सत्यमेव जयते

Annual Report
2009-2010

Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

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

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

Front Cover:
Illustration of Central Secretariat buildings from water colour painting by Shri Kashi Nath Das

Designed and printed by:
Cyberart Informations Pvt. Ltd.
1517 Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110 019
E mail: director@cyberartinformations.com
Website: www.cyberart.co.in
Telefax: 0120-4231676

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Introduction and Synopsis

India's foreign policy is closely integrated with the country's fundamental security and developmental priorities. We seek a global order in which India's interests are assured; the autonomy of India's decision-making is safeguarded; and which is conducive to achievement of the overriding goal of rapid, sustained and inclusive socio-economic development of the country. To this end, Indian foreign policy has combined firm commitment to our core national values with dynamic adaptation to change in the international environment.

Central to our policy objectives is ensuring a peaceful and secure neighbourhood, cordial and balanced relations with the major powers and mutually beneficial partnerships with developing countries. Indian foreign policy also has a strong multilateral aspect. Many of the key challenges of our times – issues such as peace and security including fight against international terrorism, reform of international financial architecture and international organizations, food and energy security and climate change – have global dimensions and require cooperative global action to be addressed effectively.

The year 2009-10 was witness to challenges in the foreign policy domain in the aftermath of the Mumbai terrorist attacks of November 2008 and the global financial crisis. Even as these challenges were effectively countered, there were also significant achievements in other areas.

India's commitment to close and good neighbourly relations with all our subcontinential neighbours is based on the fundamental principles of equality and mutual respect. India is committed to supporting Bhutan in the consolidation of its newly established democracy. The visit of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the fifth King of Bhutan to India in December 2009 further deepened and consolidated bilateral relations. India continued its strong support to Nepal's transition to a stable, peaceful and prosperous democratic state. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal's visit to India in August 2009 and the visit of President Ram Baran Yadav in February 2010 strengthened the close ties of friendly cooperation and the unique and multifaceted relationship we share with Nepal. The restoration of multi-party democracy in Bangladesh has had a positive impact in many areas of cooperation with Bangladesh. Bilateral relations were greatly strengthened with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January 2010. India's pledge of a line of credit of US$ 1 billion for infrastructure development in Bangaldesh and Prime Minister Hasina's assurance that anti-India activity would not be allowed from the soil of Bangladesh were some of the significant landmark outcomes from this historic visit. During 2009-2010, India's support and contribution to the reconstruction of Afghanistan was further consolidated. Relations with Sri Lanka saw further development with India and Sri Lanka maintaining high-level interaction and with India's offer of assistance of Rs. 500 crores for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of internally displaced persons belonging to the Tamil minority and long-term reconstruction of the war-ravaged regions of the country.

Apart from maintaining close ties with the immediate neighbours, India continues to work with other SAARC member countries to transform SAARC into an effective vehicle for regional integration.

India attaches high importance to its bilateral relations with China. Notwithstanding the complex nature of this relationship, both countries continued their high-level political interaction. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met the Chinese President Hu Jintao in Yekaterinburg (June 2009) and Premier Wen Jiabao in Hua Hin (October 2009). The institutionalized dialogue mechanisms between the two countries covering a host of issues have steadily progressed during the period. With a convergence of interests on issues such as Doha Round of WTO negotiations, climate change, global financial crisis etc., both countries have continued to interact constructively on global issues.

India's relations with the USA and Russia have not only been strengthened but also transformed qualitatively with new areas of strategic cooperation added. India's engagement with the US broadened in a number of areas of mutual interest at the bilateral, regional and global level. Both new Governments in India and the US reiterated

their strong commitment to strengthen the existing political and economic partnership, and take it to a higher level for mutual benefit. During the visit of US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton in July 2009, both countries jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US relations. The Indo-USA strategic partnership, was further consolidated with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to the US in November 2009. During the visit, Prime Minister Dr. Singh and President Obama decided to embark on a new phase in the global strategic partnership between India and the US. During the period, the US remained India's one of India's largest trading partners. The total volume of Indo-US bilateral trade in goods and services stood at US$ 59.8 billion during the period January-October 2009.

Indo-Russian relations continued to be strengthened with the State visit of President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to Russia in September 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Russia in June 2009 for Brazil-Russia-India-China (BRIC) and Shanghai Cooperative Organisation (SCO) Summits, and again in December 2009 for the annual bilateral Summit. The adoption of a Joint Declaration on further deepening the strategic partnership, initialing of an agreement on peaceful use of atomic energy, and agreements on defence-related cooperation during PM's December visit reflect the consolidation of strategic relations between the two countries.

During 2009-10, India-EU strategic partnership was provided with a new impetus. India's multi-faceted interaction with the EU intensified in diverse fields ranging from defence and security to culture and education. The 10th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi on 6 November, 2009. The Summit reviewed India-EU relations and identified concrete areas of cooperation.

Relations with countries in Europe were characterized by high-level visits, parliamentary exchanges, civil society dialogues etc. President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil visited Spain in April and UK in October 2009. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Italy for the G-8/G-5 Summit and France for the Bastille Day celebrations in July 2009.

During the past year, India continued to expand its political and economic relations with the countries in East Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. Relations with the countries in the East Asia and the Pacific are an important dimension of India's "Look East" policy. Our relations with East Asia were strengthened by the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Yukio Hatoyama (December 2009), Malaysian Prime Minister Mr. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak (January 2010) and the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Lee Myung-bak (January 2010) to India. Relations with countries in the West Asia and Gulf region were strengthened further in several areas. India's annual contribution to the United Nations Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was enhanced from US$ 20,000 to US$ 1 million. India has vital interests in the Gulf region where almost 4.5 million Indians live and work. While increasing our imports of oil and gas, India is taking active steps to strengthen relationship with the individual Gulf countries.

India is strengthening its relations with Central Asian countries on the basis of historical and cultural linkages. Relations have not only been diversified but nurtured at the highest level. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State visit to Tajikistan in September 2009 and External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan during the year.

India continued to consolidate bilateral relations with African countries. 47 out of 53 African Union countries have joined the Pan-African e-Network Project of the Government of India and have started availing of the tele-education and tele-medicine facilities. The momentum of our relationship with African countries is also maintained through high-level visits. President of Namibia paid a State visit to India (30 August-3 September 2009). Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India visited Zambia, Malawi and Botswana from 5-11 January, 2010.

India's engagement with Latin American and Caribbean countries continued during the year through active multi-sectoral dialogue with the region. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Trinidad and Tobago for the CHOGM Summit in November 2009. President of Argentina Dr. Cristina de Fernandez Kirchner paid a State visit to India in October 2009. India's trade and economic interaction with the Latin American and Caribbean region has increased during the period.

During 2009-10, India's multilateral economic engagement further widened and deepened. This is evident from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's participation in G-8 Outreach and G-5 Summits (8-10 July, 2009), the first formal Summit of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India & China) (15-17 June, 2009), G-20, Pittsburgh (September 2009), India-ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit (24-25 October, 2009). India continues to play an important role in such regional

groupings as Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Mekong Ganga Cooperation, Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and G15. The signing of India-ASEAN FTA in Goods which has been operationalized from 1 January, 2010 is an important milestone in India's economic engagement with the outside world.

Despite the global economic downturn resulting from the financial and economic crisis, India has fared better than most other countries, and remains one of the fastest growing among the major economies, with a growth rate that is expected to reach 7% plus in 2009-10. India is an active member of G-20 and attaches importance to the implementation of the G-20 Summit decisions including that of the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009 to arrest recession, expedite recovery and revive the world economy. In the process, India has sought to ensure that international decision making on global economic issues is democratized to reflect present realities.

An intense focus of India's foreign policy during the period has been the subject of climate change. India's approach on the issue has always been guided by the imperative to preserve India's development space and enhance energy security. Although a legally-binding agreement on climate change could not be reached at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009, India was in the forefront with China, Brazil and South Africa (BASIC Group) together with the US, in putting in place the Copenhagen Accord. India views this Accord as a political document to facilitate negotiations in the post-Copenhagen process under the UNFCCC.

India continues to work for strengthening the United Nations. During the period, it continued its efforts to push for comprehensive reforms of the UN Security Council including its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, and improving its working methods.

Neighbours

Afghanistan: The steady deterioration in the internal security situation spurred by increasing violence in Afghanistan and attacks on our personnel, establishment and projects in Afghanistan continued to engage India's attention during the year. Following the bomb attack targeting the Indian Embassy in Kabul on 9 October, 2009, the Government of India expressed deep concern over the cowardly attack which was aimed against the people of India and people of Afghanistan and their abiding friendship. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Kabul immediately after the attack and met President Karzai, Foreign Minister Spanta and other leaders. A terrorist attack in Kabul on 26 February, 2010 killed, among others, seven Indians and seriously injured several others. While deeply condoning the loss of life, Government stressed that India will continue to pursue its development partnership with Afghanistan, undeterred by such cowardly attacks of terrorism.

India has been at the forefront of the efforts to assist the government and people of Afghanistan in building a stable, democratic, and pluralistic society. Close political consultations with the Government of Afghanistan and regular high contacts with its leadership were maintained. India welcomed the successful holding of the Presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan on 20 August, 2009. The swearing-in ceremony of newly re-elected President Karzai which took place on 19 November, 2009 was attended by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. The then Afghan Foreign Minister Dr. Dadfar Rangin Spanta visited India from 26-27 July, 2009 to hold bilateral discussions. He met Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna and the then National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan and called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. India remains actively engaged in the task of reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. India's bilateral assistance to Afghanistan has crossed US$ 1.3 billion (as against a pledge of US$ 1.2 billion).

Bangladesh: Following the restoration of multi-party democracy in Bangladesh, India and Bangladesh have engaged actively to enhance cooperation in a range of areas. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January 2010 opened a new chapter in India- Bangladesh relations. The Joint Communiqué issued during the visit outlines a range of areas for bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed to enhance security cooperation, particularly against insurgent groups. India announced a US$ 1 billion Line of Credit for infrastructural development projects in Bangladesh, including railway infrastructure, coaches, locomotives, buses and dredging. Connectivity received a boost with India providing road and rail transit to Bangladesh to Nepal and to Bhutan and both sides designating new ports of call in inland waterways. Bangladesh also gave access to India to use Chittagong and Mongla Port. India also agreed to supply Bangladesh 250 MWs of power. Both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in trade and investment, culture, water resources and human resource development. Three security related agreements, an agreement on power cooperation and a cultural exchange programme were also

signed during the visit. Prior to the visit, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni visited India in September 2009 and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao had also visited Bangladesh in November 2009. Both these visits led to strengthening of cooperation in various fields and greater understanding between the two countries.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan's warm and cordial bilateral relations, characterized by close consultations, trust and mutual understanding, were further strengthened through regular high-level exchanges and visits and expanding cooperation. There were several high-level visits from both sides including that of the External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna (June 2009), Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram (August 2009), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal (October 2009), Chief Information Commissioner Shri Wajahat Habibullah (May 2009), the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Shri Shyam Saran (July 2009), Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao (September 2009), the Comptroller & Auditor General Shri Vinod Rai (September 2009), Chief Election Commissioner Shri Navin Chawla (October 2009) and the then National Security Advisor to Prime Minister, Shri M. K. Narayanan (November, 2009). From the Bhutanese side, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Mr. Jigmi Y. Thinley visited India from 28 June-3 July 2009 and His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, paid a State visit to India from 21-26 December, 2009. These visits led to strengthening of our bilateral economic and political relations. India continued to be the largest trade and assistance partner of Bhutan.

China: The year saw continuing high-level engagement with China, including meetings on the sidelines of major international and regional events. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Chinese President Hu Jintao in Yekaterinburg on 15 June, 2009 on the sidelines of the SCO/BRIC Summit. PM and the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had a meeting in Hua Hin, Thailand on the margins of the East Asia/ASEAN Summit in October 2009. PM also met Premier Wen Jiabao on 18 December, 2009 at Copenhagen during COP 15. The External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi at Phuket (Thailand) on 22 July, 2009 on the margins of the East Asia Summit Ministerial Meeting, and thereafter in Bangalore on 27 October, 2009 on the sidelines of the Russia-India-China (RIC) Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting. During these meetings, there was fruitful exchange of views and the leaders agreed to continue and strengthen efforts to build mutual trust and understanding in the spirit of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between the two countries. The institutionalised dialogue mechanisms between India and China covering a wide range of issues showed steady progress during the year. With convergence of interest on issues like the Doha Round of WTO negotiations, climate change and the global financial crisis, both countries continued to interact constructively on global issues. China is now India's largest trading partner with the total volume of bilateral trade being US$ 51.8 billion in 2008. The trade volume dipped slightly in 2009 to US$ 43.27 billion.

Iran: The visit to India by Foreign Minister of Iran, Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki from 16-17 November, 2009 continued the sequence of exchange of high-level visits. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Iran for Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) from 2-3 February, 2010. 2009-10 also saw continued bilateral exchanges in a number of areas like energy, trade, commerce and industry, banking, culture, media and broadcasting, etc as well as consultations on regional and international issues of mutual interest, thus maintaining the momentum of bilateral relations. Bilateral trade grew by 30.04% in 2008-09 in comparison to the previous year, and touched US$ 13.146 billion.

Maldives: Bilateral relations between India and the Maldives continued to be strengthened by several high-level exchanges. President Mohammed Nasheed of the Maldives visited India in October 2009 and again in January 2010. Special Envoy of the President Ibrahim Zaki and the Foreign Minister of the Maldives Dr. Ahmed Shaheed also visited in August 2009 and July 2009 respectively. Vice President of the Maldives Mohamed Waheed visited India from 18-24 February, 2010 at the invitation of the Vice President of India. Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony visited Maldives in August 2009, wherein both countries identified various areas of cooperation in the security and defence sectors and agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of coastal security and maritime surveillance. National Security Adviser Shri M. K. Narayanan visited Maldives in June 2009 and Foreign Secretary in January 2010. The India-Maldives Joint Coast Guard Exercises '*DOSTI X*' were held of Male in December 2009 and the '*EKUVERIN*' exercises in October 2009.

Myanmar: Relations between India and Myanmar continued to develop their multi-dimensional character. The momentum of high-level visits was maintained. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited

Myanmar for the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in December 2009 and met PM of Myanmar General Thein Sein. Foreign Secretary is scheduled to visit Myanmar for Foreign Office Consultations between 28 February-2 March 2010 where a range of areas of cooperation are likely to be discussed. Chairman, Combined Officers Staff Committee (CoSC) and Chief of Army Staff (CoAS), General Deepak Kapoor visited Myanmar in October 2009. Vice Admiral Soe Thane, Myanmar's Minister for Industries (No. 2) visited India in December 2009. The Tamu-Keygone-Kalemyo stretch of road, built with Indian assistance, was handed over to the Government of Myanmar in October 2009. Work on the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar Industrial Trading Centre continued apace. Both countries continued to enhance cooperation in the areas of energy, oil and natural gas, power, IT, infrastructure development, telecommunication and agriculture.

Nepal: India continued close consultations with the Government of Nepal and the major political parties with a view to support Nepal's transition to a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous State. As a result of the extensive interactions and high-level visits, the bilateral relationship strengthened. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal paid an official visit to India from 18-22 August, 2009. Earlier, Foreign Minister Ms. Sujata Koirala visited India from 10-14 August, 2009 and the Defence Minister of Nepal Ms. Bidya Bhandari, visited in July 2009. Home Minister of Nepal Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal visited India from 18-22 January, 2010. The President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, visited India from 15-18 February, 2010 during which four agreements/ MoUs were signed and a concessional line of credit of US$ 250 million and supply of some food items was announced. Commerce and Industry Minister of India (CIM), Shri Anand Sharma visited Nepal from 27-28, October 2009 during which the revised Treaty of Trade and Agreement of Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade was signed. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Nepal from 15-17 January, 2010 during which he met the senior leadership of Nepal and signed four MoUs. Former Foreign Secretary Shri S. Menon visited Nepal from 20-21 June, 2009. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited from 14-15 September, 2009 to exchange views on issues of mutual interest and implementation of the agenda agreed during the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India in August 2009. India continued its support to developmental activities in Nepal. At present, there are over 350 small and large projects being undertaken under the aegis of India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme.

Pakistan: In the wake of the terrorist attack on Mumbai, there has been a pause in the Composite Dialogue process. Government's expectation that Pakistan acts with purpose against the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack as also unearths the wider conspiracy behind the attack has been conveyed on several occasions, including at the highest level. India's concerns were suitably conveyed on occasions, including in the meeting of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari on the sidelines of the SCO-BRIC Summit in Yekaterinburg on 16 June, 2009 and in Prime Minister's meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan at Sharm-el-Sheikh on 16 July, 2009 on the sidelines of NAM Summit. Similar views were also conveyed by External Affairs Minister in his meetings with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on the sidelines of G-8 Outreach meeting on 26 June, 2009 in Trieste (Italy), and later on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2009 in New York.

At India's invitation, Foreign Secretary level talks between the two countries were held in New Delhi on 25 February, 2010. This was in the context of Government's desire to ensure communication between the two countries, to address the core concerns relating to terrorism directed against India, and pending humanitarian issues.

Despite the terrorist attack on Mumbai and ongoing investigations into the involvement of David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Hussain Rana in various terrorist acts, including the Mumbai terrorist attack and continuing cross-border infiltration from Pakistan and ceasefire violations by Pakistan across the Line of Control and International Border, people-to-people contacts were allowed to continue. A number of Pakistani cultural, academic and trade delegations visited India. Government also facilitated visits to places of pilgrimage under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines (1974). India's bilateral trade with Pakistan in 2008-09 was US$ 1.78 billion. Quantitative studies estimate that potential for two way trade between India and Pakistan can exceed its rather unsatisfactory current level by ten times.

On 1 January, 2010, India and Pakistan exchanged through diplomatic channels, simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the

Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan.

Sri Lanka: Relations between India and Sri Lanka continued to progress in all spheres of bilateral relations. The momentum of high level interaction was maintained. President Mahinda Rajapaksa paid a private visit to India on 31 October, 2009. Prime Minister Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake visited India in October 2009 to inaugurate the Pilgrims Rest in Sanchi. Senior Adviser to President Mahinda Rajapaksa led a delegation to India in June and later in December 2009. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met the Sri Lankan Prime Minister on the sidelines of the CHOGM in 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna also met Foreign Minister Bogollagama on two occasions in multilateral fora. National Security Adviser Shri M. K. Narayanan visited Sri Lanka in April 2009 and, subsequently, a 10-member delegation of Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu also visited Sri Lanka, especially the Northern and upcountry areas.

With the end of hostilities there, India has offered all possible assistance to help in relief, rehabilitation, early resettlement and longer-term reconstruction of Sri Lanka. Prime Minister announced an amount of Rs. 500 crores for relief and rehabilitation. An Indian field hospital functioned for six months from March-September 2009, and treated more than 50,000 patients. Indian assistance also included seven de-mining teams, 5,200 tonnes of shelter material, 70,000 agricultural packs and taking up of civil infrastructure like railways etc through Lines of Credit. India has continued to emphasize that the way forward lies in a peacefully negotiated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, acceptable to all the communities in Sri Lanka including the Tamils.

South East Asia and the Pacific

In pursuance of our "Look East" policy, India continued to improve and consolidate its relations with countries in the South East Asia and the Pacific. Multi-faceted relationships continued to develop with the countries in the region, both in the bilateral and multilateral context. India's trade with most of the countries in the region showed significant improvement during the year despite the global financial crisis. Operationalization of the India-ASEAN FTA in Goods on 1 January, 2010 is going to further boost our economic relations. India attended the 21 Post-Forum Dialogue (PFD) Partners Meeting in Cairns, Australia (7 August, 2009) after the 40th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Summit meeting there. Defence and cultural cooperation between India and the countries in the region also continued to develop further. A 'Festival of India' was launched in Indonesia in October 2009, and a new Indian Cultural Centre was inaugurated in Bangkok in September 2009.

The period witnessed many high level visits. Prominent incoming visits include that by Vice President of **Vietnam** (September-October 2009); Prime Minister of **Australia** (November 2009); Prime Minister of Malaysia (January 2010); Deputy Prime Ministers of Australia (August 2009), **Thailand** (October 2009), and Vietnam (December 2009); & Foreign Ministers of Australia (October 2009, March 2010) and Thailand (December 2009). In addition, the King of **Tonga** (September 2009), **Thai** Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn (August 2009), Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew (December 2009) and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong (March 2010) from **Singapore** and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of **Phillippines** Ramulo (March 2010) also visited India. From the Indian side, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Thailand for the ASEAN-India and EAS Summits in October 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Australia (August 2009), Thailand (July 2009) and Singapore (March 2010) for the ASEAN-India & ARF Ministerial Conferences.

While pursuing efforts of strengthening its relationship with the region, the Government of India also took serious note of attacks on Indian community in Australia over the past few months especially since May 2009. This issue has been taken up including at the highest levels during visits of high level dignitaries. Government of Australia has been formally requested for complete statistics regarding number of attacks and conviction of perpetrators at the earliest. The Government of India is closely following the situation and has issued its latest advisory on 5 January, 2010 to Indian students studying in Australia as well as those planning to study there to take certain basic precautions.

India continued to provide assistance to **Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam** and **Pacific Island** countries in their development efforts. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna announced an increase in our annual Grant-in-aid for each of the 14 PIF Countries from US$ 100,000 to US$ 125,000. India is cooperating extensively under ITEC partnership programme and has increased number of scholarship slots for countries of the region to about 350. Another area of cooperation has been disaster relief to the countries in the region. India extended humanitarian assistance to the **Philippines** in the aftermath of natural disaster. India's growing profile has

attracted countries in the South East Asia and Pacific region to bolster closer engagement at the regional and multilateral for a such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, EAS, MGC and ARF.

East Asia

In keeping with India's "Look East Policy", strengthening of bilateral ties with the East Asian countries has been a foreign policy priority for India. During the year, efforts were made to sustain the momentum in carrying forward the steady and qualitative transformation of India's relationship with these countries through renewed high level contacts and exchanges. The highlight was two Presidential State Visits to India from the region (Presidents of **Mongolia** and Republic of **Korea** visited in September 2009 and January 2010 respectively), during which a number of bilateral agreements were concluded to expand functional cooperation in diverse spheres. A significant development has been the understanding reached with major players in the region to transcend relations beyond the bilateral in developing a coordinated approach to regional and multilateral issues of common concern. India is increasingly being looked upon as an integral part of the emerging architecture in East and South East Asia.

Japan: The momentum of high-level exchanges continued in 2009. The sharp increase in high-level exchanges has been accompanied by more broad-based exchanges of business delegations, parliamentary delegations, and interactions between provincial and local governments of both countries. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh met with the then Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Taro Aso, on 2 April, 2009 on the margins of the G-20 Summit in London and on 10 July, 2009 on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit in *L'Aquila* (Italy). Soon after taking over as Japan's Prime Minister following elections on 30 August, 2009, Mr. Yukio Hatoyama met Prime Minister Dr. Singh in Pittsburgh on 25 September, 2009 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. The two Prime Ministers had another meeting on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Hua Hin (Thailand) on 24 October, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Japan for the third round of Strategic Dialogue on 3 July, 2009. The Japanese PM Mr. Yukio Hatoyama's year-end visit to India provided further impetus to India's comprehensive engagement as well as imparted more depth to our Strategic & Global Partnership. Both Prime Ministers have committed to enhancing the security cooperation between India and Japan according to the Action Plan, and to deepen their discussion through the newly-established framework at the Subcabinet/Senior Official level 2+2 dialogue, which was endorsed in the Action Plan.

Bilateral economic relations have vast potential for growth. During former Prime Minister Abe's visit in August 2007, it was agreed to work towards a trade target of US$ 20 billion by the year 2010. The pace of investments has picked up in recent years. As many as 627 Japanese companies are operating in India, against some 300 in 2005. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) went up 10-fold last year compared to 2006. Japanese investment in India stood at US$ 5.22 billion surpassing its investment in China which was US$ 3.65 billion in 2008, and Japan stands as the sixth largest investor in India. For the sixth consecutive year India is the single largest recipient of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). Cumulative commitment of Japanese ODA to India up to October 2009 is about Yen 2.9 trillion (approx. Rs. 113209.77 crores). For FY 2008-09, total ODA was Yen 236 billion (approx. US$ 2.5 billion or Rs. 11713 crores) which is an increase of 4.8% over the previous year and is 30% of Japan's global ODA.

Republic of Korea (ROK): Indian partnership with ROK has become perceptibly more intense and diversified in recent years. A number of high level visits, signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) (August 2009), increasing economic and commercial interactions and expanding exchanges in the field of art and culture have been the high points of India-ROK bilateral ties during the period. India and ROK exchanged a number of high-level visits during the year. The ROK Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Yu Myung-hwan, visited New Delhi on 23 June, 2009, and held wide-ranging discussions with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. India-ROK cooperation in the field of defence and security continued apace. Bilateral trade between India and ROK showed a 39% growth in 2008, touching US$ 15.56 billion, thus surpassing the target of US$ 10 billion set by the two countries to be achieved by the year 2010. ROK President Lee Myung-bak paid a State visit to India from 24-27 January, 2010. He was Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations this year. While our economic interaction provides the underpinning for India – ROK relations, our partnership has also spread to other fields such as science and technology and space cooperation. Therefore, India – Republic of Korea relations have been elevated to a "Strategic Partnership".

Mongolia: India's centuries-old friendly and cordial relationship with Mongolia continued to develop and diversify further during the year. Bilateral cooperation now

covers the fields of defence and security, economy, education and culture. The two sides exchanged a number of high level visits during the year. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Mongolia from 17-19 June, 2009 to represent Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Mongolian President Mr. Ts. Elbegdorj. The newly elected President of Mongolia paid a State Visit to India from 13-16 September, 2009. During the visit, the two sides agreed to upgrade the level of bilateral relations to that of "Comprehensive Partnership". During the year there was significant progress in India-Mongolia cooperation in the field of defence. The fifth India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise was held in Mongolia from 14-27 September, 2009. The second India-Mongolia Joint Cooperation Committee meeting was held at New Delhi on 11 January, 2010.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK): Relations between India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continued to be cordial with a focus on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. Exchanges in the area of culture, sports and education continued to make progress during the year. DPRK; Vice Foreign Minister, Kim Young II visiting India in August 2009 for the sixth Round of Foreign Office Consultations.

Eurasia

Significant advances were made in the development of India's bilateral relations with **Russia, Ukraine, Belarus,** Central Asian and Caucasian countries through landmark high level visits, conclusion of bilateral agreements, multilateral and bilateral engagements, development projects and cultural events. Some of the significant events during the year were Prime Minister's visit to the Russian Federation for the annual Summit (December 2009) and SCO and BRIC Summits (June 2009), the State visit of the President of India to the Russian Federation and **Tajikistan** (September 2009), the Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China in Bengaluru (October 2009), and External Affairs Minister's visits to Belarus and **Turkmenistan** (September 2009) and the Russian Federation and **Uzbekistan** (October 2009).

India and Russia continued to further strengthen their multi-faceted strategic partnership. Cooperation in key areas such as defence, space research, science and technology, and energy security (including hydrocarbons and nuclear energy) has intensified. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil's State Visit to Russia from 2-6 September, 2009 was a significant event. During the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Moscow from 6-8 December, 2009 for the Annual Summit, six important agreements were signed apart from the adoption of a joint declaration on 'further deepening the strategic partnership' that reflects the shared vision of the two countries on many global issues. The agreements signed during the visit include (i) Agreement on the Programme for Military and Technical Cooperation (MTC) during the period 2011-2020; (ii) Agreement on After Sales Support for the Russian Arms and Military Equipment supplied to the Republic of India; (iii) Protocol to the Agreement on Cooperation in Development and Production of Multi-Role Transport Aircraft on 12 November, 2007; (iv) Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (initialed); (v) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the Years 2010-12; and (vi) Dollar Agreement for extension of a Line of Credit of US$ 100 million by Exim Bank to Vnesheconombank for boosting export of Indian goods and technology products to Russia.

Other important Ministerial visits from India included that of Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma (29 September-October 2009), Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora (2-6 September, 2009), Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony (14-15 October, 2009), and External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna (20-22 October, 2009). From the Russian side, Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Chair of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) Mr. Sergei S. Sobyanin visited India from 9-12 November, 2009 and Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Lavrov visited Bengaluru for the ninth India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting from 26-27 October, 2009. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei S. Sobyanin visited India from 15-16 February, 2010, called on the Prime Minister and held talks with Shri S. M. Krishna, Co-Chair of the IRIGC-TEC in order to prepare for the scheduled visit of Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin in March 2010. The Year 2009 was celebrated as the "Year of India in Russia" with the organisation of more than 150 events showcasing Indian art & culture, paintings and artifacts, achievements in the field of science & technology etc. in Russia.

During the year, relations with Central Asian Republics continued to strengthen and were reinforced by high level visits to Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State Visit

to Tajikistan from 6-8 September, 2009, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian Head of State to the Central Asian region. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Belarus from 16-17 September, 2009 marking the first-ever visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to Belarus. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna called on the President of Belarus, Mr. Aleksander Lukashenko and reviewed bilateral relations with his Belarusian counterpart. External Affairs Minister Shri Krishna also paid an official visit to Turkmenistan from 18-19 September, 2009 during which, he called upon the Turkmen President Mr. Gurbanguly Berdymuhammadov, and signed a Programme of Cooperation between the two foreign offices with his Turkmen counterpart. External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to Uzbekistan from 22-23 October, 2009 where he called on the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov and held talks with his Uzbek counterpart. The first session of the India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held on 26 November, 2009 in New Delhi, co-Chaired on the Indian side by the MoS for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and on the Azeri side by Mr. Huseyngulu Bagirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources**.** Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State visited Ashgabat from 8-9 February, 2010 for co-chairing the third India Turkmenistan Inter Governmental Commission with Foreign Minister Mr. Rashid Meredov. She was accompanied by an official and business delegation. She called on President Gurbanguly Berdi-muhammedov during the visit. A joint Protocol was signed on conclusion of the IGC meeting.

The Ninth Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China was held in Bengaluru on 27 October, 2009. External Affairs Minister, along with the Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Lavrov and the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi, reviewed trilateral cooperation in various spheres and exchanged views on global and regional issues.

The Gulf, West Asia and North Africa

India's relations with the Gulf region (GCC countries, **Yemen** and **Iraq**) were further expanded and strengthened in political, economic, strategic and cultural arena, tapping the opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, energy and manpower, building partnership through high level visits, streamlining trade commercial and manpower framework, establishing institutional linkages in form of India-GCC political dialogue, strategic dialogue and consultation mechanism. New emphasis on energy diplomacy and investment partnership is the highlight of the year. India has successfully bid for oil blocks in Yemen, **Qatar** and **Oman**. Efforts are going on to set up joint ventures in downstream petrochemicals, fertilizer and energy intensive industries. India and **Qatar** signed an investment agreement in November 2009 to the tune of US$ 5 billion realizing the investment potential of the region. Similar understanding with Oman to the tune of US$ 100 million has been finalized. Investment and project partnership is the focal point in the year and second India-Arab investment project conclave was organized in February 2010 which witnessed nine ministerial participation and more than twenty business delegations from the region and beyond.

Gulf region has emerged as our major trading partner after USA, with annual two-way trade nearing US$ 100 billion in 2009. **UAE** emerged as our largest trading partner. The region collectively hosts the largest expatriate Indian community exceeding 5 million with remittances estimated around US $ 30 billion per annum. Nearly 75% of our crude oil requirement is met from this region which plays a crucial role in our energy security.

India and Gulf have significantly enhanced high level exchanges leading to better understanding. From the Indian side, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid a highly successful visit to **Saudi Arabia** from 27 February-1 March 2010 at the invitation of their King during which 10 agreements/MoUs including Extradition Treaty, Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, S&T Cooperation Agreement, Culture as well as on coperations in outer space etc were signed. The two leaders signed the landmark Riyadh Declaration which outlines the countours of cooperation between the two countries. Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited **Kuwait** in April 2009 and February 2010 respectively. Finance Minister visited Saudi Arabia in October 2009 for the Joint Commission Meeting. MoS for External Affairs Shri Shashi Tharoor visited Oman (February 2010), UAE and Bahrain (October 2009) and Yemen (June 2009) leading Indian delegation to IOR-ARC Conference. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia led the Indian delegation for the second India-Oman Joint Working Group in April 2009. Principal Secretary to PM visited Qatar in November 2009 for the Indo-Qatar Joint Monitoring Mechanism. Several important visits from the region also reinforced the bilateral relationships i.e. Oman's Minister of Oil and Gas (May 2009); Saudi Trade Minister (August 2009); UAE Foreign Minister (June 2009); **Bahrain** Foreign Minister (February 2010); Iraq, UAE & Qatar Ministers of Trade (February 2010).

India's traditionally strong and diverse relations with countries in the WANA region were further strengthened in a variety of ways. Sustained political interaction with the region was exemplified by meetings between the Prime Minister and the President of **Egypt** and with the President of the **Palestinian National Authority**. Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, represented India at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Great Al Fatah Revolution of **Libya**. Various other high-level visits were also exchanged, among others, with Egypt, **Israel, Jordan, Morocco**, Palestine, **Sudan and Syria**. During the year, India significantly increased its annual contribution to the United Nations Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) from US$ 20,000 to US$ 1 million.

Africa

India's engagement with Africa continued at a rapid pace with several incoming and outgoing visits at Ministerial level. Interactions with African leaders were also held on the sidelines of major multilateral events. 47 out of the 53 African Union countries have joined the Pan-African e-Network Project of the Government of India and started availing the tele-education and tele-medicine facilities. Lines of Credit for infrastructure development projects and grants to meet the immediate needs in thrust sectors of health, education, capacity-building were made available. African countries continued to avail the ITEC scholarship slots and the ICCR-sponsored higher education scholarships. Pursuant to its policy of encouraging public-private partnership, Ministry has encouraged simultaneous presence of business delegations during Ministerial visits to African countries and also arranged for interaction of visiting foreign government dignitaries with Indian businessmen through the commerce and industry bodies. Confederation of Indian Industry had organized the India-Africa Business Partnership Conclave in Lagos from 2-4 August, 2009 and a Business Mission in Nairobi from 5-7 August, 2009. FICCI organized the "Namaskar Africa" conference and exhibition in Lagos from 14-15 January, 2010. Trade with Africa has gone up from US$ 5.5 billion in 2001-02 to more than US$ 39 billion in 2008-09.

During the year, India opened resident Missions in Bamako **(Mali)** and Niamey **(Niger).**

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India, represented India at the inauguration ceremony of Dr. Jacob Zuma as the President of **South Africa** in May 2009. Other important visits from India to South Africa included: Parliamentary delegation's visit led by Shri Karia Munda, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha to South Africa (April 2009); Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma's visit to South Africa (August 2009); Minister of State (IC) for Science and Technology, Parliamentary Affairs, Earth Sciences and Personnel and Training, Shri Prithviraj Chavan's visit to Durban, (October 2009); Minister of State (IC) for Coal, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal's visit to Durban (August 2009).

Vice-President also visited **Zambia, Malawi** and **Botswana** from 5-11 January, 2010. MoS for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor went on bilateral visit to **Mozambique** from 13-14 January, 2010. MoS Dr. Tharoor represented India as an Observer at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa (27-30 January, 2010). Joint Action Plan for the follow-up of the India Africa Forum Summit 2008 decisions was also discussed with African Union.

Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Dinesh Trivedi visited Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia** (October) & the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Meira Kumar visited Arusha **(Tanzania)** from 28 September-6 October. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's meeting with Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius in Port of Spain in November 2009, on the margins of CHOGM 2009 and MoS Dr. Shashi Tharoor's visit to **Mauritius** on the 175th Anniversary event commemorating the arrival of Indian indentured labours to Mauritius (1-3 November) were notable events in bilateral relations. President of **Namibia**, Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba paid a State visit to India (30 August-3 September 2009) and Mr. Peter Mizengo Pinda, Prime Minister of Tanzania visited India in September 2009. **Uganda**'s Minister of State for Internal Affairs Mr. Matia Kasaija and Minister of State for Agriculture Mr. Rwamirama K. Bright, visited India in June and October 2009 respectively. India participated in the annual Harare International Festival for Arts (HIFA) held in Harare **(Zimbabwe)** from 1-6 May, 2009. Prof. W. Ncube, Minister of Commerce & Industry of **Zambia** visited India from 3-4 September, 2009 for participating in the Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Doha Round of WTO negotiations.

Europe

India-EU strategic partnership received fresh impetus during the year with the successful conclusion of the 10th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on 6 November, 2009 under the Swedish Presidency of the EU. At the delegation level talks both sides reviewed bilateral relations in the context of the India-EU Strategic

Partnership and reviewed multilateral issues of mutual interest such as international terrorism, climate change, international financial crisis, etc. A Joint Statement issued at the end of the Summit, reflects the ongoing close cooperation between India and EU in diverse areas of mutual interest including trade & investment, science & technology, education, civil nuclear energy, renewable energy, space, culture, security etc. There is also very good cooperation at the bilateral level in diverse areas with a number of individual Member States of the EU.

The President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State Visit to **UK** at the invitation of the Queen of UK in October 2009. She also made a first ever State Visit to **Spain** in April 2009. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited **France** in July 2009 as the Chief Guest at the French National Day celebrations. The Prime Minister had interactions with the leaders of UK, France, **Germany** and **Italy** on the sidelines of multilateral events like G-20 (April & September 2009), G8 (July 2009) and CHOGM (November 2009). Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar participated in the G8/G5 Speakers' Conference in Rome in September 2009. Former President Dr. A. P. J. Kalam visited **Ireland** in June 2009.

Other Ministerial level visits and senior official level visits took place during the year and contributed to the bilateral ties. Parliamentary exchanges and civil society dialogue between India and EU countries remained vibrant. Business-to-business level interactions were engaged fruitfully during the year.

Incoming high-level visits during the year included the visit of the German President Horst Koehler in February 2010 and the Crown Prince and Princess of Spain in November 2009.

There is a substantial Indian Diaspora in EU Member States. In recognition of this fact, a mini *Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas* (PBD) was held in The Hague in September 2009.

India's relations with the Nordic countries and countries of Central and Eastern Europe have been traditionally friendly and cordial. Our engagement with these countries seeks to be built on mutual strengths for the benefit of our peoples. Thus our interaction with Central and Eastern Europe countries has achieved good progress in S&T field. With Nordic countries India has focused in cooperation in ship building, telecommunications and IT sector, power sector and environment related technologies.

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, accompanied by Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development and other high level officials, business delegates and media persons, paid a State visit to **Cyprus** from 29-31 October, 2009. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of the *Lok Sabha*, Smt. Meira Kumar visited **Austria** from 14-17 September, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited **Prague** from 28-30 June, 2009 to attend the India-EU Ministerial Troika.

Danish Prime Minister Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen paid a one day Working Visit to India on 11 September, 2009 as Host of the COP15 and met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Foreign Minister of **Lithuania**, Mr. Vygaudas Usackas, accompanied by Economy Minister Mr. Dainius Kreivys, visited India from 2-5 December, 2009. Foreign Minister of Hungary, Dr. Peter Balazs, paid an official visit to India from 17-21 January, 2010 when he had extensive talks with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M.Krishna. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta, Dr. Tonio Borg, paid an official visit to India from 6-11 January, 2010 and held discussions with MoS for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur and EAM.

