges in the defence sector, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal N.A.K. Browne and Army Chief General Bikram Singh visited Bangladesh in March 2012 and October 2012, respectively. Bangladesh Navy Chief Vice



President of Afghanistan Mr Hamid Karzai with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and President Shri Pranab Mukherjee at the Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi 12 November 2012



External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid handing over the key for the first tranche of 20 articulated buses to Bangladesh in the presence of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Mrs Sheikh Hasina at a special ceremony in Dhaka on 17 February 2013

Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed visited India from 9-13 July 2012. Indian Naval Ships, INS Sujata and INS Varuna paid goodwill visits to Bangladesh.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations underscored by mutual trust and confidence. The year witnessed sustained progress in bilateral cooperation in all areas of importance hydro-power, transport, communications, infrastructure, health, education and culture, IT industry, and agriculture.

At the invitation of the President of India, King of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck accompanied by Queen of Bhutan, paid a State Visit to India from 23-30 January 2013 as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Celebrations.

The Prime Minister of Bhutan Jigmi Y. Thinley will be on an official visit to Delhi from 7-10 February 2013. Prime Minister Thinley also visited Odisha from 6-10 September 2012 to preside over the 115th Annual General Meeting of the Mahabodhi Society of India and Madhya Pradesh to participate in the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Sanchi University of Buddhist and Indian Studies on 21 September 2012.

Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited India from 9-24 January 2012 for the Jaipur Literature Festival. Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck visited India from 9-18 January 2013 and inaugurated the exhibition titled "Textile Arts from the Land of Peaceful Dragon" organized in association with ICCR at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts on 10 January 2013.

Minister of Economic Affairs Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk visited India for meetings of the Empowered Joint Group (EJG) for accelerated development of the three hydro-power projects under construction. He also paid an official visit to India from 3-6 June 2012 as the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Bhutan and called on the Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) Major General Batoo Tshering visited India from 13-17 March 2012.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Thimphu on 14-15 January 2013. He had audience with the King of Bhutan, the Fourth King of Bhutan, called on the Prime Minister of Bhutan and held discussion with the Minister of Economic Affairs.

Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Praful Patel led a 17-member delegation of the Young Presidents Organisation (YPO), Mumbai Chapter to Bhutan in March 2012. Chief Minister of Haryana led an official delegation to Bhutan from 14-16 December 2012.

India continued to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan, with an assistance of Rs 3400 crore for Bhutan's 10th Five Year Plan (2008-2013). The Government of India is also financing construction of three hydropower projects in Bhutan with total capacity of about 3000 MW. The Empowered Joint Group (EJG), which monitors the implementation of the hydro-electric projects, held three meetings during the year in New Delhi and Thimphu.

At the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), the Government enhanced the Standby Credit to Bhutan from Rs 300 Crore to Rs 1000 Crore. The first instalment of Rs 300 Crore was released in June 2012. Under the Standby Credit Facility, India provides credit to Bhutan at a concessional rate of 5% per annum for five years.

A 6-member delegation comprising Members of the Poverty Reduction Committee of the National Assembly of Bhutan led by Mr Dasho Dupthop visited Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh in February 2012. A 11-member delegation from the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, led by the Speaker visited Bhutan from 22-29 May 2012.

The close cooperation in educational and cultural field is reflected in the 425 slots for Undergraduate Scholarship and 385 slots for Post Graduate Scholarship for Bhutanese students for studies in India during Bhutan's 10th Five Year Plan (2008-2013). 220 slots under ITEC and 60 slots under TCS of Colombo Plan have been allotted to Bhutan in 2012-13. 30 lecturers from India have also been allotted to various colleges in the Royal University of Bhutan under the TCS of Colombo Plan. Ambassador's scholarships (Rs 1 Crore from 2011-12) are given to meritorious Bhutanese students to study in India and ten Bhutanese students are admitted to Sainik Schools in India. Under the Nehru-Wangchuk Scholarship Scheme, instituted in 2008, 7 scholarships were awarded in 2011-12 and 20 in 2012-13, which allowed students from Bhutan to study in leading Indian universities and institutions.

The third series of the India-Bhutan Literary Festival "Mountain Echoes", sponsored by the India-Bhutan Foundation, were held.

China

India-China relations witnessed all-round progress in the year 2012, which was designated as the "Year of India-China



The King of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck meeting Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on 25 January 2013 in New Delhi



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with Chinese President Hu Jintao during the launch of India China Friendship and Cooperation year in New Delhi on 29 March 2012

Friendship and Cooperation". Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met Chinese President Hu Jintao in New Delhi on 29 March 2012 on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. The two also met in Los Cabos, Mexico on 18 June 2012 when the BRICS leaders met on the sidelines of G-20 Summit. Prime Minister and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met on the margins of the Rio+20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 21 June 2012 and at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on the sidelines of 7th East Asia Summit on 19 November 2012.

Meetings at Ministerial level included those of The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Foreign Minister of China Mr Yang Jiechi. Shri S. M. Krishna visited China on 7-8 February 2012 to inaugurate the new Indian Embassy Complex in Beijing and from 5-7 June 2012 to participate in the 12th Summit of the Heads of States/ Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as the representative of Prime Minister. At the invitation of External Affairs Minister, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visited New Delhi on 29 February - 1 March 2012. Both leaders also met in Moscow in June 2012 for the India-China-Russia Trilateral Talks.

General Liang Guanglie, Minister of National Defence of China, paid an official visit to India from 2-6 September 2012. Mr Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of China, paid a visit to India on 27 August 2012 to jointly preside over the 9th Meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) along with his counterpart Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles. Mr Zhang Ping, Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission of China visited India on 26 November 2012 to co-chair the 2nd Strategic Economic Dialogue with Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Chinese Deputy Ministers of Railways and Finance and Assistant Minister of Commerce also participated in the Strategic Dialogue. National Security Advisor and Special Representative of India on the Boundary Question Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Beijing from 2-4 December 2012. He met the Chinese Special Representative, State Councillor Dai Bingguo for an informal dialogue and also called on Mr Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Chinese National People's Conference as well as Foreign Minister of China, Mr Yang Jiechi. State Councillor Dai visited India on 10-11 January 2013 to participate in the BRICS meeting of High Representatives on national security in New Delhi.

The Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, signed during the 15th round of talks on the Boundary Question in January 2012, was operationalised with the 1st meeting of the Working Mechanism in Beijing in March

2012. The 2nd meeting of the Mechanism was held on 29-30 November 2012 in New Delhi. The two delegations exchanged ideas on additional measures for maintaining peace and tranquility as well as further steps to build greater trust and confidence between two sides. They welcomed the recent liberalization of border trade across Nathu La and continued their discussions on introducing additional routes for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

China remained India's largest trading partner in merchandise. During the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India from 15-17 December 2010, the two sides had set a new trade target of US\$ 100 billion by the year 2015. In 2011, the total bilateral trade between the two countries was US\$ 73.90 billion (an increase of 19.71% over same period last year) with a trade deficit of US\$ 27.08 billion. From January-October 2012, the total bilateral trade was US\$ 55.75 billion (India's exports to China - US\$ 16.36 billion and imports from China - US\$ 39.39 billion) registering a decline of almost 8 % compared with the same period last year and the trade deficit at US\$ 20.15 billion. At various interactions with China, including at the highest level, India has underlined the need for balanced trade to create a more conducive environment pertaining to the realization of the considerably untapped economic potential. Indian side has emphasized the need for greater market access for Indian exports particularly in areas such as services, IT and pharmaceutical. India has also welcomed Chinese investment in the infrastructure sector, which would help to create employment and would also help in bridging the trade deficit between our two countries.

India and China have established a Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) for an in-depth and frank exchange of views on: the global economic situation, respective domestic macro-economic situations, the goals and implementation of the mid and long-term economic and social development plans of the two countries, and their respective industrial, fiscal and monetary policies. The 2nd Meeting of the SED took place in New Delhi on 26 November 2012. During the meeting the proposals and recommendations made by the SED's five working groups on: Policy Coordination, Infrastructure, Energy, Environmental Protection and Hi-Technology were considered. The SED also witnessed signing of three bilateral MoUs on joint studies, energy efficiency and cooperation in railways as well as eight business-to-business MoUs. The 9th Meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) was held in New Delhi on 27 August 2012. The two sides established: (i) a Joint Working Group (JWG) on trade imbalance; (ii) a JWG on five year plan of work on trade & economic cooperation; and (iii) a JWG on services.

India and China have put in place an elaborate dialogue architecture to discuss India - China bilateral relations. Apart from the latest rounds of SED and JEG in 2012, India and China conducted the 6th round of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in March 2012, 5th round of Policy Planning Dialogue in May 2012, 6th round of Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-Border Rivers in July 2012 and Foreign Office Consultations in November 2012. During Chinese President Hu Jintao's meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in March 2012, the two leaders agreed to set up bilateral dialogue mechanisms on Africa, Central Asia and West Asia. The 1st Round of the India-China Dialogue on West Asia was conducted in July 2012 and the 1st Round of Dialogue on Africa was held in November 2012.

The visit of the Defence Minister of China in September 2012 imparted fresh momentum to defence exchanges. An Indian Border Troops delegation visited China from 9-13 July 2012. Peoples Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Training Ship 'Zheng He' visited Kochi from 10-13 May 2012 during its second goodwill global voyage. Four Indian Navy Ships, indigenously built Guided Missile Stealth Frigate Shivalik, Guided Missile Destroyer Rana, Guided Missile Corvette Karmuk and versatile Fleet Tanker Shakti under the command of Rear Admiral Ajit Kumar P., Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet visited Shanghai from 13-17 June 2012.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) of India and China's Hanban / Confucius Institute Headquarters signed a MoU in August 2012 on cooperation in teaching and training of Mandarin Chinese. Under the annual Youth Exchange Programme a 100 member Indian Youth delegation visited China in July 2012. Chinese Youth Delegation's reciprocal visit took place in November 2012.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh District of Uttarakhand was held smoothly, with 774 Indian Yatis, the highest ever, undertaking the pilgrimage from June - September 2012.

India and China continued to cooperate on issues related to global architecture. As large developing countries and fast growing economies, India and China have shared interests that have brought them together in forums like the BRICS, G-20 and in climate change negotiations as well as in the UN Security Council, where India was a non-permanent member during 2011-2012. Both countries continued to cooperate on other important global issues also like the Doha round of WTO negotiations, reform of international financial institutions, food security and energy issues.

Maldives

India remained engaged with the Government and people of Maldives with a view to supporting democracy and facilitating a peaceful and stable environment.

A number of high level visits were exchanged during the year. Dr Mohamed Waheed, President of Maldives paid an official visit to India from 11-15 May 2012. During his visit, President Waheed delivered a lecture on the 'Rule of Law - the key to a successful transition' at the Indian Council for World Affairs on 14 May 2012.

The Minister of Defence and National Security of Maldives Mr Mohamed Nazim visited India from 27-30 March 2012 to attend 'Defexpo-India 2012'. He also visited India to attend the 'AeroIndia' exhibition in February 2013. Dr Abdul Samad Abdulla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives visited India from 1-4 April 2012.

A 3-member delegation comprising Mr Mohamed Shamheed, Minister of Transport and Communication, Mr Ahmed Mohamed, Minister of Economic Development and Captain Abdul Latheef Mohamed, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communication visited India from 3-6 September 2012. During their visit, the delegation met the Minister of Civil Aviation and the Minister of Shipping. Earlier a high-level delegation headed by Mr Abdulla Jihad, Minister of Finance and Treasury visited Mumbai from 26-29 August 2012 to hold meetings with Indian financial institutions and commercial entities.

Raksha Mantri Shri A. K. Antony paid an official visit to Maldives from 15-17 September 2012. He inaugurated "SENAHIYA" the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Hospital in Male, set up with the assistance of the Government of India, and laid the Foundation Stone for the MNDF Composite Training Centre.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Maldives on 11-12 April 2012 to attend the 4th SAARC Health Ministers' Meeting.

Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde visited Maldives from 24-26 September 2012 to attend the 5th SAARC Meeting of Home Ministers. He met the Home Minister of Maldives Dr Mohamed Jameel Ahmed on the sidelines. During the visit, an MoU on the setting up of a National Police Academy in Maldives with the assistance of Government of India was signed.

In April 2012, India-Maldives Joint Coast Guard exercises - 'DOSTI-XI' - was expanded to a trilateral format with the

inclusion of Sri Lanka and held off the coast of Male (Maldives). The Joint Military Exercise - EKVVERIN-IV - between the armies of the two countries took place in Belgaum (India) in November 2012.

As part of the ongoing political exchanges between India and Maldives, Mr Mohamed Nasheed, The then President of Maldives and Leader of Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) visited India in April 2012; Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, The then President of Maldives and leader of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) visited New Delhi in September 2012; and Mr Ahmed Thasmeen Ali, Leader of the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) visited India in August 2012.

Myanmar

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh paid a State Visit to Myanmar from 27-29 May 2012. During the visit, twelve Agreements and MoUs were signed. These included the Air Services Agreement and MoUs on a Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million extended by India to Myanmar; Border Area Development; Establishment of the Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education (ACARE); Establishment of Rice Bio Park; Setting up of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology; Establishment of Border Haats; Setting up of a Joint Trade and Investment Forum; Cultural Exchange Programme for 2012-2015; and Cooperation among Think Tanks and Universities of the two countries.

The Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited India in November 2012 to deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture.

Minister of External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid visited Myanmar from 14-16 December 2012. He inaugurated the International Conference on Buddhist Cultural Heritage, which was jointly organized by India and Myanmar. External Affairs Minister also unveiled the 16-foot replica of the Sarnath Buddha Statue gifted by the people and Government of India and installed in the precincts of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and opened an exhibition on Buddhist Cultural Heritage. A MoU on the Rhi-Tiddim road project was signed between the two countries during the visit. External Affairs Minister also announced India's assistance of US\$ 1 million towards relief assistance and community building efforts in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission accompanied by Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) paid an official visit to Myanmar from 20-24 July 2012. In Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, the Deputy Chairman addressed seminars on

"India's Experience in Reforms" and "National Planning Process, Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development".

Official level meetings during the year included National level Meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs in December 2012; two Meetings of the newly constituted Regional Border Committee in May and December 2012; Meetings of the Border Trade Committee in November 2012; Foreign Office Consultations in November 2012; Meeting of the Joint Committee on Border Haats in October 2012; Meeting of the JWG on Shipping in October 2012; Sectoral Level Meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2012; and meeting of the JWG on Railway Cooperation in January 2013.

The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies of India conducted orientation courses for 30 Myanmar Parliamentarians and 20 Parliamentary Staff in parliamentary procedures. This capacity building programme was undertaken as part of India's commitment to support the democratic transition process in Myanmar.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces Vice Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited India in August 2012. The Chief of Air Staff and Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Chief Marshall N. A. K. Browne visited Myanmar from 27 November - 1 December 2012.

India-Myanmar commercial relations strengthened during the year. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1.9 billion for the year 2011-12. As part of the effort to encourage border trade and people-to-people contacts, India and Myanmar agreed to set up Border Haats at ten locations along the India Myanmar border.

The year witnessed increased interest among Indian businesses in seeking trade and investment opportunities in Myanmar. An important CEOs delegation visited Myanmar in May 2012 to coincide with the Prime Minister's visit. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) organized a Product Show in Yangon from 3-7 September 2012 with participation from 29 companies. The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata sent a business delegation headed by the Minister of Agriculture of Arunachal Pradesh, Senior Government officials and businessmen from North Eastern States in August 2012. The India Product Show 2012 in March 2012 and the North-East Federation on International Trade car rally in March 2012 with over 60 participants including over 35 business community representatives from Guwahati to Yangon and back, were other important commercial engagements.

A delegation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) visited Myanmar in September 2012 to discuss increased cooperation



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh being received by the President of Myanmar Mr Tien Sein at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Tan, Myanmar on 28 May 2012



Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson National League for Democracy, Myanmar in New Delhi 14 November 2012

in the banking sector with the Central Bank of Myanmar. A delegation from the Export-Import Bank (EXIM) also visited Myanmar in August 2012 and discussed with the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and other financial institutions cooperation in the banking sector. The United Bank of India set up its representative office in Yangon, becoming the first Indian bank to establish a representative office in Myanmar.

India is committed to meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through provision of training, expertise, lines of credit and grants-in-aid. A number of projects, including on industrial training centres have been completed, and new projects are under implementation. These include the establishment of the Myanmar Institute for Information Technology at Mandalay, the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education and Rice Bio Park at Yezin. Following the announcement made by the Prime Minister during his visit to Myanmar in May 2012, the number of slots offered to Myanmar under the ITEC and other schemes have been doubled to 500 per annum.

Nepal

India-Nepal friendship and cooperation is characterized by open borders, extensive people-to-people ties and multi-faceted socio-economic interaction.

India continued to work with the Government of Nepal and major political parties with a view to support the efforts of the Government and the people of Nepal for socio-economic development and political transition to a stable multiparty democratic republic.

President of Nepal Dr Ram Baran Yadav paid an official visit to India from 24-29 December 2012. He met the Indian leadership. Dr Ram Baran Yadav also attended the Special Convocation at the Banaras Hindu University to mark the Concluding Ceremony of 150th Birth Centenary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. He was conferred with the award of LLD (Honoris Causa) by the Banaras Hindu University.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Bikram Singh was conferred the title of Honorary General of the Nepalese Army by the President of Nepal during his visit to Nepal from 10-13 July 2012. General Gaurav S J B Rana, COAS, Nepalese Army visited India from 6-15 January 2013 and was conferred the title of Honorary General of the Indian Army by the President of India on 8 January 2013.

The 9th Meeting of the India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues was held in Pokhara on 26 April 2012.

The 13th Meeting of the Joint Team of Experts on Saptakosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi Storage-Cum-Diversion Scheme between India and Nepal was held on 23-24 December 2012 in Nepal. The two sides discussed operation, maintenance and administrative issues relating to existing Kosi Project.

The 8th Director General Level Talks on refund of Indian Excise Duty to the Government of Nepal was held in Kathmandu from 18-20 April 2012.

Regular exchange of visits involving journalists, intellectuals, businessmen, officials and political leaders took place during the year.

As part of India's development assistance to Nepal, Small Development Projects (SDPs), one of the mainstays of India's development cooperation with Nepal, was further strengthened during 2012. MoUs for 29 new projects worth Rs 65.88 Crore were signed between January-November 2012. 40 Ambulances and 8 school buses were gifted to health care and educational institutions respectively. Work is in progress on 225 SDPs involving an outlay of Rs 369.12 Crore in various parts of Nepal. India and Nepal are working together to expedite execution of 605 km roads in Terai in the 1st phase with Indian financial assistance of approximately Rs 700 Crore. The overall progress of the project was reviewed at the meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) held in Nepal in April 2012 and in October 2012.

Efforts were made to expedite work on the construction of two Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at Birgunj and Biratnagar at an estimated cost of Rs 200 Crore and two cross-border railway links on the India-Nepal border from Jaynagar (India) to Bardibas (Nepal) and Jogbani (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal) at an estimated cost of Rs 680 Crore.

As part of Nepal's human resources development, Government of India provided during the year around 1800 scholarships to the Nepalese students under various schemes both in India and Nepal. These scholarships include 1000 for 10+2 students in Nepal under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme and 100 MBBS/BE/BA/BSc under the Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme.

India continued to be Nepal's largest trading partner and source of FDI. According to figures for the Nepalese fiscal year ending July 2012, bilateral trade with India accounted for 65.1% of total Nepalese external trade. India accounts for 46% of the total foreign investments in Nepal.

Embassy of India, Kathmandu and BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation (BPKF) organized several events during the year.



President of Nepal Dr Ram Baran Yadav met President Shri Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi on 26 December 2012



President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met in New Delhi on 8 April 2012

Indo-Nepal Youth Conference in which eminent young professionals from film, fashion, music, literature and business took part was held in Kathmandu on 13-14 May 2012. As part of the festival "Tribute to Dev Anand" two of the legendary actor's much acclaimed films-Hare Rama Hare Krishna and Johnny Mera Naam were screened at the Kumari Cinema Hall in Kathmandu on 8 July 2012. The Indian Embassy and BPKF in association with the South Asia Foundation, Nepal Tourism Board and Government of Goa organized the India-Nepal Crafts Exhibition which was inaugurated by President of Nepal Dr Ram Baran Yadav on 27 April 2012 at Nepal Academy in Kathmandu. President Dr Ram Baran Yadav also inaugurated the function to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya held on 30 November-1 December 2012. The event was organized by Mahamana Malaviya Mission in Kathmandu, in associating with Ministry of Culture, India and the Embassy of India.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met the Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in New Delhi on 8 April 2012 when the latter made a brief stopover on a private visit to Ajmer. Prime Minister and President Zardari discussed India-Pakistan bilateral relations and regional and global issues. Prime Minister reiterated to President Zardari India's concerns about terrorism, particularly the need to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice expeditiously. The two leaders again met on the margins of the NAM Summit on 30 August 2012 in Tehran.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Hina Rabbani Khar in Islamabad on 8 September 2012 to review progress of the 2nd round of the resumed dialogue process and to chart the course for future engagement. The talks were preceded by a meeting between Foreign Secretaries. During this visit, a meeting of the bilateral Joint Commission and its eight Technical Level Working Groups (i.e. Agriculture, Education, Environment, Health, Information, IT & Telecom, Science & Technology and Tourism), was held after a gap of five years. A new bilateral Visa Agreement and a MoU on Cultural Cooperation between the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and the Pakistan National Council for the Arts were signed. External Affairs Minister recalled the commitment given by Pakistan during the Interior/Home Secretary talks in May 2012 to bring all the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to justice expeditiously in accordance with due process of law. The two Foreign Ministers also reiterated their commitment to scrupulously adhere to the roadmap for full normalization of bilateral trade relations. Both sides agreed to launch the next round of the resumed dialogue process and complete all its

eight segments before the next Foreign Ministers' level review meeting in New Delhi in 2013.

Between March-July 2012, the second round of talks under the resumed dialogue process were completed on all issues: (i) Economic Issues (Commerce Secretaries); (ii) Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project (Secretaries, Water Resources); (iii) Counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and Humanitarian issues (Home/Interior Secretaries); (iv) Siachen (Defence Secretaries); (v) Sir Creek (Surveyor-General/Additional Secretary); (vi) Peace & Security including Confidence Building Measures (Foreign Secretaries); (vii) Jammu & Kashmir (Foreign Secretaries); (viii) Promotion of Friendly Exchanges (Foreign Secretaries).

The 3rd round of resumed dialogue commenced with talks at the Commerce Secretary level in September 2012 in Islamabad. Pakistan welcomed India's decision to remove restrictions on bilateral investments and informed that summary for removal of restrictions on trade through land route has been moved to the Cabinet and stated that decision to this effect is expected to be notified before the end of October 2012. To further deepen the preferential arrangements under SAFTA and to provide a level playing field to Pakistani exporters in comparison to concessions allowed by India under SAFTA to rest of the countries in the SAARC region, both sides developed a long term plan. Pakistan now has a total of 936 tariff lines at 6 digits under its SAFTA Sensitive List, as against 614 tariff lines at 6 digit of India. It was agreed that after Pakistan has notified its removal of all restrictions on trade by Wagah-Attari land route, India would bring down its SAFTA sensitive list by 30% before December 2012 keeping in view Pakistan's export interests. Pakistan would transition fully to MFN status for India by December 2012 as agreed earlier. India would thereafter bring down its SAFTA Sensitive List to 100 tariff lines at 6 digit level by April 2013. As India notifies the reduced Sensitive List, Pakistan, after seeking approval of the Cabinet, will also simultaneously notify its dates of transition to bring down its SAFTA sensitive list to a maximum of 100 lines before end of 2017. Thus, before the end of 2017, both India and Pakistan would have no more than 100 (6 digit level) tariff lines in their respective SAFTA sensitive lists. Before the end of 2020, except for this small number of tariff lines under respective SAFTA sensitive lists, the peak tariff rate for all other tariff lines would not be more than 5%. During the Meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on signing of the three agreements i.e. Customs Cooperation Agreement, Mutual Recognition of Standards between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) and Redressal of Trade Grievances Agreement.

The new Visa Agreement introduces further liberalization in the existing visa regime to facilitate travel by business persons, tourists, pilgrims, elderly and children. It includes increase in the number of permissible places of visit to five (from the earlier three) under the Visitor Visa category, long term visa for up to two years for persons above 65 years and for nationals of one country married to nationals of the other country as well as their children below 12 years. It introduces Visa on Arrival at Attari/Wagah Check Posts for persons more than 65 years old, and Group Tourist Visa for travel in groups between ten to fifty members organized by approved tour operators. The Agreement provides for grant of business visa with exemption from police reporting for businesspersons with annual income above Pak Rs 5 million or equivalent, or annual turnover above Pak Rs 30 million or equivalent. Pakistan's Interior Minister visited India from 14-16 December 2012 and inter alia discussed the operationalization of the Visa Agreement.

Other high level bilateral interactions included a brief meeting between the Prime Ministers on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul (27 March 2012), the visit of Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar from 21-25 February 2012, the visit of a Parliamentary delegation to Pakistan led by Speaker for the 6th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians from 4-6 November 2012, visit of a Parliamentary delegation led by Chairman of Senate of Pakistan Shri Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari to India from 5-9 December 2012, meeting between the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar on the sidelines of the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan on 8 July 2012, the visits of Commerce Minister of Pakistan Shri Makhdoom Amin Fahim from 12-15 February 2012 and again from 12-15 April 2012, visits of Minister/ Advisor to Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain to India from 25-27 January 2012 and on 15-16 October 2012, visit by a delegation led by Speaker of Haryana Legislative Assembly from 4-7 March 2012, visit of a delegation led by Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab from 5-9 November 2012 to attend 'Punjab International Games' in Punjab, Pakistan, and visit of Chief Minister of Bihar to Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore from 9-16 November 2012.

Pakistan has to do more regarding the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan of the Mumbai terrorist attacks for its speedy and meaningful conclusion. The Government has reiterated at the highest level that Pakistan must fulfil its stated commitment to bring all perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice and unravel the larger conspiracy behind these attacks. The Government has constantly emphasized that a time-bound fulfilment of Pakistan's stated commitments would not only go a long way towards building trust and

confidence between the two countries but also be a reflection of Pakistan's commitment to combat terrorism comprehensively.

Relations between India and Pakistan can only grow in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral dialogue. It looks forward to building upon the progress mindful of the need for Pakistan to take credible action against terrorist groups and the related infrastructure on its soil, and its scrupulous implementation of CBMs agreed upon by both countries. Incidents like the one that occurred on 8 January 2013 along the LoC will continue to pose a challenge to these efforts.

Sri Lanka

President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka paid an official visit to India in September 2012. During the visit he met the President and the Prime Minister. He also visited Sanchi for the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Sanchi International Buddhist University. The President of Sri Lanka is also scheduled to visit Bodh Gaya and Tirupati on 8-9 February 2013.

The 8th Meeting of the Joint Commission, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Shri Salaman Khurshid and External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka Prof G.L. Peiris was held in New Delhi on 22 January 2013. It was preceded by the Senior Officials Meetings at the level of Foreign Secretaries on 21 January 2013. During the Joint Commission Meeting, the two sides signed an Agreement on Combating International Terrorism and a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

Earlier, the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka Prof G L Peiris visited India for the 12th Meeting of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers from 1-3 November 2012. A bilateral meeting was also held between the External Affairs Ministers of India and Sri Lanka on the sidelines of the IOR-ARC meeting.

A 12-member Indian Parliamentary delegation, headed by the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Smt Sushma Swaraj, and comprising representatives of several prominent political parties from both Houses of Parliament visited Sri Lanka from 16-21 April 2012.

The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma visited Sri Lanka from 2-5 August 2012 to inaugurate the "India Show - Land of Limitless Opportunities" organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, from 3-5 August 2012 at Colombo. The inaugural session of the India-Sri Lanka CEOs Forum was held during the visit.

To celebrate the 2600th 'Sambuddhatva Jayanti', the Minister of Culture, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja, carried the sacred Kapilavastu Relics to Sri Lanka on 19 August 2012. The exposition of the Kapilavastu Relics took place in various parts of Sri Lanka from 19 August - 11 September 2012. It is estimated that over 3.5 million devotees paid their respects to these Relics during the period of the exposition.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar visited Sri Lanka from 11-15 September 2012 to attend the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC). Minister of Rural Development and Water & Sanitation Shri Jairam Ramesh visited Sri Lanka from 11-13 July 2012. The National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Colombo on 29 June 2012.

A seven member delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), Sri Lanka, led by Mr R. Sampanthan visited India from 10-13 October 2012.

India is involved in the rehabilitation and resettlement efforts of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the reconstruction process in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. India's assistance in Sri Lanka, in the areas of housing, demining, education, public health, connectivity and culture has been a part of these efforts. The Government of India project to build 50,000 houses for IDPs in Sri Lanka is under implementation. A Pilot Project involving construction of 1,000 houses was successfully completed in July 2012. The second phase of the housing project (for the remaining 49,000 houses) was launched in all five districts of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka on 2 October 2012 and is underway.

The Government of India is also undertaking several infrastructure development projects in Northern Sri Lanka as part of the development assistance programme. These include rehabilitation of the Kankesanthurai Harbour, construction of a Cultural Centre in Jaffna and construction of a 150-bed hospital in Dickoya. A Government of India Line of Credit of US\$ 167.4 million to Sri Lanka has been used for the repair and upgradation of the Tsunami-damaged Colombo-Matara rail link. The upgraded coastal railway track running between

Kalutara-Galle-Matara was completed in April 2012. Under separate Lines of Credit amounting to nearly US\$ 800 million, projects for the rehabilitation of railways in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka are under implementation. These include track laying on the Medawachchiya-Talaimannar railway line, Omanthai-Pallai-Kankesanthurai railway line and setting up of signalling and telecommunications systems for the northern railway line. The projects are expected to be completed before schedule by December 2013.

India continues to provide assistance in implementing a large number of Small Development Projects (SDPs) in areas like livelihood generation, education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training through its grant funding. Renovation of the Duraippah Stadium, revival of the Atchchuvely Industrial Zone, assistance in repair of schools in the Northern Province, supply of bicycles, setting up of vocational training centres, vocational training to war widows, supply of fishing equipment to IDPs in Mannar district and supply of equipment to Kilinochchi and Mulaittivu General Hospitals have already been completed or are in various stages of implementation.

India and Sri Lanka enjoy a robust trade and investment relationship. Sri Lanka is now India's largest trade partner in South Asia, while India is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally. Trade between the two countries has grown rapidly from a modest US\$ 600 million in 2000, when the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) came into force, to reach nearly US\$ 5 billion in 2012. India has emerged as the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment and tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka.

India is engaged in the restoration of important icons of cultural heritage of Sri Lanka. It is setting up an Indian Gallery at the International Buddhist Museum in Kandy and working on the restoration of the Thiruketheeswaram Temple in Mannar. To commemorate the 2600th anniversary of the attainment of enlightenment by Lord Buddha (Sambuddhatva Jayanthi), India gifted a 16-foot replica of the 16th century Saranath Buddha which has been installed at Sri Dalada Maligawa International Museum for World Buddhism.





President Shri Pranab Mukherjee meeting Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka at Rashtrapathi Bhawan in New Delhi, 20 September 2012



Afghanistan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul with the then External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna during the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan on 28 June 2012.

Australia

India's Strategic Partnership with Australia was further consolidated during the year.

Prime Minister of Australia Ms Julia Gillard paid a State Visit to India from 15-17 October 2012, during which she held delegation level talks with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Four MoUs in Wool and Woollen Products; Student Mobility and Welfare; Civil Space Science, Technology and Education; and Cooperation on Vocational Skills were signed during the visit along with a number of new initiatives to promote cooperation. India welcomed the decision of the Australian Government on uranium sales to India and agreed to commence negotiations on a bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. Prime Minister Gillard inaugurated the Oz Fest, Australia's biggest cultural event in India, which was held in various Indian cities between October 2012 and February 2013.

Other visits included those of Mr Martin Ferguson, Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism of Australia from 1-5 December 2012 for the first Ministerial-Level Energy Dialogue with Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Dr Montek Ahluwalia. Mr Wayne Swan, Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister also visited India on 11 December 2012 and met Finance Minister P. Chidambaram. Mr Simon Crean, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and Culture was in India from 3-11 November 2012 and conferred an Honorary Member of the Order of Australia to cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. Mr Richard Marles, the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs represented Australia at the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers' meeting held in Gurgaon, on 2 November 2012. Australia will take on the Chair of IOR-ARC in 2013-2015.

From India, Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology led an Indian delegation to CeBIT Australia in Sydney from 22-24 May 2012 at which India was accorded Partner Country status. Bilateral relations were reviewed during the visit of Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs to Australia on 21 September 2012 for Senior Officials' Talks (SOT). Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma paid a goodwill visit to Australia on 29 April 2012. Director General, CSIR visited

Australia from 1-4 May 2012 to discuss Science and Technology collaboration between CSIR and University of Wollongong and attended a meeting of the Global Research Alliance, of which India is a founding member. Dr Kaushik Basu, then Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance delivered the annual K.R. Narayanan Oration on "The Indian Economy: Rising to Global Challenges" during his visit to Australia from 30 May - 2 June, 2012.

The 4th Round of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement negotiations were held in New Delhi on 8-9 November 2012. The first Australia-India Skills Conference organised by 'Skills Australia' was held in Perth on 10-11 July 2012 with the participation of over 500 stake holders. India won the bid to host the 36th International Geological Conference (IGC), in 2020 at the 34th IGC held in Brisbane from 5-10 August 2012.

2nd India-Australia Dialogue on East Asia was held on 20 September 2012 in Canberra. A Track 1.5 Defence Strategic Dialogue held in Perth on 19-20 July 2012 was led by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) of India and the Future Directions International (FDI) of Australia. An International Conference titled "Rabindranath Tagore: A Myriad Minded Genius" was held in Perth on 7-8 May 2012 by ICCR and Murdoch University to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei took over as ASEAN Country Coordinator for India, for the next three years, at the 10th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on 11 July 2012 and assumed the Chair of ASEAN in November 2012 in Phnom Penh.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met the Sultan of Brunei on the sidelines of 10th India-ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 18-20 November 2012. The Sultan of Brunei visited New Delhi from 19-21 December 2012, for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

Shri S. M. Krishna, then Minister of External Affairs visited Brunei on 19-20 October 2012. This was the first-ever bilateral visit by an External Affairs Minister to Brunei. EAM called on the Sultan of Brunei and expressed India's desire for bilateral

cooperation in the energy sector and for closer regional and multilateral coordination.

Brunei Minister of Development Pehin Hj. Suyoi Haji Osman visited India to participate in the ASEAN-India Environment Ministers Meeting on 6-7 September 2012; Datin Hj. Masrainah, Ambassador (Special Duties) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended the 4th meeting of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) from 16-22 September 2012 in Kochi; Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources attended ASEAN-India Ministers Meeting on 17 October 2012 in New Delhi; Minister of Energy Pehin Yasmin bin Haji Umar attended ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on New and Renewable Energy on 5-7 November 2012 in New Delhi.

The Indian sail training ship INS Sudarshini paid a visit to Brunei from 21-24 November 2012, during which Prince Abdul Malik visited the ship and two Brunei Naval cadets joined the crew till the next port of call. A Brunei team participated in the ASEAN-India Car Rally during the month of November-December 2012 from Indonesia to India.

ICCR hosted a Manipuri dance recital on 30 November 2012 and an exhibition 'Merging Metaphors', showcasing the paintings of ASEAN and Indian artists from 6-13 December 2012 in Brunei. An Indian IT expert has been seconded to Brunei to work on competitive policies in the telecom sector. An officer of the Indian Army participated in the 2nd Command and Staff Course from January-October 2012 in Brunei.

Cambodia

India and Cambodia expanded and deepened their relationship during the year.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led a high level delegation to Cambodia from 18-20 November 2012 to participate in the 10th ASEAN-India Summit and the 7th East Asia Summit (EAS), held in Phnom Penh. Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Hun Sen accompanied by eight Ministers visited India from 19-21 December 2012 to attend the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. Both Prime Ministers held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Summit.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Phnom Penh from 10-12 July 2012, to attend the 10th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting, the 2nd East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting and the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles (CITM) visited Siem Reap, Cambodia from 29-31 August 2012, to attend the 44th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting and met with his

counterparts including Cambodian Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh. Shri R. P. N. Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas attended the 30th ASEAN Ministers of Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Phnom Penh from 10-13 September 2012.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Har Namhong visited India from 3-4 September, 2012 to attend the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation in New Delhi. He had a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister. Dr Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia visited India from 17-21 November 2012 to attend the flagging down ceremony of the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 at Guwahati as well as to attend the 2nd India-ASEAN Business Fair and Business Conclave (IABF) in New Delhi. He had a bilateral meeting with Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles (CITM).

India and Cambodia strengthened cooperation through technical assistance projects in agriculture, water management, energy and transmission and in capacity building, including the setting up of institutions for IT, English language and entrepreneurship. Cultural cooperation grew during the year with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) undertaking the restoration project on the Ta Prohm heritage site at Siem Reap. Defence cooperation intensified with India providing training to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in peacekeeping and demining activities.

Fiji

India's traditional and friendly relations with Fiji were further strengthened during the year.

Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, interim Prime Minister of Fiji, visited India, leading the Fiji delegation for the International Sugar Organisation/International Sugar Council's meeting held on 24-25 April 2012, in New Delhi. Prime Minister Bainimarama called on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and met then Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar. The Fijian Prime Minister visited India again in September 2012 on a private visit during which he met the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna.

President of Fiji Ratu Epeli Nailatikau visited India on a private visit from 5-8 August 2012 and called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 7 August 2012 and met Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed.

Dr Jiko Fatafehi Luveni, Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation visited the Barefoot College, Tilonia,

Rajasthan in June 2012, where ten rural women from Fiji underwent training as "Solar Engineers", attending a six-month course under the ITEC Programme.

India worked closely with the Fiji government and other organizations for capacity building in social sectors in Fiji, including provision of dialysis machines to the Kidney Foundation of Fiji, supply of motorized sugarcane crushing units for Fiji National University, assistance for a Mobile Library Vehicle in Suva city, and supply of sewing machines for women. Government of India also contributed US\$ 200,000 for relief operations in the Western Division, which was devastated by floods in April 2012.

Indonesia

India-Indonesia strategic partnership, based on the foundation of cultural and commercial linkages, was further strengthened.

Indonesian President Dr H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono accompanied by six Ministers, MPs and officials visited India from 19-21 December 2012 to participate in the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit. The Indonesian Trade Minister Mr Gita Wirjawan attended the 2nd India-ASEAN Business Fair in New Delhi on 18 December 2012.

The Foreign Minister of Indonesia Dr Marty M. Natalegawa visited India on 27 July 2012 for the 4th round of Joint Commission Meeting with the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, at which both sides took stock of the developments in the bilateral relationship and identified areas for future cooperation. The Indonesian Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and delivered an address at the Indian Council of World Affairs. A revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed during the visit.

Raksha Mantri Shri A.K Anthony visited Indonesia from 15-17 October 2012 to inaugurate the First Ministerial-level Biennial Defense Dialogue. Earlier the 3rd Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting discussed cooperation in the defence sector.

Minister of Culture Kumari Selja attended the 5th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in Yogyakarta on 18-19 September 2012. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health Mr Sudeep Bandhopadhyay, participated in the 30th Health Ministers meeting and the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Southeast Asia in Yogyakarta on 4 September 2012. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development Dr (Mrs) D. Purandeswari, led the Indian delegation at the 1st East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting held in Yogyakarta on 5 July 2012 during which the 2nd meeting of the Joint Working Group on Education was held.

Speaker of Indonesian Parliament Marzuki Alie, led the ASEAN-India Parliamentary Association delegation to New Delhi from 29 July - 1 August 2012 and met Speaker Smt Meira Kumar. Visits of other Parliamentary delegations from the Indonesian Regional House of Representatives included those from the Legislative Council from 8-11 August 2012, from the Law Formulation Committee from 22-29 May 2012 and from Committee on Industry, Energy and Mining from 29 May-4 June 2012.

The 1st meeting of the JWG on Oil and Gas, held in Bali on 4-5 June 2012 agreed to cooperate in information exchange on policy, technology and on R&D issues. The first meeting of the Joint Technical Committee on Marine and Fisheries was held in Jakarta on 6-7 December 2012.

Bilateral trade increased to US\$ 21.30 billion in 2011-12, making Indonesia India's second largest trading partner in the ASEAN. India is the largest buyer of crude palm oil from Indonesia. Indonesia continued to be a major destination of investment for Indian companies, especially in the textiles, steel, automotive, banking and resources sectors. CII and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry organised an 'India Show' in Jakarta from 6-8 March 2012. An India Business Forum was launched in July 2012 and an India-ASEAN Business Seminar was held on 24 October 2012 in Jakarta, in partnership with Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata and Jakarta Chamber of Commerce.

A bust of Rabindranath Tagore was installed at the Borobudur temple in Yogyakarta on 26 November 2012. The 1st Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture to commemorate the 143rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Non Violence was delivered by Vice President Prof Dr Budiono on 2 October 2012.

INS Sudarshini, the sail training ship of Indian Navy visited Padang, Bali and Manado in Indonesia in October-November 2012 as part of India-ASEAN commemorative year events to celebrate India's historical maritime links with the ASEAN countries and the India-ASEAN Car Rally was flagged off at Yogyakarta.

Lao PDR

Bilateral relations continued to grow during the year.

Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong visited New Delhi on 20-21 December 2012 to participate in the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit and had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. He also visited Bodh Gaya.



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with Ms Julia Gillard Prime Minister of Australia during her visit to India 17 October 2012

Shri Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation to ASEM9 Summit held in Vientiane on 5-6 November 2012 and spoke on global issues and the future direction of ASEM. He had bilateral meetings with Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, and Lao Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong.

Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs participated at the 6th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi on 4 September 2012 and met External Affairs Minister.

The 1st Foreign Office Consultations between India and Lao PDR held in Vientiane on 2 May 2012 were led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr Bouonkeut Sangsomsak, Lao Vice Foreign Minister. Secretary (East) called on Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and had consultations with Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Vice Foreign Minister, dealing with ASEAN affairs.

A five member Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Shri M. Krishnaswamy, MP participated at the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP7) meeting held in Vientiane on 3-4 October 2012, themed "Partnership for Sustainable Development".

A delegation from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) participated in the 21st ASEAN Land Transport Working Group Meeting, held at Vientiane, Lao PDR from 3-5 July 2012 for discussions on the Trilateral Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand and its extension to Laos and Cambodia and the development of India-Myanmar-Laos-Vietnam Highway.

Malaysia

Bilateral relations with Malaysia, marked by traditional friendship, were further strengthened during the year. Prime Minister of Malaysia Najib Tun Razak visited New Delhi on 20-21 December 2012, for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, and had bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

Shri N.N. Meena, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance visited Malaysia on 11-12 July 2012 for the launch of India International Bank Malaysia and the operations of General Insurance Corporation. Shri Sathyanarayana Sarvey, Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways visited Malaysia from 28-30 November 2012 to flag-off the 2nd ASEAN-India Car Rally at Putrajaya and to participate at the ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit, organized by Confederation of Indian Industries and Asian Strategy

Leadership Institute of Malaysia. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Kuala Lumpur on 25-26 December 2012 for a discussion on Indian worker related issues and promotion of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2013.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industry and Commodities, Malaysia led a delegation to Delhi and Mumbai from 3-8 June 2012 on a working visit to promote the usage of palm oil, natural rubber, timber and fibre. Datuk Seri Noh Bin Omar, Minister of Agriculture, Malaysia visited India from 17-19 October 2012 for the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN-India Agricultural Ministers and ASEAN-India Agri Expo. Mr Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Malaysia visited India from 17-19 October 2012 for the 11th Conference of Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) held in Hyderabad. Dato' Sri Peter Chin Pah Kui, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia visited India from 5-9 November 2012 for the India-ASEAN Meeting of Ministers of Renewable Energy, during which a bilateral MoU on Cooperation in Renewable Energy between India and Malaysia was signed. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia led a Trade and Investment Mission to Hyderabad and Mumbai from 12-16 December, 2012.

India-Malaysia defence relations further strengthened during the year. Malaysia's Chiefs of Army and Navy visited India in April 2012. Indian naval ships paid regular port calls to Malaysian ports - INS Mhadei in April 2012; INS Rana, INS Shakti, INS Shivalik and INS Karmuk in June 2012; and INS Sujata and ICGS Varuna in October 2012. The first bilateral Command Post Exercise Harimaushakti was conducted in Kuala Lumpur in October 2012; the 5th IAF-RMAF Air Staff Talks were held in New Delhi in December 2012; and the 3rd Army to Army Staff Talks were held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2012.

Economic and commercial engagements, which continue to be a major pillar of the bilateral relationship, received a fillip with the entry into force of the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) on 1 July 2011. Bilateral trade showed robust growth of 32.7% in 2011 to reach a high of US\$ 12.5 billion. The 4th meeting of the India-Malaysia CEOs Forum was held in Iskandar on 8 June 2012 and the 5th meeting was held in New Delhi on 19 December 2012.

The 1st Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Trans-National Crimes was held in New Delhi on 4-5 October 2012 and will serve as the institutional mechanism for further exchanges and cooperation in this important area.

India and Malaysia signed the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) on 9 May 2012 at Putrajaya. The revised DTAA has come into force on 26 December 2012.

New Zealand

Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha, led a Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand from 13-17 April 2012 during which she met Speaker Dr Lockwood Smith, Acting Prime Minister Bill English and Wellington Mayor Celia Wade-Brown, and interacted with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians.

Mr Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment visited India for the inaugural meeting of the India-New Zealand Education Council (INZEC). Five MoUs on vocational training, joint research, student exchanges, ICT and setting up of a New Zealand-India Research Institute at the Victoria University of Wellington were signed. Minister Joyce and Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ajit Singh witnessed the signing of the India-New Zealand Aviation Arrangement Agreement. Ms Kate Wilkinson, Conservation Minister visited India from 15-23 October 2012 for the 11th Conference of Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and for bilateral interaction. Mr David Carter, Minister for Primary Industries visited India from 24 November - 2 December 2012 and met Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar and Minister of Commerce and Industries and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma. He also visited Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to promote agricultural cooperation.

India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations were held at Wellington on 24 September 2012 between Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr John Allen, Chief Executive, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences visited New Zealand for the 17th Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Governors of International Continental Scientific Drilling Programme held at Wellington on 21-22 August 2012. A delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture visited New Zealand from 30 October-3 November 2012 for the Annual Technical Quarantine Meeting. A Ministry of Defence-Ministry of External Affairs delegation visited Wellington from 6-10 May 2012, for the ASEAN Regional Forum Defence Officials Dialogue and Inter-Sessional Support Group meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy. An IDSA delegation, led by the Deputy Director General, visited New Zealand on 24-25 October 2012 for Track-II dialogue on regional and bilateral issues hosted by the Asia-New Zealand Foundation.

The 8th round of negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement between India and New Zealand was held in June 2012.

A 15-member ICCR Gujarati Folk Dance Troupe visited New Zealand from 11 - 22 October 2012 to give performances during Diwali Celebrations 2012, with the Auckland Diwali festival being inaugurated by New Zealand Prime Minister John Key.

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

India and Papua New Guinea enjoy warm relations. During the year, steps were taken to enhance bilateral engagement.

PNG Trade Minister Mr Richard Maru participated at the Partnership Summit in Agra and met Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma in January 2013. Bilateral trade expanded to US\$ 240 million during the year. A trade promotion week and exhibition of Indian products was organized. A trade/investment delegation from PNG visited New Delhi in November 2012. A composite delegation of Petronet, OVL and Indian Oil visited PNG in December 2012 to explore cooperation in the natural gas sector.

India has offered cooperation in preparation of Biometric UID cards to PNG.

India provided 30 ITEC and 5 TCS scholarships to PNG.

Philippines

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met President Benigno Aquino on the sidelines of India-ASEAN Summit held from 18-20 November 2012 in Phnom Penh. Vice President of the Philippines Mr Jejomar C. Binay visited New Delhi from 18-21 December 2012, with a high-powered delegation for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then Minister of Finance, visited Manila on 4-5 May 2012 to attend the 45th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles met Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit held from 18-20 November 2012 in Phnom Penh.

Shri T.K.A. Nair, Advisor to Prime Minister visited the Philippines for a business marker event organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council. Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General of India visited Manila from 9-12 September 2012 for interaction with Asian Development Bank. Secretary, Agriculture participated at an International Rice Research Institute event from 9-12 November 2012.

Dr Roehlano M. Briones, Senior Research Fellow, Philippines Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) attended the 1st Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks on

7-8 August 2012 in New Delhi. A delegation from the Philippines visited India for the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad on 8-19 October 2012. Foreign Service Officers from the Philippines attend the ASEAN diplomats' course held at the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi.

The 2nd JWG on Tourism Co-operation held in New Delhi on 7 September 2012, was led by the Philippine Under Secretary and Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.

Defence cooperation expanded with visits to the Philippines of a NDC delegation from 9-12 September 2012, an Army War College delegation from 15-19 October 2012 and regular visits by Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships INS Shakti and INS Rana from 19-23 May 2012; INS Samrat from 8-12 November 2012; Indian training ship Sudarshini in Cebu from 1-5 December 2012 and in Manila from 9-24 December 2012.

The bilateral trade between India and the Philippines during 2011-12 was US\$ 1.4 billion, with Indian exports to the Philippines being almost US\$ 1 billion.

The Philippines is a strong partner in programmes under ITEC and Colombo Plan with over 50 slots for training courses in India.

Cultural exchanges during the year included the visit of a 10-member percussion group 'Saurangi Ensemble' to Philippines from 8-12 December 2012 and the visit of a 6-member Philippines cultural troupe from Sindaw Philippines Performing Arts Guild to India from 13-21 December 2012 to perform in the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. A group of 25 young students from the Philippines visited Jaipur, Mumbai, Delhi and Agra on a ten-day visit under Youth Exchange Programme and journalists from the Philippines visited India on a familiarisation tour.

Singapore

India-Singapore bilateral relations, characterized by intensive interaction, got further momentum as a consequence of several high level visits and other exchanges during the year.

Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong paid a State Visit to India from 10-12 July 2012, accompanied by his wife and a high level delegation including the Speaker of Singapore Parliament Mr Michael Palmer and the Minister for Education Mr Heng Swee Keat. The Prime Ministers held talks and concluded three agreements on Vocational Education and Skills Development, on setting up of a World Class Skills Development Centre in New Delhi, and on continuation of armed forces joint training and exercises. Prime Minister Loong addressed a Business

Meeting. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar and the Singapore Speaker jointly presided over the formal launch of the India-Singapore Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The Singapore Prime Minister again visited New Delhi from 20-21 December 2012 to attend the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh also held bilateral talks with Singapore Prime Minister on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh on 18-20 November 2012.

Raksha Mantari Shri A.K. Antony visited Singapore for the annual Shangri-La Dialogue from 1-3 June 2012 and also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from several countries, including Singapore. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Singapore on 27-28 April 2012 and met Minister for Transport and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Lui Tuck Yew and the Second Minister for Trade and Industry Mr S. Iswaran. He conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on the then President of Singapore Mr S.R. Nathan. Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission visited Singapore on 4-5 April 2012 and delivered a lecture at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy on "Challenges before G 20". He met the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Tharman Shanmugaratnam and had an interaction with the senior management of selected financial institutions based in Singapore.

Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence visited New Delhi from 19-22 November 2012 and had delegation level talks with Raksha Mantri Shri A. K. Antony, met National Security Advisor Shri Shivsankar Menon and called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He also delivered a talk at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses. Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Singapore visited New Delhi from 13-16 December 2012 to participate in the Delhi Economic Conclave. Earlier, Mr Shanmugaratnam had visited New Delhi and Mumbai from 25-28 September 2012. On both occasions, he met the Finance Minister in New Delhi and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law of Singapore, Mr K. Shanmugam paid an official visit to India from 7-10 May 2012, during which he co-chaired with External Affairs Minister, Shri SM Krishna the 2nd Joint Ministerial Committee Meeting on Bilateral Cooperation.

Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs Masagos Zulkifli led the Singapore delegation to the 12th Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Council of Ministers Meeting in Gurgaon from 1-2 November 2012.

The 3rd India-Singapore National Security Roundtable was held in Singapore on 28-29 May 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Deputy National Security Advisor and the Singapore side by the Permanent Secretary of the National Security Coordinating Secretariat. The 5th Strategic Dialogue, which is a Track II mechanism, coordinated by the CII on our side and the Institute of South Asian Studies on the Singapore side was also held on 28-29 May 2012 and co-chaired by Shri SK Lambah, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and Prof Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

In the area of defence cooperation, apart from visits by the respective Defence Ministers, policy dialogues, staff talks and joint exercises were held. The annual Singapore-Indian Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) between the Navies of Singapore and India was held in the Andaman Sea from 21 March - 1 April 2012.

A delegation from the Department of Science and Technology visited Singapore on 2-3 August, 2012 and signed the Program of Cooperation under the bilateral S&T Cooperation Agreement.

Thailand

India and Thailand enjoy close relations reflecting centuries old socio-cultural ties. The momentum imparted by the visit of Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra as Chief Guest on Republic Day 2012 celebrations further expanded the relationship with multifaceted engagements and people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra held discussions on bilateral and regional issues on sidelines of the 10th India-ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh from 18-20 November 2012. Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra also participated in the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 20-21 December 2012.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Mr Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Minister of Foreign Affairs reviewed the progress in bilateral relations in Bangkok on 7 November 2012. Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles met Mr Boonsong Teriyapirom, Commerce Minister of Thailand on 31 August 2012 on the sidelines of ASEAN Economic Ministers in Siem Reap, Cambodia to discuss the status of ongoing negotiations on India-Thailand Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture visited Bangkok on 1-2 October 2012 to participate in the 'High Level Regional Consultation

on Policies to Respond to High Food Prices in Asia Pacific region' organized by Food and Agricultural Organisation. Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance participated in the Asia Europe Finance Ministers meeting in Bangkok on 14-15 October 2012.

India-Thailand Foreign Office Consultations were held in Bangkok on 10 August 2012 led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), MEA and Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The India-Thailand Joint Working Group on Infrastructure and Connectivity held its first meeting on 11 September 2012 in New Delhi and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Joint Committee on the Trilateral Highway also met in New Delhi.

The Minister of Defence of Thailand, Air Chief Marshal Sukumpol Suvanatat visited New Delhi from 21-23 December 2012 and held talks with the Raksha Mantri Shri A. K. Antony.

An eight member Thai Parliamentary delegation led by Senator Mr Krich Atitkaew, President, Thai-India Parliamentarian Friendship Group visited India from 28 August - 3 September 2012 and met Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Special Secretary, Ministry of Tourism visited Thailand from 2-5 May 2012 to participate in the UN World Tourism Organizations' Conference on Green Tourism held in Chiang Mai. Dr Wijarn Simachaya, Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment attended the India-ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on 6-7 September 2012; Mr Amnuay Thongsathiya, Chief Inspector General, Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency participated in the India-ASEAN Ministerial meeting on Renewable Energy in New Delhi on 7 November 2012.

As part of continuing bilateral cooperation in defence and security fields, the 7th meeting of Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation held in Hua Hin, Thailand on 18-19 July 2012, was led by Ms Vijaya Latha Reddy, Deputy National Security Advisor and Police General Wichean Potephosree, Secretary General of Thai National Security Council.

Air Force exchanges were strengthened with visits by Indian Air Force medical officers to Bangkok from 12-14 March 2012, an Indian Air Force delegation to Bangkok on 2 September 2012 for the Indian Air Force-Royal Thai Air Force mid/junior level exchange visit, Higher Air Command Course delegation from the College of Air Warfare to Thailand from 15-19 October 2012, while a delegation of Thai Air Force officers headed by Air Marshal Mr Phontep Modsuvana, Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Operations visited India for Air Staff

Talks on 25-27 April 2012. Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy held the 14th Round of Coordinated Patrolling (CORPAT) with participation of INS Bangaram and Thai Ship HTMS Kamronsin from 23-26 April 2012 in Port Blair; the 15th CORPAT was held during the visit of INS Battimalv and Indian Dornier aircraft to Phuket from 6-8 November 2012; the 9th meeting of Joint Working Group on Establishment of Order at Sea and the 5th Indian Navy-Royal Thai Navy Staff Talks in Bangkok from 13-15 June 2012; visit of Indian Naval sailing yacht to Phuket from 1-7 May 2012; and visit of two Indian Navy training ships INS Sujata and ICGS Varuna to Phuket from 10-13 October 2012.

The 24th meeting of Trade Negotiating Committee for bilateral Free Trade Agreement was held in Bangkok from 6-8 August 2012 and the 25th meeting was held in New Delhi on 17-18 September 2012. In 2012 (Jan-Nov) India's bilateral trade with Thailand stood at US\$ 8 billion and over 9,00,000 Indian tourists visited Thailand. A Thai business delegation participated in the India - ASEAN Business Fair in New Delhi from 18-20 December 2012.

Timor Leste

India enjoys warm relations with Timor-Leste and supported Timor Leste's developmental efforts towards nation building.

President of India congratulated Mr Taur Matan Ruak on being elected President of Timor Leste. In a return gesture, President of Timor Leste congratulated Mr Pranab Mukerjee on being elected as President of India.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative in New York was a member of the mission of the Security Council which visited Timor Leste from 3-6 November 2012 to assess the ground situation on UNMIT's withdrawal and post UNMIT situation.

India continued to offer 10 slots under General Scholarship Scheme to Timor Leste which includes courses from bachelors to post doctoral in Indian higher educational institutions. India also offered 10 slots under ITEC for various short and medium term courses, which is fully funded by the GOI.

There are around 50 Indian nationals working in different fields in Timor Leste.

Vietnam

India-Vietnam relations have been friendly and cordial, based on strong foundations and cooperation in various sectors, which has further deepened the Strategic Partnership between the two countries. The year was celebrated as the India-Vietnam

Friendship Year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of full diplomatic relations and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of Strategic Partnership.

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Vietnam from 14-17 January 2013 for the closing ceremony of the India-Vietnam Friendship Year 2012. Earlier Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed had visited Vietnam from 4-7 January 2012 for the inauguration of the 'India-Vietnam Year of Friendship'. Other important dignitaries who visited Vietnam were Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles who visited Vietnam from 7-9 March 2012; Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar from 1-5 October 2012; Dr K. Chiranjeevi, Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism from 3-4 January 2013.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung visited New Delhi on 20-21 December 2012 and participated in the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit and had bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Thien Nhan led a 40 member delegation to India from 25 March - 2 April 2012, met the Minister of Science and Technology and visited ISRO in Bangalore. Mr Huynh Dam, Chairman of the Fatherland Front visited India from 29 November- 7 December 2012 under the Distinguished Visitors Programme of ICCR and met External Affairs Minister and called on the President. The Deputy Finance Minister Mr Tran Van Hieu visited India from 13-17 August 2012 and met Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Coal Shri Prakash Jaiswal and Minister of Chemical and Fertiliser Shri M.K. Alagiri. Mr Nguyen Cam Tu, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade participated in the Partnership Summit held from 11-13 January 2012 in Hyderabad. Deputy Prime Minister Mr Vu Van Ninh visited India from 7-10 January 2013.

Agreements/MoUs signed in 2012 included MoU on India-Vietnam Friendship Year 2012, Arrangement on Plant Quarantine, MoU between RBI and State Bank of Vietnam, MoU for supporting augmentation of high performance computing in Vietnam, and MoU on cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

The 7th annual security dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2012. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral D K Joshi visited Vietnam from 25-30 November 2012. An Indian Navy Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini visited Danang Port, Vietnam from 31 December 2012 - 3 January 2013 as a part of ASEAN sailing expedition and CGS Samrat visited Ho Chi Minh City from 2-6 December 2012.



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at the bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand Ms Yingluck Shinawatra on the sidelines of 10th ASEAN-INDIA Summit and 7th EAST -ASIA Summit in Phnom Penh



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh on 19 November 2012

During January-December 2012, trade turnover reached US\$ 3.94 billion, an increase 1.1 % over last year. Indian exports saw a 7.9% decrease to US\$ 2.1 billion and imports from Vietnam increased by 14.6% to US\$ 1.7 billion.

The 9th Joint Committee Meeting on Science and Technology took place in Hanoi in November 2012 at which the Programme of Cooperation (POC) in Science and Technology for 2013-14 was adopted by the two sides.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of establishment of full diplomatic relations, the Institute for Indian and South-West Asian Studies under the aegis of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences was inaugurated in Hanoi on 7 January 2012. A seminar on India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership sponsored by ICWA was organised in Hanoi in July 2012. India has taken decision to open an Indian Cultural Centre in Hanoi.

Leading scholars and experts from India and Vietnam in Cham culture and civilization participated in a seminar organized by the Indian Embassy, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Vietnam Institute for Cultural and Arts Studies in Danang in June 2012.

Reserve Bank of India and Vietnam State Bank signed an agreement opening the way for Indian banks to apply for licenses to operate in Vietnam. A Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegation visited India in November 2012 to conclude discussions with the Indian side on exchange of diplomatic properties between the two countries.

Pacific Islands

The relations between India and the Pacific Island countries continued to grow and expand during the year, aided by the institutionalization of India's dialogue partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) countries, in August 2003, and regular participation thereafter.

Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the 24th Post Forum Dialogue Partners' Meeting on 31 August 2012 in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands, following the 43rd Pacific Island Forum Meeting. He reaffirmed India's commitment to continue to assist the PIF countries in their development projects with annual Grant-in-Aid of US\$ 1,25,000 and close cooperation on sectoral issues. He also met the Health Minister of the Cook Islands and reiterated our interest in developing closer relations with the Cook Islands and the Pacific region countries.

An Agreement for establishing diplomatic relations between India and Niue was signed by the Niuean Prime Minister Toke Talagi and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed on 30 August 2012, in Rarotonga and a Joint Communiqué was issued.

Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Tonga in April 2012 to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting. Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of Nagaland and Rajasthan also attended. Smt Kumar launched the Kolomotu'a Solar Project during her stay in Tonga.

Samoan Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Agriculture Store Cooperation visited India in July 2012 for the 45th COCOTECH APCC meeting held at Cochin.

India continued to assist the Pacific Island countries in socio-economic development by projects, capacity building and human resource development under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

President of Kiribati Mr Anote Tong visited India to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 31 January - 2 February 2013.