President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State visit to **Poland** from 23-26 April, 2009 accompanied by MoS Dr. Ashwani Kumar. President of **Iceland,** Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson paid a State visit to India from 11-17 January, 2010 during which he was also conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 2007. The Turkish President Mr. Abdullah Gul along with a large business delegation visited India from 7-11 February, 2010. **Swedish** Prime Minister Frederick Reinfeldt accompanied by Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, Trade Minister Ewa Björling, and a business delegation visited India from 5-6 November, 2009 for the bilateral and India-EU Summit meetings. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, accompanied by an 18-member high powered official and business delegation visited Sweden from 15-16 September, 2009. Dr. M. S. Gill, Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports paid an official visit to **Switzerland** from 8-17 August, 2009 & a four member delegation led by the Minister of Textiles, Shri Dayanidhi Maran, visited Switzerland from 25-28 October. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma visited **Ankara** from 7-8 September, 2009, to take part in the Ninth session of Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) held on 8 September, 2009. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee attended the Annual Meeting of IMF in **Istanbul** from 2-7 October, 2009.

The Americas

USA: The warm relationship between India and the USA was further strengthened and the engagement broadened and intensified in a number of areas of shared interests at the bilateral, regional and global level. Although 2009 was a year when newly elected Governments were installed in both countries - the world's oldest and largest democracies, concerted efforts were made by the new Administration in the USA and the UPA Government in its second term in India, to ensure that the transition was marked by continuity and intensification of the bilateral relationship. Both new Governments reaffirmed their strong commitment to strengthening the existing economic and political partnerships and take them to a higher level of cooperation for mutual benefit. In July 2009, during the visit of US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton to India, both governments announced their new Strategic Dialogue. At the Summit meeting in November 2009 in Washington, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama decided to embark on a new phase in the global strategic partnership between India and the United States.

High level contacts between India and the US continued during the period. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met the Secretary of State Ms. Clinton in September 2009 on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York. Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan visited the US in September and October 2009 respectively. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited Washington in June 2009 to attend the 34th anniversary of the US-India Business Council. High level visits from the US side to India included that of US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Mr. William Burns (October 2009) and of US Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk (September 2009).

The Indo-US bilateral trade in goods and services stood at US$ 69.4 billion in 2008. During the period, January-October 2009, India-US bilateral trade in goods stood at US$ 31.5 billion. India exported goods worth US$ 17.6 billion to the US and imported goods worth US$ 13.9 billion from USA during January-October 2009. India exported IT and IT enabled services worth US$ 28.3 billion in 2009. The US is one of the leading foreign investors in India. In other areas like nuclear energy, defence, education and high technology, both countries have expanded their areas of cooperation with new thrust areas added.

With **Canada**, as well, important initiatives were pursued through the year such as a Civil Nuclear Agreement, a Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement, and a Joint Study Group to look into the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement. Several other proposals were initiated that would strengthen the economic, political and people-to-people linkages between the two nations. The visit of Prime Minister Mr. Stephen Harper to India (from 15-18 November, 2009) was a milestone in bilateral relations. During the visit commonalities between the two countries and shared values and interests were built upon to expand the bilateral agenda and enhance cooperation in areas of shared priority. Two MoUs were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. In April 2009, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. M. S. Ahluwalia led an Inter-Ministerial delegation to participate in the Canada India Energy Forum hosted in Toronto by the Canada India Foundation from 15-17 April, 2009. Mr. Gerald Keddy, Parliamentary Secretary to Canadian Minister of International Trade visited India from 1-5 September, 2009 to inaugurate Canadian Zonal Trade office in Kolkata & Mr. Stockwell Day, Canadian Minister of International Trade, visited Ahmedabad on 25 September, 2009 to inaugurate Canada's Trade office in that city.

Latin America and Caribbean: Our engagement with Latin American and Caribbean countries which constitute 40 countries and dependent territories continued to be broad based during the year. The multi-sectoral dialogue with the region was active with a number of summit level and ministerial level interactions during the year. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh visited **Trinidad & Tobago** for the CHOGM Summit from 27-29 November, 2009 and held bilateral consultations with several HoS/HoGs. He met with President Lula of **Brazil** at the BRIC Summit on 16 September, 2009 in Moscow and also on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Pittsburg from 24-25 September, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Brazil from 31 August-1 September 2009 for IBSA Ministerial and for a Bilateral Joint Commission Meeting. President of **Argentina**, Dr. Cristina de Fernandez Kirchner paid a state visit to India from 13-14 October, 2009. The **Colombian** Foreign Minister Mr. Jaime Bermudez accompanied by the Commerce, Trade and Tourism Minister Mr. Guillermo Plata paid an official visit to India from 10-11 November, 2009.

In all, a total of 14 agreements/MoUs were signed with the countries in the region during the year. Bilateral trade touched a record US$ 15.63 billion between India and LAC region during 2008-09, which accounts for 3.25% of India's total external trade. The total Indian

investments in the region, so far, either invested or committed to invest, is around US$ 11 billion. Indian business/industry associations, such as CII and FICCI have held series of business seminars to promote Indian trade and investments in the region. As part of our 'Focus LAC' initiative the extended Lines of Credit continue to be available to countries in the region to support infrastructure projects in the region. IT Centres were set up in **Costa Rica** and **Ecuador** and a total of 416 ITEC scholarships were announced for the countries in the region to assist them in their capacity building initiatives. In the wake of massive earthquake which struck **Haiti** on 12 January, 2010, Government of India expressed its full support and cooperation to Haiti for its reconstruction. India has made a cash contribution of US$ 5 million to Haiti for emergency relief purposes. Minister of State Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Haiti on 26 January, 2010 to personally convey our sympathies to the people and Government of Haiti. During the year, we have also extended humanitarian assistance to the tune of US$ 1.55 million to Ecuador, **El Salvador, St. Lucia** and **Guatemala** to help them to overcome disasters caused by natural calamities. As part of our cultural outreach programme, a series of cultural events, film festivals, seminars, conferences and food festivals were organized by the missions in the region either independently or with the support of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

United Nations and International Organizations

India attaches importance to the centrality of the United Nations in multilateralism. India continued to press for reform of the UN to make it more representative and democratic to enhance its credibility and effectiveness. The efforts for reform focussed on revitalization of the General Assembly, reform and expansion of the Security Council, reform of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), restoring the central role of the UN with regard to international development issues, and better management of peacekeeping and post-conflict peace building processes. In addition, India stressed on enhancing global cooperation against terrorism through universal implementation of the UN Global Counter terrorism strategy and early conclusion of negotiations on Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. India continued to maintain its position as the third largest troop contributor to the UN Peacekeeping missions with around 8,760 military personnel deployed with nine missions.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the official Indian delegation to the high-level segment of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from 20-27 September, 2009. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur visited New York from 19-26 October, 2009 to participate in the 64th UNGA Session. Minister of State for External AffairsDr. Shashi Tharoor visited New York from 11-20 October, 2009 to attend the UNGA Session.

Non Aligned Movement: As a founder member of the Non-Aligned Movement, India remains strongly committed to its ideals and principles. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the fifteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from 15-16 July, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna attended the NAM Ministerial meeting held from 13-14 July, 2009 just before the NAM Summit. Shri E. Ahamed, the then MoS of State for External Affairs, led the Indian participation in the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau held in Havana, Cuba from 29-30 April, 2009 to prepare for the NAM Summit.

Commonwealth: Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 27-29 November, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna took part in the pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers meeting held in Port of Spain from 25-26 November, 2009. During the CHOGM 2009, Prime Minister announced several new initiatives by India including additional 250 slots for training for the Commonwealth countries under India's ITEC programme, a Diplomatic Training Module for Commonwealth countries, contribution to newly established Commonwealth Small States Joint Office in Geneva, doubling of India's contribution to the Commonwealth Media Development Fund, financial support for Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal, establishment of a post of a Sports Development Adviser in the Commonwealth Secretariat, support for Commonwealth Secretary General's initiative to convene a network of National Elections Commissions. In addition, the Government of India released commemorative stamps and coins to mark 2009 as the 60th anniversary year of the creation of the Modern Commonwealth.

Social and Economic Issues: The 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in Geneva from 6-30 July, 2009. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the Ministerial segment of this session. India

hosted a high-level global conference on "Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer" from 22-23 October, 2009 in New Delhi in collaboration with the United Nations. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna attended a high level Event on Climate Change, "Summit on Climate Change", hosted by the UN Secretary General on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 September, 2009. Indian delegation comprising officials, Parliamentarians, civil society members and youth attended the 15th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-15) on climate change held at Copenhagen from 7-18 December, 2009. The high-level segment of the conference, held from 16-18 December, 2009 and participated by Heads of States/Governments of almost 120 countries, was attended by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

In addition, India actively participated in a number of major international forums like Human Rights Council, Commission on the Status of Women, Global Forum Migration and Development, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and Inter-Parliamentary Union.

South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The role of SAARC in the promotion of regional cooperation is poised to expand substantially in the near future. With the active engagement of the Member States in strengthening institutions within SAARC and funding its various activities, the organization is expected to witness a slew of new and vibrant regional institutions taking shape – the South Asian University and the SAARC Museum of Textiles and Handicrafts in New Delhi, the SAARC Regional Standards Organization in Dhaka, SAARC Arbitration Council in Pakistan, the SAARC Development Fund Secretariat in Thimphu, the SAARC Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka, etc.

This growth in SAARC activity is also going to be supplemented by regional and sub-regional projects funded and implemented under the aegis of the SAARC Development Fund. The process of building new regional institutions and strengthening existing ones will have a positive impact on the future of SAARC as an organization committed to the economic betterment of the people of the South Asian region.

India's asymmetric and non-reciprocal approach in pursuing regional cooperation in SAARC has strengthened intra-regional cooperation. It has helped bring development cooperation directly to the grass-roots transforming SAARC from declaratory phase to implementation phase.

Disarmament & International Security Affairs

India continued to reaffirm global non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament as one of the highest priorities for the international community. India supported the adoption of a Programme of Work, including negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, in the Conference on Disarmament. At the 64th UN General Assembly in New York, India reiterated its proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and providing for their complete elimination within a specified time frame. During the year, India participated constructively in multilateral meetings on disarmament including those related to the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. India also participated actively in the meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. Regular contacts were maintained with think tanks and non-governmental organizations in the field of disarmament to articulate India's views

Multilateral Economic Relations

India's multilateral economic engagement further widened and deepened during the year as the global economic and financial crisis, food security and Climate Change continued to occupy the focus of discussions in multilateral fora. Highlights of this year's multilateral engagements was Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh's participation in the G-8 Outreach Summit in Italy (July 2009), the first formal Summit of the Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) in Russia (June 2009), India-ASEAN Summit and in the East Asia Summit (October 2009).

Continuing with our constructive engagement with the G-8, India participated at Minister or Secretary level in various Ministerial meetings in the run-up to the G-8 & G-5 Outreach Summit including the Meeting on Afghanistan, Meeting of Labour Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, Environment Ministers, Energy Ministers and the Conference of G8 and Outreach Ministers on Destabilizing Factors and Trans-national Threats.

Engagement with key regional groupings such as India-ASEAN, East Asia Summit, BIMSTEC, IBSA, MGC, ACD, ASEM, G-15, IOR-ARC and others also

consolidated during the year. Major Ministerial meetings attended by India include those under the format of India-ASEAN, East Asia Summit, BRIC, IBSA, BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), G-5 (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa), ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting), ACD (Asia Cooperation Dialogue) and IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Cooperation). India took over as Vice-Chair of IOR-ARC in 2009.

During the year, India continued to engage proactively and participate regularly in various G-20 meetings. Prime Minister attended the G-20 London Summit in April 2009 and the G-20 Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009. The G-20 Summits focused on issues relating to the international financial and economic crisis. The Pittsburgh Summit also designated the G-20 as the 'premier forum' for international economic cooperation.

In the context of global economic and financial crisis, apart from G20, India was also actively engaged in the meetings of BRIC Finance Ministers to coordinate positions with Brazil, Russia and China on this important global issue.

India's hosting, in September 2009, of the WTO Ministerial Conference to develop a broad-based consensus to remove the impediments coming in the way of multilateral discussions and to provide clear directions to negotiators to re-energize the multilateral process at the WTO was another important milestone during the year.

Technical & Economic Cooperation and Development Partnership

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) have been recognized as an important component of India's development partnership and cooperation with the developing world. The usefulness and relevance of these cooperative interactions in different countries was reflected in the increasing number of participants in the ITEC programme which has indeed acquired a brand name in the developing world. Demand-driven and response-oriented, ITEC is today a major component and dynamic part of India's bilateral assistance programme manifesting itself in diverse areas of cooperation. Around 5000 civilian training slots were allotted during 2009-10 to 158 developing countries in areas of interest and advantage to them. Training was imparted to participants from public and private sectors in areas such as finance & accounts, audit, banking, education, planning & administration, parliamentary studies, crime records, etc. Defence personnel from Laos, Lesotho, Seychelles, Zambia, Ethiopia and Mongolia were also trained in India under this programme.

Investment and Technology Promotion (ITP)

Economic Diplomacy continued to occupy an important place in India's foreign policy, especially in the aftermath of the global economic crisis. Additional funds to the tune of Rs. 9.09 crores were allocated to our Missions to enable them to respond more effectively to the growing demands of Indian industry and take advantage of trade and investment opportunities by undertaking market expansion activities including market surveys, seminars, workshops, buyer seller meets, industry interactions, etc.

Concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) worth US$ 1132.22 million were extended to 21 developing countries during April 2009-February 2010, conveying our sincere commitment to the economic development and capacity building of our partner developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. These LOCs have helped in supporting projects in the infrastructure sector and exports of goods and services to untapped markets, thereby generating tremendous amount of goodwill for the country. A sum of Rs. 5 crores has been set aside to assist developing countries, lacking technical expertise, in preparation of feasibility reports for undertaking projects under LOCs.

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

Energy Security

The Ministry's Energy Security unit has been upgraded into a full-fledged Energy Security Division. During the period, this new thematic division provided inputs to articulate India's position on energy security matters in various multilateral fora like the UNGA, G-20, NAM, BRIC, ASEM, etc. The division also facilitated India's membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency and the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC), and guided the engagement with the International Energy Agency. As the nodal point in MEA for energy matters the Division maintained close coordination with the energy line ministries and supported their international engagements on energy issues. The Energy Security Division also coordinated with country's various stakeholders including the private sectors on energy security issues.

Protocol

There were 95 visits (73 incoming and 22 outgoing) during the April 2009-March 2010 period at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister. Three countries (Burundi, Gambia and Georgia) opened resident missions during this period bringing the total number of resident missions in New Delhi to 140. Opening of new Consulates General in Mumbai were approved for Ethiopia and New Zealand in 2009. Five countries got permission to open trade offices and nineteen were granted permission to open honorary consulates in Indian metro cities. Honorary Consul of Hungary in Mumbai and Honorary Consul of Ireland in Bengaluru were upgraded to Honorary Consul Generals in January and February 2010 respectively. 157 new posts were created by foreign missions and international organisations in the period April 2009-February 2010. The keen interest evinced in India as witnessed in the large numbers of VVIP visits; opening of new missions, consulates, and trade offices; as well as the creation of numerous additional posts by diplomatic missions – was reflective of India's active and multifaceted engagement with the world.

Consular, Passports and Visa Services

During the year 2009, our 37 Passport offices issued 50.28 lakh Passports. The total revenue generated through Passport and Visa services during the period April 2009-20 January 2010 are Rs.685.5 crores & Rs. 924.41 crores respectively.

Some of the important steps to make the passport issuance system simpler and speedier included, decentralisation through District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centers, on-line receipt of application, addition of some new buildings at Bhubaneshwar and Vishakhapatnam, centralised printing of passports, strengthening of the public grievance redressal system, Facilitation Counters and help desks, Passport Adalats to address the grievances and the careful implementation of RTI.

During the period, 2659 Diplomatic and 22594 official passport and 7173 visas were issued to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders. During the year, 3,17,078 personal and educational documents and 2,27,625 other documents were attested. 1,24,661 documents were apostilled for use abroad by apostilled member countries.

New projects included issuance of e- passports, *Passport Sewa Project*, outsourcing of visa work and the launch of 'Apostille Convention Project'. Extradition Treaty was signed with Kazakhastan. A visa-waiver agreement with Namibia was also signed.

Coordination Division

Coordination Division functioned as nodal point of the Ministry for all work relating to Parliament interaction with other Ministries, Departments, State Government offices, Union Territories and Autonomous bodies.

During the period, the Division issued 2706 political clearances for visits against 2539 issued in 2008. It also issued 996 clearances for foreign non-scheduled flights against 971 issued during 2008. The Division also processed a large number of requests for participation of Indian sports teams abroad, grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals and also assisted Ministry of Defence for the forthcoming "DEFEXPO INDIA – 2010" to be organized by them in February 2010. No objections to 1345 foreign applicants were also granted to pursue various courses in India.

Administration & Establishment

There are 173 resident Indian missions and posts abroad. During the period under report, three new missions at Bamako (Mali), Niamey (Niger) and Guatemala City (Guatemala) were opened.

To streamline the administrative machinery, efforts were made to decentralize decision making and simplify and improve the rules regulations and procedures. This also included liberalizing certain rules and adding some more concessions. Recruitments were also made through method of Direct Recruitment, Departmental Promotions and Limited Departmental Examination (LDE) including against reserved vacancies.

As regards propagation of Hindi abroad with the involvement of missions, Hindi Books, Teaching materials and software were supplied to about 70 Missions/Posts, Hindi magazines were supplied to 100 Missions/Posts and financial support was provided to our Mission/Posts in Belarus, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Ireland, Suriname Vietnam and Hungary. Parliament committee on Official Language visited RPOs in Vishakhapatnam, Chennai, Pune, Surat and Ghaziabad. Works related to this inspection were coordinated by Hindi Section of the Ministry.

Annual review of the foreign allowance under the indexation scheme was undertaken in coordination with Ministry of Finance and a new system of "compensatory allowance" was introduced. New MEA housing complex with 100 housing units at Chanakyapuri was made

operational and renovation of MEA hostels at K. G. Marg and Gole Market was partly completed.

During the period, construction work for the Indian Embassy Complex in Muscat and Tokyo (Embassy Residence and other Residences) were completed. Construction on major projects such as Chancery and/or Residences in Kabul, Kathmandu, Beijing, London, Islamabad, Singapore and Budapest are making progress.

E-Governance & Information Technology

During the year, computerization of Passport and visa services at Indian Missions & Posts at Kuwait, Toronto, Madrid and outsourcing of Visa and Passport services at Embassy of India, Moscow, and Vancouver were completed.

RTI

A total of 804 applications under the RTI Act, 2005 have been received by the Ministry during the period April-December 2009. Applications covered subjects such as administration, personal grievances, *Haj* pilgrimage, *Kailash-Mansarover Yatra*, Gulf War compensations, foreign policy, economic issues etc. Out of these applications, 238 appeals have been filed by the applicants to the Appellate Authority of the Ministry during the same period.

Public Diplomacy

The mandate of this Division includes, inter-alia, outreach activities in India and abroad and production of audio-visual and print material that enables our Missions to project India more effectively. To achieve its objectives, the Division organizes seminars, conferences and briefings for and in association with civil society, NGOs, think-tanks, research and academic institutions and business and industry on strategic and foreign policy issues.

Other outreach activities for the year under report included two delegation visits from the UK of 'Friends of India' Group of the Conservative Party and another of Liberal Democratic Friends of India Group, a delegation from the Slovenia Parliamentary Group, a visit by Professor Sudharshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor Gujarat Vidhyapeeth to Slovenia, celebration of the International Day of Non-Violence by Indian Missions abroad and the ongoing research project on "Indo-GCC relations" organized by the Gulf Research Centre, Dubai.

The Division also continued to facilitate participation in film festivals and Indian film weeks and organized cultural and photo exhibitions. Several documentaries have been commissioned and are being completed. The Ministry's flagship publication 'India Perspectives' is being improved and expanded and the Division has continued to produce and acquire books for use by our Missions.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

ICCR is mandated for establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and the outside world. With its headquarters in Delhi, fourteen regional offices in India and a number of cultural centers abroad, the activities of the Council also include administration of scholarship schemes for oversees students and facilitating their admissions in Indian universities. During the past year, the Council offered 2226 new scholarships including 675 scholarships for Afghan students and 526 from African countries. In addition to maintaining nineteen long term chairs to teach Indian languages and social sciences with focus on India, the Council is also maintaining eleven rotating/short term chairs in various countries.

ICCR sponsored the visits of foreign performing artistes to India including troupes from Switzerland, Malaysia, Mauritius, USA, Pakistan, UK, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Spain, Egypt, Tanzania, Paraguay, Brazil, Iran, Colombia, Portugal, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela. The Council also sponsored visits of Indian artistes / troops to various countries abroad. The Council collaborated in the holding of various conferences and seminars, organized cultural weeks and interactive sessions of famous poets in various cities and assisted various organizations and prominent institutes such as IIT, JNU, Delhi University, Allahabad University, *Jamia Milia* in organizing International conferences in India.

Festivals of India organized by the ICCR include "The Year of India in Russia", "Festival of India in Argentina", and "Festival of India in Indonesia".

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) continued to develop as a think tank, and as an important platform for debate and discussion on foreign affairs. Throughout the year, the ICWA was engaged in seminars and conferences relating to India's core foreign policy interests, and in visits and lectures by eminent foreign dignitaries. Nine foreign dignitaries visited Sapru House and addressed large gatherings of strategic experts, academics, ex-diplomats and media representatives on vital foreign policy issues. These discussions resulted in ICWA

beginning to come out with papers on useful subjects. Research work on India's relations with countries in its immediate neighborhood was given a pre-eminent emphasis, and ICWA's new Research team in place since August 2009 has begun work on important issues. ICWA also organized and participated in seminars in India and abroad, and the academic exchanges is resulted in an enhancement of the profile of the institution as an 'institute of national importance'. Seven bilateral strategic dialogues with partners abroad were conducted with institutions of repute internationally. A major international conference to revive the spirit of the 'Asian Relations Conference' was conducted in Delhi during November 2009, and was attended by scholars from all over the world. ICWA consolidated its participation in the activities of Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). ICWA also worked to comprehensively renovate the Sapru House premises – a heritage building constructed/established under the encouragement of the country's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru over fifty five years ago. Efforts will continue at re-establishing the ICWA as the country's lead think-tank on foreign policy issues.

Research and Information System (RIS)

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous think-tank under the Ministry specialising in international economic relations and development cooperations. It has the mandate to function as an advisory body to the government on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues.

During the period RIS prepared major research studies to assist NAM Summit, East Asia Summit (EAS), SAARC Summit, IBSA Summit, BIMSTEC Summit UNCTAD Ministerial Conferences and WTO Ministerial Conferences. RIS has been engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives, including the Track-II Study Group of Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). Among the important meetings and negotiations for which RIS conducted research studies and provided inputs to policy makers during the reporting period are the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement, CEPEA, Asian Cooperation Dialogue, SAARC, Chiang-Mai Initiative and EAS, IOR-ARC, Joint Study Group for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia and the Heiligendamn Process. RIS has been actively engaged in the regional network of think-tanks in which the organization has been nominated as India's focal point. These include the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and the BIMSTEC Network of think tanks. RIS also organized a number of Policy Dialogue, Conferences and Symposia. A major event organized by RIS was the South Asia Economic Summit, which brought together the leading policy research institutions in South Asia to deliberate on the prospects of deepening and widening South Asian regional integration.

MEA Library

The Ministry's Library has over 100,000 books, rich resource materials and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. A library committee manages library activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals. All kind of library operations and services including documentation and bibliographic services have been computerized. Books, maps, microfilms, selected articles from journals are being fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs. Library regularly prepares and issues Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin, Recent Additions, Chronicle of Events, Article Alert, Book Alert and e-mail services.

External Publicity

External Publicity Division continued to articulate the views/positions of the Government of India on various national and international issues through interaction with Indian and international media. Division's main activities focused on dissemination of information on India's relations with its immediate neighbours as also with key countries of the world. Following the terrorist attacks on 26/11 at Mumbai, a sustained publicity drive to project India's concern on terrorists emanating from across the border was undertaken.

Press coverage of both incoming and outgoing VVIP visits was facilitated. The opportunity was also used to highlight India's position on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Division continued to liaise with national and international media for regular briefings on major issues. The official spokesperson disseminated information on day-to-day developments relating to the conduct of India's foreign policy, and arranged regular media briefings duly supplemented by press releases, briefing points and statements.

The Division also took initiatives on revamping of MEA website, updating of Hindi Section of Ministry's website, making arrangements with ANI to post Urdu translations of MEA press releases, launching of India-Africa Connect Website, organizing familiarization visits by foreign journalists, producing documentaries and films, organizing training, workshops, conferences and special events and

publishing a compact and colourful handbook on general elections.

Policy Planning and Research

The main activities of the Policy Planning and Research Division included processing of research projects and studies relating to Foreign Policy and global affairs; preparation/updating of database of think tanks, research bodies, universities etc. dealing with subjects related to India's foreign policy and international affairs; interaction with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and its affiliates and the area study centers of different universities, specializing in research on different regions of the world. The "Annual Report" for 2008-2009 was also prepared and circulated.

During the past year, one major activity of the Division was the organization of Heads of Missions (HoMs) Conference in August 2009 which was attended by about 120 Ambassadors and High Commissioners. The Policy Planning Division has also co-coordinated and monitored the establishment of the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in the Calcutta University which has been established with the financial assistance of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Policy Planning and Research Division also supervised the work of the Situation Room and Boundary Cell. During the year, the Situation Room established video conferencing facilities in our missions at Permanent Mission of India, New York, Embassy of India, Washington and Embassy of India, Moscow and initiated work for these facilities at High Commission of India, Male, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva and Consulate General of India, Shanghai.

Foreign Service Institute

The Foreign Service Institute conducted training programmes for the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Probationers, officers and staff of the Ministry of External Affairs, officers from Cabinet Secretariat and other Ministries/Departments as well as for foreign diplomats. The first and second mandatory mid-career training programmes for JS-level officers and email-based mid-career training programmes for Director-level officers were carried out during the year. A media training programme and a one-day Right to Information Course for officers of the Ministry were also held. Three Special Courses for diplomats from Maldives, Afghanistan and ASEAN, and two Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFDs) were also organised.

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India's Neighbours 1

Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan continued their close and friendly relationship in 2009-10. India remained actively engaged in the task of reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. Spanning almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities, our bilateral assistance to Afghanistan crossed US$ 1.3 billion (as against a pledge of US$ 1.2 billion). This assistance has been substantially enhanced by a 35% increase (to 675) in the number of annual scholarships for Afghan students attending Indian colleges, and a similar increase (from 500 to 675) in the training slots for Afghan nationals in India.

Despite daunting logistical and security challenges, the construction of a 220 KV Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul together with substation in Chimtala was completed, a project of importance for the provision of electricity to the residents of Kabul. Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament building, seen as a symbol of the common commitment of both our countries to pluralism and democracy, is also progressing. Other Indian projects in a range of areas such as agriculture, rural development, education, health, vocational training, capacity building and humanitarian assistance are all progressing satisfactorily. Our support to the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan has been widely appreciated by the people all across Afghanistan, and which is built on the historical and cultural ties that link the two countries. This was underlined by a recent Gallup survey of Afghan attitudes released recently. When asked what role different groups or countries were playing in resolving the situation in Afghanistan, a majority of respondents in the survey mentioned India's role in reconstruction.

There was a terrorist attack targeting the Indian Embassy in Kabul on 8 October, 2009 which killed at least seventeen Afghans. Two ITBP personnel suffered shrapnel injuries. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Kabul immediately after the blast and met President Karzai, Foreign Minister Spanta and other leaders. She was told by the Afghan leaders that the attack was carried out by elements from outside Afghanistan seeking to damage the excellent relations that exist between India and Afghanistan. Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan regarding the safety and security of Indian nationals in Afghanistan.

There was a terrorist attack on the morning of 26 February, 2010 in Kabul targeting residential facilities, used mainly by Indian nationals. Six Indians, including one officer each of Army Medical Corps and Army Education Corps (AEC), engaged in medical and humanitarian work, one employee each of the Indian Consulates General in Herat and Kandahar, a member of an ICCR-sponsored visiting cultural troupe and a senior official of Power Grid Corporation of Indian Limited fell victim the same day. One more officer of AEC succumbed to his injuries later (3 March). The injured and mortal remains of the deceased were airlifted on 27 February by a special Indian Air Force flight. President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai conveyed telephonically his condolence to Prime Minister on 27 February and promised full investigation into the attack. PM requested President Karzai to ensure security for Indian nationals in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mr. Zalmay Rassoul called External Affairs Minister on 26 February condemned the terrorist attack and assured that increased security measures would be taken for the safety of Indian nationals in Afghanistan. EAM deeply condoled the loss of lives in the attack and underlined that Government of India would not be deterred by such attacks.

Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta visited India from 26-27 July, 2009. He called on the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and met External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and NSA Shri M. K. Narayanan. It was decided during the visit to establish an India-Afghanistan Partnership Council composed of separate groups on political consultation, capacity development and education, power and water,

culture, trade and industry, health, and agriculture, to harness greater institutional support for the implementation of ongoing programmes and enlarge development cooperation between the two countries.

External Affairs Minister attended President Karzai's Inauguration Ceremony in Kabul on 19 November, 2009 for a fresh term in office as President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In his inaugural address, President Karzai mentioned that Afghanistan enjoys a strategic relationship with India and also referred to our bilateral assistance and the large number of Afghan students studying in India. India reiterated its determination to fulfil its commitments to the Afghan people and government as they build a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan.

Following US President Obama's speech on the review of his country's Af-Pak strategy on 1 December, 2009 India welcomed the emphasis on the strengthening of the Government of Afghanistan and Afghan security forces. India also welcomed President Obama's reiteration of the need to squarely tackle terrorism, and for Pakistan to ensure that terrorists do not enjoy safe havens on its territory.

An International Conference on Afghanistan, co-hosted by the United Nations, the Government of Afghanistan and the UK Government, was held in London on 28 January, 2010. External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation for the Conference. The Communiqué adopted after the Conference underlined the international community's long-term commitment to Afghanistan and its support for the Government of Afghanistan, and the security, development and governance of the country. It was agreed that the London Conference would be followed by a Conference in Kabul, hosted by the Government of Afghanistan, later this year.

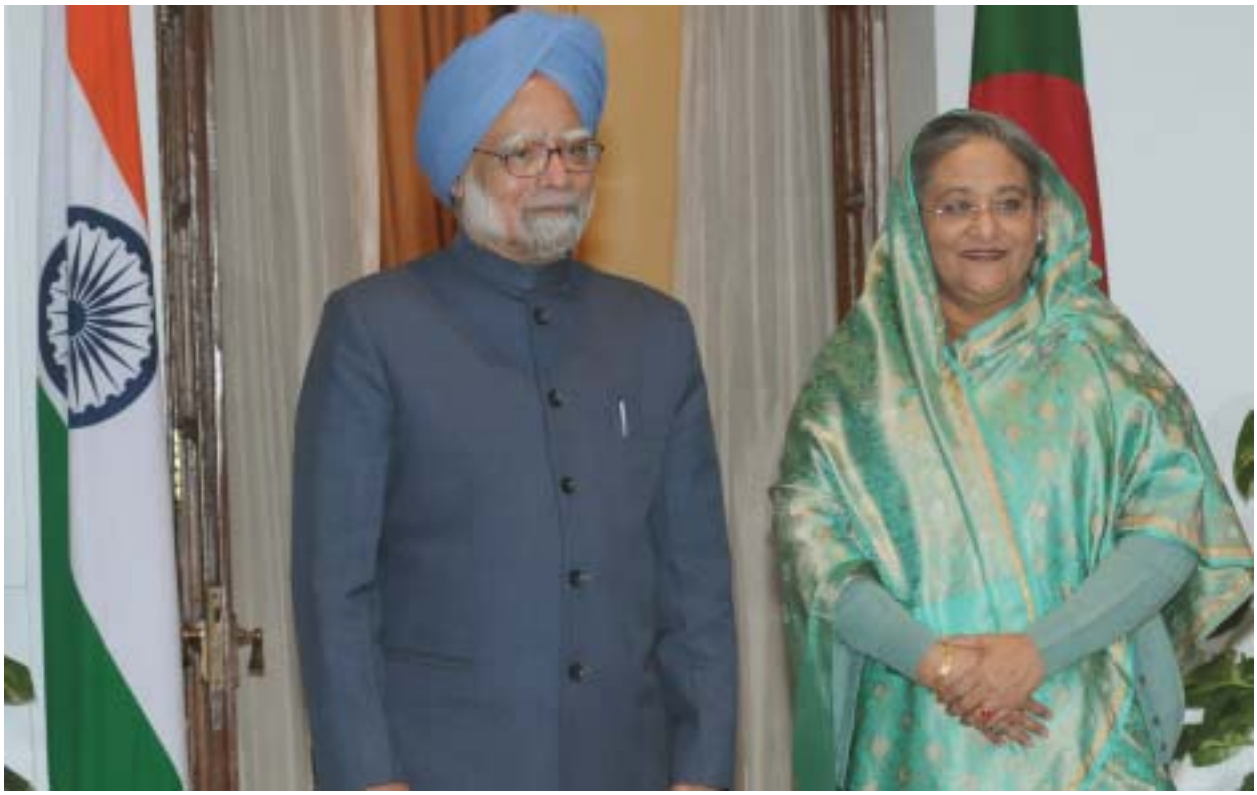
Bangladesh

Bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh acquired new momentum, following formation of the Grand Alliance Government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in January 2009. India continued to engage the Government of Bangladesh on all important bilateral issues.

A significant development was the State visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India from 10-13 January, 2010. She called on the President and held talks with PM on a wide range of issues. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and the Leader of Opposition Shri L. K. Advani called on the visiting Prime Minister. A Joint Communiqué outlining major areas of cooperation was issued during the visit. India has agreed to provide a Line of Credit of US$ 1 billion to support infrastructure projects in Bangladesh including in the areas of railway infrastructure, supply of locomotives, coaches, buses and dredging. Both countries agreed to facilitate the access to Chittagong and Mongla ports, inclusion of Ashuganj and Silghat as ports of call under the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol, construction of the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, operationalize land customs stations at Sabroom-Ramgarh and Demagiri-Thegamukh and establish border haats including on the Meghalaya border. India agreed to provide 250 MW of power to Bangladesh to help it address the energy crisis as well as develop inter grid connectivity. India also agreed to the electrification of Dahagram and Angarpota as a humanitarian gesture. The two sides signed Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking and Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. An MoU on Cooperation in Power Sector and a Cultural Exchange Programme was also signed during the visit.

High level of ministerial and official contacts between the two governments took place during the year. Foreign Secretary Shri Shiv Shankar Menon visited Dhaka from 12-13 April, 2009. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur met Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni in New York in June 2009. Later Bangladesh Foreign Minister and Adviser to Bangladesh PM met External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister on 9 July, 2009 during a stopover in New Delhi on their way to Colombo. PM had a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh PM on 15 July, 2009 in Sharm-el-Sheikh (Egypt) on the sidelines of the NAM Summit and later on the sidelines of CHOGM in November 2009 in Port of Spain. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni visited India from 7-10 September, 2009. During the visit, she held talks with Minister of External Affairs on entire gamut of bilateral relations. The two sides identified priority areas of cooperation in range of areas including trade facilitation, connectivity, transit, power etc. Both sides agreed and reiterated their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of counter terrorism. Dr. Dipu Moni also called on the PM, Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, calling on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on 27 July, 2009.



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina, in New Delhi on 11 January, 2010.

of Finance, Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao was in Dhaka from 14-15 November, 2009 to review progress with her counterpart. She called on the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Union Minister of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Shri Sharad Pawar visited Dhaka from 7-10 January, 2010. These high level interactions ensured that both sides had regular exchange of views on issues of bilateral importance.

India continued to emphasize its security concerns to Bangladesh, especially the use of Bangladeshi territory by Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) and terrorists. The bilateral Home Secretary-level talks in New Delhi took place from 30 November-2 December 2009.The last DG-level border coordination conference of the respective border security forces was held from 11-14 July, 2009. Both sides discussed a range of issues relating to security, terrorism and border management and agreed to strengthen joint efforts to prevent trans-border crimes.

The bilateral merchandise trade has been growing steadily over the last few years. During the FY 2007-08, the Bangladesh imports to India stood at US$ 3273.70 million and exports stood at US$ 358.08 million. During the FY 2008-2009, Bangladesh's imports from India were to the tune of US$ 2841.06 million, about 13% of Bangladesh's global imports. Bangladesh's exports to India stood at US$ 276.58 million.

Many unilateral initiatives have been taken to assist the export of Bangladeshi products to India, including agreement to export construction bricks to Tripura worth US$ 28 million. To facilitate trade, Belonia-Feni LCS has been opened in October 2009. The JWG on Trade met in August 2009 to discuss aspects relating to trade in which matters relating to para-tariff and non-tariff barriers faced by business community of both countries were discussed. India promised to upgrade Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute and also help in capacity building. The sixth meeting of the Joint Groups of Customs took place on 11-12 February, 2010 in New Delhi. The two sides discussed issues relating to cooperation in the field of customs, capacity building etc.

The second joint steering committee meeting on cooperation in the power sector met on 19 February, 2010 in Dhaka to discuss implementation of the MoU on Power Cooperation signed during the visit of Bangladesh PM to India in January 2010. Its first meeting was held on 12 January, 2010 in New Delhi.

The 11th Meeting of the Standing Committee under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (IWTT) was held in New Delhi in October 2009. An Inter Governmental Railway Meeting between India and Bangladesh was held in May 2009 in New Delhi. Secretaries of Water Resources met in January 2010 to discuss water related issues including sharing of Teesta waters and humanitarian water related issues. The third Technical Level Meeting on Water Related Issues between India and Bangladesh was held on 5-6 December, 2009 in Dhaka. India and Bangladesh also met in January 2010 to discuss arbitration proceedings on the maritime boundary issues under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

During the year 2009, people to people contacts between the two countries expanded through promotion of exchanges in the field of culture. These included musical, dance and theatre performances; holding of art exhibitions and workshops and training in Yoga, Hindustani classical vocal music, Manipuri Indian classical dance by Indian teachers sent on deputation to Bangladesh by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Both India and Bangladesh have decided to jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in 2011. ICCR's Culture Centre will be inaugurated on 11 March, 2010 in Dhaka.

Bangladesh is an important ITEC partner country. A total of 100 slots have been provided for participants from Bangladesh in 2009-10 under ITEC Programme and Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan. In order to promote people to people exchanges, 100 scholarships are granted by ICCR every year to students from Bangladesh for pursuing general courses in arts, sciences, engineering and also specialized courses for culture, drama, music, fine arts, sports etc. During the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010, India agreed to offer 300 scholarships to Bangladesh students annually for study and training in Universities and training institutions in India, covering a wide range of disciplines.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan enjoy close and friendly relationship that is based on trust, understanding, mutual benefit and well-being. During the year, there were several high-level visits from both sides. Bilateral interaction encompasses

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh shaking hands with the Chinese Premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao, on the sidelines of 7th India-ASEAN Summit, in Thailand, on 24 October, 2009.

President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the ceremonial reception of the King of Bhutan, HM Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 22 December, 2009.

the areas of hydro-power, transport, communications, infrastructure, health, education, IT, industry, medicine and agriculture.

High-level visits from Bhutan include the visit of Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley to India in June-July 2009. High-level visits from India to Bhutan include visits by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna (June 2009), Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram (August 2009), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal (October 2009), Chief Information Commissioner Shri Wajahat Habibullah (May 2009), the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Shri Shyam Saran (July 2009), Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao (September 2009), the Comptroller & Auditor general, Shri Vinod Rai (September 2009) and Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Navin Chawla (October 2009).

The Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley visited India from 28 June-3 July 2009. Bilateral discussions during the visit covered various facets of Indo-Bhutan relations and measures to further enhance the relationship. Regional and international issues and the forthcoming 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu in April 2010 were also discussed. While expressing sympathy for the loss of lives and property from the flash floods in Bhutan, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, as a gesture of solidarity, extended assistance worth Rs. 10 crores to the victims of the flash floods.

On the invitation of the President of India, the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, paid a State Visit to India from 21-26 December, 2009. The King of Bhutan was accompanied by Mr. Ugyen Tshering, Foreign Minister, Mr. Khandu Wangchuk, Minister of Economic Affairs, and other officials of the Royal Government. This was the first State Visit of the King of Bhutan to a foreign country since his formal coronation in November 2008.

While in India, the King of Bhutan met with the President of India. The Vice President of India, the Prime Minister, the Chairperson of the UPA, the Finance Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Home Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the National Security Advisor and the Foreign Secretary called on him. All the meetings were very friendly, warm and cordial, reflecting the spirit of trust, cooperation and deep understanding that mark the bilateral relations between India and Bhutan. Discussions covered issues of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation, including cooperation in the hydropower sector, IT, health, civil aviation etc. and regional and multilateral issues.

Twelve Agreements/MoUs were signed between the two countries during the visit. Our Prime Minister committed Government of India assistance of Rs. 25 crores for the victims of the September 2009 earthquake in Bhutan. During the visit, the King of Bhutan inaugurated a photo exhibition – "*Bhutan: An Eye to History*" – profiling Indo-Bhutan relations at the National Gallery of Modern Arts and delivered the Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Lecture on *"Changing Times and Timeless Values"*.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, visited Kolkata on 17 December, 2009, to inaugurate the Royal Bhutan Consulate in Kolkata along with the Governor of West Bengal coinciding with the 102nd National Day of Bhutan.

The Minister of Economic Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, visited India from 4-8 January, 2010 for the Seventh Meeting of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydropower Authority. The Implementation Agreements of two new hydropower projects in Bhutan – Mangdechhu and Punatsangchhu were finalized during the visit.

External Affairs Minister of India Shri S. M. Krishna, visited Bhutan from 18-19 June, 2009. This was his first official visit abroad after assuming office. During the visit, EAM had extensive exchange of views with the Bhutanese leadership and with his Bhutanese counterpart, jointly inaugurated the Paro-Bagdogra Druk Air flight and launched the Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship Programme.

Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram visited Bhutan from 21-24 August, 2009. During his visit, issues related to mutual security concerns were discussed.

The Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India on Climate Change, Shri Shyam Saran, visited Bhutan from 27-31 July, 2009, during which he discussed the possible agenda and activities for the forthcoming SAARC Summit in Bhutan, which has Climate Change as its central theme.

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, visited Bhutan from 12-14 September, 2009. This was her first visit abroad

since assuming charge as Foreign Secretary. She had wide ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest.

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, attended the International Conference on '*Deepening and Sustaining Democracy in Asia*' in October 2009, Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Navin Chawla, visited Bhutan in October 2009, Comptroller and Auditor General, Shri Vinod Rai, visited Bhutan in September 2009, Chief Information Commissioner Shri Wajahat Habibullah, visited Bhutan in May 2009 and the National Security Advisor to Prime Minister Shri M. K. Narayanan, visited Bhutan in November 2009.

The biannual Indo-Bhutan Joint Working Group on Border Security and Management meeting was held from 8-9 September, 2009 in Thimphu. Secretary (Border Management), Government of India, led the Indian delegation.

India continues to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. The Government of India committed assistance worth Rs. 3400 crores during the 10th Five Year Plan (FYP). This includes Project tied Assistance (Rs. 2000 crore for 65 projects in key socio-economic sectors), Programme Grant (Rs 700 crore) and the Small Development Projects (Rs 700 crore). Some of the important projects being executed under the 10th Plan include construction of Supreme Court building, strengthening of Constitutional Offices such as Royal Audit Authority, Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission and Attorney General, renovation of major Dzongs, preparation of DPRs for major power projects, widening of major roads, E-governance, scholarships and expansion of tertiary educational institutions.

The Government of India has agreed to provide assistance to Bhutan in developing the hydropower sector and to purchase at least 10,000 MW of power from Bhutan by 2020. For this purpose, ten hydropower projects have been identified by the two countries.

India provided technical expertise and services of specialists to Bhutan in various fields as well as scholarships and capacity development to a number of Bhutanese students and officials. Under the 10th Plan, the undergraduate slots have been increased to 85 per year and postgraduate to 77.

The Ninth SAARC Trade Fair was organized in Thimphu from 11-14 September, 2009. More than 150 companies from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka participated in the fair. From India, the Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) arranged the participation of about 40 Indian companies including TATA Motors, BHEL, L&T, HCC, various Handicrafts and Textile SMEs in the fair.

People's Republic of China

The year saw continuing high-level engagement with China, including meetings on the sidelines of major international and regional events. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Chinese President Mr. Hu Jintao in Yekaterinburg on 15 June, 2009 on the sidelines of the SCO/BRIC Summit. Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had a meeting in Hua Hin, Thailand on the margins of the East Asia/ASEAN Summit in October 2009. The Minister for External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna met the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi at Phuket (Thailand) on 22 July, 2009 on the margins of the East Asia Summit Ministerial Meeting, and thereafter in Bengaluru on 27 October, 2009 on the sidelines of the Russia-India-China (RIC) Trilateral Foreign Ministers meeting. During these meetings, there was fruitful exchange of views and the leaders agreed to continue and strengthen efforts to build mutual political trust and understanding in the spirit of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between the two countries. The leaders also underlined the immense scope for bilateral relations and congruence emerging on global issues facing the two countries, such as the creation of a new global architecture, climate change, strategies which support development in other words sustainable development and the new global financial order.

The 13th Round of India-China Special Representatives Talks on the Boundary Question between the National Security Advisor, Shri M. K. Narayanan and the Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo was held in New Delhi from 7-8 August, 2009. The two Special Representatives continued discussions on a framework for the settlement of the boundary question. The leadership of the two countries has on various occasions expressed satisfaction at the progress being made by the Special Representatives towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution. Both sides have declared that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and shall, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective. Meanwhile, in accordance with the relevant agreements signed in 1993, 1996 and 2005, peace

and tranquillity continues to be maintained in the border areas thereby creating an enabling environment for making progress on discussions on the boundary settlement.

China is now India's largest trading partner. Bilateral trade in 2008 stood at US$ 51.8 billion, registering a 34% growth over 2007. According to Chinese Customs statistics, in the period from January-October 2009, trade reached US$ 34.30 billion, trade deficit standing at US$ 12.84 billion. In the backdrop of global economic recession, trade volume fell 26.52% over the corresponding figure in 2008. The growth in the trade deficit with China is a matter of concern for India, and this issue has been flagged to the Chinese leadership at the highest level. Chinese Premier has assured Prime Minister that efforts would be made to ensure that more Indian products enter China. Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma led the Indian delegation to the Eighth meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) that was held in Beijing on 19 January, 2010. The JEG discussed this issue among other matters of mutual concern.

Border trade across *Nathu La, Lipulekh Pass* and *Shipki La* was resumed in 2009 after the temporary restrictions imposed by the Chinese authorities in connection with the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics in 2008.

Defence cooperation between India and China maintained a healthy momentum during the year. The Chief of Naval Staff attended the International Fleet Review 2009 at Qingdao from 21-24 April, 2009. Indian participation included guided missile destroyers *INS Mumbai* and *INS Ranveer*, the guided missile corvette *INS Khanjar* and the tanker *INS Jyoti*. Chinese "Shenzhen" Missile Destroyer made port call at the Kochi port from 8-11 August, 2009. The Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China visited India in December 2009. The Defence Secretary led a high level Indian delegation for the third Annual Defence Dialogue held in Beijing on 6 January, 2010.

The institutional dialogue mechanisms between India and China covering a wide range of issues showed a steady progress during the year. The second round of Consular Talks between the two countries took place in Beijing on 5 March, 2009. The discussions focused on various outstanding bilateral, consular and visa matters. The third meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-Border Rivers was held in Beijing from 21-25 April, 2009. The two countries had fruitful exchange of views on matters of regional and international interest under the Policy Planning Dialogue held on 9 October, 2009 in New Delhi.

With convergence of interest on issues such as Doha Round of WTO negotiations, climate change, global financial crisis etc., both countries have continued to interact constructively on global issues. High-level meetings on the sidelines of regional and multilateral conferences also continued to be a significant feature of the relationship. Both sides also interact at various regional forums such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN-India Summit, RIC, SCO etc., as members and observers.

Highlight of cooperation in other functional areas were:

- Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Anil Kakodkar attended the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy organized in Beijing from 20-22 April, 2009 by the IAEA. The event was hosted by the Chinese government through the China Atomic Energy Authority, and co-sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD and the China Nuclear Energy Association.
- The then Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Arun Yadav led the fourth 100-member youth delegation to China from 15-24 June, 2009. The fourth Chinese Youth Delegation led by Mr. He Junke, Vice President of the All China Youth Federation visited India from 19-28 November, 2009.
- Minister of State for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh visited Beijing from 24-27 August, 2009 and held consultations with China on Climate Change issues in run up to the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009. He also visited China from 27-28 November, 2009 to attend the meeting of the BASIC countries, during which he called on Chinese Premier Mr. Wen Jiabao.
- Under the exchange programme institutionalized in 2004 between the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China (MEA-ILD programme), the Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa visited China in September 2009.

President of Maldives, Mr. Mohamad Nasheed meeting the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on 22 October, 2009.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the delegation level talks with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Madhav Kumar Nepal, in New Delhi on 19 August, 2009.

- The Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora visited China in October 2009 to attend the SCO Head of Government Council Meeting.
- The Sichuan Party Secretary Liu Qibao visited India in November 2009, during which he called on the External Affairs Minister in New Delhi and had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Karnataka in Bengaluru.

Maldives

The bilateral relations between India and the Maldives continued to be close and friendly. Both the countries remained engaged in further strengthening this relationship through high-level exchanges.

Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of Maldives visited India in October 2009 at the invitation of Prime Minister as the Guest of Honour at the 'Delhi High Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer' held from 22-23 October, 2009.

At the invitation of Vice President of India Shri Hamid Mohamed Ansari Vice President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed visited India from 18-24 February, 2010. During the visit Dr. Waheed called on the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil and the Vice President and met External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. The visit further strengthened friendly relations between India and Maldives.

Dr. Ahmed Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives visited India on an official visit from 27-30 July, 2009. He met the Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna on 28 July, 2009 and both the leaders reviewed the state of bilateral relations between the two countries. Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Maldives visited India from 22-24 April, 2009. During his visit Mr. Zaki had called on the National Security Adviser Shri M. K. Narayanan, Foreign Secretary Shri Shiv Shankar Menon and Shri Shyam Saran, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. Mr. Zaki again visited India in August, 2009 when he met the National Security Adviser. Minister of Defence and National Security Ameen Faisal visited India from 27-31 October, 2009. During the visit Mr. Faisal met the Defence Minister and other senior Indian defence officials. The discussions between the two sides focused on ways to expand the bilateral cooperation in various defence sectors. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maldives Mr. Abdullah Saeed also visited India from 19-23 September, 2009 and participated in the Regional Conference on International Trade Law and Legal Aspects of Trans Border Investment, New Delhi. During the visit, Chief Justice Abdullah Saeed also met with the Minister of Law and Justice and the Chief Justice of India.

Defence Minister paid an official visit to Maldives from 20-22 August, 2009. Both the countries identified various areas of cooperation, including enhancing cooperation in the area of coastal security and maritime surveillance. During this visit Defence Minister had called on the President of Maldives and the Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik. Defence Minister had met the Defence Minister of Maldives. He also called on President of Maldives and the Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik. The National Security Adviser led a high level delegation from India to Maldives from 29-30 June, 2009. The delegation held wide range discussions with the President of Maldives and other senior Ministers.

Foreign Secretary visited Maldives from 22-25 January, 2010. During the visit, Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao met the Foreign Minister of Maldives and reviewed the state of bilateral relations. She also called on the President of Maldives. She also visited the Hanimadhoo Island where GMR is involved in setting up the Airport.

Mr. Mohamed Shihab, Minister of Home Affairs of Maldives visited India from 3-8 February, 2010. During his visit, Mr. Shihab met the Union Home Minister and visited some police related institutions. The Chief of Army Staff visited Maldives from 11-14 February, 2010.

India also continued to provide assistance in development efforts of Maldives. A team of experts from India visited Maldives from 6-11 July, 2009 and held discussions with Maldivian authorities on the setting up of a Police Academy in Maldives. India also continued to provide training facilities to Maldives nationals in both civil and security related areas.

The Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had led the Indian delegation to the First Meeting of Joint Committee on Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), Male held in Male from 9-11 August, 2009. The Joint Committee agreed on a number of measures to improve upon the services being

provided by the IGMH. This includes deputing medical specialists from India, providing medical consumables and equipment, providing assistance in renovation of the existing IGMH structure etc.

The Indo-Maldivian troops joint exercise "EKUVERIN" were conducted from 18-30 October, 2009 at the Rohideshwar Camp off Belgaum city. The Maldivian Defence Minister Mr. Ameen Faisal witnessed the mock drill on the final day.

India-Maldives Joint Coast Guard Exercises, DOSTI-X were held at/off Male from 1-4 December, 2009. The Director General of Indian Coast Guard visited Maldives in December 2009 to coincide with the holding of the above exercises.

Economic and Commercial ties also continued to widen and deepen between the two countries. Bilateral trade touched Rs.578 crores in the first ten months of year 2008-2009 marking a growth of more than 50 percent over the corresponding period in the previous year. In December 2009, State Bank of India (SBI), Male subscribed to the entire issue of US$ 100 million Treasury bonds issued by the Maldivian Monetary Authority (MMA).

During the year, a lot of Indian private companies also showed interest to undertake investment projects in Maldives. In November 2009, three Indian companies namely GMR Infrastructure Global Limited, Suzlon Energy and Sri Educare Pvt. Ltd. signed agreements with the Maldivian government in the field of infrastructure, clean energy and education respectively.

India-Maldives Friendship Week: As part of the celebrations of the 63rd Independence Day, the 'India-Maldives Friendship Week' was organized by the Mission in collaboration with the India Club, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Maldives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Maldives from 12-21 August, 2009. On 12 August, a seminar on 'Socio-political transformation: Future of Culture in Changing Societies' was held in which three eminent speakers from India sponsored by the Indian Council of World Affairs delivered lectures. Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik formally inaugurated the Friendship Week on 14 August, 2009. Other activities in connection with the Friendship Week included cultural programmes, Walk for Peace and Friendship, Food festival, Inter-school Painting competition, Essay competition, music and dance shows presented by teams sponsored by ICCR, Lambada music show by Indian artistes and film festival. The Grand Finale of the Friendship Week on 21 August, 2009 was inaugurated by President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed in the presence of Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik and several Cabinet Ministers and senior functionaries of the Government of Maldives.

The India-Maldives Literary Society was inaugurated on 25 June, 2009 by the Tourism Minister of Maldives Dr. Ahmed Ali Sawaad. The High Commission also presented over 150 books to the National Library towards the opening of an 'Indian Corner' at the National Library.

A five member Maldivian Rock Band was sponsored by ICCR for the third edition of the South Asian Bands festival held at Purana Qila, New Delhi from 11-13 December, 2009.

Myanmar

India-Myanmar relations are rooted in shared historical, ethnic, cultural and religious ties. India and Myanmar share a long land border of over 1640 km and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Moreover, Myanmar being the only ASEAN Country having border with India, is an important link between India and South East Asia.

The momentum of bilateral interaction and visits continued during the year. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Myanmar from 10-11 December, 2009 to attend the 12th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting at Nay Pyi Taw. During the visit, EAM called on Myanmar Prime Minister General Thein Sein to discuss bilateral matters.

At the invitation of Minister for Heavy Industry Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Myanmar Minister for Industry No. (2) Vice Admiral Soe Thane visited India from 19-23 December, 2009. During the visit, the Minister also visited Jamshedpur Tata Motor Plant.

The cooperation and exchanges in the defence sector continued through bilateral visits and various training programme for Myanmar Army personnel. At the invitation of Vice Senior General Maung Aye, Vice Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, a four member delegation led by General Deepak Kapoor, COSC & COAS visited Myanmar from 12-14 October, 2009. During the visit, he held meeting with Vice Senior General Maung Aye and

called on Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of SPDC.

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Myanmar for Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) from 28 February-2 march 2010. She met senior officials of Government of Myanmar and reviewed the state of bilateral relations and discussed range of areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Lt. Gen. Yogendra Singh, Director General, Armed Forces Medical Corps visited Myanmar from 16-20 February, 2009. A 15-member Indian Army delegation led by Maj. Gen. Shakti Gurung visited Myanmar 23-27 February, 2009 for 35th India-Myanmar Border Liaison Meeting. A three member delegation led by Lt. Gen B. S. Bartwal, Director General, Military Intelligence visited Myanmar from 2-6 March, 2006. A two member delegation led by Lt. Gen. P. K. Goel, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command visited Myanmar from 18-20 August, 2009. A three member delegation led by Lt. Gen V. K. Ahluwalia, Director General of Military Training (DGMT) visited Myanmar from 2-4 September, 2009.

Maj. Gen. Khin Aung Myint, Chief of Myanmar Air Staff visited India from 11-15 February, 2009 to take part in the 7th International Aerospace Exposition – Aero India 2009.

India remains committed to provide assistance in developing infrastructure and human recourses within Myanmar. A number of projects are under implementation between the two sides. A number of delegations from HMTI, TATA Motors, EIL, IOCL, BHEL, NHPC, RITES, IWAI and Exim Bank visited Myanmar in connection with various development projects in Myanmar.

Two experts from English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad have joined Myanmar-India Centre for English Training (MICELT) in November 2009.

On road development projects, Tamu-Kyigone-Kalemyo stretch of the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalay (TKK) Road has been handed over to Government of Myanmar in October 2009. It has been decided to take up upgradation work at the remaining Kyigone- Kalewa stretch (28 kilometers) also.

An India-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre (IMITC) has been up by HMT(I). HMT (I) has been sending necessary machine and equipments for the training centre. 11 Myanmar personnel are being imparted training in Bhubaneswar from September-December 2009.

The work on the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project has reached the post-bidding stage. WAPCOS delegation visited the project sites for five mini-hydel power projects in Chind Win River valley in Myanmar from 10-24 December, 2009.

Bilateral trade was US$ 950 million in 2008-09 and around US$ 365 million over the April- July of the current fiscal year. With the support of Indian Embassy in Yangon, the Myanmar Medical and Pharmaceuticals Association organized the "Indian Pharmaceuticals Exposition 2009" in June 2009. 12 Indian and 50 Myanmar companies participated in the exposition and Buyer and Seller Meet. A delegation from North East Federation on International Trade (NEIFT) held meeting with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers and Commerce and Industry (UMFCC) on 28 July, 2009 and signed an MoU. A 15-member fisheries delegation from Myanmar Department of Fisheries visited India to study Rohu Aquaculture at the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneshwar and aquaculture farms in Andra Pradesh from 13-20 July, 2009.

India's assistance for development of human resources in Myanmar continued to expand. Myanmar is a beneficiary of training programmes under ITEC, TCS of Colombo Plan and GCSS of ICCR. The slots for Myanmar trainees in 2008-09 were as follows: ITEC 105; Colombo Plan – 55; and GCSS of ICCR – 10. In 2009-10, the ITEC slots increased to 140, while the TCS and GCSS remained unchanged. Utilization of the slots has been excellent.

India and Myanmar share close cultural ties. There is a deep sense of kinship, particularly amongst the Buddhist community, given India's association with Buddhism. Cultural performances by Indian cultural troupes in Myanmar have been organized on a regular basis. Various cultural troupes have exchanged visits and performed in both countries in 2009-10. A 13-member student group from Myanmar attended the SAARC Cultural Festival in India. A 15-member Myanmar cultural group visited India to participate in the 'Famous Hornbill Festival" in Kohima from 1-5 December, 2009. A Qawwali Group from India performed in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Thanlyn in the second week of December 2009. A

President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and his daughter Ms. Anita Yadav with the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the ceremonial reception, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi on 16 February, 2010.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, on the sidelines of the 15th NAM Summit, at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 July, 2009.

Myanmar Band took part in the South Asian Band Festival organized by ICCR from 13-14 December, 2009.

Nepal

India and Nepal enjoy very close and friendly relations, which continued to grow and strengthen during the year. India attaches the highest priority to strengthening the existing understanding and co-operation with Nepal. In this spirit, India continued close consultations with the Government of Nepal and the major political parties with a view to support Nepal's transition to a stable, peaceful, prosperous and a multi-party democracy.

During the year, the bilateral relationship strengthened further and was characterized by extensive interaction and high-level visits.

i Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal paid an official visit to India from 18-22 August, 2009 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh. The two leaders had met earlier on the sidelines of the 15th NAM Summit in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the age-old, close, cordial and multifaceted relations between Nepal and India and agreed to expand them further. India expressed full support for the ongoing peace process and the efforts to bring about economic transformation in Nepal.

ii Defence Minister Mrs. Bidya Bhandari visited India in July 2009 during which she met Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony and Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna.

iii Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Ms. Sujata Koirala visited India from 10-14 August, 2009 during which she called on the Prime Minister and had meetings with Minister of External Affairs, Finance Minister, Home Minister and Defence Minister.

iv Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited Nepal from 27-28 October, 2009 during which the revised Treaty of Trade and Agreement of Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade were signed.

v Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal visited Nepal from 11-13 July, 2009 to undertake a joint inspection of the Kosi breach closure works and barrage with the Minister of Irrigation of Nepal Mr. Bal Krishna Khand. The two Ministers expressed satisfaction over the timely completion of the Kosi breach closure and other repair works relating to Kosi afflux bund in Nepal.

vi Foreign Secretary, Shri Shiv Shankar Menon visited Nepal from 20-21 June, 2009. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Nepal from 14-15 September, 2009 to exchange views on issues of mutual interest, in pursuance of the decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in August 2009.

vii The Minister of External Affairs of India Shri S. M. Krishna paid an official visit to Nepal from 15-17 January, 2010 at the invitation of Ms. Sujata Koirala, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. During the visit the Minister of External Affairs of India held official talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal on all aspects of bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. He also called on the President and Prime Minister of Nepal. Four MoUs viz., on strengthening of the Terai roads with Indian assistance, construction of a Science Learning Centre, establishment of a Central Depository System crores and MoUs for electrification of five different VDCs in Nepal were signed.

viii The Home Minister Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal visited India from 18-21 January, 2010 during which he met with the Finance Minister, Minister of External Affairs and the Home Minister.

ix The President of Nepal Mr. Ram Baran Yadav visited India on a State Visit from 15-18 February, 2010. During the visit, a number of Memorandums of Understandings/Agreements were signed reflecting the close, multifaceted and unique relationship between the two countries.

In addition, several important bilateral meetings were held, including the Home Secretary Level-Talks (5-7 November, 2009), Fifth Meeting of Joint Committee on Water Resources (19-22 November, 2009), Rail Services Agreement Meeting (12-14 November, 2009) and Civil Aviation Talks (7-8 September, 2009) and India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues (4-6 December, 2009). As a result, significant progress was achieved on several bilateral issues.

During the year, the following agreements/documents were concluded: (i) Revised Treaty of Trade (ii) Agreement of Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade (iii) An MoU to immediately bring into effect the provisions of the revised Air Services Agreement (ASA).

India continued to contribute to Government of Nepal's development efforts by undertaking various development project in the areas of infrastructure, health, rural and community development, education, etc. In overall terms, there are presently over 350 small and large projects being undertaken under the India-Nepal Economic Cooperation Programme, which are at different stages of implementation. India has also agreed to assist Nepal to develop its infrastructure in the border areas adjoining India through the development of Integrated Check Posts, Cross-Border Rail Links and the feeder and lateral roads in the Terai area of Nepal. This will give further impetus to the development of the Terai areas of Nepal and usher in economic prosperity.

India continued to be Nepal's largest trade partner, source of foreign investments and tourist arrivals in Nepal. The bilateral trade more than doubled in the preceding five years reaching Rs. 9402 crores in 2008-09. The trend of growth in bilateral trade continued in 2009-10.

The Kosi breach closure work undertaken by the Government of India in Nepal was satisfactorily completed on schedule. It withstood a flood discharge of more than 300,000 cusecs during 2009 floods.

India continued its assistance to the development of human resources in Nepal by offering a number of scholarships to Nepalese students for study in India and Nepal. At the request of Nepal, GoI has agreed to double the number of scholarships offered to Nepalese students for education in India during PM Nepal's visit to India in 18-22 August, 2009.

Pakistan

High-level meetings

India's concerns and expectations have been conveyed to Pakistan on several occasions, including in the meeting of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari on the sidelines of the SCO-BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg on 16 June, 2009 and in Prime Minister's meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Sharm-el-Sheikh on 16 July, 2009 on the sidelines of NAM Summit. Prime Minister conveyed the deep anger and hurt of the people of India due to the persistence of terrorist attacks on our people, urged Prime Minister Gilani not to make any distinction between different terrorist organisations, and told him that operations of all terrorist groups that threaten India must permanently end. Similar views were also conveyed by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna in his meetings with the Foreign Minister Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi of Pakistan on the sidelines of G-8 Outreach meeting on 26 June, 2009 in Trieste (Italy), and later on the sidelines of UNGA on 27 September, 2009 in New York.

India and Pakistan held talks at the level of Foreign Secretaries in New Delhi on 25 February, 2010. The Indian delegation reiterated the need to fulfill the repeated assurances given by the leaders of Pakistan not to allow the use of Pakistani soil for terrorist activities against India. Additional information on terrorist activities against India emanating from Pakistan was also handed over to the Pakistani side for investigation and appropriate action. The Pakistan Foreign Secretary expressed the desire and determination of the Government of Pakistan to make all possible efforts for a successful conclusion of the Mumbai attack trial which is underway in Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan was determined not to allow its territory to be used for terrorist activity against any country, and said that the additional information provided by India will be studied. The two delegations agreed to address some urgent and humanitarian matters. The Foreign Secretaries also agreed to remain in touch.

Follow-up of the terrorist attack on Mumbai

Evidence on the role of Pakistani nationals in the terrorist attack on Mumbai has been shared with Pakistan in the form of seven dossiers. A compilation of evidence on the involvement of Hafiz Saeed in the terrorist attack on Mumbai was also handed over to Pakistan.

After admitting for the first time, on 12 February, 2009, that the terrorist attack on Mumbai on 26 November, 2008 was planned and launched from Pakistan, in its dossier of 11 July, 2009 Pakistan also acknowledged that substantial incriminating evidence had been unearthed which directly connects five accused LeT operatives under Pakistani custody. Two more suspects were arrested later. On 25 November, 2009, the Government of Pakistan reportedly filed a charge sheet

in an Anti Terrorism Court in Pakistan against the seven suspects and 20 proclaimed offenders for their role in the terrorist attack on Mumbai.

The arrest of persons of Pakistan origin – David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Hussain Rana in the US by the FBI is significant. Investigations into the involvement of David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Hussain Rana in various terrorist acts, including the Mumbai terrorist attack, are ongoing.

India has continuing concerns on cross-border infiltration from Pakistan and ceasefire violations by Pakistan across Line of Control and International Border. These have been taken up with the Government of Pakistan through existing mechanisms.

The position that there can be a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan only if it fulfils its commitment, in letter and spirit, not to allow its territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities against India was reiterated on several occasions, including by Prime Minister in Parliament on 29 July, 2009.

People to people contacts and visits

Despite terrorist attack on Mumbai and following grave provocations from Pakistan, the people-to-people contacts were allowed to continue. The transport links established in the previous rounds of the Composite Dialogue continued to operate successfully, facilitating the movement of people and bilateral trade. Cross - LoC travel and trade on Srinagar-Muzafarrabad and Poonch-Rawalkot routes has been continuing. In addition, five points for on-foot crossing at Nauseri-Tithwal; Chakoti-Uri, Hajipur-Uri; Rawalkot-Poonch and Tattapani-Mendhar, opened to facilitate humanitarian work after the earthquake in 2005, have also been allowed to operate as earlier. A number of Pakistani cultural, academic and trade delegations visited India. Government also facilitated visits to places of pilgrimage under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines (1974). The Times of India and Jang Group of Pakistan have launched a non-governmental campaign '*Aman ki Asha*' on 1 January, 2010. The year-long event will have cultural, literary and academic interactions.

A delegation from Pakistan led by the Speaker of National Assembly

Dr. Fehmida Mirza visited India from 4-9 January, 2010 in connection with the 20th Conference of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers in New Delhi.

Humanitarian issues

A significant number of Indian prisoners, fishermen and boats are in Pakistani custody. Pakistan too has concerns about its nationals in jails in India. As per the recommendations of the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners and Fishermen, lists of prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody were exchanged between India and Pakistan. Pakistan released 100 Indian fishermen on 26 December, 2009. There are still over 500 Indian fishermen and over 400 Indian fishing boats in Pakistan's custody. India has confirmed nationality of all 553 fishermen to whom consular access has been provided. India released 31 Pakistani fishermen on 2 January, 2010. Efforts are underway for the release of the remaining 19 fishermen whose nationality has been confirmed by Pakistan.

Commerce and Trade

India's bilateral trade with Pakistan at US$ 1.78 billion in the year 2008-2009 was 17% less than that in 2007-2008 (US$ 2.14 billion). Unofficial trade through third countries is also of significance and increases the transaction costs for end users in Pakistan. While India has accorded MFN status to Pakistan, the latter continues to restrict items of import from India to a positive list of 1934 items. On SAFTA, Pakistan has refused to extend the negotiated tariff concessions to items outside the positive list to India thereby negating the letter and spirit of the agreement, as exports are limited only to items on the positive list.

Other Issues/Developments

Government of India strongly protested Pakistan Government's announcement of a package in the form of so-called '*Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order -2009*' in August 2009 and holding of 'elections' for the 'legislative assembly' of Gilgit-Baltistan in November 2009, characterizing both these developments as nothing but cosmetic exercises intended to camouflage the fact of Pakistan's illegal occupation of areas of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Relations between India and Sri Lanka progressed apace in all spheres of bilateral interaction. Significant developments in Sri Lanka included the end of the military conflict with the LTTE and its aftermath, including the rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), mostly Tamils. In January 2010, President Rajapaksa

secured a convincing victory in the Presidential elections defeating his rival former Chief of Army Gen. Sarath Fonseka.

Regular bilateral contacts were maintained at all levels contributing the close relations between the two countries. Prime Minister met President Mahinda Rajapaksa on the sidelines of the 15th NAM Summit in Egypt on 16 July, 2009 during which they discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Phuket on 22 July, 2009 and again in New York at UN General Assembly on 22 September, 2009. PM and External Affairs Minister met Sri Lankan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister respectively on the sidelines of CHOGM 2009.

From the Sri Lankan side, President Rajapaksa accompanied by several members of his Cabinet including Foreign Minister Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama, paid a private visit to India on 31 October, 2009. Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake visited India from 30 October-1 November 2009 to inaugurate the newly built Buddhist Pilgrims rest in Sanchi.

On 24 April, 2009, National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary visited Colombo. They visited again from 20-21 May, 2009 immediately after the end of military hostilities. During their visit, it was agreed that the time was opportune to focus attention on issues of relief, rehabilitation, resettlement and re-conciliation of IDPs in Northern Sri Lanka and reconciliation, including permanent settlement in Sri Lanka. India conveyed its concerns on the IDPs and urged the Government of Sri Lanka to resettle them at the earliest to their original places of habitation. Sri Lanka indicated its intention to complete the settlement by end January, 2010.

From 10-14 October, 2009, a 10-member delegation comprising of DMK, Congress and VCK Parliamentarians elected from Tamil Nadu visited Sri Lanka, during which they also visited Jaffna, upcountry areas and IDP camps in Vavuniya. Following the visit more than one lakh IDPs were resettled. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited in February 2009 – the first visit after Prsident Rajapaksa's success in the Presidential elections.

From Sri Lanka, a high-level delegation comprising of Senior Presidential Adviser Mr.Basil Rajapaksa, Defence Secretary Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and Secretary to President Mr. Lalith Weeratunga visited India in June and December 2009. India has emphasized that there is an opportunity to make a new beginning and find a permanent political solution within the framework of a united Sri Lanka that addresses the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community and other minorities.

Indian Assistance: Since October 2008, India has been engaged in providing humanitarian relief assistance to Sri Lankan Tamil civilians affected by the military conflict in Northern Sri Lanka. 2.5 lakh family relief packs from Tamil Nadu have been rushed across to the displaced Tamil population in the North in several consignments. The packs include dry rations, personal hygiene items, clothing, utensils, footwear, and other essential supplies. Two consignments of medical supplies worth around Rs. 9.2 crores have been gifted to the Sri Lankan Government to cater to the requirements of IDPs.

A 60-member emergency field hospital was set up in Northern Sri Lanka to provide urgent medical care of the IDPs. The hospital treated about 50,000 patients during its deployment from March-September 2009 and its work was greatly appreciated.

India's humanitarian effort in Sri Lanka has expanded since the end of military hostilities to encompass rehabilitation and reconstruction. On 9 June, 2009, Prime Minister announced India's commitment to engage with the process of relief and rehabilitation in Sri Lanka. The Government accordingly earmarked Rs. 500 crores for this purpose. In order to facilitate the process of rapid rehabilitation and resettlement, India has deployed seven demining teams in Northern Sri Lanka. India has sent 70,000 agricultural starters packs and 2600 tons of shelter material to Sri Lanka for resettling the IDPs, and another consignment of 2600 tons is being dispatched in parts. India will also be donating cement packs and take up various projects in Sri Lanka including revival of agricultural, reconstruction of infrastructure, livelihood generation, capacity building and skills development etc.

India has also extended LoC of US$ 425 million for Omanthai-Pallai and Madhu Church-Talaimannar railway lines and for supplying rolling stock for Northern Sri Lanka railway lines. These projects will be taken up by RITES and IRCON.

Bilateral Trade and Economy: Bilaterally, economic and trade ties maintained a steady momentum during the period under review. India is now Sri Lanka's largest trade

partner overall accounting for 16.8% or 1/6th of the trade turnover of Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka is India's largest trade partner in South Asia. The overall trade turnover has grown five times since the entry into force of the FTA and touched US$ 3.265 billion in 2008. India is also one of the largest foreign investors in Sri Lanka. Last year, we were the second largest investor in Sri Lanka at US$ 126 million. In 2009 (January-September) the bilateral trade between the two stands at US$ 1.44 billions and is expected to improve with the signs of global economic recovery.

Development assistance to Sri Lanka is another significant plank of India's bilateral engagement with Sri Lanka. Projects completed with Indian assistance include setting up 20 Nenasalas ((e-learning kiosks), vocational training centre at Puttalam, rail bus project in the Eastern province, Centre for English Language Training in Peradeniya, and 20 buses to the Central Province.

In the education sector, India continued to push the initiative to upgrade the educational infrastructure of schools in the Central Province, including teachers' training, setting up of computer labs, and awarding of scholarships to students from the Tamil plantation community.

On the cultural side, an exhibition of photographs of the Buddhist art and heritage sites by reputed photographer Shri Benoy Behl was organized in Matara along with Mahatma Gandhi Photographic Exhibition in May 2009. In September 2009 Indian Cultural Centre hosted a folk dance troupe from Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) in Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Triconmalee and Hatton apart from assisting in the production of Kalidasa's '*Abhijnanasakuntalam*' as a musical dance drama in Sinhalese. ICCR has also sent *Kathak* and *Bharatnatyam* troupes which performed in Colombo, Kandy and also surrounding areas of Central Province.

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South East Asia and the Pacific 2

Australia

India-Australia bilateral relations continued to develop in all fields and several high-level visits from both sides took place during the year.

From India the visits included

- Shri Sharad Pawar (Minister of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution) to Perth, January-February 2009 to attend an ICC Meeting in his capacity as the Vice President and President-elect of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Dr. M. S. Gill, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Youth Affairs & Sports visited Melbourne and Sydney (25-29 March, 2009) in connection with preparations for Common Wealth Games, 2010.
- Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister (August 2009) participated in the 21 Post-Forum Dialogue (PFD) Partners' Meeting in Cairns, which was held on 7 August, 2009.
- Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Coal Statistics and Programme Implementation visited Australia from 30 August-6 September 2009 to explore possibilities of cooperation in coal mining and coals resources.

From the Australian side

- Mr. Christopher Vaughan Evans (Minister of Immigration & Citizenship), Ms. Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relation (September 2009), Mr. Simon Crean, Trade Minister, Mr. Wayne Swan, Treasurer (September 2009); Mr. John Brumby, Premier of the State of Victoria, Ms. Anna Bligh, Premier of the State of Queensland (9-10 October, 2009) Mr. Stephen Smith, Foreign Minister (12-16 October, 2009) for the sixth India-Australia Foreign Ministers Framework Dialogue.
- Australian Prime Minister Mr. Kevin Rudd, paid his first visit to India (11-13 November, 2009). During this visit bilateral relationship was upgraded to a strategic partnership. Apart from a Joint Statement, a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation was issued at the conclusion of the visit. An MoU on cooperation in the field of water resources was also signed. It was decided that an annual ministerial level dialogue on education would be established. PM Kevin Rudd announced investment of A$ 50 million for the Bilateral Strategic Fund, A$ 1 million for Australia – India Solar Cooling Research Project, and another A$ 20 million for research into dry land farming in India. Our Prime minister conveyed the high priority that GoI attaches, to the safety, security and well being of the Indian students (as also the Indian community) in Australia. Australian PM provided an update on the efforts of the Australian Government and various state governments to enhance law enforcement, extend student welfare measures, re-register all education providers, adult vocational education and training institutions, and strengthen the integrity of the visa system
- The First meeting of the Joint Working Group between Indian and Australia on Student mobility was held on 6 October, 2009 in New Delhi

Brunei Darussalam

The period focused on the follow-up to the visit of the Sultan of Brunei's, visit to India in May 2008. Efforts continued to get the Bruneian side to sign a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and an Agreement of Visa Waiver for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.

India participated in the 2nd Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX 2009, 12-16 August, 2009). The Indian pavilion was adjudged the 'Overall Best Booth'. Two Indian Naval Ships, *INS Airavat and INS Khukri* paid goodwill visits which coincided with the Brunei International Defence Exhibition 2009. They also participated in professional exercises with the Royal Brunei Navy.

A nine member Chemical & Allied Products Export Promotion Council delegation visited Brunei Darussalam to conduct a Multi-Product Exhibition-cum-Buyer Seller Meet. A delegation from Indian Oil Corporation visited

Brunei for finalization of crude oil term contract for the year 2009-10 with Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP). A similar delegation from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. visited Brunei and signed a Crude Oil Agreement with BSP.

Cambodia

Bilateral relations between India and Cambodia remained cordial and friendly. India continued its bilateral assistance to Cambodia through grants and Lines of Credit.

Several projects under India's assistance in the areas of electric transmission lines, irrigation, and restoration of temples are under implementation. Archeological Survey of India has been working from December 2003 for restoration of Ta Prohm Temple at Siem Reap with funds provided under ITEC programme. Two projects – installation of hand pumps for drinking water supply in rural Cambodia and establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT under grants in aid are being processed.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met his Cambodian counterpart Mr. Hun Sen and discussed bilateral affairs on the sidelines of seventh India-ASEAN Summit in October 2009 in Hua Hin (Thailand). During the meeting, PM reaffirmed India's commitment to furthering cooperation in sectors including IT, water resource management and electric transmission lines.