Vice President Shri M. Hamind Ansari with Mr Truong Tan Sang, President of Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi 15 January 2013

Japan

The year marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan and witnessed a steady progress in bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda, on the margins of the East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18 November 2012. The 1st India-Japan Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue was held at New Delhi on 30 April 2012 led by The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Foreign Minister of Japan Mr Koichiro Gamba. Several Ministers from both sides participated, including Ministers of State for Planning, Commerce and Industry, and Railways on our side and Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Minister of Financial Services and other senior officials, making the Dialogue an important vehicle for bilateral economic cooperation. On the same day, the Policy Dialogue and the first meeting of the Dialogue on Cooperation in Creative Industries were held between Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma and the Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano. The 5th and 6th meetings of the India-Japan High Level Energy Dialogue co-chaired by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Mr Yukio Edano took place on 30 April 2012 and 10 October 2012 respectively. The areas of discussion included cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, electricity, coal, petroleum and natural gas, and nuclear energy.

In addition to the regular Ministerial dialogue mechanisms, the following Ministers of the Government of India visited Japan in 2012: Minister of Tourism (February), Minister of Urban Development (May), Chief Minister of Gujarat (July), Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers (July) and Finance Minister (October, for the Fund-Bank meeting). From the Japanese side, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Yukio Edano and Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Tourism and Transport Mr Takeshi Maeda visited India in January 2012 followed by Foreign Minister and Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry in April 2012 along with a Ministerial-level delegation.

Economic interaction is the fundamental driver of the India-Japan relationship. India continues to be the largest recipient of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). Disbursement of ODA in FY 2011-12 reached a record high of Yen 139.22 billion (approx. Rs 8497 crores). This is being utilized in several important projects across India, largely in infrastructure projects such as Metro rail projects in different metropolitan cities. Japan also announced ODA loans totaling Yen 184.81 billion (approx. Rs 11,000 crores) to two projects, namely the Dedicated Freight Corridor Western Project Phase II and the Chennai Metro Rail Project.

The Special Economic Partnership Initiative (SEPI) was one of the important outcomes of the visit of the Prime Minister to Japan in December 2006. The main elements of SEPI include Dedicated Freight Corridor-West (DFC-W) project, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project, setting up of multi-product special economic zones/cluster, free trade and warehousing zones at select locations, and encouraging investment by Japanese companies in India, including through assistance in development of infrastructure relating to SEZs and industrial estates, etc. The flagship India-Japan infrastructure projects made steady progress in 2012. The Dedicated Freight Corridor (West) between Mumbai and Delhi is on track for completion in 2017, during the current Plan Period.

The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project has moved ahead with the Cabinet approving a 26% equity stake in the Special Purpose Vehicle DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC) by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on 23 August 2012. The relaxation of capital regulations and controls that the Japanese side had requested in 2011 regarding the DMIC Project have been largely accepted and implemented. The DMIC Task Force, which met on 19 October 2012 in Tokyo, has also listed some of the early projects, which can be taken up in the DMIC with funding provided by the Government. The "DMIC Project Implementation Fund", which will be a revolving fund, was set up as a Trust and will be a repository of Government of India's financial assistance. A Preliminary Study has been undertaken to assess the infrastructural bottlenecks and potential for development of the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor which will lead to a



The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and his Japanese counterpart Mr Koichiro Gemba co-chaired the 6th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue and 1st Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue in New Delhi on 30 April 2012.



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in Seoul on 24 March 2012.

Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan for the development of the region as decided in the Annual Summit of 2011.

The 2nd meeting of the Joint Committee at the Secretary-Vice Minister level for implementation of the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which came into force on 1 August 2011 was held in Tokyo on 17 October 2012. India-Japan bilateral trade for January-November 2012 was US\$ 16.03 billion, which showed a marginal decline of 0.99% over the corresponding period in 2011. In this period, exports to Japan amounted to US\$ 6.4 billion showing a 2.4% growth over the corresponding period in 2011, and imports from Japan totaled US\$ 9.6 billion indicating a decline of around 3% over the same period in 2011. The number of Japanese firms having operations and presence in India has shown a steady increase over the year reaching 926, an increase of 114 entities in the last year. Direct flights between the two countries have increased in number, especially between Tokyo and New Delhi.

A Social Security Agreement (SSA) was signed with Japan in Tokyo on 16 November 2012, as provided for in the bilateral CEPA. On the same day, a Memorandum on Cooperation in the Rare Earths Industry in India was also signed. A bilateral swap agreement between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank of Japan (BoJ) was signed on 4 December 2012 in Mumbai which enhanced the swap amount from US\$ 3 billion in the earlier Agreement of June 2008 to US\$ 15 billion.

A high-level Strategic Dialogue on Economic Issues between Finance Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan has been established in order to develop an overarching mechanism on all economic issues. The 6th meeting of this dialogue was held in Tokyo on 1 October 2012. The 6th bilateral High-level Policy Consultations on Economic Development also took place in Tokyo in April 2012. Other bilateral official level meetings included the 6th Working Group on Cooperation in Urban Development held in Delhi on 4 Oct 2012, and the 1st High level Working Group on High Speed Railways in Delhi on 5 October 2012.

Political and security cooperation as mandated by the Action Plan of 2009 witnessed steady progress in 2012. The 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Secretaries of India and their Japanese interlocutors was held at Tokyo in October 2012. The 1st India-Japan bilateral naval exercise took place as scheduled in June 2012 for which a flotilla of 4 Indian naval ships visited Japan. The 2nd Army-to-Army Staff Talks were held in Tokyo in April 2012 and the Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks in Tokyo in November 2012. Regular cooperation between Coast Guards continued under the

framework of the MoU on bilateral cooperation signed in 2006. A new Cyber Security Dialogue was held at Tokyo on 5 November 2012, while a newly established Maritime Dialogue is scheduled to be held at New Delhi on 29 January 2013. Foreign Office Consultations were held at Foreign Secretary level in February 2012 in Delhi and in October 2012 in Tokyo. Meetings were held under the Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-proliferation on 25 May 2012 in Delhi and the Joint Working Group on Counter terrorism in Tokyo on 6 November 2012. The 2nd and the 3rd rounds of the India-Japan-United States Trilateral Dialogue at official level were held on 23-24 April 2012 in Tokyo and on 29 October 2012 in New Delhi.

The 60th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan was celebrated through various events both in India and Japan. Academic seminars and workshops, business summits and visits of business delegations, cultural performances and art shows, painting and photography exhibitions and joint audio-visual productions, both at governmental level and by private institutions have been held to bring the people of both countries closer.

The India-Japan joint collaboration project to establish a new IIT in Hyderabad saw progress in 2012. A five year joint research programme on the theme of "Information Network for Natural Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Project" adopted by Government of Japan kicked off in July 2010. Fifteen meetings of the India-Japan Science Council have taken place so far, the last one in Kolkata in March 2012.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

India's relations with DPRK continued to be cordial, with the focus being on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. India's support for development of human resources in DPRK continued with ten slots for its officials and two slots for its Defence personnel allotted under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program for the year 2012-13 for English language courses. India participated in the 13th Pyongyang International Film Festival in September 2012.

Republic of Korea (RoK)

India-Republic of Korea relations have become broad-based in recent years. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh undertook a historic bilateral visit to RoK on 25 March 2012 to build upon the momentum generated by the State Visits of RoK President Lee Myung-Bak in January 2010 and by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil in July 2011. Relations were elevated to the level of a 'Strategic Partnership' during the visit of

President Lee Myung-bak to India in January 2010. Since then, there has been a qualitative expansion of cooperation in several areas including defence, security, culture and education.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh undertook an official bilateral visit to Seoul on 25 March 2012. During the visit, an Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures and a MoU on cooperation between Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of Ministry of External Affairs and Korean National Diplomatic Academy of Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade were signed. A Joint Statement was issued which outlined a roadmap for future cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The Prime Minister had an interaction with Korean CEOs. He also attended the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul on 26-27 March 2012.

Investments and trade constitute the bedrock of bilateral engagements. There are around 400 Korean companies employing over 40,000 workers in India. Bilateral economic and commercial relations received a fillip with the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in January 2010. A new trade target of US\$ 40 billion to be achieved by 2015 was set during Prime Minister's visit to RoK in March 2012. Due to the slowing down of the global economy, bilateral trade was sluggish in 2012. Total bilateral trade from January - November 2012 was US\$ 17.4 billion. Exports from India in this period, totalled US\$ 6.33 billion showing a decrease of 13.6%, while imports from RoK amounted to US\$ 11.07 billion marking a decrease of 4.4%. Both sides are currently negotiating to upgrade the CEPA. Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister visited RoK on 1-2 November 2012 for the 3rd annual Finance Ministers' meeting.

There was progress in political and security cooperation with the RoK. A goodwill visit to Busan Port by four Indian Naval ships took place in May-June 2012. A meeting of the Defence Ministers was held on 30 November 2012 in Delhi. The First Steering Committee Meeting between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Defence Acquisition Programme Administration (DAPA) of RoK was held in February 2012. In pursuance of the decision taken following the visit of Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony to RoK in September 2010, a Defence Wing was established in the Embassy in Seoul. The resident Defence Attaché/ Defence Wing started functioning in October 2012. At the official level, India-RoK Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD) was held in New Delhi in June 2012 at Secretary/Vice Minister level. Foreign Office Consultations were held in February 2012.

In the field of science and technology, both sides expressed desire for deepening cooperation. The 2nd India-Korea Science

& Technology Ministerial Steering Committee meeting was held in Delhi on 12 December 2012. A Joint Communiqué was signed by Minister of Science & Technology Shri S. Jaipal Reddy and visiting RoK Minister of Education, Science and Technology Mr Lee Ju-ho. The two sides agreed to collaborate in research on Renewable Energy and Material Sciences and continue cooperation in current projects. A Joint Workshop on Health and Medical Sciences and a Technology Summit were held coinciding with the bilateral Science and Technology meeting to facilitate and promote public-private interaction.

The Festival of India in Korea which commenced on 30 June 2011 ended with a closing ceremony on 7 March 2012. During Prime Minister's visit to Republic of Korea in March 2012, it was agreed that the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries be celebrated in a befitting manner. Minister of Culture of the Republic of Korea visited India on 13 December 2012 and met Minister of Culture Smt Chandresh Kumari Katoch. The Korean Cultural Centre was inaugurated in Delhi jointly by the two Ministers of Culture on 13 December 2012. A MoU on Cooperation in Education was also signed in Delhi on 12 December 2012 by Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development Dr Shashi Tharoor and visiting RoK Minister of Education, Science & Technology.

Mongolia

India and Mongolia have very old cultural ties and in the modern context, longstanding diplomatic relations. The bilateral relationship has developed significantly under the existing Comprehensive Partnership between India and Mongolia. There was steady progress in the defence and strategic ties between India and Mongolia. The two countries have traditionally supported each other in the United Nations and various other international fora. While bilateral and international cooperation between the two countries has progressed satisfactorily, both sides are striving to further diversify their economic cooperation. The 4th Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation is planned to take place during the current financial year to take stock of the overall relationship between the two countries.

India continued to provide developmental assistance to Mongolia in varied sectors, including 150 slots for training of Government officials under ITEC Programme, 50 ICCR scholarships for under-graduation and post-graduation courses, trainings to Mongolian Defense personnel in Indian Defense Institutions under ITEC/SCAAP, and training to border guarding force personnel. An agreement on Line of Credit of US \$20 million on easy terms to Mongolia to set up

a "India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre" in Ulaanbaatar was made effective in August 2012. The preliminary process for the upgradation and modernization of the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School in Ulaanbaatar was completed. The Government of India decided to implement six trades in phases. Under the first phase, two trades - Computer Programming & Information Technology courses and Printing Technology courses - would be implemented during the current financial year 2012-13.

There was steady progress in the defence and strategic ties between India and Mongolia. The 5th Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Working Group on defence cooperation was held in Ulaanbaatar in November 2012. The 8th Joint India-Mongolia military Exercise "Nomadic Elephant", which is a regular annual feature, was held in India in August 2012. India participated in the multi-national military Exercise Khaan Quest-2012 in Mongolia in August 2012.

The Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Nuclear Energy Agency of Mongolia decided to hold 2nd Meeting of their Working Group on nuclear cooperation in India in December 2012 to strengthen bilateral civil nuclear cooperation under the MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Use of Radioactive Minerals and Nuclear Energy, signed in September 2009. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) signed an MoU on mineral resources with the Mongolian Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy in May 2012. SAIL proposes to set up a 3 million ton per year steel processing plant in Mongolia.

India and Mongolia are both members of the Community of Democracies. India is co-hosting with Mongolia a Regional Conference of the Community of Democracies on Education for Democracy in New Delhi on 17-18 January 2013. The Conference will be co-Chaired by India's Minister of Human Resource Development and Mongolia's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Around 25 countries of the region are participating in the event.



Russian Federation

India and the Russian Federation marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in April 2012. The two countries continued the tradition of regular exchanges and interactions at all levels. Then Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visited New Delhi for the 4th BRICS Summit (28-29 March 2012), which included a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met President Putin on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Mexico in June 2012. President Putin visited India with a high level delegation for the 13th Annual Summit on 24 December 2012.

Other important bilateral visits during the year included:

The then External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri S. M. Krishna visited Moscow for the 11th India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (13 April 2012). EAM also attended events to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Soviet Union/Russian Federation. A Russian Parliamentary delegation led by Mr R.G. Iskuzhin, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Defence & Security of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation visited New Delhi (15-17 May 2012). The delegation visited Parliament on May 15 and met Shri Satpal Maharaj, Chairman, Parliament Standing Committee on Defence. Commerce and Industries Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited St. Petersburg for the 16th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (21-23 June 2012). He co-chaired the India-Russia Business Dialogue held on the margins along with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin. National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon visited St. Petersburg for the 3rd International Meeting of High Representatives in charge of Security Matters (June 6-8, 2012). Deputy Prime Minister and Russian Co-Chair of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission, Dmitry Rogozin visited New Delhi (16-17 July, 2012). An inter-session meeting of Co-Chairs of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission was convened during the visit. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri M.M. Pallam Raju visited Russia from 18-20 September 2012 and participated in the 300th anniversary of Tula Arms Plant. He also met Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin and Deputy Minister of Industry & Trade Mr I. Karavaev. A 5-member multi-party

Russian Parliamentary delegation (State Duma-Lower House) led by Head of the Parliamentary Group on India, Mr Pavel Dorokhin visited Delhi and Mumbai from 4-8 December 2012 and met their Indian counterparts in the India-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Group and also in the Standing Committee on External Affairs in the Parliament. They also interacted with various business chambers.

The 18th Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) meeting, co-chaired by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin and the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, was held in New Delhi on 15 October 2012. A Joint Protocol of the Commission was adopted. The 6th India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment was also held on 15 October 2012 and was addressed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin and Minister of Commerce, Industries and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma. The IRIGC-TEC meeting was preceded by the meetings of various Working Groups under the Inter-Governmental Commission, which are headed by senior officials from Ministries concerned in both countries. These include the Working Groups on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Energy and Energy Efficiency and Science and Technology (New Delhi on 12 October 2012); Working Groups on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation (New Delhi on 28-29 August 2012); Tourism and Culture (New Delhi on 17 April 2012); Sub-Group on Banking and Financial Matters (St. Petersburg from 27-29 June 2012); and the Sub-Group on Conservation of Tigers and Wildlife (Moscow on 17-18 September 2012).

Defence Minister Shri A.K. Antony co-chaired the 12th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) with Russian Defence Minister Mr Anatoly E. Serdyukov, in New Delhi on 10 October 2012.

Chief of Air Staff N.A.K. Browne attended the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Russian Air Force on 12 August, 2012. Deputy National Security Adviser and Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat Ms Vijay Latha Reddy held talks with Mr Yevgeny Lukyanov, Deputy Secretary in the Russian Security Council in New Delhi on 27 January 2012 as part of

the 11th Joint Coordination Group (JCG) meeting between Russian Security Council and the NSCS; she subsequently visited Moscow for the 12th round of IGC from 10-12 October 2012.

Foreign Office Consultations were held on the following subjects during the year: (i) Priority Tasks of India-Russia Relations, at the level of Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr A. Denisov [New Delhi in February 2012] (ii) Strategic stability, non-proliferation of WMD and multi-lateral export control issues [Moscow in August 2012] (iii) 7th Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism [New Delhi in April 2012] (iv) Situation in Central Asia [New Delhi in September 2012] (v) G20 related issues [New Delhi in October 2012] (vi) Issues concerning South West Asia [New Delhi in January 2012 & Moscow in September 2012] and (vii) Issues concerning diplomatic properties [New Delhi in September 2012].

Bilateral trade showed a growth trend of more than 30% in 2012 over 2011. The calendar year 2012 estimates of trade are of US\$ 11 billion. Both sides undertook important initiatives with the aim of achieving the trade target of US\$ 20 billion set for 2015. The first Joint Working Group meeting on Modernization & Industrial Cooperation with Russia was held on 29 August 2012 in New Delhi. The JWG was preceded by the meetings of its four Sub-groups on Modernization, Civil Aviation, Mining and Fertilizers.

Ukraine

India and Ukraine relations witnessed a qualitative forward movement with the State visit of President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovych to India from 9-11 December 2012. President Yanukovych held talks with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. President Yanukovych also had bilateral meetings with the President, Vice President, External Affairs Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. He addressed the Indo-Ukrainian Business Forum jointly hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). The Ukrainian side expressed support for India's candidature for the permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council. India expressed its support for the candidature of Ukraine for a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2016-17. Five agreements were signed during the visit - Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters; Agreement on Cooperation in Field of Defence, Agreement on Cooperation in Field of Science and Technology; Agreement on Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in Nuclear Defence and Radiation Protection; Memorandum on

Mutual Understanding in Field of Standardization and Assessment of Conformity and Quality. A Joint Statement was issued on "Forging a Comprehensive Partnership between India and Ukraine".

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Kyiv to co-chair 4th meeting of the India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation (IUIGC-TEC) from 30 May - 1 June 2012. He called on President of Ukraine. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) led business delegation participated in the IGC, held a Joint Business Council and a Buyer Seller Meet at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held its 1st meeting in Kyiv on 12-13 April 2012. The Ministry of Commerce held the first ever exclusive India Show in Kyiv from 5-9 September 2012 through FICCI. Buyer-Seller Meet and Joint Business Council were organized during the India Show.

Bilateral trade registered an increase of 48.26% from US\$ 1,932.73 million in 2010-11 to US\$ 2,865.45 million in 2011-12 (India's exports were US\$ 491.22 million and imports were US\$ 2,374.23 million). As announced during the Kyiv Summit for Safe and Innovative use of Nuclear Energy on 19 April 2011 (25th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy), India contributed a grant of US\$ 1 million to Ukraine in 2012 for the Chernobyl Shelter Fund administered by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Ukraine, several activities were organized by the Indian Embassy in Kyiv. A short term ICCR Chair on Indian Studies was set up at the Institute of international Relations, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine in 2012. An all-Ukrainian Festival of Indian Dance with 25 dance groups from different regions of Ukraine performed on 22 September 2012 in Kyiv. Member of Parliament and currently Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development Dr Shashi Tharoor and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament participated in the 9th Yalta European Strategy Conference, Yalta on 14-15 September 2012. The All Ukrainian Association of Indologists organized a Round Table Conference in October 2012. The then Foreign Secretary Mr Kanwal Sibal participated in the lead panel of the 5th Kyiv Security Forum held in Kyiv on 19-20 April 2012.

A Ukrainian Hindi teacher of the Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv was awarded the Vishwa Hindi Samman at



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Russian President Vladimir Putin undertook an extensive review of bilateral cooperation between India and Russia on 25 December 2012



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and President Sri Pranab Mukherjee with President of Ukraine Mr Viktor Yanukovich at the Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi 10 December 2012

9th World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2012. India continued to offer scholarships to Ukraine under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (15) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (2) schemes.

Belarus

India-Belarus relations continued to be warm and cordial. Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich paid a working visit to India on 13-14 November 2012. He met Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the Minister of Coal Shri Sri Prakash Jaiswal, Minister of Science and Technology Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma. He participated in the inauguration of India International Trade Fair-2012 (IITF) where he also had talks with the Hon'ble President of India. Belarus was the partner country for the India-International Trade Fair.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot visited Belarus from 11-13 January 2012. He inaugurated the Digital Learning Centre named after Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in Minsk. Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia led an official delegation to Belarus on 30-31 January 2012 to participate in the 5th Meeting of India-Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Trade, Industrial, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. The Third Round of Foreign Office Consultations was held on 22 February 2012 in New Delhi. Belarus participated in the 20th World Book Fair at New Delhi from 24-28 February 2012.

The economic and commercial cooperation continued to be on track with total trade reaching US\$ 506 million in 2011, a growth of 13.5% over 2010. An 18-member delegation of pharmaceutical companies organized by Pharmexcil visited Minsk from 8-11 December 2012 to explore possibilities of cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector and also held Buyers-Sellers Meet.

The 5th meeting of the India-Belarus Joint Committee on Military and Technical Cooperation was held in Minsk on 2-3 September 2012. Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme 45 slots were offered to Belarus. At the ITEC Day celebrations in the Chancery on 28 September 2012, 125 ITEC alumni participated with Mr Sergei Maskevich, Minister for Education of Belarus, as the chief guest.

An 11-member dance troupe led by Ms Pratibha Prahalad, a 5-member Indian Classical music group led by Pt. Satish C. Vyas and a dance troupe led by Ms Mitul Sengupta performed in Minsk and other cities of Belarus. The Museum of

Contemporary Art in Minsk organised an exhibition depicting the works of Indian Graphic artist Mr Rakesh Bani on 10 July 2012. This was the first such exhibition of an Indian artist.

Functions were organized to mark the completion of 20 years of diplomatic relations between India and Belarus.

Georgia

India's relations with Georgia remained cordial. The ICCR Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies at Tbilisi State University was operationalised from October 2011 - September 2012.

India's cooperation in human resource development and capacity building was much appreciated in Georgia. 25 training slots were allotted for 2012-13 to Georgia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC).

The Embassy in Yerevan remained in touch with the Government of Georgia to ensure the welfare and safeguard the interests of the Indian community, including students and businessmen, whose size has grown in the past few years.

Armenia

Substance and content has been added to India-Armenia bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992. The Treaty of Friendship of 1995 and over 30 bilateral agreements provide the effective enabling framework for bilateral cooperation.

India's Development Assistance is highly appreciated. The Project to create or upgrade existing Computer Labs in 72 schools (19 schools in urban and semi-urban areas and 53 schools in rural areas) in Tavush Region has successfully been completed. The Project will benefit over 14,000 students and around 500 teachers in the region. The two important projects completed in 2011 with assistance from the Government of India, namely, the India-Armenia Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in Yerevan and the Census Data Processing Centre in Yerevan are functioning well. Former is the only hi-tech institution in the region equipped with a made-in-India Super Computer - PARAM. Two Indian IT trainers deputed to the Centre from November 2011 - May 2012 to set-up an IT learning center at the Centre of Excellence successfully carried out their assigned task.

Out of 45 training slots allotted for 2012-13 to Armenia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), over 40 slots have already been booked reflecting growing popularity of this programme in Armenia. ICCR's Short-term Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies at Yerevan State University was operational from February - June 2012.



Prime Minister of Republic of Belarus Dr Mikbail Myasnikovich with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi November 14, 2012



Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Abam inaugurating the first India-Central Asia Dialogue under the joint aegis of the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the World Diplomatic Academy, Bishkek June 2012.

Over 40 Armenian students are currently learning Hindi language at Yerevan State Linguistic University (YSLU). Hindi is taught by a teacher from India under ICCR-sponsored Hindi Chair at YSLU.

2012 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Armenia. A 5-member ICCR-sponsored Bharatnatyam dance group visited Armenia from 28 September - 2 October 2012. Four painters from the Armenian Union of Painters visited India from 6-21 November 2012 to do on-the-spot paintings of various locations in India. An abridged version of Ramayana in Armenian language was brought out by the Embassy in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of Armenia. The Embassy of India organized a week of Indian films in Yerevan in January 2013.

Bilateral trade between India and Armenia stood at US\$ 57.3 million for January - October 2012, slightly higher than US\$ 54.8 million for the same period in 2011.

Azerbaijan

India's relations with Azerbaijan were consolidated on the basis of guidelines enunciated in the 2nd meeting of India-Azerbaijan Intergovernmental Commission (IAIGC). During the last nine months following high-level visits were exchanged: Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry led a delegation for the 2nd India-Azerbaijan Intergovernmental Commission (IAIGC) in April 2012; Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of State (IC) of Sports and Youth Affairs led a delegation in June 2012; Shri Praful Patel, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises visited in July 2012; and Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communication and Information

Technology led an Indian delegation in November 2012; Mr Natig Aliyev, Minister of Energy and Industry of Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan visited India to attend "Energy Access" International Seminar held in New Delhi on 9-10 October 2012.

During the meeting of IAIGC a Protocol was signed by the two Chairmen. Azerbaijan and India also signed an Air Services Agreement. Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia called on President Aliyev and held meetings with Mr Shahin Mustafayev, Minister for Economic Development and with Mr Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan. Both sides agreed to strengthen the institutional framework between the two countries.

During the first nine months of 2012, bilateral trade with Azerbaijan crossed US\$ 1.35 billion, 315% increase over the same period of 2011, primarily due to increase in import of Azeri crude oil, iodine and oil coke. ONGC has entered into an agreement with Azerbaijan Government for purchase of assets worth US\$ 1 billion in Azerbaijan's oil fields and pipelines.

Government allotted 15 slots under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) for Azerbaijan for the year 2011-2012. Government Tourist Office, Frankfurt along with some tour operators from India participated in the 11th Azerbaijan International Travel and Tourism Fair (AITF) held in Baku from 12-14 April 2012. The 'Incredible India' pavilion was inaugurated by the Azerbaijani Minister for Culture and Tourism. A 'Hindi Chair', established by the ICCR, at the Azerbaijan University of Languages in Baku in 2010 is teaching Hindi to 24 Azerbaijani students as an elective subject.

Central Asia

Kazakhstan

The momentum of India-Kazakhstan relations following the visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Astana on 15-16 April 2011, was maintained during the year.

Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology led a 4-member delegation to the Commemorative Summit and 4th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Foreign Ministers Meeting held in Astana on 12 September 2012. He also held bilateral talks with Kazakh Minister of Transport & Communication Mr Askar Zhumagaliev. The 10th meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission between India and Kazakhstan was held in New Delhi on 8-9 January 2013.

The India-Kazakh Inter-Governmental Consultation was held in New Delhi on 9 January 2013. During this meeting, a MoU with Kazakhstan was also signed for setting up an IT Centre at Astana.

Bilateral trade with Kazakhstan increased to US\$ 422.10 million during the period January - October 2012 as compared to US\$ 205.60 during the period January - October 2011 thus showing an increase of 105.30%. Under the ITEC programme 55 slots were allotted to Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyz Republic

India-Kyrgyzstan relations saw increased engagement during the year.

Both countries celebrated the 20th anniversary of Indo-Kyrgyz diplomatic relations. To mark the occasion, the Embassy organized an Indian Film Festival, a performance of Indian folk dance, a reception, publication of articles and interviews in leading Kyrgyz electronic and print media during 2012.

A 4-member Indian Army training team completed 9 months training of Kyrgyz military personnel in UN peacekeeping operations in April 2012.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Kyrgyzstan from 10-13 June 2012 and inaugurated the first ever India-Central Asia Track-II Dialogue and the Potato Processing Plant set up under Indian collaboration. The Minister unveiled India's 'Connect Central Asia Policy' and mentioned inter alia India's intention to establish an e-Network in Central Asia, to promote tele-medicine and tele-education, to open an Indian-Central Asian University and to set up a super-speciality hospital and diagnostic center in Kyrgyzstan.

Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Kyrgyzstan and addressed the forum of Compatriots "Mekendeshter" which was held on 2-3 August 2012 to support million plus non-resident Kyrgyz nationals. The event was organized by former President Roza Otunbaeva's Foundation.

A 4-member Handicraft Export Promotion Council team led by Shri S.S.Gupta, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) visited Bishkek on 21-22 September 2012 and attended a business promotion meeting organized by the Embassy in coordination with the Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), along with Shri Ajay Bisaria, JS (ERS), attended the SCO Heads of Governments Meeting in Bishkek on 4-5 December 2012 and held bilateral discussions with the Kyrgyz Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Bilateral trade showed an upward trend in 2011-2012 with total trade volume at US\$ 31.22 million as against US\$ 23.56 million in 2010-11.

Tajikistan

Bilateral relations between India and Tajikistan received a fillip during 2012 with declaration of 'strategic partnership' with Tajikistan during the visit of President Emomali Rahmon to India from 1-4 September 2012. During the visit, following bilateral agreements/MoUs were signed: Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the Years 2012-2015; Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the Field of Education; MoU in the field of Sports; MoU between the Ministry of Energy and Industry, Tajikistan and Ministry of Textiles, India; Agreement on Mutual Cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Tajikistan and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, India; Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India and the Ministry of Health, Tajikistan.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Dushanbe and met Foreign Minister Zairfi and President Rahmon on 2-3 July 2012 respectively. EAM also addressed the annual Meeting of Eurasia Heads of Missions on 3 July 2012, held at the Indian Embassy.

Two units of Varzob - I Hydro Power Plant with an uprated capacity of 2 x 4.75 MW were successfully commissioned. The Government of India undertook renovation and modernization of this Power Plant through BHEL and NHPC. Mr Gul Sherali, Minister for Energy and Industry of Tajikistan and Indian Ambassador inaugurated the Varzob-1 Hydro Power Station on 28 December 2012. The uprated

plant was formally handed over by BHEL to Tajikistan on 31 January 2013.

Bilateral trade between India and Tajikistan stood at US\$ 28.37 million in 2011-12 as against US\$ 40.79 million in 2010-11.

A total of 150 training slots are allotted under our ITEC programme to Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

The 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Turkmenistan was celebrated during the year with holding of events like a photo exhibition on "Islamic Monuments of India" in Ashgabat in August-September 2012 and screening of Indian films in various parts of Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project made progress. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Avaza on 23 May 2012 for participation in the TAPI Steering Committee Meeting (SCM). The Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) between India and Turkmenistan was signed during the visit. Transit fee payable by India to Pakistan and Afghanistan was also finalized during the year. TAPI road-shows were held in September 2012 at Singapore, New York and London so as to form an International Consortium which will build and operate the TAPI gas pipeline. Shri Sudhir Bhargava, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas participated in the TAPI SCM held in Ashgabat on 23 September 2012. Mr K. Abdullaev, Acting Minister of Oil/Gas Industry and Mineral Resources of Turkmenistan visited New Delhi, 14-17 October 2012 for participation in Petrotech 2012.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Communications and Information Technology visited Ashgabat on 16-19 September 2012 to strengthen further bilateral cooperation in IT sector. India had assisted Turkmenistan in setting up of an IT Center in Ashgabat in the year 2011. A 23-member Indian delegation from Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) visited Ashgabat from 12-15 December 2012 to strengthen further bilateral ties in the sector. 35 training slots under the ITEC training programme were made available to Turkmenistan in 2011-2012. Foreign Minister Mr Rashid Meredov led the delegation for the Inter-Governmental Consultations held on 22 January 2013 in New Delhi.

Bilateral trade rose from US\$ 35.87 million in 2010-2011 to US\$ 60.74 million in 2011-2012.

Uzbekistan

India and Uzbekistan celebrated the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in March 2012.

The 11th round of regular Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi in November 2012. Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Sanjay Singh and the Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Oybek Arif Usmanov led their respective delegations. The Uzbek side reaffirmed support to India's bid for permanent membership of UNSC. Mr Oybek Arif Usmanov called on External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. The 2nd meeting of India-Uzbek Joint Working Group on Information Technology was held from 26-28 February 2013.

Uzbekistan supported India's bid to host the 36th International Geological Congress in the IGC meeting in August 2012.

During the period January-September 2012 bilateral trade stood at US\$ 139.4 million with India's exports at US\$116.8 million and India's imports at US\$ 22.6 million. A number of visits at the B2B level took place in 2012 which included - visits to Tashkent by HCL delegation in January 2012 as a follow up of the visit of Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot in October 2011; by an Infosys delegation in February 2012 to discuss prospects of cooperation with Uzbek Agency for Communication; by NASSCOM delegation led by its President in April 2012 to discuss prospects of cooperation with the Uzbek Communication and Information Agency and Association of IT Enterprises of Uzbekistan; by an NIIT delegation in April 2012 to explore possibilities of cooperation in the IT Sector; 46-member FICCI delegation from 20-23 July 2012 as part of FICCI's corporate retreat; and a 11-member business delegation from the Indo-CIS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi in September 2012.

The number of annual slots for Uzbekistan under ITEC Programme was increased from 125 to 150 on the occasion of visit of the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, to India in May 2011. The ITEC programme has been well received in Uzbekistan with slot utilization of almost 100 percent in the last three years. 20 scholarships are being offered to Uzbekistan annually for various courses in Indian Universities under ICCR's Scholarship Programme.



The Gulf

India enjoys traditionally close political, economic and cultural links with countries of the Gulf region. The countries of the region together are India's largest trading partner group in the world, with a trade volume of US\$ 167 billion during 2011-12. Close to 60 per cent of India's crude oil requirements is met by the region. The Gulf countries host more than six million Indians who contribute to the economies of their host countries. India, therefore, has a vital stake in the peace and stability, and continued progress and prosperity, of the countries of the Gulf.

Bahrain

The positive role played by Indian professionals, businessmen and workers in building Bahrain over the last several decades is appreciated by the people and Government of Bahrain which is reflected in the excellent relations of trust and mutual understanding between India and Bahrain.

The landmark development during the year was the official visit to India by Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in May 2012 at the invitation of Vice-President of India Shri Hamid Ansari. Apart from discussions on bilateral relations with the Vice-President, the Crown Prince also called on the then President Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. The visit provided fresh impetus to the already close and excellent ties that India has with Bahrain.

Deputy National Security Advisor attended Manama Dialogue, held annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in Manama, Bahrain from 7-9 December 2012.

Iran

The year witnessed the strengthening of relations between India and Iran through a series of high level interactions. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh visited Tehran from 28-31 August 2012 to attend the Non-Aligned Movement Summit. On the margins of the visit, Prime Minister held separate meetings with the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Other high-level exchanges/interaction between India and Iran in 2012 were:

Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran for Asia and Oceania Region Dr Seyed Abbas Araghchi visited India in October 2012 for Foreign Office Consultations.

Visit of Deputy National Security Adviser Smt Latha Reddy to Iran from 9-11 May 2012.

Visit of Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr Farooq Abdullah to Iran accompanied by a business delegation in March 2012.

In May 2012, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Salehi visited India, as President's Special Envoy, to invite Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh for the 16th NAM summit.

In September 2012, Minister of State of Water Resources and Minority Affairs Shri Vincent H. Pala visited Tehran to attend the 8th Governing Board of Meeting (GBM-8) of Regional Center on Urban Water Management (RCUWM).

Minister of Energy Majid Namjoo visited India in October 2012 to attend the "International Seminar of Energy Access" held in New Delhi.

In November 2012, Iranian Vice President and Head of Department of Environment Dr Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh visited Hyderabad to attend the 11th Conference of Parties (CoP) of UN Convention on Biodiversity.

Dr Saeed Jalili, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran paid a visit to India from 2-4 January 2013. He called on External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and had a meeting with National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon. A MoU for cooperation between the two National Security Council Secretariats was signed.

Iraq

India is committed to the reconstruction of a modern and democratic Iraq. In keeping with this commitment in the area of capacity building, India provided 150 slots to Iraq in 2012

under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to train Iraqi government officials and 55 scholarships to Iraqi students for higher studies in India under the 'Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme' (CEP) and the 'General Cultural Scholarship Scheme' (GCSS) of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

A 28-member Parliamentary delegation led by Mr Osama Al Nujaifi, President (Speaker) of the Council of Representatives (Parliament) of Iraq visited India at the joint invitation of Vice President and ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Hamid Ansari and Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar from 15-20 December 2012. The delegation had meetings with Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, Speaker Smt Meira Kumar, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and the Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs.

Iraq is the second largest supplier of crude oil to India. In the financial year 2011-12, bilateral trade stood at US\$ 19.7 billion. India's exports to Iraq were US\$ 763.97 million whereas imports from Iraq were US\$ 18.94 billion.

Israel

Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal visited Israel from 3-8 April 2012. The Minister called on President of the State of Israel Mr Shimon Peres, met Minister of Communications Mr Moshe Kahlon, Minister of Finance Dr Yuval Steinitz, and Minister of Education Mr Gideon Saa'r. Both sides agreed to set up a Joint Working Group for collaboration in Telecom and Information Technology. A joint fund was set up to enable joint research in renewable and sustainable energies, bio-medical sciences, cyber-security, humanities and social sciences with a total contribution of US\$ 5 million over a three year period.

Minister of Tourism Shri Subodh Kant Sahai visited Israel from 23-26 June 2012 accompanied by the Ministers of Tourism from Assam and Uttarakhand. The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism also took place during the visit. An "Incredible India" evening was organized for promoting tourism to India. Minister of Tourism inaugurated the statue of Rabindranath Tagore at Hebrew University in Jerusalem to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore.

Secretary, Ministry of Textiles visited Israel from 4-8 September 2012 to inaugurate the first India International Apparel and Textile Show in Tel Aviv. A Letter of Intent was signed for cooperation in the sector.

A 7-member delegation led by the Director General Acquisition, Ministry of Defence visited Israel from 3-7 June 2012 for the

7th India-Israel Sub Working Group meeting on Defence Procurement, Production and Development.

Other important visits to Israel from India included those of Ministers of Agriculture of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, namely Shri Paramvir Singh, Shri Kanna Laxmi Narayan and Shri Vikhepatil Eknathrao respectively for participation in the international exhibition Agritech 2012 from 15-17 May 2012. Minister of Irrigation of Uttar Pradesh Shri Shivpal Singh Yadav visited Israel from 8-10 September 2012.

Four ships of the Indian Navy, INS Mumbai, INS Trishul, INS Gomati and INS Aditya paid a goodwill visit to Haifa Port from 30 July - 2 August 2012, commanded by Rear Admiral AR Karve, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet of the Indian Navy.

To mark the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel, the 2nd edition of Festival of India "Celebrating India in Israel" was organised in May 2012 and showcased Indian music, film, art, literature, yoga and cuisine. A set of two postal stamps, issued by the Departments of Posts of the two countries, were unveiled on 5 November 2012.

The 6th round of India-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations was held in Israel from 20-23 January 2013.

Jordan

Special Director(S), CBI, paid an official visit to Amman from 16-18 July 2012 to attend the Third Global Focal Point Conference.

An 'Incredible India Tourism Road Show' was organized by the Embassy of India, Amman in collaboration with India Tourism Office, Dubai on 27 June 2012 in Amman. A high-level delegation led by the then Minister of Tourism, Shri Subodh Kant Sahai inaugurated the event.

Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly Dr Charnjit Singh Atwal, paid an official visit to Amman from 22 - 25 September 2012.

A 4-member Indian delegation led by Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan participated in the Regional Group Meeting of Asia Pacific Forum (APF), the 11th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions and side event on Business Women's and Children's Rights held in Amman from 5-8 November 2012.

A 3-member defence delegation from Jordan Armed forces led by Major General Ahmad Mahmoud Al Bahahbeh participated

in the Defexpo 2012 held in New Delhi from 27 March - 3 April 2012.

A 12-member Indian business delegation, sponsored by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), India participated in the JIMEX-2012 held in Amman from 4-7 June 2012.

Kuwait

The 1st Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kuwait were held in New Delhi on 7 May 2012. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Kuwait from 14-17 October 2012 to participate in the 1st Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit held in Kuwait. On the sidelines of the Summit, he met the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Kuwait on 10-11 November 2012 to promote the 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) held in Kochi from 7-9 January 2013.

A Kuwaiti delegation visited New Delhi on 22-23 November 2012 to attend the 2nd meeting of India-Kuwait Joint Working Group (JWG) on Hydrocarbons to promote cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. India and Kuwait signed a MoU on Health at New Delhi on 23 April 2012. The MoU envisages expansion of bilateral cooperation and setting up of a Joint Working Group on Health.

An 11-member delegation of Kuwait Journalist Association led by its Chairman Ahmed Yousuf Behbehani visited India from 14-18 May 2012.

A delegation from Ministry of Finance visited Kuwait for a road show titled "India: The Incredible Investment Destination" on 13 June 2012.

The Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi and the India Tourism Office organized 'Incredible India' road show to promote tourism to India on 31 October, 2012. Several cultural events were organized.

Special Kuwait Cell

The Special Kuwait Cell 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 handled pending court cases and certain residual issues such as audit of claims account. The Cell also attended to RTI queries from claimants.

Lebanon

A Lebanese delegation led by Minister of State Marwan Kheireddine and including Chairman of the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon participated in the third edition of the Arab-India Partnership Conference held on 22-23 May 2012 in Abu Dhabi. Mr Kheireddine met Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed on the sidelines of the meeting and discussed bilateral relations and possibility of India's participation in the Lebanese offshore gas explorations.

An Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Limited (OVL) delegation visited Lebanon on 3-4 July 2012 and participated in the Lebanon International Petroleum Exploration Exhibition (LIPE) 2012 and interacted with Lebanese counterparts for commencement of offshore natural gas exploration operations in Lebanon. OVL representatives visited Lebanon again on 2-3 August 2012 for follow-up discussions in this regard.

Oman

The traditionally close socio-economic and politically strong relationship between India and Oman grew during the year. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs led a delegation to Oman on 13 November 2012 for interaction with the Indian expatriate community and to promote the 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) in Kochi from 7-9 January 2013. Speaker of the Punjab Assembly visited Oman on 17-18 September 2012 for a study tour and met Minister of Manpower and Chairmen of Majlis A'Shura and Majlis A'Dawla. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Oman from 7-8 November 2012 and interacted with the Indian expatriate community in Oman.

The 9th meeting of the India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group (IOSCG) was held in Muscat on 2 December 2012. It was co-chaired by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, from the Indian side and Mr Ahmed Yousuf bin Obaid Al Harthi, Under Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the Omani side.

India-Oman Joint Working Group on Agriculture met in Muscat from 6-8 November 2012 and finalized the Work Plan for Cooperation during 2012-13. India and Oman held bilateral Civil Aviation Talks in Muscat on 25-26 November 2012 and signed a revised MoU agreeing on an enhanced weekly passenger seats and weekly flights for each side.

A 6-member team comprising officials from Ministry of Finance, SEBI and RBI visited Muscat and made a presentation titled 'India: Incredible Investment Destination' on 12 June

2012. A 10-member team from CII visited Oman from 22-26 June 2012 and held meetings with Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry. FICCI sponsored a 27-member business delegation to Oman from 4-6 September 2012. Indexpo Muscat 2012 was held in Muscat from 4-6 September 2012 in which 70 Indian companies and businesses participated. Ministry of Tourism and the Embassy of India, organized an 'Incredible India 2012' Road show in Muscat on 14 October, 2012. Defence Secretary led a 5-member delegation to Muscat on 5-6 January 2013 and co-chaired the 6th Meeting of the Joint Military Cooperation Committee with the Under Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Sultanate of Oman in which it was agreed to expand the areas of defence cooperation.

From the Oman side, Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah visited India on 2 November 2012 for IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting and held bilateral discussions with External Affairs Minister. At the invitation of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Chairman of the State Financial and Administrative Audit Institution of Oman led a delegation to India from 1-3 May 2012. A delegation from Ministry of Manpower of Oman visited India and participated in the 3rd Session of the India-Oman Joint Working Group on Manpower, in Mumbai from 11-12 September 2012.

Aircraft Carrier INS Virat, accompanied by INS Talwar and INS Ganga made a call at Muscat Port from 21-23 June 2012.

Palestine

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas paid a State Visit to India from 10-12 September 2012. During the visit he inaugurated the Embassy of Palestine in New Delhi. India announced a budgetary assistance of US\$ 10 million to Palestine. Three MoUs were signed between the two countries in the fields of Information & Communication Technology, Vocational Training and Construction of Schools. India also reiterated its strong and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause.

India co-sponsored the draft resolution on enhancing Palestine's status from 'Non-Member Observer Entity' to 'Non-Member Observer State' in the United Nations General Assembly.

Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy close relations. Saudi Arabia is the largest supplier of crude oil to India. The country also hosts the largest Indian expatriate community of over 2 million. A Saudi Parliamentary delegation led by Shoura Council Chairman, Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad Bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh visited India from 7-10 May 2012 and held meetings

with the Vice President, Prime Minister, Speaker Lok Sabha and the External Affairs Minister.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited the Kingdom to participate in the Friends of Yemen Meeting in Riyadh from 23-26 May 2012 and held meetings with Yemeni Prime Minister Mohammad Basindawa and Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr Abu-Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirbi on the sidelines of the event. He also met Defence Minister Prince Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Haj Minister Dr Bandar Bin Mohammad Al Hajjar. Shri Salman Khurshid, then Minister of Law and Justice led a three member delegation to the Kingdom on 17-18 June 2012 to offer condolences on the death of Crown Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Jeddah from 17-20 September 2012 and met the Saudi Haj Minister Dr Bandar Bin Mohammed Al-Hajjar and discussed Haj related issues. Later, he led a Haj 2012 Goodwill delegation to the Kingdom from 21 October - 1 November 2012 and met the Saudi Haj Minister in Jeddah.

A high level delegation led by Princess Adelah Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz (daughter of King Abdullah), Chairperson Advisory Committee of National Museum and Saudi Heritage Preservation Society visited India from 18-23 September 2012 under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Programme.

The Saudi Labour Minister Mr Adel Fakeih visited India on 5-6 November 2012 to attend a conference organized by the World Bank titled 'Employment and Development' and also met Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi on the sidelines of the Conference.

A three member delegation led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) visited Riyadh on 23 December 2012 to participate in the review meeting of the 9th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission.

Bilateral trade between India and Saudi Arabia grew significantly during the year. Two-way trade which was US\$ 15.94 billion in 2006-07 has increased to US\$ 36.74 billion in 2011-12. Indian exports of Saudi Arabia from April - November 2012 registered 71.48% increase over the corresponding period in 2011.

A three member delegation from Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) visited Riyadh and Jeddah from 27-29 May 2012 and organized Road Shows in both places. A seven member business delegation consisting of growers and exporters of Cardamom, headed by the Director (Marketing) Spices Board of India visited Riyadh and Jeddah from 3-5 June 2012 and held Buyer-Seller-Meets with Saudi businessmen



Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh during the Emir's State Visit to India from 8-10 April 2012.



Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Abhimanu, Leading the Government of India Haj Goodwill Delegation meets Minister of Haj, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr Bandar Bin Mohamed Al Hajjar 23 October 2012

at the premises of Riyadh and Jeddah Chambers of Commerce and Industries. A high-level inter-ministerial official delegation led by Ministry of Finance visited the Kingdom on 10 June 2012 and organized a Road Show on 'Investment Opportunities in India' in Riyadh. The delegation had interactive meetings with senior officials of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) and Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA).

Indian Trade Promotion Organization participated in Saudi Agro Food 2012 at Riyadh from 24-27 September 2012. An 'Indian Cultural Week' was organized in Riyadh from 3-7 November 2012 which was inaugurated by Vice Minister of Culture & Information of Saudi Arabia Dr Abdullah Bin Saleh Al Jasser.

State of Qatar

India-Qatar multifaceted bilateral engagement continued to expand during the year. The high point was the State Visit of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, accompanied by a high level official delegation to India in April 2012. The visit provided an opportunity to review bilateral relations by the leadership of the two countries at the highest levels. Mr Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, Chairman of Administrative Control and Transparency Authority and President of UN Climate Change Conference visited New Delhi at the invitation of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forest Smt Jayanthi Natarajan in September 2012. India actively participated in UN Climate Change Conference COP18/CMP8 held in Doha from 26 November-8 December 2012. India's official delegation was led by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Other high-level visits were - Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma attended UNCTAD Conference on Trade and Development in Doha in April 2012; Minister of State for Communications and IT Shri Sachin Pilot visited Doha as leader of delegation to the 24th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in October 2012.

Government of India sent three senior officials to participate in Exercise Ferocious Falcon (3) held in Doha in November 2012. Business cooperation between India and Qatar showed positive trends. Both sides discussed ways and means to increase the existing level of Qatari investment in India. A 20-member Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) delegation to Doha had fruitful meetings in September 2012.

The 4th edition of Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF) was held in Doha from 17-24 November 2012 and was attended by

a number of eminent persons from Indian cinema. DTFF opened with the screening of Mira Nair's movie, "The Reluctant Fundamentalist". A Kathakali team led by Maestro Kalamandalam Shri C. Gopalakrishnan performed at the closing ceremony at the Katara Cultural Village.

Syria

India expressed its deep concern at the unabated violence in Syria and called upon all sides to abjure violence and resolve all issues peacefully through dialogue taking into account the aspirations of the people of Syria. India consistently supported UN and other international efforts aimed at assisting the Syrian parties to resolve the crisis and bring about peace through a Syrian-led, inclusive political dialogue process. India's votes on Resolution in the UN Security Council and General Assembly during the year were accordingly in support of the mediation efforts of the AU-UN Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan, seeking an end to violence by all parties and bringing them to the negotiating table. India also welcomed the appointment of Mr Lakhdar Brahimi as the Joint Special Representative for Syria in September 2012, after the departure of Kofi Annan.

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

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE became the largest non-oil merchandise trade partner of India in 2012. India is also the largest trading partner of the UAE. The bilateral trade which was US\$ 72 billion in 2011-12, exceeded US\$ 38 billion during the first six months of 2012-13. UAE is home to an estimated 1.8 million Indian community.

The 10th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission was held on 15-16 April 2012 in Abu Dhabi. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation and the UAE delegation was led by Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. During this visit, External Affairs Minister also chaired the regional Heads of Missions Conference in Abu Dhabi.

India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investment was set up in May 2012. The Task Force is chaired by Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma and Executive Council Member Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan from the UAE side. A preparatory meeting of the Task Force at official level was held on 11 November 2012 in Abu Dhabi.

The 5th meeting of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee took place in New Delhi from 1-3 May 2012.

Among other important events, the third Arab-India Partnership Conference - "Development through Trade & Investment" was held on 22-23 May 2012 in Abu Dhabi which was attended by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri. E. Ahamed. Sheikha Lubna, Minister of Foreign Trade and Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy participated from the UAE side. Apart from the large business delegation from FICCI, Ambassador Ahmed bin Heili, Deputy Secretary General, League of Arab States and Ministers from Arab countries including Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Qatar and Sudan also participated.

Important visits from UAE include visit of the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan to New Delhi on 17-18 May 2012 and visit of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Mohammed Gargash leading the UAE delegation at the 12th ministerial meeting of IOR-ARC held on 2 November 2012 in New Delhi. Other visits from India included Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi on 3-4 April 2012 and from 11-13 November 2012; Minister of Human Resource Development, Communication and Information Technology, Shri Kapil Sibbal who led the Indian delegation at ITU Telecom World 2012 from 14-18 October 2012 in Dubai and visit of Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy leading the Indian delegation for the World Energy Forum held in Dubai from 21-24 October 2012.

India and UAE signed an Agreement on Customs Cooperation; a Protocol to amend the India-UAE Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement; a Memorandum of Understanding to streamline admission of Indian contract workers by way of an electronic contract registration and validation system; and a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Joint Committee on Consular Affairs. The two countries also ratified the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons signed in November 2011.

In the cultural arena, retrospective of Shyam Benegal's films was organized in October 2012.

Yemen

The best testimony to India-Yemen close historical relations and people to people interaction is the Yemeni origin Diaspora in Hyderabad and the Yemenis of Indian origin settled in Aden and other cities of Yemen.

India joined the Friends of Yemen (FOY) Group in May 2012 and attended the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of Friends of Yemen in Riyadh.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen visited India in June 2012 for Foreign Office Consultations. Dr Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India in November 2012 to attend the 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).

India extended humanitarian assistance to Yemen in the form of consignment of about 2500 tonnes of rice worth Rs10 crores through the World Food Programme. India is also considering providing consignment of wheat valued at Rs10 crores.

Arab League

The 3rd Indo-Arab Partnership Conference was held in Abu Dhabi on 22-23 May 2012. The conference focussed on skill development, higher education, health care, and food security. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian delegation for the conference.

Haj

More than 1,70,000 Indian Muslims performed the Haj pilgrimage in 2012. Of these, more than 1,25,000 pilgrims performed the Haj through the Hajj Committee of India and the rest through private tour operators.

Spread over a period of 74 days, the Haj operation concluded successfully when the last batch of Indian pilgrims returned home from Saudi Arabia on 2 December 2012. The two members Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation to Saudi Arabia was led by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed.



Africa

During the year, India's historic and growing relations with Africa witnessed further expansion and consolidation through exchange of visits, cooperation programmes, concessional lines of credits, capacity building and human resource development initiatives, and trade and investment promotion.

Angola

India-Angola relations continued to be friendly and cooperative. Two projects to develop the textile sector and an industrial park with the operation of two Lines of Credit for US\$ 30 million and 15 million respectively are progressing. Pursuant to signing of MoU in petroleum and natural gas sector and other bilateral agreements, co operation among public sector entities of both countries in petroleum and natural gas sector as well as non-oil sector is on. India's exports and investments in Angola have shown a perceptible increase. Bilateral trade increased from US\$ 446.60 million during 2006-07 to US\$ 5795.11 million in 2010-11. Till September 2012 the figure has already reached US\$ 7077.24 million with Angola's export to India being US\$ 6622.90 million, primarily oil. The principal items of Indian exports are tractors and transport vehicles, agricultural machinery and implements, food and meat products, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, Tea, Rice (Basmati), Spirits & Beverages, finished leather; paper/wood products etc.

Benin

Under India's Technical Assistance Programme for the cotton sector in selected African countries (Cotton-TAP), a delegation from IL&FS of India visited Benin in May 2012 and had meeting with Beninese Minister of Agriculture on 24 May, 2012. Subsequently, 3 candidates from Benin attended the Training Programme organized under Cotton-TAP in Hyderabad in October 2012.

A US\$ 15 million Government of India Line of Credit for setting of a Farm Equipment Manufacturing Plant was signed in October 2012.

Botswana

India's relations with Botswana have been close and friendly. Mr Johnie K. Swartz Botswana's Minister of Science of Technology

visited India to participate in the India-Africa Science & Technology Conference held on 1 - 2 March 2012 in New Delhi.

Botswana's Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration Mr M.K. Masisi, led a 5-member delegation to India from 17-22 June 2012. During the visit he met India's Minister of Rural Development Shri Jairam Ramesh. Dr Margaret N. Nasha Speaker of the National Assembly attended the 7th meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament on Gender Sensitive Parliaments held on 3-4 October 2012 in New Delhi.

A 9-member Science and Technology (S&T) delegation visited India on 26 June 2012 to participate in the First Joint Committee Meeting on S&T between the two countries to work out modalities for close cooperation in the field.

Burundi

President of the Republic of Burundi Mr Pierre Nkurunziza, accompanied by Ministers of External Relations and International Cooperation; Agriculture & Livestock; and Energy & Mines as well as a high-level official delegation paid a State Visit to India from 17-19 September 2012. The following agreements were signed during the visit: (i) Exchange Programme for Cooperation in the field of Education; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development and (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. Government of India announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 42.38 million for Farm Mechanisation and Integrated Food Processing Complex in Burundi. India contributed through the IBSA Trust Fund for strengthening infrastructure and capacity to combat HIV/AIDS in Burundi.

Cameroon

Cameroonian Minister for Economy and Planning Nganou Djoumessi Emmanuel visited India from 12-16 September 2012 during which an agreement was signed for a Government of India Line of Credit for US\$ 42 million for Cassava Plantation Project. The Minister met Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar.

Minister of Social Welfare Bankang Mbock Catherine visited India from 11-16 September 2012.

Cape Verde

Computers worth Rupees one crore were provided to Cape Verde as assistance in October 2012.

Mr Mario Lucio Matias Sousa Mendes, Minister of Culture visited India and delivered the inaugural address at the International Conference on the Decolonization, Development and Diaspora : The Afro-Indian Experience" held on 3-5 June 2012 in Goa, in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Goa's liberation.

Chad

Three candidates from Chad attended the Training Programme organized under India's Technical Assistance Programme for the cotton sector, Cotton-TAP, in Hyderabad in October 2012.

Mr Bedoumra Kordje, Minister of Economy and Finance visited India on 23-24 July 2012. An agreement was signed for a Government of India Line of Credit for US\$ 18.08 million. The Minister also reviewed bilateral relations with Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur.

Comoros

Mr Ikililou Dhoinine took over as President of the Union of Comoros in Moroni on 26 May 2011 after a rotation system introduced by the African Union in 2001.

The Union of Comoros joined the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) on 2nd November 2012 during the Council of Ministers' Meeting held in Gurgaon, India.

India extended a concessional Line of Credit of US\$ 41.60 million for installation of an 18 MW power project in Moroni to address the country's energy crisis. India would like to consider additional projects of interest to Comoros. Pan African e-network project in tele-medicine and tele-education is already functional in Comoros.

Cote d'Ivoire

President Alassane Ouattara declared India as a focus country during his annual address to resident Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations in Cote d'Ivoire in November 2012 with emphasis on cooperation in the fields of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Agriculture, Mining and Infrastructure.

An ICT delegation visited Cote d'Ivoire in November 2012 which was received by the Ivorian Minister of Information & Communications Technology Mr Bruno Nabagne Kone.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

A 12-member Rajasthani Music and Dance Group visited Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] to participate in the National Festival of Gungu, Bandundu Province, from 23-27 July 2012. The Group also performed in Kinshasa on 18 July 2012.

87 scholars from DRC availed training under ITEC programme whereas 3 scholars availed training under Africa-India Forum Summit programme.

Djibouti

Two Indian Naval ships, INS Tir and INS Shardul and one Coast Guard ship Veera visited Djibouti on overseas deployment from 8-11 April 2012. Four Indian Navy ships, INS Mumbai, INS Trishul, INS Gomati and INS Aditya, of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy led by Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Karve, called on Djibouti port for Overseas Deployment from 8-10 August 2012, as part of operation named "Bridges of Friendship".

Egypt

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Egypt to attend Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Sharm-el Sheikh from 8-10 May 2012.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Water resources Shri Vincent H. Pala attended the 4th Africa Water Week and the 8th ordinary session of the Africa Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) held at Cairo on 14-15 May 2012.

Mr Mahmoud Abdel R. Eisa, Egypt's Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade attended the 3rd Indo-Arab Investment Conclave in Abu Dhabi organized by FICCI from 22-23 May 2012.

Dy. Election Commissioner of India Dr Alok Shukla and Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Jain visited Egypt from 21-26 May 2012 as Observers for the first round of Presidential election.

Indian Naval ships INS Mumbai, INS Aditya, INS Gomati and INS Trishul made a port call at Port of Alexandria from 2-5 July 2012 as part of overseas deployment. The ships were commanded by Rear Admiral A.R. Karve, Flag Officer Commanding.

Secretary General of the Supreme Presidential Election Committee of Egypt, Judge Hatem Bagato visited India from 16-19 September 2012. During the visit, an MoU was signed between the Election Commission of India and Supreme

Presidential election Committee of Egypt on cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.

Speaker of Haryana State Assembly Shri Kuldeep Sharma visited Egypt from 23-26 September 2012 and had a meeting with the Speaker of the Shura Council.

A 10- member CII business delegation visited Cairo from 3- 5 November 2012.

A delegation led by Joint Secretary Ministry of New and Renewable Energy visited Egypt from 15-18 November 2012 to implement a joint project to electrify a village in Siwa, Egypt, using solar energy.

9th round of India-Egypt Foreign Office Consultation took place in New Delhi on 24 January 2013.

Equatorial Guinea

With Equatorial Guinea the chairmanship of the African Union in 2011 saw high level engagement. Under the IAFS process, India has offered to set up a Center on Geoinformatic Applications for Rural Development in Equatorial Guinea.

Eritrea

India and Eritrea enjoy friendly relations. Eritrean nationals participated in India-Africa Forum Summit mechanism activities which took in India during the year. Two screenings of special lectures under the Pan African E-Network project were done at the Orotta National Referral Hospital in Asmara in May and July 2012.

Ethiopia

After the 1st ever visit by Indian Prime Minister to Ethiopia in May 2011, the bilateral relationship has been further consolidated and strengthened.

A two member team of Indian WTO experts from Centre for WTO Studies, New Delhi visited Ethiopia from 16-21 April 2012 at the invitation of the Ethiopian Ministry of Trade under ITEC programme. The team provided training to various stake holders from the Ethiopian side to help them for accession to WTO by 2014.

Special Envoy of External Affairs Minister, led a delegation to the African Union Summit meeting in Addis Ababa from 11-14 July 2012. The delegation met then Deputy Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and with officers connected with development of sugar and rail projects in Ethiopia funded through Indian Lines of Credits.

A delegation led by Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Addis Ababa on 1-2 September 2012, to attend the state funeral of Late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh sent a message of felicitation to the new Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

Bilateral commercial and economic relations strengthened during the year. India is one of the largest investors in Ethiopia with US\$ 4.7 billion with committed investment of over US\$ 1 billion. Bilateral trade volume for the period January - October 2012 was US\$ 921.4.

A FICCI delegation led by President Shri R V Kanoria visited Addis Ababa on 19-20 November 2012. He called on the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Dessalegn, Minister of Industry Ato Mekonnen and Minister of Agriculture Ato Tefera Derbew. The delegation also met the Vice Governor of National Bank of Ethiopia, Director General of Ethiopian Investment Agency, Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Business Forum.

A new batch of four Indian Army officers was selected as trainers for the Mekele Military Academy, on the successful completion of the term of the earlier team, at the request of the Ethiopian side.

Shri Sudhir Vyas, Secretary(West), Ministry of External Affairs, as Special Envoy of the External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation to the African Union Summit engagements at Addis Ababa from 23-25 January 2013.

An ICCR sponsored fusion band "Shwaas" visited Ethiopia and performed at various venues from 21-28 May 2012.

Ghana

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles visited Ghana in July 2012. He, along with his Ghanaian counterpart Ms Hannan Tetteh, jointly inaugurated a three-day trade show on 9 July 2012 at the International Trade Fair Centre, Accra. A trade delegation of more than 200 members from India attended the show.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur visited Ghana on 9-10 August 2012 to attend the funeral service of the late President John Evans Atta Mills.

Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) organized a Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) in Accra on 2 August 2012.