Bank of India opened a branch in Phnom Penh in May 2009. A number of trade delegations visited Cambodia to explore business opportunities, [(i.e. a 15-member delegation from the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) in May 2009) a textile delegation led by Smt. Rita Menon, Secretary (Textiles), in July 2009 and a 23-member Cashew Traders, Producers and Exports delegation in October 2009.] First India-Cambodia Trade Investment Business Forum & Exhibition and a cultural programme by ICCR Cultural troupe from Assam was organized in Phnom Penh in November 2009.

India-Cambodia has signed an Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crimes and Illicit Drug Trafficking in December 2005. In pursuant to that Agreement, two specialized training programmes: (1) "Investigation of Bank Fraud Cases" in July and (2) "Cyber Crime and Network Course" in September 2009 were organized by Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri Om Prakash, Deputy Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), attended second ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) + India, in Phnom Penh in October 2009.

Slots under ITEC for Cambodia were enhanced to 85 from 75 for 2009, and separately 14 education scholarships have been offered, 10 under MGC, and four under CEP/GCSS (two each). Till date, 790 Cambodian nationals in various disciplines under ITEC have been trained. An Indian expert in water management has been deputed for one year period under ITEC to assist APSARA Authority at Siem Reap. Five Cambodian students visited India in March under India's offer to ASEAN for the visit of 100 ASEAN students every year.

A batch of 17 officers from National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi led by Rear Admiral V. S. Chaudhari visited Cambodia in May, as a part of their study tour. Another team from Higher Air Command visited Cambodia in November. Cambodia formally communicated its support for our candidature for a nonpermanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the years 2011-12. India supported Cambodia's candidature for World Heritage Committee.

Fiji

India continued its focus on social and economic assistance programme while maintaining cordial ties with Fiji Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Cook Islands, in line with its Look East Policy.

Fiji Prime Minister Cmde Bainimarama visited India in private capacity from 25-31 March, 2009. Secretary (East), Shri N. Ravi visited Fiji Islands to discuss bilateral ties (3-5 August, 2009.) He met the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Electoral Reform, Public Enterprises and Anti-Corruption; Minister for Industry, Tourism, Trade and Communications Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Foreign Minister Mr. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, and Foreign Secretary Mr. Peceli Vocea.

At the request of Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Monitoring of Government of Fiji, India donated 200 sewing machines for distribution from March-April 2009 to assist disadvantaged women in rural communities and semi-urban squatter settlements to generate cash for basic family needs. Based on a request from Fijian Ministry of Finance, as a special gesture, five special slots under TCS Colombo Plan were offered.

Indonesia

The year witnessed continued close bilateral relations with Indonesia. There are regular exchanges of high-level visits between the two countries. The Indonesian Trade Minister visited India in September for the G-20 Trade Ministers' meeting. Our Commerce Minister visited Indonesia in June to attend the Cairns Group Meeting in Bali. MoS (Commerce & Industry) Shri Anand Sharma visited Indonesia in August to inaugurate the 'Made in India'

trade exhibition. The MoS for Health & Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad visited Yogyakarta and Bali in August to attend the ninth International Congress on AIDS. The Minister of Housing, Urban Poverty Alleviation & Tourism, Shri Jaipal Reddy and Kumari Selja visited Jakarta for the fourth meeting of the Second Bureau of Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development. The Indonesian Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources visited India in September for discussions on cooperation in the energy sector. Our Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Shri M. K. Azhagiri visited Indonesia in November for discussions with the Indonesian Industry Minister and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Regular defence exchanges including exchanges of high level visits, ship visits, training in Staff Colleges in either country and joint coordinated patrols at the mouth of the Malacca Straits also took place. Defence relations have also moved towards defence sales. Chief of Naval Staff (Designate) visited Indonesia in August 2009.

Indonesia became the third largest trading partner of India within ASEAN with bilateral trade of US$ 10 billion in 2008. India remains a major buyer of palm oil and natural resources like coal from Indonesia. In a major initiative, a 'Made in India' show was organized in Jakarta in August 2009.

In a major initiative, a 'Festival of India' was launched on in October featuring performing troupes – both classical and folk, an Art Exhibition, an Exhibition of Medieval Indian Art, a Film Week, a Fashion Show, a Lifestyle Products Exhibition, a Food Festival and Seminars on contemporary and historical linkages between India and Indonesia.

During the year, Indonesia was offered 75 training slots under ITEC, 38 training slots under Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan, 25 General Cultural Scholarship Scheme scholarships slots and two Hindi one-year course scholarships.

The Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation), Shri T. Nand Kumar visited Indonesia in April 2009 and finalized a Work Plan on Cooperation in Agriculture under the MoU on Agricultural Cooperation. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism was held in Yogyakarta in August.

Indonesia is currently the ASEAN Coordinator for India's Dialogue Partnership with the ASEAN.

Lao PDR

Relations with India continued to grow, with bilateral trade witnessing a significant increase because of utilization of Line of Credit given by the Government of India for three hydropower projects. Laos continued to look at India as a source of assistance for its IT sector, capacity building programme and human resource development through 20 scholarships for university education under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) of ICCR, and about 120 scholarships under ITEC and Colombo Plan. The Indian Embassy organized a medical camp for fitting of light weight calipers developed by DRDO to handicapped Lao patients for ten days during which more than 50 Lao displaced people received calipers. Restoration work at Wat Phou temple was started by Archeological Survey of India in June. India participated in the World Eco Tourism Conference and Exhibition from 14-17 July, 2009, with Minister of State for Tourism Shri Sultan Ahmed leading the Indian delegation.

The sixth meeting of the Lao-Indian Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 1 February, 2010. The Lao delegation was led by Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Indian delegation was led by Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs.

Malaysia

India's relations with Malaysia were further strengthened during the year. The Prime Minister of Malaysia Mr. Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, paid a State visit to India from 19-23 January, 2010 in the very first year of his assuming power. An extradition treaty and two MoUs were signed during the visit. Malaysian PM also conveyed his government support for India's candidature for the permanent membership of the expanded UN Security Council. In addition, as many as 16 commercial agreements were also signed. Human Resources Development Minister Shri Kapil Sibal visited Malaysia in June to participate in the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers. A three member Indian Parliamentary delegation visited Kuala Lumpur to attend the Seventh Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians and Ministers Conference (from 14-15 November, 2009). Malaysian Tourism Minister Mr. Ng Yen Yen visited four cities in India from 14-17 August, 2009. The Chief Minister of Melaka, Mr. Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam visited India in August. Malaysian Minister for International Trade & Industry Mustapa Mohamed participated in

informal WTO Ministerial Meeting held at New Delhi from 3-4 September, 2009. He, thereafter, paid a second visit to India to lead a Trade and Investment Mission to Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai from 29 October-3 November 2009.

Malaysia has now emerged as India's second largest trading partner in the ASEAN after Singapore. The two-way trade between India and Malaysia during January-August 2009 touched US$ 4.6 billion (with India's exports at US$ 1.5 billion and India's import US$ 3.1 billion.)

Malaysian companies completed 52 construction projects worth US$ 2.34 billion in India, while 22 projects valued at US$ 2.3 billion are under various stages of implementation. Fresh Indian investments in Malaysia in the first half of 2009 were US$ 17.3 million. Cumulative Indian investments in Malaysia stand at around US$ 2 billion.

India and Malaysia continued their discussions through video conferencing on finalization of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). Both sides have also finalized the text of the Extradition Treaty, which would be signed soon. Two handbooks titled 'Doing Business in India: Handbook for Malaysian Business' and 'Doing Business in Malaysia: Handbook for Indian Business' were brought out with the support of FICCI and CII as well as local partners. The first-ever Conference on Traditional Indian Medicine followed by a Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) was held on 21 July, 2009 in Kuala Lumpur. A seminar to highlight the emerging opportunities for Indian and Malaysian businesses from the ASEAN-India FTA in Goods was organized in Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation witnessed steady growth. The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee & Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Suresh Mehta paid an official visit to Malaysia from 26-28 May, 2009. Chief of the Royal Malaysian Air Force Gen. Tan Sri Azizan bin Ariffin, visited India from 27-29 July, 2009. Indian Naval and Coast Guard ships visited Malaysia as part of their Overseas Deployment to Southeast Asia. The newly acquired submarine of the Royal Malaysian Navy, *KD Tunku Abdul Rahman*, paid a port call at Cochin from 18-20 August, 2009 during its maiden voyage from France to Malaysia. Malaysia hosted the Navy-to-Navy and Air Force-to-Air Force staff talks between 4-7 August, 2009 and 13-15 October, 2009 respectively.

The first 'India Education Fair' in almost a decade was organized in Kuala Lumpur in July 2009.

A new full-fledged Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) was opened in Kuala Lumpur on 4 November, 2009.

India and Malaysia continued with their efforts to improve the working conditions of Indian workers in Malaysia, by taking follow-up measures as envisaged in an MoU on Employment of Workers, which was signed in January 2009.

New Zealand

New Zealand Trade Minister Mr. Tim Groser visited India twice in 2009, as leader of the NZ delegation at the informal Ministerial meeting from 3-4 September, 2009 in New Delhi on Doha Round of WTO negotiations. During his visit, Mr. Groser announced that New Zealand would open a Consulate-General in Mumbai to further bilateral trade and investment linkages. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. M. S. Gill visited New Zealand from 22-25 March, 2009 at the invitation of NZ Minister of Sports & Recreation. India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations were held in Wellington on 30 March, 2009 with Secretary (East), Shri N. Ravi leading the Indian delegation. Council for Leather Exports organized a Buyer-Seller-Meet in Auckland (31 August-1 September 2009) as part of their Focus ASEAN Plus Australia and New Zealand programme of the Department of Commerce.

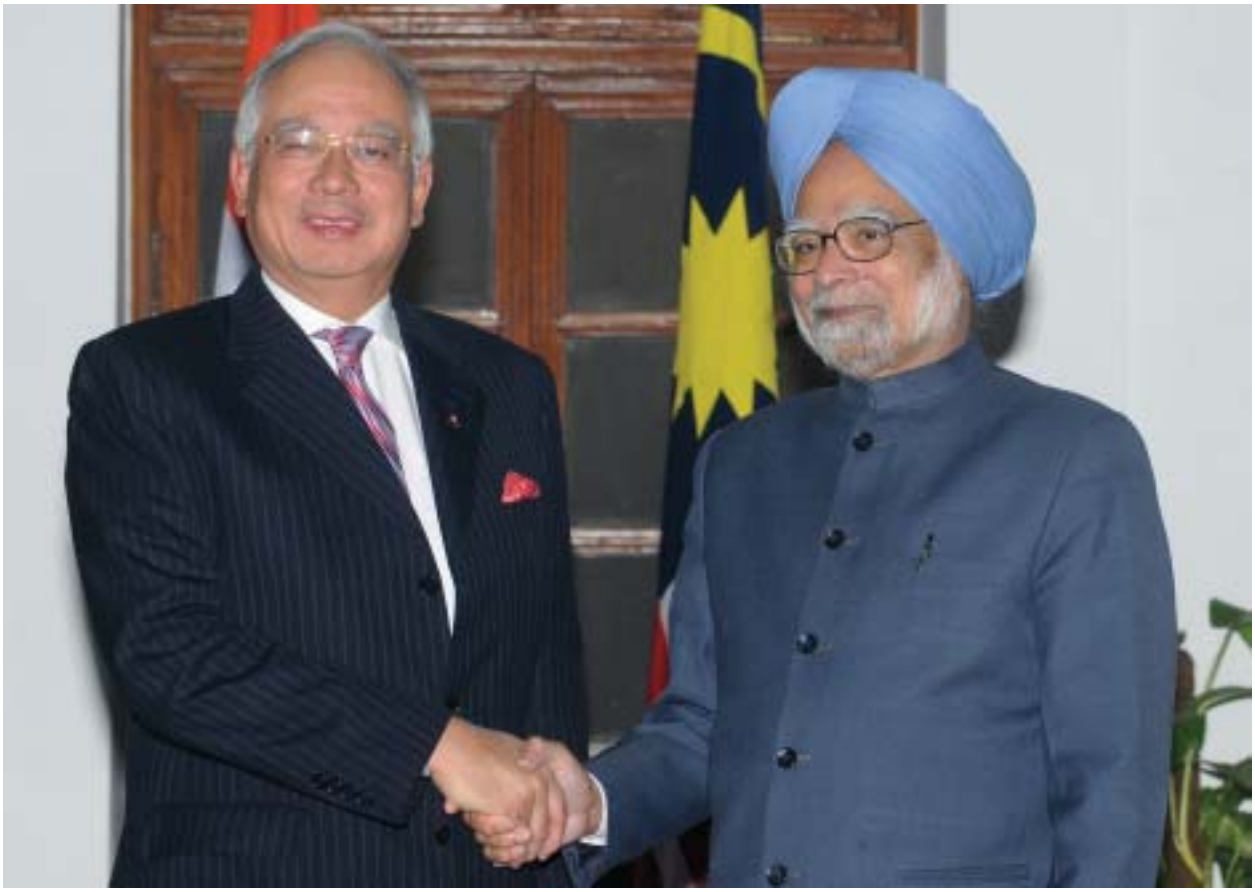
Bank of Baroda has been granted a license by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand on 1 September to open a subsidiary in Auckland New Zealand which will open in January 2010.

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

India's relations with Papua New Guinea (PG) continue to be warm and friendly. PNG conveyed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UNSC.

Mr. Sam Abal, (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Immigration) of Papua New Guinea (PNG) paid a four-day visit to India in July 2009. The visit had a special significance as this was the first-ever ministerial visit between the two countries. Mr. Abal met External Affairs Minister (MoS) Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Shri Anand Sharma Commerce & Industry Minister and visited Indian Council for Research and Development in Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai which is assisting PNG in setting up of 13 vocational training colleges for the disadvantaged sections of the society.

PNG has sought India's assistance in building and launching of a multi-purpose satellite for which a PNG delegation visited Bangalore in April 2009 for technical discussions with Antrix Corporation/ ISRO. A delegation of senior technical officers from Gas Authority of India



Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak meeting the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on 20 January, 2010.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meetinh the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet on the sidelines of the 15th NAM Summit, at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 15 July, 2009.

Ltd. (GAIL) visited PNG in September 2009 to explore the possibilities of participation in an LNG project led by Canada's InterOil.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the University of Technology (UNITECH) of PNG have started consultations for extending IGNOU's coverage to PNG.

India has offered a fresh grant-in-aid of US$ 125,000 to PNG under Government of India's Regional Assistance Initiative for Pacific Island Countries. In addition, setting -up of one IT Centre of Excellence as well as three Hole-in-the-Wall (HiWEL) learning stations have also been offered.

Under the ITEC Programme, India increased the number of slots from 20-25 for PNG. Another four slots are offered to PNG under the TCS of Colombo Plan.

Philippines

The year 2009 has been a special one for India-Philippines bilateral relations because it is the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. A special stamp on the exact day of the signing of the agreement (16 November, 2009) was released in Delhi to mark the occasion as also by Philippines in Manila. The President of Philippines issued a proclamation declaring November 2009 as Philippines- India Friendship Month.

The ninth bilateral Foreign Policy Consultations and the third Security Dialogue took place in Manila from 29-30 October, 2009. Government of India made a cash donation of US$ 100,000 for relief assistance towards damage caused by severe typhoons that hit Philippines during the year. Secretary Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Phillippines, Mr. A. Ramulo led a delegation to India for the first meeting of the Joint Commission co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna.

Two Indian Naval Ships INS *'Jyoti'* and *'Khanjar'* paid a goodwill visit to Philippines from 7-10 April, 2009. The growing India-Philippines relations got reflected in trade; Indian exports to Philippines grew by 19% in 2008-09, whereas Philippine exports to India grew by 23% in the same year.

Singapore

The continuing transformation in Indo-Singapore bilateral relations in recent years is characterized by regular contacts at political and official level and a wide ranging dialogue covering strategic, security, defence, trade and investment. Singapore is our sixth largest trading partner and second largest source of FDI inflows. Bilateral trade turnover was US$ 19.83 billion in 2008. The global financial crisis and subsequent economic slowdown impacted bilateral trade. FDI inflows from Singapore, however, amounted to US$ 8.57 billion (cumulative) over the period April 2000-July 2009.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh held a bilateral meeting with PM Mr. Hsein Loong Lee on the sidelines of the seventh India-ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit on 25 October, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met Foreign Minister Mr. George Yeo on the sidelines of Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Sharm-el Sheikh in July 2009 and at the margins of United Nations General Assembly, New York in September 2009. In their meeting in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Foreign Minister Mr. George Yeo conveyed to EAM Singapore's government support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12. The other high level visits included the visit by Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew in December 2009 and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong in March 2010.

A number of seminars and road-shows were organized in Singapore to attract investment in infrastructure and hydrocarbon sector. Shri Kamal Nath, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways visited Singapore from 16-19 July, 2009 to attend a conclave on "Enhancing International Cooperation in Road Infrastructure in India", organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a "Road Infrastructure Summit" jointly organized by ICICI securities and JM Financial. He also delivered a Public lecture on "New Government in India – Vision for the Next Five Years", which was jointly organized by Singapore India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS).

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, organized an Investor Meet for potential investors about the bidding process for the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) and fourth bid round of Coal Bed Methane (CBM-IV) blocks in Singapore on 28 September, 2009. Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas led the four member delegation at the Investors Meet. BNP Paribas, CII and Feedback Ventures jointly organized a conference "India Infrastructure Day" on 11 September, 2009 to highlight the investment opportunities in the infrastructure sector in India. An eight member infrastructure delegation from National Highway Authorities of India participated in the conference. The Conference hosted two special sessions

on "Market and Financing Challenges for Infrastructure in India" and "Regulatory and Political Challenges for Infrastructure in India".

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), CII & International Enterprise (IE) Singapore together organized a seminar on the investment opportunities for Japanese and Singapore companies in India on 27 August, 2009. Shri J. J. Singh, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh was a keynote speaker at the second edition of Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) from 22-26 June, 2009. Shri Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Mizoram also participated in the event.

Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata with the support of SICCI and IE Singapore organized a seminar "India invest 2009" on 21 October, 2009. Shri Kamal Nath, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways delivered the special address. The seminar was also addressed by Shri D. D. Lapang, Chief Minister of Meghalaya. The Engineering Export Promotion Council (India) organized a Buyer-Seller Meet in Singapore on 3 April, 2009 jointly with Singapore Business Federation & Singapore Manufacturer Federation. A 13-member delegation from the Kerala chapter of the Indus Entrepreneurs visited Singapore from 6-9 May, 2009 to explore business and investment opportunities. The delegation had meetings with Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and SICCI.

India and Singapore signed an Agreement on Cooperation in science and technology to formalize collaboration biotechnology and renewable energy during the visit of Singapore's Senior Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. S. Iswaran to Delhi (2-4 August, 2009). During the visit, a Joint Action Plan on tourism cooperation was also signed. Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Balaji Sadasivan paid an official visit to Tamil Nadu (6 -10 September, 2009).

In the area of defence cooperation, the sixth Defence Policy Dialogue between the two countries, was held at New Delhi (23-25 November, 2009). The fourth Defence Working Group (DWG) Meeting was held in Singapore (6-8 April, 2009). The annual Staff Talks between each of the three services were also conducted during the year. The Defence Secretary led a four member Indian delegation for the Shangri-La Dialogue (29-31 May, 2009). He called on Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean and met with Permanent Secretary for Defence. An eighteen member National Defence College delegation from India visited Singapore (22-25 September, 2009).

While the annual armour and artillery exercises were conducted by the two armies in Babina and Devlali in February-March and October 2009, the two air forces held their second, Joint Military Training (JMT 2009) in November 2009 in India. The Naval bilateral exercise SIMBEX 09 was held in the Malacca Straits and off Singapore from 24 March-2 April 2009. Two Indian Naval ships, *INS Ranvir* and *INS Jyoti* and one Coast Guard Ship participated in IMDEX Asia 2009 Warships Display at Changi Naval Base from 11-15 May, 2009. Naval ships' visits included *INS Airavat,* (a landing ship) and *Khukri*, a (missile Corvette), from the Eastern Fleet from 26-29 August, 2009.

Consequent to the contribution of India to Project No. one – Hydrographic Training for Wreck Assessment and Project No. four – Setting up Tide, Current, and Wind Measurement System of the " Co-operative Mechanism", under International Maritime Organisation (IMO) aegis, for safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Malacca Straits, India was invited to participate in the 34th Tripartite Technical Experts Group (TTEG) Meeting, second Cooperation Forum Meeting and second Project Co-ordination Committee Meeting held in Singapore from 12-16 October, 2009. China and India jointly conducted the survey of sites for Project four and presented the findings during the Cooperation Forum.

Thailand

India-Thailand relations remained close and friendly with high level visits taking place on a regular basis. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited India twice (in February and August 2009.) Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Korbsak Sabhavasu, along with Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Panich Vikitstreth visited India in October 2009 for a Road-Show (promoting Thailand as an investment and tourism destination). Our PM also visited Thailand in end October 2009 for the India-ASEAN and East Asia Summit level meetings. Thai Foreign Minister Mr. Kasit Piromya visited India in December 2009.

Thai Parliamentarians formed a Thailand – India Parliamentarians Friendship Group to promote ties between Parliaments of the two countries.

A new Indian Cultural Centre started functioning in Bangkok from September 2009 to better promote bilateral cultural ties.

India-Thailand bilateral trade crossed US$ 6 billion mark.

Timor Leste

As a contribution towards the Timor Leste's efforts towards nation-building, India offered to support and assist in capacity building as also training slots under ITEC and GCSS Scholarships. (For 2009-2010, 5 ITEC training slots and 10 GCSS Scholarships were provided, though utilization has been low due to the inability of TL Government to spare their personnel for training). India has extended a US$ 100,000 grant to Timor Leste in 2009 for purchase of equipment and materials for sustainable development. One IT Capacity Building Project for Timor Leste under ITEC is under active consideration of the MEA.

A delegation from Commission E 'Poverty reduction, Rural development and Regional and Gender Equality' of Timor Leste's National Parliament visited India (7-15 September, 2009).

Vietnam

India-Vietnam bilateral relations remained friendly and cordial. In the year 2009, the 'Strategic Partnership' acquired greater depth with several high-level visits. The fourth Foreign Office Consultations and the First Strategic Dialogue between India and Vietnam were held in New Delhi in October 2009. Prime Minister met Vietnamese President Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet, on the sidelines of the NAM Summit in Sharm-el-Sheikh in July and Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, PM of Vietnam at the seventh India-ASEAN Summit at Hua Hin, Thailand in October 2009. Ms. Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice-President of Vietnam led a 70-member high-powered business delegation to India in October. Cooperation in defence and security was strengthened with the visit of Sr. Lt. General Phung Quang Thanh, Defence Minister in November 2009. Mr. Le Doan Hop, Vietnam's Minister for Communications and Technology paid an official visit to India in July, 2009. Chairman, National Assembly of Vietnam visited India in February 2010. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, Chairman National Assembly of Vietnam (equivalent to our Speaker, Lok Sabha) paid an official visit to India from 23-27 February, 2010.

Despite global recession, bilateral trade in 2008 was US$ 2.5 billion. India has emerged as the tenth largest exporter of items to Vietnam. India granted Market Economy Status to Vietnam which will provide a fillip to the bilateral commercial ties.

A 53-member delegation led by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Chemicals and Allied Product Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) visited Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in October.

Vietnam continued to be an attractive investment destination for Indian companies. Essar Exploration and Production Limited was awarded oil and gas block 114 in Vietnam. McLeod Russel, a leading producer of tea in India acquired Vietnam-based Phu Ben Tea Company. It plans to double the tea production capacity from 5 million kgs to 10 million kgs and acquire new tea gardens in Vietnam. A US$ 19.5 million Line of Credit was extended by India to Vietnam for setting up three hydropower projects, General Phung Quang Thanh, Minister for Defence paid an official visit to India from 4-8 November, 2009. An Memorandum of Understanding was signed during the visit by the two Defence Ministers. Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh, Vice Minister of Defence, Vietnam also visited India from 25-28 August, 2009. Vice-Admiral Nirmal Verma, FoC-in-C, Eastern Naval Command visited Vietnam from 7-11 April, 2009 along with the visit of two Naval Ships, INS *Mumbai* and INS *Ranvir.* A study tour of the Army High Command Course from Army War College, Mhow comprising 16 officers visited Vietnam from 22-27 September, 2009. Another study tour of Higher Defence Management Course from College of Defence Management, Secunderabad comprising 22 officers visited Vietnam from 18-24 November, 2009.

More than 100 scholarships were offered to Vietnamese officials and students under the ITEC and other scholarship schemes.Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata (India) & University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Vietnam) jointly organized a conference, "The Relationship between India and Southeast Asia – a Strategic Commitment or Regional Integration" in Ho Chi Minh City from 27-29 May, 2009.

Pacific Islands

Emphasis on encouraging Human Resources Development in the Pacific Island countries continued. India attended the 21st Post-Forum Dialogue (PFD) Partners Meeting in Cairns, Australia (7 August, 2009) after the 40th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Summit meeting there. During the PFD, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna emphasized that India's focus continues to be HRD and enhanced investment and trade so as to assist the Pacific Island Forum Countries in capacity-building and project assistance according to their specific requirements for economic & social development.

External Affairs Minister announced an increase in our annual Grant-in-aid for each of the 14 PIF Countries from

US$ 100,000 to US$ 125,000. In addition, offers of courses for diplomats in FSI and ITEC training programmes and one scholarship each for undergraduate or post graduate studies were re-iterated. EAM also announced setting up of HiWEL Learning Stations (Hole-in-the-Wall Education Ltd.) and IT Centres of Excellence for helping in the education needs of the underprivileged in each PIF country.

Training under the ITEC and Colombo Plan were promoted among the people of Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu. In order to improve HRD capabilities in the Pacific region, Ministry of External Affairs, in cooperation with IMF, organized a common training programme in Public Finance Management at the National Institute of Financial Management in September 2009. This course was attended by government servants from all Pacific Island countries.

Federated States of Micronesia

India-Federated States of Micronesia bilateral relations continued to be warm. A development grant assistance of US$ 73,145 was given by India for purchase of machinery for their coconut industry.

Kiribati

Mr. Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati visited India for the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) in Delhi, from 5-7 February, 2010.

US$ 253793.65 was released in June 2009 as Grant-in-Aid to the Government of Kiribati to fund the purchase of a 500 KW generator and overhead cables out of grants in aid of years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Under ITEC four slots were allotted for 2009-10.

These grants-in-aid and assistance under ITEC Programme contributed to strengthening our bilateral relations with these island countries.

Niue

An amount of US$ 100,000 representing grant-in-aid for 2008, was disbursed in May 2009 for three projects: (i) Lialagi Restoration Project (phase two), (ii) Tamakautoga New Pastor's Residence Project, and (iii) Sunema Training Centre

Nauru

Ministry of External Affairs in May 2009 sanctioned an amount of US$ 1,86,000 to the Government of Nauru for funding construction of Nauru Government Expatriate Employees Apartment Project of the Government of Nauru, out of the grants-in-aid for 2007 and 2008. An amount of US$ 93,000 representing 50% of the amount was disbursed by India in July 2009 with the remaining amount to be released in phases. Under ITEC, two slots were allocated for 2009-10.

Republic of Palau

India-Republic of Palau bilateral relations continued to be cordial during the year with Palau supporting India's candidature and stand point in various international *fora*.

Republic of Marshall Islands

India-Republic of Marshall Islands relations continued to be warm and friendly. In the international *fora*, Marshall Islands was supportive of Indian candidatures.

Samoa

Grant in aid amounting to NZ$ 65,030 (US$ 33,877.55) was released in April 2009 for purchase of six units of portable Reverse Osmosis systems for the Government of Samoa. Under ITEC ten slots were allotted to Samoa for 2009-10.

Tonga

The king of Tonga paid a private visit to India in September 2009.

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3 East Asia

Japan

India-Japan relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years, propelled by the successful regular summit level exchanges. The Joint Statement signed during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit in 2006 established an India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

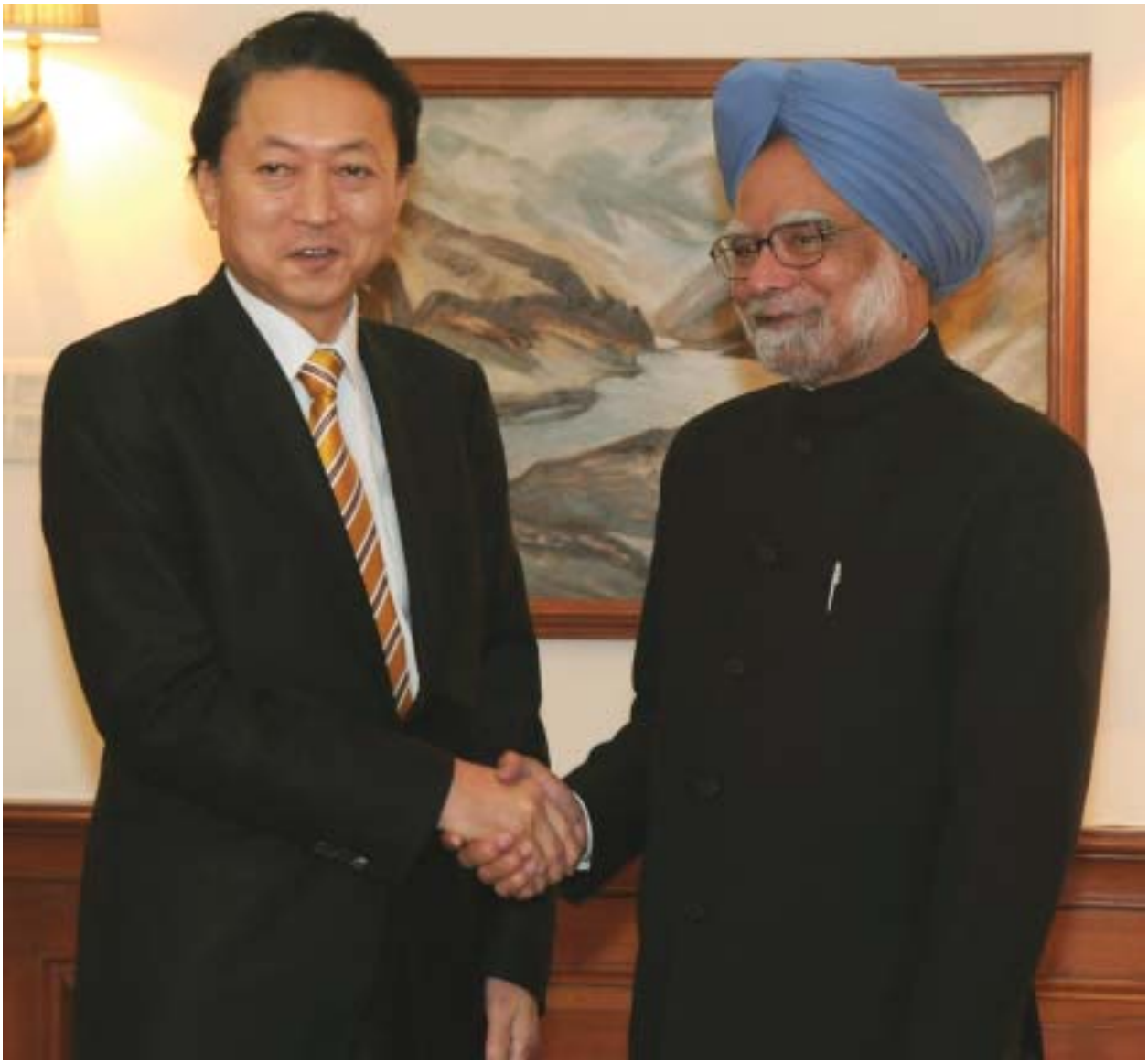
The momentum of high-level exchanges continued in 2009. Prime Minister met with the then Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Taro Aso, on 2 April, 2009 on the margins of the G-20 Summit in London and on 10 July, 2009 on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit in L'Aquila (Italy). Soon after taking over as Japan's Prime Minister following elections on 30 August, 2009, Dr. Yukio Hatoyama met Prime Minister Dr. Singh in Pittsburgh on 25 September, 2009 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. The two Prime Ministers had another meeting on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Hua Hin (Thailand) on 24 October, 2009.

Prime Minister Dr. Yukio Hatoyama visited India from 27-29 December, 2009 for the Annual Summit. During the visit, the two sides issued a Joint Statement on the New Stage of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership and an Action Plan to advance bilateral security cooperation. In addition, the Japanese contribution to the joint Project Development Fund for Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) was formalized, while an MoU was signed between DMIC Development Corporation and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for development of eco-friendly cities and smart communities along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. Important progress was made on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project, with the two sides agreeing to conclude the agreement for the Main Loan for the first phase of the project by March 2010. Prime Minister Dr. Hatoyama had delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and met UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi besides meeting top industry leaders of India in Mumbai.

The annual Foreign Minister-level Strategic Dialogue initiated in March 2007 has been held regularly. Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister visited Japan for the third round of Strategic Dialogue on 3 July, 2009. He had wide-ranging talks with the then Foreign Minister, Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone.

Other Ministerial-level dialogues with Japan include the India-Japan Policy Dialogue between Commerce & Industry Minister and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and the India-Japan Energy Dialogues between Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and METI Minister. Both Dialogues were launched in 2007. These dialogues are to be held in India in early 2010.

There were a number of Ministerial visits in both directions in 2009. The Textiles Minister Shri Dayanidhi Maran, visited Japan from 20-23 July, 2009. Dr. Karan Singh, President of ICCR visited Japan from 25-27 September, 2009. During his visit, he also inaugurated India Cultural Centre in Tokyo. Minister of State (PMO), Shri Prithviraj Chavan, attended the Forum on Science, Technology and Society in Japan from 4-6 October, 2009. National Security Adviser (NSA) Shri M. K. Narayanan visited Tokyo on 19 October, 2009 as Prime Minister's Special Envoy to reiterate our desire to strengthen existing partnership with Japan with the new Japanese Government. He called on Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, besides meeting Chief Cabinet Secretary and Leader of the Opposition Liberal Democratic Party. Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony paid a visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Minister of Defence from 8-10 November, 2009. A Joint Press Statement was issued during the visit. Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Kamal Nath, visited Japan from 17-19 January, 2010 to explore the possibility of cooperation in the development of transport infrastructure in India. From the Japanese side, Minister for the Environment Mr. Sakihito Ozawa visited India from 18-20 October, 2009. Minister for Internal Affairs & Communications, Mr. Kazuhiro Haraguchi, visited India from 6-9 January, 2010 to push for greater cooperation in the ICT sector. The sharp increase in high-level exchanges has also been accompanied by more broad based exchanges of business delegations, parliamentary



Prime Minister of Japan, Dr. Yukio Hatoyama calling on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on 28 December, 2009.

delegations and interactions between provincial and local governments of both countries.

India and Japan have launched a number of high-visibility projects under the Special Economic Partnership Initiative launched in 2006.

During Prime Minister's visit to Japan in December 2006 the two sides agreed to cooperate on establishing a Dedicated Multi-modal High Axle Load Freight Corridors Mumbai-Delhi route. The project entails construction of a rail freight corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai to Tughlakabad/Dadri in Delhi to be funded through Japan's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) under their Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme. Government of Japan has committed to funding for the entire Dedicated Freight Corridor – Western (DFC-W). An Engineering Services Loan Agreement to start Japanese assistance by way of engagement of a General Contractor was signed in October 2009. The Japanese side has also proposed a schedule for preparatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan (RRP) for DFC-W Phase-II.

The proposal for the development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) was agreed during the visit of Prime Minister to Japan in December 2006. The alignment of the 1483 km DMIC is via Ahmedabad, Palampura, Phulera, Rewari and Dadri. A Joint Task Force (JTF), co-chaired by the Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Japanese Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has been established to work out the details. Seven meetings of the JTF have been held so far, the last two rounds in New Delhi on 13 July, 2009 and 24 December, 2010. DMICDC has identified early-bird projects and is finalizing DPRs for the investment regions in consultation with State Governments. The Japanese commitment to the Project Development Fund was formalized in December 2009 during Prime Minister Dr. Hatoyama's visit.

To accelerate the positive bilateral trade and investment trends, India and Japan are currently discussing the signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Negotiation is led by the Commerce Secretary from the Indian side and Deputy Foreign Minister from the Japanese side. So far, twelve rounds of negotiations have been held. The last round was held in Tokyo from 29 September-1 October 2009.

During Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Japan in October 2008, the two Prime Ministers confirmed their commitment to collaborate in the establishment of a new IIT in Hyderabad through various contributions from Japan.

The official-level dialogue architecture with Japan is clearly defined, and covers a wide range of issues. Foreign Secretary's dialogue with Japanese Vice- Foreign Minister and annual Foreign Office Consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister were held in Tokyo on 4 December, 2009. Other dialogues between India and Japan include dialogue on Disarmament & Non-Proliferation, Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, Consular Talks, Policy Planning Dialogue and Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue. The two sides have established a bilateral Consultative Mechanism for High Technology Trade to address matters relating to their respective export control systems. The fourth round of the mechanism was held in Tokyo on 24 April, 2009. A High Level Strategic Economic Dialogue has been established in order to develop an overarching dialogue mechanism on all economic issues. The third meeting of this dialogue, co-chaired by Finance Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan, was held in New Delhi on 16 November, 2009. Secretary (Urban Development) visited Japan from 11-12 June, 2009 for the third Meeting of Joint Working Group on Urban Development.

Bilateral economic relations have vast potential for growth. During Prime Minister Abe's visit in 2009, it was agreed to work towards a trade target of US$ 20 billion by the year 2010. However with the onset of the global economic crisis, the recovery in bilateral trade suffered a setback as the growth momentum slowed down. As per official Japanese statistics, bilateral trade during fiscal 2008-09 reached US$ 12.18 billion marginally above US$ 11.23 billion recorded in the previous year.

Japan ranks sixth largest in cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into India. Japanese companies have made actual investments of US$ 2.530 billion between April 2000 and March 2009. Japanese investments in the infrastructure and industry sectors will secure a boost from DFC and DMIC projects under finalization.

Since FY 2003-04, India has become the largest recipient of Japanese ODA loan assistance. Cumulative commitment of Japanese ODA to India up to October 2009 is about Yen 2.9 trillion (approx. Rs. 113209.77 crores). For FY 2008-09, total ODA was Yen 236 billion (approx. US$ 2.5 billion or Rs. 11713 crores) which is an increase of 4.8% over the previous year and is 30% of Japan's global ODA. For the current financial year (2009-10), the Japanese side has

approved two ODA projects under the first batch, including the Delhi and Kolkata Metro projects, costing 57 billion yen.

Defence and security has emerged as an important area of bilateral relations. A calendar of events for 2009 was finalized for promoting exchanges and cooperation in an institutionalized framework. Dialogues on defence and security-related matters include Defence Policy Dialogue at Secretary-level, Comprehensive Security Dialogue (CSD), Military-to-Military (M2M) talks, Navy-to-Navy talks. The second Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks were held in October 2009 in Tokyo. The new Bilateral Maritime Security Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 14 October, 2009. Four Indian warships visited Japan from 26-29 April, 2009 for bilateral and trilateral Malabar Exercises with Japan and the USA. Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) ships *Kashima, Shimayuki* and *Yuugiri* visited Goa from 6-10 May, 2009. The Chief of Army Staff of India, General Deepak Kapoor, visited Tokyo (23-27 August, 2009) for the sixth Pacific Army Chiefs' Conference. Major outcomes of Shri A. K. Antony, Defence Minister's visit in November 2009 included scheduling of annual meetings of Defence Ministers, regular meetings of Defence Secretary/Vice Minister and exchange of visits by Service Chiefs. High-level Meeting between the two Coast Guards was held in January 2010.