A delegation led by Secretary, Department of Fertilizers visited Ghana on 8-13 July. The delegation held extensive discussions



President Pratibha Devisingh Patil with President Jacob Zuma during her visit to South Africa from 1-7 May 2012



Minister of State for External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur with President of the Republic of Burundi Mr Pierre Nkurunziza in New Delhi 18 September 2012

with the Ghanaian stakeholders to expedite the setting up of a Joint Venture Ammonia-Urea Fertilizer Plant.

Government of India offered 'Project Arrow' to support the postal infrastructure project in Ghana. The Government of Ghana confirmed its acceptance and a delegation from Ghana visited India from 28 November - 02 December 2012 to facilitate in the scoping exercise for implementation of the project.

The Government of India extended its support to the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in Accra for two more years (till 2014). Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), the implementing agency engaged by the Government of India, is providing required technical support to the Centre.

Prof Mike Oquaye, 2nd Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Ghana, and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Members holding Office of Profit, led a 7-member delegation to India from 30 April to 5 May 2012 for discussions with the Parliament of India to acquaint themselves with the best practices followed in India and apply them in Ghana with the aim of deepening democracy in Ghana.

A 10-member dance troupe 'NTENTAN' from Ghana participated in the Africa Festival organized by ICCR in New Delhi and Ahmedabad from 14-22 June 2012.

A 15-member Indian cultural troupe of the 'Maitreyee Paharee Group' visited Ghana from 9-11 July 2012 and performed at various venues in Accra, including the National Theater, India House and University of Ghana School of Performing Arts.

Two journalists participated in the training programme of journalists from Africa organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications (IIMC), New Delhi, from 24 September - 05 October 2012.

Kenya

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof Samson Ogeri led the Kenyan delegation at the 12th Meeting of Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC held in Gurgaon on 2 November 2012. He met External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on 2 November 2012.

Minister of Energy Mr Kiraitu Murungi visited India to attend the Petrotech 2012 Conference organised by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 14-15 October 2012.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. Samson Ogeri met Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed on the margins of the 17th NAM Ministerial Conference held in Sharm-al-Sheikh in May 2012.

Two Indian Navy ships - INS Delhi and INS Deepak visited Mombasa from 12-15 November 2012 after participating in IBSAMAR III exercises in South Africa.

A delegation of National Defence College (NDC) visited Kenya from 14-19 May 2012 on a study tour.

India was the largest exporter to Kenya during the first six months of 2012 according to data released by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Indian exports to Kenya reached a figure of US\$ 1 billion (first six months of 2012) registering a 13% increase over the same period last year.

Recent business promotion events organized in Kenya included : Kenya Plast 2012 (September 2012 in Nairobi); Printing and Packaging Exhibition (September 2012 in Nairobi); India Medical Tourism Destination Event (August 2012 in Nairobi); visit of a business delegation from Gujarat (July 2012); ASSOCHAM, FIEO and EPC for EOUs/EPZs participation in 5th Africa Export & Import Fair 2012 (June 2012); visit of All India Plastics Manufacturers Association delegation (June 2012); and participation of 15 Indian companies through CII in 15th Build Expo Africa (May 2012).

48 Kenyans utilized ICCR scholarships for higher education; 26 Kenyans availed of training courses organised under ITEC programme; and 11 Kenyans availed of the India-Africa Forum Summit scholarships.

An Indian Diaspora Engagement Meet in East Africa was organised in Nairobi on 13-14 April 2012 by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) in association with the High Commission of India.

Kenya Airways started thrice a week direct flights between Nairobi and New Delhi on May 15 2012.

An ICCR sponsored 14-member Bhangra dance group visited Kenya during October 2012 to participate in the 21st Annual Kenyatta University Culture Week in Nairobi. The group also travelled to Mombasa.

Lesotho

India-Lesotho Advanced Centre for Information Technology imparted training to students and civil servants in Lesotho. Upon the request of the Government of Lesotho, an Indian Police training team was deployed from February-May 2012 in Lesotho to assist in the training of the Lesotho Mounted Police Force.

The Indian Army Training Team, stationed in Lesotho, since 2001, made further progress in the professionalisation of the Lesotho Defence Force. India-Lesotho developmental cooperation strengthened with the enhancement of training

slots for Lesotho under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to 100 and training of civil servants through training courses under the India-Africa Forum Summit.

India offered an additional Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million to the Government of Lesotho.

Liberia

President of Liberia, Mrs Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize 2012 for Peace, Disarmament and Development by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

Libya

India-Libya relations remained friendly.

A 5-member Libyan delegation led by Ambassador Ramadan Rahim, Director General (Asia & Australia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India from 25-28 September 2012 and had consultations in the Ministry of External Affairs and at Foreign Service Institute for enhancing cooperation between Libyan Academy for Diplomats and Foreign Service Institute. A Memorandum of Understanding on Training for Diplomats was finalized between the Foreign Service Institute and Libyan Academy for Diplomats.

A 14-member CII delegation of Chief Executive Officers visited Libya from 30 October - 1 November 2012 and interacted with Libyan businessmen. The delegation also called on the then Libyan Prime Minister, Abdurrahim El-Kieb.

At the invitation of the Election Commission of India, a 4-member delegation led by Deputy Chairman of the High National Election Commission of Libya Mr Najeeb Abdessalam Mohammed Arrabiti visited India from 26-30 November 2012 and held delegation level talks with Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commissioners and senior officials. The delegation also met Secretary (East) Shri Sanjay Singh in the Ministry of External Affairs. A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of electoral management and administration was signed during the visit.

Madagascar

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierrot J. Rajaonarivelo participated in the 12th Council of Ministers' Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) held in New Delhi from 28 October- 02 November 2012.

Malawi

The High Commission of India was re-established in Lilongwe in March 2012 and became functional from April 2 2012. As

part of India's contribution to development of Malawi economic assistance in the form of Lines of Credit was announced. Malawians are being sent to India under the ITEC programme and the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) programme for short term training in various institutions in India. The slots under the ITEC programme have been increased from 56 to 70 in the current year.

Malawi successfully utilized two Lines of Credit worth US\$ 30 million and US\$ 50 million extended by the Government of India in 2008 and 2010 respectively. The 1st Line of Credit was used for irrigation, grain storage and tobacco threshing projects. The 2nd Line of Credit worth US\$ 50 million was used for Cotton Processing Facilities (US\$ 20 million), Greenbelt Initiative (US\$ 15 million) and One Village One Product project (US\$ 15 million). Another proposal worth US\$ 76.5 million for development of Fuel storage facilities, development irrigation network and for setting up of refined sugar processing equipment in Salima under Greenbelt Initiative was offered in May 2012 and was approved and a Bill passed by the Malawian Parliament in November 2012.

Science and laboratory equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million was donated by the Government of India to the Government of Malawi. The donation was part of the US\$ 5 million grant given by the Government of India to Malawi in 2010.

Government of India has also announced donation of medical equipment which includes mammography machines and ultrasound machines worth US\$ 1.5 million.

Mauritius

President Rajkeswur Purryag paid a State Visit to India from 3-10 January 2013. Accompanied by his spouse and 3 Cabinet Ministers - Minister of Arts and Culture Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Health and Quality of Life Lormus Bundhoo and Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment Suren Dayal. President Purryag was the Chief Guest at the 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Kochi where he was conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award. A large contingent of about 100 Mauritians participated in PBD Kochi.

Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam paid a State Visit to India from 6-10 February 2012 imparting a new momentum to the bilateral relationship. Prime Minister Ramgoolam called on President and Vice President; held delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and presided over business forum meets in New Delhi on 8 February 2012 and Mumbai on 9 February 2012. He also met Finance Minister, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of State

in the Ministry of External Affairs. Five MoUs were signed in the areas of science and technology, education, sports and youth, textiles and in the setting up of a hybrid planetarium at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC). An economic package comprising a Line of Credit of US\$ 250 million and a grant of US\$ 20 million was announced by India.

India continued to be the largest source of imports for Mauritius whereas Mauritius continued to be the largest source of FDI for India. India's exports to Mauritius were valued at US\$ 1.4 billion and imports at US\$ 39.13 million for 2011-12. The cumulative FDI equity inflows from Mauritius to India during the period April 2000-August 2012 amounted to US\$ 66.701 billion, 37% of the total FDI equity flows into India. Annual FDI equity inflows from Mauritius for 2011-12 amounted to US\$ 9.942 billion or 27.25% of the total. Outward FDI from India to Mauritius for 2010-11 was US\$ 5.08 billion.

Foreign Minister Dr Arvin Boolell visited New Delhi and Mumbai from 4-7 July 2012. He called on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and met the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Shri C. Rangarajan. He also called on the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He attended the International Fiscal Association Conference on International Tax-The Emerging Landscape in Mumbai on 7 July and addressed the session on 'Recent Developments in International Taxation'.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles (CITM) Shri Anand Sharma was on an official visit to Mauritius from 8-10 January 2013. CITM called on Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Deputy PM Rashid Beebejaun, Vice PM and Minister of Finance, Foreign Minister Arvin Boolell and Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection Cader Sayed-Hossen. 35 scholarships (15 in the Institute of Apparel Management (IAM), 10 in the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and 10 in the Apparel Training and Design Centre (AT & DC)) were offered. 1000 trainees from Mauritius would be provided training for skill development in the textiles sector; 10 factories in Mauritius would be taken up by the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) for compliance with the requirements of quality certification; Five scholarships were offered for training in WTO-related matters at IIFT. CITM also expressed the need to revitalize and revamp the Mauritius-India Business Council.

Other high-level visits from Mauritius included:

A six-member Parliamentary delegation led by the then Speaker of the National Assembly Kailash Purryag.

Visit of Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology Rajesh Jeetah for the India-Africa Science and Technology Ministerial Conference in New Delhi on 1-2 March 2012.

Tourism Minister Michael Sik Yuen visited India from 11-14 July 2012. He met Minister of Tourism Shri Subodh Kant Sahai and had discussions with Indian tour operators.

Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare Mrs Mireille Martin visited India from 2-8 September 2012 and met Minister of State (Independent Charge) Women and Child Development Smt Krishna Tirath and the then Minister of Micro Industries and Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Vayalar Ravi.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Rashid Beebejaun visited India from 8-18 October 2012 to attend the International Seminar on Energy Access and the PETROTECH Conference. He had bilateral meetings with the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, the then Minister of Power Shri Veerappa Moily and Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr Farooq Abdullah.

Minister of Agro Industry Satya Veyash Faugoo attended the XI Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity in Hyderabad from 8-11 October 2012.

A four-member Mauritian delegation visited Kolkata on 23-24 April 2012 for the keel laying ceremony of Offshore Patrol Vessel under construction at GRSE, Kolkata.

Visits from India to Mauritius included:

Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot visited Mauritius from 29 May - 1 June 2012 to participate in the All India Management Association's (AIMA) Global Business Leaders Series' Conference. He called on Prime Minister Ramgoolam and other leaders.

Dr Karan Singh, President, ICCR visited Mauritius and Reunion island from 30 September - 3 October 2012.

Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Mauritius on 26-27 October 2012 for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-Mauritius.

A two-member team of experts from C-WET, Chennai was in Mauritius from 13-17 February 2012 to impart training to

Mauritian personnel on the monitoring of wind farms under the bilateral MoU on cooperation in renewable energy.

A 4-member team from NICS and NIC, Department of IT visited Mauritius from 13-15 March 2012 to attend the 3rd Joint Task Force Meeting on e-governance.

Indian Coast Guard ship Vijit and INS Savitri visited Mauritius from 17-26 March 2012 and 27 June - 30 July 2012 respectively to undertake Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance and joint patrol of Mauritian waters in conjunction with the Mauritius Police Force. INS Savitri organised a free medical check-up in Rodrigues Island for residents and the ship was open to the public on 13 July 2012.

Director General, ICCR visited Mauritius from 29 March - 2 April 2012 for IOR-ARC's Working Group on Cultural Cooperation meeting in Port Louis on 2 April 2012.

An Archaeological Survey of India conservation expert visited Mauritius from 8-14 April 2012 to provide advice on the conservation efforts of Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage site.

Indian Hydrography Ship INS Darshak visited Mauritius from 22 April - 17 May 2012 and undertook hydrographic surveys as per the outcomes of the 7th Joint Hydrographic Committee Meeting held in February, 2012 in Mauritius.

Shri Sudhir Vyas, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the 2nd Biannual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of IOR-ARC which was held on 7-8 May 2012.

A RITES expert Shri Sanjay Srivastava visited Mauritius from 10-16 June 2012 to look into a Singaporean firm's report on the proposed Light Rail Project as part of the due diligence exercise initiated by the Mauritian Government.

Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs visited Mauritius from 24-26 June 2012. He co-chaired the 3rd Executive Board Meeting of the World Hindi Secretariat, and handed over a cheque of US\$ 1 million to the IOR-ARC Special Fund.

Director, Financial Intelligence Unit Shri Praveen Kumar Tiwari visited Mauritius in July 2012 to attend a seminar titled 'Combating Money Laundering: New Developments and Perspectives'.

A four-member delegation led by Shri Sudhir Vyas, Secretary (ER) visited Mauritius for the 8th Session of the India-Mauritius JWG on DTAC from 22-24 August 2012.

Two research vessels of Ministry of Earth Sciences, deployed since October 2012 for carrying out geo-scientific studies in the Indian Ocean Ridge areas, made a port of call at Port Louis.

Mr Anundpriya Neewoor, Secretary for Foreign Affairs attended the 12th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting in Gurgaon from 28 October - 2 November 2012. Two Mauritian journalists and one officer of the Government Information Service also visited India at the invitation of XP Division.

The Rabindranath Memorial lecture was delivered by the High Commissioner of India at the Rabindranath Tagore Institute in May 2012.

Indo-Mauritian joint venture Suzlon-Padgreen signed the Power Purchase Agreement with the Central Electricity Board for a 29.4 MW wind energy project.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Mauritius was held from 26-28 October 2012. Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam inaugurated the event on 27 October 2012 and President Rajkeswur Purryag was the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Mauritius on 26-27 October in connection with the event.

Morocco

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Morocco from 14-17 June 2012. During the visit, he had discussions on bilateral and international issues with the political leadership of Morocco including Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane, Foreign Minister Saad Eddine Otmani, Minister-Delegate to the Foreign Minister Youssef Amrani, Minister of Industry, Trade and New Technologies Abdelkader Amara, and Minister of National Education Mohamed El Ouafa.

Mr Nasser Bourita, Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation paid an official visit to India on 2-3 April 2012 and held talks with Foreign Secretary and called on the External Affairs Minister. Bilateral relations between the two countries and cooperation in international forums were discussed during the visit.

An 18-member National Defence College (NDC) delegation visited Morocco from 13-18 May 2012 as part of Foreign Countries' Study Tour of the 52nd NDC Course.

Mozambique

High level exchange of visits continued between the two countries. From Mozambique, Ministerial visits included: Minister of Agriculture Mr Jose Pacheco, Vice Minister of Defence Mr Augustine Mondlane, Vice Minister of Energy Mr Jaime Himede, Vice Minister of Mineral Resources Mr Abdul Razak Noormahomed, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs & International cooperation Mr Henrique Banze and Vice Minister of Education Ms Leda Hugo. From India, Minister of

Commerce, Industry & Textiles Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Shri Mullapally Ramachandran and Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal Shri Pratik Prakashbapu Patil visited Mozambique. Three Indian Naval ships INS Darshak, INS Deepak and INS Delhi visited Mozambique. INS Darshak carried out the hydrographic survey of Beira port; the other two were on goodwill visit.

During the visit of Shri Mullapally Ramachandran, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs from 13-15 July 2012, an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Security was signed.

India's Exim Bank and Mozambique signed an agreement on Line of Credit (LoC) of US\$ 250 million for improvement of power supply in Maputo and surrounding areas. This is part of US\$ 500 million LoC announced by Government of India during the State Visit of President Armando Guebuza to India in 2010. India's National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed an MoU with Mozambican Ministry of Industry and Trade for setting up of Vocational Training Centre in Mozambique under the decision taken in India Africa Forum Summit held in 2008 in New Delhi. Hindustan Machine Tools (I) set up a cashew processing plant in Mozambique under the grant from India.

Bilateral trade between the India and Mozambique during 2011-12 reached US\$ 631.77 million. During the first eight months of 2012-13, bilateral trade reached US\$ 895.55 million.

Namibia

India-Namibia bilateral ties were consolidated and strengthened during the period. The 2nd Meeting of the India-Namibia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Geology and Mineral Resources was held in New Delhi on 21 May 2012. The Namibian delegation was led by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Namibia while the Indian delegation was led by Secretary in the Ministry of Mines.

The India-Namibia Foreign Office Consultations were held on 20 November 2012 at New Delhi. The Namibian delegation was led by Ambassador Veiccoh Nghiwete, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Namibia while the Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri M. Ganapathi.

Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand, accompanied by Chairman, NDDB Dairy Services visited Namibia from 7-14 November 2012 as a follow-up to visit of a four-member team from NDDB which visited Namibia in September 2012 to conduct technical assessments for possible cooperation in the dairy sector.

Maj Gen (Rtd) Charles D.N.P. Namoloh, Minister of Defence visited India from 7-9 October 2012 as the Special Envoy of President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Mr Willem Isaacks led a five-member Namibian delegation for the International Seminar on Energy Access from 9-10 October 2012 held at New Delhi.

A Namibian delegation attended the 11th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held at Hyderabad from 1-19 October 2012. Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism, Ms Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah led the Namibian delegation at the High Level Segment (HLS) of COP-11 held at Hyderabad from 16-19 October 2012.

In May 2012, three helicopters, one Cheetah and two Chetaks, which were acquired by Namibian Ministry of Defence from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), were officially handed over to the Namibian Air Force.

Niger

India donated 100 computer systems to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Niger towards capacity building and with a view to further enhance efficiency and effectiveness in its functioning.

Nigeria

A 19-member delegation led by Major General Rajiv Bhalla visited Nigeria from 14-19 October 2012 and had meeting with the Nigerian Minister of State for Defence Mrs Erleu Olusola Obada. Mrs Obada headed the Nigerian delegation to participate in the DefExpo India 2012.

A 6-member Nigerian delegation led by Minister of Science & Technology Prof. Ita Okon Bassey Ewa participated in the 3rd Bengaluru Space Expo from 12-15 September 2012.

Nigerian Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dr Akinwunmi Ayo Adesina visited India to attend 40th Year Celebration of ICRISAT at Hyderabad on 24-26 September 2012.

Prof (Mrs) Ruqayyatu A. Rufai, Nigerian Education Minister, led an 11-member delegation to attend Ninth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting in New Delhi from 8-10 November 2012.

Nigerian National Security Advisor, Col (Retd) Sambo Dasuki led a 6-member delegation to India for an official visit from 26-28 November 2012. He had meeting with National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon, External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid and Raksha Mantri Shri A. K. Antony.

Nigeria-India bilateral trade during the period April-November 2012 reached US\$ 10.87 billion.

Confederation of Indian Industry sponsored participation of Indian companies at Lagos International Trade Fair held during 2-11 November 2012.

Republic of Congo

Republic of Congo opened its resident Mission in New Delhi in 2012.

Government of India provided a grant of US\$ 500,000 to the Republic of Congo as a humanitarian assistance to tide over the situation caused by devastating accidental fire in its capital Brazzaville on 4 March, 2012.

Republic of Guinea

Republic of Guinea opened its resident Embassy in New Delhi in May 2012.

Rwanda

The Rwandan Minister of Defence Gen James Kaberebe, led a three-member delegation to India to attend the Defexpo India 2012 from 29 March-1 April 2012 held at New Delhi. During the visit, he met Raksha Mantri.

In June 2012, Rwanda accepted the Indo-US-Rwanda Trilateral Open Government Platform Initiative developed under the India-US Dialogue on Open Government which enables the participating nation to download free software and create a site which provides its citizens access to the government data for innovation, economic development and transparency.

Speaker of Parliament of Rwanda Ms Rose Mukantabana visited India to attend the 7th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament held in New Delhi on 3-4 October 2012.

Dr Agnes Matilda Kalibata, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda visited India from 22-25 January 2013. An MoU between the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the Indian Ministry of Water resources on bilateral cooperation between the two countries was signed during the visit.

India has offered setting up of India Africa Entrepreneurship Development Center to Rwanda as per the decision of the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit. A delegation from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, the project implementing agency, is scheduled to visit Rwanda in the 2nd week of February 2013 to hold discussions with the officials of their counterpart Rwanda Institute for Entrepreneurship and Cooperative Studies.

Senegal

Government of India approved a Line of Credit of US\$ 19 million to Government of Senegal for the 2nd phase of the fisheries development project.

A Senegalese dance troupe La Linguere visited India to perform during Africa Festival organized by ICCR in New Delhi on 18-19 June 2012.

The Fann Hospital in Dakar was designated as the Regional Super Specialty Regional Hospital under the Pan-African e-Network Project.

Seychelles

The relations between India and Seychelles were further strengthened with the visit of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil to Seychelles from 29 April - 1 May 2012. Issues of mutual interest including cooperation in security, information technology, agriculture, education, health, culture and sports were discussed. Grant of US\$ 25 Million and Line of Credit for US\$ 50 Million was announced for the Government of Seychelles. MoUs on Police Research/Training by Bureau of Police Research and Development and MoU on Cooperation in Youth Affairs and Sports were signed.

President James Alix Michel accompanied by Foreign Minister Jean-Paul Adam participated in the 12th Edition of Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2012 from 2-4 February, 2012. During the visit President Michel met Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and held discussions on Regional Security and bilateral cooperation. President Michel was conferred an honorary doctorate in philosophy by TERI University for his contribution on environment matters.

Foreign Minister Jean-Paul Adam paid a visit to India from 13-16 February 2012. This was the 1st ever bilateral visit of Foreign Minister from Seychelles. During the visit he met the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony. Discussions focused on defence, maritime piracy and education. An agreement worth US\$ 10 million for installation of a coastal radar system to cover Seychelles Southern Economic Zone (EEZ) was signed.

Indian Naval Ship Savitri visited Seychelles in January 2012 for patrolling of Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone (15-21 January, 2012). The ship again visited Seychelles from 14-25 June 2012 for participation in National Day Parade of Seychelles and for EEZ surveillance. Indian Naval Ship Brahmaputra visited Seychelles from 23-27 November and again during 3-6 December 2012 for surveillance of Seychelles's EEZ.

A four member delegation led by the Minister for Finance, Trade and Investment Pierre Laporte attended the Indian Ocean Global Forum on 25 September 2012 at New Delhi.

Dr Rolph Payat, Minister of Environment accompanied by Chief Executive Officer of Petro Seychelles attended the 10th Petrotech held in New Delhi in October 2012 and met Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy.

Foreign Minister Jean-Paul Adam attended IOR-ARC meet held in India from 29 October -02 November 2012 and met External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid on 1 November 2012.

President James Michel is scheduled to visit India to participate at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2013 which is being held in Delhi from 31 January 2013 - 2 February 2013.

Sierra Leone

Mr Oluniyi Robbin-Coker, Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Sierra Leone visited India to participate in the Global Ministerial level "International Seminar on Energy Access" held in New Delhi on 9-10 October 2012.

Two journalists from Sierra Leone participated in the training programme of journalists from Africa organized by the Ministry of External Affairs at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications (IIMC), New Delhi, from 24 September - 05 October 2012.

Somalia

President of Puntland, a State of Somalia, Mr Abdirahaman Mohamed Mahamud Farole visited India from 13-16 May 2012. During the visit, Mr Farole called on Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed.

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.

President Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State Visit to South Africa from 1- 7 May 2012. President Patil held bilateral discussions with President Zuma, Deputy President Motlanthe and interacted with group of Members from both the houses of the South African Parliament. During the visit President Patil unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg and also laid the foundation stone for the establishment of an Information Technology Centre at Phoenix Settlement in Durban.

A Joint South African Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of National Assembly Mr Max Sisulu and Chairperson of National Council of Provinces Mr Mminwa Mahlangu visited India from 8-14 July 2012.

The South African Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms Elizabeth Thabethe, led a delegation of South African businessmen to India in November 2012 to participate in the 32nd India International Trade Fair. She met Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Minister of State of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

A goodwill delegation of Indian Parliamentarians led by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources visited South Africa from 10-16 October 2012.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry paid a bilateral visit to South Africa on 21-22 September 2012. He called on President Jacob Zuma and held bilateral meeting with Mr Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa.

Shri Pratik Prakashbabu Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal visited South Africa from 29-31 October 2012. He met Ms Susan Shabangu, Minister of Mineral Resources of South Africa and discussed avenues for expanding co-operation in the coal sector and possibilities of Joint Ventures between the two countries.

The 9th World Hindi Conference attended by over 800 delegates was held in Johannesburg from 22-24 September 2012 in collaboration with Hindi Shiksha Sangh, South Africa. The Conference was inaugurated jointly by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur and Dr Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Finance, Government of South Africa.

India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR) exercise was held in South Africa in October 2012. Two Indian navy ships visited the ports of Durban, Cape Town and Simons Town to participate in IBSAMAR. 10 Public Sector Undertakings in the defence sector participated in the Africa Aerospace Defence Exhibition held in September 2012 in Pretoria. Naval Chief Admiral Nirmal Verma led a delegation to attend the 3rd Indian Ocean Naval Symposium held in Cape Town from 10-13 April 2012.

Bilateral trade for the first six months of 2012-13, was at an estimated US\$ 5.86 billion, with India's exports to South Africa at US\$ 2423.16 million and imports at US\$ 3445.09 million. The Annual Ayurveda Conference was organised on 3 October 2012 by Department of Ayush in collaboration with the Nelson

Mandela Children's Hospital. India Expo was held at Cape Town International Centre from 15-17 June 2012.

Cultural exchanges have been a key feature of the India-South Africa relationship. A Young Artists Art Exhibition was held from July to September 2012. The Shared History Festival was organised in September 2012.

South Sudan

The Consulate General of India in Juba was upgraded to an Embassy in March 2012 and India's first Ambassador to that country assumed office in January 2013. South Sudan opened its Embassy in New Delhi in July 2012 and its first Ambassador presented credentials to the President of India in September 2012.

India's Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan held discussions in Juba with the government of South Sudan in March, May and December 2012 on establishing strong economic and development cooperation between the two countries.

Sudan

India's Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan visited Sudan in March, May and December 2012, when wide-ranging discussions were held on strengthening bilateral economic and development cooperation.

Three Ministers from Sudan visited India in October 2012: State Minister of Electricity and Water Resources Dr Tabita Boutros, participated in the International Seminar on Energy Access organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in New Delhi; Minister of Petroleum Awad Al-Jaz, participated in the 10th International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition 'Petrotech' in New Delhi; and Minister of Environment, Forestry and Development Hassan Abdelgadir Hilal, participated in the 11th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the 6th Meeting of Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena Protocol in Hyderabad.

Swaziland

Mrs Gelane T Zwane, President of Senate, Parliament of Swaziland visited India on 3-4 October 2012 to attend the IPU's Seventh Meeting of Women Speakers on Gender Sensitive Parliament in New Delhi.

India's Exim Bank and Swazi Government signed an agreement for a Line of Credit of US\$ 37.9 million for Agricultural Development and Mechanisation of Agriculture project in Swaziland.

India continued to assist Swaziland in the field of human resource development and capacity building. During the year, 12 Swazi nationals came to India for training under ITEC programme of the Government of India.

Tanzania

On 2 October 2012, Exim Bank of India and the Tanzanian Ministry of Finance signed a Line of Credit of US\$178.125 million to fund water supply improvement projects. The Line of Credit was operationalised on 21 November 2012.

The supply of 1846 Escorts tractors and related farm equipment under a Government of India sponsored US\$ 40 million Line of Credit extended by Exim Bank to the Government of Tanzania was completed in mid-2012. Under another US\$ 36.56 million Line of Credit, 299 Ashok Leyland trucks and other vehicles, of the total 723, for use by Tanzanian Peoples Defence Forces (TPDF), had arrived in the country by November 2012.

The Government of India has approved a grant of US\$ 1.3 million for setting up an ICT Resource Centre at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology at Arusha. A feasibility study of the project was conducted by the DIT/C-DAC team in October 2012.

Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Minister of Defence and National Service accompanied by a military official attended the DefExpo in New Delhi from 29 March-01 April, 2012.

Dr Terezya Huvisa, Minister of State (Environment), Vice-President's Office, attended the 11th Conference of Parties [COP-11] to the Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD] and the 6th Meeting of Parties [MoP-6] to the Cartagena Protocol at Hyderabad from 17-19 October 2012.

Dr Abdallah Omari Kigoda, Minister of Trade and Industry headed a 22-member delegation to attend the IOR-ARC Ministerial Meeting in Gurgaon from 29 October - 2 November 2012.

The India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) participated in the 36th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair from 28 June - 8 July 2012, in which twenty eight Indian companies participated.

India Medical Tourism Destination (IMTD 2012) exhibition and conference, co-sponsored by Ministry of Tourism and FICCI, was organized in Dar es Salaam on 30-31 August 2012.

Nine members of the Tanzanian National Assembly and Zanzibar's House of Representatives visited India from 23-28 September 2012 in a tour sponsored by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT). The visit was aimed to afford the legislators

with an opportunity to learn about the operation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in India. A similar legislation is under the consideration of the Tanzanian Parliament.

The Gambia

The Gambian Minister for Energy Mrs Teneng Mba Jaiteh attended the International Seminar on Energy Access organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in New Delhi from 9-12 October 2012.

Government of India approved a Line of Credit of US\$ 16.88 million to Gambia for the completion of the prestigious National Assembly building.

Togo

A delegation led by Secretary, Department of Fertilizers visited Togo on 10-11 July 2012 and met Foreign Minister Mr Elliott Ohin and the Minister for Mines Mr Noupokou Dammipi to explore collaboration in the field of phosphoric fertilizers. He also called on the President of Togo Mr Faura E. Gnassingbe.

Tunisia

The 11th session of India-Tunisia Joint Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi on 23 April 2012. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Mr Hedi Ben Abbes, co-chaired the meeting. A Cooperation Agreement between Tunisian Radio and All India Radio envisaging inter alia exchange of programs and artistes was signed during the meeting.

Shri E. Ahamed Minister of State visited Tunisia from 5-7 November 2012 during which he discussed strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Tunisia with Tunisian President Moncef M. Marzouki, Prime Minister Hamadi Jabeli, Foreign Minister Rafik Abdessalem, President of the National Constituent Assembly Mustapha Ben Jaafar and Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hedi Ben Abbes.

Uganda

A parliamentary delegation led by Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha and Members of Parliament visited Kampala from 29 March - 6 April 2012 to attend the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from 31 March - 5 April 2012. Mrs Rebecca Atiwalwa Kadaga, Speaker, Parliament of Uganda led a 13-member delegation to New Delhi to attend the 7th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament held in New Delhi on 3-4 October 2012. Members of the visiting delegation also attended a Study Visit organised at Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, Lok Sabha Secretariat from 1-8 October 2012.

A high-level CII CEOs delegation led by its President Mr Adi Godrej visited Kampala from 15-16 October 2012 to explore investment opportunities and also to identify Ugandan partners. During their visit, the delegation had a meeting with the President of Uganda. A Seminar/Conference was organized by UNCCI in association with the High Commission of India which was attended by Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development, Minister of State for Finance, prominent Ugandan/Indian businessmen in Uganda.

A 12-member delegation from Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXIL) visited Kampala from 15-18 July 2012 and organized a Multi Product Buyer Seller Meet cum Exhibition.

A delegation from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) led by their President, Mr R. V. Kanoria visited Kampala on 21 November 2012 to attend the 8th COMESA Business Forum co-hosted by the COMESA Business Council and the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU).

India has offered support to Uganda to establish a Food Processing Business Incubation Center and appointed ABI-ICRISAT to serve as the implementing Agency.

Zambia

Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Robert K.K. Sichinga visited India from 16-20 March 2012 to participate in the 2nd India Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting as well as the 1st India-Africa Business Council Meeting in New Delhi on 17 March 2012 at the invitation of our Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textile Shri Anand Sharma.

A Line of Credit (LoC) for US\$ 50 million for construction of 650 health posts across the country was signed in Lusaka on 29 March 2012 by the Zambian Minister of Finance Mr Alexander B. Chikwanda and Exim Bank of India.

An ICCR-sponsored dance troupe visited Lusaka on 30-31 January 2012. Dr Kenneth Kaunda the first President of Zambia was present at the Reception on 30 January which was part of the Republic Day performance.

Zimbabwe

Ms Edna Madzongwe, President of the Senate of the Republic of Zimbabwe led a delegation to participate in the 7th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament on Gender Sensitive Parliaments held in New Delhi on 3-4 October 2012.

A Line of Credit for US dollar 28.6 million was approved by Government of India in September 2012 for up-gradation of the Deka Pumping Station and the River Water Intake System in Zimbabwe.

An Exhibition of Indian handicrafts was held from 21-26 November 2012 in Harare by Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, India. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises and Co-operative Development of Zimbabwe.

The Embassy of India in Harare, in collaboration with the Indian Tourist Office, Johannesburg, organized an Indian Food Festival in Hotel Meikles, Harare from 21-25 November 2012.

ICCR-sponsored dance troupe from Punjab and another ICCR-sponsored Gujarati dance troupe visited Zimbabwe in May 2012 and November 2012, respectively.

A MoU on Cooperation between the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi and Centre for Peace Initiative in Africa (CPIA), Harare was signed on 22 May 2012 in Harare.

Developments under India Africa Forum Summits

A country agreement between National Small Industries Corporation and the Ministry for Primary and Secondary Education, Crafts and Vocational Training and Literacy of Burundi for establishment of India-Africa Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Centre (VTC/IC) in Burundi was signed during the visit of NSIC team to Bujumbura from 8-10 September 2012.

As part of the decisions taken under Pan African Project, India signed an Agreement with the African Union to establish an Institute in the diamond sector, the India-Africa Diamond Institute (IADI) in Botswana to be set up by the Indian Diamond Institute (IDI) Surat. When fully established, IADI will impart training skills to Africans in the art of sorting, planning, cutting, polishing and jewellery designing in the sector of diamonds.

The Government of India has extended US\$ 10 million support in the health and education sector. Under the Grant in Aid, India has supplied two lots of information and communications technology equipment to the education sector, two lots of health and medical equipment and 50000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to assist Botswana in the health sector.

Under the India-Africa Forum Summit-II, India has increased the long-term and short-term scholarships for Comoros to

help the country in capacity building and human resource development. India has also committed to establish a Vocational Training Centre in Comoros.

Following the outcome of IAFS-II, the ITEC slots to Ethiopia have been increased to 135 from 120. This has been further enhanced to 160 this year. Ethiopia has also utilized 54 out of the 68 ICCR scholarships and 13 out of 15 CV Raman science scholarship under the IAFS-I.

During the 2nd India-Africa Trade Ministers' meet on 17 March 2012 in New Delhi, the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma launched the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (CTAP) for Africa. The programme has been implemented in seven African countries, viz., Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.

A greater number of slots were offered to Mauritius under ITEC (170 under ITEC I and 100 under ITEC II) for 2012-13 due to higher demand. Mauritian under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral students continued to avail of 100 ICCR scholarships.

India continued to assist Mozambique in the field of training, during the current year, 21 Mozambican nationals were sent to India under ITEC programme of the Government of India and India Africa Forum Summit decisions.

Cooperation in the development sector under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) was further enhanced, with 150 slots allotted to South Africa.

Under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme, 40 slots have been allotted to Rwanda for the year 2012-13.

Under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme, 85 slots were allotted to Uganda for the year 2012-13. After the mid-term review, additional 15 slots have been allotted under the ITEC/SCAAP Programme during the year 2012-13, taking the total slots to 100. As on date, 66 slots have been utilized.

The ITEC/ICCR training slots/scholarships extended by India to Zimbabwe are likely to cross 225 during 2012-13. Under its aid programme, India has set up three Hole-in-the-Wall Computer Learning Stations for children in high density areas. India is on course to set up a Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) and a Rural Technology Park (RTP) in Zimbabwe under IAFS-II. The FTL- delegation visited Zimbabwe in July-August 2012 and again in November 2012 to identify location for FTL and prepare a feasibility report and a business plan. A delegation each from National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Delhi visited Zimbabwe in October and November 2012,

respectively, in connection with setting up of a Rural Technology Park and an Incubation Centre in Zimbabwe.

Developments related to India's relations with the African Union

Special Envoy of External Affairs Minister, Additional Secretary (DPA) in the Ministry of External Affairs led a delegation to the Executive Council meeting of the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa from 11-14 July 2012. The delegation had an exchange of views with Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) Dr Jean Ping and Foreign Ministers of several countries on bilateral, regional and international issues.

There has been an overwhelming response to the ITEC slots offered to the AUC. The number of slots was enhanced to 35 for the year 2012-13 from 30 last year.

Pan-African e-Network Project

Government of India's flagship project under which India is helping setting up a fiber-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education to 53 countries of Africa, has been commissioned in 47 countries out of the 48 that signed the agreement with TCIL for participating in

the project. The Project is presently being implemented in South Sudan. The Project has been commissioned in the following 47 countries: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Under the Tele-education part, 9960 students from African countries have already registered with Indian universities and are being imparted Tele-education by Indian universities. 3577 tele-education sessions and 465 Tele-Medicine consultations had also taken place till October 2012.

Regular Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions from Super Specialty Hospitals had started from 22 April 2009. 2496 CME Sessions in English and 181 CME Sessions in French have been held from Indian Super Specialty Hospitals till October 2012.



Albania

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur visited Albania from 7 - 10 July 2012. She was accompanied by a business delegation from CII. She held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Albania Sali Berisha, Foreign Minister Mr Panariti, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Economy Mr Edmond Haxhinasto, Minister for Trade and Energy and the Speaker of the Parliament Mrs Jozefina Topalli. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CII and the Union of Albanian Chambers of Commerce on 9 July 2012.

A Manipuri dance troupe of 14 singers and dancers performed on 17 November 2012 in Tirana. Their performance was a tribute to the 100th Anniversary Celebrations of Albania's Independence. The dance troupe was co-hosted by Albanian Speaker Mrs Topalli along with Albania's Culture Ministry and the Indian Embassy in Bucharest.

A photo exhibition on Mother Teresa, jointly organized by ICCR and the Albanian Embassy would be held at the Lalit Kala Academy from 14-20 February 2013.

Austria

India-Austria relations strengthened during the year through exchange of high level visits, business delegations and cultural troupes.

Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Mrs Barbara Prammer visited New Delhi from 1-4 October 2012 to attend the 7th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament on the topic of "Gender-Aware Parliaments" organized by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology Ms Doris Bures visited New Delhi from 1-4 October 2012 at the invitation of Minister of Road Transport & Highways Dr C.P. Joshi. She met Indian Ministers of Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Urban Development, Civil Aviation and Shipping as well as Minister of State for Planning, Science and Technology & Earth Sciences. She co-chaired an Indo-Austrian Technology Symposium along with our Minister of Shipping. A MoU on Technology Cooperation in the

Shipping and Ports Infrastructure Sector and a Joint Statement of Intent for strengthening long-term relationship and bilateral cooperation in road infrastructure and road transportation technology sector was signed during the visit.

Austrian Federal Minister for Environment, Forestry, Agriculture and Water Management Nikolaus Berlakovich visited India from 16-19 October 2012 to attend the meeting of Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad.

The second Meeting of the Indo-Austrian Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held in New Delhi on 23-24 April 2012. A Programme of Cooperation (POC) for the period 2012-2014 was adopted during the meeting.

A 16-member delegation from National Defence College visited Austria from 20-25 May 2012.

A 9-member delegation led by the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri S. Jaipal Reddy visited Austria from 12-16 June 2012 to attend the 5th OPEC International Seminar.

A two member delegation led by Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vyalar Ravi will visit Austria from 3-6 February 2013. A Social Security Agreement between the two countries is proposed to be signed during the visit. A delegation led by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur is likely to visit Austria from 26-28 February 2013 to attend the 5th meeting of the Global Forum on UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur, accompanied by 5-member CII business delegation visited Bosnia from 11-14 July 2012. This was the 1st ever ministerial visit from India to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apart from official talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Zlatko Lagumdžija, Smt Kaur also called on Chairman Mr Bakir Izetbegovic and Member of the Presidency Mr Nebojsa Radmanovic.

3rd meeting of the bilateral Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Sarajevo on 25 September 2012.

Mr Mirko Sarovic, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations visited India to participate in the International Seminar on Energy Access held on 9-10 October 2012 at New Delhi and met Shri Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy at the sidelines.

An Agreement between India and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed on 13 December 2012 in Sarajevo.

Bulgaria

Mid-Term Bilateral Consultations between the two Foreign Offices were held on 8 May 2012.

A Ministry of Defence delegation visited Bulgaria on 28-29 June 2012 to participate in the 16th Session of the Joint Committee on India- Bulgaria Defence Cooperation (JCIBDC).

The Bulgarian Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism, Mr Delyan Dobrev, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Interior, Mr Veselin Vuchkov and a business delegation visited India for the 17th Session of India-Bulgaria Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation (JCESTC) held in New Delhi on 15-16 October 2012.

The 7th Session of the India-Bulgaria Joint Committee for Science and Technology was held in Sofia on 6-7 December 2012.

Croatia

On 17 October 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the University of Zagreb, formalizing the establishment of a Chair of Hindi at the University's Department of Indology. The document was signed by the Ambassador of India to Croatia on behalf of the ICCR and by the Rector of the University of Zagreb.

On 2 October 2012 the Indian Embassy, in cooperation with a local NGO - the Mahatma Gandhi Cultural Centre, Zagreb - celebrated Gandhi Jayanti and the International Day of Non-Violence at a function in Zagreb. An exhibition of selected photographs and messages of Mahatma Gandhi was held from 1-3 October 2012. A short documentary on Mahatma Gandhi was also screened on the occasion.

Bilateral trade between India and Croatia up to November 2012 was to the tune of € 129.23 million. India's exports and imports to and from Croatia during the same period were valued at € 112.93 million and € 16.30 million respectively.

Croatia utilized all the five slots allotted to it under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme for

the year 2012-13, in consideration of which two additional slots have been provided to Croatia for the period.

Cyprus

The 7th session of Cyprus India Joint Economic Committee was held on 27-28 September 2012 in Nicosia. Bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, economy, investments, technology, tourism, energy, transportation, health and culture were reviewed and a Protocol signed.

Oil and gas exploration in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus and prospects of gas find offer new opportunities for Indo-Cyprus cooperation both in upstream and downstream projects in the gas/petrochemical sector.

Czech Republic

Czech Defence Minister Dr Alexandr Vondra paid an official visit to India to attend the 7th International Defence Exhibition on Land and Naval System (DEFEXPO India 2012) on 29-30 March 2012 along with a 46-member business delegation. The Czech Defence Minister called on Raksha Mantri Shri A. K. Antony, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur, National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon, and Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat. The meetings centered around bilateral issues on defence matters.

A Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth & Sport and a Work Plan for support of India-Czech joint projects for the years 2013-2015 were signed during the visit to Prague in April 2012.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, India and Ústav Jaderného Výzkumu Řež a.s., Czech Republic in the field of nuclear science and technology in August 2012.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma (CITM) led a high level business delegation to the Czech Republic from 9-11 September 2012 to the Brno International Engineering Fair at which India was the Partner country. CITM and his Czech counterpart participated in the 9th Session of the India Czech Joint Commission Meeting (JCM). Both Ministers agreed to launch Joint Working Groups (JWGs) in the areas of Skills and Innovation, Heavy Engineering, and Mining. The Protocol of the JCM was signed during the visit together with a MoU between the EXIM Bank of India and Česká Exportní Banka (CEB).

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur visited the Czech Republic from 31 October to 3 November 2012. Bilateral issues were discussed during the

meetings with Prime Minister Petr Nečas; Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs Karel Schwarzenberg; and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament Ms Miroslava Němcová. Discussions with First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Jiri Schneider centered on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

Denmark

India-Denmark relations remained affected due to the non-extradition of Danish National Niels Holck, aka Kim Davy to India for his involvement in the Purulia Arms Dropping Case of 1995.

An MoU was signed on 11 September 2012 by the Ambassador of India on behalf of ICCR to establish a Chair for Indian Studies at the Aarhus University. A Chair for Indian Economy and Society has also been functioning at Copenhagen Business School (CBS).

A 10-member ICCR Cultural troupe visited Copenhagen and gave two performances entitled "Swan Lake-Revisited" at Danish Royal Theatre on 20-21 October 2012. The Cultural event was organized as part of "India Today-Copenhagen Tomorrow" project sponsored by Danish Holck-Larsen Foundation in association with the Embassy.

Estonia

Prime Minister of Estonia Mr Andrus Ansip visited India in July 2012 on a private visit. He met Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur and discussed the economic situation in both countries.

The Estonian Minister for Education and Research Mr Jaak Aaviksoo, accompanied by a delegation of senior officials visited New Delhi and Mumbai from 28 September - 1 October 2012. During the visit he met Minister of Human Resource Development and Communications and Information Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal as well as Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot.

Estonia opened its Embassy in New Delhi in March 2012 headed by a Charge d' Affaires. The 1st Resident Ambassador of Estonia to India arrived in India in January 2013.

Embassy of India opened its Visa Centre in Tallinn in June 2012 which was inaugurated by the Foreign Minister of Estonia Mr Urmas Paet.

India-Estonia Foreign Office Consultations were held in Tallinn in May 2012.

A 27-member delegation including 4 Members of Parliament visited Estonia for a training programme at E-Governance Academy.

Under the ITEC Programme 20 slots are offered to Estonia annually. ITEC Day was celebrated on 24 October 2012. Local artists of Amrita Studio performed Bharatnatyam. Ranganiketan, a Manipuri dance troupe sponsored by ICCR visited in June 2012 and performed in Tallinn.

The Estonian Foreign Minister Mr Urmas Paet visited India to formally inaugurate the Estonian Embassy in New Delhi on 13 February 2013.

Finland

The Speaker of Finnish Parliament Mr Eero Heinäluoma visited India along with a 3-member Parliamentary delegation from 23-26 April 2012. He met the Vice President and Chairman Rajya Sabha Shri Hamid Ansari, Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Leader of Opposition Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur and the Standing committee of External Affairs.

Minister of Rural Development Shri Jairam Ramesh visited Finland from 9-11 April 2012. He participated in the Finnish Parliament's theme day on sustainable development and delivered a talk on sustainable and efficient use of natural resources. Shri Jairam Ramesh also met Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Jyri Hakamies.

MoU on Bio Medical Research between the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Academy of Finland was signed in November 2012 in New Delhi.

The Joint Commission on Innovation was held from 5-7 September 2012 in Helsinki.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and University of Eastern Finland opened the TERI-Nordic Office in Joensuu. The Office will specialise in research and development and challenges of boreal and arctic areas from global perspective. The core research areas of the Office will be sustainable forestry and bio-economy.

Ranganiketan, a Manipuri dance troupe sponsored by ICCR visited Finland in June 2012 to participate in Kuopio Dance Festival.

Minister of Housing and Communications Ms Krista Kiuru visited India from 15-21 January 2013. She was accompanied by an official and business delegation. Minister Kiuru met Minister of Urban Development Shri Kamal Nath during her visit and traveled to Bengaluru and Agra. Former President Ms Tarja Halonen is scheduled to visit India to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 30 January - 5 February 2013.

Greece

Embassy of India, Athens organized a three-day Indian Film Festival in April 2012 at the Youth Centre of the Municipality of Halandri.

The Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), European Business and Technology Centre, in association with the Embassy organized a one-day workshop on "Doing Business in India" in Athens and Thessaloniki on 21- 22 May 2012.

In 2011-12, the bilateral trade between the two countries increased considerably and reached US\$ 906.13 million, despite the severe economic crisis in Greece.

An ICCR-sponsored "Lavani" folk dance troupe from India participated in the Kavala International Festival ("Cosmopolis") from 28 June - 7 July 2012 to celebrate 100 years of independence.

A 22-member folk dance troupe "Panghat" from Gujarat, participated in the 8th World Festival of Traditional Dances at Aigio from 13-17 August 2012 and at the 50th Lefkas International Folklore Festival during 19-26 August 2012. Mr Raza Khan, Indian Sufi singer performed in Athens on 16 October 2012 at the invitation of a local event organizer "Specs-n-Art".

Holy See

Archbishop George Alencherry and Archbishop Mar Baselios Cleemis from India were nominated to the College of Cardinals at investiture ceremonies at the Vatican in February 2012 and November 2012 respectively. For both ceremonies, a six-member delegation led by Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Prof K.V. Thomas and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Prof P. J. Kurien represented India for the two ceremonies respectively.

Hungary

Dr Zsolt Semjen, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary and Dr Janos Latorcai, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly visited India from 3 -7 May 2012.

A 3-member delegation led by Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology visited Budapest to participate in the Budapest Conference on Cyberspace held on 4-5 October 2012. He also met the Foreign Minister of Hungary, Mr Janos Martonyi and Minister for National Development, Ms Laszlonge Nemeth.

The Speaker of Hungarian National Assembly, Dr Laszlo Kover, led a 6-member delegation to India from 24-30

November 2012. The delegation called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and had meetings with Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar, Leader of Opposition Smt Sushma Swaraj and the Standing Committee on External Affairs.

A 5-member Defence delegation, led by Shri Shekhar Agarwal, Secretary, Defence Production visited Hungary from 23-25 May 2012 to attend the 5th meeting of Indo-Hungarian Joint Defence Committee.

An International Conference on Rabindranath Tagore titled "His Writings and Art beyond Bengal" was held in Budapest in collaboration with ELTE University on 19-20 March 2012, with the support of ICCR. A Kathak Dance Troupe led by Sharmistha Mukherjee gave performances in four Hungarian cities in August 2012.

Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary Mr Szabolcs Takacs visited India and held bilateral consultations with Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Pinak Chakravarti on 15 January 2013.

Iceland

Bilateral relations were given an impetus during the year with two visits of the Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament, Ms Asta R. Johannesdottir to India for the 7th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament on Gender Sensitive Parliaments' held in New Delhi on 3-4 October 2012, and a bilateral visit at the invitation of Speaker Smt Meira Kumar from 20-26 November 2012.

Icelandic Minister for the Environment Ms Svandis Svavarsdottir visited India to attend the 11th Conference of Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) hosted by India in Hyderabad from 8-19 October 2012.

Latvia

Ms Solvita Aboltina, Speaker of the Saeima, Parliament of Latvia visited India on 3-4 October 2012 for the 7th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament on Gender Sensitive Parliaments.

A Kathak dance performance by Pandit Rajendra Gangani was organized by the Indian Embassy in association with Indo Baltic Federation of Culture & Commerce in Riga on 26 June 2012.

Lithuania

Twenty years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Lithuania were commemorated during the year.

A 25-member India-Lithuania Parliamentary Friendship Group was constituted in the Indian Parliament in November 2012. The Lithuanian Parliament also registered a 34-member Group for Inter-parliamentary Relations with the Republic of India in their newly elected Seimas.

Macedonia

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Zoran Stavreski, accompanied by Minister of Information Society and Minister for Foreign Investments visited India in October 2012 and addressed business forums in Trivandrum, Bangalore, Gurgaon, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Chennai.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur, accompanied by a business delegation of the CII visited Macedonia on 10-11 July 2012 and met Foreign Minister Nikola Poposki, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Zoran Stavrevski and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the Macedonian Assembly and the then Foreign Minister, Antonio Milososki. This was the 1st visit by an Indian Minister to Macedonia. The MoU between CII and the Macedonian Industry Associations was signed during the visit.

Mid-Term DG-level consultations between Foreign Offices were held in Skipje on 7 May 2012.

A Macedonian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Mr Trajko Veljanovski is likely to visit India in March, 2013.

Moldova

A 17-member Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) delegation visited Moldova from 5-8 December 2012. They met officials of the Health Ministry, Regulatory Authority, Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Moldova.

A Moldova-India Business Forum/ Buyer-Seller Meet was organized on 6 December 2012.

Montenegro

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) of which it was a constituent republic. There is considerable goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro.

Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Mr Milan Rocen visited India from 10-12 April 2012 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister. This was

the 1st high-level visit from either side since Montenegro's independence in 2006. On 11 April 2012, the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna held delegation-level talks with Foreign Minister Rocen. The visit helped establish political contacts at the high levels.

Norway

Shri V. Kishore Chandra Deo, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs and Panchayati Raj visited Norway from 10-14 September 2012. In Oslo, he met Ms Liv Signe Navarsete, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development and Ms Ragnhild Vassvik Kalstad, State Secretary in charge of Sami Affairs, in the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs. He also visited the Sami Parliament in Karasjok, Finnmark.

The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Trond Giske visited India twice in April 2012 and May 2012 respectively. Norwegian Agriculture Minister Mr Trygve S. Vedum visited India from 15-18 August 2012, and had interactions at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, and at the Water and Land Management Training and Research Institute in Hyderabad. Norwegian Deputy Minister of International Development Mr Arvinn E. Gadgil visited New Delhi from 7-9 October 2012, to attend the International Seminar on Energy Access with the theme 'Energy Access for All'. He had a bilateral meeting with Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr Farooq Abdullah and with Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur. Minister of the Environment Mr Bård Vegar Solhjell visited Hyderabad from 17-19 October 2012 to attend the 11th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biodiversity. He also had a bilateral meeting with Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (IC) of Environment and Forests.

The 6th meeting of Indo-Norway Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons was held in Oslo on 19 September 2012, under the co-chairmanship of Shri G. C. Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Ms Elizabeth Berge, Secretary General in the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. A MoU was signed between the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, Government of India, and the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate.

The 4th meeting of Indo-Norway Joint Working Group on Science & Technology was held in Bergen on 18-19 October 2012, at which a 'Programme of Cooperation' for the period 2012-15 was concluded.

Deputy Minister of International development, Mr Arvinn Gadgil is likely to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2013. Minister of Defence, Ms Ann-Grete Strom-Erichsen is scheduled to visit India from 19-23 March 2013.

Poland

Under Secretary of State in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Mr Jerzy Pomianowski visited Delhi on 11-12 June 2012 and held discussions with Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Smt Ambika Soni visited Poland from 2-4 July 2012 and met Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Poland Mr Bogdan Zdrojewski. An agreement on Audio Visual Co-production was also signed.

Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Poland, Mr Bogdan Zdrojewski visited India in November 2012 to attend the Goa International Film Festival.

Foreign Office Consultations between India and Poland were held in Warsaw on 6 November 2012.

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur visited Poland from 27-30 January 2013.

Romania

Romania hosted the Conference on International Sericulture Commission at Cluj Napoca on 14 June 2012 during which Indian candidate Ms Ishita Roy was elected as the next Secretary General of the Commission. It was also decided that the headquarters of the International Sericulture Commission would be located in Bangalore.

A Manipuri Dance Troupe co-sponsored by ICCR and the Romanian Ministry of Culture performed at Timisoara on 10 October 2012.

The 28th edition of Romania Tourism Fair was held at Romexpo, Bucharest from 15-18 November 2012 in which India Tourism Office, Frankfurt participated.

Foreign Office Consultation at the Joint Secretary/Director General level were held in Bucharest on 14 December 2012.

Serbia

India-Serbia Foreign Office Consultations were held in Belgrade from 5-7 July 2012.

Bangalore-based real estate company Embassy Group held the ground-breaking ceremony on 19 April 2012 for construction of an IT Park in the municipality of Indjija, Vojvodina, which was attended by the Serbian Prime Minister.

A 7-member ICCR-sponsored Kathak Dance Group visited Serbia from 1-6 September 2012 and gave performances in the capital Belgrade, Novi Sad and Kragujevac. The Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic graced the performance held in his hometown Kragujevac. Embassy of India organized a cross-country tour of the Exhibition "Kalpana - Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings" received from ICCR, in various Serbian towns.

An ASSOCHAM delegation comprising of 28 Indian companies attended the 79th International Agriculture Fair held in Novi Sad from 12-18 May 2012.

Slovak Republic

Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs visited Slovakia from 29-31 October 2012 and met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mr Miroslav Lajcak, State Secretary for Foreign and European Affairs Mr Peter Burian, State Secretary for the Economy Mr Pavol Pavlis and State Secretary for Defence Milos Koterec. Bilateral cooperation was reviewed and it was agreed to intensify economic exchanges and further diversifying traditional cooperation in defence.

A delegation headed by State Secretary in the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic Mr Jan Ilavsky attended the 11th Meeting of the conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad from 16-19 October 2012.

Slovenia

India and Slovenia signed the Protocol amending the 2004 Air Services Agreement in Ljubljana on 9 November 2012. Secretary, Civil Aviation and the Slovenian Minister for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning signed the Protocol.

Visits from India included those of Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Ambassador SK Lambah for the Bled Strategic Forum in July 2012, Secretary of Department of Public Enterprises for the ICPE Annual Meeting (July 2012) and Secretary for Civil Aviation (Nov 2012).

12 Indian companies participated at the International Trade Fair at Celje (September 2012). Their participation was coordinated by National Small Industries Corporation and the Indian Embassy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Development and Technology Mr Radovan Zerjav is scheduled to visit India from 27-31 January 2013.

Sweden

Ministerial visits from Sweden to India included those of Ms Lena Ek, Swedish Environment Minister who visited India for COP-XI Hyderabad Summit (11th Conference of Parties on Convention on Biological Diversity) from 16-19 October 2012; Ms Annie Lööf, Swedish Minister for Enterprise to attend the 16th Session of India - Sweden Joint Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation in Delhi on 29-30 October 2012; Mr Ulf Kristersson, Swedish Minister for Social Security visited India on 26-28 November 2012 to sign the Bilateral Social Security Agreement and that of Ms Catharina Elmsater-Svard Swedish Minister for Infrastructure from 2-5 December 2012.

The other visits from Sweden to India include those of the Riksdag (Parliament) Committee on Defence that visited India from 4-8 September 2012; a 40-member Political Board of Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) led by its President, Anders Knappe from 8-15 September 2012; a 14-member International Committee of SALAR, led by Chairperson Lotta Håkansson Harju visited India from 28 October- 3 November 2012; and that of Mr Olof Ehrenkrona, the Chief of Staff / Advisor of the Foreign Minister of Sweden visited India to attend the Trilateral Forum organised by the German Marshall Fund held in New Delhi on 14-15 September 2012.

The visits from India to Sweden include those of a Ministry of Defence delegation for the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence from 18-20 April 2012. A 20-member National Defence College delegation visited Sweden from 20-25 May 2012. A group of 6 young MPs from different political parties from Indian Parliament visited Sweden from 10-16 June 2012. A Gujarat government business delegation visited Stockholm and held road show on 1 October 2012 to attract Swedish companies to participate in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, 2013, investment promotion event.

The Indian Embassy in cooperation with Indian Council for Cultural Relations and other partners presented the 'Swan Lake Revisited' performance in Stockholm on 29 October 2012.

Switzerland

At the World Economic Forum 2012, India was represented by the official Indian delegation comprising Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of State for Planning, Science and Earth Sciences Dr Ashwani Kumar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and

Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Members of Parliament Shri N.K. Singh and Smt Shobhana Bhartia, besides a strong representation from the Indian industry and a delegation from Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

The 1st India-Switzerland Financial Dialogue was held on 6 July 2012 in Berne. Both sides exchanged views on general economic situation, markets, investment climate and tax matters. In April 2012, a mutual agreement regarding interpretation of sub-paragraph (b) of the new paragraph 10 of the Protocol to the Agreement between India and Switzerland for Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed to further simplify the clause on exchange of information.

India was the "Guest Country" at the ten day MUBA (Consumer Goods Fair at Basel) held from 13-22 April 2012.

The Federal Councillor for Home Affairs (Health, Social Affairs, Education, Research and Culture) Alain Berset visited India from 1-3 October 2012. Federal Councillor Berset met Ministers of Health and Family Welfare, Culture and Science and Technology and chaired the 2nd Joint Committee Meeting on Science and Technology on 3 October 2012. A Joint Declaration stating that India and Switzerland would like to pursue and widen their cooperation in the field of Science and Technology from 2013 to 2016 was signed.

The Federal Councillor for Environment, Transport, Communications and Energy Ms Doris Leuthard during her visit to India from 18-20 October 2012 to represent Switzerland at the UN Conference on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad, also met Minister of State (IC) of Environment and Forests Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Dr C.P. Joshi and Minister of Urban Development Shri Kamal Nath.

The 13th India-Switzerland Joint Economic Commission meeting was held in New Delhi on 5 October 2012.

Foreign Office Consultation were held in Berne on 17 December 2012.

Turkey

The then Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Ajay Maken visited Turkey from 5-7 June 2012 and signed a MoU on Cooperation in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The Foreign Office Consultations on Central Asia, Caucuses and Energy issues were held in Ankara in July 2012.

The Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and Turkey was signed in Ankara on 30 October 2012 by Ambassador of India and the Turkish Minister of Justice, Mr Sadullah Ergin.

A delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) visited Turkey on an official visit from 13-19 May 2012. The Commander of the Turkish Navy, Admiral Emin Murat Bilgel visited India from 4-7 November 2012.

The 'India Tourism Road Shows' were held in Ankara and Istanbul from 16-18 October 2012.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma met Minister of Economy Mr Zafer Caglayan on the sidelines of the Davos Summit in January 2013. The Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology, Mr Nihat Ergun visited India to participate in the Partnership Summit from 27-29 January 2013.

European Union

EU remains one of India's largest trade partners and a significant source of investments. In the past few years, particularly since the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the relationship has diversified with growing emphasis on political and security cooperation in addition to very intensive economic ties. Bilateral relations are multifaceted with dialogue and cooperation across a whole range of areas including trade, industrial cooperation, financial and monetary affairs, environment, energy, promoting research and technology, promoting people to people contacts and cultural exchanges.

Negotiations to conclude India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) continued during the year. Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister, Shri Anand Sharma met EU Trade Commissioner, Mr Karel De Gucht on 26 June 2012 in Brussels to impart momentum to the process. Commerce Secretary met Director General (Trade) on 25 June 2012, in Brussels to discuss outstanding issues in the negotiations for BTIA.

An India EU Joint Working Group on ICT met on 28-29 March 2012 in New Delhi and discussed ways to further bilateral cooperation on hardware manufacturing, cyber-security and Research and Development in ICT. The Working Group decided to establish two sub-working groups - one on India-EU Bilateral Electronic Hardware Manufacturing and another on Cyber-Security.

An India-EU Stakeholder's Conference was held in Brussels on 31 May - 1 June 2012, to follow up on the Joint Declaration on the Research and Innovation Cooperation issued at the 12th India-EU Summit in February 2012. During the

conference, an India-EU Ministerial Meeting was held between Minister of Science and Technology, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh and Ms Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science. A Brussels Communiqué outlining the roadmap of future cooperation was issued that included decision to set up a Senior Officials Group to guide the cooperation and to establish an industry driven stakeholder group to define the strategic agenda and support innovation among SMEs.

The 1st round of negotiations on India-EU Research and Development agreement for peaceful uses of nuclear energy was held in Brussels on 31 May- 1 June 2012. The negotiations progressed substantially and both sides are optimistic of concluding the agreement in near future.

A High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility was held in New Delhi on 2 July 2012 which identified initiatives which could constitute building blocks of the future framework of India-EU cooperation on the subject.

2nd India-EU Foreign Policy Consultations were held on 20 July 2012 in Brussels. Indian delegation was led by Shri M. Ganapathi, Secretary (West) in MEA and the EU delegation was led by Chief Operating Officer of European External Action Service (EEAS), Mr David O'Sullivan.

The 6th India-EU Security Dialogue was held on 25 October 2012 in Brussels.

A Joint Eurojust/Europol Practitioners Workshop with India was held in the Hague on 11-12 December 2012. The participants from EU included officials from Europol, Eurojust and the European Commission while from the Indian side representatives from National Investigation Agency, Central Bureau of Investigation and officials of the Embassies in The Hague and Brussels participated.

India-EU Cyber-security consultations were held in New Delhi on 26 October 2012.

Exchanges between Indian and European Parliament continued during the year. Mr Graham Watson, Member of European Parliament (MEP) and Chairperson of the delegations for relations with India led a delegation of MEPs to India from 30 April- 4 May 2012. A delegation of Rajya-Sabha officials visited European Parliament from 08-17 July 2012 and a delegation of Lok-Sabha officials visited European Parliament from 08-12 October 2012.

Indian Council of World Affairs and European Union Institute for Security Studies organized the 4th India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism in Brussels on 23-24 October 2012.

The EU remains one of India's largest trading partners. Trade which grew during 2009-11 witnessed a decline in the first half of 2012. EU-India bilateral trade during January-June 2012 was € 37.7 billion.

India EU Macro Economic Dialogue and the Financial Services Dialogue took place in Brussels on 24-25 January 2013.

West Europe

Belgium

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preeti Kaur visited Brussels from 15-19 April 2012. She met Mr Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of Belgium and discussed bilateral relations. Minister of State also visited Antwerp where she met Governor of Antwerp, Ms Cathy Berx.

Minister of Shipping Shri G.K.Vasan visited Belgium from 3-5 April 2012, to participate in a conference on Indo-Belgium Cooperation in Maritime Sector and held discussions to enhance the ongoing cooperation between India and Belgium in the shipping sector.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs, Mr Didier Reynders visited India from 2-12 August 2012. He met the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma, the then Minister of Railways Shri Mukul Roy and President, ICCR Shri Karan Singh. A Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral co-operation for the effective development and modernization of railway sector was signed between Ministry of Railways, Government of India and the Ministry of Mobility of the Kingdom of Belgium on 2 August 2012.

In order to promote bilateral cooperation in the area of civilian nuclear energy, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK - SEN) in June 2012. It provides for cooperation in management of nuclear waste-geological disposal technique, advance research reactor systems and collaboration in the context of INPRO project of the IAEA.

A Global India Business Meeting was organized by Horasis in Antwerp on 24-25 June 2012 which was addressed by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma.

The 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated with an exhibition of digital prints of paintings by

Tagore. World premiers of two films based on dance dramas of Tagore were also organized in Brussels.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Europalia International signed a Framework Agreement in April 2012 in Mumbai for India to be partner country for the Europalia festival in Belgium and in neighbouring countries in 2013-14.

Belgium continues to be India's second largest trade partner within EU.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Belgium on 30-31 January 2013. He held bilateral discussions with the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr Didier Reynders. EAM inaugurated a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the office of Governor of Antwerp on Gandhiji's 65th Death Anniversary on 30 January 2013.

Mr Pieter De Crem, Minister of Defence is scheduled to attend AeroIndia 2013 to be held in Bangalore from 6-10 February 2013.

France

The momentum of bilateral exchanges was maintained at the highest level with the new French administration under President Francois Hollande. The first meeting between President Hollande and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh took place on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Los Cabos on 19 June 2012.

The 24th round of the India-France Strategic Dialogue took place in New Delhi on 4 September 2012. The Joint Working Group on Terrorism, established for cooperation in fight against terrorism, held its meeting on 19 November 2012 at New Delhi. The 14th meeting of the High Level Committee for Defence Cooperation (HCDC), at the level of Defence Secretaries, met in New Delhi on 26-27 April 2012. The three sub-groups viz., Military Sub-Committee (MSC), Sub-Committee for Defence Industry, Procurement and Research & Technology (R&T) and Service (Army/ Navy/ Air Force) Staff Talks held their meeting from 12-14 December 2012.

The Indo-French Naval exercise, Varuna was held in the Mediterranean Sea off the port of Toulon from 19-22 July 2012.

In 2012, progress was made in discussions on all outstanding issues relating to Jaitapur Project.

ISRO and CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) are jointly developing Satellite for ARGOS and ALTIKA (SARAL) carrying a radar altimeter to study sea surface altitude (Ka band Altimeter - ALTIKA) and a data collection platform for collecting data from

ocean buoys and weather data centres (ARGOS). CNES provides the payloads and ISRO is responsible for satellite platform, launch using PLSV and operations. The integrated SARAL satellite is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of 2013.

Under a commercial Launch Service Agreement between Antrix Corporation Limited (ANTRIX), and ASTRIUM SAS, a Company under EADS, France, an advanced Remote Sensing satellite-SPOT-6 built by ASTRIUM SAS was successfully launched on-board ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV - C21) on 9 September 2012.

On 28 September 2012, India's GSAT-10 was successfully launched onboard Ariane-V launcher from Kourou, French Guiana.

The 25th Anniversary Celebrations of The Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) were formally launched in a programme organized in New Delhi on 6 March 2012.

A MoU was signed on 12 January 2012 between Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) for establishment of Applied Mathematics Center at IISc. Another MoU has also been signed in January 2012 for establishment of International Associated Laboratory in Informatics in Chennai with Chennai Mathematical Institute, Institute of Mathematical Sciences and IISc.

In 2011, bilateral trade had increased by 6% to € 7.46 billion. In the first ten months of 2012, there has been a decrease of 3.71% in the bilateral trade over the same period of 2011.

During the visit of the then Minister of Urban Development Shri Kamal Nath to France from 3-6 October 2012, India and France signed an Agreement for cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development.

The 5th meeting of the Indo-French CEO's Forum was held in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2012.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited France on 10-11 January 2013 for bilateral discussions with Mr. Laurent Fabius, the French Foreign Minister. During the visit EAM called on President Francois Hollande and met the French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, Energy and Transport, Ms Delphine Batho and the French Minister for Higher Education and Research, Ms Genevieve Fioraso.

India-France Joint Working Group on Environment was held in New Delhi on 1 February 2013.

President Hollande visited India on 14-15 February 2013.

The exhibition 'The Last Harvest- Paintings of Tagore' was held at the prestigious Petit Palais museum in the heart of Paris

from 26 January-11 March 2012. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by Minister of Culture, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja and the Mayor of Paris, Mr Bertrand Delanoë on Republic Day. A MoU was signed between the Ministry of Culture of India and the Louvre Museum with the aim of establishing an active partnership in the area of exchange of competencies and expertise, particularly in the field of museology, temporary exhibitions and other cultural events.

On 5 May 2012, a road named after Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated in Tremblay-en France, a suburban town of Paris.

For the first time, four Indian films were selected for screening in different categories of the 2012 Cannes Film Festival namely "Miss Lovely" (in 'Un Certain Regard'); "Kalpana" (in 'Ciné Classics'); "Peddlers" (in 'La Semaine de la Critique'); and "Gangs of Wasseypur" (in "La Quinzaine des Réalisateurs").

Germany

Bilateral relations between India and Germany continued to expand steadily during the year. The relationship received impetus with the celebrations of 60th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

A meeting between Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Chancellor Angela Merkel was held on the side-lines of the G-20 summit in Los Cabos in June 2012.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle visited India from 22-23 June 2012 and held bilateral talks with the then External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna in Bengaluru. Foreign Minister Westerwelle also inaugurated the Indo-German Urban Mela and the new building of the German Consulate in Bengaluru.

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles led a high level CII business delegation to Germany from 8-12 May 2012 and met Dr Philipp Roesler, Federal Minister of Economics & Technology and Dr Peter Ramsauer, Federal Minister for Transport, Building & Urban Development.

German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economics and Technology Philipp Roesler led a high-powered business delegation to the 13th Asia-Pacific Meeting of German Business held from 1-3 November 2012 in Gurgaon. He met Finance Minister on 1 November 2012.

Other Important bilateral exchanges between India and Germany included:

Shri K.C. Venugopal, Minister of State for Power visited Germany from 3-9 June 2012 and discussed cooperation in the energy sector.

Dr Peter Ramsauer, German Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Development led a high profile business delegation to New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai from 9-14 April 2012 and signed a Joint Declaration in the field of Sustainable Urban Development.

Secretary-level Foreign Office Consultations were held on 29 October 2012 in New Delhi. State Secretary in the German Foreign Office Ms Emily Haber had discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues with Secretary (West) in MEA. She also met the Indian Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser.

Secretary Defence Production led a delegation from 11-13 September 2012 to the Berlin Air Show (ILA).

Mission Director and Director General, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) visited Berlin on 29 May 2012 and held roundtable discussion with the various Fraunhofer Institutes.

Mr Rolf Nikel, Director General, Disarmament and Arms Control in the German Foreign Office visited New Delhi on 10 October 2012 to have the first-ever Disarmament and Non-proliferation Consultations.

Mr Joerg Ranau, Deputy Director General (Export Control and Technology) in the German Foreign Office and Mr Karl Wendling, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Economics and Technology led a delegation to New Delhi to conduct the first-ever Bilateral Export Control Consultations from 1-2 November 2012.

The Joint Working Groups (JWG) under the Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation met in 2012. The JWG on Vocational Education & Training (VE&T) met in Udaipur on 11-12 October 2012, where two sides discussed further strengthening of cooperation in the field of VE&T. The meeting for bilateral negotiations on Development Cooperation was held on 27-28 September 2012 in Berlin.

The 9th Meeting of Indo-German Committee on Science & Technology was held at Jülich on 17-18 September 2012. The annual High Defence Committee (HDC) meeting was held between high level delegations of the Indian and German side from 17-19 June 2012 in Berlin. The Indo-German Consultative Group held its 21st meeting in Frankfurt on 28- 30 September 2012.

Parliamentary State Secretary (Minister of State rank) in the German Ministry of Economy and Technology, Hans Joachim Otto visited India from 9-14 January 2013. He was accompanied

by a business delegation. During his visit he held discussions at NDMA, MHA, DRDO and MoD.

External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid visited Germany on 28-29 January 2013. He held bilateral discussions with German Foreign Minister, Dr Guido Westerwelle and called on the Chancellor of Germany, Mrs Angela Merkel. EAM also met Dr Annette Schavan, Minister of Education and Research and Mr Klaus Wowereit, Mayor of Berlin.

Finance Minister visited Frankfurt, Germany on 30 January 2013 for road shows organised to interact with participants of international capital markets.

National Security Adviser visited Germany for bilateral consultations from 1-5 February 2013 and also participated in the Munich Security Conference.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between India and Germany, the two governments celebrated the events "Year of Germany in India" and the "Days of India in Germany".

Germany remained India's largest trading partner in Europe and also one of the top ten investors in India. Bilateral trade continued to be buoyant with trade volume for Jan-July 2012 being Euro 10.44 billion. Germany is the 8th largest foreign direct investor in India. In the first half of 2012, German FDI to India reached US\$ 486.25 million. Germany's total FDI in India has reached US\$ 5023 million during April 2000 - August 2012, constituting about 3% of total FDI to India.

The Tagore Centre and the Indian Cultural Centre, organized a range of cultural events showcasing rich Indian cultural heritage amongst German public. Performances of artistes like Pt Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Raja and Radha Reddy and Dr L. Subramaniam were arranged at various cities in Germany. Two international Conferences on Tagore and Panchatantra were also organized at Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg and University of Leipzig respectively.

An 8-Member delegation of the German Parliament (Bundestag) belonging to the Parliamentary Committee on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, headed by Member of Parliament, Mr Hans Michael Goldmann will be visiting India from 3-10 February 2013.

Secretary of State, Federal Ministry of Defence, Stéphane Beemelmans is scheduled to attend AeroIndia 2013 to be held in Bangalore from 6-10 February 2013.

The next meeting of the Indo-German Consultations on Development Cooperation is expected to take place in India in early 2013.

Ireland

Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr Farooq Abdullah visited Ireland from 14-15 June 2012 and had bilateral discussions with his Irish counterpart Mr Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and also met potential Irish investors and members of the Indian community. Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai visited Ireland on 15 June 2012 for bilateral consultations with senior officials in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

In November 2012, Irish Minister of State for Training and Skills Ciaran Cannon led an education delegation to India with representation from 16 institutions of higher learning in Ireland.

Trade maintained the levels of the last few years despite the contraction of the Irish economy; merchandise and service trade together exceeded € 1 billion.

Cultural relations between India and Ireland were given new content when Tagore's 'Post Office' was enacted at the prestigious Beckett theatre in Dublin by a theatre group from Goa.

Italy

Bilateral relations between India and Italy remained cordial and friendly. Union Home Minister, Shri Sushilkumar Shinde visited Rome on 4-5 November 2012 to participate in the triennial INTERPOL Ministerial Meeting. Director, CBI led the official Indian delegation to the 81st INTERPOL General Assembly held in Rome from 6-8 November 2012.

An Agreement between India and Italy on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed on 10 August 2012 in Rome.

Bilateral trade during the period January - September 2012 stood at € 5.28 billion, a drop of 17.7% over the corresponding period in 2011.

As part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, an exhibition of Tagore paintings, sponsored by Ministry of Culture was organized in Rome from 29 March - 27 May 2012.

An exhibition sponsored by Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), of Indian masks entitled "Contemporary Indian Mask Exhibition 2012", painted by 300 Indian artists, was organized at Perugia, Italy from 1-18 November 2012.

The 12th edition of the River-to-River Indian Film Festival was held in Florence and Rome from 7-16 December 2012 with the collaboration of Directorate of Film Festival and NFDC, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India. The festival celebrated the centenary year of the Indian film industry.

Luxembourg

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur visited Luxembourg on 18 April 2012. She called on the Grand Duke of Luxembourg and met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn, Minister of Trade and Economy Mr Etienne Schneider and Chair of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Luxembourg Mr Laurent Mosar. India supported Luxembourg's candidature for the successful bid to the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the period 2013 - 2014 at the election held in October 2012.

The Netherlands

Minister of Shipping Shri G.K. Vasan visited The Netherlands from 01-03 April 2012 to discuss cooperation in Ports, Maritime Transport and Logistics.

Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar met Minister for Agriculture and Foreign Trade Dr Henk Blekker, and discussed cooperation in horticulture, meat and vegetable cold storage chains. The Joint Agriculture Working Group finalized an Action Plan for Indo-Dutch Agriculture Cooperation for period 2012 - 2015, and a Work Plan for Cooperation in field of Agricultural Research and Education between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad attended the Ministerial Summit, on 3 October 2012 in Amsterdam on "The Benefits of Responsible Use of Medicines - Setting Policies for Better, Cost-Effective Healthcare" and met Ms Edith Schippers, the Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport. Ms Schippers had earlier visited New Delhi, Bengaluru and Pune from 7-11 May 2012, with a business delegation.

Mayor of Amsterdam, Mr E. Van der Laan visited Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore from 25 - 31 March 2012 accompanied by a business delegation.

Ms Bhupinder Prasad, Chairperson Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) visited the Netherlands on 12 June 2012 and met Mr Rob Huyser, Director for Maritime Affairs at Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment.

A delegation from Ministry of Urban Development, led by the Vice Chairman Delhi Development Authority visited the Netherlands from 9 - 14 September 2012.

A revised Protocol on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion in respect of Taxes on income and capital was signed by Indian Ambassador Ms Bhaswati



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr David Cameron in New Delhi on 19 February 2013



External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid with German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel in Berlin during his visit to Germany from 28-31 January 2013

Mukherjee and Mr Frans Weekers, Dutch State Secretary for Finance, on 10 May 2012.

Bilateral trade between India and Netherlands continued to gather momentum. During first seven months of 2012, Indian exports increased by 9.6%, while total bilateral trade increased by 9.45%. FDI equity inflows from the Netherlands into India during financial year 2011-12 were US\$ 1.409 billion with Netherlands emerging as the 6th largest country for FDI inflows in India.

The Annual Diaspora Conference was held on 30 September 2012 in Amsterdam. The Surinami-Hindustani community in Netherlands celebrated the Annual Hindi Diwas at a function at the Gandhi Centre in The Hague on 14 October 2012.

Justice Dalveer Bhandari of India was sworn-in as a new Member of the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 19 June 2012. Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, Permanent Representative of India to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was elected Chairperson of the Executive Council, for a one year period from 12 May 2012 to 11 May 2013.

Portugal

Portuguese Secretary of State for Tourism, Dr Cecilia Meireles visited India on 19-21 November 2012 to promote bilateral cooperation in the sector of tourism. The Deputy Chief Minister of Goa Shri Francis D'Souza and Commissioner for NRI Affairs, along with a group of businessmen and cultural artistes visited Portugal from 10-14 October 2012.

The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), a global network of Indians and Indian origin entrepreneurs in November 2012 inaugurated its Portugal chapter, institutionalizing cooperation with young and upcoming Portuguese entrepreneurs.

Foreign Minister of Portugal Mr Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas is scheduled to visit India on 4 March 2013

Spain

Bilateral relations between India and Spain intensified during the year.

The highlight of the year was the State Visit by King Juan Carlos I of Spain to India from 24-27 October 2012. The King was accompanied by a high level delegation, including Spanish Ministers of Foreign Affairs; Defence; Industry, Energy and Tourism; Infrastructure and Transport. The King held meetings with President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. Following Agreements/MOUs were signed:

Protocol for amending the Convention and Protocol for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital which was signed on 8 February 1993 in New Delhi.

Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation.

Memorandum of Understanding on Roads and Road Transport Sector.

Agreement between India and Spain in the field of Audiovisual co-production.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Railways and RENFE-OPERADORA and ADIF of Spain on technical cooperation in the field of railway sector.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Spain from 19-22 April 2012 and called on Prince Felipe of Spain.

A 16-member delegation from the National Defence College, New Delhi visited Spain from 20-25 May 2012.

On 26 May 2012, Spain's Queen Sofia presented the first Spain-India Council Foundation Award to Shri Zubin Mehta at a ceremony in Valencia.

Secretary, Ministry of Tourism visited Spain from 11-13 June 2012 to participate in the 93rd Session of the UNWTO Executive Council Meeting.

Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs visited India on 12 July 2012 and co-chaired the India-Spain Foreign Office Consultations with Secretary (West) in MEA.

Four Indian Naval ships of the Western Fleet led by FOC-in-C (West) Vice Admiral D.K. Joshi visited Cartagena port from 11-14 July 2012 on their overseas deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development attended the 6th Urban Research and Knowledge Symposium (URKS6) organised by the World Bank in Barcelona, Spain from 8-10 October 2012.

Commerce Secretary attended the CPhI Worldwide pharmaceutical exhibition held in Madrid from 9-11 October 2012 at IFEMA exhibition grounds, where India was the focus country. The "India En Concierto" festival was organized in Madrid from 19-21 June 2012. Three ICCR sponsored troupes participated in the Festival. Queen Sofia was the Chief Guest at the inaugural concert by Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia on 19 June 2012.

57th SEMINCI International Film Festival of Valladolid showcased Indian cinema with a film cycle 'The Other Bollywood' from 20-27 October 2012.



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with President of the Republic of France, Mr Francois Hollande in New Delhi on 14 February 2013



Minister of State for External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur and Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders on 16 April 2012

Five scholarships were granted to Spanish nationals for the academic year 2012-13 through ICCR under the India-Spain Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP).

Spain's Minister of State for Research Development and Innovation Carmen Vela Olmo visited India on 28-30 January 2013. Spain participated as partner country at Bio Asia held in Hyderabad on 28-30 January 2013 co-organised by Pharma Export Promotion Council. She also held discussions with Minister for New & Renewable Energy in Delhi on 30 January 2013.

Dr K Chiranjeevi, Minister for Tourism will visit Spain from 29 January - 3 February 2013. He is scheduled to meet his Spanish counterpart, Chief Minister of Catalonia and Secretary General of United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

United Kingdom

India's relations with UK continued to develop during the year. The UK upgraded its Trade Offices in Hyderabad and Chandigarh to Deputy High Commissions bringing the number of UK Posts in India to seven.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met Prime Minister of UK Mr David Cameron, on 19 June 2012 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Mexico. UK Secretary of State in Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr William Hague, paid an official visit to India on 8 November 2012 and met the External Affairs Minister, Mr Salman Khurshid. A Joint Statement was issued on Cooperation in Cyber Issues.

Prime Minister David Cameron visited India on 18-19 February 2013.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister (CITM) visited London for the 8th round of India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee Meeting on 16 April 2012. Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission visited UK from 24-26 April 2012 for the 3rd Clean Energy Ministers' Conference. Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy visited London on 12 June 2012 and addressed an Investors' Meet inviting investments in new and renewable energy in India. Three Ministers visited London to attend economic events held on the sidelines of the Olympics in London - CITM, Shri Anand Sharma, attended the Global Investment Conference from 25-28 July 2012, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, attended the Global Health Policy Forum Summit on 1-2 August 2012, and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Smt Krishna Tirath, attended the Global Hunger Event on 12-13 August 2012. Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Urban

Development visited London on 19 September 2012 to sign a MoU on Urban Regeneration and Development, and again on 5-6 November 2012, for the India Infrastructure Forum. The then Minister of Law and Justice and Company Affairs Mr Salman Khurshid visited London from 9-14 October 2012. Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Tourism Shri K.Chiranjeevi visited London from 5-8 November 2012 for the World Travel Market exhibition.

Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram visited London on 28-29 January 2013 for participation in road shows organized to interact with participants of international capital markets. Minister for Human Resources Development Dr M. Mangapati Pallam Raju visited UK from 28-30 January 2013 to participate in the 2013 World Education Forum and 5th meeting of the India-UK Education and Research Initiative. Commerce, Industry & Textiles Minister Shri Anand Sharma is scheduled to visit UK on 7-8 February 2013 for investment promotion.

Important visits from UK included those of : Chancellor of Exchequer, Mr George Osborne, on 1 April 2012, for the 5th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue; Mr Gregory Barker, Minister of State in Department of Energy and Climate Change from 18-22 April 2012 for the India-UK Business Leaders Climate Group Summit; 1st Minister of Wales, Mr Carwyn Howell Jones, from 10-14 April 2012 and 1st Minister of Northern Ireland Mr Peter Robinson from 17-21 April 2012; Secretary of State for International Development Ms Justine Greening from 5-7 November 2012; Secretary of State for Home Ms Theresa May on 26 November 2012; Lord Mayor of the City of London from 6-10 October 2012; and Mayor of London Mr Boris from 25 November to 1 December 2012.

Recent visits from UK included Parliament Under Secretary of State for Skills Mathew Hancock (20-25 January 2013), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health Anna Soubry (14-19 January 2013), Minister of State for Trade and Investment Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (15 January 2013) and Home Office Minister for Crime & Security James Brokenshire (21 January 2013). The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology) Philip Dunne MP is scheduled to attend AeroIndia 2013 to be held in Bangalore from 6-10 February 2013.

The UK continued to be among India's major trading partners. The total bilateral trade during the period April to November 2012 was US\$ 9.78 billion, out of which exports from India were US\$ 5.36 billion and imports to India were US\$ 4.42

billion. The UK is the third largest investor in India. India is among the top investors in the UK.

Cooperation in Cyber issues between India and UK was established during the year. The 1st India- UK Dialogue on Cyber Issues was held in London on 18-19 October 2012.

Cooperation in Science and Technology was taken forward with the visit of Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Mr Vilasrao Deshmukh, to London from 16-18 April 2012 for the 3rd India-UK Science and Innovation Council. Defense cooperation was advanced with the visit of Admiral Nirmal Kumar Verma, Chief of Naval Staff of India, to UK on 25-26 June 2012.

The annual Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 1 June 2012.

Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai visited London on 3-4 October 2012 for the 5th MEA-IISS Dialogue, during which

he met UK Foreign Office Minister Mr Hugo Swire and also addressed the CII-India Business Forum.

As part of royal family visits to mark the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne, Prince Andrew, Duke of York visited India from 30 April - 6 May 2012.

Shri Ajay Maken, then Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports, led a delegation to London from 27 July - 1 August 2012 for the London Olympics.

India and the UK signed a Protocol on 30 October 2012 amending the 1993 Bilateral Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.

Agreement for the Exchange of Information with respect to taxes between the Government of India and the Government of Gibraltar was signed in London on 1 February 2013.



The Americas

United States

The India-United States broad-based, multi-sectoral bilateral engagement intensified, with over a hundred visits exchanged in 2012.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met thrice in 2012 - during Secretary Clinton's visit to India (May 2012); External Affairs Minister's visit to the United States for the bilateral Strategic Dialogue (June 2012); and on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York (October 2012). National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon met his US counterpart Tom Donilon on the margins of multilateral conferences, in Seoul (March 2012); in Mexico (June 2012) and in Phnom Penh (November 2012).

The 3rd Strategic Dialogue (Washington DC, June 2012) was co-chaired by the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and US Secretary of State Ms Hillary Clinton with participation of high level delegations from both sides. Outcomes included an agreement on expansion of strategic consultations and inception of a trilateral dialogue with Afghanistan; enhanced consultations on the Indian Ocean region; reiteration of commitment to civil-nuclear energy cooperation; reiteration of US support for India's membership of all four multilateral export control regimes; and strengthening of counter-terrorism, homeland security and cyber-security cooperation.

Several bilateral dialogues and meetings were held in parallel with the Strategic Dialogue, including the Global Issues Forum, S&T Joint Commission Meeting, the Counter-Terrorism Joint Working Group, the Higher Education Dialogue, Cyber-security Consultations, the Information and Communications Technology Working Group, the Women's Empowerment Dialogue, and Homeland Security Consultations.

Political and Strategic Consultations were further expanded with the launch of a trilateral dialogue with Afghanistan (September 2012); resumption of the Political-Military Dialogue (April in New Delhi); and convening of the 5th meeting of the East Asia Dialogue (April in New Delhi) and the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Trilateral Dialogue with Japan (Tokyo in April and New Delhi in October).

India and the US have reaffirmed the need to eliminate safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They also reaffirmed their interests in a safe, secure and stable Asia-Pacific region, and in ensuring freedom of navigation and unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters. The two countries held exchanges and shared information in areas of counter-narcotics, countering piracy, maritime safety, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. They have agreed to improve coordination of their anti-piracy efforts.

Counter Terrorism cooperation continued to be strengthened through the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative, the Homeland Security Dialogue and regular exchanges between intelligence and law enforcement agencies. US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Jane Lute visited India in April 2012. Home Secretary visited the US in June 2012. The 13th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held in Washington DC in June 2012. Thematic sub-groups under the India-US Homeland Security Dialogue met in New Delhi in February 2012 to collaborate on information exchange, operational cooperation, access to advanced technologies and capacity building.

The US has designated several Pakistan-based terrorist groups, including LeT and JeM and their leaders under its laws targeting foreign terrorist groups. In April 2012, the United States announced an award of up to US\$ 10 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Hafiz Mohammad Saeed and up to US\$ 2 million for Adbul Rahman Makki, under its Rewards for Justice Programme. The United States Treasury designated eight LeT leaders as terrorist individuals in August 2012 under US laws.

Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde will lead a delegation to the United States from 4-7 February 2013 for the Ministerial meeting of the India-US Homeland Security Dialogue in Washington DC.

Cyber Security cooperation was enhanced under the framework of the Cyber Consultations which took place in Washington on 4 June 2012. The two National Security Councils exchanged views and best practices on a broad range of cyber

issues. The Indian and US Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) continue to interact and exchange information about cyber security threats. The two countries established a new Working Group to discuss international norms in cyberspace and global Internet governance, the first meeting of which took place in New Delhi on 31 July 2012.

Defence cooperation made progress with growing defence trade, joint military exercises, personnel exchanges, technology transfer and collaboration in areas such as maritime security and counter-piracy. US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy James Miller attended the 12th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group held in New Delhi in February 2012. The 14th meeting of the Joint Technical Group was held in New Delhi in March 2012. US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta visited India in June 2012. Deputy Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter visited India in July 2012. The Senior Technology Security Group met in Washington DC in September 2012.

Trade and Investment: The US continued to be India's largest trade partner with more than US\$ 100 billion of trade in total goods and services in 2011. Goods and services trade remained balanced, continuing the double-digit growth trend seen in recent years. Bilateral goods trade was US\$ 57.7 billion in 2011, with a trade surplus of US\$ 14.5 billion in favour of India. Trade in goods for the period January-September 2012 was US\$ 47.5 billion, an increase of around 10% over the same period last year. The two sides also held consultations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty in New Delhi in June 2012.

US Secretary of Commerce John M. Bryson visited India in March 2012, leading a delegation of business groups focusing on infrastructure. The two sides agreed to renew the Commercial Dialogue for another two years, until March 2014. They also agreed to institute a Manufacturing Dialogue, including areas of Sustainable Manufacturing and Standards. A US\$ 2 billion Infrastructure Debt Fund was launched in India in March 2012, with the participation of Indian and US financial institutions. US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Ben Bernanke visited India in October 2012. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and Treasury Secretary Mr Geithner co-chaired the 3rd meeting of the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership in New Delhi in October 2012. In December 2012, US Deputy Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis visited India to discuss bilateral trade and investment issues.

Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation: India and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to civil nuclear energy cooperation and to work towards early commercial operationalization of the bilateral Civil Nuclear Agreement. In

June 2012, NPCIL and Westinghouse, a US company, signed a MoU committing to negotiate an Early Works Agreement. A delegation of representatives of US nuclear companies visited India in December 2012 and held discussions with Indian officials and private sector companies. A six-member delegation from India visited US nuclear security training facilities in July 2012 to study training activities in the area, as part of the ongoing cooperation with the US in setting up the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership.

Ms Kristine Svinicki, Commissioner, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission visited India to attend the 2nd India-US Nuclear Energy Security Summit in Mumbai in October 2012.

Strategic Security Dialogue: Two meetings of the Strategic Security Dialogue were held in February 2012 in Washington DC and October 2012 in New Delhi. The meetings were convened at the level of Foreign Secretary and the US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Non-proliferation, bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, and global security issues were discussed.

Energy Cooperation: India-US Energy Dialogue meeting was held in Washington DC in September 2012. The four Working Groups of the Energy Dialogue, on coal, natural gas, renewable energy and power efficiency, met to review ongoing cooperation. The two sides agreed to launch a new Joint Working Group on Low Carbon growth. The two countries initiated a dialogue on energy security related issues, including long-term geopolitical trends in oil and gas markets, shale gas cooperation, renewables and power sector financing. Two meetings took place in May 2012 and November 2012 in New Delhi.

India and the US announced in April 2012 the first consortia awardees under the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center, to work towards transformational technological solutions in the areas of building energy efficiency, solar energy and advanced bio-fuels. The US-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy has mobilized more than US\$ 1.7 billion in public and private resources for clean energy projects in India. Technical cooperation in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency included work on solar resource assessment and mapping, improved wind resource estimates and Energy Conservation Building Code implementation. The US is sharing its experiences with India as the latter establishes a regulatory framework for shale gas exploration. The Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and USAID launched a new US\$ 20 million five-year technical assistance program in June 2012 to improve end-use energy efficiency, increase the supply of renewable energy and accelerate deployment of cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

Agriculture: Under the 2010 MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Security and the bilateral Agricultural Dialogue, the two sides undertook several projects in food processing, commodity forecasting, research cooperation, adoption of new technology and management practices and strengthening farm-market linkages. The US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working with the National Institute for Plant Health Management, Hyderabad, to develop the latter as a Regional Center of Excellence.

Higher Education: Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Kapil Sibal and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton co-chaired the first meeting of the India-US Higher Education Dialogue held in Washington in June 2012. The two sides announced the award of the first eight grants under the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, which aims to strengthen teaching, research, and administration of both US and Indian institutions through university linkages and junior faculty development. Other major initiatives announced under the Higher Education Dialogue included establishment of a targeted 100 community colleges in India; announcement of the C.V. Raman Fellowships for 300 Indian junior faculty members to undertake post-doctoral research in American institutions; launch of an Indian higher education web portal to disseminate information and foster educational and research collaboration and the new 'Connect to India' program to attract more American students to Indian universities. The US also announced new private sector pledges in support of the United States' Passport to India Initiative, which seeks to increase the number of American students undertaking internships in India.

Science & Technology: The 2nd India-US Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation was held in Washington DC in June 2012. The meeting discussed bilateral research cooperation in basic and applied sciences; atmospheric, environment and earth sciences; health and medical services; Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) education; facilitating technology commercialization for societal impact and retention and advancement of women in science and engineering. The cooperation continued to be facilitated through a number of bilaterally-funded mechanisms including the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative and the Science and Technology Forum, whose first endowments were made in May 2012.

The first direct India-US advanced science and education network was launched in June 2012, as part of the US National Science Foundation-funded global GLORIAD network, to support data flows between the United States and India. India has pledged US\$ 5 million towards the Millennium Alliance, a

joint initiative of USAID and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, to identify and support innovative, game-changing, and cost-effective solutions to developmental challenges in India. Several other new collaborative initiatives were also introduced during the year.

Health: US Secretary of Health and Human Services Ms Kathleen Sebelius visited India in January 2012 and held discussions with Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad to strengthen collaboration in health systems, biomedical research and food and drug safety. The two met again in Washington DC in June 2012 on the sidelines of the Strategic Dialogue.

The Vaccine Action Programme, a collaborative research venture in operation for 25 years, was renewed for five more years in September 2012. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched an initiative in Diabetes Research in collaboration with the US Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Biotechnology is collaborating with the US Department of Health and Human Services on stem cell regenerative medicine research. The Department of Biotechnology and the US National Institute of Health have launched a new bilateral cooperation on Low Cost Health Diagnostic Tools, Brain Research Collaborative Partnership in neuroscience, and International Cancer Genome Consortium. India and the United States co-convened a Call to Action programme in Washington DC in June 2012, to launch a global movement called "A Promise to Keep", to end preventable child deaths through targeted investments in effective, life-saving interventions for children over the next two decades.

Space: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Indian Space Research Organization signed an implementing agreement in March 2012 to formalize the exchange of data obtained from the Oceansat-2 and the Global Precipitation Measurement/Megha-Tropiques satellite missions.

Women's Empowerment: The 3rd meeting of the India-US Women's Empowerment Dialogue was held in New York in February 2012. Both sides agreed to cooperate in training women entrepreneurs and grass-root women functionaries and political leaders; creation of institutional linkages between the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) and its counterpart institutions in the US; designing of IT Training programme for Women and Girls and the visit of an Indian delegation to the US for studying the US Early Head Start Programme for disadvantaged women.

Labour: Minister of Labor and Employment Shri Mallikarjun Kharge visited the United States in January/February 2012 and



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Canada Mr Stephen Harper at the joint press conference after the signing ceremony in New Delhi 06 November 2012



The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna with US Secretary of State Ms Hillary Clinton in New York on 1 October 2012

signed a MoU on Labour Cooperation, focusing on Skill Development, Youth Development, Occupational Safety and Health and Mine Safety and Health. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group under the MoU was held in New Delhi in April 2012 where both sides agreed to establish an Integrated National Analytic Laboratory at the Regional Labour Institute, Faridabad.

Culture: As part of the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the Ministry of Culture established a US\$ 1.5 million "Indian Ministry of Culture Vivekananda Chair" at the University of Chicago. The Ministry of Culture also signed an agreement with the Art Institute of Chicago for the "Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence" aimed at upgrading the skills of Museum Professionals in India.

Consular: The second round of the India-US Joint Working Group on Consular issues was held in New Delhi in March 2012. Issues discussed included increase in refusals of Indian visa applications for H-1B, L-1 and F-1 visas, increased US visa fees, social security contributions by Indians in the US, and repatriation of Indians entering the US illegally.

Canada

India-Canada relations witnessed a new momentum during the year with the State Visit of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to India in November 2012 and several other high-level engagements. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Minister of Road Transport and Highways Dr C. P. Joshi visited Canada in June 2012, while a Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker Smt Meira Kumar visited Canada in October 2012 for the 127th session of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU).

From the Canadian side, Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird visited India in September 2012; Assistant Deputy Minister for International Security Kerry Buck in September 2012; Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy Sector, Ministry of Natural Resources Mr Marc Corey in October 2012; Minister of Natural Resources Mr Joe Oliver in October 2012; Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet Dr Wayne Wouters in October 2012; and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Ms Lynda Clairmont visited India from 27 October - 2 November 2012.

During Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit, three agreements were signed- Agreement on Social Security, a MoU on cooperation in Information Communication Technology and Electronics and a MoU in the areas of Joint Research and Development in Defence Science and Technology.

The two sides also concluded negotiations on an Appropriate Arrangement to operationalize the India-Canada Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed in 2010. Other important outcomes included: establishment of an annual Strategic Dialogue at Foreign Ministers level, Energy Dialogue at Ministerial level, Security dialogue between the National Security Council Secretariat and Canada's Office of the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, Disarmament Dialogue at the level of senior officials; establishment of an upgraded CEOs Forum; and institution of ICCR Chair at McGill University. Commercial agreements worth CA\$ 2.5 billion were also announced on the sidelines of the visit.

During the visit, both sides agreed to focus on developing capacities to maximize the utilization of energy resources ranging from oil and gas to new hydrocarbon resources such as oil sands, shale gas and other sources of energy including renewables. It was decided to elevate discussions to the Ministerial level, led by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, on the Indian side and the Minister of Natural Resources on the Canadian side.

The second meeting of the India-Canada Energy Forum was held in October 2012 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, India and Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy Sector, Natural Resources, Canada.

India vigorously pursued mining cooperation with Canada. Ministry of Mines sent the largest-ever delegation to participate in the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention, 2012. An agreement was signed with Quebec province for cooperation in the mining sector. Inaugural meetings were held with the Provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Ministry of Fertilizers led a group of public and private sector companies to Canada in December 2012 to explore opportunities for trade, investment and long-term offtake in the potash sector.

Eight projects for research in cutting-edge areas of science and engineering were completed during the year, under the jointly-funded Department of Science and Technology (DST) - Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) programme. Fresh calls for proposals have been made. During the visit of Prime Minister Harper, both sides agreed to develop an Action Plan under the India-Canada Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement to further strengthen collaboration in basic research, facilitate academic and industrial personnel exchanges and accelerate technology commercialization.

The 11th India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was convened in New Delhi on 29 November 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Special Secretary (Pol, PP&R), Ministry of External Affairs, while the Canadian side was led by Director General of the Security and Intelligence Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The two countries also held bilateral discussions on cyber-security.

Bilateral trade continued to expand in 2012 and stood at US\$ 4.060 billion for the period January-September, gaining about 10 % over the same period in 2011. India's exports to Canada during this period were US\$ 2.202 billion, 15 % higher than 2011.

Technical negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement progressed in the 4th, 5th and 6th rounds of discussion held in 2012. A MoU to enhance cooperation in road transportation was signed during the visit of Dr C.P. Joshi, Minister of Roads and Highways, to Quebec City in May 2012.

Justice (Retired) B.N. Srikrishna, Chairman, Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC), led a four-member delegation to interact with financial sector policy makers and regulatory authorities of Canada. A high powered delegation of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers also visited Canada to study the implementation of Harmonised Sales Tax in Canada in the context of introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.

The Minister of Finance of the Province of British Columbia Mr Michael de Jong visited India from 2-15 December 2012. He inaugurated two new Trade and Investment Offices in Chandigarh and Mumbai to strengthen commercial collaboration with India.

Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Mr Jason Kenny visited India from 7-12 January 2013. He addressed the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2013 at Kochi, visited Punjab, and attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar. He also met Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs.

Other visits from Canada included Minister of State for Democratic Reform Mr Tim Uppal from 27 December 2012-12 January 2013, Member of Parliament Mr Parm Gill 2-14 January 2013 and Senator Ms Asha Seth from 7-15 January 2013. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms Diane Ablonczy from 20-22 January 2013, Deputy Minister of National Defence Mr Robert Fonberg and Deputy Minister of Public Safety Mr Francois Guimont from 20-25 January 2013 and Vice-Admiral Paul Maddison, Commander Royal Canadian Navy from 21-27 January 2013.

The first meeting of the India-Canada Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technology is scheduled to take place on 11 February 2013 in New Delhi.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

Argentina

The relations between India and Argentina continued to be active during the year. External Affairs Minister visited Buenos Aires on 7-8 February 2013 and called on President Cristina Fernandez and Vice President Amado Boudou, Members of the India-Argentine Parliamentary group and Foreign Minister of Argentina Mr Hector Timerman with whom he reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as exchanged views on international developments. Both sides agreed to activate the existing institutional mechanisms in select areas as part of the common objective to establish a 'Strategic Partnership'. It was also agreed that both sides would work towards liberalizing business visa, tariff structures and regulated framework to facilitate greater bilateral trade and investment exchanges.

Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Praful Patel visited Buenos Aires from 30 September - 4 October 2012 to participate in the meeting of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO). Additional Secretary and Director General (CGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited Argentina from 19-21 November 2012 to attend WHO's First Meeting of Member States Mechanism on substandard/spurious/falsely-labeled/falsified/counterfeit medical products (SSFFC).

An Indian Tourism Road Show was organized on 1 November 2012 in Buenos Aires with representation from Indian States. Indian tour agencies also participated in the International fair for Latin American Tourism Industry from 3-6 November 2012.

India Culture Week' was organized from 16-24 November 2012 in the Municipality of Vicente Lopez, Buenos Aires Province.

Bolivia

India's relations with Bolivia continued to be warm and friendly. Bolivia opened its resident Mission in New Delhi in October 2012. The first Bolivian Ambassador to India, presented his credentials on 8 November 2012.

Renowned Odissi dancer Masako Ono performed in the Bolivian cities of La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz from 2-7 May 2012.

Brazil

The India-Brazil 'Strategic Partnership' was marked by major milestones of high level visits and enhanced interaction at all levels. President of Brazil Ms Dilma Rousseff paid a State Visit from 28-30 March 2012 and concluded several Agreements/MoUs. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh participated in the Rio+20 UN Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-21 June 2012. Minister of Environment and Forest Smt Jayanthi Natarajan was also part of the delegation.

Chief of Air Staff Shri N. Anil Kumar Browne visited Brazil from 20-24 August 2012 and held discussions with his Brazilian counterpart, Air Lieutenant Brigadier Juniti Saito. He called on the Brazilian Defence Minister Mr Celso Amorim, met the Brazilian Army Chief, General Enzo Martins Peri and visited the Embraer Aircraft facility at Sao Jose Campos. During the visit, proposals relating to joint co-production of defence equipment were discussed.

The 8th Meeting of India-Brazil Science Council was held on 14 September 2012 in Bengaluru. The meeting was co-chaired by Prof C.N.R. Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Prof. Jacob Palis, President, Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

The then President of Brazil Mr Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was conferred the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2010 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 22 November 2012. He also delivered the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on 23 November 2012. During his visit he called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

Chile

The India-Chile relations continued to progress in all spheres during the year. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Kurshid visited Chile on 5-6 February 2013 and called on Vice President Mr. Andres Chadwick and reviewed bilateral relations with Foreign Minister Mr. Alfredo Moreno Charme. Both sides reiterated their interests to expand cooperation in select areas such as Science & Technology, renewable energy, agricultural research, oceanography and Antarctica. The India-Chile relations continued to make progress during the year. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Foreign Minister of Chile, Mr Alfredo Moreno Charme had a bilateral meeting on 7 August 2012 in New Delhi on the sidelines of the First India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Foreign Ministers' Troika Meeting. The Chilean Foreign Minister also met Minister of New and Renewable Energy

Dr Farooq Abdullah and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot visited Chile from 5-10 April 2012, and met Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Alfredo Moreno Charme, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications and President of CONICYT (National Commission for Scientific and Technical Research, Chile). Minister of Agriculture of Chile Mr Luis Mayol visited India from 4-7 May 2012 and had discussion with Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar, on bilateral cooperation. He also met Minister of Rural Development, Shri Jairam Ramesh. A 28-member business delegation of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) visited Chile on 19-20 November 2012 for a Buyer-Seller Meet in Santiago.

Colombia

India's relations with Colombia have become more intense and diversified in recent years. The Colombian Vice Foreign Minister Ms Patti Londono visited India from 12-14 March 2012. During the visit she signed the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 2012 - 2016 with Secretary (Culture). Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led a CII business delegation to Colombia from 5-8 July 2012 and held dialogue with his Colombian counterpart Mr Carlos de Hart and Vice Minister of Finance Mr German Arce. He also addressed the 1st meeting of the India-Colombia Business Forum and unveiled a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the Institute of Caro and Cuervo (Yerbabuena) in Bogota on 7 July 2012. Minister of State in the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot visited Colombia from 11-13 April 2012 and held bilateral discussions with the Colombian Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Mr Diego Molano.

A 14-member Apparel Export Promotion Council delegation visited Colombia on 19-20 November 2012 and had successful Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM). A 9-member Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXCIL) delegation also visited Colombia on 23 November 2012 for BSM. Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council of India (CHEMEXCIL) organized a BSM in Bogota on 4 September 2012. A 10-member Plastics Export Promotion Council of India (PLEXCONCIL) delegation visited Colombia in March 2012. A Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (TEXPROCIL) delegation visited Medellin on 28 February 2012 and visited Bogota on 1 March 2012. A delegation from the Spice Board visited Colombia

during 19-23 June and 19-23 September 2012. From Colombia, a multi-sector business delegation visited India in November 2012 and attended the India International Trade Fair.

A 15-member NDC delegation visited Colombia from 20-25 May 2012.

The ICCR-sponsored 'Baul Folk Song' troupe visited Colombia during September 2012.

A 40-member MBA student's delegation from La Sabana University of Colombia visited India in November-December 2012.

Ecuador

Bilateral relations with Ecuador grew during the year. The Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Integration Mr Francisco Rivadeneira visited India on 23 April 2012 and discussed with Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia the possibilities of signing a Trade Cooperation Agreement, establishment of Joint Economic Committee, a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, setting up of pharmaceutical units in Ecuador, as well as, software and biotechnology parks in Ecuador with Indian expertise.

A 9-member Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXCIL) team visited Ecuador and had a very successful BSM from 25-27 November 2012. A 10-member Plastics Export Promotion Council of India (PLEXCONCIL) delegation visited Guayaquil on 26 March 2012. Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council of India (CHEMEXCIL) organized a Buyer-Seller-Meet in Quito on 6 September 2012.

Guyana

Bilateral relations between India and Guyana acquired a new momentum. Mr Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister of Guyana visited India from 8-12 October 2012, to attend the International Seminar on Energy Access in New Delhi. Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy called on Prime Minister Hinds. President of Guyana Donald Ramotar participated in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, organized by TERI from 31 January - 2 February 2012. He was accompanied by the then President Bharrat Jagdeo. During the visit, he met President and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Indian Science Exhibition 'India-A Culture of Science' organized by National Council of Science Museums, depicting India's achievements in Science and Technology, was held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 20 August 2012 - 30 September

2012. President of Guyana Donald Ramotar inaugurated the exhibition.

The Government of Guyana through an Indian company is undertaking the construction of a Super Specialty Hospital in Georgetown utilizing Indian Lines of Credit of US\$ 19 million. An Indian Expert in the field of Agricultural Research arrived in Guyana on a 2-year deputation under ITEC programme.

Mexico

The Privileged Partnership with Mexico was reinforced with several high-level visits. On the sidelines of the G-20 Leaders' Summit at Los Cabos, Mexico on 18-19 June 2012, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh met President of Mexico Mr Felipe Calderon and discussed the need to promote reciprocal investments and strengthen bilateral cooperation in science and technology and renewable energy. On the margins of the G-20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Puerto Vallarta from 18-20 April 2012, Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma held bilateral meeting with Minister of Economy of Mexico Mr Bruno Ferrari on 18 April 2012. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia visited Mexico for the 3rd G-20 Sherpas' Meeting from 22-23 May 2012. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram attended the G-20 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Mexico City on 4-5 November 2012.

Secretary(West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri M. Ganapathi and Vice Foreign Minister of Mexico Ms Lourdes Aranda Bezaury co-chaired the 5th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Mexico City on 15-16 April 2012 and reviewed bilateral relations. Cultural Exchange Programme for 2012-2015 was signed during the JCM. Secretary, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, led a delegation to Mexico City from 15-17 October 2012. During the visit an AYUSH Information Cell for providing information on traditional Indian medicinal systems was inaugurated at the Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre; a Letter of Intent identifying several areas of cooperation and a Letter of Intent for establishing an academic Chair in Homeopathy were concluded by the two sides.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and Director General of Promexico, co-chaired the 3rd Meeting of the Bilateral High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation in New Delhi on 30 October 2012. Both sides discussed ways to further enhance bilateral trade and investments. An Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters was signed on 10 September 2012 in New Delhi between Central Board of Excise and Customs, India and Customs Administrator General of the Tax Administration Service, Mexico.

Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council of India (CHEMEXCIL) led a business delegation to Mexico for the Indian Chemical Show at the World Trade Centre, Mexico City on 30-31 August 2012; CII led a business delegation to PAACE Automechanika (automotive trade show) Mexico City from 18-20 July 2012; Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) led a delegation to Mexico City on 3-4 September 2012; and Chemicals and Allied Products Export Council of India (CAPEXIL) participated in the Guadalajara International Book Fair from 24-29 November 2012.

The Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre organized India's participation as a Guest Country in the Durango National Fair (29 June - 23 July 2012) and the First Asian Cultural Festival in Mexico City (26-29 April 2012). The Centre organized a music concert by Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia; participation of a four-member ICCR-sponsored Sitar troupe led by Ms Meera Prasad at the International Cervantino Festival in Mexico from 8-28 October 2012; talks by Shri Tushar Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi's great grandson and a lecture by Mr Pascal Alan Nazareth, The then Ambassador of India to Mexico on 'Gandhi: The Non-violent Revolutionary'.

Paraguay

Bilateral relations received an impetus with the first ever visit of President of Paraguay Mr Fernando Armino Lugo Mendez from 23-25 May 2012. He was accompanied by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, and Commerce. During the visit, President Lugo met the then President Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and also visited Agra.

An eight member CII delegation visited Paraguay from 23-26 September 2012 to explore opportunities for Indian business and investment. The delegation met Paraguayan Minister for Agriculture Mr Enzo Cardozo, Minister for Tourism Ms Liz Cnemer, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Manuel Maria Caceres and Minister for Industry and Commerce Mr Francisco Rivas in Asuncion.

Peru

Bilateral relations with Peru continued to be cordial and friendly. Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi and the visiting Vice Foreign Minister of Peru Mr Jose Beraun Aranibar co-chaired the 4th round of Foreign Office Consultations on 13 July 2012 and reviewed bilateral relations. A MoU for Cooperation in Geology and Mineral resources and a MoU for setting up of Centre of Excellence of Information Technology in Peru were signed.

During the year, Peru appointed its first resident Defence Attaché in India.

From the Indian side, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau visited Peru for the International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies against the World Drug Problem held in Lima on 25-26 June 2012. A three-member official delegation from the Ministry of Steel visited Peru on 7-8 November 2012 to explore possibilities of acquiring iron ore mines in Peru.

Odissi dancer Ms Masako Ono visited Peru in 19-25 April 2012 on ICCR sponsorship and performed in Lima, Cusco and Arequipa.

A 'Know India Evening' focused on the travel trade was organized by the Embassy of India with support from the Ministry of Tourism on 13 June 2012.

Uruguay

Bilateral relations between India and Uruguay continued to grow. Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture Dr S Ayyappan visited Uruguay and participated in the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development-II (GCARD) from 29 October - 2 November 2012.

A six member CII delegation visited Montevideo from 26-29 September 2012 to explore opportunities for Indian business and investment in Uruguay. The delegation was received by the Uruguayan Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, Mr Robert Kreimerman and the Head of International Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dr Alicia Martins.

Venezuela

The close and friendly relations between India and Venezuela received a significant boost with exchange of visits during this period. On the sidelines of the first India - CELAC Foreign Ministers' Troika Meeting on 7 August 2012 in New Delhi, the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. K. Krishna and Foreign Minister of Venezuela Mr Nicolas Maduro discussed bilateral issues. The visiting dignitary also met the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led a business delegation to Venezuela on 8-9 July 2012 and held discussions with Vice Foreign Minister of Venezuela Mr David Velasquez, Minister of Health

Mrs Eugenia Sader Castellanos and Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Edmee Bettencourt. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and emphasized the need to diversify bilateral trade which is currently dominated by hydrocarbons. Cooperation in health and pharmaceutical sectors was also discussed.

Shri V.S. Sampath, Chief Election Commissioner of India visited Caracas from 27 August -1 September 2012, at the invitation of Dr Tibisay Lucena Ramírez, President of National Electoral Council (CNE) of Venezuela to attend an International Seminar on Automated Voting Systems. A MoU to strengthen cooperation and exchange of information between their National Electoral bodies was signed.

Reliance India Limited (RIL) signed an agreement on 26 September 2012 with PDVSA (Venezuelan State Oil Company) to supply 400,000 barrels of heavy crude per day (for 15 years) to RIL.

Central America

Belize

India-Belize friendly bilateral ties continued to expand. Minister of Urban Development Shri Kamal Nath visited Belize from 16-18 May 2012 for the Commonwealth Local Government Forum Meeting. During the visit he called on the Belizean Prime Minister Mr Dean Barrow and discussed issues of mutual interest. India agreed to gift 50 computers under ITEC, to set up an India-Belize Friendship Computer Centre at St. John's College in Belize.

Costa Rica

The bilateral relations with Costa Rica gained momentum with exchange of high level visits. The second Vice-President of Costa Rica, Mr Luis Liberman Ginsberg visited India from 16-19 October 2012 to participate in the IV World OECD Forum, New Delhi. He met Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari. The accompanying Costa Rican Minister of Science and Technology Mr Alejandro Cruz Molina and Vice Minister of Planning Ms Silvia Hernandez Sanchez met Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Sudhir Vyas, and discussed the proposal to set up an IT Centre of Excellence in Costa Rica with Indian assistance.

The Costa Rica Minister for Foreign Trade Ms Anabel Gonzalez, accompanied by a 25-member Costa Rican entrepreneurs' delegation visited India from 19-23 March 2012 to participate in 'IndiaSoft' in Hyderabad. She also met Minister of Commerce & Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma on the margins of WEF in Davos on 23 January 2013.

Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi visited Costa Rica for the first Foreign Office Consultations from 18-20 August 2012.

A Export Promotion Council of India (ESC) delegation (16 Companies) attended the Costa Rica Information Technology exhibition in July 2012. Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXIL) delegation visited Costa Rica in September 2012.

El Salvador

The warm and friendly relations with El Salvador continued to grow during the year. Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi visited El Salvador on 21 August 2012 for the first Foreign Office Consultations (FOC). Both sides concluded an Agreement on cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation. During the visit, Secretary (West) called on the Minister of External Relations of El Salvador Mr Hugo Martinez and addressed the Salvadoran Diplomatic Academy - IIESFORD on Indian Foreign Policy.

Guatemala

India-Guatemala bilateral ties continued to expand during the year. India's economic and commercial relations with Guatemala were marked by the visit of two business delegations from India; an 8 member TEXPROCIL delegation on 24-25 August 2012 and a 20-member PHARMEXCIL delegation from 5-9 September 2012. They participated in the Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM), and met Guatemala Garment Manufacturers Association (VESTEX) and Guatemala Ministry of Health respectively.

Honduras

The warm and friendly relations between India and Honduras further expanded during the year. Minister of Agriculture of Honduras Mr Jacobo Regalado visited India from 6-15 January 2013 to attend a seminar 'Leading in an Era of Globalization' in Kerala from 8-13 January 2013. During his stay in Delhi on 14-15 January 2013, he met Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Tariq Anwar. He also visited IARI, Pusa.

A 15 member defence delegation from Honduras visited India for training at BEL facilities in Bengaluru in two batches in September 2012.

Mr Jose Andres Andrade Alvarado, Protocol Officer from Honduras' Foreign Ministry participated in the 55th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) held from 22 August to 21 September 2012.

Nicaragua

The friendly ties between India and Nicaragua further strengthened during the year. Commander Bayardo Arce Castaño, Advisor of Economic and Financial Affairs to the President of Nicaragua visited India from 25 November - 1 December 2012. He met Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State of External Affairs, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy and Shri Milind Murli Deora, MoS (Communication, IT and Shipping). Further simplification of visa policy for Indian nationals was announced during the visit.

Panama

The year witnessed diversification and consolidation of bilateral relations. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) visited Panama on 29-30 July 2012 and met the officiating Foreign Minister of Panama Alvarez de Soto. He also had interaction with the Indian Diaspora in Panama which is around 15000. Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology visited Panama on 10-11 April 2012 and met Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Industry, Finance and Economy and National Secretary of Science, Technology & Innovation with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation. Shri Milind Murli Deora, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and Shipping paid an official visit to Panama on 22-25 January 2013.

A 5-member Panamanian delegation led by Dr Ruben Berrocal, National Secretary for Science, Technology and Innovation visited India on 3 August 2012. Panama Government agreed to ISRO's proposal to establish a Telemetry, Tracking and Commanding (TTC) station in Panama.

A 14-member National Defence delegation visited Panama from 20-26 May 2012 on a study tour.

A 12-member Chemical, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council of India (CHEMEXCIL) delegation visited Panama on 3 September 2012; a 22-member Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) delegation visited Panama on 10 September 2012 and a 10 member AEPC delegation on 20-21 November 2012. Indian tourism agencies participated in ExpoTurismo in Panama on 28-29 September 2012.

An Indian Film Festival was organized at Technological University of Panama from 28 June - 6 July 2012.

Caribbean Countries

Cuba

The India-Cuba relations received an impetus with the visit of the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna to Cuba on 15-16 June 2012. He held discussions with Cuban Foreign Minister Mr Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla on bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister called on Cuban President Mr Raul Castro and met the President of the Cuban National Assembly Mr Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada. EAM announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 115 million for 4 Cuban projects and offered to supply public transport buses. External Affairs Minister chaired the LAC Regional Heads of Mission Conference on 16 June 2012 in Havana.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led a delegation of officials, CEOs and businesspersons to Cuba from 10-13 July 2012.

On the margins of the 1st India - CELAC Foreign Ministers' Troika Meeting on 7 August 2012, EAM met Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba Mr Rogelio Sierra Diaz. In a separate meeting, Secretary (West) Shri M Ganapathi and Mr Rogelio reviewed bilateral relations on 7 August 2012.

An Agreement for the grant of US\$ 5 million Line of Credit for setting up a milk powder plant in Cuba was signed on 10 October 2012 between EXIM Bank of India and Central Bank of Cuba in New Delhi.

Dronacharya Award, the highest award given to sports coaches was conferred on Cuban boxing coach Blas Iglesias Fernandez on 29 August 2012. It was the first time that this high award was conferred on a foreign coach.

Dominican Republic

Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi led an Indian delegation to Dominican Republic for the first Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on 23 August 2012 where he reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations with Foreign Minister Carlos Morales Troncoso. A bilateral Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed during the visit. On the occasion of the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected President of Dominican Republic Mr Danilo Medina in Santo Domingo, Joint Secretary (LAC) Ministry of External Affairs officially represented Government of India on 17 August 2012 and handed over the congratulatory message of President to President Medina.



The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna with his Chilean counterpart Alferdo Moreno Charme, second from right, Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro Moros, second from left, Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Rogelio Sierra Diaz, extreme left and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed, at the 1st Meeting between India and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in New Delhi on 7 August 2012



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with President of Brazil Ms Dilma Rousseff at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 30 March 2012

Haiti

India donated US\$ 5 million to Haiti for construction of approximately 500 low cost housing units for the victims of January 2010 earthquake. The services of three Indian para-military units drawn from CISF, BSF and Assam Rifles currently deployed in Haiti for restoring law and order under the United Nations' Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) have been commended by both the Haitian authorities and the UN. Their deployment was extended up to October 2013 by a resolution of the UNGA supported by India. An Indian delegation, led by Director-General, Central Industrial Security Force visited Haiti from 1-4 October 2012 and met President Martelly who conveyed Haiti's appreciation for the deployment.

Jamaica

The bilateral relations between India and Jamaica continued to be warm and friendly during the year. ICCR donated a statue of Mahatma Gandhi depicting Dandi March which was unveiled on 12 July 2012 by Indian High Commissioner at the University of West Indies, Mona Campus in the presence of Prime Minister Mr Portia Simpson and Foreign Minister Mr A.J. Nicholson. An MoU for establishment of a Chair on Indology/ Gandhian studies in the University of West Indies (UWI) was signed on 30 August 2012 between ICCR and UWI. An Indian Village Craft Fair was organized by the World Wide Events India in Jamaica from April - June 2012.

Suriname

A delegation from Suriname led by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Mr John Achong visited India to participate in the DEFEXPO 2012 from 29 March - 1 April 2012. A MoU for Cooperation in the field of Archives was signed between the National Archives of India and Suriname on 21 December 2012 in Paramaribo. Embassy of India, Indian Cultural Centre and AlphaMax Academy, Paramaribo jointly celebrated the Rabindranath Tagore Birth Anniversary on 6 May 2012. Embassy of India, Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with Organization Hindoe Media (OHM), Paramaribo organized a PIO Meet on "Indian Diaspora in Suriname" on 11 May 2012.

St Kitts & Nevis

Prime Minister of St Kitts & Nevis Mr Denzel Douglas visited India from 5-9 April 2012 and held meetings with Indian business community in Delhi, Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Amritsar.