The period under review witnessed a number of developments in India-Japan relations. The regular high-level interactions on the sidelines of regional and international gatherings and sustained exchanges in various fields continued. The two countries have also been furthering cooperation in regional and multilateral forums on global issues such as climate change and global financial situation.

Republic of Korea

The "Long Term Cooperative Partnership" established with the Republic of Korea (ROK) during the visit of President Roh Myun-hwan to India in 2004 is the bedrock of India-ROK bilateral relations. This partnership has become appreciably more intense and diversified in the recent years. A number of high level visits, signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), increasing economic and commercial interactions and expanding exchanges in the field of art and culture have been the high points of India-ROK bilateral ties during the year.

India and ROK exchanged a number of high-level visits during the year. The ROK Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Yu Myung-hwan, visited New Delhi on 23 June, 2009, and held wide-ranging discussions with External Affairs Minister. During the visit, the ROK Foreign Minister also called on the Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce & Industry. This visit, which took place within a few days of the new Government taking over in India, indicated the importance that both sides attach to bilateral relations.

President Lee Myung-bak of ROK paid a State Visit to India from 24-27 January, 2010. He was the Chief Guest at the celebrations on 26 January to mark the Republic Day of India. During the visit, President Lee held delegation level talks with the Prime Minister and called on the President of India. The Vice President of India, the External Affairs Minister, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the UPA Chairperson called on the visiting dignitary. A state banquet was hosted by the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil in honour of President Lee. A Joint Statement was issued following the delegation level talks on 25 January, 2009. The highlight of the visit was the decision to elevate India-ROK relations to a "Strategic Partnership". Four documents – an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, an MoU on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services, a Programme of Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology for the period 2010-12 and another MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) were signed during the visit. The ROK President was accompanied by a high level official and business delegation. He addressed an India-ROK Business Forum that was organized in New Delhi coinciding with the visit.

The India-ROK Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 18 November, 2009. The two sides reviewed the entire range of bilateral cooperation in various fields and exchanged views on important regional and international issues of interest to both sides. It was decided to raise the level of the Foreign Office Consultations to that of Vice Minister (Secretary).

India-ROK cooperation in the field of defence and security continued apace during the year. The MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics Cooperation signed in 2005 is the blue-print of India-ROK Defence Cooperation. Under the MoU, the two sides have set up a Joint Working Group on Cooperation, which has met twice. The third meeting of the Joint Working Group is likely to be held shortly in Seoul.

India and ROK concluded the landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 7 August, 2009. The Minister of Commerce and Industry,

Shri Anand Sharma visited Seoul to sign this important agreement which is expected to usher in a new era in India-ROK bilateral relations, particularly in the economic and commercial field. This is India's second CEPA and the first with an OECD country. The CEPA has since been ratified by the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and, after the procedural requirements on the Indian side are completed, the Agreement is expected to come into effect from 1 January, 2010.

In pursuance of an MoU signed in October 2003, the third meeting of the India-ROK Joint Investment Promotion Committee (JIPC) was held in Seoul from 2-3 September, 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

Bilateral trade between India and ROK showed a 39% growth in 2008, touching US$ 15.56 billion, thus surpassing the target of US$ 10 billion set by the two countries to be achieved by the year 2010. Despite some setback due to the global financial crisis, it is expected that the growth of bilateral trade between the two countries during the year would continue to maintain the momentum.

The seventh meeting of the Joint Committee on Culture was held in Seoul from 1-3 September, 2009. During the meeting the two sides signed the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2009-2012. Under the Agreement on Youth Exchange Programme signed in April 2005, the two countries have been regularly exchanging youth delegations. A 20-member Indian youth delegation visited ROK from 24 August-2 September 2009 and a 20-member Korean youth delegation also visited India from 17-26 September, 2009.

Mongolia

India's centuries old friendly and cordial relationship with Mongolia, which was raised to the level of "Partnership" during the visit of the Mongolian Prime Minister in 2004, continued to develop and diversify further during the year to cover a wide range of areas for bilateral cooperation, including exchanges and cooperation in the fields of defence and security, economy, education and culture.

The two sides exchanged a number of high level visits during the year. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Mongolia from 17-19 June, 2009 to represent Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Mongolian President, Mr. Ts. Elbegdorj.

Bilateral relations between India and Mongolia received a further fillip when the newly elected President of Mongolia paid a State Visit to India from 13-16 September, 2009. This was the Mongolian leader's first foreign visit after assuming the Presidency of Mongolia. The two sides reviewed and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual interest. During the visit, the two sides agreed to upgrade the level of bilateral relations to that of "Comprehensive Partnership". Five Agreements/MoUs were signed between the two sides during the visit, viz. the Agreement on Stabilization Loan Assistance, MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Statistics, MoU on Peaceful Use of Radioactive Minerals and Nuclear Energy, MoU on Cooperation in Health and Medicine and the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2009-2012. At the request of the Mongolian side, the Government of India extended US$ 25 million loan assistance to Mongolia to stabilize its economy in the wake of the global financial crisis. India also agreed to offer a project-specific Line of Credit of US$ 20 million to Mongolia on special soft terms.

The Second Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation (JCC) was held in New Delhi on 11 January, 2010. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs co-chaired the meeting on the Indian side, while the Mongolian side was chaired by Mr. Yondongiin Otgonbayar, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia. The JCC reviewed the follow up measures taken by the two sides on the visit of President Elbegdorj of Mongolia to India in September 2009. It also discussed and identified further areas of cooperation such as agriculture, animal husbandry, mining, information technology, education, training of Mongolian teachers, etc. The Mongolian side presented broad outline of a proposal to establish an India-Mongolia Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre utilizing the US$ 20 million Line of Credit offered by India to Mongolia.

During the year there was significant progress in India-Mongolia cooperation in the field of defence. The fifth India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise was held in Mongolia from 14-27 September, 2009. India also participated in the multinational peace keeping exercise "Khan Quest" held in Mongolia from 3-31 August, 2009. At the Mongolian request, India has deputed a team of four Army officers to Mongolia for a period of one year to train Mongolian troops in IT and English language.

The regular interaction between the National Security Councils (NSCs) of India and Mongolia continued during the year. A Mongolian National Security Council delegation, led by its Executive Secretary

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Lee Myung-bak at the delegation level talks in New Delhi on 25 January, 2010.

President of Korea, Mr. Lee Myung Bak, the Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on the occasion of the `At Home` ceremony, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 26 January, 2010.
Ms. Kim Yoon Ok, Dr. Devisingh Ramsingh Shekhawat and Smt. Gursharan Kaur are also seen.

Mr. Ts. Enkhtuvshin visited India from 31 August-2 September 2009 for the annual dialogue between the two NSCs.

Border protection forces of India and Mongolia also continued their regular exchange of visits and programme of cooperation. At the request of the Mongolian side BSF organized the second training programme for Mongolian border officials in India from 7 September-14 December 2009.

During the year, the two sides agreed to cooperate in the field of peaceful use of radioactive minerals and nuclear energy. Visits were exchanged between the Department of Atomic Energy and MONATOM, the Mongolian Government entity engaged in exploration and mining of uranium in Mongolia. The signing of the inter-governmental agreement on civil nuclear cooperation in September 2009 during the Presidential visit from Mongolia, has charted out the roadmap for cooperation between the two countries in this area.

Mongolia has emerged as one of the major beneficiaries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Training Programme. During President Elebegdorj's visit to India in September 2009, Prime Minister announced doubling of the number of ITEC slots for Mongolia from 60 to 120. The Foreign Service Institute has been training one Mongolian diplomat annually in its Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats. It has been decided to increase the number of slots to three with effect from the financial year 2009-2010.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Relations between India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continue to be cordial with a focus on humanitarian and human resource development assistance. Exchanges in the area of culture, sports and education continued to make progress during the year.

The two sides continued their bilateral exchanges with Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Young II visiting India in August 2009 for the sixth Round of Foreign Office Consultations. Discussions involved reviewing bilateral relations, exchange of opinion on international issues of mutual interest, the Six Party Talks process, and steps for future cooperation.

Indian assistance for development of human resources in DPRK continues. DPR Korea was allotted 18 slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Training Programme for the Year 2009-2010. Two additional ITEC slots were also offered to DPRK for English language training courses in Defence Institute (AEC Training Institute) in India.

Eurasia 4

Russian Federation

The year witnessed intensive engagement between India and Russia at all levels, aimed at further diversification and consolidation of the bilateral strategic partnership and on-going multi-faceted cooperation in areas such as political dialogue, trade and investments, energy security including hydrocarbons and atomic energy, science & technology, space research, and culture.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Moscow from 6-8 December, 2009 for the Annual India-Russia Summit; these summits have been held regularly since the bilateral relationship was re-energised with the declaration of Strategic Partnership in 2000. Prime Minister met both President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin. During the meetings, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed and there was exchange of views on major global and regional issues of mutual interest. The two Prime Ministers addressed a meeting of the India-Russia CEOs' Council (the two Co-Chairs of the India-Russia CEOs' Council are Shri Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries Ltd. from the Indian side and Mr. Vladimir Evtushenkov from the Russian side). Separately, Prime Minister had interactions with prominent Russian scholars and Indologists. The following bilateral agreements were signed during Prime Minister's visit in the presence of the Indian Prime Minister and the Russian President: (i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Programme for Military and Technical Cooperation (MTC) during the period 2011-2020; (ii) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on After Sales Support for the Russian Arms and Military Equipment supplied to the Republic of India; (iii) Protocol to the Agreement of the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Russian Federation on Cooperation in Development and Production of Multi-Role Transport Aircraft on 12 November, 2007; (iv) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (initialed); and (v) Programme of Cultural Exchanges between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the Years 2010-12, and (vi) A Dollar Agreement for extension of a Line of Credit of US$ 100 million by Exim Bank to Vnesheconombank for boosting export of Indian goods and technology products to Russia. A Joint Declaration on "*Deepening the Strategic Partnership to meet Global Challenges*" was also adopted at the end of the Summit. Separately, an agreement was inked between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and Sistema for joint bid for hydrocarbon blocks exploration in Russia and CIS countries.

President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil visited Russia from 2-6 September, 2009, during which she met President of the Russian Federation Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin, Chairman of the Federation Council Mr. Sergei Mironov and Chairman of the State Duma Mr. Boris Gryzlov and other dignitaries.

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

- Secretary of the Russian Security Council Mr. Nikolai Patrushev visited New Delhi from 14-17 May, 2009 and held bilateral security dialogue with National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan.
- Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Yekaterinburg for the Brazil-Russia-India-China (BRIC) and Shanghai cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit meetings from 15-16 June, 2009. On the sidelines, Prime Minister met the Russian President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev for bilateral discussions.
- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora, who accompanied President during her State Visit to Russia from 2-6 September, 2009, held discussions with Russian authorities on further enhancement of cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. Furthermore, he visited the Tomsk region where ONGC Videsh Ltd. has acquired oil blocks from Imperial Energy.
- Commerce& Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited Russia for the third meeting of the India-

Russia Trade & Investment Forum from 29 September-3 October 2009. He met the Minister of Economic Development Ms. Elvira Sakhipzadovna Nabiullina. Commerce & Industry Minister also held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Putin and the Minister of Industry & Trade Mr. Viktor Borisovich Khristenko. During the visit, Commerce & Industry Minister also inaugurated an India Show organized by Indian Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi in St. Petersburg with the participation of over 150 business entities, as a part of the "*Year of India in Russia*" celebrations.

- Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony visited Moscow from 14-15 October, 2009 for the ninth session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation. During the visit, he discussed various aspects of defence and military cooperation with his Russian counterpart Mr. Anatoly Eduardovich Serdyukov.
- External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Moscow from 20-22 October, 2009 for co-chairing the 15th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei S. Sobyanin. A protocol reflecting the discussions arrived at during the meeting was signed at the conclusion of the talks. On the sidelines, External Affairs Minister held bilateral discussions with his Russian counterpart Mr. Sergei Lavrov, and also called on President Mr. Dmitry Medvedev. The IRIGC-TEC meeting was preceded by the meetings of the various Working Groups under the Inter-Governmental Commission, which are headed by senior officials from concerned Ministries in both countries. These include the Working Group on Trade & Economy (Moscow, 28 September, 2009); Working Group on Metallurgy and Mining (Moscow, 8-9 October, 2009); Sub Group on Banking & Financial Matters (Hyderabad, 5-7 October, 2009); Working Group on Information & Communications Technology (New Delhi, 13 October, 2009); and Working Group Science & Technology (Moscow, 20 October, 2009). The Working Group on Energy met in Moscow from 23-24 November, 2009.
- Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Sergei Lavrov visited Bengaluru from 26-27 October, 2009 for the ninth India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting. There were no bilateral discussions between India and Russia.
- Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Andrei A. Denisov visited New Delhi on 10 November, 2009 for holding Foreign Office Consultations with Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao. Both sides reviewed bilateral issues and exchanged views on key regional and global issues of mutual concern. In addition, the two Foreign Offices held consultations on the following subjects during the year: (i) Issues related to the UN and Cooperation within other international organizations (Moscow, August 2009); (ii) China and East Asia (New Delhi, March 2009); (iii) Iran & Afghanistan (New Delhi, November 2009); South Asia (Moscow, October 2009); (iv) Consular Issues (Moscow, 12-13 November, 2009); and (v) Middle East and Iraq (Moscow, 22 January, 2010).
- Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Sobyanin, during his maiden visit to India from 9-12 November, 2009, called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, and held meetings with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna; Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Anand Sharma; and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora. Besides, he participated in the CII-organized India Economic Summit, and visited Infosys in Bangalore and the civilian nuclear facilities under construction at Kudankulam, being built with Russian help.
- Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Sobyanin paid his second visit to India from 15-17 February, 2010 to prepare for the visit of Russian Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin, scheduled for middle of March 2010. As the co-chair of the IRIGC-TEC, he met his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and reviewed bilateral economic and commercial relations.

The Year 2009 was celebrated as the "*Year of India in Russia*" with the organisation of more than 150 events showcasing Indian art & culture, paintings and artifacts, achievements in the field of science & technology etc. in Russia. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and her Russian counterpart Mr. Dmitry Medvedev witnessed a glittering cultural programme at the new stage of Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow during the former's visit to Russia. The Closing Ceremony of the year of India in Russia, which was scheduled on 7 December, 2009 and was expected to be attended by Prime Ministers of India and Russia, was called off as a mark of respect to the victims of a fire tragedy in the Russian city of Perm.

Bilateral trade, which, according to Russian figures, stood at close to US$ 7 billion in 2008, has been growing steadily.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the Russian President, Mr. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev on the sidelines of the BRIC and SCO Summits, hosted by Russia, in Yekaterinburg, on 16 June, 2009.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev at the delegation level talks, in Moscow, Russia on 7 December, 2009.

Preliminary estimates indicate at an 8% growth in bilateral trade during the year 2009. During the 15th session of the IRIGC-TEC meeting held in Moscow in October 2009, it was decided to revise the bilateral trade turnover target upwards from US$ 10 billion by 2010 to US$ 20 billion by 2015. This is intended to be achieved through a series of sustained measures such as diversification of the trade basket and increased focus on untapped areas with large potential such as IT, high-technology, rough diamonds and pharmaceuticals. Further, the CEO's Council (headed by Shri Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries and Mr. Vladimir Evtushenkov, Chairman, Sistema), held its first full fledged meeting in Moscow on 7 December, 2009 and identified telecom, infrastructure investments (in India) and pharmaceuticals as areas of promise.

Armenia

Relations between India and Armenia continued to remain cordial, marked by understanding at various levels. Foreign Office Consultations held in Yerevan in May 2009 provided an excellent opportunity for review of ongoing bilateral cooperation and also for identifying new areas for possible collaboration.

India continued its commitment to contribute towards Armenia's developmental efforts. In this context, an MoU was signed on 19 May, 2009 for India's assistance of US$ 2,15,000 for a rural development project in Armenia; another MoU was signed on 26 June, 2009 for the establishment of India-Armenia Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology at a cost of Rs. 7.6 crores with the objective of supporting development of information and communication technology in Armenia. Thereafter, a four member team of experts from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) visited Yerevan and had an extensive and productive interaction with their counterparts in Armenia towards the timely implementation of the project.

Significant headway was made in bilateral cooperation in the field of horticulture; a delegation from National Horticulture Board of India visited Yerevan in November 2009 to procure Armenian varieties of Apricot plants with the objective of conducting trials for Apricot farming in selected areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

Responding to the interest and aspirations of Armenian people in Hindi language and culture in Armenia, India signed an MoU on 11 November, 2009 with the Yerevan State Linguistic University "*Brusov*" for the establishment of a Chair of Hindi language and culture. The Chair for Hindi language and literature became operational with the arrival of Ms. Anita Verma, Hindi Teacher on 12 January, 2010. Earlier an ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe visited Armenia in April 2009.

Azerbaijan

India further developed friendly and cordial relations with Azerbaijan during this period.

The first meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held on 26 November, 2009 in New Delhi. While the Indian side was co-chaired by Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Azerbaijan was represented by Mr. Huseyngulu Bagirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources. A draft protocol was signed to further fructify bilateral relations in different fields. There were several commercial delegations visiting from both sides. Notable among them were an 11-member Azeri trade delegation consisting of prominent businessmen in the field of gem & jewellery for participation in the IIJS Signature 2009 held in Goa from 20-23 February, 2009, a two member delegation in the CAPEXIL-sponsored exhibition in New Delhi from 25-26 February, 2009 and one member participation in the INDIASOFT-2009 sponsored by Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council of India (ESC).

There were a number of bilateral cultural activities during this period. Prominent among them was an ICCR-sponsored contemporary dance troupe led by Tanusree Shankar which gave its maiden performance in September 2009, and a seminar on the theme "*The Relevance of Gandhi and Values*" chaired by the Rector of Azerbaijan University of Languages in October 2009.

Belarus

India's relations with Belarus developed and diversified further in 2009-10.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Minsk from 16-17 September, 2009 marking the first ever visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to Belarus. EAM had meetings with his Belarusian counterpart, Mr. Sergei Martynov, Foreign Minister and also called on Mr. Aleksander Lukashenko, President of Belarus. Two Agreements were signed during this visit – (i) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Physical Training & Sports; and (ii) MoU on establishment of a Digital Learning Centre at HT Park, Minsk. Minster of State for Defence Shri M. M. Pallam Raju visited Belarus from 25-28 October, 2009. The RRM, apart from meetings with Colonel General Leonid S. Maltsev, Defence Minister of Belarus, also called on Mr. Alexander Lukashenko,

President of Belarus. Chief Justice of India Shri K. G. Balakrishnan visited Belarus in March 2009. Chairman of the State Military and Industrial Committee of Belarus Mr. N. I. Azamatov visited India for the 'AeroIndia' exposition in February 2009. These high level visits helped in maintaining a good momentum in bilateral relations with Belarus.

India-Belarus Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation met in its second meeting in New Delhi in May 2009. The sixth meeting of the India-Belarus Joint Business Council (JBC) was held in Minsk in October 2009.

Economic and commercial relations with Belarus were on the upswing during the year under report. Belarus organized a focused trade exhibition in Mumbai in May 2009. Indian company, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) bagged a contract for Grodno-II Power Project worth US$ 55 million. It was the first ever contract in Belarus awarded to an Indian company. The contract for the project was signed during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Minsk in September 2009. Government of India offered a credit line of US$ 60 million for the project. Government of India is setting up a Digital Learning Centre at the High Technology Park in Minsk for which the MoU was signed during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Minsk as mentioned above. Belarusian business/media persons, on sponsorship by the concerned Indian Export Promotion Councils, visited India to participate in India International Garments Fair in July 2009, Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair in October 2009 and Delhi International Leather Fair in October 2009.

Cultural and educational cooperation with Belarus was also strengthened. A leading literary magazine of Belarus, '*Neman*' published a special number, in conjunction with the Independence Day of India, in September 2009 with special focus on the writings on India of Belarusian academician Prof. Mikhail I. Mihailov. Embassy of India in Minsk continued hosting of classes for classical and modern Indian dances conducted by ICCR alumni in cooperation and sponsorship of the ICCR. The Belarusian nominees continued availing of ICCR cultural scholarships for learning Indian classical dances. India's Directorate of Film Festivals also participated in the non-competition section of the Minsk International Film Festival "*Listapad*" in November 2009.

Georgia

Relations with Georgia during the year remained cordial. India's Ambassador to Georgia (with residence in Yerevan) maintained a sustained dialogue with the Georgian authorities for the promotion of bilateral cooperation in diverse areas. Despite the setback to the Georgian economy as a result of the global financial crisis and the fallout of the Georgia-Russia tension in August 2008, the confidence of Indian investors did not diminish; significant investments into Georgia from India were made in the steel, oil and gas sectors.

Georgia is likely to open its Resident Mission in New Delhi in 2010.

The second round of Foreign Office Consultations will be held in New Delhi from 29-30 March, 2010. The Indian side will be headed by Joint Secretary (Eurasia) while the Director of Asia, Africa, Australia and Pacific Rim Department in the Georgian Foreign Office led the Georgian side.

Kazakhstan

Prime Minister had a meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan on 16 June, 2009, on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Yekaterinburg. During the meeting, the two leaders expressed satisfaction on the way the bilateral relations were shaping and reviewed the decisions taken and reflected in the Joint Declaration issued during the State Visit of Kazakh President to India in January 2009. The two leaders directed that the Foreign Minister of India and Kazakhstan should meet in the near future and finalise a roadmap of bilateral areas of engagement and this would need to be closely pursued by the two sides.

Foreign Office Consultations with Kazakhstan were held on 22 September, 2009 in Astana. Shri N. Ravi, Secretary (East) led the delegation and held the consultations with his Kazakh counterpart.

The External Affairs Minister met with his Kazakh counterpart, Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, in January 2010 in London on the sidelines of the London Conference on Afghanistan. They exchanged views on bilateral issues.

Kyrgyz Republic

The Inter Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological Cooperation is likely to be held on 2 March, 2010 in New Delhi. The Commission will be co-chaired by Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, MoS (Commerce and Industry) and representative of the Kyrgyz Republic. Foreign Office Consultations with the Kyrgyz Republic were held on 26 June, 2009 in Bishkek. A Joint Protocol was signed on the conclusion of the meeting of the Inter Governmental Commission. Shri N. Ravi, Secretary (East) led the Indian delegation. The Kyrgyz delegation was led by Mr. Ibraimov Emrek Sultanovich, Deputy Foreign Minister.

Tajikistan

President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was on a State Visit to Tajikistan from 6-8 September, 2009. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Head of State to the Central Asian Region. The engagements of President included a call on President Rahmon of Tajikistan followed by delegation level talks. The Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Defence Minister of Tajikistan called on President. She also had a meeting with Chairman and Members of the Lower House of Tajik Parliament. President also visited the mausoleum of sufi saint Syed Hamadoni in Kulyab. The Saint is credited to have brought Islam to Jammu and Kashmir and the mausoleum is frequented by pilgrims from the state. The State Visit provided an opportunity for the inauguration of the India-Tajikistan Joint Business Forum which was jointly addressed by President with President Rahmon. President also attended the National Day celebrations of Tajikistan as Guest of Honour. This was the first time that a foreign dignitary was accorded the honour. President also attended a reception hosted by our Ambassador for the Indian community. The visit provided an opportunity to reaffirm bilateral ties at the highest political level and to exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Turkmenistan

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, accompanied by a high-level delegation paid an official visit to Turkmenistan from 18-19 September, 2009, during which a Programme of Cooperation was signed between the two Foreign Offices by EAM and his Turkmen counterpart. EAM called on the Turkmen President Mr. Gurbanguly Berdymuhammedov and during the meeting they discussed various issues of bilateral interest and regional importance.

During official talks between External Affairs Minister and his Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Rashid Meredov, issues discussed included bilateral agreements between the two countries on trade & economic cooperation, educational and cultural exchange programs, science and technology and relaxation in visa policy. EAM also handed over an MoU to the Turkmen side for the establishment of a '*India-Turkmenistan Centre for Information Technology*', in Ashgabat, by Government of India. Both the Ministers expressed satisfaction on growing relations and cooperation between the two countries. The Turkmen side also emphasized the need to further explore cultural exchange programs through visits by cultural troupes from both sides.

The delegation led by External Affairs Minister, also had detailed discussions with the Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister, in-Charge of Oil and Gas sectors, for enhancing cooperation in the gas and oil sector. The TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline) project was also discussed in detail with the President, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy PM in-Charge of Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan.

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State (External Affairs) will be co-chairing the Third Session of the Inter-Governmental Commission to be held at Ashgabat from 8-9 February, 2010. The co-chair from Turkmen side will be Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. A Joint Protocol is to be signed on conclusion of the Meeting.

Ukraine

Bilateral relations between India and Ukraine continued to remain close and friendly. Both the countries remained engaged in sustaining cooperation in different sectors of development.

India and Ukraine entered into a contract for life extension and modernization of the Indian Air Force's AN-32 military transport aircraft, which gave a fillip to the defence relations between the two countries. This was followed by a visit (31 August-5 September) to Ukraine by the Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal P. V. Naik at the invitation of the Chief of the Ukrainian Air Force. The delegation had useful meetings with the Ukrainian Defence and Industrial Policy Ministers, and held discussions spanning several aspects of defence cooperation between the two countries. The delegation visited the National Defence Academy and some other areas of military interest.

Growth in trade and economic relations were sustained as both the countries made concerted efforts including trade promotion mechanisms such as buyer seller meets and exhibitions. A buyer-seller meet was held in Kiev by the Engineering Export Promotion Council India and another by the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council. Indian companies participated in several international exhibitions covering various segments of economy such as technical, agro-industrial, tourism and food processing, held in Ukraine.

Culture was another area which witnessed a positive development in bilateral relations. A number of cultural events like a concert by Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, renowned exponent of the Flute, and *tabla* maestro Pandit Vijay Ghate and photo and painting exhibitions by Ukrainian artists inspired by their visits to India, were organized by Ukrainian cultural organizations with the cooperation of the Mission. A Roundtable on Indology was organized by the All Ukrainian Association of Indologists.

The Government of India extended a helping hand to Ukraine by announcing humanitarian assistance in the form of a donation of medicines worth one million US$ in response to an appeal by the Ukrainian government, following a break out of influenza epidemic in certain parts of the country. The Indian pharmaceutical companies, which have their operations in Ukraine, separately donated medicines worth about US$ 600,000 to Ukraine to help combat the epidemic. The humanitarian assistance was a manifestation of the Government of India's commitment to strengthen the close and friendly bilateral relations existing between the two countries.

Uzbekistan

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna paid an official visit to Uzbekistan from 22-23 October, 2009. EAM called on the President of Uzbekistan Mr. Islam Karimov on 23 October, 2009. Status of bilateral relations, after the successful visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Tashkent in April 2006, was reviewed. It was noted with satisfaction that two meetings of the Inter-Governmental Commission had since been held, steering the bilateral relations forward. It was decided to give further impetus to agreed sectors of bilateral cooperation, including hydrocarbons and mining, as well as explore new areas of cooperation like health, IT and agriculture. It was noted that relations between India and Uzbekistan rested on strong historical and cultural foundations, and had developed into vibrant and mutually rewarding bilateral relations since 1991.

During talks between External Affairs Minister and Mr. Vladimir Norov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, issues discussed included trade & economic cooperation, educational and cultural exchange programmes, science and technology and relaxation in visa policy. Both Ministers expressed satisfaction over growing bilateral cooperation, and discussed regional and global issues. Uzbekistan reiterated its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UNSC. The Uzbek side accepted the Indian side's proposal to setup an India-Uzbekistan Round Table with government and non-governmental representatives, with a mandate to discuss new ideas to enhance bilateral relations. The Uzbek side welcomed the Indian proposal for gifting of medical equipments and supplies worth US$ 1 million for hospitals in Uzbekistan. EAM offered additional developmental assistance to upgrade the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Information Technology established in Tashkent in 2006. EAM reiterated our commitment to provide assistance for establishing an Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Uzbekistan. EAM also inaugurated the India Centre at the Al-Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies.

During the visit, External Affairs Minister placed a wreath at the memorial of former Prime Minister Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri in Tashkent, where he had breathed his last in 1966.

India-Russia-China Trilateral Cooperation

The Ninth Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of India-Russia-China was held in Bengaluru on 27 October, 2009. The meeting provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between the Indian, Russian and Chinese leadership on important global and regional issues including on climate change, global financial architecture, UN reforms, developments in Afghanistan and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The three sides also looked at ways of further strengthening trilateral cooperation. The trilateral cooperation in specific sectors, i.e. disaster mitigation and relief, cooperation in agriculture, and cooperation in health and medicine is proceeding since the last couple of years. The second expert-level meeting on Disaster Mitigation was held in Sanya, China in November 2009. The second Trilateral Business Conference was held in Changchun, China from 17-19 September, 2009 between the business chambers of the three countries. The themes under discussion were pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, IT and energy.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Prime Minister attended the SCO Summit (Heads of State Council) Meeting held in Yekaterinburg, Russia on 16 June, 2009. India is an Observer state in the SCO and this was the first time that India was represented at PM's level in the SCO. PM attended the restricted meeting of the leaders of SCO countries and addressed the plenary session in a wider format.

India was represented by Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas at the Heads of Government Council Meeting of SCO in Beijing on 14 October, 2009. The Minister made a statement at the plenary session.

Invitations to Trade, Culture, Transport and Disaster Management Ministers meeting were received and attended by the representatives of respective Ministries or the concerned Embassy. Under the aegis of the SCO, the Russian Federation organized a meeting in May 2009 on Afghanistan which was attended by Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Shri Satinder Lambah.

5 The Gulf, West Asia and North Africa

The Gulf

India maintained its historical and traditionally cordial relations and cooperation with the Gulf region countries. In parallel with increasing imports of oil and gas, growing trade and investment opportunities, active steps were taken in cooperation with the countries of the region in 2008 to strengthen this relationship and to diversify in new areas. The year witnessed several high level visits bilaterally manifesting the importance of the region in our relationship.

The Gulf region is a major trading partner of India. During 2006-2007 the total two-way trade was US$ 47 billion and in the year 2007-08 it reached more than US$ 76 billion. Gulf countries together provide 70% of our total crude requirement and play a key role in our energy security. About 4.5 million Indians live and work in the Gulf region. They are a vital support to our economy and remit more than US$ 30 billion annually.

Bahrain

India and Bahrain continued with historical and friendly bilateral relations. Indian nationals numbering around 3,13,000 constitute the largest expatriate community out of a total of 1.04 million residents of Bahrain. Bahraini leadership understands India's growing strength in several areas and endeavours for closer strategic ties with India. Bahrain is a member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with high strategic value.

The stream of bilateral visits continued in 2009 and includes Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs in July 2009, and National Security Adviser participating in Manama Dialogue in December 2009 etc. Bilateral relations received great impetus with the recent visit (4-5 October, 2009) of Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor to Bahrain which was his first official visit to a GCC country. He called on the Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalifa bin Salamn Al-Khalifa, the Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa and met his counterpart Dr. Nizar Al-Bahrana, the Industry Minister Mr. Hasan Abdullah Fakhro, Labour Minister Dr. Majeed Muhsin Al-Alawi and Social Development Minister Dr. Fatima Mohammed Al-Baloushi among others and had substantive discussions with them on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interests.

Iran

High Level Visits

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki led a high level delegation to India from 16-17 November, 2009. This was the first high-level visit from Iran to India after the re-election of President Ahmadinejad in June 2009. During the visit, Mottaki called on the President and Vice President of India and met External Affairs Minister. Discussions covered issues such as common concerns about terrorism emanating from Pakistan, energy security with emphasis on the IPI gas pipeline project, expansion of bilateral trade, the Chabahar port and railway link to Afghanistan, the North-South Corridor and regional issues such as the situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Mr. Seifolloah Jashnsaz, Deputy Minister of Oil of Iran and President of *National Iranian Oil Company* (NIOC) led a delegation to India from 30 November-3 December 2009. The delegation held talks with representatives of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, and oil companies. Iranian Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Abdol Ali Mirkoei visited India from 7-10 December, 2010 to discuss cooperation in the judicial field.

Bilateral Trade and Commerce

Bilateral trade between India and Iran: Trade between India and Iran continued its growth. Bilateral trade grew from US$ 12833.48 (exports from India US$ 1943.91 million and imports by India US$ 10889.57 million) in 2007-2008 to US$ 13146.9 million (exports from India US$ 2253.06 million and imports by India US$ 10893.84 million) in 2008-2009, registering an increase of 30.04%. (Source: DGCIS, Kolkata).

Visits of Business Delegations from India: Development of economic and commercial relations continued with the exchange of several business delegations between the two countries. Business delegations from India to Iran included those from the South Asia Gas Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. (24-27 May, 2009), Tea Board of India (24-27 May, 2009), Spices Board of India (24-27 May, 2009), Burhaniah

Business Counselling Centre (BBCC), Mumbai (29 May-1 June 2009), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Videsh Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Ltd. (24-29 July, 2009), Council for Leather Exports (9-10 August, 2009), Confederation of Indian Industry (5-8 October, 2009), Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers Association (28 October-1 November 2009), Automotive Components Manufacturing Association (11-14 November, 2009), and South Asia Gas Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. (29 November-1 December 2009).

Visits of Business Delegations to India: Business delegations from Iran included those from the National Iranian Oil Company (10-13 August, 2009), Iran Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (27 September-3 October 2009), Central Bank of Iran (3-5 November, 2009), and National Iranian Oil Company, headed by Deputy Oil Minister and MD, NIOC, Mr. Seifollah Jashnsaaz (30 November-3 December 2009). In addition, a 25-member delegation led by Dr. Mohammad Nahavandian, President, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines (ICCIM) visited New Delhi from 8-15 November, 2009 to attend the 10th India-Iran Joint Business Council meeting and participate in the 29th India International Trade Fair.

Miscellaneous

Sixth Round Table between IDSA and IPIS: The Sixth Round Table between Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) was held in Tehran from 12-13 July, 2009. A four member IDSA delegation led by its Director General Dr. N. S. Sisodia visited Tehran to attend the round table. The round table discussed issues pertaining to the global financial crisis, energy, transport, security in the region and bilateral relations.

Visit of Indian academics, culture & sports delegations to Iran: Indian delegations from the fields of academics, culture and sports also visited Iran. They included a Sports Authority of India team (5-8 May, 2009), Indian volleyball team (23-28 May, 2009), a theatre group from West Bengal (30 July-7 August 2009) and a five member Indian team for the Third International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (18-26 October, 2009).

First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy visited Iran: Three ships of the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, namely *INS Tir, INS Krishna* and *ICGS* (Integrated Coast Guard Systems) *Veera* visited Bandar Abbas from 4-7 April, 2009 as part of a good will visit. These ships were Cadet Training Ships who provide Afloat Training to junior officers of the Indian Navy and also to officers from friendly foreign countries. During this visit, Cadet Officers of the Indian Navy interacted with their counterparts from the Iranian Navy and participated in sports and other adventure activities.

Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Iran for Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) from 2-3 February, 2010 at the invitation of Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Oceania. The then Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Oceania Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh had visited New Delhi on 17 December, 2008 for the last round of the FOC. The current round of the FOC is expected to cover the entire range of bilateral issues as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

Kuwait

India and Kuwait enjoy traditionally friendly relations. Geographic proximity, historical trade links, cultural affinities and presence of a large number of Indian expatriates continue to sustain and nurture this long-standing relationship. India has been a natural trading partner and a destination for higher learning.

The hallmark of friendly relations was represented by the visit of Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India to Kuwait in April 2009 at the invitation of Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. During the visit he called on Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait and the Crown Prince. Acting Prime Minister and First Deputy PM/Defence Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, DPM/ Foreign Minister Sheikh (Dr.) Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Oil Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Minister of Finance Mr. Mustafa Jassim Al-Shimali called on the VP. Three agreements were signed during the visit namely Education Exchange Programme 2009-2011, Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology and Cultural Exchange Programme 2009-2011.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna will be visiting Kuwait from 3-5 February, 2010.

Special Kuwait Cell

In 2005 United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) sent a list of 8615 Untraced Indian Claimants whose compensation money had been returned to UNCC as undisbursed funds within the period stipulated for this purpose determined by UNCC. This was the last chance given by UNCC to all countries to pay their nationals

who could not be paid when the money was sent earlier. Undisbursed funds were to be returned to UNCC once this exercise was over, and would lapse to UNCC with no further chance of getting this money. The work of locating the Indian claimants started in October 2005. The list of 8615 claimants was advertised in the print media and also put on Ministry of External Affairs' website for easy access. Help of state governments was also taken The work of locating the Indian claimants ended in October 2006 as UNCC refused to accept any further lists of claimants who were traced after 30 October, 2006. UNCC sent money between January 2007-July 2007. This money had to be disbursed within six months which was later reduced to four months and the undisbursed money returned to UNCC at the end of this period which was calculated from the date of transfer of funds by UNCC to India The last undisbursed money was returned in January 2008. UNCC made it clear that they would not entertain any further requests whatever the justification and pleadings that may be put forward by the claimants or their Governments and would not respond to any representation and advised that governments therefore should desist from sending any representations to UNCC.

This division has attended to 11 RTI cases from 1 April 2009-December 2009 regarding queries from the claimants of United Nations Compensation. In addition three court cases are pending. The Government of India's position is that the compensation was being paid by UNCC and that the Government of India is not liable to pay this compensation in cases where a Kuwait returnee of the 1990-1991 Gulf War, for which UNCC was paying compensation, could not be paid this compensation by UNCC for whatever reasons.

Oman

India's friendly relations with Oman were further consolidated in 2009 building upon the visit of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Oman last year. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia led a delegation for the second India-Oman Joint Working Group meeting which was held in Muscat in April 2009. The Omani delegation was led by Mohammed bin Al Zubair advisor to the Sultan for Economic Planning. The Working group identified areas where the two countries could make quick progress. Further progress was made in the India-Oman Fund which will have a seed capital of US$ 100 million, to be raised up to US$ 1.5 billion to be utilized for joint investments in infrastructure. In the year 2008 bilateral trade (both oil and non-oil) reached nearly US$ 2.0 billion.

The Minister of Oil & Gas of Oman, Dr. Mohammed Hamad Al-Rumhi visited India in May 2009; a nine member delegation led by Maqbool Ali Sultan, Industries and Commerce Minister of Oman, visited Gujarat in September 2009 to discuss ways to increase partnership between Gujarat and Oman in trade and commerce. The period saw cooperation in technical and higher education, defence cooperation, visits of Indian Naval Ships to Oman and bilateral air exercise in October and November 2009. The Sultanate of Oman continued to support the Anti-Piracy Operations of the Indian Navy in Gulf of Aden.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy visited Oman from 18-22 January, 2010. Shri Murli Deora, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas visited Oman from 29-30 January, 2010. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs will be visiting Oman from 5-7 February, 2010.

Qatar

India has a long history of friendly relations with Qatar marked by commercial ties and people-to-people contacts. The large Indian community of 450,000 acts as a catalyst for enhanced ties. The visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Qatar in November 2008 set the tone for significant up-gradation of bilateral ties when it was also agreed that a High Level Monitoring Mechanism will be established to ensure progress and follow up on the visit. Its first meeting was held in February 2009 in New Delhi and the second meeting was held in Doha in November 2009. During the meeting held in November 2009 at Doha, an MoU between India and Qatar to attract Qatari investment into India to the tune of US$ 5 billion was signed.