Trinidad and Tobago

The year marked the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Trinidad and Tobago. To commemorate the event a two-day Conference-cum-Exhibition on the theme of "50 years of India-Trinidad and Tobago Relations - Inheritance, Innovation and Continuation" was organized in Port of Spain along with an Indian Food Festival titled "Taste of India". A Tagore Film Festival was held in May to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. A 9-member percussion group led by Shri Jaya Bhaskar Peravali visited Trinidad and Tobago from 6-21 May 2012 to take part in the Annual Steelfest and Indian Arrival Day. An ICCR sponsored 17-member Ayodhya Ram Lila paid a 10-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago in June 2012. Another ICCR sponsored 7-member Classical Instrumental Group visited Trinidad and Tobago from 14-31 August 2012. An 8 Member Bhojpuri Music and Dance Group led by Ms Sharmila Pandey visited Trinidad and Tobago from 5-13 November 2012 to perform at various venues during Diwali celebrations.

Secretary, Department of Law, Ministry of Law and Justice, India visited Trinidad and Tobago from 23-27 June 2012 to participate in the "Commemorative North Atlantic Commonwealth Law Minister's Meeting at Port of Spain. Secretary, Ministry of Culture visited Trinidad to attend the inauguration of an Exhibition "India- A Culture of Science". The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Acting Prime Minister Jack Warner. Trinidad and Tobago Minister of Local Government Dr Surujrattan Rambachan made a soft opening of the AYUSH Information Centre set up in the High Commission of India with the active collaboration of Department of AYUSH. The Centre was dedicated to the people of Trinidad and Tobago by Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Shri S. Gandhiselvan.

Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning of Trinidad and Tobago visited India from 6-10 November 2012 and met Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs. Mr Winston Peters, Minister of Community Development of Trinidad and Tobago visited India from 31 January - 7 February 2013. During the visit he met Minister of Culture Smt Chandresh Kumari Katoch and visited the Surajkund International Crafts Fair 2013, Agra and Jaipur.

India-CELAC

The 1st India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Foreign Ministerial Troika meeting took place in New Delhi on 7 August 2012. The then External Affairs



External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Kursbid with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Mr Alfredo Moreno Charme on 5 February 2013 in Chile

Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation and Foreign Minister of Chile Mr Alfredo Moreno Charme led the CELAC Troika. External Affairs Minister was assisted by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed and Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi and the Foreign Minister of Chile was assisted by the other members of the Troika Mr Nicolas Maduro, Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Mr Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba and the resident Ambassadors of Troika. Both sides agreed to set up Business Council, CEOs Forum, Energy Forum, Agricultural Experts Group, Science Forum and Think Tank. Both sides also agreed to raise the level of interaction to the Summit level in the near future. On the sidelines of the First India-CELAC Troika meeting,

External Affairs Minister held bilateral meetings with the three visiting Foreign Ministers.

A national level seminar on India-CELAC was organized by ICWA on 10 July 2012. Secretary (West), Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi, Ministry of External Affairs, made a key note address at the seminar. The day-long seminar discussed various elements of India's engagement with LAC region. CII organised India-LAC Business Seminar in Chennai on 17 July 2012 and in Ahmedabad on 19 July 2012. On 26 September 2012, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information, Infrastructure and Innovations Shri Sam Pitroda addressed the Latin American and Caribbean resident Ambassadors based in New Delhi on Knowledge and Innovation.



United Nations and International Organisations

India in United Nations

67th Session of the UN General Assembly

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the official Indian delegation to the high level segment of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York from 27 September - 2 October 2012.

In his statement during the General Debate of the General Assembly on 1 October 2012, the External Affairs Minister called for urgent reform of the UN in order to reflect contemporary realities and to effectively meet emerging global challenges. The External Affairs Minister said, "the United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered remain the most efficacious means for converting today's challenges into opportunities. We need to, however, ensure that the architecture of global governance reflects contemporary realities. Sticking to structures designed at the end of the Second World War only constrains multilateralism from delivering on its promises. The most important and decisive step towards remedying this situation pertains to the UN Security Council, which must be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent categories. The reformed Council must include countries that are capable and willing to bear additional burdens relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and be able to sustain global campaigns against new and emerging global threats". He also stressed the need to address urgently, the incongruity of the lack of permanent membership from Africa.

The External Affairs Minister urged the international community to "adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach towards terrorism and focus on efforts to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism including its invidious network of epicenters, training facilities and financing." He stressed the need for agreeing on a "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to strengthen the normative framework against the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenge."

On the challenge of piracy, the External Affairs Minister said that the "need of the hour is once again concerted international action, under the UN auspices, with special attention being paid to address the welfare of seafarers and their families."

Concerning disarmament, the External Affairs Minister expressed India's commitment to achieving a nuclear weapons-free world. He recalled the "principles of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner remain relevant even after more than two decades". The External Affairs Minister said, "there is need to forge a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. There is also need for meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. Measures must be taken to reduce nuclear risks, including the grave risks posed by terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, thus strengthening nuclear security. The Conference on Disarmament - the international community's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, deserves our support in discharging its mandate of negotiating treaties on issues on the international disarmament agenda."

On environmental issues, the External Affairs Minister said, "at the RIO+20 Summit, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable development, recognizing poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge. And to act on this score, it unequivocally reaffirmed the sanctity of the RIO principles. India remains committed to addressing Climate Change through a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities."

The External Affairs Minister also said that with three years to go for the MDG target date of 2015, it was imperative to ensure that all efforts towards the achievement of the MDGs were made. In the global discourse on the post-2015 development agenda, the focus ought to be on the word 'development'. It ought to be firmly entrenched in the understandings and principles of Rio+20 and be anchored in the intergovernmental process in the UN. Priority must be given to the challenges of poverty, employment, food and energy, water, health, environmental sustainability, unsustainable lifestyles and above all, economic growth.

Speaking at the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons High Level Meeting on "Fifteen Years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success, Committing to the Future", also on 1 October 2012, the External Affairs Minister said that India views the Chemical Weapons Convention "as a unique, multilaterally-negotiated and non-discriminatory disarmament instrument, which serves as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction".

Emphasizing the need for UN peacekeeping to adjust to the new realities, the External Affairs Minister said, "the challenge before the international community today is to ensure that UN peacekeeping is adequately resourced and enabled to meet the realities of today, including in post-conflict and peace-building contexts."

The External Affairs Minister also reiterated India's well-known and principled position on the situation in Syria and our support for the Palestinian cause.

On the margins of the 67th UNGA Sessions, the External Affairs Minister had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from the USA and Nepal. He also attended a luncheon interaction with his colleague Foreign Ministers from SAARC hosted by the Maldives.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited New York from 7-12 October 2012. He attended the UN Security Council meeting on Sierra Leone and delivered India's statement on 9 October 2012. He also participated in the general debate of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly concerning global development issues and delivered India's statement at the debate on 8 October 2012. He also addressed the UN General Assembly on 9 October 2012 during the debate on the 'Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization.'

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur visited New York from 15-19 October 2012 and participated in the deliberations of the General Assembly as well as the Security Council. She attended the UN Security Council debate on Somalia and delivered India's statement on 16 October 2012. She also addressed the UN General Assembly on 17 October on the subject of "New Partnership for Africa's Development."

A non-official Indian delegation consisting of 7 Members of Parliament visited New York in three batches during October-November 2012 to participate in the 67th Session of the UNGA.

The United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Mr Ban Ki-moon undertook an official visit to India from 27-29 April 2012. During the visit, UNSG called on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar, and had meetings with the then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad as well as Chairperson of the UPA Smt Sonia Gandhi. UNSG also visited Mumbai on 28 April 2012 and met Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Prithviraj Chavan.

Reform of the UN Security Council

The Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels stated that the Heads of State and Government, and Heads of Delegation that had gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2012 were convinced that good governance at the international level is fundamental for strengthening the rule of law, and stressed the importance of, amongst other things, the reform of the UN Security Council.

On the sidelines of the opening of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, a meeting of the G-4 was held on 25 September 2012 where views were exchanged on Security Council reform. The Minister of External Relations of Brazil, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Foreign Secretary of India participated in the meeting.

The Joint Press Statement issued upon the conclusion of the meeting stated that the Ministers reiterated their common vision of a reformed Security Council, taking into consideration the contributions made by countries to the maintenance of international peace and security and other purposes of the organisation, as well as the need for increased representation of developing countries in both categories, in order to better reflect today's geopolitical realities. The G4 countries reiterated their commitments as aspiring new permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as their support for each other's candidatures. They also reaffirmed their view of the importance of Africa to be represented in the permanent membership of an enlarged Council. The Ministers expressed the view that the strong support for an expansion in both categories should be reflected in the negotiation process among member states and called for the drafting of a concise working document as the basis for further negotiations, in line with the recommendations of the Chairman.

Peacekeeping

India continued its active engagement with peacekeeping policy debates at the UN including with plenary statements and debates within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping. India played a critical role at the UN in addressing the long-pending review of troop reimbursement rates. India proactively participated in the Security Council in the process of making mandates for peacekeeping missions. India continued its engagement with the UN Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations as well as participated in other plurilateral initiatives in the area of peacekeeping.

India continues to be one of the largest and consistent contributors to the UN peacekeeping Operations. In 2012, India was the third largest troop contributor with 8093 troops located in 10 peacekeeping missions in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) which is India's largest peacekeeping mission with 4026 troops, Lebanon (UNIFIL), Golan Heights on Syria-Israel Border (UNDOF), Liberia (UNMIL), Cote d' Ivore (UNOCI), Cyprus (UNFICYP), East Timor (UNMIT), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Abyei (UNISFA) and the latest being in South Sudan (UNMISS), where India is contributing 2244 troops. In addition, India also has Force Commander in MONUSCO and UNDOF and a Deputy Force Commander in South Sudan, at the senior leadership level. High performance standards by the Indian troops and police personnel deployed with UN Missions under challenging circumstances have won them high regard world-wide.

Piracy

Piracy off the coast of Somalia has not only affected the security of maritime navigation and economic interests of concerned States, it has drastically affected the welfare and security of seafarers, who are the lifeline of maritime navigation. While India has been actively contributing to the international efforts in combating piracy off the coast of Somalia at the operational level for the last many years, including by deploying its naval assets and resources in international counter piracy operations, India has also highlighted the cause of the welfare of seafarers, ensuring that it is reflected in relevant Security Council resolutions and the Presidential Statement of the Security Council on Piracy adopted during India's Presidency of the Council in November 2012.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

India participated actively in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), an informal group

of interested States and international organisations, established in January 2009, to coordinate international counter-piracy efforts. During 2012, Indian delegations participated in all plenary meetings of the CGPCS and deliberations of its five Working Groups. India also chaired the CGPCS from September-December 2012 including the 13th Plenary Session held in New York on 11 December 2012. The Communique adopted by the CGPCS, inter alia, highlighted need for greater international cooperation for securing an early release of hostages and their welfare.

Counter-Terrorism

India was at the forefront in spearheading the counter-terrorism efforts at the UN. A Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Security Council, which is chaired by India since January 2011, was held on 20 November 2012 focusing on Prevention and Suppression of Terrorist Financing. This was the third such Special Meeting of the Committee under India's Chairmanship. The meeting witnessed participation of Member States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations including Financial Action Task Force (FATF), FATF Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), IMF and the World Bank. The Meeting built upon the success of the Outcome Document adopted by the CTC in its Special Meeting on 28 September 2011 which introduced the substantive and qualitative higher benchmark of "zero tolerance" in the counter-terrorism lexicon.

Non Aligned Movement

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the XVI Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Tehran in Iran on 30-31 August 2012. The Summit, which had 'Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance' as its theme, was held amidst profound political upheavals in West Asia and North Africa. The Prime Minister's presence at the Summit contributed to a large extent in elevating the profile and status of the Summit while cementing India's credentials as the lead country in the Movement.

During his speech at the Summit, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh highlighted the central challenges of our time relating to the management of the global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger and deprivation, tackling pandemics, literacy levels, ensuring sustainable development and coping with climate change. He



The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna at the United Nations General Assembly on 1 October 2012 in New York



Shri L K Advani, MP and Member of the Indian Delegation delivering his statement on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 8 October 2012

emphasized that "the Movement should take lead in building governance structures that are representative, credible and effective".

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna participated in the Ministerial Meeting of NAM held on 28-29 August 2012 before the Summit.

The NAM Summit was preceded by a Preparatory Ministerial Meeting held in Sharm El-Sheikh from 7-10 May 2012 for which Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation.

The Commonwealth

India as the largest member-State of the Commonwealth, with nearly 60 per cent 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 budgets and programmes, and the fifth-largest contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC).

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur participated in the Ministerial Task Force (MTF) meeting held on 14 June 2012 in London. The MTF considered those recommendations of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group which were referred to it by the 2011 CHOGM for more detailed advice.

India also participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM), held on 29 September 2012 in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

The Commonwealth Secretary General Shri Kamallesh Sharma is scheduled to make an official visit to India in February 2013.

6th International Day of Non-Violence

The United Nations observed the 6th International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2012 at a Special Event at UN Headquarters in New York. The then External Affairs Minister, Shri S. M. Krishna presided over the event and President of the General Assembly of the United Nations Mr Vuk Jeremic was the Chief Guest. The keynote address was delivered by Ambassador (Retd) Pascal Alan Nazareth, on "Gandhi -The Non Violent Revolutionary".

UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

The United Nations Democracy Fund was initiated as a result of a partnership between India and the United States and was launched jointly by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, US President George Bush and UN Secretary General

Kofi Annan in New York on 14 September 2005. Presently, India is the second largest contributor to the UNDEF, having contributed US\$ 29.71 million by March 2012. India considers the Fund to be an effective instrument for the promotion of democratic values and processes and has played a prominent role in the UNDEF as a member of its apex governing body - the Advisory Board.

High Level Meeting on 'Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm'

Smt Jayanthi Natrajan, Minister of State (IC) of Environment and Forests participated in the high level meeting on "Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm" organized at the UN on 2 April 2012. The meeting was presided by the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

Group of 77 - Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers

The 36th Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 was held in New York on 28 September 2012. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the meeting. The Ministerial Declaration adopted on the occasion welcomed the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and urged the global community to give priority to combating poverty and meeting the development aspirations of developing countries.

Elections

The year was significant in terms of consolidation of India's presence in the UN system. Dr Justice Dalveer Bhandari was elected to the International Court of Justice in April 2012 by an overwhelming majority, securing 122 votes as against 58 of the Philippines candidate, in the UN General Assembly (he obtained 13 out of 15 votes in the UN Security Council).

In another important contest, Dr S. Rajan, India's nominee to the Committee on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) was re-elected in June 2012.

India was also elected to the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the International Sea-Bed Authority (ISBA). India's nominee to the International Sericulture Commission (ISC) Ms Ishita Roy was elected as the Secretary General of ISC in June 2012. India got re-elected to the Councils of Universal Postal Union i.e Council of Administration with a record tally of 146 votes and Postal Operations Council with 126 votes in October 2012.

Economic and Development Issues

ECOSOC

The 2012 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in New York from 2-27 July 2012. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India led the Indian delegation to the High level segment of the session and addressed the Annual Ministerial Review on the theme "Promoting productive capacity and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The Ministerial Declaration adopted during the session expressed deep concern on the continuing high levels of unemployment and called for effective measures to strengthen the productive capacity of developing countries.

Special Ministerial Meeting of ECOSOC

A Special Ministerial Meeting of the ECOSOC was held on 24 September 2012 in New York to deliberate on how to strengthen the Council as the principal coordinating platform of the UN on social, economic and development issues. Additional Secretary (IO), Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the meeting and urged the Council to undertake efforts to enhance the participation of developing countries in global governance structures.

World Health Organization (WHO)

India participated in the 65th World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva from 21-26 May 2012. India stressed that every citizen is entitled to essential health care services and that these should be guaranteed by the State. India's success in Polio eradication was widely acknowledged in the WHA.

India also participated in the 1st Informal Consultation with Member States and UN agencies on the development of a Global Mental Health Action Plan (2013 - 2012) on 2 November 2012 where it was, inter alia, brought out that Yoga, meditation and counseling should be a part of overall strategy for mental health promotion and prevention of mental disorders and suicides.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

An Extraordinary Session of the WMO Congress [the first-ever such session in the Congress' 62 year-old history] was held from 29-31 October 2012 to consider the Draft Implementation Plan (DIP) and the Draft Governance Structure for establishing

the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) as directed by the High-Level Declaration of the World Climate Conference-3 (HLD-WCC-3) in 2009. Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, led the Indian delegation. India, as a member of the WMO Executive Committee and the ECTT, furthered its and other developing countries' interests in the draft documents ensuring that (i) the Governments had a central role in all aspects of the GFCS (ii) the engagement of non-State actors including international organizations, civil society and private donors was according to established UN mechanisms as observers and (iii) data exchange would be as per the sovereign prerogative of States. The extraordinary session also decided that the funding for the GFCS would be met out of the core budget of WMO. The GFCS has now been established.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

India participated in the 68th annual session of UNESCAP which was held in Bangkok from 17-23 May 2012. The theme of the Session was "Enhancing Regional Economic Integration in Asia and the Pacific". The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, who delivered the Country Statement. Several events were held as part of the 68th Session, including Ministerial round table on the theme topic, a High Level consultation on G20 Mexico Summit - Perspectives from Asia-Pacific and a Seminar on ESCAP Regional Institutions. 11 Resolutions on diverse issues were adopted during the annual session. Election of the Governing Councils of UNAPCAEM and APCICT were held during the session. India was re-elected with a maximum number of votes in both elections.

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

A 2-member delegation comprising Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training and Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission visited Vienna from 18-22 June 2012 to attend the Implementation Review Group Meeting of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Vigilance Commissioner visited Laxenburg, Austria to participate in the Expert Group Meeting of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, and the International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA) from 23-26 September 2012.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

India participated in the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of ILO held in Geneva from 29

May-12, June 2012. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Minister of Labour and Employment led the Indian delegation to the ILC. The Labour Ministers of Bihar, Haryana and Kerala also participated in the Conference. India stressed on the need to revise the ILO Conventions as these had become outdated, stressing that the choice of topics for future standard-setting should be widened according to the requirements of all ILO member States recognizing diverse socio-economic conditions.

India also participated in the 316th Session of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO from 5-15 November 2012 in Geneva. The Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, participated in the Working Party, as one of the 16 members, for Improvement of Functioning of GB and ILC. (There are 8 Workers and 8 Employer-Members in the Working Party). India also participated in the discussions pertaining to 'Decent work in the post-2015 development agenda', emphasizing the need to focus on an objective of inclusive globalization with social justice, as per ILO Social Justice Declaration, 2008.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The 2012 annual session of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference (IPC) on the WTO was held in Geneva from 15-16 November 2012. As a prelude to this meeting, the 26th session of the Steering Committee of the IPC on the WTO was held at Geneva on 26 September 2012. Shri P.C. Chacko, Member of Parliament attended the IPC Steering Committee Meeting and also led a 3-member Indian Parliamentary delegation to participate in the annual session of IPC.

The 127th Assembly of the IPU was held at Quebec City, Canada from 21-26 October 2012. A high level delegation of Parliamentarians from India led by Lok Sabha Speaker attended the Assembly.

The 7th meeting of the Women Speakers of Parliament was jointly organized by the IPU and the Parliament of India in New Delhi on 3-4 October 2012. The meeting was inaugurated by President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt Meira Kumar, and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Mr Abdelwahad Radi addressed the opening ceremony.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

The 25th Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was held at Doha, Qatar from 24 September-15 October 2012. During the Congress, elections were held for the Director-General of UPU, Deputy Director-General of UPU, Council

of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC), India was successfully elected to the CA and POC with a substantial majority of votes.

Indian delegation to the Congress was led by Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology who also participated as a panelist in the Ministerial segment in one of the sessions on Postal Sectors' role in fostering economic and social inclusion.

UN-HABITAT

The 6th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF) was held in Naples, Italy from 3-7 September 2012. The theme of the session was 'The Urban Future'. UN-HABITAT's report 'The State of Cities 2012' was formally released at an event on 17 October 2012 in New Delhi. Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, was present at the event.

Environmental Issues

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20)

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro from 20-22 June 2012. Speaking in the Plenary he conveyed India's abiding commitment to sustainable development and stated that "the future we want should be a future in which there is ecological and economic space for sustainable growth for all." Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (IC) of Environment and Forests also participated in the Conference. The Conference, while renewing the global commitment to sustainable development, strongly reaffirmed the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It made a strong call to pursue global growth and development with equity and recognized poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge in advancing sustainable development. The Conference decided to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for implementation in the post MDG period. In support of the sustainable development agenda, it called for setting up a Financing Strategy and for exploring the options on a Technology Mechanism to facilitate transfer of technology and know-how to developing countries.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The 18th Conference of Parties (COP-18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change concluded at Doha Qatar on 8 December 2012. The Conference also included the 8th Meeting



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh with other Heads of State/Government and the Heads of Delegations at the XVI Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, in Tebran, Iran on 30 August 2012.



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at the G-20 Summit, at Los Cabos, Mexico 18 June 2012

of the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-8). The Indian delegation to the COP-18 and CMP-8 was led by Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The key decisions adopted by the Doha Conference included a finalization of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, a set of decisions on the work of the Bali Action Plan (on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building) and a Plan of Work under the Durban Platform. An important achievement of the Doha Conference was amendments to the Kyoto Protocol to operationalise the 2nd commitment period, which was a key demand of developing countries.

The close coordination between India, China, Brazil and South Africa as part of the BASIC Group also continued in the run-up to the Doha Conference with meetings at New Delhi (Feb 2012), Johannesburg (July 2012), Brasilia (September 2012) and Beijing (November 2012). India also worked closely with a group of Like-Minded Developing Countries which played a significant role in the Doha Conference.

United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity

India hosted the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) from 8-19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, following the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-6). The meetings were presided by Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests as the President of COP-11. Approximately 6,000 delegates representing 170 Parties, other governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental, indigenous and local community organizations, academia and private sector participated in COP-11. CBD COP-11 adopted 33 decisions on a range of strategic, substantive, administrative, financial and budgetary issues. The COP-11 High Level Segment was held from 16-19 October 2012. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on 16 October 2012. The Prime Minister in his speech announced India's ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. India is now the seventh country to ratify this Protocol. The Prime Minister also launched the 'Hyderabad Pledge', wherein he announced that the Government of India has decided to earmark a sum of US\$ 50 million during India's Presidency of COP to strengthen institutional mechanism, enhance the technical and human capabilities for biodiversity conservation in India, and to promote similar capacity building in other developing countries. The outcome of the Plenary Session and four Panel Discussions was brought out in the form of Chairs Summary by the President of COP-11 on the

closing day on 19 October 2012. COP-11 was notable for the agreement on an interim target of doubling biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015, and at least maintaining this level until 2020.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

India was represented at the 2nd Plenary Session to Build IPBES' held in Panama City from 16-21 April 2012 that formally established the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The German city of Bonn was voted to host the IPBES Secretariat. UNEP presently serves as the Secretariat to IPBES.

India was represented at the 4th meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) on a legally binding treaty on Mercury, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay in June 2012. UNEP serves as the Secretariat for the INC.

Social and Human Rights Issues

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The 2nd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) began with the 13th session of the UNHRC in May 2012. The 13th and 14th session of the UPR witnessed the review of human rights situations of twenty countries. India's second UPR was held on 24 May 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Goolam E. Vahanvati, Attorney-General of India. The adoption of India's UPR outcome took place at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council in September 2012.

Eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important Treaty-Monitoring Bodies and Human Rights mechanisms including Shri Dilip Lahiri (Member, Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination); Smt Indira Jaisingh (Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women); Shri Chandrashekhara Dasgupta (Member, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). Shri Anand Grover continued his mandate as the Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health; and Shri Kishore Singh as well, as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education.

Mr Christof Heyns, the Special Rapporteur on Extra-Judicial Summary or Arbitrary Executions visited India from 19-30 March 2012. He travelled to Gujarat, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and West Bengal. He met Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Secretary of Law & Justice, Chief Secretaries of 5 States. He met the Chairpersons of the National Human Rights

Commission and State Human Rights Commission, Joint Secretary (Human Rights) and other senior officials. In Delhi, he met members of the United Nations agencies.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The 63rd Session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR (ExCom) was held from 1-5 October 2012. India played a constructive role in the meeting and worked closely with other developing countries to ensure the adherence of UNHCR's programmes and operations to its core mandate of international protection.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited India on 19-20 December 2012 for the Fourth Annual Open-Ended Bilateral Consultations between India and UNHCR. These Consultations were initiated in 2008. The Indian delegation would be led by Additional Secretary (IO), Ministry of External Affairs.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The 101st Session of the IOM Council was held from 27-30 November 2012. The Session was notable for the adoption of a Resolution on the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (IMCOF). India played an important role in the negotiation of this Resolution and along with other like minded developing countries, ensured balance by realigning the resolution to reflect the need to recognize national laws and the adherence of the IMCOF to the core mandate of IOM for "management of migration in a humane and orderly manner".

Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

The 6th Annual GFMD 2012 Summit Meeting was held on 21-22 November 2012 in Pailles, Mauritius. Shri Dilip Sinha, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Geneva led the Indian delegation. India had provided US\$ 50,000 as a onetime and first time grant to GFMD on the request of the current Chair, Mauritius to all States. The meeting examined ways and means to maintain the Forum as a platform for discussions and voluntary sharing of information on migration between sending and destination States. The deliberations of the 2012 GFMD Summit Meeting included forwarding the Summit's recommendations on the Future of the Forum to the second meeting of the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration to be held in New York in October 2013. These recommendations inter alia include: (i) maintaining the informal and voluntary nature of discussions; (ii) strengthening the Support Unit of

the GFMD as a repository of archival and administrative information; and (iii) proposing a calibrated predictability of funding to the GFMD.

UN Alliance of Civilizations

India attended the UNAOC Partners' Forum in Istanbul on 31 May - 1 June 2012 and was represented by Ambassador of India, Ankara. India also attended the UNAOC Group of Friends (Ministerial level) meeting held on 28 September 2012 at UN Headquarters, New York. On this occasion, Joint Secretary (UNP) made a brief written intervention, in which he raised the issue of the UNAOC's primary focus on West-Islam divide. In the intervention, he said that the UNAOC should be careful not to focus its vision too narrowly, as there were other civilizations, religions and cultures which could contribute meaningfully to the on-going initiatives of the AOC.

UNCLOS

The 22nd Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was held from 4-11 June 2012. The Indian delegation highlighted the importance of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention which regulates all aspects of the oceans from delimitation to environmental control, scientific research, economic and commercial activities, technology and settlement of disputes. While noting progress in the functioning of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), India welcomed the decision of the General Assembly enhancing the period of functioning of CLCS from 15 weeks a year to 21-26 weeks a year. With the increased timeframe, the CLCS will be able to consider claim submissions for an extended continental shelf in an expeditious manner. India expressed its deep concern over the events of piracy at Sea and specifically in relation to keeping seamen hostages for ransom at sea off the West coast of Africa. It stressed the need for dealing with this situation effectively with greater cooperation, support and coordination among the States Parties. During the meeting of States Parties, elections were held for members of the CLCS. India's nominee Dr S. Rajan was re-elected in the first round of voting securing 112 votes from 161.

UNESCO

A significant achievement during the year with regard to India's cooperation with UNESCO was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), in Paris on 10 July 2012 in the presence of Minister of Human Resource and Development Shri Kapil Sibal and Director General of UNESCO Ms Irina Bokova.

This was followed by the formal inauguration of the MGIEP on 11 November 2012 in New Delhi. MGIEP, the first Category-I UNESCO Institute in the Asia Pacific region, is expected to evolve into a premier regional institute and think-tank on peace and sustainable development issues.

Director General Ms Irina Bokova visited India from 9-13 November 2012 to attend the 9th E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting held in New Delhi which was attended by Ministers from the E-9 countries. A Delhi Commitment was issued which stressed on the delivery of inclusive, relevant and quality Education for All (EFA). The meeting was successful in identifying the bottlenecks in the EFA movement and resolved to put in place a clear post-2015 agenda for the achievement of Education for All.

UNESCO organized the 3rd International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Shanghai from 14-16 May 2012, which brought together over 540 participants from 107 countries and resulted in the adoption of the "Shanghai Consensus", calling for the transformation and expansion of TVET as well as for an increased attention to sustainable development and partnerships. A high-level delegation led by Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource and Development Dr D. Purandeshwari attended the UNESCO meeting in Shanghai. The Indian delegation was pivotal in the adoption of the Shanghai Consensus and called for more efforts to step up vocational education opportunities as the answer to rising unemployment in the world.

The 24th session of the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme was held from 9-13 July 2012 at UNESCO Head Quarters. The Council approved the nomination of Achanakmar-Amarkanthak Biosphere Reserve in India to the World Network of Biosphere reserves.

UN Academic Impact (UNAI)

India worked closely with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) in promoting and contributing to the DPI's Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative. The Indian Mission, in association with the UNAI, organized an event to mark the International Jazz Day on 30 April 2012, under the auspices of the Committee on Information. The Indian Mission also co-sponsored a seminar on inter-religious dialogue titled "Faith, Dialogue and Integration" and hosted a Sufi Music concert on 26 November 2012, as part of the UNAI's "Unlearning Intolerance" programme. In addition, India made a financial contribution of US\$ 100,000 to the UNAI, in May 2012.

Arctic Council

On 6 November 2012, India applied to seek Observer Status at the Arctic Council, which is a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Young Professional Programme

The United Nations Young Professional Programme (YPP) examination was conducted for the first time in India on 5 December 2012 in the Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi in collaboration with ICCR and MEA. The examination was conducted in six job streams and 164 pre-selected candidates appeared in the examination.

Treaty law and practices

On 1 May 2012, India deposited the Instrument of Accession to the International Vaccine Institute Establishment Agreement with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his capacity as the Depositary of the Agreement. India had signed the Agreement in May 1997.

India also deposited, with the United Nations Secretary-General, the Instrument of Ratification for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted on 29 October 2010, and which was signed by India on 11 May 2011.

Legal and Treaties Division

United Nations and International Law

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

As part of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly urged the States to intensify, where appropriate, the exchange of information on facts related to terrorism in order to avoid dissemination of inaccurate or unverified information. The UN General Assembly further urged the States to ensure prosecution of nationals or persons in their territories who funded or financially supported any and all terrorist acts. As regards the meeting of the Ad hoc Committee on Terrorism, it was decided that the Ad hoc Committee would meet in early 2013 to continue the elaboration of various provisions of the Comprehensive

Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), as well as to consider the question of convening a high level segment to address global terrorism in a comprehensive and concerted manner.

International Law Commission (ILC)

The election of ILC Members for the term 2012 - 2016 was held on 17 November 2011 at the UN Headquarters, New York during the 66th session of the UN General Assembly. From the Asian region, thirteen countries, including India, had presented candidatures against eight seats allocated to the region and thus it was a tough competition. Indian candidate Shri Narinder Singh, the then Additional Secretary of Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs was re-elected as a member of the ILC.

Special Committee on the UN Charter

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization is considering several proposals relating to: the maintenance of international peace and security; coordination with other committees/bodies that are also involved in the work related to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular with regard to assistance to third States adversely affected by sanctions. The Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to consider the subject as a priority, in regard to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under the UN Charter, as well as improving its working methods towards identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation. India's stand over the years has been that the Security Council is primarily responsible towards the affected third States, as a part of the decisions imposing sanctions.

States have been called upon to make voluntary contributions to the trust funds for the updating of the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council and for the elimination of the backlog in the Repertoire of Practice of United Nations organs. India has supported these efforts concerning the updating/publication of the Repertoire and Repertory.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

The Legal and Treaties Division participated in the 51st Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held at Abuja, Nigeria from 18-22 June 2012. AALCO is an inter-governmental body established to promote mutual cooperation and consultations among the Asian-African States in the field of international law. The inter-sessional Meeting of

Legal Experts to Discuss Matters relating to International Law Commission, was organized by AALCO during this year.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

Though India is not a party to the Rome Statute of the ICC, the Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs followed the work of the ICC and gave legal opinion on requests for cooperation in investigations by the Court as well as prepared briefs on the cases in the docket of the Court. Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs participated in 11th Session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) held in The Hague from 14-21 November 2012.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

India participated in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and its Working Groups dealing with Arbitration and Conciliation, Security Interests and Online Dispute Resolution respectively. The 57th Session of the Working Group on Arbitration and Conciliation was held from 1-5 October 2012. The 25th Session of the Online Dispute Resolution was held in New York from 21-25 May 2012. The Working Group is mandated to prepare legal standards on online dispute resolution mechanism for the e-commerce disputes, as the traditional means of dispute settlement are time consuming and expensive; e-commerce cross-border disputes required tailor-made, early and cost effective settlement that would avoid costs, delays and burdens that were disproportionate to the economic value at stake. The 21st and 22nd Sessions of the Working Group on Security Interests were held in New York and Vienna from 14-18 May 2012 and from 10-14 December 2012 respectively. This Working Group 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)

India participated in the UNIDROIT Diplomatic Conference that adopted the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Space Assets (shortly referred as 'Space Assets Protocol') held from 27 February - 9 March 2012 in Berlin, Germany. This Protocol aims to facilitate the privatization and commercialization of space activities and services across the globe by protecting the private investments in order to promote the growth of the

space industry. Further, it is expected to enhance the availability of space based services to many countries which presently do not pursue space activities of their own. India also participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Committee of Emerging Markets, Issues, Follow-Up and Implementation established by the UNIDROIT Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Convention on Substantive Rules regarding Intermediated Securities held at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on 27-28 March 2012.

Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)

The Meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Hague Conference was held in The Hague from 17-20 April 2012. India participated in the Meeting of the Council which inter alia, decided to establish a Working Group, composed of a wide range of experts, including judges, Central Authorities and inter-disciplinary experts, to develop a Guide to Good Practice on the interpretation and application of Article 13(1) (b) of the 1980 Child Abduction Convention, with a component to provide guidance, especially to the judicial authorities. The Council also endorsed the proposal to establish an Asia Pacific Regional Office for the Hague Conference on Private International law in The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Antarctica

India participated in the XXXV Meeting of the Antarctic Consultative Committee (ATCM) held at Hobart (Tasmania) in Australia from 10 - 20 June, 2012, which had taken up issues under different Working Groups: a) CEP (Committee on Environmental Protection) of Antarctica; b) Working Groups on Tourism; c) Working Group on Legal and Institutional matters; and d) Working Group on Operational Matters.

The outcome of the deliberations of different Groups was adoption of several Resolutions, the Legal and Institutional Group which upon by adopted in the Plenary Meeting of ATCM after discussions. Though all the draft Resolutions and Measures adopted by the Working Groups are sent to Legal and Institutional Working Group the three main issues that were discussed at great length were: a) Jurisdiction issue; b) Liability Annex; and c) Strengthening the support for Madrid Protocol.

Tobacco Protocol

India participated in the finalization and adoption of the Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products in 2012.

Water Resources

India participated in the Meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission established under the Indus Waters Treaty. MEA was actively engaged in coordinating and presenting India's position before the Court of Arbitration set up under the Indus Water Treaty, pursuant to proceedings initiated by Pakistan regarding its objections to the design of the Kishenganga Hydro Electric Project being built by India.

All judges of the International Tribunal as well as experts from India and Pakistan participated in the site visit of the Kishenganga hydroelectric project in Kashmir and the Neelum hydroelectric project in Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir. India also participated in the 'Kishenganga Arbitration Hearing' at Permanent Court of Arbitration held at Peace Palace, The Hague. The Court of Arbitration was constituted in the matter of Indus Waters Kishenganga Arbitration (Pakistan v. India) and concluded its two-week hearing on the merits at Peace Palace in The Hague from 20-31 August 2012. In accordance with the Court of Arbitration Rules Procedure, it is expected to render its award within six months from the date of final hearing.

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. India's counter-memorial was filed with the Arbitral Tribunal in July 2012.

Extradition and other International Judicial Assistance

Legal and Treaties Division participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding Extradition Treaties, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters, Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil matters and Transfer of Sentenced Persons with foreign countries. As a result of successful negotiations, the Texts of Extradition Treaty with Thailand and Bangladesh has been signed. Texts of Treaty of Transfer of Sentenced persons with Moscow and Qatar were finalized. Drafts of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal matters with Poland and Germany are pending because of the issue of Death penalty. Drafts of Transfer of Sentenced Persons from Kuwait, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Spain were examined for being finalized.

Vetting

MEA examined a number defence co-operation agreements and also agreements on international co-operation on outer space issues, science and technology, international terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking/narcotics; agreements on confidentiality; sharing of hydrological data; gas and energy; bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation,

education, tourism, climate change, protection on 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 2012 is at Appendix II and the list of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year 2012 is at Appendix III.



Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India continued to pursue its policies on disarmament and non-proliferation, especially nuclear disarmament, in various disarmament and non-proliferation related forums. 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 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. As announced by Prime Minister during the Second Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in March 2012, India hosted a "1540 Workshop on Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security" in New Delhi on 30 November - 1 December 2012 in cooperation with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Regular contacts were maintained with Indian and international civil society organisations in the field of disarmament and international security affairs. A National Outreach Conference on Global Nuclear Disarmament was organised by Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) with support of Ministry of External Affairs on 21 August 2012.

UN

India remained committed to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In the 2012 session of the 1st Committee of the UNGA which was held from 8 October - 7 November 2012, India highlighted its consistent support for the achievement of the priority objective of nuclear disarmament and reiterated its commitment to the objective of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-Violent World Order to attain the

goal of nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner.

India emphasised that this goal can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence, and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. Steps for the progressive de-legitimisation of nuclear weapons are essential to the goal of their complete elimination. Notwithstanding the priority attached to nuclear disarmament, India reaffirmed its support for the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament, of a universal, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests.

India tabled three resolutions at the First Committee of the UNGA in 2012. India's resolution on 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction' was adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by 67 countries, indicating the importance attached by the international community to the resolution. The resolution called upon UN Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In this regard, the resolution urged Member States to strengthen national measures and encouraged international cooperation to strengthen national capacities.

The other two resolutions tabled by India viz. 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons' and 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' were adopted by vote. The support garnered by these resolutions suggests that the issues raised through them are finding greater resonance and recognition in the international community. The first resolution reflected the belief that a multilateral, universal and legally binding instrument prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons will contribute to the process of de-legitimization of nuclear weapons and create a favourable climate for negotiations on an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in the Conference on

Disarmament. The second highlighted the need for a review of nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting nuclear weapons. The First Committee also adopted a draft decision proposed by India on the 'Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament'.

UN Disarmament Commission

The UN Disarmament Commission held its substantive session for 2012 from 2-20 April 2012 in New York. India supported the inclusion of nuclear disarmament as the key agenda item in the new three-year cycle of UNDC meetings which will run from 2012 to 2014. India also stressed the high importance of 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

India continued its participation in the deliberations of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), as the single multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. India stressed the need for commencing substantive work in the CD by the adoption of a Programme of Work. During the various discussions held in the CD during the year India 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 highlighted that nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority for the international community. India also conveyed its support for negotiation in the CD for a multilateral, non-discriminatory, and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), which meets India's national security interests. In the context of discussions on Revitalisation of the CD, India stressed that the CD continues to have the mandate, membership, credibility and rules of procedure to discharge its responsibility. India also hoped that the critical role of the CD as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum will be reaffirmed so as to provide political impetus to the multilateral agenda, which includes early commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of the agreed mandate.

Nuclear Safety and Security

India hosted a 1540 workshop on Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security in New Delhi on 30 November - 1 December 2012 in cooperation with UNODA. The initiative for holding

the workshop was announced by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. The workshop was inaugurated by Foreign Secretary who is also India's Sherpa for the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process. The workshop was attended by all countries represented on the UN Security Council as well as its new incoming members, UNODA, IAEA, Representatives of the Committee established under UNSC Resolution 1540 and representatives of the Chairs of the NSS process. The holding of the workshop coincided with India's Presidency of the Security Council for November 2012.

Conventional Weapons/Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

India attaches high importance to the CCW which aims to strike a balance between addressing humanitarian concerns arising from the use of the certain conventional weapons and the military necessity of such weapons. Despite the setback suffered at the Review Conference held on 20 November 2011, which could not adopt the cluster munitions protocol, the CCW remains salient in progressively strengthening the role and principles of international humanitarian law. India continued to participate actively and constructively in the meetings of the CCW and its Amended Protocol-II (AP-II) and Protocol V.

The annual Meeting of State Parties of CCW was held on 15-16 November 2012 in Geneva. During this meeting, India underlined that the CCW remains the only forum of a universal character which brings together all the main users and producers of certain conventional weapons. India stressed the importance of full and effective implementation by States Parties of their obligations under CCW and the goal of universality of the Convention and its annexed protocols. The 14th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol-II was held on 14 November 2012 and followed the meeting of Group of Experts on 23-24 April 2012. In these meetings 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 continued work on the issues of Improvised Explosive Devices under AP-II. The 6th Annual Conference of Protocol V was held on 12-13 November 2012 and the Meeting of Experts from 25-27 April 2012 in Geneva. India coordinated the work on national reporting during the year and contributed to discussions on all issues including clearance of explosive remnants of war, generic preventive measures, cooperation and assistance and victim assistance. India also participated actively in the meeting of the Group of Experts on Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) held in Geneva from 2-4 April 2012. India attended the 12th Meeting

of State Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Geneva from 3-7 December 2012 as an Observer.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

India participated in the Diplomatic Conference held at the United Nations in New York from 2-27 July 2012 to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty. The Conference could not adopt an agreed text. In these negotiations India emphasized that an ATT should make a real impact on preventing illicit trafficking in conventional arms and their diversion to terrorists and other non-state actors. The treaty should establish a balance of obligations of exporting and importing states and ensure that national implementation and domestic jurisdiction are fully respected. India stressed that a treaty of the kind of ATT, which would be legally binding when in force, should not be rushed through. It is important to bring all stakeholders on board in a manner that promotes the prospects of a treaty that is practical and implementable and is able to attract universal adherence. Another Diplomatic Conference is to be held in New York from 18-28 March 2013 to carry forward the discussions.

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

India participated in the 2nd Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action (UNPOA) on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) held in New York from 27 August - 7 September 2012. India highlighted the high importance attached by it to the UNPOA as the cornerstone of multilateral efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW. India welcomed the successful conclusion of the Review Conference with the adoption of its Outcome Document by consensus. The Review Conference reaffirmed the key commitments of States under the UNPOA and International Tracing Instrument and agreed to a schedule of meetings for 2012 - 2018. India underlined the need for making further progress on both the political and technical aspects of the UNPOA implementation in the coming years.

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

India made substantial contributions to BTWC's annual Meeting of Experts held from 23-27 July 2012 and Meeting of States Parties held from 10-14 December 2012. India reiterated the high importance attached by it to the BTWC as the first multilateral, non-discriminatory treaty banning an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. India expressed support for improving the effectiveness of the Convention, strengthening its implementation, and efforts for its universalization. The

BTWC meetings held extensive discussions on the three agenda items (cooperation and assistance, review of S&T developments and national implementation) and the biennial agenda item (fuller participation in CBMs) as decided by the 7th Review Conference. The Indian experts participating in the Meeting of Experts made presentations on Codes of Conduct and India's export controls system.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

India, as in previous years, played active role in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague by engaging with States Parties during the Meetings of the Executive Council and the Conference of States Parties on issues of chemical weapons destruction, Industry Inspection, national implementation, international cooperation and assistance. India was actively involved in the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Review Conference, while playing a key role in groupings like the Asian Group and the NAM Group in the context of CWC, besides various subsidiary bodies of the Organization, including the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF). India's Permanent Representative to the OPCW Ambassador was elected unanimously as Chairperson of the 41-member Executive Council (EC) for a year period ending on 11 May 2013. India's National Authority on CWC organised the Regional Customs Training course for the Asian States Parties to the CWC on technical aspects of the transfer regime from 10-13 December 2012 in New Delhi.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy led the Indian Delegation for the 56th Session of the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 17-21 September 2012. The Delegation had meetings with Director General (DG), IAEA, Mr Yukiya Amano and bilateral meetings with a number of countries. An Arrangement between IAEA and Government of India on India's contribution of US\$ 1 million to IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund was signed. A MoU was signed between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) of India and the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) of Romania on 19 September 2012 for the Exchange of Information and Cooperation in the Field of Regulation of Nuclear Activities for Peaceful Purposes. The delegation also met Director General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Nuclear Energy Agency.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is a platform for dialogue, cooperation and confidence building on political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The then Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna participated in the 19th ARF Ministerial meeting held in Phnom Penh on 12 July 2012. The meeting adopted a Work Plan on Non-proliferation and Disarmament. India participated in ARF's Senior Officials Meeting, two Inter-Sessional Group meetings, four Inter-Sessional Meetings on disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes, and non-proliferation and disarmament and various cooperation activities and seminars. India also participated in the meetings of the ADSOM Plus and the Expert Working Groups on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter terrorism and Peacekeeping Operation of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting plus 8 (ADMM Plus) process.

With India's technical and financial contribution, the Project IV of the Cooperative Forum to enhance safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore under the ambit of the International Maritime Organization was completed successfully in 2012 generating tremendous goodwill for India among the littoral states.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a 24-member regional forum for dialogue and cooperation to promote peace, security and prosperity in the Asian region. During the year, India participated in CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting, Special Working Group (SWG) and Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meetings and cooperation activities under the CICA framework in areas such as economic cooperation, environment, drug trafficking, terrorism and promoting democracy. Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Shri Sachin Pilot led the Indian delegation at the 4th Meeting

of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 12 September 2012. During the meeting, India underlined its support to the implementation and further consolidation of confidence building measures (CBMs) in the existing agreed areas based on consensus and developing step by-step approach rooted in Asian realities.

Export Control

India continued its dialogue with all four multilateral export control regimes, namely Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangements with a view to progress in tandem for achieving the objective of full membership of these regimes in 2012,.

Ministry of External Affairs and The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) organised a National Export Control Seminar at IDSA, New Delhi on 18 April 2012. Foreign Secretary delivered the keynote address outlining India's policy on export control. The seminar was attended by members of the diplomatic community based in Delhi, Government of India agencies, experts, think tanks and practitioners of export control. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ministry of External Affairs organised a Strategic Export Control Seminar, an outreach event for Indian industry, at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 22 March 2012.

Other issues

India-US Strategic Security Dialogue led by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and Acting US Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Ms Rose Gottemoeller was held in New Delhi on 18 October 2012. The dialogue covered a range of global and regional security issues of mutual interest and multilateral developments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

During the year, India held working level consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control issues with various countries, including France, Germany, Japan, Russia and US.



12th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers' Meeting

The 12th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) was held under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, in Gurgaon on 2 November 2012. This was the 2nd Council of Ministers' Meeting under India's Chairmanship; the last meeting was held in November 2011 in Bengaluru. The COM Meeting was preceded by meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the IOR Academic Group, Working Group on Trade & Investment and the IOR Business Forum.

The overarching theme "IOR-ARC at 15 - the Next Decade" of the Meeting helped bring greater focus on ways and means to further strengthen the Association under India's Chairmanship and to lay down a roadmap of cooperation for the next decade so that it occupies its rightful place as the apex organization in the Indian Ocean region besides effectively responding to the needs of its members, strengthening their capabilities to address the contemporary developmental challenges. The Meeting brought out shared concerns of the members regarding security of maritime commerce and safety of seafarers.

The Union of Comoros was unanimously admitted as the 20th member of IOR-ARC at the COM meeting. This was the second consecutive expansion in IOR-ARC membership under India's Chairmanship; at the last Meeting in Bengaluru, Seychelles had re-joined the Association. This is indicative of the growing salience of IOR-ARC. The United States' request for becoming a Dialogue Partner of IOR-ARC was also approved. The Association now comprise 20 members, 6 Dialogue Partners and 2 Observers.

A Gurgaon Communiqué was issued capturing deliberations and decisions of the 12th COM Meeting. The next meeting will be held in Australia in late 2013 where India will hand over the Chair to Australia and Indonesia will take over as the Vice-Chair.

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

India attaches high importance to its engagement with BRICS as a platform for coordination, consultation and cooperation

on contemporary issues having global as well as regional significance, and issues of global political and economic governance.

The 4th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi on 29 March 2012. President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, President Hu Jintao of China and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa led their respective delegations to the Summit.

The BRICS Summit agenda covered issues such as reform of global political and economic governance, global economic situation, the contemporary political situation (including developments in West Asia), WTO and the international trading regime, reform of international institutions of global governance, sustainable development, terrorism, food and energy security and consolidation of intra-BRICS cooperation.

The Leaders considered the possibility of setting up a BRICS-led New Development Bank for recycling surplus savings for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other developing countries and directed their Finance Ministers to examine the feasibility and viability of this initiative and report back at the next Summit.

The Leaders jointly released 'The BRICS Report' focusing on synergies and complementarities between the BRICS economies. A Delhi Declaration was issued at the Summit capturing discussions and decisions of the 4th Summit.

Two Agreements: (i) Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currencies; and (ii) BRICS Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement were signed at the Summit by BRICS EXIM/Development Banks. Both of these are enabling agreements subject to national country regulations that would help to enhance cooperation amongst the BRICS Development Banks, reduce intra-BRICS trade transaction costs and promote intra-BRICS trade.

Two Track-II events were hosted in New Delhi to provide inputs into the Summit Agenda. The first meeting of BRICS Economic Research Group (ERG) - an Indian initiative that brought together BRICS' economic think-tanks, experts and editors, coordinated by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) - was held on 27 February 2012 and the



12th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers meeting in Gurgaon 2 November 2012



The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa at the 4th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 29 March, 2012

BRICS Academic Forum - an established network of think-tanks that met under Indian chairmanship coordinated by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) - was held on 5-6 March 2012.

Other pre-Summit meeting included the 3rd Meeting of BRICS Business Forum, the meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers and Financial Forum of BRICS Development Banks in March 2012. Working/ Expert Level Meetings included those of BRICS National Statistical Authorities, Technical Experts of BRICS Development Banks, Contact Group on Economic, Trade and Investment Issues, and the meeting of BRICS Sous-Sherpas to negotiate the Draft Delhi Declaration.

The fifth BRICS Summit will be hosted by South Africa in Durban in March 2013.

Meeting of BRICS Leaders on the sidelines of G-20 of the Summit: Prime Minister chaired a meeting of BRICS Leaders in Los Cabos, Mexico, on 18 June 2012, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit for an exchange of views on the Summit agenda. The Leaders also discussed swap arrangements among the national currencies as well as reserve pooling.

Other Ministerial Meetings: BRICS Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2012. India was represented by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai at the meeting. G-15 Foreign Ministers also met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly; Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs represented India in this meeting.

India, China and Russia

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the 11th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China held in Moscow on 13 April 2012. The Foreign Ministers, inter alia, discussed contemporary regional and global issues of relevance; situation in Afghanistan, West Asia and North Africa, and Korean Peninsula; and advancing cooperation among the three countries in areas of emergency response, health care, agriculture, business, energy, and innovation & high technology. A Joint Communiqué was issued after the meeting.

India, Brazil, South Africa [IBSA]

IBSA Focal points held their 20th meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2012 to follow up on the decisions of the 5th Summit held in Pretoria, South Africa in October 2011.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Various Ministries/Departments continued to interact with OECD within the overall policy of limited sectoral engagement. India's mutually beneficial engagement with OECD has expanded in scope and range of issues. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and OECD jointly hosted the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy in New Delhi in October 2012. Ministry of External Affairs, as the nodal Ministry in the Government of India on OECD matters, reviewed India's engagement with OECD in consultation with all Ministries/Departments concerned. It was decided to continue with the existing policy of limited sectoral engagement.

The Group of 20 (G20)

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 7th G20 Summit held in Los Cabos, Mexico on 18-19 June 2012. The discussions focussed on 'Global Economy and Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth', 'Strengthening International Financial Architecture and Financial System, and Promoting Financial Inclusion' and on 'Development, Green Growth, Infrastructure and Food Security'. The outcomes of the Los Cabos Summit are captured in the 'G20 Leaders Declaration' and its three annexes, namely, (i) 'The Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan', (ii) '2012 Progress Report of the Development Working Group' and (iii) 'Report of the Agriculture Vice Ministers/ Deputies Meeting in Mexico on 18 May 2012'.

In his intervention, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh stated that India was focusing on investment and has set ambitious targets to keep infrastructure investment on track and also put in place a problem resolution mechanism to overcome implementation bottlenecks. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh announced a contribution of US\$ 10 billion to the International Monetary Fund additional firewall, the total commitment exceeding US\$ 450 billion, is in addition to the quota increase under the 2010 Reform.

India along with member countries is committed to narrow the development gap, reduce poverty and promote shared growth as part of G20 Development Agenda. India along with Canada co-chairs the G20 Framework Working Group on Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. India tried to refocus the energies of the group towards growth, jobs, fiscal consolidation, rebalancing demand from the public sector to the private, and to risks arising from internal imbalances within the Eurozone.



Heads of State/Government at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held on 20-21 December 2012 in New Delhi



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Smt Gursharan Kaur at the Ceremonial Flag Down of the ASEAN-India Car Rally in New Delhi 21 December 2012

India- ASEAN

Prime Minister of India led the Indian delegation at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit, held on 19 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. During the Summit, the Leaders reviewed the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations over the past twenty years and appreciated the good progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010 - 2015). The Report of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) was presented to the Leaders. The Leaders set a target of US\$ 100 billion by 2015 for ASEAN-India trade. In the run up to the Summit, External Affairs Minister of India participated at the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 11 July 2012 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Trade between ASEAN and India grew 37% in 2011-12 to reach US\$ 79.3 billion, crossing the target of US\$ 70 billion ahead of time. Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma participated in the 10th ASEAN Economic Ministers' + India Consultations in Siem Reap on 31 August 2012, where the Ministers agreed to intensify negotiations towards conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement.

The Ministry of Agriculture convened the 2nd ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry in New Delhi on 17 October 2012 along with an Agri Expo from 17-19 October 2012. The Ministry of Environment and Forests convened the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Environment Ministers on 6-7 September 2012 in New Delhi which followed an ASEAN-India Workshop on Capacity Building on Nagoya Protocol on 4-5 September 2012. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy convened the 1st ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on New and Renewable Energy in New Delhi on 7 November 2012, preceded by a Workshop on New and Renewable Energy on 5-6 November 2012.

The first ever meeting of the Heads of Space Agencies of India and ASEAN member countries was held in Bangalore on 19-20 June 2012 to discuss cooperation in the space sector. An ASEAN-India Expert Meeting on Climate Change was organized at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on 27 - 28 June 2012. The first ever Joint Consultations between ASEAN SME Working Group and India was held on 15 November 2012 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Government of India set up an Inter-Ministerial Group on ASEAN Connectivity and an Indian delegation attended the 21st ASEAN Land Transport Working Group Meeting in Lao PDR from 3-5 July 2012, the ASEAN Connectivity

Coordination Committee meeting on 9 September 2012 and the 24th ASEAN Maritime Working Group Meeting in Yangon from 17-19 October 2012.

Parliamentary cooperation continued to progress with an ASEAN-Inter Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) delegation led by President Dr Marzuki Alie and comprising of Members of Parliament from Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand visiting India for the first time from 28 July - 2 August 2012. An Indian Parliamentary delegation comprising Shri Dhananjay Singh and Shri Mohammad Asrarul Haque, Members of Parliament participated in the 33rd General Assembly of AIPA at Lombok, Indonesia from 16-22 September 2012.

Two major events in the run-up to the Commemorative Summit included the 2nd ASEAN-India Car Rally and a Shipping Expedition of the sail training ship INS Sudarshini to ASEAN countries. The INS Sudarshini Expedition was flagged off from Kochi on 15 September 2012. The Ship port calls included Padang, Bali, Manado, Brunei, Cebu, Manila, Da Nang, Sihanoukville, Bangkok, Singapore, Klang, Phuket and Sittwe, before it returns to India via Port Blair to conclude at Kochi.

The ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 was flagged off from Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 26 November 2012. The rally traversed through 8 ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar) and reached Guwahati on 16 December 2012 after covering a distance of about 7600 kms over 21 days. ASEAN and Indian Leaders gave a ceremonial flag down to the Car Rally on 21 December 2012 at New Delhi. Several "Marker" events, including business seminars, tourism road-shows and cultural performances were organized along the route of the Car Rally and the ports of call of INS Sudarshini, to highlight how connectivity can impact business and people-to-people linkages.

ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on the theme 'ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace and Shared Prosperity' was held on 20-21 December 2012 in New Delhi. The Summit was co-chaired by the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen. The Sultan of Brunei; the Presidents of Indonesia and Myanmar; Prime Ministers of Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; Vice President of the Philippines and the ASEAN Secretary General participated at the Summit.

At the Plenary on 20 December 2012, the Leaders unanimously endorsed elevating ASEAN-India partnership to strategic level and adopted the ASEAN-India Vision Statement. The Leaders also welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations on ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements.

The 4th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers Meeting was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 21 January 2013, preceded by the 10th ASEAN-India Tourism working Group Meeting. Protocol to amend the MoU on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed at the meeting.

India hosted Delhi Dialogue V under the theme 'India-ASEAN : Vision for Partnership and Prosperity', on 19-20 February 2013 in New Delhi where leaders, opinion makers, diplomats, academia and think-tanks of India and ASEAN came together to discuss ways to intensify and broaden political, strategic, economic and civil society interaction between the two regions.

India hosted the 15th ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting in New Delhi on 21 February 2013. 20 journalists from ASEAN countries visited India under the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme from 17-23 February 2013.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh of India led the Indian delegation at the 7th East Asia Summit held on 20 November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna participated in the 2nd East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 12 July 2012.

In fulfilment of the announcement made at the 6th EAS, India hosted an 'EAS-India Workshop 2012: Building Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management' in New Delhi on 8-9 November 2012. The first East Asia Summit EAS Education Ministers' Meeting was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 5 July 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Smt D. Purandeswari, then Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The 6th EAS Energy Ministers Meeting was held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 13 September 2012. India was represented at the meeting by a delegation led by Shri R. P. N. Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Informal Meeting of the East Asia Finance Ministers was held in Tokyo, Japan on 13 October 2012, back-to-back with World Bank/IMF meetings. A delegation from the Ministry of Finance led by Shri. P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister represented India at the meeting.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit was held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) on 5-6 November 2012. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation at the Summit. The Leaders welcomed India's offer to host the 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting on 14-15 November 2013 in New Delhi.

Ministerial Level Participation in ASEM related activities during 2012 included (i) 5th ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting, Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 18-19 September 2012, for which the Indian delegation was led by Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture and (ii) 10th ASEM Finance Ministers Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand on 14-15 October 2012, for which the Indian delegation was led by Minister of Finance Shri P Chidambaram.

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

The 29th Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Board of Governors' Meeting was held in New Delhi, from 11-13 October 2012. The Ministry of External Affairs hosted the ASEF Board of Governors' Meeting for the first time since India became a Member of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process in 2007.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

The 6th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held on 4 September 2012 at New Delhi preceded by the MGC Senior Officials Meeting on 3 September 2012. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs. India announced a commitment of US\$ 1 million annually for the India-CLMV Quick Impact Projects Revolving Fund. The Meeting helped to reenergize the MGC dialogue and also identify new areas of cooperation of relevance to the region.

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed attended the 1st ACD Summit in Kuwait City on 16-17 October 2012. The meeting welcomed the proposal of the State of Kuwait, Tajikistan and Thailand to convene a working group meeting to make recommendations regarding various mechanisms including a secretariat to support the work of the ACD and noted Kuwait's offer to host the headquarters of a secretariat. India as a co-prime mover in the area of culture hosted the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural Cooperation in New Delhi on 19-20 April 2012 and offered to publish an "Anthology of Poetry of Eminent Writers of ACD Countries".

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

India participated in the 5th JWG Meeting held on 27-28 June 2012, in Dhaka, Bangladesh and 6th JWG Meeting at Tangail, Bangladesh on 18-19 November 2012, which discussed and finalised provisions relating to financial and administrative matters of BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat.

India also participated in Regional Workshop and Study Visit on Bio-fuels Production and Utilisation on 6-7 June 2012 and in International Training Programme on Aquatic Plants Soilless

Culture and Post-Harvest Technology from 30 July - 28 August 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs hosted 5th BIMSTEC JWG-CTTC Sub-group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues in New Delhi from 8-9 January 2013 where the draft text of Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was finalized. Ministry of Power organised 4th Meeting of Task Force on Trans Power Exchange on 11 January 2013 at New Delhi where the draft text of MoU for the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was discussed.

Nalanda University Project

The East Asia Summit initiative on Nalanda University has gathered momentum. After the Nalanda University Act, 2010 came into force on 25 November 2010, the requirement was to create a governance structure, and then move on to construction, and finally, the development of academic programmes. There has been progress on all fronts.

The President of India is the Visitor of the University. Professor Amartya Sen, Chairman of the Governing Board, was appointed Chancellor on 18 July 2012. The Vice Chancellor and Finance Officer have been appointed, and the Statutes have been notified on 31 March 2012. For continuity in governance, the term of the existing Governing Board has been extended by a year, up to 24 November 2013. The University functions from its Project Office in New Delhi. To monitor progress, a National Monitoring Committee, headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, has been constituted. To improve governance, the Committee to Suggest Amendments to the Nalanda University Act, 2010 has submitted its report.

At its fourth meeting in Patna on 19-20 July 2012, EdCIL's Final Project Report was approved by the Governing Board. The University launched the Architectural Design Competition on 21 November 2012. Indian and foreign companies have been invited to propose a master plan for the campus and designs of buildings that will come up in Phase I of construction, expected to begin in the second half of 2013. The Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment Studies will be the first two of the seven schools, and teaching is expected to begin in the academic session 2014.

On 20 December 2012, the Minister of External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid launched Nalanda University's first publication, "Civilization Dialogue: Asian Inter-connections and Cross-cultural Exchanges" at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in Delhi".

An International Advisory Panel, chaired by Mr George Yeo, The then Foreign Minister of Singapore and a member of the Governing Board, has been constituted. Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Prof Meghnad Desai, Member, Governing Board, Dr Hassan Wirajuda, The then Foreign Minister of Indonesia and presently Member, Council of Presidential Advisers and Mr Li Zhaoxing, The then Foreign Minister of China, and presently Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, National People's Congress, have joined the panel.

India remains the major contributor to the project. After China and Thailand, Laos became the third country to make a financial contribution. Japan has pledged to use its ODA for the renovation of the approach road to the university, and has offered use of the Peace Institute of Japan for promoting Peace Studies in Nalanda University. The Singapore Buddhist community has offered a contribution for the library. An External Endowment Committee, chaired by Shri N.K. Singh, Member of Parliament and a member of the Governing Board, has been constituted.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India intensified its engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during the year. The then External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to Beijing (June 2012) at the Summit of Heads of States of the SCO. External Affairs Minister reiterated that India stands ready to become a full member once the SCO members finalise expansion modalities. Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) led a 2-member delegation to attend the SCO Council of Heads of Governments meeting in Bishkek on 4-5 December 2012. India offered its greater engagement with SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure and with member states in coordinating efforts to deal with threats emanating from terrorism and drug trafficking. India emphasized on the need for a transport network for free flow of people, trade and energy through the region.



India continued its proactive approach to catalyse regional engagement among the SAARC Member States. The new Secretary General of SAARC Ambassador Ahmad Saleem visited India from 18-21 April 2012, during which he called on Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and met Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai.

An Indian delegation headed by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare participated in the 4th SAARC Health Ministers Meeting from 10-12 April 2012 in Male, Maldives. A Male Resolution on Regional Health Issues was adopted. A SAARC Regional Strategy on Communicable Diseases was also launched during the meeting. Progress on an Indian initiative, SAARC Tele-Medicine Project, which is currently being implemented in Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan, was shared with other SAARC Member States.

Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission participated in the 7th SAARC Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commission/equivalent bodies held in Thimphu on 19-20 April 2012. The Meeting discussed important topics including mutual recognition of professional degrees, achieving the goal of a common regional educational standard, quality assurance and accreditation mechanism and harmonization of curriculum of SAARC countries.

Election Management Bodies of SAARC countries collaborate and share experiences under the SAARC Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies. India hosted the 3rd Conference of Heads of Election Management Bodies in New Delhi from 30 April - 3 March 2012, which was attended by all SAARC Member States. During the Conference India announced its offer to organize training courses for mid-career election management officer of SAARC countries.

India hosted the 10th SAARC Conference on Cooperation in Police Matters, which was chaired by Director, Intelligence Bureau. Chiefs of Police Departments of SAARC countries attended the event. The Conference was preceded by a meeting of focal points of SAARC Terrorism Offences Monitoring Desks (STOMD) and the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desks (SDOMD).

With an aim to promote tourism within the SAARC region, India organized a conclave of SAARC Tour Operators in New Delhi on 6-7 July 2012. Delegates from all SAARC Member States participated in the event which was inaugurated by Minister of Tourism Shri Subodh Kant Sahay.

The 15th meeting of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC) was held on 15-16 July 2012. The Indian delegation was led by the Commerce Secretary.

Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde led the Indian delegation at the 5th Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers held from 24-26 September 2012 in Maldives, which was preceded by the Meeting of the SAARC Interior/Home Secretaries and SAARC Immigration Officials. The Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestation and called for collective action against it.

During the 17th SAARC Summit held in Maldives in November 2011, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had commended the establishment of South Asian Postal Union (SAPU) and announced a training programme for capacity building in the postal field. During the year, a training programme "International Mail Accounting for SAARC Officials" was organised from 15-19 October 2012, at the Rafi Ahmad Kidwai National Postal Academy, Ghaziabad. An ad-hoc Secretariat of SAPU was set up in New Delhi during the year. Shri S. Samant, a former officer of the Indian Postal Services was appointed the Secretary General. A Preparatory Conference of SAPU was held in New Delhi on 18 - 19 December 2012 to prepare for the SAPU Congress scheduled for March 2013.

The 6th Conference of Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians was held in Islamabad from 4-6 November 2012. Indian delegation was led by Speaker Smt Meira Kumar. The SAARC Parliamentarians discussed participatory democracy and food security. The Chair was transferred from India to Pakistan during the Conference.

The SAARC Cultural Festival 2012 was inaugurated by Minister of External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid on 7 December 2012. As part of this, the South Asian Bands Festival featuring bands from SAARC countries was held at Purana Qila, New Delhi.

from 7-9 December 2012. An Exhibition of Paintings 'Colours of SAARC' was inaugurated by the Foreign Secretary at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi on 7 December 2012. The Cultural Festival, which also includes SAARC Festival of Literature, will be held on 10-11 March 2013 in Agra.

The SAARC Charter Day, which is observed annually, was celebrated by SAARC Regional Centres and Apex Bodies on 8 December 2012. The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature

(FOSWAL) organised events that enabled the message of SAARC to be carried to the business and literary communities respectively. Activities were organized by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre and SAARC Documentation Centre involving the younger generation.

India would host the 4th SAARC Youth Camp at the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Tamil Nadu from 11-15 February 2013 under the theme "Youth as Ambassadors in Global Partnership for Development".



Development Cooperation occupies an important place in India's foreign policy. In recent years, India's development programmes abroad have expanded considerably, both in geographical spread and sectoral coverage. In January 2012, the Ministry of External Affairs took the important initiative to set up the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) for ensuring speedy and efficient implementation of Government of India's external economic assistance programmes. DPA has been mandated to establish procedures for the efficient handling of Indian development projects through the stages of concept, launch, execution and completion. It aims to streamline and upgrade capacity building programmes under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation and other schemes. DPA functions in close coordination with the concerned Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, which continue to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries on the selection of projects to be undertaken. The responsibility for implementation and execution of the projects rests with DPA.

In 2012-13 the transfer of projects to DPA from the various Territorial Divisions in the Ministry progressed in tandem with DPA developing the technical expertise required to handle multiple projects in diverse sectors and regions through various stages of project appraisal, implementation monitoring and evaluation. Projects under the Lines of Credit to various developing countries and developmental projects in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and African countries were the main areas of DPA's focus in its formative stages. The technical assistance programmes, involving civilian and military capacity-building, continued to expand.

Lines of Credit

One of the key elements of India's development assistance in recent years has been the extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms to least developed and developing countries. Lines of Credit continue to be an important component of India's development cooperation strategy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation, LoCs enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure

development and capacity building, in accordance with their developmental priorities.

Over the last decade, 164 LoCs for an amount of US\$ 9.2 billion have been allocated, of which US\$ 5.3 billion was allocated for African countries and US\$ 3.9 billion for non-African countries. During the current financial year, LoCs amounting to US\$ 188.32 million have been allocated to Africa; including US\$ 15 million to Republic of Benin for construction of a tractor assembly plant and farm equipment manufacturing unit, US\$ 19.72 million to Mozambique for a rural drinking water project, US\$ 28.60 million to Zimbabwe for up-gradation of Deka pumping station and river water intake system for the Hwange Power Station and US\$ 125 million to Sudan for the Mashkour sugar project. The commitment of LoCs to non-African countries include US\$ 500 million to Myanmar for various projects (announced in May 2012 during Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's visit to Myanmar) and US\$ 2.71 million to Government of Cuba for a bulk blending fertilizer plant.

The Government of India also extended a LoC of US\$ 200 mn to Government of Sri Lanka for the Sampur Power Project in Trincomalee in fulfilment of a commitment announced during the visit of President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010. The Project is a Joint Venture between National Thermal Power Corporation and Ceylon Electricity Board. The LoC will be utilized for the construction of a jetty at Sampur and of transmission lines from Sampur to Habarana.

On-going projects under LoCs already extended to Sri Lanka progressed satisfactorily. The track laying of Southern Railway corridor from Colombo to Matara was completed in April 2012. This section opened for commercial traffic on 19 April 2012. The supply of rolling stocks and other items for this project was completed in August 2012. Implementation of the railway projects in the Omanthai-Pallai, Medawachchiya-Madhu and Madhu Church-Tallaimannar sectors under LoC of US\$ 416.39 million progressed well. Work also commenced on track laying on the Pallai-Kankesanthurai railway line (US\$ 146.34 million) and supply of signal and telecommunication equipments for the Northern Railway line (US\$ 86.52 million).

In 2010, the Government of India had announced a US\$ 1 billion LoC to Bangladesh. In 2012, it was decided to convert an amount

of US\$ 200 million of this into a grant, to be utilized by Bangladesh for projects to which its government attached priority. Of the balance US\$ 800 million available under the LoC, 12 projects aggregating US\$ 656.34 million have been mutually identified. These include projects for Rolling Stock - freight wagons, locomotives and Diesel Electric Multiple Units and supply of 290 double-deckers, 100 single-decker and 50 articulated buses. The double-decker buses have already been delivered and are running in Dhaka. A mechanism of Quarterly Review meetings with the Government of Bangladesh and various stakeholders has been put in place; this has streamlined procedures for speedy and efficient implementation of LoC projects.

Lines of Credit have been extended to other countries of South East Asia and Central Asia as well in various sectors such as water resources development and irrigation, power transmission and generation and rural electrification. The Paksong/S-S-Jiangxai 115 KV, double circuit Transmission line project and the Nam Song 7.5 MW hydropower project under the US\$ 33 million to Lao PDR have been successfully completed. Under the three LoCs aggregating US\$ 60 million to Cambodia, work on the Stung Tasal Water development project is progressing satisfactorily with the construction of dam and infrastructure works. An agreement to extend an LoC of US\$ 20 mn to Mongolia was signed in February 2012 for the India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education & Outsourcing Center (IMJIT) Project.

Two LoCs had been extended to the Government of Nepal, one for US\$ 100 million in 2007 and another for US\$ 250 million in 2010. Under the LoC of US\$ 100 million, 14 contracts aggregating US\$ 82.05 million have been approved for road projects, rural electrification projects, power transmission and hydro power projects. Of these, the rehabilitation of Devighat hydro power project, upgradation of the Chakchake-Liwang Road and Bhaluwang-Pyuthan Road have been completed. The US\$ 250 million LoC is for financing infrastructure projects including highways, bridges, airports and irrigation projects.

As part of the monitoring of on-going projects, Review Missions visited Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon, Sudan, Djibouti and Senegal. Performance Reports were also received from several Indian Missions and from Exim Bank, the Lender's agent for Government of India LoCs.

Development Projects with grant assistance in neighbouring countries

In pursuance of India's commitment towards the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, a number of projects in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture,

industry, education and health which have been identified by Afghanistan's Government as priority areas for development, are being implemented with the assistance of Government of India. On-going projects in Afghanistan include reconstruction of Salma Dam (42 MW) in Herat province; two substations at Doshi and Charikar; construction of the Afghan Parliament; restoration of Stor Palace; provision of medical services and medicines through Indian Medical Missions; donation of 1 million tonnes of wheat, both as grain and in the form of high protein biscuits; assistance for the Indira Gandhi International Children's Hospital in Kabul; upgrading an Agricultural University; establishing an Institute of Mining; and supply of buses, computers and other requirements.

Education and capacity building continue to be an important area of India's development partnership with Afghanistan. Capacity building programmes being implemented include university scholarships for Afghan nationals (organized by ICCR); 674 Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) scholarships, 593 short-term training courses for civilian and defence personnel and deputation of 30 Indian civil servants under Capacity for Afghan Public Administration (CAP) programme. The Phase II of the CII-run India-Afghan Vocational Training Centre for training of Afghan nationals in carpentry, plumbing, welding, masonry and tailoring and Phase II of a SEWA project for training of women in garment making, food processing and marketing are being finalised. Over the past three years, the first two phases of a Small Development Project scheme funded community-based projects in vulnerable border areas in agriculture, rural development, education, health and vocational training, which had direct and visible impact on community life. The third phase of Small Development Projects to cover additional projects worth US\$ 100 million has been launched.

A diverse range of development projects, including cross-border projects, are being implemented in Myanmar. Important ongoing projects include the Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Project (which will provide connectivity between ports on India's eastern sea board and Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and then up to the India-Myanmar border); the Trilateral Highway (which will connect India with Myanmar and Thailand) and other road projects; an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education, a Rice Bio-park, Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, upgradation of Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital; and Language Labs and an e-resource centre in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

India-Nepal economic cooperation has intensified and diversified continuously since 1951. The important ongoing developmental projects being implemented by the Government



Finchaa Sugar Factory coming up under the Indian Grant Assistance, Lines of Credit to Ethiopia for development of sugar industry



Participants of the Capacity Building Programme on Solar Electrification under Indian Grant Assistance with the Prime Minister of Fiji

of India are construction of Terai Roads (19 roads with total length of 605 km, serving about 8.8 million people in the border regions and promoting trade and industry); construction of Integrated Check Posts on the India-Nepal border; cross-border railway links; a 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu; construction of electric transmission lines; and setting up of a Polytechnic at Hetauda.

India's multi-sectoral partnership development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on priorities identified by Sri Lanka. Projects thus identified and being implemented with the assistance of Government of India include development of the Kankesanthurai Harbour, building the Jaffna Cultural Centre, restoration of Thirukatheswaram temple, creation of the Indian Gallery at the International Buddhist Museum in Kandy and construction of a 150-bed Hospital at Dickoya.

India is contributing to the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka through a major housing construction initiative. A Pilot project for construction of 1000 housing units across 25 sites in five districts of the Northern Province at a cost of Rs 530 million was completed in July 2012. A MoU was signed between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on 17 January 2012, under which India would fund the construction and repair of 43,000 houses in an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces and of 6000 housing units on an agency driven model over three years. The owner driven model involves the beneficiaries directly in the construction of their houses and the release of funds into their bank accounts in instalments linked to the stages of construction. The owner-driven housing construction was launched in a function on 2 October 2012 by the High Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka and the Minister for Economic Development of the Government of Sri Lanka, when land titles and the first instalment of payment were released to about 1500 beneficiaries. Release of subsequent instalments has progressed as per physical milestones for completion of housing units. The number of beneficiaries covered by the end of 2012 was over 4000.

The process for the construction of 4,000 houses under the agency-driven model in the Central/Uva provinces commenced in the year under review.

Development Projects in Africa and other regions

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, responsive to the needs of the African countries and sharing development experiences. Over the last ten years in particular, there has been a significant intensification of our engagement in economic development

and capacity building through development partnerships with various African countries. The two India-Africa Forum Summits [IAFS I & II] in 2008 and 2011 imparted a further vigour to our partnership with the continent.

Under grant assistance, support was extended to the educational and health sectors of Malawi, Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania in the current year. In Malawi, India supplied equipment worth Rs 14.7 million for educational institutions and Rs 60 million for the health sector. Botswana received supplies of medical and IT equipment valued at Rs 57.3 million in the current year. In Namibia, the supply of IT-related equipment for hospital management valued at over Rs 100 million is under process. The supplies of equipment for the Victoria Hospital in Seychelles continued.

Important IAFS projects under implementation are the Rural Technology Parks (RTPs) in five countries of Africa - Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Sudan, Cote d' Ivoire and Republic of Congo. These RTPs will be implemented by National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad. Detailed preliminary studies were conducted by NIRD in two countries - Malawi and Zimbabwe. Under the commitments for capacity building, training programmes for African personnel are scheduled to be conducted by NIRD in the current year in areas like decentralization and local governance, watershed management, promotion of rural micro enterprises, management of drinking water and participatory poverty reduction measures. To establish cooperation between National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), a programme for exchange of expertise was organized during the year, in association with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

A number of bilateral projects were undertaken during the period in Archaeological Conservation; Information and Computer Technology and Small & Medium Enterprises. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is doing conservation and restoration work at Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia, Wat Phou Temple in Lao PDR and Ananda Temple in Myanmar. A Vocational Training Centre in the Construction Sector work in Aceh, Indonesia and a project in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises in Zimbabwe were completed. During the year, ICT (Information & Communication Technology) Centres have been completed in Vietnam, El-Salvador and Nicaragua. ICT Centres are under implementation in Syria, Grenada and Dominican Republic; others are in the pipeline.

Aid for Disaster Relief

India rendered relief assistance to countries affected by natural calamities. Relief assistance in cash or kind was rendered to Republic of Congo, Libya, Bangladesh, Fiji, Syria and Myanmar.



View of Salma dam being constructed in Afghanistan under Indian grant assistance



India is contributing to the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka, under which India would fund the construction and repair of 43,000 houses in an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces and of 6000 housing units on an agency driven model over three years.

Capacity Building through Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC & SCAAP)

As in earlier years, capacity building through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) was an important component of India's assistance to the developing world in 2012-13. The utility and relevance of these programmes was reflected in the increasing number of participants in them. During 2012-13, over 8000 civilian training slots were allotted to 161 developing countries (list at Appendix IV). The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India, in 47 institutions, conducted around 280 courses, primarily short-term, for working professionals in a diverse range of skills and disciplines. Training was imparted to Government officials and others in areas such as finance & accounts, audit, banking, education, planning & administration, parliamentary studies, crime records, textiles, rural electrification, tool design, ophthalmologic equipment etc. In addition, general courses pertaining to rural development, SMEs and entrepreneurship development also attracted many participants (A list of institutions offering civilian training courses is at Appendix V).

The ITEC website was revamped during the year to make access to information easier and to speed up the application and approval process for the various courses. The ITEC Day functions at Missions abroad and social networking tools strengthened engagement with ITEC/SCAAP alumni.

The ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral in nature. However, in recent years, ITEC resources have also been used for cooperation programmes conceived in regional and inter-regional contexts such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Economic Commission for Africa, African Union, Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commonwealth, World Trade Organisation (WTO), Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and the India-Africa Forum Summit.

Special Courses

At the specific request of partner countries, special courses were conducted/scheduled during 2012-13 for Armenia, Bhutan, Mozambique and other countries at the International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) New Delhi, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR), Mussoorie and Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), New Delhi.

Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) under Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and the Pacific is a regional inter-government initiative established in 1951 to enhance economic and social development of the countries of the region. During 2012-13, 500 training slots were allocated for the 18 Colombo Plan member countries. This included 90 slots placed at the disposal of the Colombo Plan Secretariat. The areas of training covered human resource development, audit & accounts, commerce, information technology, computer education, parliamentary matters, rural development, textile, water resources, medical sciences, engineering, financial management, insurance etc.

With a financial grant from the Government of India, Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), Manila commenced implementation of a two-year technical cooperation programme entitled 'Asia-Pacific Capacity Building Project for Technical Human Resources Development - TVET Skills for Poverty Alleviation' in 2010-11. The 2nd Regional Workshop for a mid-term review of the project was organized by CPSC from 12-14 November 2012.

Defence Training

Defence training under ITEC Programme in various Defence training institutions continued to be popular. During 2012-13, 1500 Defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialized nature, and included security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counter insurgency and jungle warfare, as also foundation courses for young officers in the three services. Applications to premier defence courses at the National Defence College (NDC) New Delhi and Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) Wellington were oversubscribed and also attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

Deputation of Experts

At the request of Governments and international organizations, 26 experts in various civilian and defence fields were sent on deputation to share expertise in areas including information technology, auditing, legal affairs, agriculture, pharmacology, statistics, demography, public administration and textiles. The services of defence teams have been availed by Laos, Mauritius, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia and Uganda in training and advisory capacities. Deputation of experts has helped contribute towards building of institutions of national importance in partner countries.



Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division created within Ministry of External Affairs gives a definite direction and focus to the economic diplomacy strategy. It regularly engages with Export Promotion Councils, Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Industry Associations and Government Departments/ Ministries in promoting common objectives of facilitating trade and investment & technology acquisition.

In order to facilitate foreign investment inflows, the Division works closely with Department of Economic Affairs as a member of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board; with the Department of Financial Services and Special Committee on Overseas Investment in Reserve Bank of India on banking and related issues; and with Ministry of Civil Aviation in matters relating to Civil Aviation talks, Air Services Agreement (ASA) with other Countries/foreign Airlines, improvement in air services of foreign and Indian Carriers. On issues relating to investment in infrastructure such as ports etc, it works in conjunction with Ministry of Shipping and other relevant Departments of Government. Thus, ITP Division on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs actively participates in formulation of policies in various Government Ministries/ Departments to provide an international perspective.

As the nodal point for facilitation of India's trade, investment, technology-transfer related matters, it worked closely with Indian Missions abroad. A budget of Rs 5 Crore for 2012-13 under Market Expansion Activities was utilized by Indian Missions to formulate strategies and carry out programmes / investment promotion activities abroad. This enabled the Commercial Wings in Indian Missions to respond effectively and in a time bound manner to the expectations of the Indian private sector in not only handling the routine trade and investment enquiries, providing information on economic and business climate in the countries of their accreditation, but more importantly in identifying new business opportunities by undertaking promotional activities such as market surveys,

seminars, workshops, outreach activities targeting Chambers of Commerce, Industry Associations etc. In order to identify focus sectors and focus countries for better allocation and utilization of funds, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade was commissioned to prepare a Strategy paper on allocation of funds. Considering their significance, potential markets in the Latin American, African and Asia-Pacific region have been given due importance. This policy is in alignment with the broad objectives of the Foreign Trade Policy of 2009-14.

ITP Division's website India In Business (<http://www.indiainbusiness.nic.in>) provides information on doing business in India, current statistics, Government of India policies, sectoral updates, investment & business opportunities, economic & commercial news, new policy initiatives, India's bilateral & multilateral economic relations, useful links to various Government agencies and Chambers of Commerce etc. This is a one stop source of information on investment opportunities in India, facilitates business match-making by responding to investor queries and provides backup support to Indian Missions and is regularly updated. Weekly and monthly bulletins are provided to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

An information booklet and guide titled 'India in Business' is brought out annually for dissemination by the Indian Missions at local business and trade promotion events. This booklet cum CD contains updated information on India's FDI policy and investment opportunities in the country.

ITP Division actively liaised with State Governments for adequate and timely dissemination of information on investment opportunities. State Governments of Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh were assisted in disseminating information about investor summits organised by them in 2012. It also assisted in co-coordinating seminars, conferences and delegations. Trade and investment obstacles/ disputes and other bilateral outstanding issues were also addressed by the Division.



Energy Security

Energy Security Division serves as the nodal point for energy related matters in the Ministry. Besides energy security, issues relating to country's food security, fertilizer and mineral resources are included in the charter of responsibilities of this division.

The Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to ensure energy security for the country while addressing the twin objectives of economic growth and providing energy access. India's high dependence on imported energy resources were adeptly managed by maintaining sustained diplomatic interventions and having close coordination with the line ministries and departments including Petroleum & Natural Gas, Coal, Power, New & Renewable Energy, Mines, Steel, Agriculture, Food and Fertilizers and Atomic Energy. The Division also assists their efforts to further diversify the overseas supply base for energy/fertilizer/mineral resources.

India is an active participant in international bodies related to energy that discuss and shape global policy on energy issues. The Division contributed either directly or through the line ministries, in the deliberations of the international organisations such as International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC), the Clean Energy Ministerial [CEM], Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), International Energy Forum (IEF) and Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI). India has enhanced its engagement in the International Energy Agency (IEA), which conducted an Emergency Response Exercise in May 2012 in India. The Division has also supported the efforts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to form a ministerial level Energy Club of the organisation. The Division continued to provide inputs that articulated India's position on energy and food security matters in various multilateral fora including UNGA, G-20, ASEM, ACD, East Asia Summit, BRICS, CICA, IBSA and NAM.

The Division was represented in the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) 2012, London in April 2012 and is involved in the preparations for the CEM 2013 to be held in New Delhi. UN-ESCAP is leading the efforts to hold a ministerial level meeting of the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum in Vladivostok from 27-29

May 2013. Towards this end UN-ESCAP organised sub-regional consultation meeting for South and South-West Asia on 6-7 November 2012 in New Delhi and the Regional Expert Group Meeting in Bangkok from 21-23 November 2012. The Energy Security Division represented India in these meetings.

The Division contributed to the structured energy dialogues with United States, Japan and European Union. A Joint Declaration for Enhanced Cooperation on Energy between India and the European Union was adopted during India-EU Summit held on 10 February 2012. The India-US Energy Dialogue was held in Washington from 25 -28 September 2012. The India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held in Tokyo on 10 October 2012. During the visit of the Australian PM from 15-17 October 2012, it was decided to commence an annual ministerial level India-Australia Energy Security Dialogue at the level of Australian Federal Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism and the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission from the Indian side. The first India-Australia energy dialogue was held on 3 December 2012. During the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister, both countries agreed to focus cooperation in energy and joint efforts to develop capacities to maximize the utilization of energy resources ranging from oil and gas to new hydrocarbon resources such as oil sands, shale gas and other sources of energy including renewable energy. It was agreed to elevate the discussions to the Ministerial level, and to explore the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of oil and gas. The Division participated in the meetings of India-Pakistan Experts Group on trade in Petroleum and Petrochemical Products in New Delhi on 17-18 July 2012, Joint Working Group meeting with Russia on Energy and Energy Efficiency in New Delhi on 12 October 2012, India-Kuwait JWG held in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2012 and the 10th meeting of India-Kazakhstan Inter-Government Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation held at New Delhi on 8-9 January 2013.

The proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline (TAPI pipeline project) made further progress during the year with the signing of Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement with Turkmenistan in May 2012. Subsequently the participant countries of the project held Road

Shows in order to identify a consortium which would finance, build and operate the pipeline.

International Conferences organized in 2012 included Asia Gas Partnership Summit in March 2012 and Petrotech Conference held in October 2012 under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the International Seminar on Energy Access organized by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in October 2012. The Division and Confederation of Indian Industry

jointly organized an Energy Security Conference on 13 December 2012. India made a successful bid to host the 36th International Geological Congress [IGC] in 2020.

The Division brought out an Energy Security Handbook on energy issues and also published four regional reports on key energy rich countries and two research papers namely 'Pipelines and Energy Diplomacy' and 'Prospects and Challenges of Coal Bed Methane Production'.



Counter Terrorism (CT)

India continued its structured dialogue through Joint Working Groups (JWGs) with partner countries on Counter Terrorism during the year. India held JWG-CT with the following countries/ organizations:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Country/ Organization | Date | Venue |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. | European Union | 10 January 2012 | New Delhi |
| 2. | China | 1 March 2012 | New Delhi |
| 3. | Russia | 11 April 2012 | New Delhi |
| 4. | Kazakhstan | 29 May 2012 | Astana |
| 5. | United States of America | 1 June 2012 | Washington |
| 6. | Malaysia | 4 October 2012 | New Delhi |
| 7. | Japan | 6 November 2012 | Tokyo |
| 8. | France | 19 November 2012 | New Delhi |
| 9. | United Kingdom | 20 November 2012 | New Delhi |
| 10. | Canada | 29 November 2012 | New Delhi |
| 11. | Israel | 20 February 2013 | New Delhi |

India is one of the 30 founding members of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) which was established in 2011. The GCTF seeks to mobilize expertise and resources for civilian capacity building and to evolve norms in areas such as the criminal justice system and countering violent extremism. At present GCTF has five working groups dealing with: (i) Criminal Justice/ Rule of Law; (ii) Countering Violent Extremism; (iii) Capacity Building in Sahel; (iv) Capacity Building in Horn of Africa Region; and (v) Capacity Building in South-East Asia. India participated in the meetings of the GCTF including its Working Groups during the year. Special Secretary (Pol., PP&R), Ministry of External Affairs represented India at the Ministerial and the Coordination Committee Meeting of the GCTF held in Abu Dhabi on 13-14 December 2012.

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.

The Division prepared draft speeches for the External Affairs Minister, Minister of State 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 senior officials of Government of India. The Division has been tasked with compiling, printing and distributing the Ministry of External Affairs Annual Report in a time-bound manner. The Report is an exhaustive compilation of India's global relations during the report period with nations of the world and various international fora of importance; The Division also collates and compiles material for 'India and Abroad' chapter of India, the annual publication of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Division continued its co-operation with the Institute of Foreign Policy under the aegis of University of Calcutta, with active support and financial assistance of the Ministry of External 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 is responsible for scrutinising the depiction of India's external boundaries in foreign publications, imported into the country, and offers its advice to concerned Ministries, dealing with this matter.

Requests by research scholars for access to old records of the Ministry and access to old maps in National Archives of India were also processed.

Situation Room

The Situation Room in the Ministry of External Affairs is a multifaceted, multi facility state of the art complex. It has the requisite communication connectivity 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 many Divisions for presentations & conferences including telephone /video conferences etc. It acts as a multi facility complex facilitating conferences, presentations, periodic briefings, video / telephone conferences with Head of Missions, discussions on maps and images as required by various Divisions of the Ministry.

A new Situation Room in Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan will become operational this year.

Boundary Cell

The Boundary Cell examines all aspects of India's external boundaries and map sheets involving international boundaries of India in coordination with the Survey of India, for publication. It provides cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to other Divisions in the Ministry of External Affairs. It assists in the collection and digitization of the available cartographic strip/Basis maps. The Cell also liaisons with Survey of India / State Governments on joint boundary survey work including maintenance / repairs of boundary pillars and on reports of any encroachment into Indian Territory (maintaining database etc.). It also gives assistance in the collection and digitization of information pertaining to the Maritime Boundary, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also the delineation of the Continental Shelf. It scrutinizes restricted map sheets in coordination with the Ministry of the Defence and liaisons with the Naval Hydrographic Office and Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The Boundary Cell is the repository of all maps/documents/ information pertaining to India's international borders. Boundary Cell has participated in various Internal / Inter-Ministerial meetings on International Land and Maritime Boundary of India as given below:-

Provided Cartographic and technical inputs to various Division of the Ministry on different aspects of International Boundary (Land and Maritime).

Provided inputs for Inter-Ministerial meetings organized by various Territorial Divisions.

Provided Cartographic inputs on the Boundary conferences/ meetings on India-Bangladesh International Boundary with the concerned State Governments.

Inputs provided to Legal & Treaties Division on India Bangladesh Maritime and Land Boundary.

Provided inputs to Policy Planning & Research Division on wrong depictions of the external boundary of India by various international agencies on the internet.

Participated in the joint field visits with Bangladesh team to areas along India- Bangladesh International Boundary for facilitating joint survey.

Organized field visit to Survey of India for IFS Probationers on boundary matters.



Protocol Division of the Ministry of External Affairs coordinated 94 incoming and 23 outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister during April 2012 - January 2013.

The Conference Cell of Protocol Division coordinated the 6th Mekong-Ganga Conference on 3-4 September 2012 in New Delhi and the 12th IOR-ARC Conference at Gurgaon (Haryana)

on 1-2 November 2012. The Division also coordinated the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit at Delhi on 20-21 December 2012 wherein 10 ASEAN Heads of State/ Government participated and also the ceremonial flag down of the ASEAN Car Rally on 21 December 2102. During the period the Republic of Singapore opened its Trade Office in New Delhi and the United Kingdom opened its Deputy High Commissions in Hyderabad and Chandigarh.

Incoming State / Official Working Visits at the level of President / Vice President / Prime Minister during the period April 2012 - January 2013

| Sl No | Name of Dignitary and Details | Dates |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan (official) | 8 April 2012 |
| 2. | Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of State of Qatar (state) | 8-10 April 2012 |
| 3. | Dr Mohamed Waheed, President of Maldives (official) | 11-15 May 2012 |
| 4. | Mr Fernando Lugo Mendez, President of Paraguay (official) | 23-25 May 2012 |
| 5. | Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Kingdom of Bahrain (official) | 30 - 31 May 2012 |
| 6. | Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Mrs Lee Hsien Loong (State) | 10 - 12 July 2012 |
| 7. | Mr Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan (State) | 1 - 4 September 2012 |
| 8. | Comodore Josava Voreque Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji | 5 - 8 September 2012 |
| 9. | Mr Lyonchhen Jigmi Yozzer Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan | 6 - 10 September 2012 |
| 10. | Mr Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority of the state of Palestine (State) | 10 - 12 September 2012 |
| 11. | Mr Pierre Nkurunziza, President of Republic of Burundi and Mrs Denise Bucumi Nkurunziza (State) | 17 - 19 September 2012 |
| 12. | Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka | 19 - 22 September 2012 |
| 13. | Mr Lyonchhen Jigmi Yozzer Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan | 19 - 22 September 2012 |
| 14. | Ms Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia (State) | 15 - 17 October 2012 |
| 15. | Mr Juan Carlos I, King of Spain (State) | 24 - 27 October 2012 |
| 16. | Mr Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada & Mrs Laureen Harper | 4 - 9 November 2012 |
| 17. | Mr Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan | 9 - 13 November 2012 |
| 18. | Mr Mikhail V Myasnikov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus | 13 - 14 November 2012 |
| 19. | Mr Huynh Dam, Chairman of the Fatherland Front of Vietnam | 29 November - 7 December 2012 |
| 20. | Mr Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine | 9 - 12 December 2012 |
| 21. | Mr Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation | 24 December 2012 |

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| 22. | Dr Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal | 24 - 29 December 2012 |
| 23. | ASEAN Summit | |
| i | Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam | 19 - 21 December 2012 |
| ii | Mr Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia | 19 - 21 December 2012 |
| iii | Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia | 19 - 20 December 2012 |
| iv | Mr Thongsing Thammavong, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic | 20 - 21 December 2012 |
| v | Dato Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia | 19 - 21 December 2012 |
| vi | Mr U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar | 20 - 22 December 2012 |
| vii | Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand | 20 - 21 December 2012 |
| viii | Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam | 20 - 21 December 2012 |
| ix | Mr Jejomar C. Binay, Vice President of the Republic of Philippines | 18 - 22 December 2012 |
| x | Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore | 19 - 21 December 2012 |
| xi | Mr Rajkeswur Purryag, President of the Republic of Mauritius | 7-10 January 2013 |

Incoming Visits at the level of Foreign Minister and other dignitaries during the period April 2012 - November 2012

| Sl No | Name of Dignitary and Details | Dates |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Dr Abdul Samad Abdulla, Foreign Minister of Maldives | 1-4 April 2012 |
| 2 | Mr Milan Rocen, Foreign Minister of Montenegro | 10-12 April 2012 |
| 3 | Mr Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary General | 26-29 April 2012 |
| 4 | Mr Koichiro Gemba, Foreign Minister of Japan | 29 April - 1 May 2012 |
| 5 | Dr Zalmi Rassoul, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan | 30 April - 2 May 2012 |
| 6 | Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, USA | 6-8 May 2012 |
| 7 | Dr Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh | 6-8 May 2012 |
| 8 | Mr K Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore | 6-10 May 2012 |
| 9 | Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates | 17-18 May 2012 |
| 10 | Dr Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran | 31 May - 1 June 2012 |
| 11 | Dr Guido Westerwelle, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany | 22 - 23 June 2012 |
| 12 | Dr Zalmi Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan | 29 June 2012 |
| 13 | Dr Arvin Boolell, GOSK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International trade of the Republic of Mauritius | 4 - 7 July 2012 |
| 14 | Madam Monique Bozize, First Lady of the Central African Republic (Private) | 8 - 14 July 2012 |
| 15 | Mr Karel Schwarzenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (Transits) | 16 & 19 July 2012 |
| 16 | Dr R M Marty M Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia | 26-27 July 2012 |
| 17 | Mr Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of Belgium and Mrs Bernadette Reynders | 1 - 5 & 8 - 12 August 2012 |
| 18 | Mr Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba | 5 - 8 August 2012 |
| 19 | Mr Alfredo Moreno Charne, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile | 6 - 8 August 2012 |
| 20 | Mr Nicolas Maduro Moros, Minister of Popular Power for External Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela | 7 - 8 August 2012 |

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| 21 | Mr K Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Law of Singapore (Private) | 27 - 31 August 2012 |
| 22 | Mr Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand (6 MGC Meeting) | 2 - 5 September 2012 |
| 23 | Mr U. Maung Myint, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar (6 MGC Meeting) | 3 - 4 September 2012 |
| 24 | Mr Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia (6 MGC Meeting) | 3 - 5 September 2012 |
| 25 | Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR (6 MGC Meeting) | 3 - 5 September 2012 |
| 26 | Mr Pham Quang Vinh, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (6 MGC Meeting) | 3 - 6 September 2012 |
| 27 | Mr John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada | 9 - 13 September 2012 |
| 28 | Mr Dmitry Olegovich Rogozin, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation & Mrs Tatyana Gennadyevna Rogozina (Official) | 13 - 15 October 2012 |
| 29 | Mr Luis Liberman Ginsberg, Second Vice President of Costa Rica (Private) | 15 - 20 October 2012 |
| 30 | Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairperson, Bangladesh Nationalist Party & Leader of Opposition, Bangladesh National Parliament | 28 October - 3 November 2012 |
| 31 | Mr Richard Marles, Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 32 | Mr Mohamed Mijarul Quayes, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of Bangladesh (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 33 | Mr Budi Bowoleksono, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 34 | Mr Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh, Deputy Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 35 | Prof Ambassador Samson Onger, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kenya (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 36 | Mr Pierrot Jocelyn Rajaonarivelo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Madagascar (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 37 | Mr Richard Riot Jaem, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 38 | Mr Anundpriyay Neewoor, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mauritius (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 39 | Mr Henrique Banze, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of Republic of Mozambique (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 40 | Mr Yousuf Alawi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sultanate of Oman (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 41 | Mr Jean Paul Adam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Seychelles (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 42 | Mr Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad, Senior Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, Singapore (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 43 | Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim, Deputy Minister, Department of International Relations & Cooperation, Republic of South Africa (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 44 | Prof Gamini Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 45 | Dr Abdallah Omari Kigoda, Minister of Industry and Trade of United Republic of Tanzania (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 46 | Mr Navin Boonseat, Secretary to the Foreign Minister, Office of the Minister, Thailand (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |

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| 47 | Dr Anwar Mohamed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of United Arab Emirates (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 48 | Dr Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Yemen (IOR-ARC) | 1 - 2 November 2012 |
| 49 | Mr William Hague, MP, Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom | 7 - 9 November, 2012 |
| 50 | Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson, National League for Democracy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar | 13 - 17 November 2012 |
| 51 | Mr Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, Former President of the Federative Republic of Brazil | 21 - 23 November 2012 |

Conferences held during the period April 2012- November 2012

| Sl No. | Name of Conference | Dates |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 6th MGC Conference | 3-4 September 2012 |
| 2 | 12th IOR-ARC Conference | 1-2 November 2012 |

Private / Transit Visits at the Level of President / Vice President / Prime Minister during the period April - November 2012

| Sl No. | Name of Dignitary and Details | Dates |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis (Private) | 5-9 April 2012 |
| 2 | Mr Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan (Transit) | 6 - 8 April 2012 |
| 3 | Commodore Josaia Voreque Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji (Private) | 21-29 April 2012 |
| 4 | Mr Lyonchen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan (Transit) | 13 June 2012 |
| 5 | Dr Baburam Bhattarai, Prime Minister of Nepal (Transit) | 25 June 2012 |
| 6 | Mr Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan (Transit) | 26 - 27 June 2012 |
| 7 | Mr Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic (Transits) | 4 & 10 July 2012 |
| 8 | Mr Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia (Private) | 16 - 17 July 2012 |
| 9 | Dr Boni Yayi, President of Republic of Benin (Transit) | 17 July 2012 |
| 10 | Mr Maha Vajiralongkorn, Crown Prince of Thailand (Transit) | 29 July 2012 |
| 11 | Mr Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of Fiji (Private) | 5-8 August 2012 |
| 12 | Mrs Jetsun Pema Wangchuk, Queen of Bhutan (Private) | 11-13 August 2012 |
| 13 | Mr Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia (Transit) | 29 August 2012 |
| 14 | Mr Parmanand Jha, Vice President of Nepal (Private) | 4-7 October 2012 |
| 15 | Mr Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister of Guyana (Private) | 8-13 October 2012 |
| 16 | Prince El Hassan Bin Talal and Princess Sarvath El Hassan of Jordan (Private) | 24-27 October 2012 |
| 17 | Mr Raila A. Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya (Private) | 30 October - 1 November 2012 |
| 18 | Mr Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic (Transits) | 4 & 7 November 2012 |
| 19 | Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey (Transits) | 7 & 9 November 2012 |
| 20 | Madam Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice President and Minister of Women's Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia (Private) | 8 - 9 & 13 - 14 November 2012 |

Outgoing Visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister during the period April 2012 - January 2013

| Sl No | Name of Dignitary and Details | Dates |
|-------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | President to Seychelles & South Africa | 29 April -8 May 2012 |
| 2 | Prime Minister to Myanmar | 27 - 29 May 2012 |
| 3 | Prime Minister to Mexico & Brazil | 16 - 23 June 2012 |
| 4 | Prime Minister to Iran | 28 - 31 August 2012 |
| 5 | Prime Minister to Cambodia | 18 - 20 November 2012 |
| 6 | Vice President to Vietnam | 14-17 January 2013 |

Outgoing visits of Minister of External Affairs during the period April 2012- January 2013

| Sl No | Name of Dignitary and Details | Dates |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | External Affairs Minister to Moscow | 13-14 April 2012 |
| 2 | External Affairs Minister to Abu Dhabi | 15-16 April 2012 |
| 3 | External Affairs Minister to Madrid | 19-23 April 2012 |
| 4 | External Affairs Minister to Myanmar | 27-29 May 2012 |
| 5 | External Affairs Minister to Beijing | 6-7 June 2012 |
| 6 | External Affairs Minister to USA and Cuba | 12-17 June 2012 |
| 7 | External Affairs Minister to Tajikistan | 2-3 July 2012 |
| 8 | External Affairs Minister to Japan & Cambodia | 7-12 July 2012 |
| 9 | External Affairs Minister to Maldives | 28-29 July 2012 |
| 10 | External Affairs Minister to Tehran | 27-31 July 2012 |
| 11 | External Affairs Minister to Pakistan | 7-9 September 2012 |
| 12 | External Affairs Minister to USA | 26 September - 4 October 2012 |
| 13 | External Affairs Minister to Brunei Darussalam | 20-21 October 2012 |
| 14 | External Affairs Minister to Lao PDR | 5-6 November 2012 |
| 15 | External Affairs Minister to Myanmar | 14-16 December 2012 |
| 16 | External Affairs Minister to France | 10-11 January 2013 |
| 17 | External Affairs Minister to Bhutan | 14-15 January 2013 |

List of Foreign Ambassadors / High Commissioners who presented their Credentials during the period April 2012 - November 2012

| Sl No | Name of Country | Name of the HOM | Presentation of Credentials |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Greece | Mr Ioannis E. Raptakis | 24 April 2012 |
| 2 | Morocco | Mr Larbi Reffouh | 24 April 2012 |
| 3 | Niger | Mr Ali Illiassou (1st Resident HOM) | 24 April 2012 |
| 4 | Suriname | Mrs Aashna Wandani Radha Kanhai | 24 April 2012 |
| 5 | Seychelles | Mr Winslow William Waven | 24 April 2012 |
| 6 | Ireland | Mr Feilim McLaughlin | 24 April 2012 |

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| 7 | Zambia | Mrs Susan Yoyo Sikaneta | 24 April 2012 |
| 8 | Mongolia | Mr Sanjaasuren Bayarra | 24 April 2012 |
| 9 | Switzerland | Mr Linus Von Castelmur | 24 April 2012 |
| 10 | Cyprus | Mrs Maria Michael | 24 April 2012 |
| 11 | Guinea | Mr Alexandre Cece Loua | 24 April 2012 |
| 12 | USA | Ms Nancy J. Powell | 24 April 2012 |
| 13 | Germany | Mr Michael Steiner | 13 July 2012 |
| 14 | Spain | Mr Gustavo Manuel De Aristegui y San Roman | 13 July 2012 |
| 15 | Pakistan | Mr Salman Bashir | 13 July 2012 |
| 16 | Afghanistan | Mr Shaida Mohammad Abdali | 13 July 2012 |
| 17 | Sweden | Mr Harald N.E. Sandberg | 13 July 2012 |
| 18 | Norway | Mr Eivind S. Homme | 24 September 2012 |
| 19 | Netherlands | Mr Alphonsus Hermanus Maria Stoelinga | 24 September 2012 |
| 20 | South Sudan | Dr Daniel Peter Othol | 24 September 2012 |
| 21 | Republic of Korea | Mr Lee Joon-gyu | 24 September 2012 |
| 22 | Philippines | Mr Benito B. Valeriano | 8 November 2012 |
| 23 | The Sudan | Dr Hassan Eisa Hassan El Talib | 8 November 2012 |
| 24 | Republic of Congo | Mr Felix Ngoma | 8 November 2012 |
| 25 | Belarus | Mr Vitaly Prima | 8 November 2012 |
| 26 | Bolivia | Mr Jorge Cardenas Robles (1st Resident HOM) | 8 November 2012 |
| 27 | Japan | Mr Takeshi Yagi | 8 November 2012 |

List of the Heads of Missions who left India during the period from April 2012 - November 2012

| Sl No | Name of the HOM | Country | Date of Departure |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Philippines | Mr Ronald B. Allarey | 4 April 2012 |
| 2 | Spain | Mr Javier Elorza | 14 May 2012 |
| 3 | Afghanistan | Dr Nangyalai Tarzi | 28 May 2012 |
| 4 | Pakistan | Mr Shahid Malik | 13 June 2012 |
| 5 | Sweden | Mr Lars-Olof Lindgren | 29 June 2012 |
| 6 | Maldives | Mr Abdul Azeez Yoosuf | 16 July 2012 |
| 7 | Finland | Ms Terhi Hakala | 28 July 2012 |
| 8 | Norway | Ms Ann Ollestad | 1 August 2012 |
| 9 | Netherlands | Mr Bob Hiensch | 17 August 2012 |
| 10 | Republic of Korea | Mr Kim Joong-Keun | 22 August 2012 |
| 11 | Japan | Mr Akitaka Saiki | 4 September 2012 |
| 12 | Myanmar | Mr U Zin Yaw | 12 September 2012 |
| 13 | Lithuania | Mr Petras Simeliunas | 23 September 2012 |
| 14 | Malawi | Dr Chrissie Chawanje Mughogho | 25 September 2012 |

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 15 | Indonesia | Lt Gen (Retd.) Andi M. Ghalib | 28 September 2012 |
| 16 | China | Mr Zhang Yan | 14 October 2012 |
| 17 | Austria | Dr Ferdinand Maultaschl | 25 November 2012 |
| 18 | Croatia | Dr Boris Velic | 30 November 2012 |

Republic of Singapore has opened its Trade Office in New Delhi; United Kingdom opened its Deputy High Commissions in Hyderabad and Chandigarh during the period April - November 2012.

List of Consulates General / Honorary Consulates of Foreign Countries in India approved during the period April - November 2012

Consulates General

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | United Arab Emirates | Thiruvananthapuram |
| 2 | Canada | Bengaluru |
| 3 | Republic of Korea | Chennai |

Honorary Consulates

| | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| 1 | El Salvador | Bengaluru |
| 2 | Iceland | Chennai |
| 3 | Czech Republic | Mumbai |
| 4 | South Africa | Chennai |
| 5 | Saint Lucia | New Delhi |

Month-wise list of newly created posts in Foreign Diplomatic Missions/ Posts in India during the period April - November 2012

| Sl No. | Month | No. of Posts Created |
|--------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1 | April | 8 |
| 2 | May | 38 |
| 3 | June | 8 |
| 4 | July | 7 |
| 5 | August | 15 |
| 6 | September | 15 |
| 7 | October | 68 |
| 8 | November | 5 |
| | Total | 164 |



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

Indian passports are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through a network of 37 Passport Offices, CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This network has been expanded by adding 77 Passport Seva Kendras as extended arms of Passport Offices. For Indians living abroad, passport and other miscellaneous services are rendered by 180 Indian Missions/Posts. All Passport Offices issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Over the last decade, there has been considerable expansion in the number of services rendered by Passport Offices. During January-December 2012, the 37 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands issued 59.40 lakh passports (inclusive of 2301 Diplomatic passports and 22010 Official passports) and rendered 3.14 lakh passport-related miscellaneous services including Police Clearance Certificates. 180 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 11.35 lakh passports and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, rendered 73.89 lakh passport services. The total revenue generated from all passport services in 2012-13 (April - December 2012), which was estimated to be Rs 1200 crore during the whole financial year, was Rs 884.69 crore. An amount of Rs 559.72 crore was allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2012-13.

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 strength of the Central Passport Organization Cadre was 2697 as on 31 December 2012. The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by re-structuring of the cadre, faster promotion and introduction of productivity-linked incentive scheme. In total, 6 DPCs were held in 2012 for promotion from Assistant to Superintendent, LDC to UDC, UDC to Assistant, DPO to PO and Superintendent to PGO.

Successful Implementation of Passport Seva Project

The Ministry has been taking a number of measures to make the passport issuance system simpler and speedier for the comfort and convenience of the public. Despite extensive computerization, opening of new Passport Offices and reforms in the Central Passport Organization, a need was felt for change in the existing system due to rapidly growing volume of passport seekers. Following a study by the National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) and with the approval of the Union Cabinet in September 2007, the Ministry embarked on Passport Seva Project (PSP), an ambitious Mission Mode Project undertaken on Public-Private Partnership basis as part of the National e-Governance Plan.

The Project runs on the Build-Own-Operate-Transfer model wherein the initial investments are by the private partner. There is minimal investment from the Government. The Project aims at delivering all passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible and reliable manner. The Project inter alia envisaged setting up of 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) across the country, setting up of a multi-lingual Call Centre operating 24X7 and a centralized nationwide computerized system for the issuance of passports.

The pilot project was launched at four PSKs in Karnataka in May 2010. Subsequently, three more pilot PSKs were launched in Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Ambala in August 2010. Following requisite certification by the Third Party Audit Agency - Standards, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC), an organization under the Department of Information Technology - in January 2011, a roll-out plan was firmed up

jointly by the Ministry and the Service Provider. By 14 June 2012 all the 77 PSKs were set up and operationalized in the country, when the 77th PSK at RPO, Delhi was unveiled for public service. The project's timely completion- from the pilot phase to the complete rollout in 2 years- has set a new benchmark for successful project implementation. The STQC Directorate issued Compliance Verification Report on 12 June 2012 after a rigorous verification process and awarded the requisite Go-Live certification. This is a significant milestone for the project as it marks the completion of project implementation and commencement of the Operations & Maintenance phase. More than 64.73 lakh passport applications have been processed under the new system as on 31 December 2012. The Project was adjudged as the best e-Governance Project of the Government of India undertaken during 2011-12 by the Computer Society of India.

The entire process is online and streamlined including interface with the Indian police for verification of personal particulars of applicants and with India Post for tracking delivery of passports. The Passport Portal (www.passportindia.gov.in) provides comprehensive and latest information on passport services as well as status of an application, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access. An e-mail based helpdesk facility and a 24x7 call centre have been set up to provide requisite information to citizens in 17 vernacular languages. For assistance one can call toll-free helpline 1800-258-1800.

The basic design involves performance of all non-sovereign, non-security and non-sensitive functions by the Service Provider, M/s Tata Consultancy Services while the Government functionaries retain all critical roles and responsibilities. The benefits to the citizens are service provisioning within defined service levels, closer and larger number of access points for services, availability of a portfolio of on-line services with real-time status tracking and enquiry and an effective system of grievance redressal and strict adherence to 'First In-First Out' principle in rendering of services.

Other Measures to improve Passport Services

Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

The CPV Division of the Ministry has been listed as one of the pilot units chosen by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), for the implementation of Quality Management System (QMS) Sevottam-a pilot project of Government of India for improving public service delivery in all Government offices. 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. 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, 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 5402 grievances were received during the year 2012, out of which 2,253 cases 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. In total, 46,878 public grievance petitions were received by the CPV Division in 2012 (including CPGRAM) out of which 42,295 have been disposed of.

The names, addresses and phone number of the Public Grievance Officer are also installed in the Passport Offices. The Complaint/Suggestion Boxes are also installed on the strategic locations 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. Information and Facilitation counters, PG cell and Help desks have been set up to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously.

Apart from this, as part of Passport Seva Project (PSP) implementation, a National Call centre has been set up, operating in 17 Indian languages to cater to dissemination of information about various services, grievances handling, and citizens feedback, which at present works on a central system platform. Also, a helpdesk has been set up which can be accessed by citizens through the passportindia.gov.in portal and where suggestions and grievances can be sent and also watch its status online. The PSP call centre and helpdesk cater to various services- information dissemination, grievances handling, and citizen feedback. Citizen dial toll free number 1800-258-1800 to reach these call centers. The call centre operates on 24x7 basis. It presently handles approx.18,000 calls per day (out of which 42% are in Hindi and 29% in English).

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. A total of 1,196 RTI applications and 1,009 appeals were received and disposed of by the Division during the year 2012.

Passport India Portal

The website of CPV Division <http://passport.gov.in>, which was established in 1999, has been phased out after the operationalization of PSP. A new online portal 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 being updated regularly to make it more users friendly and simpler.

Physical Infrastructure

Out of 37 Passport offices, 16 are operating from own buildings, 4 are running from GOI buildings and remaining 17 are operating from rented buildings. In line with the policy of the Ministry to shift all Passport Offices to own buildings, efforts are being made to acquire plot of land to construct state-of-art buildings. Ministry has so far acquired plots of land at nine places viz. Srinagar, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Dehradun, Surat, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal and Guwahati. In the remaining 8 places, Passport Officers have been advised to contact State Governments for allotment of plots of land on priority. The construction of new PO building and 22 staff residences at Surat is complete and at Mumbai it is nearing completion. Passport Office, Ranchi which was functioning under severe space constraints shifted to a spacious and swanky office in a private building during this year.

Machine Readable Passports

For 150 Missions/Posts abroad and Office of Assistant Secretary (Passport), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, Machine Readable Passports (MRP) are printed at Central Indian Passport Printing System (CIPPS) of the CPV Division, New Delhi. CIPPS printed 1,08,073 passports in 2012.

New security features in passport booklets

In order to obviate the problems of smudging of photographs and data and to improve the quality, functionality and security of Indian passports, various measures viz. shifting of data page in passport booklets to page no. 2 and from last page to page no.

35, signature & seal of PIA at cover page-facing page 1, inclusion of "Ghost Image" with personal data of the passport holder at data page have been introduced. ISP, Nashik has been advised to start printing "2012 series booklets" with these new features.

E-Passports

In accordance with ICAO guidelines 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 issuance of e-passports (also known as bio-metric passports), was launched by the then President of India Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 25 June 2008 under Diplomatic and Official passports category as part of a pilot project. The e-passports provide greater protection against fraudulent misuse and tampering besides provides high level of security to passports. These e-passports also prevent holding multiple passports and facilitate tracking of wanted individuals. Based on the experience gained through pilot phase of issuance of e-passports in the diplomatic and official categories, Ministry decided to introduce e-passports for ordinary category as well. Accordingly, a global PQB notice for procuring inlays for contact less chips for production of e-passports was published by ISP, Nashik in March 2009. The evaluation of global PQB applications for procurement of ICAO compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating systems for manufacture of e-passports by the India Security Press Nashik is still under process. 301 e-official and 661 e-diplomatic passports were issued by the Ministry in the year 2012.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

India served as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTD) Panel in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and has implemented the ICAO guidelines on Machine Readable Travel Documents. The ICAO, in terms of Document 9303 as the central reference, has established ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), on cost sharing basis, to promote a globally interoperable e-passport validation scheme for electronic travel documents to support ICAO's strategic objectives to improve civil aviation security. The ICAO PKD central platform manages world-wide exchange of certificates to validate electronic signature of data contained in the chip of e-passports and other MRTDs. As more and more States introduce e-passports, the PKD infrastructure strives to ensure that the exchange process between States remains reliable, fast and simple. 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. During 2012, India was represented at the 16th Meeting of the PKD Board in Windsor by Shri Basant K. Gupta, Additional Secretary (CPV) and Shri S. K. Sinha, Senior Technical Director, NIC. Shri Gupta also represented India at the 21st TAG-MRTD Meeting held in Montreal.

Passport Adalats

Passport Offices held Passport Adalats regularly to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of old cases.

Haj pilgrims: Special Drive

A special camp for Haj applicants was organized at Thanjavur PSK on 24 March 2012. About 170 applications were processed on the day. A Haj Mela was organized at RPO, Bangalore from 16 January -13 April 2012. A total of 9100 appointments were dedicated to Haj applicants at the 4 PSKs in Karnataka. A special camp for Haj aspirants was organized at Chennai Saligramam PSK on two consecutive Saturdays on 24 March and 31 March 2012. A total of 890 applications were processed.

Beginning 2012, the Haj Committee of India has made it mandatory to provide passport details along with the application from a prospective Haj applicant. In spite of paucity of time, as per Haj Committee figures, it received 3,07,000 Haj applications with valid passports against the allocated Haj quota of 1,25,000.

Public outreach

The CPV Division is bringing out a quarterly bulletin "Passport Patrika", containing information on various passport related issues. Media road shows were organized in Hyderabad on 19 July 2012, Panaji on 3 August 2012, Lucknow on 8 August 2012 and Kolkata on 21 August 2012, whereby media was briefed on improvements in delivery of passport services.

Revision in Passport fees

In exercise of the powers conferred by the Passport Act, 1967, the Central Government has decided to revise Passport and related service fees with effect from 1 October 2012. The current fees were last fixed on 29 March 2002. The enhanced revenue will be used for further expanding passport service network, upgrading technical infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

Parliamentary Committees' visit to RPOs/PSKs

The Standing Committee on External Affairs led by Shri Ananth Kumar made a visit to PSK Lal Bagh, Bengaluru, PSK Malad, Mumbai and Ahmedabad PSK2 (Vijay Cross Road)

during the period 1 March - 5 March 2012. They reviewed the PSK operations in terms of services to the citizens and expressed satisfaction at the progress made by PSP over the last one year.

In view of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs' recommendations in its 11th report regarding organizing refresher session on dealing with general public on Consular, Passport & Visa matters for officers at all levels, a module on delivery of effective Consular Services to Indian citizens abroad, was held at Foreign Service Institute on 23 May 2012, which was addressed by Shri H.K. Dua, Member of Standing Committee on External Affairs, Foreign Secretary and other senior officers.

The Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation of Lok Sabha made a study visit to RPO, Coimbatore on 27 June 2012 with reference to Rules and Regulations framed under Passport Act 1967.

On 10 July 2012, the Estimates Committee led by Shri Francisco Sardinha, Member of Parliament and Chairman visited PSK Lucknow.

On 3 August 2012, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee Shri Francisco Sardinha, Member of Parliament along with Shri Shantaram Naik, Member of Parliament and Shri Shripad Naik, Member of Parliament visited RPO, Panaji. The delegation was given a detailed walk-through of the PSK operations.

The Committee of Parliament on Official language made visits to RPO, Surat on 12 June 2012, RPO, Jammu on 9 July 2012 and to RPO, Chennai on 4 January 2013 with another meeting to be held at RPO, Jaipur on 2 February 2013.

On 10 January 2013, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee Shri Francisco Sardinha, along with 9 Members of Parliament, visited RPO, Panaji. The delegation reviewed the progress of Passport Seva project and the functioning of RPO, Panaji.

On 16 January 2013, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs led by Shri Ananth Kumar, Chairman, held discussions with senior officials of CPV Division led by Shri Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, on the subject "Passport Seva Project - Targets and Achievements".

Important Events and Developments

13 PSKs in Kerala were inaugurated on 2 April 2012 by Shri S.M.Krishna, External Affairs Minister in the presence of Shri Oommen Chandy, Chief Minister, Kerala, Minister of State (EA) and other dignitaries.



The then External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna inaugurating Passport Seva Kendras in Jammu and Kashmir at a function held in Srinagar on 26 July 2012



Indian seafarers from MV ICEBERG-I rescued after 33 months in captivity of Somali pirates received by External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid on arrival in New Delhi on 29 December 2012

With the view to address difficulties faced by citizens in obtaining appointments and to meet increased demand for passport services during summer, Passport Melas were organized from time to time by 24 Passport Offices since 23 June 2012. Several Passport Offices and Seva Kendra's (in total 40) were kept open during the weekend. In 2012, 33,584 passport applications were received during Passport Melas, out of which nearly 26,000 passport services have been rendered.

Visas

Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issue 5 million visas approximately every year. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services, which commenced in 2006. At present the visa work has been outsourced in 68 Missions/Posts abroad.

In order to enhance the security environment of the visa issuance system, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has decided to introduce biometric enrolment procedure (ten fingerprint & facial biometrics) for foreigners seeking visa to visit India. 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. MEA issued detailed instructions on this project to all Indian Missions/Posts abroad in May 2012. The implementation of this entire scheme is expected to be completed by 2014. The introduction of biometric procedures is related to implementation of IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking) system in Indian Missions/Posts abroad, which is being done by MHA in collaboration with NIC. At present, IVFRT scheme (without biometrics) has been introduced in 108 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The implementation of IVFRT scheme along with enrollment of biometric procedures would further enhance the security aspects of visa issuance besides facilitating movement of genuine foreign visitors to India.

Visa Issuance by CPV Division

The CPV Division issued 7,190 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders in the year 2012. The CPV Division also issued 13,665 notes verbale for visas for Indian Government officials going to join Indian Missions/Posts on transfer and official engagements in 2012.

Outsourcing of Visa/Consular/Passport Work by Indian Missions/Posts

MEA introduced outsourcing of visa services in Indian Missions/Posts abroad during 2006-07. Subsequently, passport and consular services were also outsourced. As of now, 68 Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced passport/visa/consular services and collection work upto 31 December 2012 (out of which 18 Missions/Posts have outsourced all 3 categories, 36 Missions/Posts only visa services, 9 Missions/Posts only visa and passports services, 4 Missions/Posts only visa and consular services and only 1 Mission passport and consular services).

The basic objective of outsourcing is to facilitate prompt and effective services to public, besides reducing number of visitors to Missions/Posts, thus enhancing security environment. The security aspects of these services are fully protected as only peripheral work is being entrusted to outsourcing agencies. The sensitive work, policy issues including final decision for approval/rejection lies with India based officers. Also, as per new policy introduced in October 2011, only Indian companies with or without a local partner of Indian or foreign origin are eligible to take part in the tender process, thereby further enhancing the security aspects of outsourcing system.

Visa-Waiver Agreements

India has visa waiver agreements with 52 countries by which diplomatic/official passport holders are exempted from the requirements of visas. In the year 2012, no visa exemption agreement was signed with any country.

Consular Matters

Launch of Apostille Convention Project

The Attestation Cell in the CPV Division of the Ministry has been providing attestation services for authentication of educational and personal documents of individuals for 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. During 2012, 3,07,672 personal and educational documents and 1,86,926 commercial documents were attested by the Ministry including the Branch Secretariats (Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata).

In addition to the general attestation, Apostille certification is also being performed by the Attestation Cell with effect from August 2007 for those going to the Apostille member countries. Apostille stickers are affixed on the documents and a fee of Rs 50/- by way of Postal Order is charged for this service. During

2012, 2,61,749 documents were apostilled for use abroad in the Apostille member countries. The attestation of consular documents is also done by Indian Missions/Posts for Indian citizens living abroad.