A delegation led by Shri Murli Deora paid a brief visit to Doha on 16 December, 2009. The Indian side projected to the Qatari side our immediate and medium term requirement of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The visit also underscored the importance of personal interaction between the concerned Ministers of both countries.

Saudi Arabia

Indo-Saudi relations are historic and have been further strengthened since the visit by King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz to India in January 2006. Bilateral ties were also encouraged by economic forces, with energy and information technology constituting the most robust elements in this regard. These relations are enhanced by the presence of the resident Indian community of about 1.78 million. The strong bilateral economic relations were

reflected in the steady growth of bilateral trade, reaching US$ 23 billion, and the visit of several business delegations during the year. Indian investment in the Kingdom crossed US$ 2 billion in 560 projects

The Eighth meeting of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission was held in Riyadh from 27-30 October, 2009 and discussed whole gamut of bilateral cooperation. The Indian side was co-chaired by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister. During the visit, Finance Minister had an audience with King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, on 31 October, 2009.

Other important events in 2009 include, MoS for Tourism Sultan Ahmed, participating in the "*India Tourism Road Show*" in Riyadh in October 2009 to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism. The visits from Saudi side included the visit of Saudi Commerce & Industry Minister Abdullah Ahmad Zainal Alireja in August 2009 as Special Envoy of King Abdullah. He called on Prime Minister and held meetings with External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister, and Commerce and Industry Minister.

Indian naval ships, *INS Delhi* and *INS Aditya*, paid a three-day goodwill visit to Jeddah in May 2009 and participated in naval exercise with the Royal Saudi Navy in the Red Sea.

Prime Minister may visit Saudi Arabia in February end/ early March 2010. The contours of the visit are under consideration.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The relations between India and UAE have been traditionally close and friendly. India has been a natural trading partner and a destination for higher learning for the UAE. Large Indian expatriate community resides and engages in the UAE in various economically productive activities. According to the latest figures of the studies conducted by the UAE authorities, the size of the Indian community is estimated at 1.7 million in the UAE. The UAE has become the largest non-oil merchandise trade partner of India in 2008-09, accounting for about half of India's total trade with the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (CCASG; also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council GCC) region. India is also the largest export destination of UAE exports. UAE emerged as largest trading partner of India with bilateral trade exceeding US$ 44 billion. During the period India and UAE discussed, finalized and initialed the 'Agreement on Security Cooperation'.

During the period several visits took place which includes that of MoS for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor visiting the UAE in October. He met Crown Prince of Dubai, Minister for Cabinet Affairs on boosting economic cooperation and investments among others. Indian Naval Ships *Tir*, *Krishna* and ICGS *Veera* visited Abu Dhabi in March 2009. From UAE side Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India in June and met Vice-President, External Affairs Minister and Minister of New and Renewable Energy.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New and Renewable Energy will be visiting UAE from 18-22 January, 2010. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs is likely to visit Abu Dhabi (UAE) from 28 February-2 March 2010 for the Intellectual Property Act Copyright Symposium and Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister for Foreign Trade, UAE will be visiting India from 7-12 February, 2010.

Yemen

Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor, visited Sana'a in June 2009 as Leader of the Indian delegation to attend the Indian Ocean Rim-Association of Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Conference. During his visit, he called on the Yemeni President and handed over a letter from our President to the Yemeni President. MoS also had meetings with minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as Minister of Oil & Minerals of Yemen.

In January 2009, a 13-member delegation from the Sana'a Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited India at the invitation of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India [ASSOCHAM] and held meetings with their counterparts. Indian companies are now in the process of exploration of the oil blocks they were allotted last year.

Iraq

India and Iraq have enduring political, economic and cultural ties. The resolution passed by Indian Parliament on 8 April, 2003, provides direction to our policy on Iraq. India stands for an early restoration of sovereignty to the Iraqi people and the right of Iraqi people to freely determine their political future and control their natural resources. For the stability of the region, India has always been for peace and stability of Iraq and stands for absolute sovereignty of Iraq and the right of Iraqi people to freely determine their political future and control its natural resources. India offered its support towards Iraq's political process, development of constitution, electoral process, census and voter registration.

In response to UN Secretary-General's cash appeal, India committed US$ 20 million for assistance to the Iraqi

people. India has contributed a total of US$ 10 million towards the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) for investments, reconstruction and development in Iraq. India currently provides 100 slots to Iraq under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and 50 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships for higher education under Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme (CEP) and General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) each year.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has been providing training in India to the Iraqi oil officials on various subjects related with downstream oil sector. India has annually been providing at least 100 slots to Iraq under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to train Government of Iraq officials. India has been offering 50 slots every year to Iraq for nominating its students for higher studies in India under the 'Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme' (CEP) and the 'General Cultural Scholarship Scheme' (GCSS) organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

India – Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

The India-GCC relations remained friendly and witnessed further strengthening in 2009. The fifth round of India GCC dialogue took place in September 2009 at New York cementing the institutionalization of the consultative mechanism. Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation. They discussed issues of mutual concern and ways to strengthen and promote India-GCC relations.

India-GCC Free Trade Agreement negotiating mechanism was active during the year and the two sides considered ways to speed up the negotiations. India has agreed to examine a wide range of issues of interest proposed by GCC. Two sides have also agreed to hold the Fourth Industrial Conference in February 2010.

Haj

Nearly 165,000 Indian pilgrims performed Haj in December 2009. 120,121 Indian pilgrims visited Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee of India, and remaining through the private tour operators. Shri Saifuddin Soz, led the Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation to Saudi Arabia.

Indo-Arab Investment Conclave

Second Indo-Arab Investment Conclave is taking place in New Delhi from 8-9 February, 2010 in which about 200 eminent persons and some Ministerial delegations from Arab countries are expected to participate. This conclave is aimed to highlight the investment potential in India in the framework of India growth story and to realize partnership in various projects.

West Asia and North Africa

Our relations with all countries in the West Asia and North Africa region were strengthened further in several areas including through cooperation in the energy, trade, and investment sectors

Algeria

In October 2009, three Indian companies were awarded new projects in power transmission lines. 15 Indian companies participated in the 42nd Algiers International Trade Fair from 30 May-4 June 2009, held under the aegis of the India Trade Promotion Organization. INS *Beas* called at Port Algiers from 17-20 May, 2009, as part of overseas deployment of Western Fleet ships. ICCR's painting exhibition "*Women by Women*" was held in Algiers and several other Algerian cities in March 2009. Indian miniature painter, Shri Shakir Ali, participated in the International Illumination & Miniature Festival held in Algiers on 14 October, 2009, at the invitation of the Algerian government. A 12-member Indian folk dance troupe "*Meera Kala Mandir*" participated in the Fourth Deserts People Festival in Timimoun, Algiers, from 18-20 December, 2009.

Djibouti

INS *Betwa*, INS *Beas*, INS *Godavari,* INS *Mumbai and* INS *Trishul,* on anti-piracy patrol off the coast of Somalia, made calls at the port of Djibouti between March and October 2009.

Egypt

During his visit to Sharm-el-Sheikh to attend the 15th Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit from 14-16 July, 2009, the Prime Minister met Egyptian President Mr. Mohammad Hosni Mubarak. The Summit was preceded by a NAM Ministerial Meeting (13-14 July), which was attended by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. The External Affairs Minister also had a bilateral meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit. The Minister for New & Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah visited Egypt to attend the second session of the Preparatory Commission of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) from 29-30 June, 2009 at Sharm-el-Sheikh. During the visit, he had discussions with the Egyptian Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr. Hassan Ahmed Younis on

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Haj Goodwill Delegation led by Prof. Saifuddin Soz, in New Delhi on 21 November, 2009. Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office and Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Prithviraj Chavan is also seen.

cooperation in solar and wind energy. Dr. Abdullah also met the Grand Sheikh of *Al Azhar* and the Grand Mufti of Egypt.

The Egyptian Minister of Trade & Industry Mr. Rachid Mohamed Rachid visited India from 2-4 September, 2009 to attend an Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations. He also met Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma and discussed ways and means of improving bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited Egypt from 28-30 October, 2009 to participate in an Informal African WTO Trade Ministerial Brainstorming Session on "Consolidating the Development Dimension". He had bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Nazif and Minister of Trade & Industry Mr. Rachid Mohamed Rachid. A Joint Action Plan (JAP) for cooperation between the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Indian Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) was signed during the visit. Coinciding with the Commerce and Industry Minister's visit to Cairo in October 2009, a Confederation of Indian Industry [CII] business delegation visited Egypt from 27-31 October, 2009 for discussions with different business associations of Egypt. A joint Business Forum was organized on the occasion by the Egyptian Trade & Industry Ministry. A delegation from Council of Leather Exports also visited Egypt from 28-31 October, 2009 on a leather sourcing mission.

Egyptian Minister of Electricity & Energy Dr. Hassan Younis visited India from 16-19 November, 2009 and had bilateral meetings with Minister for New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Minister of State for Power Shri Bharatsinh Solanki. Dr. Younis had a business meeting with Indian PSUs in the power sector, a separate meeting with a group of businessmen/investors and visited solar and wind energy manufacturing units in the country.

Two State Government delegations, one led by Chief Minister of Punjab (18-19 November, 2009) and another one led by Kerala Industry Minister (25-27 September, 2009) visited Egypt for discussions in agriculture and industrial sectors. Two Egyptian officials participated in Indo-Africa Pharmaceutical Business Meet organized by PHARMEXCIL in Hyderabad in September 2009. There were also two Egyptian participants at CAPEXCIL Buyer-Seller-Meet in New Delhi in September 2009.

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Shri Prithviraj Chavan visited Egypt from 10-13 January, 2010. During the visit, he met Egyptian Minister of State for Administrative Development Dr. Ahmed Darwish and Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Research Dr. Hany Mahfouz Helal. A goodwill delegation of Parliamentarians led by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal visited Egypt from 15-18 January, 2010. During the visit, the delegation had meetings with Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the People's Assembly and Dr. Moufid Mahmoud Shehab, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

India was invited to be the guest of honour at Cairo International Film Festival CIFF 2009 (10-20 November). Many eminent film personalities from India including director Adoor Gopalakrishan (Chairperson of the International Jury) participated in the Festival. 23 Indian films were screened at CIFF 2009. '*Anart*' – an art group led by Ms. Ishira Parikh, sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, performed at the opening session of the Festival. *Panthi* group and Desert Symphony group, sponsored by ICCR, visited Egypt from 5-12 September, 2009.

Air Chief Marshal FH Major, Chief of Air Staff and Lt. Gen. D. S. Bartwal, Director General Military Intelligence visited Egypt from 26-29 April, 2009 and from 15-18 May, 2009 respectively.

Israel

The Second Meeting of the India-Israel Forum was held in Tel Aviv from 8-10 September, 2009. A 19-member CII delegation and 34 Israeli businessmen, academics and officials participated in the Forum. The Governor of Bank of Israel and the Israeli Ministers of Infrastructure and Finance also addressed the participants. The Forum deliberated on ways to increase cooperation between India and Israel in infrastructure, real estate, investment and financial resources, technology, industry and agriculture, renewable energy and water technology.

Gen Deepak Kapoor, Chairman Chief of Staffs Committee and Chief Of Army Staff visited Israel from 8-11 November, 2009. The Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab were among Indian participants in the Second International Conference and Exhibition on Water Technologies, WATEC 2009, in Tel Aviv from 17-19 November, 2009. Israeli Chief of Defence Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi visited India from 8-10 December, 2009. Head of the Israeli National Security Council, Dr. Uzi Arad visited India on 4 January, 2010. Israeli Minister of Industry, Trade & Labour Mr. Benjamin Ben Eliezer visited India from 8-14 January, 2010 and called on External Affairs Minister

Shri S. M. Krishna, Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma, Agriculture, Food Distribution and Consumer Affairs Minister Shri Sharad Pawar and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Israeli Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Eliezer Maroom visited India from 18-22 January, 2010.

An ICCR-sponsored *Carnatic* vocal group visited Israel and participated in the *Oudh* Cultural Festival 2009 from 15-20 November, 2009. An *Odissi* Dance group led by Smt. Rajshree Behera and also sponsored by ICCR, gave cultural performances in Israel from 24-28 November, 2009.

Jordan

A business delegation from 14 Indian companies under the aegis of the Engineering Export Promotion Council participated in the Sixth Rebuild Iraq Exhibition held in Amman from 4-7 May, 2009. A Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) delegation visited Jordan in July 2009 and held business to business meetings with Jordanian business chambers.

A joint venture project in fertilizers between Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) and Indian Farmers' Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) was inaugurated in Amman on 4 October, 2009.

A *sitar* group and a *Bharatnatyam* troupe, sponsored by ICCR, participated in the Jordan Festival in July 2009. *Odissi* dancer Smt. Rajashri Behera, sponsored by ICCR performed in Amman on 30 November, 2009.

Lebanon

India welcomed the formation of a new government in Lebanon on 10 November, 2009. Congratulatory messages from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna were sent to the Lebanese Prime Minister Mr. Saad Rafic Hariri and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon Mr. Ali El Chami, respectively. A four member Lebanese delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture was hosted by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in April 2009.

Libya

Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, represented India at the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Great *Al-Fatah* Revolution held in Tripoli, Libya, on 1 September, 2009. India participated in the annual Tripoli International Trade Fair held in Tripoli from 2-12 April, 2009. INS *Aditya* called at Tripoli Port, Libya, from 7-10 June, 2009.

The 59th Session of the Executive Committee of Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), held in Tripoli from 12-14 November, 2009, was chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Dr. Rita Sharma. A 12-member ICCR-sponsored *Kathak* dance troupe, *'Anart'* performed in Tripoli, Sirte and Benghazi from 16-22 November, 2009.

Morocco

Indian companies participated in the International Agriculture Fair at Meknes from 22-27 April, 2009. India was represented at the Fez International Festival of Sacred Music in May 2009 by a group of musicians and a *Kuchipudi* dancer.

Engineering Export Promotion Council [EEPC] participated in the International Exhibition of Sub Contracting and Partnership (SISTEP) engineering exhibition held in Casablanca from 30 September-3 October 2009.

A CAPEXIL (a non-profit making organization to promote export of Chemical and Allied Products from India) delegation from 6-8 November, 2009 participated in a Buyer-Seller meet in Casablanca for export of tyres and tubes, marble and granite, chemicals and stationery items.

Palestine

India continued its unwavering support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for a homeland of their own. Building of Chancery-cum-Residences of the Embassy of Palestine in New Delhi, a gift of the Government and people of India, is nearing completion. India's annual contribution to the United Nations Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was enhanced from US$ 20,000 to US$ 1 million.

Somalia

Piracy off the Somali coast continued to affect Indian flagged ships and merchant sailors during this period. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs met the Somalia Foreign Minister on the margins of the African Union Summit at Addis Ababa (27-30 January, 2010).

Sudan

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Sudan Dr. Abdul Halim Ismail Al-Muttaffie visited India from 13-17 July, 2009. He met Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of

Agriculture, Food & Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs, and Public Distribution. In August 2009, Dr. Osama Mohammed, National Coordinator for Sudan and Eng. Mohmoud Doleeb Mohamed Elamin attended the two-day workshop on the Pan-African *e-Network* Project in New Delhi organized by the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL). In October 2009, a leather sourcing delegation from the Council for Leather Export of India visited Sudan.

In November 2009, a 17-member Confederation of Indian Industries delegation led by Shri Sanjay Kirloskar, Chairman & Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd., visited Sudan to explore business and project partnerships prospects. The delegation met with the Senior Assistant to the President and the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, Tourism and Wildlife, Irrigation and Water Resources, Health, Foreign Trade, Energy and Mining, Information and Communication, Foreign Affairs, Finance and National Economy. CII signed an MoU on cooperation with the Sudanese Chambers of Industries Association.

Minister of State for Energy and Mining Ms. Angelina Jany Teny led a Sudanese delegation to the second India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference in New Delhi from 7-8 December, 2009.

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora, visited Sudan from 24-25 January, 2010. Governor of Khartoum, Sudan, Mr. Abdel Rahman El Khidir, accompanied by a high level delegation, visited Mumbai and Delhi from 18-25 January, 2010, at the invitation of TATA Motors, Mumbai. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of the Sudan, Dr. Abdul Halim Ismail Al-Muttaffie, accompanied by a three member delegation, visited India from 11-15 January, 2010.

Syria

An eight member Indian delegation led by Shri Sudhir Bhargava, Joint Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, visited Syria from 10-18 May, 2009. An MoU for carrying out feasibility study for the development of the Syrian phosphates sector was signed during the visit. A 21-member delegation comprising officials of Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON), Rail India Technology and Economical Services (RITES) and Projects and development India Limited (PDIL) visited Syria from 6-15 November, 2009 to collect data and conduct surveys in connection with feasibility study for the development of the Syrian phosphates sector.

The General Manager of Export and Import (EXIM) Bank of India visited Syria from 6-7 October, 2009 for signing an Agreement for a credit line of US$ 100 million with Syria, as the first tranche of a US$ 240 million line of credit that the Government of India is offering to part finance the 2,200 MW *Tishreen* power plant expansion project. A Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) delegation visited Syria from 28-30 October, 2009 for signing the contract worth Euros 300 million with Syria for the 2,200 MW *Tishreen* power plant expansion project.

A business delegation comprising representatives of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Tea Board of India and five companies participated at the Damascus International Trade Fair 2009 from 14-22 July, 2009. A 19 member Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) business delegation visited Syria from 18-19 July, 2009 for India-Syria Joint Business Meet, hosted by the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce. Syria participated in the 29th India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi from 14-27 November, 2009. A Syrian business delegation participated in the Delhi International Leather Fair held from 23-25 October, 2009.

Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, Political & Media Advisor at the Syrian Presidency visited India from 6-9 January, 2010 and called on External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Human Resource Development Minister Shri Kapil Sibal and had a meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

An Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) sponsored 12-member Indian classical dance troupe led by Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant visited Syria from 1-7 August, 2009. An ICCR sponsored 12-member *Rajasthani* folk dance troupe led by Shri Dahne Khan Langa visited Syria from 6-13 August, 2009 to participate in the Bosra International Festival, 2009. An ICCR sponsored *sitar* troupe led by Shri Adip Kumar Ghosh visited Syria from 8-18 October, 2009 to participate in the Syria Silk Road Festival, 2009.

A three member Sahitya Academi delegation led by President of the Sahitya Academi Shri Sunil Gangopadhaya visited Syria from 6-13 November, 2009 to renew the Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed between the Sahitya Academi and the Arab Writers Union in 2003.

Tunisia

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information & Communication Technology (ICT) was held in Tunis from 16-17 April, 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Shri R. Chandrashekhar, Special

Secretary, Department of Information Technology and the Tunisian side was led by Ms. Lamia Chafei Saghaier, Secretary of State in charge of IT. The Joint Working Group meeting was inaugurated by Minister of Communications Technologies Mr. El Hadj Gley. The two sides identified several areas for cooperation particularly in the field of internet security, training, standardization and technical assistance. An MoU between the El Ghazala Technological Park of Tunisia and the Software Technological Park of India (STPI) was signed.

The Second Meeting of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) between India and Tunisia was held in Tunis from 30 September-1 October 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dinesh Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and included Dr. H. P. Kumar, Chairman & MD of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC). The Tunisian side was led by Mr. Sadok Bejja, Director, Ministry of Industry, Energy, and SMEs.

Several business delegations from India visited Tunisia during this period, including a six member fertilizer delegation from a consortia headed by the *Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers* (RCF), to study the feasibility of the US$ 2.5 billion *Sra Ourtane* Fertilizer Complex Project.

A 20 member delegation of manufacturers, dealers and exporters of the Synthetic & Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) held an exhibition of Indian textiles, made ups, yarn, etc. in Tunis from 4-5 February, 2010. An Indian dance troupe '*Ballet Bollywood*' performed at the 45th International Festival of Carthage held in July and an Indian musical group participated in the Fifth Festival of Spiritual Music organized during *Ramadan.*

A three member Tunisian pharmaceutical delegation visited India to attend the India-Africa Pharmaceutical Business Meet in Hyderabad from 25-27 September, 2009. A four member Tunisian IT delegation attended the National Association of Software Services Company (NASSCOM) Product Enclave held in Bangalore from 25-30 October, 2009.

A two member delegation from the Tunisian Ministry of Petroleum & Gas visited Mumbai from 10-14 December, 2009 to participate in an international seminar on current economic crisis, oil & gas industry and role of trade union movement organized by the Petroleum & Gas Workers' Federation of India. A six member delegation from the International Association of Lions Clubs, Tunisia visited Hyderabad to participate in the 37th India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East Forum (ISAAME) from 3-13 December, 2009.

The League of Arab States

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met the Secretary General of the League of Arab States Mr. Amre Moussa on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2009.

To mark the Third International Day of Non-violence on 2 October, 2009, an event was organized in Cairo and the keynote address was delivered by Secretary General of the League of Arab States Mr. Amre Moussa. A photo-exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi was held on the occasion.

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6 Africa (South of Sahara)

East and Southern Africa

India Africa Forum Summit – Follow-up

Follow up actions on India Africa Forum Summit continued during the year. Discussions with the AU including formal meetings took place in Addis Ababa in December 2009. India was represented at the AU Summit in Sirte in July 2009.

India hosted the following high level visits from the region during the year:

- President of Namibia Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba paid a successful State visit to India from 30 August-3 September 2009.
- Prime Minister of Tanzania visited India in September 2009.

From India, Vice President represented India at the inaugural ceremony of Dr. Jacob Zuma as the President of South Africa in May 2009.

Other important visits to India during the year 2009 included:

- Minister of Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana (February).
- Minister in-charge of Presidency, Deputy Attorney General/Minister of State for Justice & Constitutional Affairs and Minister of State for Finance of Uganda, (May).
- Minister of State for Internal Affairs of Uganda (June).
- Minister of Communications, Science and Technology of the Kingdom of Lesotho (June).
- State Minister for Transport and Communications of Ethiopia (July).
- Minister of State for Urban Development of Uganda (July) .
- State Minister for Transport and Communications of Ethiopia (July).
- Speaker, Council of Nationalities of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State of Ethiopia (SNNPRS) of Ethiopia (August).
- President of the Oromia Region, Ethiopia (August).
- Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Mauritius (August).
- Health Minister of Kenya (September).
- Minister of Commerce & Industry of Zimbabwe (September).
- Minister for Medical services of Kenya (September).
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius (September).
- Minister for Industry, Trade and Marketing of Tanzania (September).
- Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa (September).
- Minister of Safety and Security of Namibia (October).
- Minister of Environment and National Development Unit of Mauritius (October).
- Minister of State for Agriculture of Uganda (October).
- Minister of State for Agriculture in charge of fisheries of Uganda (October).
- Vice President of Mauritius – on a private visit (October-November).
- Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa (November).
- President of Mauritius – on a private visit (November-December).
- Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Rwanda (January 2010).
- Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping and Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources of Mauritius (January 2010).
- Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Mauritius (January 2010).
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius (January 2010).
- Finance Minister of South Africa Mr. Pravin Gordhan (January 2010).

- Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa (January 2010).

Important visits from India include:

- Parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal to Mauritius and South Africa (April).
- Speaker of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Tulsi Ram visited Mauritius (June).
- Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited South Africa (August).
- Minister of State (in-charge) for Coal, Statistics and Programme Implementation Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal visited Durban (August).
- Minister of Industries of Kerala Shri Elamaram Kareem visited Johannesburg, South Africa (September).
- Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Shri Dinesh Trivedi visited Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (October).
- Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Arusha (Tanzania) (28 September-6 October).
- Minister of State (in-charge) for Science and Technology, Parliamentary Affairs, Earth Sciences and Personnel and Training Shri Prithviraj Chauhan visited Durban, South Africa (October).
- Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Mauritius (November).
- Chief Minister of Chattisgarh Shri Raman Singh accompanied by an official delegation as well as a business delegation from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, visited Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa. (November).
- Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Tanzania and Kenya (January 2010).
- Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Mauritius (January 2010).
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora visited Uganda (January 2010).
- Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and participated in the AU Summit (January 2010).
- Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Maputo, Mozambique (January 2010).

Botswana

Relations between India and Botswana continued to remain warm and cordial. Minister of Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana, Brig. (Retd.) Dikgakgamatso Ndelu Seretse, attended the Seventh International Aerospace Exposition – AERO India – 2009 held in Bangalore from 11-14 February, 2009.

On 8 March, 2009, High Commissioner Shri Vishnu N. Hade handed over to the Botswana Ministry of Education and Skills Development, 731 computers, UPSs and printers donated by Government of India. The donation was part of the commitment made in 2006 by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's during the state visit of former President of Botswana Mr. Festus Mogae.

An expert from Hindustan Computers Limited (HCL) Infosystems was deputed to assist and train officials in the Botswana Ministry of Education & Skills Development.

Major General Chander Prakash, VSM, Additional Director General, Staff Duties, Ministry of Defence (Army) visited Botswana from 31 May-1 June 2009 to discuss various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation including renewal of Memorandum of Agreement between Inter Agency Task Team (IATT)/IAFTT and Botswana Defence Force & supply of civilian defence equipment.

A delegation comprising Shri P. K. Chaudhery, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Smt. Alka Tyagi, Chairperson-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Diamond Company Private Limited (HDCPL), visited Botswana from 24-26 June, 2009 and had discussions with the Minister of Trade and Industry and other officials to explore the possibility of buying rough diamonds from Debswana, which is a joint venture of Government of Botswana and De Beers.

A 19-member delegation led by Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) visited Gaborone from 26-29 July, 2009 and held interactive/ Buyer-Seller Meet on 27 July, 2009. The delegation met the Assistant Minister of Health and held meetings with officials in Drug Regulatory Unit, Ministry of Health and pharmaceutical companies.

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Botswana organized a workshop on "*Executive Development Programme on International Business in Botswana*" from 4-14 August, 2009. The workshop was attended by government officials, public and private sector representatives, etc.

Shri Rajiv Dogra, Ambassador (Retd.) visited Botswana for six weeks from 25 October-5 December 2009, in connection with the restructuring of Botswana Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The visit was highly successful and appreciated by the local authorities.

The Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, accompanied by Smt. Salma Ansari visited Botswana from 9-11 January, 2010. He was accompanied by Minsiter of State for Labour and Employment Shri Harish Rawat, three Members of Parliament, senior officers and the media. The Vice President held discussions with the Vice President of Botswana as well as the President of Botswana among other dignitaries. A 30-member Conferderation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation accompanied Vice President's delegation which held discussions with the Botswana Export Development & Investment Authority (BEDIA) as well as one-to-one meetings with various businessmen.

Following agreements were signed during the visit:

1. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
2. Educational Exchange Programme.

The visit was extensively covered in the local media highlighting the enhanced cooperation between the two countries. During the visit, the Vice President of India extended an invitation to the Vice President of Botswana and the visit is likely to take place in near future subject to the convenience of both the Governments.

A high level delegation led by Secretary (Defence, Justice and Security) and the Commander BDF is likely to attend the Defence Expo scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 15-18 February, 2010.

The Government of Botswana has been requesting for holding of a Regional Conclave in Botswana and have reminded us recently that they should be held in near future. This may also materialize in the coming months.

Burundi

India-Burundi relations entered a new phase in 2009, when Burundi opened its resident mission in New Delhi in August. The mission, which is currently headed by a Charge d'Affaires, is expected to be headed soon by an Ambassador.

Comoros

India and Comoros have always enjoyed cordial relations. India has been having its diplomatic presence in Comoros since 4 June, 1976 with concurrent accreditation to Madagascar.

Preparations are underway to set up a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Moroni to impart skills in plumbing, welding, equipment and electricity, civil works, IT, Hydrology, civil engineering, telecommunications, analysis programming, building and public works, geometer topography to Comorean people. Government of India have already located a site for the VTC and the construction is going to commence shortly. The project would cost an amount of US$ 1 million which would be met out of Aid-to-Africa budget.

Eritrea

An Indian naval ship INS *Brahmaputra* paid a goodwill visit to the Eritrean port of Massawa from 21-24 May, 2009. Government of India's decision to provide a Line of Credit of US$ 20 million for financing purchase of agricultural and educational equipment was conveyed by Minister for External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna to his Eritrean counterpart in vide a letter dated 17 July, 2009. The Export Import (EXIM) Bank, Mumbai is the executing agency for this Line of Credit. During the current year five Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training slots were offered to Eritrea.

Ethiopia

Bilaterally, relations between India and Ethiopia continued to grow from strength to strength. India remained a role model for Ethiopia for developing in a democratic and pluralistic set up. Ethiopia endeavours to institutionalize the relationship with India and raise it to a strategic partnership.

Mr. Getachew Mengiste, State Minister for Transport and Communications, was in India on a working visit from 24-30 July, 2009, to visit the TATA Motors plants.

The President of the Oromia region visited India from 1-5 August, 2009. During his visit he participated in the inaugural ceremony of Ethiopian Honorary Consulate in Kolkata and also held meetings with Indian businessmen in Delhi.

A four member delegation led by the Speaker of the South Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) visited India from 16-24 August, 2009, for a benchmarking visit. The delegation held meetings at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, New Delhi from 17-19 August, 2009 and in Chandigarh the delegation met the Haryana Legislative Assembly from 20-21 August, 2009.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of Republic Namibia, Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba at the Joint Press Conference, in New Delhi on 31 August, 2009.

Vice President, Shri Mohd. Hamid Ansari being received by the Vice President of Botswana, Mr. Mompati Merafhe, on his arrrival at the Gaborone Sir Sereste Khama International Airport, in Botswana on 9 January, 2010.

Mr. Tekele Tesema, Member of Ethiopian Parliament and Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Capacity Building and also Chairman of the Ethiopia-India Parliamentary Group visited India from 23-31 August, 2009.

A ten member delegation consisting of two Members of Parliament and Secretary Generals of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and senior officials of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha formed part of the Indian delegation to the 120th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held in Addis Ababa from 4-10 April, 2009 with the theme "*The Role of Parliaments in Building peace, Democracy and Development in Times of Crisis*". During its stay in Addis Ababa the delegation made calls on the Speaker, Prime Minister and President.

A three member high-level delegation led by Shri Dinesh Trivedi, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare visited Addis Ababa from 25-29 October, 2009 to participate in a high level meeting on Maternal Health and the 2009 International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. Two Members of Parliament also attended the ICPD Programme of Action.

A nine member Indian Army Training Team reached Ethiopia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. The team is led by a Colonel and consists of one Lt. Col, three Majors and four non-commissioned officers and will be there for three years at the invitation of the Ethiopian Government.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has steadily been increasing and is heavily in India's favour. According to the Ethiopian Customs Authority, India's exports to Ethiopia in 2008-09 are worth US$ 450 million while imports are to the tune of US$ 12 million. Indian investments in Ethiopia have crossed US$ 4.15 billion in 2009 and India is now the single largest investor in Ethiopia.

An Indian Company, M/s Anmol Products Ethiopia Pvt. Ltd. inaugurated its paper pulp factory at Ginchi, about 80 kms. from Addis Ababa on 2 August, 2009.

A six member Fusion Music Group led by Shri Abhijit Pohankar and sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) visited Ethiopia from 16-22 October, 2009. The group gave performances in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Ethiopia for the African Union (AU) Summit. During the visit the MoS called on Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.

Kenya

Official level visits from India included the visit of Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, Election Commissioner from 6-9 July, 2009 to participate in an Induction Workshop for Kenya's Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) and Interim Independent Boundary Review Commission (IIBRC). Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi, Additional Secretary from the Election Commission of India also visited Nairobi from 11-15 August, 2009 to participate in the National Conference on Electoral Reforms and a delegation from Directorate of Valuation visited from 23 April-1 May 2009 for software upgradation of Kenya Revenue Authority.

The Kenyan Health Minister led a 16-member delegation to Hyderabad from 14-16 September, 2009 to attend the Indo-Africa Pharma Meet and the Kenyan Assistant Minister for Trade led a four member delegation to Goa on 27 September to attend the reverse Buyer-Seller Meet organized by CAPEXCIL India.

Mr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Minister for Medical services of Republic of Kenya, visited India from 24-28 September, 2009 to attend the Indian Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Conference in Hyderabad.

A six member delegation led by Chairman of the Independent Interim Electoral Commission of Kenya visited India from 22-26 October, 2009. The delegation visited Maharashtra to witness the counting of Maharashtra Assembly polls and Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL), Bangalore to familiarize themselves with Electronic Voting Machine. A Ministry of Public Services delegation also visited India from 29 June-10 July 2009 to study the training of civil servants in India.

An Agreement of Mutual Cooperation between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Kenya Industrial Estates was signed on 12 May, 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dinesh Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Kenyan delegation was led by Industrialisation Minister Mr. Henry Kosgey.

There has been a steady increase in the bilateral trade with the volume exceeding US$ 1200 million in the year 2008 with India's exports amounting to US$ 1094 million. Major items of exports from India to Kenya include drugs and pharmaceuticals, chemicals, machinery etc. Major

items imported by India include cashew, leather and leather products, scrap metal etc.

M/s ESSAR Energy Overseas Company acquired over 50% ownership of Kenya Petroleum Refineries on 31 July, 2009 and an MoU was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Mr. Raila Odinga, Finance Minister Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta and Essar Group CEO Shri Prashant Ruia.

CAPEXIL organized a Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) for on 3 August, 2009 which was inaugurated by the Assistant Minister for Trade and attended by a large number of industrialists/businessmen. The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council organized a BSM on November 30,2009.

Delegation level visits included visit of an India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) delegation from 5-9 October, 2009 a member delegation from National Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (NABARD) from 2 October to inaugurate NABCONS Consultancy Services by NABARD, and a five member Karnataka government delegation from 9-15 November, 2009 to discuss modalities for implementation of tax register with the Kenya Revenue Authority. An 18-member delegation from Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) visited Kenya from 5-6 August, 2009 and met the Health Minister, Assistant Minister for Energy, Permanent Secretary for IT and Officials from the Agriculture Ministry.

Lesotho

Relations with Lesotho were further expanded and diversified following the decisions taken at the first meeting of the bilateral Joint Commission at the Secretary level held in New Delhi in March 2009. India's development cooperation continued with the announcement of a Line of Credit of US$ 4.7 million for the establishment of a Vocational Centre in Maseru. A grant of US$ 1.79 million is also being provided for the setting up of a full-fledged India-Lesotho Centre for Advance Education & Information Technology in Maseru; an MoU in this regard was signed in New Delhi in December 2009.

On the request of the government of Lesotho, it was decided that the Indian Army Training Team would continue its support to the Lesotho Defence Force until 2011. Utilisation by Lesotho of all 30 training slots offered under ITEC Programme, gifting of books to important institutions in Lesotho as well as a donation of over 1000 footballs and football nets were other aspects of ongoing bilateral development cooperation. Lesotho has confirmed its intent to avail of Government of India's Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP) for the Least Developed Countries (LDC) which provides for duty free and preferential market access to participating countries.

Madagascar

India has a long-standing cordial relationship with Madagascar. The historical and civilizational ties between the two countries are being further nourished by 20,000 strong Indian diaspora which is playing a vital role in the social, economic and cultural life of Madagascar.

In 2009, India approved a Line of Credit of US$ 25 million for agricultural projects to Madagascar to enhance productivity of rice with a view to ensure its food security.

Government of Madagascar signed an MoU in April 2009 with Telecommunication Consultancy India Limited (TCIL) for setting up of Pan-African e-network in the country. TCIL has already forwarded the equipment and Madagascar will start availing of quality tele-education and tele-medicine facilities from India's prominent universities and super-speciality hospitals in the near future.

Government of Madagascar has also expressed its intent and has submitted the necessary documentation to avail of India's offer of Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme for LDCs.

Taking into account, the huge potential of Madagascar in mining, infrastructure, agriculture, power, energy, health and education, a number of Indian prominent companies including Tatas, Reliance, Birlas, ESSAR, etc. have evinced their interest in various investment opportunities in the country. As a result, businessmen from India's private sector have been visiting Madagascar and have been interacting with the private and government functionaries.

Government of Madagascar has recently signed an MoU with an Indian company Varun Global SARL for development of agriculture in the country. To start with, the company has been given 3400 acres of arable land to grow rice, corn and lentils. The land has been given on a long lease of 50 years and subsequently extendable for a further period of 99 years. The company has imported tractors and skilled manpower from India to commence its pilot project in Diego Suarez in northern Madagascar.

Malawi

India-Malawi relations continued to be friendly and cordial. Malawi successfully held the Presidential and

Parliamentary elections on 19 May, 2009. The incumbent President Mr. Bingu wa Mutharika secured a decisive victory in the Presidential election and his party secured a majority in the Parliamentary elections also. Bilateral trade is growing at a steady pace at about 30%. India's exports to Malawi grew by 29.08% in 2007-2008 compared to 2006-07 and India's imports from Malawi showed an increase of 35.54% in comparison of the previous year. A US$ 30 million Government of India line of credit extended to Malawi in 2008 is being well utilized to finance the projects in areas of irrigation, tobacco threshing and one village one project. Telecommunication Consultancy India Limited (TCIL) completed the work of setting up facilities in March 2009 in Malawi for tele-education, tele-medicine and tele-conferencing under the Pan African E-Network project. President of Malawi Mr. Bingu wa Mutharika, who studied in India, has expressed his keenness to further develop cooperation with India particularly in the technological field. Malawi has been allotted 40 slots under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) civilian training programme for the year 2009-2010. Most of the slots have been utilized.

The Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari accompanied by his spouse Smt. Salma Ansari paid an official visit to Malawi from 7-9 January, 2010. He was accompanied by Minsiter of State for Labour and Employment Shri Harish Rawat, three Members of Parliament, senior officers and media. A business delegation separately accompanied the Vice President's delegation. Malawi has utilized US$ 30 million line of credit extended in 2008. The Vice President announced a new line of credit of US$ 50 million to Malawi for its developmental projects. He also announced a grant of US$ 1 million as relief for earthquake which recently hit some parts of Malawi.

The following agreements were signed during the visit:

1. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
2. Protocol for Consultations between Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malawi and Ministry of External Affairs of India.
3. National Small Industries Corporation of India and One Village One Product of Malawi for mutual cooperation for the development of small enterprises in Malawi.

Mauritius

Relations between India and Mauritius are historical and long-standing. During the year, India continued its multi-dimensional engagement with Mauritius. Relations in the political, economic, defence and security areas besides cultural cooperation continued apace. Discussions on bilateral relations and other issues of regional and international significance took place between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius on the margins of Commonwealth of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2009 in Port of Spain in November 2009. Mauritius continued to be the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. India was the largest import source for Mauritius. India's defence and security cooperation with Mauritius was reinforced through the visit of naval ships on both goodwill visit and to carry out hydrographic related activities. The *Dhruv* Advanced Light Helicopter was handed over to Mauritius on 3 November, 2009. The agreement for the supply and installation of Coastal Surveillance Radar System was signed in November 2009. Mauritius' students continued to avail of educational scholarships for further studies in India. Mauritius also looked towards India for enhanced cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology and in Science & Technology.

Shri Tulsi Ram, Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, accompanied by Shri Goverdhan Singh, Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha visited Mauritius from 21-25 June, 2009 to study the procedure and functioning of the National Assembly of Mauritius. The visit formed a part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Study Tour. The Himachal delegation called on the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius.

The Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat was conferred the *Doctor Honoris Causa* in Science (Economics) by the University of Technology, Mauritius on 1 August, 2009.

A delegation led by Mr. Mohammed Asraf Ally Dulull, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Mauritius visited Hyderabad from 12-14 August, 2009. During the visit, an MoU for sharing of Andhra Pradesh's *e-procurement* platform was signed on 13 August, 2009.

Dr. Arvin Boolell, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius attended the Informal Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in New Delhi from 3-4 September, 2009.