Outsourcing of attestation services

There was constant increase in number of applicants approaching CPV Division for attestation of their documents. Many times, this has led to unruly behaviour from public with local agents/touts also joining. The security provided proved inadequate with no proper mechanism of security checks at the entry point or inside the premises. This put the entire Division vulnerable from the security point of view. In view of this, Ministry outsourced the work relating to collection/delivery of documents for attestation to five companies. An agreement was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and these five companies on 16 July 2012 for two years.

Extradition Cases and Legal Assistance

The Ministry has been pursuing actively with various countries for negotiating bilateral agreements to provide a legal and

institutional framework to combat international terrorism, organized crime including financial frauds and drugs trafficking. These consular agreements include Treaties on Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters and Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners. During the year, a Thai delegation visited New Delhi from 10 September - 12 September 2012 to negotiate an Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Thailand.

In 2012, Government of India received six requests for extradition from various countries: Bangladesh (1), United Kingdom (1), United States of America (4) and request for local prosecution in respect of 89 Indian nationals from countries like Saudi Arabia (4) and United Arab Emirates (85). The Government of India made 13 requests for extradition to Government of Bangladesh (1), Saudi Arabia (2), South Africa (1), Thailand (2), United Arab Emirates (1), United Kingdom (3) and United States of America (3). Further, one person has been extradited to the United States of America and two persons to Australia. One each has been extradited from Germany and Saudi Arabia respectively.



Administration and Establishment

Administration

The Administration Division is tasked to manage the necessary human resource capacity for optimally meeting the diverse functional needs of the Ministry, both at Headquarters and in over 180 Missions/Posts abroad. The Cadre Management exercise includes recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations, career progression, settlement of post retirement dues, amongst others. The Division also deals with the formulation, amendments and reforms of all the relevant rules and regulations relating to personnel, as also the establishment of new Missions/Posts abroad.

In keeping with the expanding global profile and engagement of India, a comprehensive Indian Foreign Service Cadre expansion exercise has been underway since 2008 and, is at present in its half way stage of operationalization. The exercise is expected to last till 2018. Under the Plan, every year around 50 posts are added at different levels and the Ministry has already gone through five tranches of this exercise. The Indian Foreign Service 'B' Cadre Review Proposal which was approved in 2011-12 was implemented in an expedited manner. Implementation of this proposal, in addition to addressing the career aspirations of the concerned officers, will positively impact the growing need for better and faster delivery of services.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 3962 (details in Appendix IX). Personnel posted against these posts are deployed in India and in over 180 Missions / Posts abroad. This includes officials from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service, Branch 'B' (IFS 'B'), Interpreters Cadre, Legal & Treaties Cadre and the Library Cadre, but excludes Group 'D' and ex-cadre posts.

Recruitments made to the various groups in the Ministry from 1 April - 10 December 2012 through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotion (DP) and Limited Departmental Examinations (LDE), including against reserved vacancies, are given in the table at Appendix X.

The Ministry of External Affairs has always placed high priority to the appropriate training and development of linguistic skills. Over the years, this has resulted in the creation of a sufficiently large and diverse pool of foreign language skills within the Service, so that these officers are able to discharge their diplomatic responsibilities more effectively. The table at Appendix XI gives details of the language proficiency of officers of the Ministry.

The Ministry is fully committed to providing adequate opportunities to persons with disabilities for ensuring their appropriate representation amongst its personnel. Towards achieving this goal, the Ministry has identified suitable positions for the various disabilities as prescribed under the relevant GOI Rules.

In the year 2012-13, with the coming into existence of a new country South Sudan, the Indian Post there was upgraded to a full-fledged Mission. The Indian Ambassador has taken up his assignment recently.

Vigilance Unit

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from 29 October 2012 - 3 November 2012. All Indian Missions / Posts abroad and various departments in Ministry of External Affairs administered the pledge prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission. The Ministry started signing Pre-contract Integrity Pact with prospective bidders/ sellers for all procurements/ projects of value of Rs 50 crores and above beginning 1 January 2013. The details of the cases handled by the Division during the year are:

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of cases pending as on 31 March 2012 | 88 |
| No. of cases received for examination during the period 1 April 2012 - 11 January 2013 | 32 |
| Total no. of cases as on 11 January 2013 (88+32) | 120 |
| No. of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty during the period from 1 April 2012 - 11 January 2013 | 5 |
| No. of cases closed on without penalty, on account of death, VRS etc during the period from 1 April 2012 - 11 January 2013 | 36 |
| Total no. of cases closed during the period 1 April 2012 - 11 January 2013 (5+36) | 41 |
| No of cases pending as on 11 January 2013 (120-41) | 79 |

Welfare Division

All matters relating to general welfare of serving officers and members of staff of the Ministry including those posted in Missions/Posts abroad are dealt by the Welfare Division.

The Division facilitates admission of children of the officials of this Ministry into Kendriya Vidyalayas where 60 seats are available annually. It also assists the wards of officials at Headquarters for securing admission in public/private schools and medical/engineering/diploma courses in colleges in India. Annually about 79 students are selected for engineering courses and about 4-5 in Medical courses.

The Division also oversees the Staff Benefit Fund, formed over the years from contributions of officers and staff members of the Ministry. Financial assistance is given to meet funeral expenses in case of death. The Division also assists the family members in logistical arrangements for cremation of the mortal remains of personnel who expire while posted abroad. It also examines the financial status of the surviving family members and processes the case for compassionate recruitment to Group 'C' or Group 'D' posts as per the guidelines set by the Department of Personnel and Training

The Division controls grants-in-aid to all Indian Missions abroad and all Regional Passport Offices in India for recreation facilities and sports activities. It arranges financial support for the Inter-Ministerial Sports activities every year. It also arranges the celebration and collects funds for Red Cross Day, Communal Harmony Day, and Staff Benefit Funds Flag Day etc.

Welfare Division also administers the Ministry's canteens located in South block, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan and Patiala House.

Establishment

On completion of Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB), all offices of this Ministry located in Akbar Bhawan have been shifted to this new building. Additionally, some offices from South Block, ISIL building and Shastri Bhawan have also been located in JNB. Appropriate furnishings, office equipments and various electrical and communicational equipments as per the requirement of the Ministry have been installed for smooth functioning of the offices located in JNB. Conference and media room facility of this building are also being utilized regularly not only for Ministry's internal meetings but also for conferences / meetings organized by the Ministry with the participation of foreign delegations.

With the approval of the Od'A Committee of the Ministry, a replica of Ashoka's 12th Edict of Girnar, a bust of Jawaharlal Nehru, marble diyas, Indian language alphabet tree, a metallic

peacock, a wooden Buddha statue, wooden Jaali work including a map of the world, wall mural with Dhokra trees, wall murals with butterfly and fauna themes, Lotus flowers with stone stems and titanium petals, have been installed at the JNB.

Living conditions at Ministry's housing complexes at Chanakyapuri and Dwarka were upgraded through proper and regular maintenance of landscape and other facilities provided at these locations. Multipurpose Hall at the Chanakyapuri Complex has been regularly utilized for social and cultural activities of the Ministry as well as residents of the Complex. A Gymnasium has also been set up at the Multipurpose Hall (Extension) and a possibility is being explored for the construction of an additional floor over the existing Multipurpose Hall. Ministry facilitated organizing a camp of census officials at Chanakyapuri Residential Complex for issue of GOI's Unique Identification Cards to MEA officials and their families.

Efforts have been made to upgrade and improve the facilities at the Ministry's hostels accommodation at K.G. Marg and at R. K. Ashram Marg. Services of NBCC have been utilized for undertaking major civil works including interiors of the MEA's hostel at K.G. Marg. CPWD is in the process of completing upgradation of interiors in the suites located in A Block and is expected to start work on strengthening of the exterior and retrofitting work at A Block of the hostel.

Both the residential complexes are almost fully occupied. Even the occupancy level at the two hostels has been fairly high. With the increase in size of new batches of IFS probationers, the hostel facilities at K.G. Marg are also being utilized for accommodating IFS probationers.

To facilitate renting of better residential accommodation for India-based officials posted abroad, rental ceilings for several Missions/Posts were revised, and proposals for hiring properties abroad were processed expeditiously.

A joint team from the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance is likely to visit New York shortly for the 15th Annual Review of Foreign Allowance. To protect employees serving abroad from the vagaries of currency fluctuations, some additional options are being worked out for payment of emoluments in hard currency countries. Proposals for payment of Hardship Allowance to the India-based officials posted in Libya and Syria are under consideration of the Ministry.

Projects Division

During the year 2012-13, the Division continued to construct and acquire properties abroad for use as its Chancery/Residences. Falling real estate property prices across the world presented

many opportunities to acquire properties abroad. A built-up property was acquired in Atlanta for the Chancery and a plot of land was purchased in Bangkok for construction of residential complex. Through concerted efforts, considerable progress was achieved in the on-going Chancery / Residential complex construction projects at Brasilia, Abuja, Islamabad, Dhaka and Kathmandu. The Division awarded the contract for Chancery-cum-Residences Construction Project in Warsaw after successfully carrying out the tendering process.

With a view to reduce the rental liability, the Division has adopted a strategy of acquiring built-up property at as many stations as possible, according priority to those stations where rental expenditure is especially high. Efforts are continuously being made to locate suitable properties for acquisition with a view to seize the opportunity of low real estate prices prevailing in various parts of the world. At present, GOI owns 84 Chancery buildings at 79 stations abroad, residences for Heads of Missions/Posts at 97 stations abroad and nearly 640 residences for officers and staff. In addition, properties for cultural centres at two stations, and a liaison office are also owned by the Government.

The highlight of the year was shifting of offices of the Ministry of External Affairs from rented Akbar Bhawan premises to the newly constructed Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB) in New Delhi.

The Division continued to closely monitor the progress of various constructions/renovation projects with the objective to ensure their earlier commencement /completion. Amongst

projects abroad, construction and redevelopment work for the Chancery and/or residences at Abuja, Addis Ababa, Bahrain, Bangkok, Berlin, Brasilia, Brunei, Dar-es-Salaam, Dhaka, Doha, Islamabad, Gaborone, Kabul, Kathmandu, Khartoum, Kuala Lumpur, Mauritius, Nicosia, Oslo, Paris, Port Louis (Chancery), Port Louis [World Hindi Secretariat (WHS)], Port of Spain, Santiago, Singapore, Tashkent, Warsaw and Wellington are at various stages of implementation, ranging from appointment of consultant, preparation of architectural drawings and finalization of tender documents to actual ongoing construction. Major renovation works in Hong Kong (Chancery), Embassy residences in Helsinki and residential apartments (Putri apartments) for officers in Kuala Lumpur have been completed and Chancery Annexe renovation works in Paris is nearing completion. Considerable progress was achieved in developing the framework for redevelopment of properties in Singapore and Oslo.

The Ministry continued to make concerted efforts to acquire built up properties in various countries of the world and the notable acquisitions in the last one year are Atlanta (Chancery), Bangkok (plot of land for residences) and Yerevan (Chancery).

To strengthen monitoring of various ongoing construction projects as well as pre-construction activities like preparation of architectural drawings, estimation of project costs, pre-qualification and tendering for award of works, scrutiny of running account bills etc., the Division strengthened its technical cell with deputationists from CPWD.



Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

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The Ministry continued to make efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The applications received in the Ministry were dealt with as per the provisions of the Act. Interactive sessions were organised for the officers and the staff of the Ministry to promote a better understanding of the Act amongst them.

A total of 1410 applications seeking information under the RTI Act, 2005 have been received in the RTI Cell of the Ministry during the period 1 April - 31 December 2012. Applications covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage and bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same. CPV Division, Missions & Posts abroad, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Council of World affairs (ICWA) maintain their own records as public authorities under the Act.

The Ministry has implemented the recommendation of the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and set up an

RTI Cell to streamline the receipt and disposal of RTI applications. The Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) in various Divisions of the Ministry, along with the Cell, have been attending to these applications in a timely manner.

A series of interactive sessions, with an expert on the RTI Act 2005, was organized for the officers and staff of the Ministry to promote a better understanding of the provisions of the Act among them and to simultaneously enable the PIOs to handle the applications more efficiently. More such sessions would be held during the year.

The officers concerned have been attending the hearings at the Central Information Commission (CIC), as and when notified, to respond to queries raised by the Commission. The RTI Cell has been filing the Quarterly Returns with the CIC as per schedule.



The International Cyber Issues comprising Internet Governance, Cyber Security, Cyber Crime, Human Rights online and International Telecommunications Regulations drew increasing attention in India during the year. India participated in the United Nations Group of Government Experts on International Information Security. The year saw institutionalising of bilateral dialogues on international cyber issues with United States, United Kingdom and Japan. India also held second round of consultations on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime with European Union. The dialogues contributed to better understanding and identification of concrete areas of cooperation in this field. A joint statement on cyber issues was issued following bilateral dialogue with United Kingdom, during the visit of United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Mr William Hague to India on 8 November 2012. India co-sponsored the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution on the Promotion, Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet. India's proposal to form a

Commission on Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation to examine and make recommendations for implementation of the World Summit on Information Society mandate on enhanced cooperation relating to internet governance was adopted by the 67th Session of United Nations General Assembly.

Visa online component of Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking Project (IVFRT), spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, was implemented in 108 Missions/Posts, raising the total number of Missions/Posts where such facility has been introduced to 130. The Integrated Missions Accounting Software (I-MAS) software was implemented in 7 Missions/Posts bringing the total to 179 Missions/Posts. The outsourcing of visa/passport/consular services was completed in 10 Missions (Perth, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Athens, Tel Aviv, Kathmandu, Manila, Warsaw, Chiang Mai and Edinburgh) bringing the total number of such Missions/Posts to 73.



The Coordination Division functions as the nodal point of the Ministry of External Affairs for all work relating to Parliament including questions-answers, assurances, debates on foreign relations etc. The Division also has the responsibility of organizing the meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs, and coordinating the work related to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and other Parliamentary Committees.

The Coordination Section processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from the political angle, for the foreign visits of Governors, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislative Assemblies, Members of the Judiciary, government officials etc. Political clearance is accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration the guidelines laid down by the government for the purpose 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 - December 2012, the Coordination Section issued 1959 political clearances for such visits.

The Section also handles work relating to the grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled and diplomatic flights and visits by naval ships. During April - December 2012, the Division issued 788 clearances for foreign non-scheduled flights and 21 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

The Coordination Section processed approvals for the participation of Indian sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India. 134 such cases were processed for clearance.

The Section also examines requests for the grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, workshops, grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act (1885) and grants in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies, located in foreign countries. During April-December 2012, the Division issued clearances for 834 conferences/seminars etc. in India. In addition, 101 requests for incoming visits of foreign scholars for training /research were processed.

The Coordination Section coordinates the work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. The nominations

are obtained by the Coordination Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadbhavana Diwas (20 August) and Qaumi Ekta Week Diwas (19-25 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad are also undertaken by the Coordination Division; pledges were administered to the officers and staff, both at Headquarters and in Missions/Posts abroad.

Education Section

The Education Section deals with the selection, nomination, and admission, of foreign students, from 63 friendly, neighbouring, and developing countries, for MBBS, BDS, BE, B.Pharmacy, and diploma courses, in various institutions in India, under the Self Financing Foreign Students Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, and Human Resource Development, respectively. Political clearances of foreign students seeking admission to Graduate and Post-Graduate courses in Engineering, Medicine, Management, other technical and professional courses, including elective training/internship/research in various medical institutions, and research courses, are also processed by the Education Section.

Applications from foreign nationals received/processed in Education Cell during the academic year 2012-13 are given below:

87 applications were received for admission in MBBS /BDS courses during the academic year 2012-

13 and 25 MBBS/BDS seats were offered to the candidates from developing/neighbouring countries.

85 applications were received from B.E./B. Pharmacy courses during the academic year 2012-13 and seats were offered to 64 eligible candidates.

5 seats were offered for PG medical courses at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

During the period April-December 2012, 1669 foreign students were granted political clearance for pursuing various courses in India.



External Publicity

The External Publicity Division (XPD) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is designated to engage with the media, articulate the views/positions of the Government of India on various national and international issues, disseminate information on India's relations with its immediate and extended neighbours and publicize the achievements and successes in meeting our foreign policy objectives, to both Indian and international media. The mandate was met through facilitation of press coverage of VVIP visits, organizing regular and special briefings and background interactions for the media, timely issue of press releases and statements and through conducting familiarization visits of foreign journalists. During the year, the division launched the Ministry's new web portal and embraced various social media platforms with the aim to reach out to a wider audience and engage netizens more actively in the public discourse of India's foreign policy.

Press Coverage of VVIP Visits Abroad

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 to ensure suitable media coverage of the visit, are made by the division. The division facilitated the media delegations that accompanied the President to Seychelles and South Africa and those that accompanied the Prime Minister to Brazil (Rio+ 20), Cambodia (ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit), Los Cabos - Mexico (G-20 Summit), Myanmar, and Tehran (NAM Summit). Important areas of endeavor in the foreign policy arena were also highlighted through publicizing the speeches and statements of the External Affairs Minister delivered on various occasions during the year, notably during visits to Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Japan, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Tajikistan and USA. Media delegations also accompanied External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid during his first visit to Myanmar in December 2012 and Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari to Vietnam in January 2013.

Press Coverage of incoming VVIP Visit

India's robust engagement with the international community witnessed a marked upswing with a series of high-level visits

during the course of the year. Notable among them were the visit to India by the King of Spain; Presidents of Afghanistan, Burundi, Maldives, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan; Prime Minister of Australia; Crown Prince of Bahrain; United Nations Secretary General; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Belgium; Deputy Prime Minister of Russia; Foreign Minister of Afghanistan; Foreign Minister of Canada; Foreign Minister of Chile; Foreign Minister of Iran; Foreign Minister of Maldives; Foreign Minister of Mauritius; Foreign Minister of Montenegro; Secretary of State of United States of America; Foreign Minister of Venezuela; Vice-Foreign Minister of Cuba; Vice-Foreign Minister of Peru; Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom; Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; Chairperson National League for Democracy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Joint Press Conferences with the visiting dignitaries were arranged and the visiting media and foreign media based in India were assisted in providing suitable coverage of these visits. The Division also played a crucial role in the successful conduct and coverage of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation meeting and the 12th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers meeting during this year. The Division continued to ensure media coverage of visits to India by high level dignitaries, notable among them were visits by the Presidents of Mauritius, Nepal, Russia and Ukraine. Other important dignitaries who visited India during the period were Afghanistan's Minister of Mines, Chairman of Senate Pakistan and the U. N. High Commissioner for Refugees and former Prime Minister of Portugal. The Division also facilitated media coverage for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in New Delhi during December 2012.

The Official Spokesperson's Office

The Official Spokesperson's Office functioned as the interface between Ministry of External Affairs and Media disseminating information on day-to-day developments related to the conduct of India's foreign policy. The Official Spokesperson's office liaised with Indian and foreign media throughout the year by conducting regular briefings on major developments having a bearing on India's foreign policy, incoming and outgoing high level visits and important day-to-day developments. During the year, 221 Press Releases, 129 Press Briefings, 32 Joint Press

Statements and 76 Media Advisories were issued by the Division.

Constant efforts were made to communicate the position and perspective of the Indian Government on various significant issues by providing background briefings to media persons. Interviews with the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries were arranged with Indian and international newspapers and TV channels. The transcripts of these interviews are available on the Ministry's website.

During the year the Ministry also started live streaming of media interactions on its YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/MeaIndia>. Videos of all media events such as Joint Press Conferences and Agreement signing ceremony organized at Hyderabad House during State Visits were also uploaded on the YouTube channel and made available at <http://www.facebook.com/MEAINDIA>.

Ministry of External Affairs Website

MEA website <http://mea.gov.in/> is one of the most widely accessed Government of India websites and plays a very crucial role in the dissemination efforts of the Division. On 25 September 2012, the Ministry's new revamped web portal which incorporates latest technological and architectural features aimed at enhancing user experience in multiple ways was launched. The press section of the website is updated on a real-time basis with speeches/interviews/statements on foreign policy by the Prime Minister, Minister(s), Press Releases, briefings by the Official Spokesperson and other senior officials. Starting this year video briefings are also being uploaded on the web portal.

Social Media Platforms

To keep pace with the technological developments and to reach out to a wider audience both at home and abroad, the Ministry successfully launched its YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MeaIndia>, Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/MEAINDIA>, Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mea india> and Google+ pages Information <https://plus.google.com/u/0/103329416703761384109/posts>, Videos and photos including other related documents, pertaining to outgoing and incoming VVIP visits and other events of the Ministry are disseminated through these platforms almost on a real time basis and these efforts have already gained a wide viewership on the virtual media.

Hindi, Urdu & Arabic website

Hindi section of the website is being continuously updated and has been appreciated by the general public including representatives of Indian media. The Ministry has since

arranged for Urdu and Arabic translations of the website with ANI. The sites are widely accessed by Urdu media in India and in our neighborhood, as well as, the Arabic speaking countries.

India-Africa Connect Website

The India-Africa connect website jointly developed by the Ministry and IANS is devoted to promoting relations between India and the African countries. The website hosts news, features and essential information on India and Africa with special emphasis on development cooperation. The website can be accessed at <http://www.indiaafricaconnect.in> and is being updated on daily basis.

Familiarization Visits of Foreign Journalists

Familiarization visits by foreign journalists to India are a key element of the Division's efforts to bring about a more accurate and contemporary depiction of India in the foreign media as the journalists obtain a unique, first-hand impression of developments in India's politics, foreign policy, economy, culture and science and technology.

Meetings for visiting journalists were also organized with ministers, senior officials, intellectuals, academicians, and business representatives. During the year nearly 189 foreign journalists/editors from 50 countries were invited to India from different part of the world including from India's neighbors. These included delegations of senior journalists and editors from Cote D' Ivoire, Belize, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

The Division organized familiarization visits for senior journalists from ASEAN countries during December 2012. Upcoming familiarization visits include a group of senior editors from Afghanistan during January - February 2013. Training programmes for young journalists from Afghanistan at AMJ Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia University would be organised during February and March 2013.

Training, Workshops & Conferences

The Ministry undertook activities aimed at capacity building among media organizations in neighboring countries and arranged training for 30 Afghan journalists in May/June 2012

and 25 journalists from African countries in September / October 2012 at IIMC (Indian Institute of Mass Communication). The Division has also been extending assistance to PTI and IANS for the placement of stringers in select African countries to enhance mutual understanding and bridge the information gap.

Documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies

Another important area of work of the Ministry relates to processing of documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies. During the period April-December 2012, 208 proposals for shooting documentaries in India, from foreign production houses and international TV channels, on various themes and subjects, including tourism, wildlife, and economic activities, were processed and approved. The Division continued to

process requests for documentary filming in India with 250 proposals from foreign audio-visual agencies being processed and approved, providing assistance to representatives of foreign news agencies and media organizations based in India in respect of their credential documents, visas residence permits.

Logistical Support to Foreign Media Based in India

The Division provided necessary facilitation to 201 foreign media representatives based in India to enable them to function smoothly, through provision of relevant information on various issues of interest, as well as assistance in matters of credential documents, visas and residence permits. Due to intense engagements of India with the rest of the world, a new phenomenon of foreigners working for India media organisations has emerged.



Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry organized and participated in various activities and programmes with a view to generate interest and appreciation of India in general and different aspects of India's foreign policy. The Division reached out to a wide cross-section of people ranging from decision makers, media, academics, experts, students and people in general. The Division continued to expand its presence significantly in the social media and was recognized with Web Ratna award. Commissioning of documentary films and books, publication of monthly magazine India Perspectives in print and digital formats, were also undertaken to equip our Missions in projecting a positive image of India abroad.

Outreach Activities

Various outreach activities were taken up by the PD Division, which included: supporting seminars and conferences on foreign policy issues in India and overseas, conducting dialogue with prominent think-tanks in India and abroad in Track 1.5 format, supporting Track 2 initiatives with Pakistan, conducting the Distinguished Lecture Series in various institutions across India, hosting delegations of prominent persons from Afghanistan and Africa.

International Relations Convention

PD Division supported the second convention of scholars engaged in studies of international relations held from 10-12 December 2012 at the International Centre, New Delhi. The theme of the Conference was The Dawning of Asian Century: Emerging Challenges before Theory and Practices of IR in India. The conference was organized by Indian Association for International Studies (IAIS) in association with Institute for Research on India and International Studies (IRIIS). The Conference aimed at bringing together IR scholars across Indian Universities / Institutions on selected themes and also encourages interaction with policy makers and practitioners of foreign policy. Close to 300 delegates attended the Conference. The inaugural address was given by External Affairs Minister, National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary interacted with the scholars.

The Seminars and Conferences supported by PD Division during the year include:

- International Conference on India and Her Neighbours organized by Jadhavpur Association for International Relations in Imphal on 16-17 August 2012. Foreign Secretary delivered the keynote address;
- Nuclear Disarmament Conference jointly with ICWA on 21 August 2012 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi;
- Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) and University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent organised an International Conference from 20-23 September 2012 on 'Contemporary Process of Interregional Cooperation in Central and South Asia'
- National Seminar on Central Asia on 17 October 2012 in Chandigarh organized by CRRID;
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIS) organized an International Conference entitled 'India's Northwest: The Bridgehead between India and Myanmar' on 2 December 2012 in Kohima, Nagaland. A 15 member delegation from Myanmar participated in the Conference.
- Annual Gulf Research Meeting on the theme 'India-Gulf Strategic Partnership in a Pan-Asian Cooperative Paradigm' organized by Gulf Research Centre, Geneva in association with the University of Cambridge in Cambridge from 14-16 July 2012.
- Foreign Policy Forum meetings in association with FICCI were organized regularly during the year;
- Global India Foundation organized the second K.Subramanyam Memorial Lecture in association with PD Division on 29 August 2012 in New Delhi. The lecture was delivered by former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran on the topic 'Understanding China'.

Delegations Hosted

- Delegation comprising 12 senior officials from Kandahar Province in Afghanistan visited India from 6-12 April 2012.
- Parliamentary delegations from countries in Africa in February and March 2013 in fulfilment of the mandate agreed in India-Africa Summit 2011.
- Egyptian Council on Foreign Relations delegation was hosted for a trip to Agra on 14-15 October 2012.

Dialogues/Roundtable with International Think-Tank

- 3rd round of India-Saudi Arabia Workshop was held on 9-10 April 2011 at Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh. The Indian delegation included Ambassador (Retd.) Ranjit Gupta, Atul Aneja, N. Janardhan and Joint Secretary (PD).
- 5th Dialogue with International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) was held in London on 4 October 2012. Foreign Secretary delivered the keynote address.
- The 3rd India-Australia Roundtable with Lowy Institute for Public Policy, Sydney was held in Delhi on 4-5 December 2012. Observers Research Foundation partnered with PD for the Roundtable. The Australian delegation included their Energy Minister and John McCarthy, Chairman of Australia-India Council. Special Secretary (PD), Joint Secretary (PD) and Joint Secretary (South) participated in the Roundtable from MEA along with a large number of non-government representatives.

Track-II Initiatives with Pakistan

- PD Division extended logistical support to visit of a parliamentary delegation from Pakistan to Delhi and Patna, from 24-26 August 2012, under the aegis of Pakistan Institute for Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT)
- Support to India-Pakistan Neemrana Initiative meetings held in Delhi and Islamabad during the year.

Distinguished Lecture Series

Eighteen lectures were organised during the year under the Distinguished Lecture Series. Effort was made to have a geographical spread so that cities in all parts of India are covered. Details are available on website of the Division www.indiandiplomacy.in

Digital Diplomacy

PD Division received the Webratna Awards -2012 as 'Platinum Icon' for innovative use of technology in the sphere of digital diplomacy under the category 'public participation initiative' from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

On PD's facebook page indiandiplomacy, interesting articles, relevant links projecting India's soft power including stories on Culture, literature, economy, science, defence and social achievements were shared. The Facebook page received close to 100,000 likes.

With 60000 followers on twitter, PD twitter handle indiandiplomacy has become a useful source of information on India. Many influential sections of society including opinion makers follow this twitter account.

The Division launched the second edition of 'India is...' Global Video Challenge in November 2011. This year a photography contest was also added. This proved to be a very successful endeavour with 2700 photographs received from across the world. 'India is....' Facebook page has more than 1,37,000 likes.

India Africa: a shared future is a unique initiative undertaken to engage the youth of India and Africa in many creative ways. A number of online contests were organized and prizes announced at an event in Lagos in September 2012. India-Africa facebook page received more than 1,18,000 likes.

The branding on social media for India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit which took place in December 2012 was done by PD Division through an active website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channel. The ASEAN-India website used a number of new technological features which made it very attractive for visitors. The Facebook page with numerous blogs by the Captain of INS Sudharshini, Indian naval ship which was on a visit to the ASEAN countries, was a huge success. The Facebook page crossed the 100,000 mark within months of this being opened. The India-ASEAN Car Rally was covered live through social media and received huge response.

Almost all documentaries produced by MEA since 1981 have been uploaded on YouTube channel www.indiandiplomacy.com during the year. There are more than 1000 films in various languages, including French, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, etc. on the website. The YouTube channel has already received thousands of visitors and is a very successful initiative of the PD Division.

Materials and Books

The Division continued the practice of providing Missions/ Posts with coffee table books in English as well as the five major foreign languages viz. Russian, French, Arabic, Spanish & Portuguese. The coffee table book 'India for a Billion Reasons' was updated and re-printed in 6 languages and 'India: Spirit of Enterprise' in 5 foreign languages. Gift sets, comprising 20 children books each in Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, and Punjabi were also provided to Missions / Posts for distribution to local community schools and centres.

'India Pakistan Relations' - a ten-volume compilation of documents pertaining to India-Pakistan relations over the period 1947-2007, commissioned by this Division is presently being distributed to Missions / Posts, academic community as well as leading think tanks in India and abroad.

Encyclopaedia of India-China Cultural Contacts, a joint project of India and China, was taken forward during the year. List of entries which will form the core of the encyclopaedia were



External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid addressing the annual convention of the Indian Association of International Studies on the topic "The Dawning of the Asian Century: Emerging Challenges before Theory and Practices of International Relations in India".



Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai at the international Conference on "India and her Neighbours: Revisiting relations with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives" at Imphal, Manipur on 17 August 2012.

exchanged. MoU was signed with Institute for Chinese Studies, New Delhi for undertaking financial arrangements of the project from Indian side.

India Perspectives

PD Division continued publishing India Perspectives, the flagship monthly publication of Ministry of External Affairs in 17 languages. 70,000 copies of the magazine are distributed monthly all over the world. The Division introduced India Perspectives e-magazine (www.indiaperspectives.in) in five languages: Arabic, Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. The magazine continued to receive overwhelming response from its readers.

Audio Visual Publicity

A number of documentaries were completed during the year, viz:

- Indian Diaspora (Canada)
- Sound Check

- A New beginning: India US Relationships
- Tana-Bana-the warp and weft of India
- Chinese Investment in India
- Harmony fest
- Spirit of Freedom in India
- India -ASEAN Relations

French and Russian versions of Zee TV Serial Kabhi-Kabhi (69 episodes) were send to various Missions for telecast. PD Division's Documentary "A Brush with Life" directed by Ms Sujata Kulshreshtha won the silver Hugo television Awards in Chicago.

The Division has entered into an arrangement with Air India for screening of documentaries by PD Division on their flights as in-flight entertainment programmes. The screening of the film "The Treasure in the snow: A Film on Sikkim" was done successfully in Aug-Sept 2012 by Etihad Airways on their flights.



Training of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Probationers

One of the primary activities of the Foreign Service Institute is the training of IFS Probationers. The Probationers undergo a one-year long training programme at the FSI to prepare them to handle the wide range of tasks that they would be required to perform during their professional careers, both at Headquarters and in Missions and Posts abroad.

After the completion of training of 2010 batch, a valedictory function took place at FSI on 17 May 2012. This year's External Affairs Minister (EAM)'s Gold Medal for the Best Probationer of the Batch went to Ms Saswati Dey. The Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation was given to Shri Maitrey Kulkarni, Dean's Certificate of Merit to Ms Soumya Nair and Best Sportsperson Trophy to Dr Varun Jeph.

The IFS Probationers of 2011 batch had joined FSI in December 2011. Their year-long training programme was implemented through lectures as well as attachments to various institutions. It included modules on a large number of subjects such as international relations and foreign policy, international law, defence and security, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy and social development. The programme also included modules on administration, establishment, accounts, protocol, consular matters, reporting skills, official language policy, external publicity, public diplomacy, representational skills and India's cultural heritage.

The Probationers were also imparted training in contemporary social development issues, minority rights and problems, right to information and human rights issues. Group discussions, case studies and presentation on topical issues were also included to develop creative thinking among the Probationers. A special module on public speaking to develop effective communication skills of the Probationers was also part of their training. A six-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 Probationers with the work of Indian Missions abroad, the Probationers visited the Indian Missions in Jakarta, Seoul and Cairo in three groups.

The Probationers were also sent on attachments with the Indian Army, the Navy and the Air Force. In addition, they visited Mazagon Dockyard Ltd., BARC in Mumbai, and had interactive sessions with leading financial institutions and industrial establishments. They also underwent training in Parliament work at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies & Training. A 'Bharat Darshan' tour was organized for the Probationers with a view to acquaint them with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and economic and tourism potentials of the country.

The training programme includes a month-long District Attachment in various States across the country where the Probationers get an opportunity to learn about grass roots level of administration and functioning of State and district administration. The Probationers also undergo a period of Desk Attachment in the Ministry where they acquire actual work experience before being posted abroad for language training.

The 2012 batch of IFS Probationers joined FSI in December 2012.

FSI also trains MEA officers and officials during mid-career and at induction level.

The fourth Mid-Career Training Program for Joint Secretary level officers was carried out from 18-29 June 2012 in two phases at Indian School of Business (ISB) Hyderabad and at FSI Premises. Thirty two officers of the rank of Joint Secretary participated in the training. The email-based Mid-Career Training Programme for Director level officers of 1995 batch was completed in 2012. The programme for 1996 batch IFS officers are in an advanced stage of completion.

A Refresher Course for Section Officers of the Ministry was conducted from 25 October-9 November 2012 and two Basic Professional Courses (BPCs) for Assistants and Clerks of the Ministry were carried out from 11-22 June 2012 and from 26 September-10 October 2012 respectively.

A Training Programme on Soft Skills and Communication Skills was organized for MEA officials on 3 May 2012. Fifty-two officials including Section Officers attended the programme. Another module on Delivery of Effective Consular Services to Indian Citizens Abroad was organized on 23 May 2012 for 30 senior MEA officers up to the rank of Additional Secretary.

Half day briefing session on Departmental Security including Cyber Security was held on 24 November 2012 in collaboration with EG&IT Division of the Ministry. Around 17 officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and Director attended the briefing.

Two induction courses would be organized in January and February 2013 for about 80 direct recruit Assistants. Four courses of training in IMAS are also planned for these Assistants during the same period.

Inter Service Training

A training course on "Main currents in Indian Foreign Policy" is scheduled from 25 February - 1 March 2013 for senior officers from Civil and Uniformed Forces.

Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

The Foreign Service Institute continues to conduct various training programmes for Foreign Diplomats in its efforts at building bridges of friendship with countries around the world. Two Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) were successfully organized by FSI from 21 March - 20 April 2012 and from 22 August - 21 September 2012 respectively. About 40 participants from almost as many countries participated in these programmes. A Special Course for IOR-ARC diplomats, earlier scheduled for February 2012, had to be rescheduled and was conducted from 30 April-11 May 2012. Twenty diplomats from 13 countries participated in this programme. A one-month long Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats held in November-December 2012 was attended by thirty diplomats from eight

ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretariat. During these courses, in addition to class room training, the foreign diplomats were taken to various places and institutions of historical, political, cultural and economic importance in and outside Delhi.

Another course (PCFD) for about 20 foreign diplomats is scheduled from 16 January - 15 February 2013.

A three member Team of Trainers visited Myanmar from 24 December - 3 January 2013 to impart training to Myanmar diplomats on Summit Conference Management.

Linkages with counterpart Institutes Abroad

A MoU between FSI and the Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of Korea was signed on 21 March 2012.

A four member Myanmar delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Myo Myint met Dean (FSI) on 14 February 2012 to discuss the need to develop human resources in Myanmar and asked for FSI's assistance in training the diplomats from Myanmar. A 19 member group of students of the University College of International Relations and Diplomacy Dag Hammarskjold, Zagreb led by Dr Goran Bandov, Vice Dean visited FSI on 18 July 2012 during a study tour. A seven member delegation led by Mr Ramadan Mohammed Ariham, Head of Asia and Australia Affairs from Libya visited FSI on 27 September 2012 to acquaint themselves with the facilities available at FSI and requested for institutional linkages between FSI and the Libyan Institute.



Implementation of Official Language Policy & 26

Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry of External Affairs has a well organised programme for promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad, which is done in close cooperation with our more than 180 Missions and Posts abroad. The Ministry also supports a number of initiatives for teaching Hindi by way of financial assistance.

The flagship programme of promotion and propagation of Hindi this year was the organisation of 9th World Hindi Conference in the South African city of Johannesburg from 22-24 September 2012. The Indian official delegation to the conference was headed by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur and comprised a galaxy of eminent personalities involved in the development, promotion and propagation of Hindi. A special delegation of distinguished Indian Parliamentarians also participated in the proceedings of the Conference, which attracted over 700 scholars from India and abroad. The local partner for the conference was the Hindi Shiksha Sangh, South Africa which received an overwhelming support from the South African Government. Minister of Finance of South Africa Mr Pravin Gordhan was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony whereas Minister of Art and Culture of Mauritius Mr Mookhesswur Choonee was a distinguished guest, both at the opening and closing ceremonies. The inaugural ceremony was also attended by the South African Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Marius Fransman. Granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and a prominent South

African Gandhian scholar Ms Ila Gandhi was a special guest on the inaugural day. Delegation from the State of Delhi was led by Delhi Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Kiran Walia. The opening and closing sessions were chaired by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Smt Preneet Kaur and the plenary sessions by Shri M. Ganapathi, Secretary (West), MEA. The 9th World Hindi Conference honoured Indian and foreign scholars for their contribution to the promotion of Hindi. The Conference concluded with the adoption of a resolution, which inter alia called for the 10th World Hindi Conference to be hosted in India.

The World Hindi Day was celebrated by the Ministry in Delhi and by several Indian Mission/Post abroad on 10 January 2013. This is an important occasion for involving and associating with foreign scholars of Hindi to promote and propagate the language.

Hindi Week was organised in the Ministry of External Affairs from 19-25 November 2012. The employees of the Ministry participated in the various functions with full enthusiasm. Amongst the important activities were Essay competition, Quiz competition, Poetry recitation and Noting and Drafting exercise.

The 3rd Meeting of the Executive Board of the World Hindi Secretariat was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 25-26 June 2012 and took several important decisions relating to the functions and objectives of the Secretariat.



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) set up in 1950 with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries has worked steadily to attain these objectives.

The major activities of the Council are : Administration of scholarship schemes for overseas students on behalf of the Government of India and other agencies; welfare of international students; grant of scholarships to foreign students to learn Indian dance and music as well as general and professional courses like Engineering, Pharmacy, Accountancy, Business Administration and Management, etc. at the undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral levels; holding of exhibitions on a reciprocal basis; organization of, and participation in international seminars and symposia; participation in major cultural festivals abroad; organization of "Festival of India" in countries abroad; exchange of groups of performing artists, organization of lecture-cum-demonstration by performing artistes abroad; Distinguished Visitors Programme under which eminent personalities from abroad are invited to visit India, and the Outgoing Visitors' Programme in which experts are sent abroad for delivering lectures; presentation of books, audio-visual material, art objects, and musical instruments, to institutions abroad; providing the secretariat for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding; organization of the annual Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture; publication of journals for distribution in India and abroad; maintaining Indian Cultural Centres abroad; maintaining a well-stocked library and the manuscripts of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; and, digitization of rare manuscripts.

The Council sponsored 119 cultural groups till November 2012 to various countries of the world, including Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Canada, Singapore, Vietnam, Poland, Spain, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, UK, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Reunion Island, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago, Nepal and Belarus.

ICCR is organizing "Days of India in Germany 2012-13", which was inaugurated during the "Hamburg Port Festival" in which 3 cultural groups had participated. The Council has sponsored

9 cultural groups till now to participate in "Days of India in Germany". Four groups are in pipeline during the remaining months in this financial year till 31 March 2013. The Council has sponsored 8 performing art groups for ASEAN Car Rally/ ASEAN Sailing Expedition up to November 2012, and 3 groups are to be sent till March 2013. Mini festivals were organized in Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Russia. ICCR sponsored groups participated in eminent international festivals like the Cervantino Festival in Mexico, Hue Festival in Vietnam, Harare International Festival in Zimbabwe, International Samaa Festival in Egypt, Olympic Games Celebrations in U.K., Shared History Festival in South Africa and Osaka Kala Mahotsav in Japan etc.

On 10 November 2012 JNCC presented 'Sanskriti Sagar', an Indian classical dance composition. The festival provided an opportunity for the younger generation of Russia to acquaint them more closely with Indian culture. The festival highlighted the diversity of India, devoting a theme to different part of the country on each of the first five days. Muscovites enjoyed dance forms from different regions of India, including Kathak, Bharatanatyam and Odissi dances.

One of the primary mandates of the Council is to create an international understanding through culture. The Council handled foreign cultural groups visiting the country in and outside the Cultural Exchange Programme ever since Council's inception in 1950. The groups from abroad are hosted by the ICCR under the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) on reciprocal basis. During the period April - November 2012 the Council hosted the visits of 80 foreign cultural groups from China, Columbia, Mexico, Argentina, Italy, Kuwait, Georgia, Ghana, Seychelles, Sudan, Zambia, Mali, Senegal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Spain, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Ireland, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Burundi, Estonia, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Morocco, Slovak Republic, Singapore, UK, Switzerland and Japan.

The Council also organized seven major festivals during the year: Festival of Latin American Music & Dance held during April-May 2012 in which six groups participated from Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Italy, Kuwait and Georgia; Africa



Performances during 'Wilkommen' in Berlin, a part of the Days of India celebrations in Germany



Mayuri Dance Troupe celebrating its 25th Anniversary in Moscow on 9 November 2012



1 Nov 2012 Gala Concert by Ballet Group From Moscow in Sirifort Auditorim

Festival held in June 2012 in which six groups from Ghana, Seychelles, Sudan, Zambia, Mali and Senegal participated in the Festival; 3rd International Dance Festival held in October 2012 featuring contemporary and folk dance performances from Italy, Spain, Iran, Russia, Argentina, Kazakhstan and Poland; Days of Russian Culture in where the Russian artists presented their memorable performances in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore in October 2012 with the highlight being the performances by the famed Bolshoi Ballet; Delhi International Arts Festival in collaboration with Prasidha Foundation; SAARC Festival 2012 and the Indo-ASEAN Festival in December 2012

The Council also organized 45 special events including the Thumari Festival and the Malhar Festival in India. An Indo-German collaboration with Sonia Khan of the Indian National Youth Orchestra was held on 10 April 2012 at Bengaluru; to underline our support for the social developmental process in Afghanistan, ICCR supported a production of play in Dari language which was staged in Delhi on 22 May 2012 and which later went to participate in the Shakespearean Festival in London; ICCR collaborated with a Danish Company in a collaborative project "India Today: Denmark Tomorrow" (16-22 October 2012); Indo- Italian music concert with Neemrana Foundation at New Delhi from 11-13 December 2012; and Indo- French collaboration "Swan Lake Revisted (Mitulsen Gupta) on 27 December 2012.

ICCR, in consultation with Indian Missions abroad, established Chairs of Indian Studies in various foreign universities. ICCR now has 95 MoUs for Chairs abroad (of which 8 Chairs are now manned by Hindi language teachers rather than full Professors), with 4 MoUs signed in the financial year 2012-13 (till 30 November 2012), for Chairs in China (2 Chairs in Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Chengdu & Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai respectively), Germany (University of Gottingen, Gottingen) & Jamaica University of West Indies, Kingston. Besides these Chairs, MoUs are likely to be signed during December 2012 - March 2013 for establishment of 3 Chairs each in Australia and Canada, as also for Chairs in Ireland, Sweden & Ukraine.

ICCR awards Junior and Senior Research Fellowships to international scholars specializing in Indian studies in the fields of culture and social sciences. During April- November 2012 the Council has received 3 Senior Fellows from Ghana, Iran

and France. Council is expecting a senior scholar from Indonesia in December 2012 and two junior fellows from Belgrade and Kazakhstan till March 2013.

ICCR has also entered into collaboration with IIC in its Asia Project by supporting scholars from Indonesia and Iran to build a durable resource base of academic experts to support Indian linkages with those countries.

ICCR organizes international Conferences on subjects like Indology, Buddhism, Sufism etc both in India and abroad, with the participation of eminent Indian and international scholars. During April- November 2012 the Council organized 3 Tagore Conferences in Australia, Sri Lanka and in Germany. Council also organized 2 Archaeology conferences in Vietnam on 26-27 June 2012 on "Cham Civilizational Linkages between India & Vietnam" and in Santiago, Chile May - June 2012 on "Connecting World Heritage Sites & Civilizations".

The Council also organized a major conference on "Civilizational Dialogue between India & ASEAN" from 20-22 July 2012 in Patna which was a part of the ongoing ASEAN Festival and the book based on the proceedings of this seminar was released during the ASEAN Summit in Delhi during December, 2012. An Indology conference was also organized in Leipzig, Germany on "Panchtantra across Disciplines & Cultures" from 27-30 September 2012.

The Council brings out six journals in five different languages, namely "Indian Horizons" and "Africa Quarterly" (both English quarterlies) "Gagananchal" (Hindi quarterly), "Papeles de la India" (Spanish, bi-annual), Rencontre Avec L' Inde (French bi-monthly) and "Thaqafat-ul-Hind" (Arabic Quarterly). In addition, various publications are commissioned by ICCR every year from records of seminars and conferences, to exhibition and programme brochures and booklets. During the year, ICCR published the book "India sus Danzas Clasicas" by Ms. Myrtha Barvie.

During the year 2012-13, the Council published "Gagnanchal" Nos 1,2,3,4-5. A special edition was taken out on the occasion of the 9th World Hindi Conference at Johannesburg from 22-24 September 2012. ICCR sponsored the visit of 15 poets to participate in this conference apart from deputing officials for the same. A play titled "Kabir" directed by Shekhar Sen was also staged on the occasion.





Indo-Asean Gala Cultural performance at Rashtrapati Bhawan on 20 December 2012 during Asean-India Commemorative Summit 2012



Seminar on Civilizational Dialogue between India & ASEAN during 20-22 July 2012 in Patna.

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, security, and economic developments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and European Union, and analyzed the wider global geo-strategic and geo-political environments. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs and Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website.

ICWA also conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities. The Library was improved and new books were acquired. The renovation of the ICWA Auditorium was started. The drafting of Regulations for the operations of ICWA was completed, on the basis of Rules Governing ICWA which were notified by the Ministry of External Affairs.

ICWA Core Groups monitored and analysed contemporary developments in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Studies and policy recommendations, where appropriate, were forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Some of the important publications brought out by ICWA during the year were:

Books- The EU-India Partnership: time to go strategic? (Editors) Luis Peral & Vijay Sakhuja, October 2012; India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability (Editors) Rajiv K. Bhatia, Vijay Sakhuja and Asif Shuja, December 2012.

Sapru House Papers - Syria and the Evolving Politico-Strategic Dynamics in the Gulf', Zakir Hussain, August 2012; Vietnam -India Relations in the Light of India's look East Policy, Vo Xuan Vinh, October 2012.

Issue Briefs - 'Development Issues on the BRICS Agenda: Perspectives from Delhi Summit', Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay, 3 May 2012; 'India as a Peacemaker between Iran and the USA', Asif Shuja, 20 May 2012; 'Post-Assad Geostrategic Possibilities', Zakir Hussain, 6 August 2012; 'CSTO: 'Re-examining the Indo-Nepal Saptakoshi Dam Project', Saurabh, 9 August 2012; 'ASEAN's Difficult Trajectory and Silver Linings', Vibhanshu Shekhar, 11 September 2012; 'Arab Spring and the Changing Contours of Arab Politics', Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, 21 September 2012; 'Pipelines, Ports and Politics: The Gulf Region,

Central Asia and India', Vijay Sakhuja, 21 September 2012; 'Expanding India-EU Cooperation in Energy and Environment Sectors', Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay, 12 October 2012

Viewpoints - 'Tajikistan's Alternative Energy Routes: Opportunities for India, Athar Zafar', 9 May 2012; 'Indonesia's Focus on Economic Diplomacy and the Emerging Market', Vibhanshu Shekhar, 25 May 2012; 'Iran's Assertiveness on Disputed Islands Rattles UAE', Athar Zafar, 7 June 2012; 'Security Transition in Afghanistan: Implications for India', Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay, 8 June 2012; 'Has ASEAN's Policy of Engagement with Myanmar Yielded Results?', Vikash Ranjan, 25 June 2012; 'Japan's Security Conundrum and the Asia-Pacific', D. Gnanagurunathan, 3 August 2012; 'India's 'Connect Central Asia Policy' Moves a Step Forward', Angira Sen Sarma, 7 September 2012; 'India-EU FTA: Building New Synergies', Dinoj Kumar Upadhyay, 27 November 2012; 'Realisation of an Asian Century: Opportunities and Challenges', Vikash Ranjan, 4 December 2012.

'India Quarterly' the journal of ICWA is being regularly published, maintaining a record unbroken since 1945.

ICWA's Outreach programmes included joint conferences and seminars with several Indian universities and think tanks across the country and international engagements included conferences, seminars and lectures in several countries.

Important Outreach programmes in India were: Third India-Malaysia Strategic Dialogue in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia, 12-13 April 2012; International seminar on 'North-East India in Transition: Tripura - the Commerce and Connectivity Corridor between India & Bangladesh', organized by the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata in association with Tripura University, Agartala at Tripura University Campus, 26-27 April 2012; ICWA-SCSS Conference on 'India-Yemen Bilateral Relations' and signing of MOU on cooperation between ICWA and Sheba Centre for Strategic Studies (SCSS), Sana'a, Yemen, at New Delhi, 17 April 2012; Seminar on 'Winds of Change Across Myanmar - Strategic Implications for India' jointly organized by ICWA and Asia Centre Bangalore at Bengaluru, 9 June 2012; Roundtable

Discussion on 'Security Situation in the Asia Pacific Region and India-Korea Bilateral Relations' with Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) at New Delhi, 27 June 2012; International symposium on 'Global Initiative for Sustainability and Human Development: Envisioning the Planetary Future' at Guwahati, 1-3 October 2012; International conference on 'The Rise of China: Policy Parameters and Prospects' jointly organized by School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala and ICWA at Kottayam, Kerala, 1-3 November 2012.

ICWA's Outreach programmes organised outside India during the year were: Seminar on 'India and Poland: Vistas for Future Partnership' in collaboration with the Polish Institute for International Affairs (PISM), at Warsaw, Poland, 17-18 May 2012; First Annual India-Central Asia Dialogue in collaboration with Kyrgyzstan Institute of Strategic Studies (KISS) at Bishkek, 11-13 June 2012; Seminar on 'India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership: Future Directions' with the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) at Hanoi, Vietnam, 17-18 July 2012 and Fourth ICWA-EUISS Forum on Multilateralism at Brussels, 23-26 October 2012.

ICWA also organized a number of important lectures, seminars and panel discussions on current topics during the year.

Foreign dignitaries who visited ICWA in 2012 included Mr Hedi Ben Abbas, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tunisia; Dr Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik, President of Maldives; Mr Abdirahaman Mohamed Mahamud (Farole), President of Puntland, a state of Somalia; Dr R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia; Mr Alfredo Moreno, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile and Mr Pham Quang-Vinh, Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam.

ICWA has hosted the Secretariat of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)-India Committee since 2001. During the year, the Council coordinated the 3rd CSCAP SGM on Water Resources Security held at Tokyo, Japan from 6-8 February 2012; attended by Mr Uttam Kumar Sinha, IDSA;

15th CSCAP SGM on CPWMD held Sydney, Australia on 6-7 March 2012, attended by Dr. Manpreet Sethi; Final Meeting of CCAP SGM on Water Resources Security held in Chiang Mai, Thailand 29-30 April 2012; attended by Mr. Uttam Kumar Sinha; 26th Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 29-30 May 2012, and 37th SCM held in Kuala Lumpur on 30-31 May 2012; attended by Ambassador Leela K. Ponappa, Ambassador T. P. Sreenivasan, Ms. Manika Jain and Dr. Probal Kumar Ghosh; CSCAP Ad- Hoc Meeting to review the future of CSCAP held in Bali, Indonesia from 22-24 July 2012; attended by Ambassador Leela K. Ponappa; 16th Meeting on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons and Mass Destruction of CSCAP held in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam 8-9 November 2012; attended by Dr. Manpreet Sethi, Research Fellow; and the 38th Steering Committee Meeting of CSCAP held in Singapore from 2-3 December 2012; attended by Ambassador Leela K. Ponappa and Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare.

The Library of ICWA, functioning since 1955, is today a premier research library with a stock of nearly 1,40,000 documents including books (thousands of them are rare), bound volumes of journals, maps, special collections of UN Documents and EU Documents. The Library also has a stock of about one million press clippings. The Library catalogue has been placed online and can be accessed through the ICWA website. A Cyber Library has been created to give members access to electronic content and information.

Dissemination

ICWA initiated a policy of wide dissemination of its output and activities to reach the largest possible global audience and raise awareness about Indian concerns and aspirations in the national and global arena. A system of circulating publication alerts as well as revamping of the website: www.icwa.in and global webcasting of important events has been helpful in achieving the ICWA mandate. ICWA has also updated and reprinted its publicity brochure to disseminate information about the Council to a wider global audience.



Research and Information System for Developing Countries

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), based in New Delhi, is an autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The organization specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. The institute is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues. The research agenda of the RIS focuses on promoting South-South Cooperation and assisting developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. The institute provides policy inputs to the Government of India on international economic issues, and is engaged in several Track-II processes. RIS continues to work closely with the network of institutions with which it is linked in order to achieve the objectives of strengthening policy coherence on international economic issues.

Highlights of the work programme of RIS during 2012-13 are presented below.

Research and Policy inputs provided to the Government of India

BRICS: RIS provided inputs to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on: (a) The views of the BRICS countries on the "Preparatory Process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development" (Rio+20 Conference) (b) Global Peace and Security: Role of the BRICS and (c) Access to Affordable Medicines: Opportunities for Co-operation among the BRICS.

IORARC: RIS provided inputs to the MEA on "Towards Cooperative Regionalism in IORARC".

Conference of Parties: RIS provided inputs to the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the agenda items of the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties, held in Hyderabad in October 2012.

Policy Dialogues, Conferences, Workshops, Capacity Building Programmes:

During 2012-13 RIS organized a number of policy dialogues, conferences, workshops, capacity building programmes, etc. to

fulfill its mandate of fostering intellectual dialogues and capacity building among developing countries. The select major events organized during the period include the following:

Brainstorming Session on India-Myanmar Trade and Connectivity

RIS organized a Brainstorming Session on India - Myanmar Trade and Connectivity in New Delhi on 13 April 2012. The session began with welcome remarks by Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS and special remarks by Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS. Dr V. S. Seshadri, India's Ambassador to Myanmar made the lead presentation, which was followed by open discussion.

International Conference on ASEAN-India Connectivity and Northeastern Region of India

RIS, in collaboration with Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), organized an international conference "ASEAN-India Connectivity and Northeastern Region of India", in Imphal on 4 May 2012. The conference discussed the following broad themes: Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP) and ASEAN-India Connectivity and ASEAN-India Connectivity and challenges and opportunities for Northeastern India. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director-General and Dr Prabir De, Fellow participated.

International Conference on Facilitating Trade in South Asia

RIS, in association with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNet), United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT) and Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), organized the international conference "Facilitating Trade in South Asia: Challenges and the Way Forward", in New Delhi on 28 May 2012. The conference deliberated on the following issues: export/import processes and procedures in Asia-Pacific Region; reforming trade processes and procedures in South Asia; and trade facilitation reforms.

From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director General; Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow; and Dr Prabir De, Fellow participated.

Dialogue with New Development Partners

RIS and World Bank jointly organised an international conference "Dialogue with New Development Partners: Learning from National Experience and Building Global Partnerships" in New Delhi on 22-23 June 2012. Shri Salman Khurshid, then Minister of Law and Justice, delivered the keynote address. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; and Dr Axel van Trotsenburg, Vice President, Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships, The World Bank, also addressed the inaugural session. The issues discussed in the conference included: lessons from India's Development Cooperation; comparative perspectives on development cooperation; Middle Income countries' corporate sector in development partnerships; measurement and impact evaluation in new development partnerships; and global development challenges and new development partners. Mr Sudhir Vyas, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, delivered the valedictory address. The session was chaired by Prof Kaushik Basu, Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director General; and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow participated.

Seminar on Poverty Alleviation

RIS organised a seminar on Poverty Alleviation jointly with the Sri Lankan think-tank, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies in Colombo on 12 July 2012. Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development and Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Government of India and Mr G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka were the guests of honour. From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar participated in the event.

Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)

RIS along with ASEAN Secretariat organised the "Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks" in New Delhi on 7-8 August 2012. Shri S. M. Krishna, the then Minister of External Affairs delivered the inaugural address. Mr Nyan Lynn, Deputy Secretary General for Political Security Community, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta delivered the special address. The agenda of the conference included discussions on: ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in goods, opportunities through deeper integration in services and investment, enhancing connectivity for promoting ASEAN-India economic integration, strategies for meeting the challenges of food

security, challenges of climate change, and biodiversity and traditional medicines. From RIS, Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director General Dr S K Mohanty, Senior Fellow Dr Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, Dr Prabir De, Fellow Dr Ramgopal Agarwala, Distinguished Fellow, Dr I. N. Mukherji, Senior Consultant, and Ms Kasturi Das, Consultant, participated.

International Conference to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Cooperation

RIS, jointly with the Chulalongkorn University, organised an international conference "Seamless Integration into the Third Decade - Building on Two Decades of ASEAN-India Partnership" to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Cooperation, in Bangkok on 20-21 September 2012. Distinguished participants in the conference included Professor Kua Wongboonsin, Vice President of Chulalongkorn University and Shri Anil Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Thailand. The conference discussed issues related to trade, investment and economic cooperation; connectivity; education, knowledge and institutional cooperation; political cooperation; and perspectives for the future. From RIS, Dr Prabir De, Fellow participated.

Panel Discussion on Socio-Economic Considerations under Biosafety Protocol

A Panel Discussion on Socio-Economic Considerations under Biosafety Protocol was organised by RIS in Hyderabad on 3 October 2012. The event also witnessed the launch of the special issue of the Asian Biotechnology and Development Review (ABDR) on Biosafety and Socio-Economic Considerations. The event was chaired Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority of India. From RIS, Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow; and Dr Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Associate Fellow participated.

Sixth Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference

RIS with support of Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology launched 6th Asian Biotechnology and Development Conference (ABDC) in Hyderabad on 6-7 October 2012. Prof Diran Makinde, ABNE/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Burkina Faso chaired the inaugural session. Mr Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention of Biodiversity Secretariat (CBD), Canada delivered the keynote address. Dr S. R. Rao, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology

(DBT), Government of India, Dr Ranjini Warriar, Director, MoEF and Member Secretary, GEAC and BCH NFP and Dr K. Ravi Srinivas, Associate Fellow, RIS also addressed the inaugural session. The conference had the following sessions: Biotechnology; Inclusion, Access and Development; Affordable Health Care and Biotechnology: What is in for Asia?; Agricultural Biotechnology: Going Beyond GM Crops; Socio-Economic Indicators - Issues and Perspectives; Biotechnology Innovation, Indicators and National Innovation; Country Presentations and Regional Perspectives; and Issues before COP. Mr Hem Pande, Joint Secretary, MoEF and CBD/CPB and GEF National Focal Point (NFP) chaired the valedictory session. Dr William Dar, Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad delivered the valedictory address.

Workshop on the Technology and Innovation Report 2012

RIS and UNCTAD jointly organized a Workshop on Technology and Innovation Report (TIR) 2012. The discussion south-south exchange in trade and investment; and framework for promoting south-south technological learning; From RIS, Dr Biswajit Dhar, Director General, Mr T. C. James, Consultant; and Mr Reji K Joseph, Consultant participated.

Panel Discussion on Global Financial Crisis and the Challenges of dealing with Public Debt

RIS organised a Panel Discussion on Global Financial Crisis and the Challenges of dealing with Public Debt in New Delhi on 19 December 2012. Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS, chaired. The panelist included Dr Benu Schneider, Chief of International Finance, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, USA and Dr Alok Sheel, Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS coordinated the programme.

Capacity-Building Programme on Regional Perspectives and WTO Negotiations on Trade and Economic Cooperation

RIS, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi, organised the Capacity Building Programme on Regional Perspectives and WTO Negotiations on Trade and Economic

Cooperation under the 7th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats in New Delhi on 11 December 2012.

Workshop on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives

RIS, jointly with Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organized a one-day workshop on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives for Foreign Diplomats under the 54th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) in New Delhi on 3 April 2012.

Workshop on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives

RIS, jointly with Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs organized a one-day Workshop for Foreign Diplomats on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives under the 2nd Special Course for IOR-ARC, in New Delhi on 8 May 2012.

Workshop on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives

RIS, jointly with Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs organized a Workshop on Trade and Economic Cooperation: Global and Regional Perspectives for Foreign Diplomats under the 55th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) in New Delhi on 4 September 2012.

RIS Publications

RIS published three Reports, eight Policy Briefs, five Discussion Papers, two issues of South Asia Economic Journal, four issues of Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, and two issues of New Asia Monitor. RIS publications can be downloaded from its website: www.ris.org.in

Budget

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned budgetary support of Rs 5.35 crore to RIS for 2012-13.



The Ministry of External Affairs' Library has over 100,000 books, rich resource materials and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research. The library subscribes/receives and maintains about 350 Periodicals/Journals and newspapers titles (online journals and databases).

All Documentation/Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and services have been computerized, using an integrated library software package "LIBSYS" covering all features of library management. Information on all books, maps, documents and selected articles from periodicals / journals received in the Library are available online for users in the Ministry. Library's Information can also be accessed through Internet in MEA Library's website: <http://mealib.nic.in>.