Mr. Angidi Veeriah Chettiar, Vice President of Mauritius was on a private visit to India from 20 October-3 November 2009.

Mr. Lormus Bundhoo, Minister of Environment and National Development Unit of Mauritius participated in the "Climate *Change: Technology Development and Transfer*" Conference in New Delhi from 22-23 October, 2009.

Shri K. Mohandas, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Mauritius from 27-28 October, 2009 in connection with the *Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention* 2010.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Mauritius from 1-3 November, 2009 as the Chief Guest in the celebrations commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers from India to Mauritius. Dr. Tharoor called on Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius and Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius. He had interactions with several Ministers of Mauritius. During the visit he handed over the '*Dhruv*' Advanced Light Helicopter on 3 October, 2009 to Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. An India-Mauritius Inter-Governmental MoU for the supply of the Coastal Surveillance Radar System from India to Mauritius was signed on 3 November, 2009. Dr. Tharoor addressed the University of Mauritius on the theme "*India-Africa: Partners in Development*". He visited the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC).

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius was on a private visit to India from 29 November-18 December 2009.

The Indian Naval Survey Ship INS *Nirdeshak* carried out hydrographic survey of Mauritian waters from 10 March-17 April 2009. The navigational charts of the Port Louis Harbour, Port Mathurin, Agalega and survey sheets of the Saya de Malha banks along with its digitised data and fair sheet of the survey of the central part of the St. Brandon Island were handed over to Dr. Abu Twalib Kasenally, Minister of Lands and Housing of Mauritius. Indian Naval Sailing Vessel INSV *Mhadei* visited Mauritius from 30 May-9 June 2009 on her maiden long distance voyage. The voyage was undertaken as preparatory training for "*Sagar Parikrama*", Indian Navy's first solo circumnavigation expedition. Indian Naval Ship INS *Shardul* and Indian Coast Guard Ship INCG *Varuna* visited Mauritius from 17-21 October, 2009. The visiting ships imparted harbour training to the National Coast Guard of Mauritius (NCG) on topics which included inter alia fire fighting, damage control, search and rescue operations, and anti-piracy operations. The NCG Commando team interacted with the Marine Commando Team onboard the ships.

A joint venture of the Apollo Group of Hospitals, Apollo Bramwell Hospital was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr. Navin Ramgoolam on 19 August, 2009.

Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) completed the work in Mauritius relating to all the three nodes – tele-education, tele-medicine, and the VVIP node – of the Pan-African e-Network Project. Mauritius was selected to host a Super Speciality Regional Hospital in the Eastern Africa Region in addition to the existing tele-medicine centre of the Pan-African e-Network Project.

According to the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for the financial year 2009-10, exports from India to Mauritius are projected at US$ 956. 25 million (Rs. 4,398.13 crores) and imports from Mauritius to India at US$ 13.93 million (Rs. 64.05 crores).

According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from Mauritius to India during the period April 2000 to August 2009 amounted to US$ 43.14 billion, providing for 44% of the total FDI into India over this period. During financial year 2008-09, FDI inflows from Mauritius to India amounted to US$ 11.2 billion. Mauritius remained the single largest source of FDI into India. According to Reserve Bank of India, India's outward FDI (cleared proposals) to Mauritius amounted to US$ 2049 million, approximately 10 % of the total outward FDI in financial year 2008-09. Mauritius ranked sixth among the list of destinations for India's outward FDI.

Dr. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade handed over on 9 July, 2009 a demand draft for US$ 500,000 (US Dollars five hundred thousand only - equivalent to Indian Rupees two crore forty three lakh seventeen thousand nine hundred forty six only) as a further contribution of the Government and the people of the Republic of Mauritius to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. This was in response to the devastating floods in Bihar in 2008.

Various cultural troupes continued to be sent to Mauritius by India under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

An India-Mauritius Protocol on Sale of Navigational Charts was signed on 2 April, 2009.

An India-Mauritius Inter-Governmental Agreement for the establishment of a telemetry, tracking and telecommand station for satellites and launch vehicles and cooperation in the fields of space research, science and applications was signed in Port Louis on 29 July, 2009.

An MoU on Plant Health Cooperation between the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture of India and the National Plant Protection Office, Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security of Mauritius was signed on 13 October, 2009.

Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Mauritius from 17-22 January 2010 at the invitation of Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius. During the visit, Speaker, Lok Sabha called on President and Prime Minister of Mauritius, as well as held meetings with the Speaker of National Assembly of Mauritius, Foreign Minister of Mauritius as well as Leader of Opposition.

Mr. Anil Kumar Bachho, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping of Mauritius, and Mr. Vasant Kumar Bunwaree, Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources of Mauritius, visited New Delhi to attend the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas from 6-8 January, 2010.

Dr. R. Sithanen, Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Mauritius visited India from 18-21 January, 2010 on an investment mission. He met with Minister of Finance and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

Dr. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius visited Chennai to participate in the CII India-Africa Business Conclave from 21-23 January, 2010.

Mozambique

India's relations with Mozambique continued to be warm, friendly and mutually beneficial. The second India-Mozambique Joint Commission Meeting held on 19 February, 2009 in New Delhi and the second India-Mozambique Joint Working Group on Coal held in New Delhi on 30 March, 2009 added further momentum to bilateral cooperation.

A six member delegation of International Coal Ventures (Consortium of Steel Authority of India Ltd., Coal India Ltd., RINL, NMDC and NTPC) visited Maputo from 23-25 April, 2009. The team also visited the coal mining sites in Moatize, Tete province and the Beira Port. The delegation also met the Vice Minister of Mineral Resources.

On 10 June, 2009 Mozambican President Armando Guebuza inaugurated the first phase of the rural electrification Project by commissioning the 33 KV Power station in Gaza province. The station was set up by the Overseas Infrastructure (India) Pvt. Ltd., as part of the US$ 20 million line of credit granted by India to Mozambique.

A 30-member delegation of Indian drugs manufacturers and exporters under the auspices of PHARMEXCIL visited Maputo from 29 July-1 August 2009. During their stay, a Buyer Seller Meet was held on 30 July, 2009. They also held discussions with the Vice Minister of Health of Mozambican Government and discussed various issues relating to export of Indian drugs to Mozambique.

Coal India Ltd. finalized the formalities relating to grant of prospecting license from the Mozambican Government with regard to the mining concessions which they won for the two coal mining blocks at Moatize in Tete Province. They also formed an international subsidiary called Coal India Africana Limitada.

India extended a Line of Credit for US$ 30 million for rural electrification in the Mozambican provinces of Nampula, Zambezia, Inhambane and Gaza and a Credit Agreement in this regard was signed in April 2009.

Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme (ITEC) Programme, 30 training slots for Mozambique were sanctioned in 2009-10. In addition, 15 scholarships under ICCR's General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS) and another 12 Ayush scholarships are sanctioned in 2009-10.

The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) between India and Mozambique became effective from October 2009. The Agreement envisages creation of favourable conditions for fostering greater investment opportunities in both countries by encouraging and reciprocal protection of such investments. The bilateral trade between India and Mozambique in 2008 was US$ 172.775 million, which was approximately 14% higher than US$ 152.575 million in 2007. Mozambique's import from India increased from US$ 135.858 million in 2007 to US$ 144.374 million and its export to India also increased from US$ 16.71 million in 2007 to US$ 28.40 million in 2008.

Mr. Paulino Gregario, Manager (Operations), National Hydrocarbon Company (ENH), Mozambique visited India to participate in the second India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference held in New Delhi from 7-8 December, 2009.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs accompanied by Joint Secretary (East & South Africa) Shri Gurjit Singh visited Maputo from 13-14 January, 2010 to attend inauguration ceremony of President Guebuza's second term. During his stay in Maputo, he called on President Guebuza and also had meetings with Ministers of Science & Technology, Interior and Foreign Affairs.

Namibia

Indo-Namibian bilateral ties were further consolidated and strengthened in 2009. Namibia continued to support India's candidature for permanent membership to expanded United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and also for India's candidature to a non-permanent seat for 2011-12.

President of Namibia Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba paid a successful state visit to India from 30 August-3 September 2009. He was accompanied by high-level delegation consisting of five ministers viz. Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs, Water and Forestry, Mines and Energy, Defence and Director General of the National Planning Commission, senior officials and a strong business contingent. During the visit, five MoUs/ agreement were signed: (i) Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; (ii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Defence; (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources; (iv) MoU on Pan-African e-Network and (v) MoU on Waiver of Visas for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders.

During the visit, a number of announcement were made by India: (i) a Line of Credit of US$ 100 million over the next five years to be used in projects and supplies of products from India; (ii) grants-in-aid of US$ 10 million for the education and health sectors over the next five years; (iii) grant of over US$ 12 million for the establishment of the Faculties of Mining Engineering and IT at UNAM (northern campus); (iv) increase in the number of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots from 55 to 110 and the number of scholarships for bachelors, masters and doctoral programmes from 7 to 15.

Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Namibian Minister of Safety and Security visited India from 16-19 October, 2009. Dr. Iyambo met the Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and visited institutes in Delhi, Mussoorie and Chandigarh. Namibian Minister held extensive discussions during his visit and requested for India's assistance in the field of capacity building and training for Namibian police and security forces.

A six member Indian delegation led by Secretary (Mines) Smt. Santha Sheela Nair paid a successful visit to Namibia from 26 October-1 November 2009 for the Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Cooperation in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources. The Indian delegation called on President Pohamba, founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma and Minister of Mines and Energy Mr. Erkki Nghimtina & visited mines in Okurusu and Swakopmund. The Indian delegation also met a number of Namibian Exclusive Prospecting License holders for JV cooperation.

A 21-member delegation from the Electoral Commission of Namibia that included four MPs, representatives of various political parties and officials of the Electoral Commission visited Bengaluru on 15 April, 2009 to witness the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during General Elections in India. The delegation witnessed the election process in Bangaluru and visited the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) Plant to observe the manufacturing of EVMs.

An amount of Rs. 1 crore was donated by India towards flood relief in Namibia in April 2009. India's timely gesture and contribution made a positive impact and generated immense goodwill in Namibia.

A seven member delegation comprising of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), led by Shri Ramendra Kumar Gupta, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, UCIL visited Namibia, from 8-12 September, 2009. The delegation visited Rossing South Uranium Mine, Swakopmund and held discussions with a number of Namibian parties. During their visit, the delegation called on Minister of Mines and Energy Mr. Erkki Nghimtina and Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Hage Geingob.

A four member Diamond India Limited (DIL) delegation headed by its Chairman Shri P. S. Pandya visited Namibia and held discussions with Namibia Diamond Trading Company (NDTC) for direct sourcing of rough diamonds from Namibia. The DIL delegation succeeded in purchasing diamonds on 25 June, 2009 directly from NDTC. This was first time an Indian party purchased diamonds directly from Namibia.

The IT kiosks (Hole-in-the-Wall Project) set up in Windhoek under GoI grants-in-aid was formally inaugurated by Mr. Willem Konjore, Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and Shri Tsewang Topden, India's High Commissioner on 7 October, 2009.

The contract for the supply of two *Chetak* and one *Cheetah* helicopters to the Namibian Ministry of Defence by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was signed on 1 April, 2009 in Windhoek by the Permanent Secretary of the Namibian Ministry of Defence. The total value of the contract is US$ 9.515 million.

As part of the decisions taken at the India-Africa Foreign Summit 2008, a two-week capacity building programme on International Business was conducted by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in collaboration with the Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry from 21 September-2 October 2009 in Windhoek.

A two member delegation led by Major General Martin Pinehas, Commander of the Namibian Air Force, visited Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru, from 5-10 December, 2009 and held technical discussions regarding three helicopters being purchased by Namibian Defence Force. The contract for the supply of two Chetak and one Cheetah helicopters to the Namibian Ministry of Defence by HAL was signed on 1 April, 2009.

A six member delegation from Namibian National Council's Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs visited New Delhi from 14-18 December, 2009 on a study tour with the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and President of International Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Mr. Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Assembly, participated in the 20th Conference of the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers held in New Delhi from 4-8 January, 2010.

The Pan African E-network, MoU that was signed on 31 August, 2009 during President Pohamba's state visit to India, is in the initial process of implementation. A team from Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) is expected to visit Namibia in January-February 2010 to initiate implementation activities with the Namibian side.

Rwanda

India's relations with Rwanda were further strengthened in 2009.

Second tranche of US$ 60 million Line of Credit [out of a total of US$ 80 million] was approved for the construction of a 27.5 MW hydroelectric project on the Nyabarongo River being executed by BHEL.

According to the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for the financial year 2009-10, exports from India to Rwanda are projected at US$ 29.31 million (growth of 126.83%) and imports from Rwanda to India at US$ 2.35 million (growth of 253.55%).

Mr. John Rwangombwa, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Rwanda visited New Delhi from 14-16 January, 2010 for the purpose of signing the Line of Credit Agreement with EXIM Bank in respect of US$ 60 million LoC extended to Rwanda.

Seychelles

During the year 2009-2010, there were intensive bilateral interactions between India and Seychelles.

Shri Nalin Surie, Secretary (West) led an Indian delegation and visited Seychelles from 12-13 May, 2009. The delegation called on the President of Seychelles Mr. James Michel and Vice President Mr. Joseph Belmont. The delegation held meetings with Foreign Minister Mr. Patrick Pillay and with Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Transport Mr. Joel Morgan.

National Defence College delegation led by Rear Admiral V. S. Chaudhary visited Seychelles in September 2009. India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise/Training team was held in Seychelles in November 2009. Brigadier Leopold Payet, Chief of Defence Forces of Seychelles visited India from 26 July-1 August 2009. Indian Naval Ships *Nirdeshak* (April 2009), INS *Matanga* (May 2009), INS *Trishul* (June 2009), INS *Shardul* and Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS *Varuna* (October 2009) and INS *Savitri* (November 2009) visited Seychelles on goodwill as well as on anti-piracy mission. An Indian Naval contingent participated in the National Day Parade of Seychelles on 18 June, 2009. Nineteen civilians and ten defence personnel of Seychelles Government have availed scholarships under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme of Government of India this year.

South Africa

Relations with South Africa remained a foreign policy priority for India and the new governments formed after national elections in both countries strongly re-affirmed the importance of the India-South Africa strategic partnership. Ministerial exchanges, visits of senior officials and meetings of bilateral mechanisms continued throughout the year. Cooperation between the two countries on multilateral issues such as climate change, the global financial situation, reform of the UN system and the WTO Doha Round also remained close and effective.

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari represented India at the inauguration ceremony of Dr. Jacob Zuma as the President of South Africa in May 2009. Ministerial visits included that of Commerce and Industry Minister

Shri Anand Sharma, accompanied by an official and business delegation to South Africa from 21-24 August, 2009 during which he met President of South Africa Dr. Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe and several key Ministers on the South African side including his counterpart, Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Rob Davies. Commerce and Industry Minister also interacted with business leaders during the visit. South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane visited India in November 2009; she held wide-ranging bilateral talks with Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna on 13 November, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna also met with his South African counterpart on the margins of the IBSA Ministerial Meeting in Brasilia in August and during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September.

Other Ministerial visits to South Africa included visit of Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, Minister of State (independent charge) for Coal, Statistics and Programme Implementation to Durban in August to present the P. C. Mahalanobis award of the International Statistical Institute. Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Parliamentary Affairs, Earth Sciences and Personnel and Training visited Durban in October 2009 to attend the Conference of the Third World Academy of Sciences; a meeting of the IBSA Science & Technology Ministers was held on the margins of the Conference. Dr. Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Chattisgarh, accompanied by an official delegation as well as a business delegation from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, visited Johannesburg and Cape Town. Shri. Elamaram Kareem, Minister of Industries of Kerala visited Johannesburg in September 2009 to explore prospects for promoting business between South African companies and Kerala. From South Africa, Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Rob Davies visited India in September 2009 for the informal WTO Ministerial Meeting.

Senior official level visits included those of Secretary, Ministry of Textiles in March 2009 for a Mega Textile Show in Johannesburg and Cape Town, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to Durban and Johannesburg in October 2009 in connection with preparations for the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of Indians in South Africa, and visits of senior officials from India's Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in September and in October 2009. Other visits included those of Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs to Cape Town in September 2009 for the International Standards Organisation General Assembly Meetings. Comptroller and Auditor General of India Shri Vinod Rai visited Cape Town in November 2009 for the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Executive Committee Meeting.

Admiral Sureesh Mehta, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) undertook a four-day visit to South Africa in June 2009 at the invitation of Chief of South African Navy. Apart from service level interactions he also met the Acting Secretary for Defence. Issues concerning operational engagements, mutual cooperation in training, information sharing and IONS initiative (of which India is currently the Chairman) were discussed during the visit. Other defence cooperation related visits included those of Vice Admiral R. P. Suthan, Vice Chief of Naval Staff, in May 2009 as a part of BCCI Board of Directors' visit to South Africa. During the visit, he also met the Chief of South African Navy to discuss issues of long term planning and development of the two navies. Vice Admiral D. K. Dewan, Chief of Personnel, Indian Navy in April 2009 visited South Africa to discuss training initiatives between the two navies.

Bilateral economic relations remained strong but the global financial crisis and the South African economy slipping into a recession in 2009 affected bilateral trade. Trade declined by 3% from US$ 6.27 billion in 2007-2008 to 6.10 billion in 2008-2009 with India's imports accounting for US$ 4.55 billion and our exports to South Africa being valued at US$ 1.55 billion. Indian participation at South African business events continued. A CII led delegation attended the 11th Annual Power & Electricity Congress 2009 in Johannesburg in April 2009. A 30-member delegation led by ITPO participated in SAITEX and Africa Big Seven Exhibition in Johannesburg in July 2009. The second "Doing Business with India Conference" was held in July 2009 in Johannesburg. This year's edition featured a special session on India's Pharmaceutical industry and a PHARMEXCIL delegation of over 20 medium size companies exhibited their products during the Conference. Maharashtra was the partner state of the Conference and a special session was held to show-case it. The Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) led a delegation to participate in DECOREX Exhibition in Johannesburg in August 2009. A road show was organized for a delegation from Indian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) in Johannesburg in November 2009 to promote '*Elecrama 2010*' to be held in January 2010 in Mumbai. General Manager of RITES visited South Africa

to participate in the New Economic Partnership and Development (NEPAD) Transport Summit in November 2009. A 10-member delegation of Indian sports goods manufacturers, led by Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, visited Johannesburg for SOCCEREX Exhibition in November- December 2009.

Academic cooperation, which received an impetus by the launch of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA) in 2008 at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, moved forward with the appointment of an eminent Indian historian as Chair of CISA in October 2009. A group of 65 executives from the Global Executive Development Programme (GEDP) mid-career training for middle/senior management executives of the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) visited India in September 2009. A 100-member Railway delegation visited Johannesburg from February to May 2009 (in four batches) to participate in a joint training programme with Transnet, the state owned South African transport company.

A number of cultural troupes sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) visited various cities of South Africa including *Bharatnatyam*, music and *Bhangra* troupes. The third edition of the "*Shared History*" festival featuring Indian dance, music, art, cuisine and literature events was organized in September-October 2009.

The Finance Minister of South Africa Mr. Pravin Gordhan visited India from 6-9 January for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. Ms. Buyelwa Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa attended the BASIC Ministers Meeting from 23-25 January, 2010.

Shri Vijay Kumar, Special Secretary, Ministry of Mines led a delegation to the Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa from 31 January-5 February 2010.

Swaziland

Swaziland is an active member of African Union (AU) and South African Development Community (SADC). India established diplomatic ties with Swaziland in 1971. India's relations with Swaziland continued to be warm and friendly. Government of India sanctioned a Line of Credit for US$ 10 million to Swaziland in September 2009 for setting up of a Science and Technology Park. Seventeen training slots for Swaziland were sanctioned in 2009-10 under ITEC. Two scholarships under ICCR's GCSS scheme are also offered to Swaziland.

During 2007-08, the bilateral trade amounted to US$ 47.52 million compared to US$ 61.57 million in the previous year. The Indian exports were valued at US$ 10.35 million and Indian imports, US$ 37.17 million.

Tanzania

India's bilateral relations with Tanzania, traditionally warm and friendly, continued to expand during the year under report.

The bilateral relations also expanded in the field of Communications and IT with the implementation of the Pan Africa e-network and the setting up of the Centres for Excellence in Information Technology by the Government of India at the University of Dar-es-Salaam and the Dar-es-Salaam Institute of Technology.

On the economic front bilateral trade and investment with Tanzania witnessed new heights as India's trade with Tanzania stood at US$ 1.03 billion in 2008 ranking as the second largest trading partner of Tanzania and in terms of investment India ranks as the biggest investor in Tanzania crossing over US dollar one billion.

Prime Minister of Tanzania, Mr. Mizingo Kayanza Peter Pinda, visited India in September 2009, following the announcement of "*Kilimo Kwanza – Agriculture first*" Policy by Tanzania in July 2009. He led a delegation of the Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture & Food Security and Zanzibari Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, along with senior officials. During the visit PM Pinda called on Vice- President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari and met with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna. The focus of the visit was primarily on food security and agricultural development with specific objective of intensifying cooperation with India and learning from its experience.

The Tanzanian Minister for Industry, Trade and Marketing, Dr. Mary Nagu, visited India at the invitation of our Minister of Commerce and Industry to attend the Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Doha Round of WTO negotiations in New Delhi from 2-4 September, 2009. Tanzanian Minister's visit was important as Tanzania was a Spokesperson for the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in its negotiation in the WTO matters.

From the Indian side, the Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Arusha, Tanzania from 28 September-6 October 2009 leading a contingent of Parliamentarians and State Assembly Speakers to attend the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference.

Bilateral relations in other areas including culture, health care and higher studies have also expanded. India has emerged as the prime destination for advance medical

treatment. As cooperation in health care sector has become one of the fast growing areas, a delegation from the Apollo Hospital visited Dar-es-Salaam in July 2009 at the invitation of the Tanzanian Ministry of Health to carry out assessment of health facilities, out patient review, consultations and interaction with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. During the visit the delegation and the Tanzanian Ministry of Health also further deliberated on the proposal for establishing a super-speciality hospital in Dar-es-Salaam. The Tanzanian Planning Commission delegation visited India in May 2009 to learn from the Indian experience in the operationalisation of the role and functions of the Planning Commission in planning and management of development of Economy. The Tanzanian Comptroller and Auditor General Mr. L. S. L. Utouh, visited India in October 2009 to study India's system and strengthen working relationship between the two institutions.

Tanzania continues to be one of the biggest beneficiaries under our ITEC and Educational Scholarship Programme in Africa. Apart from the sponsorship under the above two programmes, India is also a preferred destination for continuing higher education by Tanzanian students, mainly on account of similar medium of Education and cost.

A delegation from the Plastic Export Promotion Council visited Tanzania and participated in the Tanzania Trade Show 2009. About seven Indian companies showcased their products in the Exhibition from 2-4 December, 2009. Also, an Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) delegation comprising of twelve companies visited Tanzania and held a Buyer-Seller Meet on 3 December, 2009. During the BSM, about 35 prospective Tanzanian companies participated. During the visit, the delegation also called on the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication and Science & Technology and a detailed presentation was made to the officials on e-Governance, e-procurement and Software Technology Parks that were developed in India.

In the cultural front a four member *Bharatnatyam* dance group sponsored by ICCR visited Tanzania in April 2009. The dance troupe gave performances both in Dar-es-Salaam and Zanzibar.

Uganda

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

Dr. Beatrice Wabudeya, Minister in-charge of Presidency, Mr. Freddie Ruhindi, Deputy Attorney General/Minister of State for Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Mr. Fred Omach, Minister of State for Finance of Uganda, visited Ahmedabad from 30-31 May, 2009 to hold discussions with CADILA. The delegation also visited Goa for discussions with CIPLA from 2-3 June, 2009.

Mr. Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Internal Affairs, visited India in June 2009. He met India's Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Ajay Maken during the visit.

Mr. Urban Tibamanya, Minister of State for Urban Development, visited India from 12-18 July, 2009. He met Minister of State for Urban Development Shri Saugata Roy on 14 July, 2009 and Minister of State for Railways Shri E. Ahmaed on 15 July, 2009. The Ugandan Minister of State also met the Minister of Finance, PWD and Urban Development of the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 15 July, 2009.

Mr. Rwamirama K. Bright, Minister of State for Agriculture of Republic of Uganda visited India from 5-9 October, 2009. He met with Prof. K. V. Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 8 October, 2009 and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector and follow-up of the MoUs signed on agriculture between the two countries.

Mr. Fred Mukisa, Minister of State for Agriculture in charge of fisheries visited India from 21-28 October, 2009 for a field visit to study techniques that can be used to enhance fisheries production in Uganda.

According to the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for the financial year 2009-10, exports from India to Uganda are projected at US$ 217.90 million (growth of 41.75%) and imports from Uganda to India at US$ 19.14 million (growth of 26.56%).

A two member delegation from ASSOCHAM visited Uganda from 23 August, 2009 for one week at the invitation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Government of Uganda.

A six member delegation from National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), Entebbe, Uganda visited Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other research institutes in India from 25-29 May, 2009.

CAPEXIL organized a Reverse Buyer Seller Meeting coinciding with the South Asian Print Congress from 28-29 September, 2009. Four Ugandan importers attended

the BSM at Goa and CAPEXIL provided air passage to the delegates.

Mr. Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Uganda from 27-28 January, 2010 for discussing cooperation in the field of oil exploration and production with Uganda.

Zambia

India-Zambia relations are marked by friendship, mutual understanding and spirit of cooperation. President Rupiah Banda empathized with India on Mumbai terrorist attacks. Zambian Minister of Mines, Mr. Maxwell Mwale who was the Chief Guest at Independence Day function at the Embassy on 15 August, 2009, expressed Zambia's support to India's fight against terrorism.

Bilateral trade showed a steady increase of about 40%. India's exports to Zambia grew by 29.08% in 2007-08 in comparison to 2006-07 and India's imports from Zambia, by 35.54%. A 25 member delegation of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) visited Zambia from 3-6 August, 2009. A Buyer-Seller Meet was organized on 4 August, 2009 which was inaugurated by Zambia's Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mr. Richard Taima. Ms. Esnat Mwape, Director General of the Pharmaceutical Regulatory of Zambia Mr. Rakesh N. Shhah, MD, Pharmanova Zambia Limited and Shri M. Krishna Swamy, MD Alliance Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Zambia participated in the Indo-Africa Pharma Business Meet held in Hyderabad from 25-27 September, 2009.

Telecommunication Consultants India Limited (TCIL) has completed the work of setting up facilities in Zambia for tele-education, tele-medicine and tele-conferencing for Head of State under India's Pan African E-Network project. 75 slots have been allotted to Zambia under ITEC civilian training programme. Most of these slots have been utilized by Zambia.

Lt. Gen. S. P. S. Dhillon, DCOAS (IS&T) visited Zambia from 18-21 March, 2009 and had meetings with Acting Defence Minister, Deputy Army Commander, Deputy Air Commander and Commandant of Defence Service Command and Staff College (DSCSC) of Zambia. A 19-member National Defence College (NDC) delegation visited Zambia from 10-15 May, 2009. They had meetings with the Deputy Defence Minister of Zambia and Heads of the Zambian Army and Zambian Air Force including other officials. It was the first ever visit of an NDC team to Zambia. From 3-6 June, 2009, a two member defence delegation led by Maj. Gen. Chander Prakash, Additional Director General (Staff Duties) visited Zambia in connection with the work of the Indian Military Advisory Team attached to the DSCSC in Lusaka.

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari accompanied by his spouse Smt. Salma Ansari paid an official visit to Zambia from 5-7 January, 2010. He was accompanied by Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shri Harish Rawat, three Members of Parliament, senior officers and media. A business delegation separately accompanied the Vice President's delegation. During the visit Vice President announced a new line of credit of US$ 75 million for developmental projects in Zambia and a grant of US$ 5 million for projects in health, education and social sectors. A Loan Agreement between EXIM Bank of India and the Zambian Ministry of Finance and National Planning was signed to extend to Zambia a US$ 50 million line of credit for the Itezhi Tezhi hydropower project in which TATA and ZESCO are joint venture partners.

Zimbabwe

The situation in Zimbabwe continues to be unstable with problems buffeting the fragile coalition cobbled together in February 2009 between the ruling ZANU-PF and the two factions of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). President Mr. Robert Mugabe, who has been ruling the country since its independence in 1980, is reluctant to share power with Prime Minister Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai.

There are signs of international re-engagement with Zimbabwe as the EU sent a high level delegation, the first since 2002, to meet the leaders from all Zimbabwean political parties in September 2009.

India's relations with Zimbabwe have been close and cordial. Assistance to Zimbabwe under the ITEC programme has been a regular feature of India's assistance to Zimbabwe for capacity building. ITEC is successful and much sought after programme in Zimbabwe. Starting with three Zimbabweans in 1985, over 400 Zimbabweans have been trained in short-term civilian courses in India under the ITEC programme. The number of utilized slots increased to 100 during 2009.

To commemorate the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence, Embassy of India in association with the Westridge High School and Hindoo Society of Harare organized Gandhi Walk and painting exhibition cum cultural programme on 2 October, 2009.

Prof. W. Ncube, Minister of Commerce & Industry visited India from 3-4 September, 2009 on the invitation of the

Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma for participating in the Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Doha Round of WTO negotiations. A 13-member CII delegation visited Harare from 23-25 June, 2009 to explore business/investment opportunities in Zimbabwe.

Installation of machines in the Tool and Die Workshop at India-Zimbabwe Technology Centre located at Harare Institute of Technology and the common facility at Small Enterprises Development Corporation (SEDCO) in Chitungwiza and Bulawayo has been completed and training of technicians by experts from India is underway.

India continued to participate in the annual Harare International Festival for Arts (HIFA) held in Harare from 1-6 May, 2009. India also participated in the annual Zimbabwe International Film Festival (ZIFF) held in Harare from 24 August-2 September 2009. An Indian film '*Vilapangalkkappuram*' (Beyond the Wall) screened in the International Images Film Festival for Women (IIFF) held from 30 November-8 December 2009.

India continued to interact and attend the meetings of Harare-based Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), which is a premier institution for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Africa. India is the first Asian country to have become a full member of the ACBF.

African Union

The Fourth Session of African Union Health Ministers' Conference with the theme "*Universal Access to Quality Health Services: Improve Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health*" was held in Addis Ababa from 7-8 May, 2009 with experts meeting taking place from 4-6 May, 2009. An Indian delegation led by Shri Rajeev Kher, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, accompanied by Executive Director of PHARMEXCIL, members from pharmaceutical companies like Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy's Lab, Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals Ltd. accompanied the delegation. The main concern of the delegation was to allay fears in the minds of some African countries that generic medicines produced and supplied by India to many countries were sub-standard and spurious. During its stay the delegation held discussions with visiting delegations from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Sudan, Egypt, South Africa, Libya and many NGOs like Clinton Foundation, PSI Ethiopia, SCMS and explained to them how the use of patented medicines over generic medicines.

The sixth meeting of the Pan-African E-Network's Steering Committee took place in Addis Ababa from 7-8 May, 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador of India who is also Permanent Representative of India to AU and AU Commissioner for Infrastructure Affairs, Dr. Elham M. A. Ibrahim. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Ausuf Sayeed, Joint Secretary (West Africa) who was accompanied by representatives from TCIL, IGNOU, Amity University and Apollo Hospitals. Representatives from more than 20 member countries participated in the deliberations.

The Mission which has permanent representation with AU and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and has partner status with Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) actively participated in various summit meetings, conferences, seminars, interactive sessions of these international organizations. After India hosted the first ever Africa-India Forum Summit in April 2008, India's interaction with AU has increased tremendously. Under the ITEC Programme for the year 2009-10, 15 slots were offered to ECA and AU has been offered 15 slots.

As a follow-up to the decisions taken at the Interagency Adolescent Female Sub-committee (IAFS) in April 2008, Shri Gurjit Singh, Joint Secretary (East & South Africa) visited Addis Ababa on 4 December, 2009 and held discussions with African Union to finalize the joint action plan. A delegation of the African Union is likely to visit India early next year so that the joint action plan could be announced.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Addis Ababa from 27-30 January, 2010 to participate in the African Union Summit being held there. He participated in the Ministerial Meetings as Observer.

In addition to calling on Ethiopian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, MoS held discussions with Chairperson of African Union Commission, Mr. Jean Ping. MoS inaugurated the Tele-medicine Centre of the Pan-African e-Network Project at the AU clinic. Joint Action Plan for the follow-up of the India Africa Forum Summit 2008 decisions was also discussed with African Union.

MoS also met Foreign Ministers of 15 African countries on the sidelines of the AU Summit and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.

Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA)

India is one of the cooperating partners of COMESA. High Commissioner of India to Zambia, who is Special Representative of India to COMESA Secretariat in

Lusaka, participated in the 13th COMESA Summit held in Victoria Falls Town in Zimbabwe from 7-8 June, 2009. India deputed an expert on energy to COMESA who completed one year deputation in June 2009 and submitted a report on "COMESA Integrated Energy Planning Strategy". Exim Bank of India has been providing credit lines to PTA bank which have been successfully used in COMESA countries. A total of US$ 60 million has so far been provided by the Exim Bank of India.

India-COMESA trade has increased from 5.31 billion in 2007 to 8.9 billion in 2008, an increase of 68%. During the Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, COMESA Business Council (CBC) signed an MoU with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi on 23 March, 2009. This provided a framework for cooperation between CBC and CII in economic, commercial and technological fields.

West Africa

Benin

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation at the first meeting of the India-Benin Joint Commission at Cotonou from 22-23 October, 2009. Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2009-2012 was signed.

Cape Verde

Mr. Jose Brito, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities, Republic of Cape Verde visited India from 18-21 November, 2009. Official talks outlined ways and means of further expanding and strengthening the bilateral economic relations between the two countries. Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed. Cape Verde promised to support India's candidature for non-Permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the years 2011-2012. India offered a US$ 5 million Line of Credit for setting up a Technological Park besides Rs. 10 million grant for meeting requirements in the education sector. One IT Centre of Excellence is also proposed to be set up in Cape Verde.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India from 27-30 October, 2009. Official talks were held with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna at which time US$ 263 million worth Lines of Credit for projects in power, railway sectors were announced. India offered to set up one IT Centre of Excellence and three working stations under the Hole-in-the-Wall Project, in DR Congo and also train Congolese women in solar electrification and water harvesting courses in the Barefoot College, Rajasthan. Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed.

Republic of Congo

A consignment of medicines worth Rs. 9.4 million was donated by India to the Republic of Congo.

Ghana

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs made a brief halt at Accra on 19 September, 2009 when he called on President Mr. John Evans Atta Mills.

Liberia

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Liberia from 16-19 September, 2009. He called on President Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and had wide ranging discussions with Acting Foreign Minister Mr. William V. S. Bull. Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations was signed. India offered to Liberia assistance in the form of US$ 2 million grant to meet immediate requirements in health & education sectors; 25 India-made buses; one IT Centre of Excellence; two Learning Stations under the Hole-in-the-Wall Computer Literacy project and capacity building & training of Liberian diplomats & police personnel. A 125-member Female Formed Police Unit from India is serving as part of the UN peacekeeping team, currently deployed to give security cover to the Liberian President.

Mali

India opened its resident Mission in Bamako, Mali. Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation visited India from 8-13 October, 2009. Agreement on political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations and MoUs with the EXIM Bank for operationalising Lines of Credit for [i] US$ 36 million electricity inter-connection project between Mali and Cote d'Ivoire and [ii] US$ 15 million in the field of agriculture were signed.

Niger

India opened its resident Mission in Niamey.

Senegal

Foreign Office Consultations was held on 20 October, 2009 at Dakar.

Sao Tome and Principe

Dr. Carlos Alberto Pires Tiny, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation & Communities held official talks with

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs in New Delhi on 1 December. India announced US$ 1 million grant for setting up a Technology Incubation-cum-Production Centre for development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector and another grant of Rs. 10 million for meeting immediate requirements in education and health sectors. India also agreed to favourably consider a Line of Credit of US$ 5 million for priority projects in the fields of agriculture, capacity building and infrastructure. Joint Statement issued mentioned Government of Sao Tome and Principe's support for India to become a Permanent Member of an expanded UN Security Council as also for a Non-Permanent seat for the term 2011-2012. Protocol on Foreign office Consultations was signed. Sao Tome and Principe joined the Pan-African e-Network Project as the 47th country.

Togo

Government of India sent a consignment of medicines for the people affected by floods.

The CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership 2010 held at New Delhi from 14-16 March, 2009 was attended by African and Indian official and business delegates.

7 Europe

Central Europe

Austria

For India and Austria, it was a special year marking 60 years of establishment of Indo-Austrian diplomatic relations. The bilateral relations were further strengthened through exchange of high level visits, business delegations and cultural troupes.

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of the Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Austria from 14-17 September, 2009. The Speaker called on Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer and met President of the National Council Mag. Barbara Prammer and Minister for European and International Affairs Dr. Michael Spindelegger. A meeting with the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Austrian Parliament was also organized. The Austrian Parliament also organized a special '*Democracy Workshop*' for our Speaker to mark the International Day of Democracy.

The Indo-Austrian Joint Economic Commission was held in Vienna from 12-13 October, 2009. A 19-member delegation from National Defence College visited Austria from 17-22 May, 2009.

In June-July 2009, '*Szene Salzburg*' organized Indian Classical Music performances in Salzburg with support from the Indian Embassy and ICCR. The festival was part of the events marking 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Austria. A '*Chalo India*' exhibition was organized by the Indian Mission in association with '*Essel Museum*' Vienna displaying about 100 works of Indian artists. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of Austria on 1 September, 2009 and the exhibition was open for three months.

The Indian Embassy also organized an "*Incredible India Evening*" in Vienna on 13 November, 2009 on the occasion of winning of Grand Prix Award from the International Committee of Tourism Film Festivals (CIFFT), Vienna by the Incredible India TV Commercial. The ceremony was attended by the Minister for Tourism, Kumari Selja.

The Austrian Vice Prime Minister & Finance Minister, Mr. Josef Pröll, Minister of Commerce, Mr. Reinhold Mitterlehner along with a high-level business delegation visited India from 17-19 February, 2010. The two Austrian Ministers met with their Indian counterparts and the Vice Prime Minister also called on the Vice President, Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson. This was the first high level visit from Austria after the visits of the Austrian President in 2005 and Foreign Minister in 2007.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

India-Bosnia relations are warm and friendly. Mr. Barisa Colak, Minister for Justice, Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited India from 28-29 October, 2009 and signed the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Mr. Mullappally Ramachandran led the Indian delegation. Discussions were also held on finalizing the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons and the Extradition Treaty. A Draft Air Services Agreement has also been finalized and could be signed in 2010.

Bulgaria

Relations between India and Bulgaria have been traditionally warm and cordial and continued to flourish during the year. Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ivailo Kalfin paid an official visit to India from 28 February-3 March 2009. He called on the Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari and met External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. An agreement for abolishment of visa regime in respect of diplomatic and official passport holders and the Programme for Cooperation in the fields of Education, Science and Culture for the period 2009-11 were signed during the visit.

Shri R. K. Mathur, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence of India, led a three member delegation to Bulgaria from 6-9 May, 2009 for the 14th Session of the Joint Committee on India Bulgaria Defence Cooperation. Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology of India, led a five member-delegation to Bulgaria from 13-16 May, 2009 for the Sixth session of

the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Science & Technology Committee meeting. The Programme of Cooperation in the field of S&T for the period 2009-11 was signed during the visit. The Indian side also offered 10 PhD scholarships for interested Bulgarian research scholars.