All new documents received in the Library i.e. books, maps, microfilms, selected articles from periodicals are being fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs called FAIRS. Using this database and CD-ROM Databases, the Library provides Current Awareness Service and Bibliographical and Reference Service. In addition, the Library regularly issues:

A list of Selected articles on International Relations and related subjects.

An annotated list of recent Books/ Publications added to the Library.

The library also regularly issues daily news chronicle, book alert and article alert and sends through group email IDs to all Foreign Service Officers in the Ministry and Indian Missions abroad.

The Library subscribes to "EIU online database services", "EIU Energy Briefings & forecasts", "MBIC from Data monitor", "Business Monitor International", "Intellectual Asset Management", "Keesing's World News Archive", "Newspaper Direct" and "JSTOR", "Jane's Online Journals" and Online magazines (The New Statesman, The New Yorker and Spectator) etc. for the users at Head Quarters in New Delhi and all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. These online databases and journals / periodicals can be accessed on Internet via username and password. A list of such titles is available on MEA Library's Website: <http://mealib.nic.in>.

The Library in cooperation with National Informatics Centre 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 [1995 to 1999 (August)]. This CD can be consulted in the Library at Patiala House, New Delhi.

Library also provided practical training to the students of Library & Information Science studying in various Institutions of Delhi and neighbouring cities from time to time.

A representative of the Library attended the International Federation of Library Associations Committee meeting as member in Helsinki, Finland in August 2012. Two representatives also attended the All India Library Conference 2012 held in Mangalore and 25th IASLIC National Seminar held in Pondicherry.

The Ministry's Library website: <http://mealib.nic.in> is being updated regularly.

Library users including research scholars are welcome to access the Library and its databases, including CD-ROM databases.



Finance and Budget

Major portion of the Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs is under Non-Plan Budget. The Plan portion of MEA's Budget caters to certain large developmental projects undertaken in some of the neighbouring countries of India. These projects are located in Bhutan, Afghanistan and Myanmar. Projects in Bhutan being funded from the Plan Budget Head are the Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Projects - I and II, the Mangdechu Hydroelectric Project, and the construction of the Dungsum Cement Plant. The construction of the Kabul to Pul-e-Khumri double circuit transmission line in Afghanistan has been completed. Two sub-stations are now being constructed at Doshi and Charikar in Afghanistan as additional components of this project. The work on construction of Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project in Myanmar has been continuing. The establishment of the Nalanda International University in Bihar is also being funded from the Plan allocation. Construction of compound wall to secure the land allocated for the university is underway. The contract for the

construction of buildings is expected to be awarded in the second half of 2013.

The Revised Budget Estimate of the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs for the Financial Year 2012-13 is Rs 241.93 crore, which is 2.50% (approx) of the total budget of Rs 9662 crore (Capital and Revenue). The revised Budget Estimate for Indian Missions and Posts abroad is Rs 1589.83 crore which is about 16.45% (approx) of the total capital and revenue budget of the Ministry.

The revenue of Ministry of External Affairs from Passport, Visa fees and other receipts upto 31 December 2012 are Rs 2515.99 crore. Receipts on account of Passport fee, Visa fee, and other receipts are Rs 1348.44 crore, Rs 884.69 crore and Rs 282.86 crore respectively.

The Government of India has extended loan to the Government of Bhutan to assist in the implementation of developmental projects. During 2012-13, the loan extended amounts to Rs 1838.00 crore (RE).



Appendices

Appendix I

Treaties/Convention/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other countries in 2012

A. MULTILATERAL

| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Governments of the Member States of Association of Southeast Asia Nations on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation | 12.01.2012 | | 12.01.2012 |
| 2. | Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters as amended by the Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters | 26.01.2012 | | |
| 3. | SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment SAARC Agreement on Implementation of Regional Standards SAARC Seed Bank Agreement | 11.11.2011 11.11.2012 11.11.2011 11.11.2011 | 02.07.2012 04.06.2012 04.06.2012 29.08.2012 | |
| 4. | MoU between India and ILO for Conducting Collaborative Training Programmers and Research on Training Methodologies. | 31.10.2012 | | 31.10.2012 |

B BILATERAL

| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | Afghanistan: i) MoU between India and Afghanistan on Co-operation in the Field of Development of Coal Mineral Resources ii) MoU on Co-operation in Youth Affairs between The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, India and The Ministry of Information and Culture, Afghanistan. iii) MoU between India and Afghanistan on Co-operation in the field of fertilizer sector | 12.11.2012 12.11.2012 12.11.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| | iv) MoU regarding Indian grant assistance for implementation of small development projects through Local Government Bodies, Community Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, Charitable Trust & Education and Vocational Institutions | 12.11.2012 | | |
| 2. | Azerbaijan: Air services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Azerbaijan | 16.04.2012 | | |
| 3. | Bahrain: i) MoU between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology ii) Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Bahrain for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes | 31.05.2012 31.05.2012 | | |
| 4. | Belarus: i) MoU between the Dept. of Pharmaceuticals, M/O of Chemicals and Fertilizers of India and the Dept. of Pharmaceutical Industry, M/O Health of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of Production and Trade of Pharmaceutical Products. ii) MoU on India - Belarus Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy , Government of the Republic of India And The State Committee on Science and Technology of the Republic of Belarus iii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of Press and Information iv) MoU between Centre for Development of Advanced Computing And The State Scientific Institution "United Institute of Informatics Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus" on Cooperation in the Field of ICT v) Agreement between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Republic of India and The Ministry | 14.11.2012 14.11.2012 14.11.2012 14.11.2012 14.11.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| | of Education of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the Field of Education vi) MoU between the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Republic of India and the State Concern for Oil and Chemistry, Republic of Belarus for Cooperation in Potash Fertilizer Supply | 14.11.2012 | | |
| 5. | Belgium: i) MoU on bilateral Co-operation for the effective development and modernization of railway sector ii) MoU to promote bilateral Co-operation in the area of civilian nuclear energy between Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK-SEN) | 02.08.2012 02.08.2012 | | |
| 6. | Bhutan: i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on Standby Credit Facility ii) Revised Protocol to the Agreement between India and Bhutan regarding the Tala Hydro Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan | 13.06.2012 10.12.2012 | | |
| 7. | Brazil: i) MoU concerning Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Chemistry, Physics, Engineering Measurement Sciences, Development of Certified Reference Materials for Thermo Physics Properties, Nanometrology, Analysis of Surface and Thin Films, Biofuels and Biotechnology between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) through National Physical Laboratory of India and the National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO), Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade of Federative Republic of Brazil. ii) Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange between India and Brazil for the Period 2012-2014 | 11.06.2012 30.03.2012 | | |
| 8. | Burundi: i) Cooperation in the Field of Rural Development ii) Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicine iii) Exchange Program on Co-Operation in the Field of Education | 17.02.2012 18.09.2012 18.09.2012 | | |

Appendix I

| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | iv) Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation between The Government of India and Government of Burundi | 17.02.2012 | | |
| 9. | Canada: i) MoU between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Republic of India and the Department of Transport of Canada on cooperation in Road Transportation ii) Agreement between the Ministry of Mines of the Republic of India and the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and the Quebec Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade regarding cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources iii) Agreement of Social Security between the Republic of India and Canada iv) MoU between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Department of Industry of Canada on cooperation in Information Communication Technology and Electronics v) MoU between DRDO, Ministry of Defense, India and York University, Canada for cooperation in the Areas of Joint Research and Development in Defense Science and Technology | 11.06.2012 24.05.2012 06.11.2012 06.11.2012 06.11.2012 | | 24.05.2012 06.11.2012 |
| 10 | China: i) Agreement between The Government of the Republic of India and The Government of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on Indo-China Border Affairs ii) MoU between The Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of the Republic of India and The National Development and Reform Commission, Government of the People's of China on Enhancing cooperation in the field of Energy Efficiency iii) MoU between the Planning Commission of India and National Development and Reform Commission of China On Undertaking Joint Studies | 17.01.2012 26.11.2012 26.11.2012 | | 17.01.2012 |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | iv) MoU between India and China on Technical Cooperation in Railway Sector | 26.11.2012 | | |
| 11. | Colombia: Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Colombia for 2012-2016 | 12.03.2012 | | |
| 12. | Cuba: i) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of sports between the Ministry of Youth affairs & sports of India and the National Institute of sports, physical education and recreation of Cuba ii) Agreement for US\$ 5 Million Line of Credit for financing the setting up of a Milk Powder Processing plant in Cuba between EXIM Bank of India and Central Bank of Cuba | 14.02.2012 10.10.2012 | | |
| 13. | Dominican Republic Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture between India and Dominican Republic | 23.08.2012 | | |
| 14. | Egypt: i) MoU between the Election Commission of India and Supreme Presidential Election Committee of Egypt on Cooperation in the Field of Electoral Management & Administration. ii) Executive Programme of Cultural, Educational and Scientific Co-operation between India and Egypt for the Years 2012-2014 | 18.09.2012 04.03.2012 | | |
| 15. | El Salvador i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of El Salvador on Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation. | 21.08.2012 | | |
| 16. | European Commission: MoU between The Central Statistics Office (CSO), The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India And The European Commission (EUROSTAT) On Statistical Co-Operation | 10.02.2012 | | |
| 17. | European Union: India-European Union Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation | 10.02.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| 18. | France: i) Administrative Agreement on "Co-operation in the food processing sector" ii) MoU Between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and Louvre Museum, France for the Years 2012-2017 iii) MoU between Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) for establishment of Applied Mathematics at IISc. iv) MoU signed for establishment of International Associated Laboratory in Informatics in Chennai with Chennai Mathematical Institute, Institute of Mathematical Sciences and IISc v) Agreement in the field of sustainable urban development vi) Declaration of Intent for further reinforcing cultural cooperation between Ministry of Culture of India and France | 24.10.2012 03.02.2012 12.01.2012 12.01.2012 3-6.10.2012 26.10.2012 | | 24.10.2012 |
| 19. | Finland: Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Finland | 12.06.2012 | | |
| 20. | Germany: Joint Declaration between the Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development of the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of Sustainable Urban Development | 10.04.2012 | | 10.04.2012 |
| 21. | Israel: i) Agreement between India and Israel for Reciprocal Extradition of each other's nationals ii) An Agreement between India and Israel for Transfer of sentenced persons iii) Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Textiles of Republic of India and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour of the state of Israel on cooperation in the field of Textile & clothing iv) MoU between India and Israel for cooperation in the field of Clothing. v) Joint Declaration between the Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of India and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour of the State of Israel on Co-operation in the filed of water technologies | 10.01.2012 10.01.2012 05.09.2012 05.09.2012 13.02.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 22. | Italy: Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of India on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | 10.08.2012 | | |
| 23. | Jamaica: i) MoU between the National Small Industries Corporation, India and the Jamaica Business Development Cooperation for promotion and development Micro Small & Medium Enterprises in Jamaica ii) MoU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the University of West Indies on the Establishment of ICCR's Chair on Indology/Gandhian Studies | 20.02.2012 30.08.2012 | | |
| 24. | Japan: i) Agreement between India and Japan on Social Security ii) MoU between the Department of atomic Energy of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on Co-operation in the Rare Earths Industry in India | 16.11.2012 16.11.2012 | | |
| 25. | Libya: i) MoU between India and Libya on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Electronics. | 30.11.2012 | | |
| 26. | Malaysia: i) Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters ii) Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Malaysia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income. | 12.03.2012 09.05.2012 | | 26.12.2012 |
| 27. | Maldives: MoU between Govt. of Republic of India and the Govt. of Maldives regarding the setting up of National Police Academy | 26.11.2012 | | |
| 28. | Mauritius: i) MoU between Ministry of Textiles of India and Ministry of Industry, consumer Protection of Mauritius for co-operation in the field of Textiles & Clothing ii) MoU between Government of India through the National Council of Science Museums and Government of Mauritius through Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre Trust Fund | 07.02.2012 07.02.2012 | | 07.02.2012 |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| | <p>iii) MoU between Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and Mauritius Research Council, Mauritius on Science and Technology Cooperation</p> <p>iv) Exchange Programme between Government of India and Government of Mauritius on Cooperation in the Field of Education</p> <p>v) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Sports and Youth Affairs between Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India and Ministry of Youth and Sports of Government of Mauritius</p> <p>vi) MoU between Reserve Bank of India and bank of Mauritius for Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information</p> <p>vii) MoU for Promotion of Hindi in Mauritius between Ministry of Arts and Culture, Government of Mauritius, Hindi Speaking Union and Adharshila of Nainital</p> | <p>07.02.2012</p> <p>07.02.2012</p> <p>07.02.2012</p> <p>07.02.2012</p> <p>07.02.2012</p> | | |
| 29. | <p>Mali:</p> <p>MoU between India and Mali on Cooperation in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources</p> | 11.01.2012 | | |
| 30. | <p>Mexico:</p> <p>i) A letter of intent on Collaboration in the Field of Traditional Medicine in the Area of Health between the Secretariat of Health of the Government of the United Mexican States and the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India.</p> <p>ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indian and the Government of the United Mexican States on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters</p> | <p>15.10.2012</p> <p>10.08.2012</p> | | |
| 31. | <p>Monaco:</p> <p>Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Principality of Monaco for Exchange of Information relating to Tax Matters.</p> | 31.07.2012 | | |
| 32. | <p>Mozambique:</p> <p>Agreement of Mutual Cooperation in the Field of Security</p> | 14.07.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| 33. | Myanmar: i) MoU signed between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of Myanmar on India-Myanmar Border Area Development. ii) MoU signed between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar on Air-Services iii) MoU between the Govt. of Republic of India and the Govt. of Republic of the Union of Myanmar towards setting up of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) iv) MoU between The Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Establishment of the Advance Centre for Agricultural Research and Education, Yezin Agricultural University, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. v) MoU between the Govt. of the Republic of India and The Govt. of the Republic of Myanmar on the Establishment of a Rice Bio-Park At Dept. of Agricultural Research in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. vi) MoU between India and Myanmar on Establishing Border Haats across the border between India and Myanmar vii) MoU signed between India and Myanmar on Cultural Exchange Programme viii) MoU between the Ministry of Commerce And Industry of India and the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar on the Establishment of Joint Trade And Investment Forum ix) MoU on Co-operation between Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) x) MoU between India and Myanmar on MoU between Calcutta University, Kolkata and Dagon University, Yangon. xi) MoU regarding USD 500 Million Credit Line between Export-Import Bank of India and Myanmar Trade Bank. xii) MoU between the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) xiii) MoU on Co-operation in the construction /Up gradation of the RHI-TIDDIM road in Myanmar along the Myanmar- India border. | 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 28.05.2012 14.12.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| 34. | Netherlands: i) Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital ii) MoU between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Cooperation in the field of Food Safety iii) Joint Declaration of intent of the Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Kingdom of Netherlands. | 10.05.2012 30.11.2012 19.04.2012 | | |
| 35. | Niue: Joint Communique on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Niue | 30.08.2012 | | |
| 36. | Pakistan: i) Visa Agreement between India and Pakistan ii) MoU on Cultural Cooperation between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Pakistan National Council of the Arts | 08.09.2012 08.09.2012 | | |
| 37. | Palestine: i) MoU between India and Palestine for Construction and Equipping of Jawaharlal Nehru Secondary School for Girls in Asera Al Shamal Yeh and Jawaharlal Nehru Secondary School for Boys in Abu Dees. ii) MoU between India and Palestine for providing Technical and Vocational Education Training Equipment and Training Services for the Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Centres in Palestine. iii) MoU between India and Palestine for Establishing India-Palestine Centre of Excellence in ICT. | 11.09.2012 11.09.2012 11.09.2012 | | |
| 38. | Peru: i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Republic of Peru on Co-operation in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources | 13.07.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| | ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru for the Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT) | 13.07.2012 | | |
| 39. | Poland: Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Audiovisual Co-Production | 04.07.2012 | | |
| 40. | Qatar: Cultural Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Qatar | 09.04.2012 | | |
| 41. | Romania: MoU between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India and National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control of Romania for the Exchange of information and Co-Operation in the Field of Regulation of Nuclear Activities for Peaceful Purposes | 19.09.2012 | | |
| 42. | Russian Federation: i) Protocol to the Agreement dated 05-12-08 between India and Russian Federation on Cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at Kudankulam site as well as in the construction of Russian designed nuclear power plants at new sites in India ii) Protocol of the XVIII session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade & Economic, Scientific & Technical and Cultural Co-operation iii) Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Russia Federation on the Provision to the Republic of India of Access to the High Precision Signal of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS iv) Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for the period of 2013-2014 v) MoU between Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation in Science, Technology and Innovation. | 17.07.2012 15.10.2012 21.12.2010 24.12.2012 24.12.2012 | 23.11.2012 | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| | vi) Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Years 2013-2015 vii) MoU to Promote Direct Investment between Russia and India viii) MoU between BSNL, India & MTNL, India and JSC Navigation Information Systems (NIS GLONASS) Moscow, Russia for conducting the proof of concept through pilot project for providing the satellite based navigation services | 24.12.2012 24.12.2012 24.12.2012 | | |
| 43. | Rwanda: i) The establishment of a Joint Commission between India and Rwanda ii) MoU for India-Rwanda Renewable Energy Cooperation iii) MoU between India and Rwanda for Rural Electrification of Schools | 15.02.2012 15.02.2012 15.02.2012 | | |
| 44. | Spain: i) The establishment of a Joint Commission between India i) MoU on Defence Cooperation ii) MoU on Roads and Road Transport sector iii) Agreement between India and Spain in the field of Audiovisual Co production iv) MoU BETWEEN Indian Railways and RENFEOPERADORA AND ADIF of Spain on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railway Sector v) MoU between The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Government of the Republic of India and The Ministerio De Fomento (Ministry of Public Works and Transport) of the Kingdom of Spain on Co-operation in the Roads and Road Transport Sector | 26.10.2012 26.10.2012 26.10.2012 26.10.2012 26.10.2012 | | |
| 45. | Seychelles: i) MoU between Government of India and Government of Seychelles for providing Coastal Surveillance Radar System ii) MoU on Police Research/Training by Bureau of Police Research and Development iii) MoU on Cooperation in Youth Affairs and Sports Affairs | 14.02.2012 14.02.2012 14.02.2012 | | |

Appendix I

| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 46. | South Africa: i) Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of South Africa for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | | | |
| 47. | South Korea: Agreement on Simplifying Visa Procedures between India and Korea | 25.03.2012 | | |
| 48. | Singapore: i) MoU between India and Singapore for Cooperation in the field of Vocational Education & Skill Development. | 11.07.2012 | | 11.11.2012 |
| 49. | Sri Lanka: i) MoU between International Buddhist Museum, Sri Lanka, Kandy, Republic of Sri Lanka and National Council of Science Museums of the Republic of India ii) Agreement between India and Sri Lanka concerning the Organization of an Exposition of the Kapilvastu Relics from Piprahwa in Sri Lanka iii) Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Colombia for the Years 2012-2016 | August 2012 18.05.2012 12.03.2012 | | |
| 50. | Tajikistan: i) Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in the field of health and medicine. ii) MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs. iii) Agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Republic of India On Cooperation in the field of Social and Labour relations. iv) Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India in the Field of Culture and Art for 2012-2015 Years | 03.09.2012 03.09.2012 03.09.2012 03.09.2012 | | |

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| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement | Date of signature | Date of Deposit Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry into Force |
|---------|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| | v) Agreement on Exchange Programme between Govt. of Republic of India and Govt. of Republic of Tajikistan on Cooperation in the Field of Education. vi) Agreement between Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Textiles vii) Protocol of Bilateral Negotiations between India and Tajikistan for the Accession of the Republic of Tajikistan to the WTO | 03.09.2012 03.09.2012 | | 03.09.2012 |
| 51. | Thailand: i) Second Protocol to amend the framework agreement for establishing free trade area between India and Thailand ii) Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange between India and Thailand for the Years 2012-2014 | 25.01.2012 25.01.2012 | | 01.04.2012 |
| 52. | Trinidad and Tobago: i) Second Protocol to amend the framework agreement for i) Agreements on Cultural Exchange Programme, Technical Cooperation on Education, Air Services, Bilateral Air Services between Govt. of the Republic of India and Govt. of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago ii) MoU on Cooperation in Traditional Indian Medicine iii) MoU on setting up of a Chair on Ayurveda in the University of West Indies iv) MoU on the Establishment of ICCR Chairs of Hindi & Indian Studies | 06.01.2012 06.01.2012 06.01.2012 04.09.2012 | | |
| 53. | Turkey: i) MoU between India and Turkey | 15.06.2012 | | |
| 54. | Ukraine: i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Co-operation in the field of Defence ii) Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Ukraine on Co-operation in the field of Science and Technology iii) Treaty on Mutual Legal assistance in civil & commercial between India and Ukraine | 10.12.2012 10.12.2012 10.12.2012 | | |

Appendix I

| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement signature | Date of Deposit | Date of into Force Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry |
|---------|--|--|--|---------------|
| | iv) Agreement between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Government of India and the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine for Exchange of Technical Information and co-operation on Nuclear safety and radiation protection | 10.12.2012 | | |
| | v) MoU in the filed of standardization, conformity assessment and quality between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade of Ukraine. | 10.12.2012 | | |
| 55. | United Nations Development Programme: Partnership Framework Agreement between The Government of India and The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | 14.03.2012 | | 14.03.2012 |
| 56. | United Kingdom: MoU between the ministry of Urban Development of India and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Co-operation on Urban Regeneration and Development | 19.09.2012 | | |
| 57. | United Arab Emirates: i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters ii) Agreement on setting up of a Tagore Centre for Global Thought at Indian Institute At Kings College between Ministry of Culture and Kings College iii) Joint statement on Cyber issues, issued during the visit of secretary of state of UK, Mr William Hague to New Delhi | 01.04.2012 15.06.2012 08.11.2012 | | |
| 58. | United States of America: i) MoU between the Ministry of Labour and the Employment of the Republic of India and the Department of Labour of the United States of America regarding Labour Cooperation ii) Second Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of India and The Government of United Arab Emirates for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital | 02.02.2012 16.04.2012 | | |

Appendix I

| Sl. No. | Title of Convention / Treaty / Agreement signature | Date of Deposit | Date of into Force Ratification / Accession / Acceptance | Date of Entry |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | <p>iii) MoU between India and United States of America for Cooperation in the field of skill Development, Youth Employment, Occupational Safety & Health and Mines Safety & Health</p> <p>iv) MoU for Joint Collaborative Programme between Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines and University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology for Study of late cretaceous Continental tetra pod fossils from Lameta formation</p> | <p>02.02.2012</p> <p>27.02.2012</p> | | 02.02.2012 |
| 59. | United Mexican States: Programme for Co-operation in the filed of Culture between India and United Mexican States for the Period 2012-2015 | 16.04.2012 | | |
| 60. | Uzbekistan: <p>i) Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income</p> <p>ii) MoU between the Ministry of Textiles of India and Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs, Investment and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan for co-operation in the sphere of Textiles, Clothing and Fashion Industries.</p> | <p>11.04.2012</p> <p>18.05.2011</p> | | <p>20.10.2012</p> <p>18.05.2011</p> |

Appendix II

Instruments of Full Powers issued during the period January 2012 to December 2012

| Sl. No. | Convention/Treaty | Date of Full Powers |
|---------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters | 06.1.2012 |
| 2. | Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters as amended by the Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters. | 18.01.2012 |
| 3. | Agreement between Romania and the Government of the Republic of India for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | 13.02.2012 |
| 4. | Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. | 29.02.2012 |
| 5. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Principality of Monaco for Exchange of Information relating to Tax Matters. | 29.02.2012 |
| 6. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income. | 16.03.2012 |
| 7. | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital. | 16.03.2012 |
| 8. | Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income. | 03.04.2012 |
| 9. | Second Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital. | 13.04.2012 |
| 10. | Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Finland | 23.05.2012 |
| 11. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Audio-Visual Co-Production | 25.05.2012 |
| 12. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes. | 31.05.2012 |
| 13. | Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology | 05.07.2012 |
| 14. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital. | 05.07.2012 |
| 15. | Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters. | 09.07.2012 |
| 16. | Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Mobility of the Kingdom of Belgium | 31.07.2012 |

Appendix II

| Sl. No. | Convention/Treaty | Date of Full Powers |
|---------|---|---------------------|
| 17. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of India on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | 01.08.2012 |
| 18. | 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 | 22.08.2012 |
| 19. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Mexican States on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters | 10.09.2012 |
| 20. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters | 18.09.2012 |
| 21. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Redressal of Trade Grievances | 18.09.2012 |
| 22. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development | 02.10.2012 |
| 23. | Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Sweden | 16.10.2012 |
| 24. | Administrative Agreement between the Ministry of Food Processing Industries of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Spatial Planning of the Republic of France | 16.10.2012 |
| 25. | Protocol Amending the Convention and Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital | 25.10.2012 |
| 26. | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains | 25.10.2012 |
| 27. | Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and Canada | 30.10.2012 |
| 28. | Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India | 01.11.2012 |
| 29. | Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | 05.11.2012 |
| 30. | Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Industry of Canada and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India on Cooperation in Information Communication Technology and Electronics | 05.11.2012 |
| 31. | Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters | 20.11.2012 |
| 32. | Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters | 14.12.2012 |

Appendix III

Instruments of Ratification/Accession issued during the period January 2012 to December 2012

| Sl. . No | Instruments of Ratification/Accession | Date of Issue of Ratification |
|-------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and Related Matters | 23.01.2012 |
| 2. | Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters as amended by the Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters | 02.02.2012 |
| 3. | Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters | 29.02.2012 |
| 4. | Second Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Thailand | 01.03.2012 |
| 5. | Agreement between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Republic of India concerning Intellectual Property Rights on the Development of the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy | 02.03.2012 |
| 6. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and Related Matters | 15.03.2012 |
| 7. | Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of State of Israel on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | 15.03.2012 |
| 8. | Third Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia | 27.03.2012 |
| 9. | Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters | 27.04.2012 |
| 10. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters | 27.04.2012 |
| 11. | Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Arab Emirates | 18.05.2012 |
| 12. | SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment | 04.06.2012 |
| 13. | SAARC Agreement on Implementation of Regional Standards | 04.06.2012 |
| 14. | Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Hungary | 05.06.2012 |
| 15. | Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Republic of Finland | 25.06.2012 |
| 16. | SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters | 02.07.2012 |
| 17. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on the establishment of a Joint Commission | 07.08.2012 |
| 18. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Audiovisual Co-Production | 07.08.2012 |
| 19. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | 23.08.2012 |

Appendix III

| Sl. . No | Instruments of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Issue of Ratification |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 20. | Agreement on Establishing the SAARC Seed Bank | 29.08.2012 |
| 21. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Principality of Monaco for Exchange of Information relating to Tax Matters | 31.08.2012 |
| 22. | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital | 31.08.2012 |
| 23. | Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity | 08.10.2012 |
| 24. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Italy on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | 16.11.2012 |
| 25. | Protocol between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Spain Amending the Convention and Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital | 16.11.2012 |
| 26. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters | 16.11.2012 |
| 27. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Mexican States on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters | 16.11.2012 |
| 28. | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Provision to the Republic of India of Access to the High Precision Signal of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS | 23.11.12 |

Appendix IV

List of ITEC and SCAAP countries

ITEC Countries

| S.No. | Country | S.No. | Country |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Afghanistan | 32 | Commonwealth of Dominica |
| 2 | Albania | 33 | Comoros |
| 3 | Algeria | 34 | Congo |
| 4 | Angola | 35 | Cooks Island |
| 5 | Anguilla | 36 | Costa Rica |
| 6 | Antigua and Barbuda | 37 | Cote D' Ivoire |
| 7 | Argentina | 38 | Czech Republic |
| 8 | Armenia | 39 | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| 9 | Azerbaijan | 40 | Djibouti |
| 10 | Bahamas | 41 | Dominican Republic |
| 11 | Bahrain | 42 | Ecuador |
| 12 | Bangladesh | 43 | Egypt |
| 13 | Barbados | 44 | El-Salvador |
| 14 | Belarus | 45 | Equatorial Guinea |
| 15 | Belize | 46 | Eritrea |
| 16 | Benin | 47 | Estonia |
| 17 | Bhutan | 48 | Ethiopia |
| 18 | Bolivia | 49 | Fiji |
| 19 | Bosnia - Herzegovina | 50 | Gabon |
| 20 | Brazil | 51 | Georgia |
| 21 | Brunei Darussalam | 52 | Grenada |
| 22 | Bulgaria | 53 | Guatemala |
| 23 | Burkina Faso | 54 | Guinea |
| 24 | Burundi | 55 | Guinea Bissau |
| 25 | Cambodia | 56 | Guyana |
| 26 | Cape Verde Island | 57 | Haiti |
| 27 | Cayman Island | 58 | Honduras |
| 28 | Central African Republic | 59 | Hungary |
| 29 | Chad | 60 | Indonesia |
| 30 | Chile | 61 | Iran |
| 31 | Colombia | 62 | Iraq |

Appendix IV

| S.No. | Country | S.No. | Country |
|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 63 | Jamaica | 102 | Poland |
| 64 | Jordan | 103 | Qatar |
| 65 | Kazakhstan | 104 | Republic of Sao Tome |
| 66 | Kiribati | 105 | Romania |
| 67 | Korea(DPRK) | 106 | Russia |
| 68 | Kyrgyzstan | 107 | Rwanda |
| 69 | Laos | 108 | Samoa |
| 70 | Latvia | 109 | Senegal |
| 71 | Lebanon | 110 | Serbia |
| 72 | Liberia | 111 | Singapore |
| 73 | Libya | 112 | Slovak Republic |
| 74 | Lithuania | 113 | Solomon Island |
| 75 | Macedonia | 114 | Somalia |
| 76 | Madagascar | 115 | Sri Lanka |
| 77 | Malaysia | 116 | St. Kitts & Nevis |
| 78 | Maldives | 117 | St. Lucia |
| 79 | Mali | 118 | St. Vincent & Grenadines |
| 80 | Marshall Islands | 119 | Sudan |
| 81 | Mauritania | 120 | South Sudan |
| 82 | Mexico | 121 | Suriname |
| 83 | Micronesia | 122 | Syria |
| 84 | Moldova | 123 | Tajikistan |
| 85 | Mongolia | 124 | Thailand |
| 86 | Montenegro | 125 | Timor Leste |
| 87 | Montserrat | 126 | Togo |
| 88 | Morocco | 127 | Tonga |
| 89 | Myanmar | 128 | Trinidad & Tobago |
| 90 | Nauru | 129 | Tunisia |
| 91 | Nepal | 130 | Turkey |
| 92 | Nicaragua | 131 | Turkmenistan |
| 93 | Niger | 132 | Turks & Caicos Island |
| 94 | Oman | 133 | Tuvalu |
| 95 | Palau | 134 | Ukraine |
| 96 | Palestine | 135 | Uruguay |
| 97 | Panama | 136 | Uzbekistan |
| 98 | Papua New Guinea | 137 | Vanuatu |
| 99 | Paraguay | 138 | Venezuela |
| 100 | Peru | 139 | Vietnam |
| 101 | Philippines | 140 | Yemen |

Appendix IV

SCAAP Countries

| S.No. | Country | S.No. | Country |
|-------|------------|-------|--------------|
| 141 | Cameroon | 151 | Nigeria |
| 142 | Cameroon | 152 | Seychelles |
| 143 | Gambia | 153 | Sierra Leone |
| 144 | Ghana | 154 | South Africa |
| 145 | Kenya | 155 | Swaziland |
| 146 | Lesotho | 156 | Tanzania |
| 147 | Malawi | 157 | Uganda |
| 148 | Mauritius | 158 | Zambia |
| 149 | Mozambique | 159 | Zimbabwe |
| 150 | Namibia | | |

Appendix V

List of ITEC/SCAAP empanelled institutions

| S.No. | Name of Institute | City |
|---|---|-----------|
| Accounts, Audit, Banking and Finance Courses | | |
| 01. | Institute of Government Accounts and Finance | New Delhi |
| 02. | International Center for Information and System Audit | Noida |
| 03. | National Institute of Bank Management | Pune |
| IT, Telecommunication and English Courses | | |
| 04. | Aptech Limited | New Delhi |
| 05. | Centre for Development of Advanced Computing | Mohali |
| 06. | Centre for Development of Advanced Computing | Noida |
| 07. | Centre for Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management | Mumbai |
| 08. | CMC Ltd. | New Delhi |
| 09. | English and Foreign Languages University | Hyderabad |
| 10. | NIIT Ltd | New Delhi |
| 11. | UTL Technologies Ltd. | Bangalore |
| Management Courses | | |
| 12. | Administrative Staff College of India | Hyderabad |
| 13. | Institute of Applied Manpower Research | Delhi |
| 14. | International Management Institute | New Delhi |
| SME/Rural Development Courses | | |
| 15. | Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India | Ahmedabad |
| 16. | National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development | NOIDA |
| 17. | National Institute for Micro Small & Medium Enterprises | Hyderabad |
| 18. | National Institute of Rural Development | Hyderabad |
| Specialized Courses | | |
| 19. | Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training | New Delhi |
| 20. | Human Settlement Management Institute | New Delhi |
| 21. | Indian Institute of Mass Communication | New Delhi |
| 22. | International Statistical Education Centre | Kolkata |
| 23. | National Crime Records Bureau | New Delhi |
| 24. | National Institute of Training for Standardization (Bureau of Indian Standards) | Noida |
| 25. | National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research | Chennai |
| 26. | National University of Educational Planning and Administration | New Delhi |
| 27. | Postal Staff College | Ghaziabad |
| 28. | Research and Information System for Developing Countries | New Delhi |
| 29. | V.V. Giri National Labour Institute | Noida |

Appendix IV

| S.No. | Name of Institute | City |
|---|---|--|
| Technical Courses | | |
| 30. | Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute | Faridabad |
| 31. | Central Institute of Rural Electrification | Hyderabad |
| 32. | Central Institute of Tool Design | Hyderabad |
| 33. | Central Scientific Instruments Organization | New Delhi |
| 34. | Fluid Control Research Institute | Kerala |
| 35. | Geological Survey of India- Training Institute | Hyderabad |
| 36. | Indian Institute of Production Management - Kansbahal | Orissa |
| 37. | Indian Institute of Remote Sensing | Dehradun |
| 38. | Indian Institute of Technology | Roorkee, Department of Hydrology |
| 39. | Indian Institute of Technology | Roorkee, Department of Water Resources Development and Management |
| 40. | National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research | SAS Nagar, Punjab |
| 41. | South India Textile Research Association | Coimbatore |
| Environment and Renewable Energy Courses | | |
| 42. | Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology | Roorkee |
| 43. | Barefoot College | Tilonia, Rajasthan |
| 44. | Centre for Wind Energy Technology | Chennai |
| 45. | Indian Institute of Science | Bangaluru |
| 46. | Solar Energy Centre | Gurgaon |
| 47. | TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute) | New Delhi |

Appendix VI

Conferences/Seminars/Study Projects organized/undertaken by Universities/Institutions which were funded partially or wholly by the Policy Planning and Research Division during 2012-13

| S.No | Project Details | Institute |
|------|---|--|
| 1 | Recurring Grant to Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in Calcutta University Campus, Alipur, Kolkatta. | Calcutta University, Kolkatta |
| 2 | Study Project on "India-Myanmar Relations: A Critical Evaluation and Policy recommendation" By Dr Baladas Ghoshal. | Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi |
| 3 | Continuation of Research Project to develop an institutional basis for a better understanding of the area falling within PoK which includes Gilgil Baltistan by IDSA. | IDSA, New Delhi |
| 4 | A seminar on "The Challenges to the synergy building in Indo-US relation in the 21st Century" By Centre for Canadian, US and Latin American Studies. | Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi |

Appendix VII

Statement showing the total number of passport applications received and passports issued, total miscellaneous applications received and services rendered; No. of passports issued as well as revenue under tatkaal scheme; and total revenue and expenditure of passport offices during January to December 2012

| Statement showing the number of passport services rendered by Passport Offices during January 01 to December 31, 2012 | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Passport Office | No. of Passport applications received | No. of Passports issued | No. of Passports issued under Tatkaal | No. of miscellaneous applications received | No. of miscellaneous services rendered | Revenue |
| Ahmedabad | 330121 | 313656 | 4210 | 9876 | 9758 | 381673340 |
| Amritsar | 77404 | 73671 | 6026 | 6370 | 6945 | 91000700 |
| Bangalore | 407646 | 400263 | 45877 | 11823 | 11541 | 558679649 |
| Bareilly | 72695 | 70610 | 1973 | 3506 | 3272 | 80858235 |
| Bhopal | 105927 | 109243 | 11857 | 1151 | 1131 | 74951290 |
| Bhubneswar | 30484 | 73164 | 3870 | 1234 | 1199 | 44962100 |
| Chandigarh | 283102 | 282672 | 8667 | 13919 | 13748 | 333878200 |
| Chennai | 329408 | 319321 | 64076 | 11186 | 11003 | 477727000 |
| Cochin | 296255 | 264968 | 68072 | 71729 | 14740 | 335181401 |
| Coimbatore | 82156 | 78591 | 10875 | 1274 | 1215 | 110747200 |
| Dehradun | 54577 | 51148 | 3702 | 2011 | 1783 | 47308193 |
| Delhi | 318129 | 264785 | 74142 | 6789 | 6467 | 509323162 |
| Ghaziabad | 115131 | 119,828 | 5603 | 3,507 | 3372 | 90667105 |
| Guwahati | 60264 | 52111 | 8581 | 1940 | 2315 | 74040700 |
| Hyderabad | 523720 | 503243 | 53666 | 49136 | 46516 | 647602868 |
| Jaipur | 184720 | 196703 | 16123 | 12801 | 7792 | 216649200 |
| Jalandhar | 127731 | 140923 | 1645 | 13221 | 12734 | 151456600 |
| Jammu | 25149 | 24627 | 47 | 1203 | 1039 | 430436863 |
| Kolkata | 281197 | 233380 | 17385 | 9645 | 8968 | 309282275 |
| Kozhikode | 232604 | 227923 | 38509 | 10820 | 10638 | 322907296 |
| Lucknow | 354259 | 302359 | 12595 | 26506 | 25562 | 442511962 |
| Madurai | 176821 | 161299 | 135 | 8005 | 7754 | 222114970 |
| Malappuram | 193462 | 194650 | 35434 | 9292 | 9285 | 59823390 |
| Mumbai | 324529 | 277187 | 32833 | 8198 | 7840 | 408440304 |
| Nagpur | 87560 | 92551 | 5433 | 1014 | 977 | 101382645 |
| Panaji | 30215 | 22498 | 283 | 2892 | 2628 | 28120400 |
| Patna | 146582 | 133648 | 2119 | 11838 | 13358 | 165315715 |
| Pune | 144928 | 146756 | 22422 | 4099 | 4153 | 191166230 |
| Raipur | 37473 | 32517 | 3983 | 378 | 367 | 10658800 |
| Ranchi | 56979 | 55520 | 4428 | 3486 | 3211 | 29652230 |
| Shimla | 24461 | 21991 | 2826 | 1951 | 1905 | 39280500 |

Appendix VII

| Passport Office | No. of Passport applications received | No. of Passports issued | No. of Passports issued under Tatkaal | No. of miscellaneous applications received | No. of miscellaneous services rendered | Revenue |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Srinagar | 56728 | 61463 | 231 | 1159 | 973 | 61644500 |
| Surat | 115671 | 111993 | 2884 | 7040 | 6411 | 131308000 |
| Thane | 192332 | 129791 | 13156 | 5123 | 5071 | 177067700 |
| Trichy | 141374 | 128339 | 7341 | 8917 | 8917 | 174630811 |
| Trivandrum | 158203 | 131790 | 41986 | 11962 | 11760 | 229948600 |
| Vizag | 103183 | 110526 | 9544 | 28730 | 28087 | 154674284 |
| Total | 6283180 | 5915708 | 642539 | 383731 | 314435 | 7917074418 |
| HQ CPV Division (Diplomatic/Official Passport) | | | | | | 2301/22010 |
| Passports/ECs Issued by 180 Missions/Posts Abroad | | | | | | 1135104* |
| Grant Total (Passports and ECs issued + Total Miscellaneous services rendered) | | | | | | 7389558 |

Appendix VIII

Cadre strength of the Central Passport Organisation as o n 31.12.2012

| Group & Name of post | Total sanctioned strength |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Group 'A' | |
| Passport Officer | 17 |
| Deputy Passport Officer | 71 |
| Assistant Passport Officer | 135 |
| Sub-total : | 223 |
| Group 'B'(Gazetted) | |
| Passport Granting Officer | 320 |
| Superintendent | 245 |
| Subtotal : | 565 |
| Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) | |
| Assistant | 428 |
| Hindi Translator | 23 |
| Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted) | |
| UDC | 628 |
| UDC(Hindi) | 04 |
| LDC | 648 |
| Driver | 00 |
| Stenographer | 30 |
| Office Assistant | 148 |
| Subtotal : | 1,909 |
| Grand Total : | 2,697 |

Appendix IX

**Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions/Post abroad as on 10.12.2012
(including posts budgeted by Ministry of Commerce and those of ex-cadre etc.)**

| S.No. | Cadre/Post | Posts at Hqrs. | Posts at Missions | Total |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Grade I | 5 | 28 | 33 |
| 2. | Grade II | 6 | 40 | 46 |
| 3. | Grade III | 38 | 126 | 164 |
| 4. | Grade IV | 46 | 137 | 183 |
| 5. | Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale | 78 | 203 | 281 |
| 6. | (i) Junior Scale | 10 | 25 | 35 |
| | (ii) Probationers Reserve | 62 | - | 62 |
| | (iii) Leave Reserve | 15 | - | 15 |
| | (iv) Deputation Reserve | 19 | - | 19 |
| | (v) Training Reserve | 7 | - | 7 |
| | Sub Total | 286 | 559 | 845 |
| | IFS(B) | | | |
| 7. | (i) Grade I | 126 | 120 | 246 |
| | (ii) Deputation Reserve | 6 | - | 6 |
| 8. | (i) Integrated Grades II & III | 349 | 223 | 572 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 30 | - | 30 |
| | (iii) Deputation Reserve | 16 | - | 16 |
| | (iv) Training Reserve | 25 | - | 25 |
| 9. | (i) Grade IV | 180 | 426 | 606 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 60 | - | 60 |
| | (iii) Deputation Reserve | 55 | - | 55 |
| 10. | (i) Grade V/VI | 144 | 103 | 247 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 60 | - | 60 |
| | (iii) Deputation Reserve | 14 | - | 14 |
| 11. | (i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre | 39 | 147 | 186 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 24 | - | 24 |
| 12. | (i) Stenographer's Cadre | 332 | 512 | 844 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 47 | - | 47 |
| | (iii) Training Reserve (Hindi) | 10 | - | 10 |
| | (iv) Deputation Reserve | 12 | - | 12 |
| 13. | Interpreter's Cadre | 7 | 26 | 33 |
| 14. | L&T Cadre | 23 | 1 | 24 |
| | Sub Total | 1559 | 1558 | 3117 |
| | Grand Total | 1845 | 2117 | 3962 |

Appendix X

Data on recruitment through direct recruitment, departmental promotion and limited departmental examination made in the Ministry along with reserved vacancies for April 2012 to December 2012

| Groups | Total No. of Vacancies | Number of Vacancies | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----|-----|
| | | SC | ST | OBC |
| Group A | 185 | 09 | 04 | 07 |
| (Ex-Cadre) Group A | 02 | 00 | 00 | 01 |
| Group B | 310 | 61 | 17 | 26 |
| Group C | 45 | 09 | 02 | 05 |
| Total | 542 | 79 | 23 | 39 |

Appendix XI

Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages

| Language | Number of officers |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Arabic | 95 |
| Bahasa Indonesia | 11 |
| Bahasa Malay | 2 |
| Burmese | 4 |
| Chinese | 64 |
| Dutch | 1 |
| French | 71 |
| German | 29 |
| Hebrew | 6 |
| Italian | 2 |
| Japanese | 21 |
| 1Kazakh | 1 |
| Kiswahili | 6 |
| Korean | 4 |
| Nepalese | 3 |
| Persian | 19 |
| Portuguese | 19 |
| Pushtu | 1 |
| Russian | 84 |
| Serbo-Croatian | 2 |
| Sinhalese | 3 |
| Spanish | 64 |
| Turkish | 7 |
| Ukrainian | 1 |
| Vietnamese | 3 |

Appendix XII

RIS Publications

ASEAN-India Connectivity Report: India Country Study

Expansion of North East India's Trade and Investment with Bangladesh and Myanmar: An Assessment of the Opportunities and Constraints

Trade and Investment Prospects of the IOR-ARC in the New Millennium: New Economic Frontiers of the Region

Policy Briefs

Public Health and Pharmaceutical Industry: Making the Indian Generic Pharmaceutical Industry Vibrant, by Dr Biswajit Dhar, Mr T. C. James and Mr Reji K. Joseph

Reserve Management in Asia: Changing Contours and Challenges by Dr Priyadarshi Dash

Is China's Slowdown for Real? by Ms Ramaa Arun Kumar

Internationalisation of Yuan by Ms Ramaa Arun Kumar

Property Bubble: The Chinese Approach by Ms Ramaa Arun Kumar

Feeding India's Growing Billion: Inclusive Growth of Food Production Indispensable by Prof. B. C. Barah, Chair Professor, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

China Updates by Ms Ramaa Arun Kumar

Chinese Yuan, Spreading Its Wings by Ms Ramaa Arun Kumar

Discussion Papers

India-Baltic Sea Region Trade and Connectivity: Myth or Reality? by Prabir De

The R&D Scenario in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry by Reji K Joseph

BRICS and South-South Cooperation in Medicine: Emerging Trends in Research and Entrepreneurial Collaborations by Sachin Chaturvedi and Halla Thorsteinsdóttir

India 2050: Can We Celebrate the Centenary of the Republic as a Developed Country? by Ramgopal Agarwala

Towards a More Equitable Outcome from Rio Plus 20 by Ambassador A. Gopinathan

Journals

South Asia Economic Journal, Vol. 12, No.2, September 2011

South Asia Economic Journal, Vol. 13, No.1, March 2012

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, Vol. 13, No. 3, November 2011

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, Vol. 14, No. 1, March 2012

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, Vol. 14, No.2, July 2012

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review, Vol. 14, No. 3, November 2012

New Asia Monitor, Vol. 8, No.3, Vol.9 No.1, January 2012

New Asia Monitor, Vol.9, Nos. 2&3, October 2012

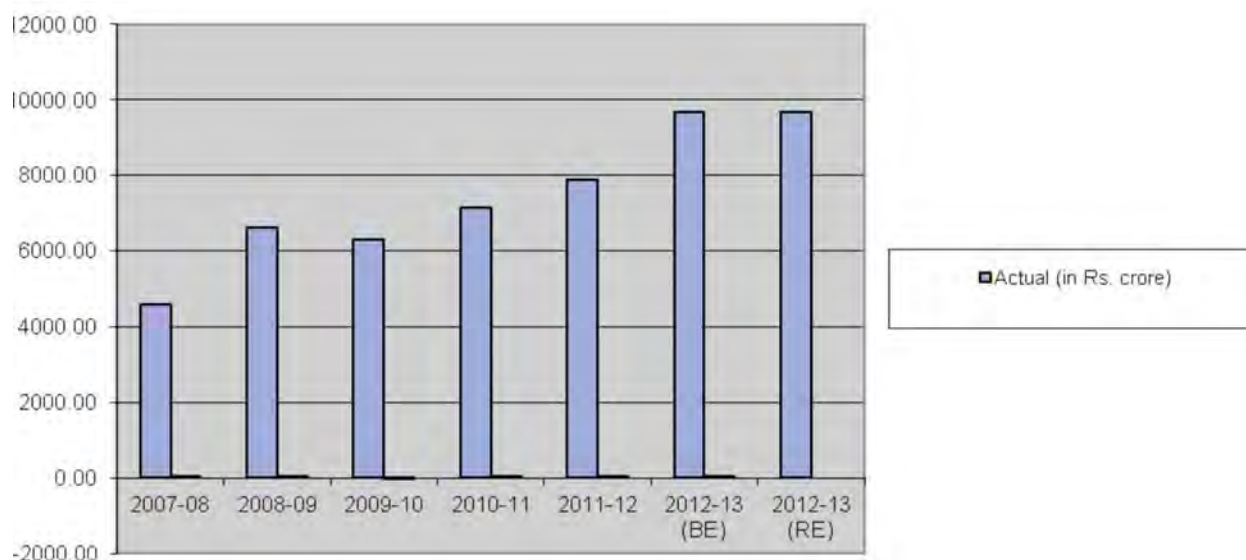
Appendix XIII

The Budget allocation (BE) 2012-13 is Rs 9661.97 crore, which is 35.97% more than BE 2011-12 of Rs7106 crore. The RE 2012-13 is Rs 9662 crore which is almost the same figure of BE 2012-13

MEA Expenditure Actual 2007-08 to 2012-13
(Revenue and Capital)

| Years | Actual (in Rs crore) | Percentage variation from previous year |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| 2007-08 | 4572.39 | 15.77 |
| 2008-09 | 6630.73 | 45.02 |
| 2009-10 | 6290.77 | -5.13 |
| 2010-11 | 7153.27 | 13.71 |
| 2011-12 | 7872.76 | 10.06 |
| 2012-13 (BE) | 9661.97 | 22.73 |
| 2012-13 (RE) | 9662.00 | 0.00 |

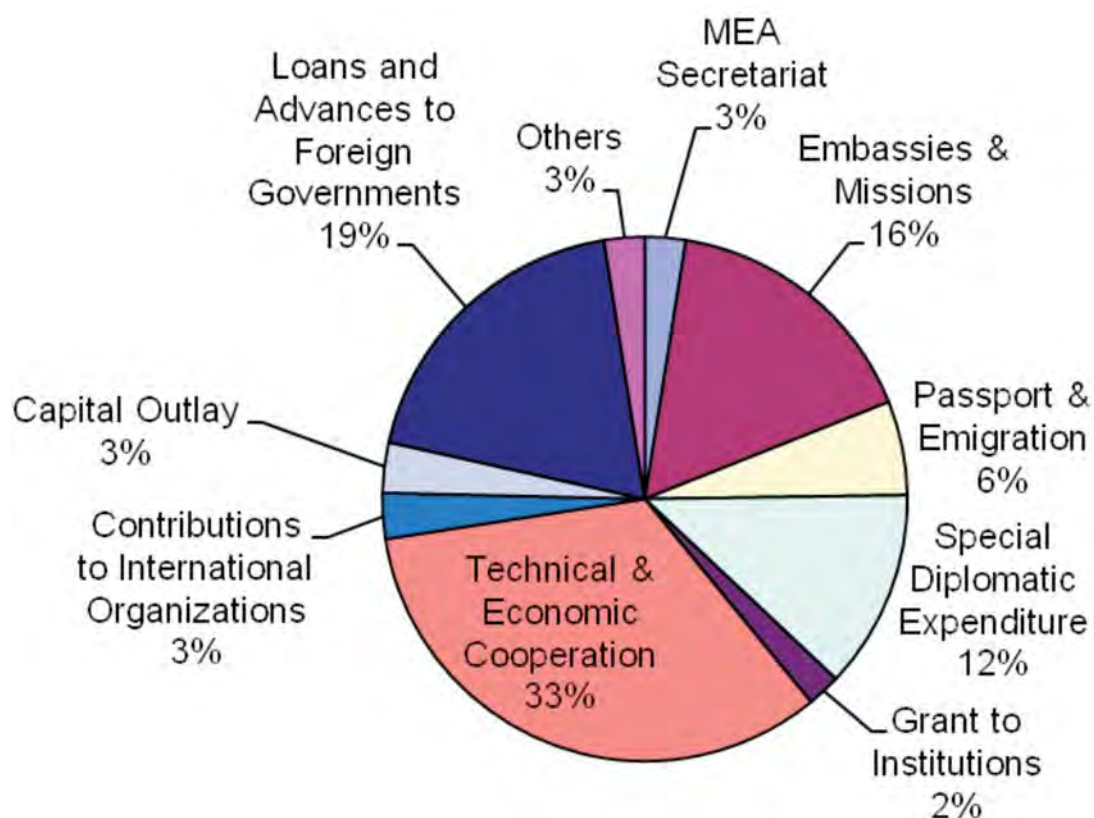
**MEA Actual Expenditure 2007-08 to 2012-13
(Revenue and Capital)**



Appendix XIV

Major sectoral allocation in 2012-13 Budget (Revised Estimates)

| Sectors | Allocation (in Rs crore) |
|--|--------------------------|
| MEA Secretariat | 241.93 |
| Embassies & Missions | 1589.83 |
| Passport & Emigration | 560.93 |
| Special Diplomatic Expenditure | 1185.00 |
| Grant to Institutions | 199.44 |
| Technical & Economic Cooperation | 3233.93 |
| Contributions to International Organizations | 271.61 |
| Capital Outlay | 300.00 |
| Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments | 1838.00 |
| Others | 241.33 |
| Total | 9662.00 |



Appendix XV

Principal destination of India's Technical Cooperation Programme

The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2012-13 are as under (figures pertain to Revised Estimates 2012-13):

| S.No. | Technical Cooperation Budget | (In Rupees crore) | Percentage of India's Total Aid & Loan Budget |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1. | Bhutan | 1171.06 | 36.21 |
| 2. | Afghanistan | 491.16 | 15.19 |
| 3. | Maldives | 30.00 | 0.93 |
| 4. | Nepal | 270.00 | 8.35 |
| 5. | African Countries | 237.50 | 7.34 |
| 6. | Sri Lanka | 290.00 | 8.97 |
| 7. | Myanmar | 125.00 | 3.87 |
| 8. | Eurasian Countries | 30.00 | 0.93 |
| 9. | Bangladesh | 280.00 | 8.66 |
| 10. | Latin American Countries | 27.61 | 0.85 |
| 11. | Mongolia | 1.00 | 0.03 |
| 12. | Others | 280.60 | 8.68 |

Appendix XVI

Status of pending C & AG Audit paras

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit | Details of the Paras/PA reports on which ATNs are pending. | | |
|--------------|---------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time | No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry | No. of ATNs which have been finally vetted by audit but have not been submitted by the Ministry to PAC |
| 1 | 2003 | — | — | — | — |
| 2 | 2004 | — | — | — | — |
| 3 | 2005 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 4 | 2006 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | 2007 | — | — | 3 | — |
| 6 | 2008 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 7 | 2008-09 | — | — | 2 | — |
| 8 | 2010-11 | — | — | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 2011-12 | — | 7 | 1 | — |
| Total | | — | 7 | 14 | 2 |

The Summary of important audit observations appearing in the most recent audit reports of the year ending March 2011 are given below:

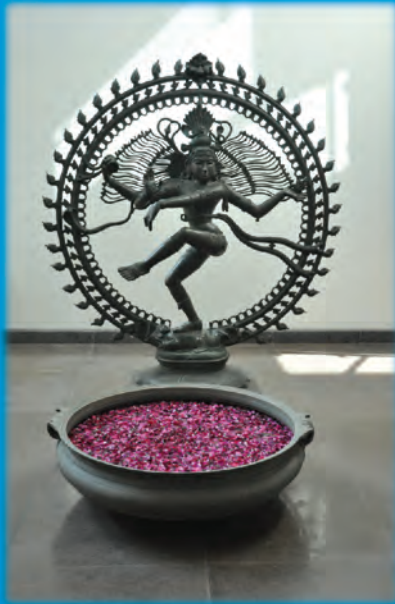
| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Performance of Consular Wings | <p>A number of Missions and Posts were not levying fees for visas and other consular services as per the rates prescribed by the Ministry, resulting in short levy of Rs. 37.26 crore. Delays in the implementation of the Indian Community Welfare Fund scheme by the Missions and Posts resulted in non-levy of fees of Rs. 21.55 crore. There were considerable delays in remittances of consular receipts in the Government account. Missions abroad were outsourcing visa services in violation of the laid down provisions, resulting in financial impropriety and lack of transparency in selecting service providers</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paragraph 3.1</p> |
| 2 | Failure to observe the prescribed rules and procedures leading to overpayments | <p>Failure of the Missions/Posts abroad to observe the prescribed rules and procedures led to overpayment of pay and allowances and other miscellaneous payments amounting to Rs. 91.96 lakhs by 56 Missions in 263 cases. These were recovered at the instance of Audit during 2009-11.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paragraph 3.2.1</p> |
| 3 | Non-application of due diligence in awarding of a contract | <p>Lack of due diligence in evaluation of bids for setting up an IT Laboratory in Indonesia led to awarding of a contract at an extra amount of Rs. 51.67 lakh on account of unwarranted Annual Maintenance Charges and exempted Value Added Tax. At the instance of Audit, the Mission recovered Rs. 30.56 lakh and payment of Rs. 21.11 lakh was averted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paragraph 3.2.2</p> |

Abbreviations

| | | | |
|----------|--|---------|---|
| AALCO | Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation | DVP | Distinguished Visitors Programme |
| AIEPG | ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group | EAM | External Affairs Minister |
| AITF | Azerbaijan International Travel& Tourism | ECOSOC | Economic and Social Council |
| APEDA | Agricultural and Processed Food Export and Development Authority | ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| ARF | ASEAN Regional Forum | EFTA | European Free Trade Association |
| ASEAN | Association of South East Asian Nations | EU | European Union |
| ASEM | Asia Europe Meeting | EXIM | Export Import Bank of India |
| ASSOCHAM | Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry | FATF | Financial Action Task Force |
| AU | African Union | FDI | Foreign Direct Investment |
| AWG-KP | Ad-HOC Working Group on Kyoto Protocol | FICCI | Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry |
| AWG-LC | Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action | FTA | Free Trade Agreement |
| AYUSH | Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy | G-20 | Group of Twenty |
| BIMS | Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences | GAAR | General Anti Avoidance Rules (Taxation) |
| BIMSTEC | Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation | GCSS | General Cultural Scholarship Scheme |
| BRICS | Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa | GCTF | Global Counter Terrorism Forum |
| BTIA | Broad Based Trade & Investment Agreement | GOI | Government of India |
| CAPEXCIL | Chemicals & Allied Product Export Promotion Council | GRSE | Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Energy |
| CBM | Confidence Building Measure | HEP | Hydro-Electric Project |
| CECA | Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement | IAFS | India-Africa Forum Summit |
| CELAC | Community of Latin American & Caribbean States | IAIGC | India-Azerbaijan Inter Government Commission |
| CEP | Cultural Exchange Programme | IBSA | India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum |
| CEPA | Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement | IBSAMAR | India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercises |
| CGPCS | Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia | ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organisation |
| CHOGM | Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet | ICC | International Criminal Court |
| CICA | Conferences on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia | ICCR | Indian Council for Cultural Relations |
| CII | Confederation of Indian Industry | ICJ | International Court of Justice |
| CIS | Commonwealth of Independent States | ICPE | International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises |
| CLMV | Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam (Asian sub-group) | ICRIER | Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations |
| CNES | Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales | ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| CPIO | Central Public Information Officer | ICWA | Indian Council of World Affairs |
| CPV | Consular Passport and Visa | IDP | Internally Displaced Person |
| CSCAP | Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific | IDS | Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses |
| | | IFS | Indian Foreign Service |
| | | IGC | Inter Governmental Commission |
| | | IGNOU | Indira Gandhi National Open University |
| | | IIMC | Indian Institute of Mass Communication |

| | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|--|
| ILC | International Law Commission | NIFT | National Institute of Fashion Technology |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation | NIIT | National Institute of Information Technology |
| IOM | International Organization on Migration | NPT | Non-Proliferation Treaty |
| IONS | Institute of Noetic Sciences | NPCIL | Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. |
| IOR-ARC | Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation | NSCS | National Security Council Secretariat |
| IPR | Intellectual Property Rights | NSIC | National Small Industries Corporation |
| IPU | Inter-Parliamentary Union | OCI | Overseas Citizenship of India |
| IRIGC-TEC | India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Technological Economic Cooperation | OPEC | Oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries |
| IRENA | International Renewable Energy Agency | OVL | ONGC Videsh Limited |
| ISJRP | Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme | PHARMEXCIL | Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India |
| ISRO | Indian Space Research Organisation | PIO | Persons of Indian Origin |
| ITEC | Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation | PM | Prime Minister |
| ITMA | International Textile Manufacturers Association | RBI | Reserve of Bank of India |
| IWLF | Indian Weight Lifting Federation | RITES | Rail India Technical & Economic Services |
| JCBC | Joint Commission on Business Cooperation | RGoB | Government of Bhutan |
| JCG | Joint Coordination Group | RTI | Right to Information |
| JWG | Joint Working Group | SAARC | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation |
| LBSNAA | Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration | SADC | South African Development Community |
| LCS | Land Customs Stations | SAFTA | South Asian Free Trade Area |
| LDC | Least Developed Country | SALAR | Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions |
| LoC | Line of Credit | SAU | South Asian University |
| MEP | Member of the European Parliament | SBI | State Bank of India |
| MERCOSUR | Market of Southern Cone Countries | SCAAP | Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme |
| MGC | Mekong-Ganga Cooperation | SCO | Shanghai Cooperation Organisation |
| MoEF | Ministry of Environment & Forests | SDP | Small Development Projects |
| MoP&NG | Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas | SEBI | Securities and Exchange Board of India |
| MoS(I/C) | Minister of State(Independent Charge) | SED | Strategic Economic Dialogue |
| MoS(PK) | Minister of State for External Affairs (Preneet Kaur) | SEPM | Society for Sedimentary Geology |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding | SEWA | Self Employed Women's Association |
| MP | Member of Parliament | SME | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| MTC | Military-Technical Cooperation | SSFFC | Substandard/spurious/falselylabeled/falsified/counterfeit medical products |
| NAM | Non-Aligned Movement | TAPI | Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India |
| NASSCOM | National Association of Software & Services Companies | TBT/SPS | Technical Barriers to Trade/Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures |
| NGO | Non-Government Organisation | TEAM-9 | Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement |

| | | | |
|----------|--|--------|--|
| TERI | Tata Energy and Research Institute | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UAE | United Arab Emirates | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UMFCCI | Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry | UNGA | United Nations General Assembly |
| UNCC | United Nations Compensation Commission | UNIFIL | United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon |
| UNCITRAL | United Nations Commission on International Trade Law | UNMIN | United Nations Mission in Nepal |
| UNCOPUOS | UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space | UNSC | United Nations Security Council |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development | UPA | United Progressive Alliance |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme | VAT | Value Added Tax |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme | WHO | World Health Organization |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | WIPO | World Intellectual Rights Organisation |
| | | WTO | World Trade Organisation |
| | | XP | External Publicity |





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