A 13-member Indian Council for Cultural Relations sponsored Himachal Folk dance group visited Bulgaria from 24-31 August, 2009 and participated in the 37th International Folklore Festival held in Bourgas and also gave performances in Varna and Sofia. An ICCR sponsored International Indology Conference was held in Sofia from 25-26 September, 2009 in which Indologists from India, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Estonia and Croatia participated. A delegation from the National Assembly of Bulgaria participated in the Seventh General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians' Association held in New Delhi from 19-22 November, 2009.

Croatia

Ms. Jadranka Kosor of Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) was sworn in as Prime Minister of Croatia on 5 July, 2009 succeeding Ivo Sanader who has resigned on 1 July, 2009.

The ninth Session of Indo – Croatian Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held in Zagreb from 5-6 March, 2009. The bilateral trade in 2008 was US$ 147 million, a growth of 27% over 2007. India's export was US$ 137 million.

A function to mark the International day of Non-Violence and 140th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was organized in the Croatian Parliament on 2 October, 2009. ICCR sponsored a 10 member Kathak dance group visited Zagreb from 9-13 March, 2009. A 23-member folk ensemble from Spandan Sanskrutik Trust Ahmedabad participated in the 12 international Folklore Festivals in Karlovac from 2-11 July, 2009.

Cyprus

Relations between India and Cyprus have been traditionally very close and friendly. India has consistently and unwaveringly supported a peaceful resolution of the Cyprus problem in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. India supports the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus, and respects the democratic choice exercised by the people of Cyprus in the April 2004 referendum. Cyprus has also extended its support to India on issues of vital concern to her.

Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, accompanied by Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development and other high level officials, business delegates and media persons, paid a State visit to Cyprus from 29-31 October, 2009 at the invitation of Mr. Demetris Christofias, President of the Republic of Cyprus. During her meetings with President Demetris Christofias, President (Speaker) of the House of Representatives, Marios Garoyian and the Archbishop of Cyprus, Chrysostomos-II, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed. While India reiterated its long-standing support to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus, President Demetris Christofias reiterated Cyprus' support to India's candidature for permanent seat in the UNSC. President Patil also delivered a key-note address at the India Business Forum, attended among others by the Cypriot Justice Minister Loucas Louca and representatives of the Cyprus Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Cyprus India Business Association and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Confederation of Indian Industries and Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries in India (ASSOCHAM).

Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance visited Cyprus from 30 September-2 October 2009 to attend the Annual Conference of Finance Ministers of the Commonwealth Countries, held in Limassol.

Czech Republic

Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, visited Prague from 28-30 June, 2009, to attend India-EU Ministerial *troika*. During the visit EAM had bilateral meetings with Czech President Mr. Vaclav Klaus, Prime Minister Mr. Jan Fischer and Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Mr. Jan Kohout.

Shri R. P. Agrawal, Secretary (Higher Education), led a delegation comprising of Chairman (University Grants Commission), and Director (IIT-Mumbai), from 26-28 April, 2009. A Joint Declaration on cooperation in the field of Education was jointly signed and both sides agreed on establishing a Joint Working Group on Education. As a follow up of the visit, a Czech delegation led by Deputy Minister for Research and Higher Education visited India from 7-11 December, 2009 for the first meeting of Joint Working Group on Education.

Shri Rajiv Kumar, Scientist, Department of Science and Technology visited Czech Republic from 21-22 May, 2009 to discuss programme of cooperation in field of science and technology. Prof. S. K. Brahmachari, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), led a five member delegation to Czech Republic on the invitation of President of the Czech Academy of Sciences from 17-18 September, 2009 to explore possibility

of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest. Shri Madhavan Nair, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), visited Czech Republic from 21-24 October, 2009 to take part in Space Exploration Conference. Meetings were organized with Czech institutes and companies in the Space sector.

The third meeting of Indo-Czech Joint Defence Committee was held in Prague on 2 April, 2009. During the meeting cooperation in defence field was reviewed and prospects for future cooperation were discussed. A three member delegation from Army Headquarters visited Czech Republic from 5-7 May, 2009 to attend Defence Exposition in Brno.

A Czech delegation led by Mr. Vlastimil Ruzicka, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport visited India from 7-11 December, 2009. During the visit first meeting of Joint Working Group on Education took place in Delhi. The Czech delegation visited educational institutions in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

A delegation from Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) led by Dr. Prahalada, Chief Controller visited Czech Republic from 13-17 December, 2009. During the visit the delegation had the meeting with Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Erik Geuss. They also had discussions at Czech Technical University, Brno Technical University, Institute of Physics and with Czech companies.

Shri Dinesh Rai, Secretary, Minsitry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises (MSME) visited Czech Republic from 11-13 January, 2010 Secretary, MSME was accompanied by a delegation from CII. He had discussions with Czech Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Mr. Milan Hovorka. He also had discussions with the Czech Chamber of Commerce Czech Technical University and Czech Invest.

Denmark

India and Denmark remained engaged in furthering their bilateral relation this year. Danish Prime Minister Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen paid a one day Working Visit to India on 11 September, 2009 as Host of the COP15 and met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The two leaders discussed issues related to Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP15), regional and bilateral issues. PM told Danish PM that India would play a constructive role in reaching a balanced and effective agreement at the COP15. An MoU on Cooperation in the area of Environment was signed during the visit. A CII business seminar on green technologies was addressed by the Danish Prime Minister. Prime Minister visited Copenhagen from 17-18 December, 2009 to participate in the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Ahead of Copenhagen Climate Summit COP15, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, visited Copenhagen from 9-11 October, 2009 and addressed the Global Editors' Conference on "*From Kyoto to Copenhagen: Confronting Global Warming and Achieving Energy Security*." The two sides agreed to explore prospects of cooperation in cleaning rivers and processing of waste to energy. Danish Minister for Climate and Energy Ms. Connie Hedegaard visited India from 22-23 October, 2009 to attend the "*High-Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer*," in New Delhi.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited Denmark from 28-29 September, 2009. An MoU on Labour Mobility Partnership aimed at structured recruitment of Indian skilled workers by Denmark was signed between the two countries. The two sides have also finalised the text of the Social Security Agreement.

The sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations took place between India and Denmark on 18 May, 2009 in New Delhi. The two sides had exchange of views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. A National Defence College (NDC) 19-member delegation visited Copenhagen from 10-16 May, 2009 as part of their study tour. Bilateral commodity trade between India and Denmark was US$ 1,249.7 million in 2008. Trade in Services trade between the two countries was at US$ 1,454.1 million in 2008.

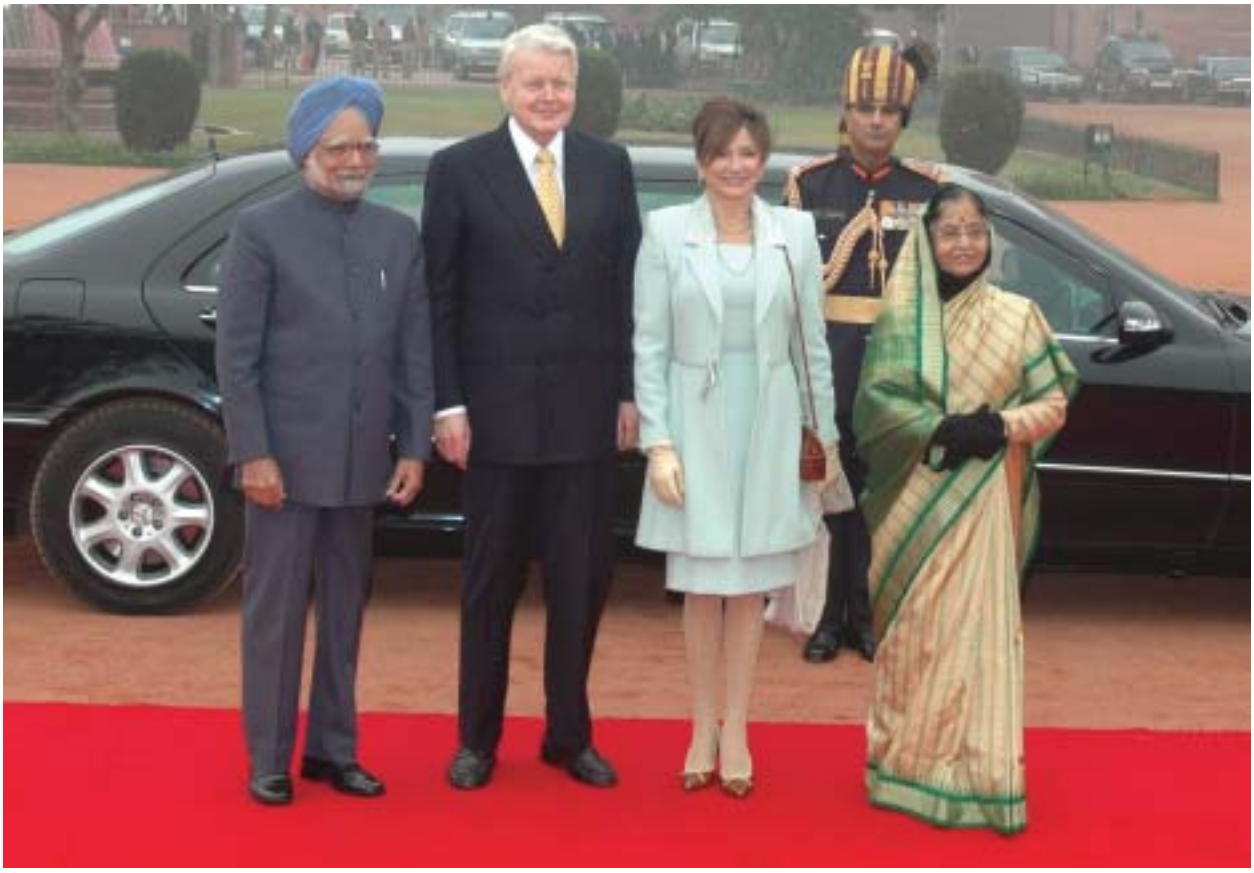
Estonia

Bilateral relations with Estonia continued to be cordial and friendly. Estonia appointed its first ever Ambassador to India with residence in Tallinn. 20 slots were offered to Estonia under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme of and these were fully utilised. Bilateral trade between Estonia and India reached Euro 49 million in 2008.

Finland

There has been considerable increase in high level exchanges between India and Finland. Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs Mr. Mauri Pekkarinen, visited India with an official and business delegation comprising 130 members in November 2009. This was the largest delegation from Finland to India. Finnish companies in the business delegation also participated in the

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen witnessing the signing agreements between India and Denmark, in New Delhi on 11 September, 2009.



President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at the ceremonial reception of the President, Iceland, Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 14 January, 2010.

15th Technology Summit & Technology Platform organized by the CII, for which Finland was the partner country. There has been significant increase in bilateral commercial and economic activities and tourist outflow from Finland to India. Bilateral trade between Finland and India reached Euro 739 million in 2008.

An eight member delegation comprising members of the Finnish Parliamentary Committee on Defence visited India in February 2009. Senior officers of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and Director of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical and Research (NIPER) visited Finland in April 2009 and met with the University of Helsinki and Teknologian Kehittanniskeskus (TEKES). NIPER is in negotiating with these Finnish organisations bilateral MoUs for collaborating and execution of joint R&D Projects. A delegation comprising senior officers of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Directors of the National Institutes of Technologies visited Finland in May 2009 and met with several Universities. Bilateral Air Services Agreement with Finland has been renewed. The 16th session of the Bilateral Joint Commission took place in Helsinki in October 2009.

Ms. Suvi Linden, Finnish Minister for Communications, accompanied by an official and business delegation visited India from 17-23 January, 2010 and signed a bilateral MoU on Data Security.

Forthcoming events: Finnish Prime Minister Mr. Matti Vanhanen is scheduled to visit India in February 2010 to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit being organized by TERI. Minister for Road Transport & Highways is expected to visit Finland in early 2010 to sign bilateral agreement on Cooperation in Road Transportation sector. Negotiations on revision of bilateral Economic Cooperation have since been concluded and it is also expected to be signed at an early date during the visit of Commerce Minister to Finland. These visits will significantly contribute in further strengthening bilateral friendly relations.

Greece

In Greece, a new government led by Mr. George Papandreou, leader of the erstwhile main opposition Pan-Hellenic Socialist (PASOK) party, came to power in a snap election held in October 2009.

Indian Naval Ships INS *Delhi* and INS *Beas* visited Piraeus port, the largest port in Greece, from 18-21 July, 2009. Coinciding with the visit of the Naval Ships, Vice-Admiral S. Bhasin, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Fleet, also visited Greece and held useful discussions with Greek Defence officials. Passex with Hellenic Navy was held on 21 July, 2009. Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) opened its office in Piraeus, Athens. This is the first IRS office beyond the Asian Continent and the first Indian company to be established in Greece.

India participated as "*Honoured Country*" in the Thessaloniki International Fair, Greece's most prestigious trade fair. Six Government departments/bodies and 66 companies took part in the Fair. Indian film and food festivals were also held.

Various bilateral and other visits from India to Greece which took place include visits by Justice Mr. G. N. Ray, Chairman, Press Council of India, and former Judge of Supreme Court of India, Dr. Subhas Pani, Chairman & Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation, Shri K. B. L. Mittal, Secretary (Railways), and Shri S. M. Acharya, Secretary (ESW) of Ministry of Defence.

Forthcoming events: Prime Minister of Greece Mr. George Papandreou will visit New Delhi from 4-7 February, 2010 to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. He will address the DSDS and also meet the PM and the UPA Chairperson to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues.

Hungary

India's relations with Hungary are close, friendly and multifaceted. Regular high-level visits have provided the necessary fillip to our bilateral relations. Foreign Minister of Hungary, Dr. Peter Balazs, paid an official visit to India from 17-21 January, 2010 when he had extensive talks with External Affairs Minister on 19 January, 2010. The two sides stressed on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, IT, pharmaceuticals, auto-components, energy, defence & security, S&T, agriculture sectors and also in consular and cultural matters, including sports. There were also discussions about Civil Nuclear Energy cooperation. The Hungarian FM also met MoS (Commerce & Industry). The Hungarian FM visited Mumbai from 19-21 January, 2010 when he met the Governor of Maharashtra. The current year witnessed enhanced cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including Science and Technology. The India-Hungary S&T Fund for Euro 2 million to promote joint research projects has been operationalised and bilateral S&T projects will be selected for funding soon. Two joint workshops on Science and Technology were also organized in India and Hungary in September and November 2009.

Forthcoming events: Minister of Commerce and Industry is to visit Budapest for the Joint Economic Commission Meeting in February 2010, when a meeting of the Joint Business Council would also be held. MoS Smt. Praneet Kaur may also visit Hungary in the first quarter of 2010. During the visit, MoS would inaugurate the Indian Cultural Centre at Budapest.

Iceland

India's relations with Iceland continue to be close and friendly. Iceland continued to provide valuable support for India's candidature for election to UN bodies and other international organizations. Trade and investment relations with Iceland have broadened and diversified. Negotiations on Iceland's proposal for a Free Trade Agreement between European Free Trade Association countries and India continued during the year with the fourth being held in September 2009.

President of Iceland Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson and First Lady Ms. Dorrit Moussaieff, along with a 20-member strong business delegation paid a State visit to India from 11-17 January, 2010. President Grimsson had meetings with President, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Leader of Opposition and Chairman of UPA. In their meeting, Prime Minister and President Grimsson discussed bilateral and international issues, including cooperation in the field of geo-thermal energy, IT, carbon sequestration and recycling, glaciological studies, earthquake prediction and, oil exploration by Indian companies of Iceland's coast. He was also conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 by President. President of Iceland also participated in a workshop on renewable energy. Besides Delhi, President Grimsson also visited Mumbai and Bangalore, where he met the Governor of Maharashtra and Karnataka, and had meetings with Indian businessmen.

India's Ministry of Tourism organized a Tourism Seminar to promote tourism between India and Iceland in September 2009. Following this an Icelandic delegation from the tourism sector is participating in the SATTE World Exhibition in New Delhi in February 2010. For the first time two regional Indian films, one Tamil and one Telugu have been partly filmed in Iceland.

Latvia

Bilateral relations between India and Latvia are cordial and growing. India-Latvia bilateral trade in 2008-2009 stood at US$ 100.63 million against US$ 71.05 million in 2007-2008 registering an increase of 41.64%. Latvia's diplomats have been attending the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, conducted by the FSI in Delhi. Hindi courses in India have also been availed of by Latvian nationals.

Lithuania

India and Lithuania share historic relations which continued to expand during the current year. During this year, the first woman President of Lithuania, Ms. Dalia Grybauskaite assumed the Presidency of Lithuania on 12 July, 2009. Foreign Minister of Lithuania, Mr. Vygaudas Usackas, accompanied by Economy Minister Mr. Dainius Kreivys, visited India from 2-5 December, 2009 and had meetings with External Affairs Minister and Minister for New and Renewable Energy. He also visited Mumbai and participated in the opening ceremony of the Honorary Consulate of Lithuania in Mumbai. Mr. Usackas, along with a business delegation, participated in the Lithuania-India Business Forum in Mumbai. Bilateral trade between India and Lithuania has increased form Euro 32.23 million to Euro 292.69 million in 2008 as a result of export of a major consignment of fertilizers to India.

The two sides have started negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and the first round of negotiation took place in Vilnius from 18-19 May, 2009.

Macedonia

During this period, the Macedonian Government has appointed an Honorary Consul in Kolkata with consular jurisdiction over the State of West Bengal. A 13-member ICCR sponsored Himachal Folk dance group visited Macedonia from 1-4 September, 2009 and gave performances in Skopje and Valandovo.

Malta

India – Malta relations have always been cordial and long-standing. Malta-India interests are also linked to Maltese initiative on the Law of the Sea as well as environment concerns. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta, Dr. Tonio Borg, paid an official visit to India from 6-11 January, 2010. Besides Delhi ha also visited Chennai and Agra. In Chennai Deputy PM of Malta inaugurated the Honorary Consulate of Malta in the presence of Governor of Tamil Nadu and in Delhi he inaugurated the High Commission of Malta, which has been established in July 2007. Deputy PM of Malta held discussions on bilateral and regional issues with

Smt. Preneet Kaur. The two sides stressed on the need to strengthen trade and economic ties He also had a meeting with External Affairs Minister where international issues were discussed. A delegation from Malta visited New Delhi in February 2009 for second round of negotiations on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. A Trade and Investment Promotion Delegation visited Mumbai and New Delhi from 21-29 November, 2009. The main areas of engagement between the two countries are in the health sector, IT services and shipping.

Though, bilateral trade between India and Malta has shown downward trend during 2007-2008, our exports again saw upward trend during 2008-2009 December-April Quarter and were 60.22 million.

Montenegro

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Yugoslavia (Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), of which it was a constituent till June 2006. There is considerable goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro. Montenegro also conveyed its support to India's candidature for the membership to the Executive Board of UNESCO. The first round of Indo-Montenegro Foreign Office Consultation was held in Montenegro on 21 July, 2009.

Montenegro was included as a partner under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to address the shortage of qualified and experienced skilled manpower. Five seats were allotted to Montenegro under ITEC for the period April 2009-March 2010.

Norway

Extensive interactions between the two countries continued during the year at both the ministerial and official levels. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, visited Oslo from 18-19 August, 2009. During his visit, he attended a briefing at Norwegian Geotechnical Institute on its activities and future plans in India and interacted with the Indian community in Oslo. Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Tourism visited Norway to attend a meeting of Board of Governors on Urban Poor Fund International (UPFI) on 27 August, 2009. She also inaugurated India Tourism Road Show to promote India as a tourism destination.

Norwegian Minister of Environment and International Development Mr. Erik Solheim visited India to attend the "*High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer*" in New Delhi from 22-23 October, 2009. During the said visit, the two sides signed an MoU in the Area of Climate Change and Implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism Projects of the Kyoto Protocol.

A delegation comprising of Ministers of Power of North Eastern States and officials of North Eastern Regional Power Committee, North Eastern Regional Load Dispatch Centre and Power Trading Corporation visited Norway from 4-14 June, 2009 on a study tour and had interactions with Norwegian power sectors officials and companies.

The Fifth Round of the India-Norway Foreign Office Consultations was held in Delhi on 16 June, 2009. During the Second meeting of the Joint Working Group on S&T in Oslo from 14-15 May, 2009, a Programme of Cooperation on S&T between India and Norway was signed. The First Joint Working Group meeting under the Educational Exchange Programme was held at Oslo from 13-14 August, 2009. India and Norway also finalised the text of a bilateral Social Security Service Agreement.

Forthcoming events: Norwegian Prime Minister Mr. Jens Stoltenberg is visiting India from 4-7 February, 2010 to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit being organized by Tata Environment and Research Institute. Norwegian Foreign Minister is scheduled to visit India on 2 March, 2010 for the Fourth round of India-Norway Joint Commission meeting, which he co-chairs along with External Affairs Minister.

Poland

There have been regular visits at various levels between India and Poland and relations have been continuously expanding. President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid a State visit to Poland from 23-26 April, 2009 accompanied by MoS Dr. Ashwani Kumar, three Members of Parliament and a business delegation. President held talks with the Polish President Mr. Lech Kaczynski, Prime Minister Mr. Donald Tusk and Parliament Speaker Mr. Bronislaw Komorowski. President addressed the Indian community and the Indo-Polish Economic Forum. In Krakow President met the Rector of Jagiellonian University and the Governor of Malopolskie province. Two agreements on Tourism Cooperation and in Health & Medicine sphere were signed during the visit.

Mr. Jacek Najder, Undersecretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited India from 7-9 October, 2009 for bilateral discussions. Reserve Bank of India Governor Dr. D. Subbarao visited Poland from 9-12 November, 2009 to attend a seminar on International

Monetary System organized by the National Bank of Poland.

Bilateral Trade has been growing at a healthy rate and was US$ 1,275 million in 2008. Poland was able to buck the recessionary trends in the EU and its economy is expected to grow at 1.4% in 2009.

Romania

Romania and India continued to support co-operate in multilateral fora on matters of common interest. Cultural exchange scholarships to Romanian nationals continued in the fields of music, dance and learning Hindi. ITEC training was availed of by several Romanian citizens. A Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Romania on Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement entered into force in October 2009.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) took place in New Delhi on 26 June, 2009. The Romanian delegation was led by Mr. Doru-Romulus Costea, Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian side was led by Shri Nalin Surie, Secretary (West), MEA.

Serbia

Relations between India and Serbia continued to remain cordial. Serbia remained an important player in the Balkan region and looks upon India as a major emerging global power. The Fifth Round of India-Serbia Foreign Office Consultations, held in Belgrade on 20 July, 2009 underscored the need for manifesting the feelings of friendship in other areas, particularly economic cooperation.

An Agreement on Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports, signed in September 2007, became operational with effect from 17 July, 2009. Following inclusion of Serbia as a partner country under ITEC Programme, five seats were allotted to Republic of Serbia under the programme for the year April 2009 to March 2010. Serbia conveyed its support to India's candidature for membership to the Executive Board of UNESCO.

Slovakia

Shri Dinesh Rai, Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, visited Bratislava from 22-25 June, 2009 to take part in the Conference titled "*Perspectives of Doing Business in India : Support for Slovak Businesses with Entry on the Indian Market*" organized by the National Agency for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Slovakia. A workshop was also organized where representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry, who had accompanied Secretary (MSME) to participate in the Conference, interacted with Slovak businessmen in "one-on-one" meetings. He along with the Ambassador of India to Slovak Republic called on Slovak Minister of Economy Mr. Lubomir Jahnatek to discuss ways of increasing economic cooperation between India and Slovakia. Trade between India and Slovakia in 2008 was US$ 244 million, an increase from US$ 228.5 million in 2007.

Slovenia

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur visited Ljubljana from 30 August-1 September 2009 to participate in the Bled Strategic Forum. On the sidelines of the Forum, MoS(EA) also called on the President of the Slovenia Dr. Danilo Tuerk and Foreign Minister Mr. Samuel Zbogar. During the visit of MoS(EA) an MoU was signed between ICCR and Faculty of Arts University of Ljubljana for establishment of Hindi Chair at University of Ljubljana. Dr. Arun Kumar Mishra, who has been nominated by ICCR, has taken up position in the Faculty of Arts University of Ljubljana on 16 November, 2009.

A Slovenian Parliamentary Friendship Group led by Mr. Jozef Jerovsek visited India from 23-27 November, 2009. The Slovenian Parliamentary delegation has informed that the city of Slovenj Gardec has been declared by the UN as the '*City of Peace*'. The Mayor of the city Mr. Matjaz Zanoskar is part of the delegation.

The first Slovenian Ambassador to India assumed charge in the Slovenian Embassy in New Delhi in the middle of September 2009. The seventh session of the Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Slovenia took place in Ljubljana on 29 September, 2009.

National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) coordinated the participation of 14 companies in the annual International Trade Fair in Celje from 9-16 September, 2009. Our Embassy in Slovakia organized an International Conference on Mathama Gandhi in Ljubljana on 2 October, 2009. Shri R. Bandyopadhyay, Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises participated in the 49 Governing Council Meeting of the International Centre for promotion of Enterprises in Ljubljana in June 2009.

Forthcoming events: President of Slovenia Dr. Danilo Turk is scheduled to visit India from

4-6 February, 2010 to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit being organized by Tata Environment and Research Institute. He will also deliver a talk on the Western Balkans at Indian Council of World Affairs.

Sweden

The exchange of bilateral visits between India and Sweden continued during the year. Swedish Prime Minister Frederick Reinfeldt accompanied by Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, Trade Minister Ewa Björling, and a business delegation visited India from 5-6 November, 2009 for the bilateral and India-EU Summit meetings. The two countries signed two MoUs on Cooperation on Defence and on Environment, and an Agreement in Fusion Research was signed between India and EU.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma, accompanied by an 18-member high powered official and business delegation visited Sweden from 15-16 September, 2009 and held meeting with Sweden's Minister for Trade Dr. Ewa Björling. The Joint Work Programme of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation was signed by two sides.

The Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, participated in World Water Week in Stockholm. India's Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder President of Sulabh International Social Service Organisation was conferred Stockholm Water Prize during this event.

Under the EU's Erasmus Mundus Scholarship and Academic Cooperation programme, a large number of Indian students and Post-doctoral researchers have joined Lund University and Karolinska Institute in Sweden. The Indian Embassy donated a set of 120 books on Mahatma Gandhi to Lund University and on *Gandhi Jayanti* Stockholm International School, in cooperation with the Indian Embassy observed the International Day of Non-Violence through a seminar on "*The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's Vision in Today's World*".

Indo-Swedish bilateral trade continued to grow and stood at US$ 2.6 billion in 2008-2009 against US$ 2.3 billion in 2007-2008, registering an increase of 15.40%.

The India-Sweden Health Week was held in New Delhi from 31 January-5 February 2010. In this connection, the Swedish Minister of Elderly Care and Public Health Care Ms. Maria Larsson along with a large delegation of officials visited India. The event was organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in pursuance of the Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Health signed in February 2009 and a MoU between Indian Council of Medical Research and the Karolinska Institute in August 2009.

A Swedish MP from the Moderate Party and Member of the Standing Committee on the Constitution, Ms. Margareta Cederfelt visited India from 22-27 February, 2010. She called on the Chairman and Members of the Indian Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice; Members of the National Human Rights Commission and the Supreme Court.

Switzerland

Bilateral relations were nurtured through visits during the year. A three member delegation led by Dr. M. S. Gill, Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports paid an official visit to Switzerland from 8-17 August, 2009. During his meeting with the Swiss Federal Councillor for Sports detailed collaboration in programmes on mountaineering, dope control in sports, coaching and training of mountaineering instructors were discussed. A five member delegation led by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Road Transport & Highways visited Switzerland from 11-12 August, 2009 and participated in a road show, '*Building India: Road Infrastructure Summit*', jointly organized by CII, ICICI, JM Financials & Swiss-India Chamber of Commerce. The Minister also addressed the CII-WEF '*India Highways Infrastructure Round Table*'.

A four member delegation led by the Minister of Textiles Shri Dayanidhi Maran, visited Switzerland from 25-28 October, 2009. Minister visited textile industrial units in Zurich. He also addressed a Convention on "*Collaborative Business Opportunities in Textile & Apparel Sector*". Ms. Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, led a four member delegation to India to attend the informal WTO Doha Round Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi from 3-4 September, 2009. The meeting aimed to revive Doha Round of negotiations.

A four member Indian delegation led of Department of Science and Technology visited Switzerland from 29 April-2 May 2009 for the First meeting of the Indo-Swiss Working Group on Science and technology. A four member delegation led by Shri C. B. Bhave, Chairman Securities and Exchange Board of India, visited Basel from 26-27 June, 2009 to attend the Plenary Meeting of the Financial Stability Board.

The Sixth Round of Foreign Office Consultations took place in New Delhi on 4 December, 2009. The entire

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, at the delegation level talks, in New Delhi on 5 November, 2009.

President of France, Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy receiving the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh for the working lunch, at Hotel Marigny, in Paris on 14 July, 2009.

gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues of concern to both sides was discussed. A two member delegation led of Ministry of Finance, visited Switzerland from 9-13 November, 2009 for negotiations on the new comprehensive Protocol which will amend the existing Indo-Swiss Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), signed in November 1994.

On 3 September, 2009 India and Switzerland signed the bilateral Social Security Agreement in New Delhi. The fourth round of negotiations for the India-EFTA Trade and Investment Agreement (TIA) was held in Delhi from 22-23 September, 2009

Turkey

Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma (CIM) visited Ankara from 7-8 September, 2009, to take part in the Ninth session of Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) held on 8 September, 2009. During his visit, CIM met the Turkish State Minister for Foreign Trade Mr. Zafer Çaðalayan, Turkish Minister for Trade and Industry Mr. Nihat Ergun and the Turkish co-Chair of JCETC State Minister Mr. Mehmet Aydýn. India Turkey Joint Business Council meeting was held in Istanbul on 9 September, 2009.

Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee attended the Annual Meeting of International Monetary Fund in Istanbul from 2-7 October, 2009. During his visit, he met Ali Babacan, the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy on 7 October, 2009 and discussed various issues concerning the bilateral economic relations and the ongoing global economic crisis.

Besides these visits, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Shri Prafulla Patel visited Istanbul from 30-31 October, 2009 to attend inauguration of the new international terminal of Sabiha Gokcen International Airport and Minister of Textiles Shri Dayanidhi Maran visited Istanbul from 1-4 November, 2009 and held a textile Road-show on 3 November, 2009 for attracting investments, and exploring trade opportunities.

In the calendar year 2008, the volume of bilateral trade reached a figure of over US$ 3 billion with US$ 2.45 billion as India's exports to Turkey. Both sides envisage raising this figure to US$ 5 billion by year 2011. On 23 September, 2009 PSLV C14 rocket of the Indian Space Research Organisation carried Turkey's first nano-satellite ITUpSAT1, designed and manufactured by the Istanbul Technical University, ushering the bilateral space cooperation into a new phase.

The Seventh session of the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) at Secretary Level was held on 9 April, 2009 and at Joint Secretary/Director General level on 16 December, 2009 in Ankara.

Forthcoming events: The Turkish President Abdullah Gul is visiting India from 7-11 February, 2010. He will be accompanied by a large business delegation which will have meetings in both New Delhi and Mumbai.

West Europe

Belgium

India and Belgium enjoy friendly relations with trade & commerce forming an important component. Belgium was India's ninth largest trading partner globally in 2008-09.

On 19 November, 2009 the Belgian Prime Minister Mr. Herman Van Rompuy was selected by the EU leaders to become the first President of the European Council under the Lisbon Treaty. A new cabinet was sworn in with Yves Leterme, the Foreign Minister in the previous Government, as Belgium's new Prime Minister by the King of Belgians on 25 November, 2009. The new cabinet includes all the members of the last cabinet with same portfolio as was in the government of Van Rompuy. The only two changes were Steven Vanackere succeeded Yves Leterme as Belgian Foreign Minister and Ms. Inge Vervotte replaced Mr. Vanackere as Minister for publicly owned businesses. It is the second time Leterme has become the PM of Belgium.

The India-Belgium Social Security Agreement, the first one to be signed with any country in Europe, became operational with effect from 1 September, 2009.

Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited Belgium from 30 September-3 October 2009. He jointly inaugurated the India Calling Conference 2009 in Brussels on 30 September with the then Belgian Foreign Minister and current Prime Minister Yves Leterme and met his Belgian counterpart Ms. Lauratte Onkelix, Deputy PM & Minister for Social Affairs and Health.

The 11th round of Economic JCM between India and Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was held in Brussels from 4-5 May, 2009 after a gap of eight years. Indian delegation was led by the Commerce Secretary Shri G. K. Pillai & the BLEU delegation was led by Ambassador Jan Van Dessel, Director General for Bilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium. The Luxembourg delegation was led by Director, International Economic Relations in the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. The two sides reviewed the ongoing cooperation and discussed possible cooperation in the fields of transport, iron and steel, diamonds trade, tourism, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, ICT, aeronautics, investment and market access, financial sectors, science and technology etc. India and Belgium set annual bilateral trade target of Euro 12 billion to be achieved by 2012 from the level of Euro 8.8 billion in 2008.

Among other visits, a three member delegation led by Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Ports), Ministry of Shipping visited Belgium from 5-9 October, 2009 for attending the Working Group Meeting under the MoU in the area of Shipping and Ports. During the visit, the delegation signed a new Letter of Intent for period 2010-2012 to cooperate in the ports & shipping areas with the Flanders Government to implement the MoU signed in 1997.

Prince Phillip, the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Belgium is scheduled to pay an Official Visit to India leading an Economic Mission from 20-27 March, 2010, the fourth such Mission during the last fifteen years. A large business and official delegation is expected to accompany him. The Vice President will be the official host. Other places to be visited by the Crown Prince are Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru. The visit in March 2010 is meant to consolidate bilateral economic relations between India and Belgium.

France

Relations between India and France have traditionally been close and friendly. With the establishment of the strategic partnership in 1998, there has been significant progress in all areas of bilateral cooperation through regular high-level exchanges at the Head of State/Head of Government levels and growing commercial exchanges including in strategic areas such as defence, nuclear energy and space. France was the first country with which India entered into an agreement on nuclear energy following the waiver given by International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group enabling India to resume full civil nuclear cooperation with the international community. Today our relations are growing fast in important areas for the future, with wide-ranging cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields and on defence, space, science & technology, and education.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited France from 13-14 July, 2009. He was the guest of honour at the French National Day celebrations (*Bastille Day parade*). A 400 strong contingent of the Indian armed forces took part in the parade and led the march past. This was the first time ever that Indian troops took part in another country's national day parade. President Sarkozy hosted a lunch in honour of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, after which PM and the President addressed the larger gathering of invitees to the President's National Day reception at the Elysée. PM extended an invitation to President Sarkozy and his wife to visit India.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Mr. Sarkozy had a luncheon meeting on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad & Tobago on 27 November, 2009 and discussed climate issues and reviewed bilateral ties.

The 20th Round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 17 January, 2009 between NSA Shri M. K. Narayanan and the Diplomatic Adviser to President Sarkozy Jean-David Levitte. The bilateral Foreign Office Consultations were held in Paris on 5 February, 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Shri Shiv Shankar Menon while the French side was led by Secretary General Gérard Errera. The 21st round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held on 18 January, 2010 in New Delhi, between NSA and the Diplomatic Adviser to President Sarkozy, Mr. Jean-David Levitte, from the French side.

Indo-French bilateral trade decreased to Euro 5.69 billion (US$ 8.08 billion) in the last 12 months (September 2009-October 2008), reflecting the difficulties caused by the global economic crisis, as compared to Euro 6.96 billion (US$ 10.39 billion) during the corresponding 12-month period a year earlier (September 2008-October 2007), a decrease of 18.24%. The trade balance was in favour of India at Euro 409.6 million. The newly formed Indo-French CEO's Forum held a preliminary meeting in Paris on 26 June, 2009 and the first meeting of the Forum was held in New Delhi from 28-29 November, 2009.

French Minister for Foreign Trade Ms. Anne-Marie Idrac, visited India from 26-29 October, 2009. The focus of the visit was on collaboration in the food processing sector. During her visit, Ms. Idrac *inter alia* met Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, and Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Urban Development.

Indo-French dialogue on economic and technical issues is conducted in a structured way through Joint Working Groups. During the year JWG meetings on IT & Telecom, Urban Development & Urban Transportation; Agriculture, Roads and Environment were held. Bilateral

Air Services Talks were held, from 10-11 February, 2009, in Paris and an MoU on the Bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed on the occasion.

Defence cooperation with France is a key aspect of our overall bilateral relationship. The High Level Committee on Defence Cooperation held its 12th session in Delhi on 30 November, 2009 and reviewed bilateral ties covering strategic perceptions, collaboration in R&D and procurement issues. Earlier under the framework of the structured talks on Indo-French Defence Cooperation several meetings were held namely: the Indo-French Research Forum (IFRF), held in India, from 5-7 October, 2009; Army/ Navy/ Air Staff talks, held in India from 25-27 November, 2009; the Military Sub Group (MSG) meeting, held in India on 30 November, 2009; and the Indo-French Sub-Committee on Defence Industry, Procurement, Research and Technology, held in New Delhi on 30 November, 2009. Defence Minister Hervé Morin visited India from 3-4 December, 2009 and held discussions with Defence Minister. The Indo-French Naval Exercise, *Varuna* 2009 was held for the first time in the Atlantic Ocean, in the waters of France off the coast of Brittany from 27 June-4 July 2009. From the Indian side, INS *Delhi*, *Brahmaputra*, *Beas* and the tanker INS *Aditya* participated in the exercise. Planning is underway for the 2010 Indo-French Air Force Exercise *Garuda* IV.

France and India view each other as important partners in space technology and applications. Arianespace continues to provide launch facilities for Indian Satellites (INSAT), while India's PSLV has been used to launch satellites for European customers. A bilateral technical meeting between ISRO and its French counterpart CNES took place in Bengaluru in July 2009. ISRO and CNES are working as equal partners on a scientific satellite programme called *Megha Tropiques* which is scheduled to be launched in mid 2010 on the PSLV launcher of ISRO. Another launch of a satellite *SARAL* (satellites for *ARGOS* and *ALTIKA*) designed and built by ISRO is expected to be launched during the period 2009-2010 with active co-operation from CNES. Both satellites are expected to yield scientific data of relevance to global concerns related to climate change. The Joint Working Group between ISRO and CNES meet regularly.

Bilateral cooperation in the fields of higher education, research, S&T has strengthened further during the year in pursuance of the commitments made in the Indo-French Joint Statements issued during President Sarkozy's visit to India in January 2008 and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to France in September 2008. The Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting of the Indo-French Educational Exchange Programme (IFEEP) (Paris, March 2009) agreed to intensify ties between the academia, intellectuals and youth by (i) strengthening the "*Consortium of Indo-French Universities*" (CIFU) (ii) bolstering social sciences research (under "*Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*" (MSH)/UGC/ICSSR framework), the Indo-French Cyber University and student/scholar/ researcher mobility through flexible visa regime and (iii) substantively involving French collaboration in setting up of a new IIT in Rajasthan. Institutionally, the number of MoUs signed between leading Indian and French educational institutions has now crossed 300. The number of Indian students studying in France now is around 1700.

In S&T, cooperation is increasing under the CEFIPRA framework for joint projects/publications/seminars and exchange of scientists. A strong collaboration is also underway between ICMR and INSERM in medical research, developing new vaccines and setting up of advanced medical laboratories in India.

A cooperation agreement between the *Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique* and the Department of Atomic Energy of India was reviewed in the Annual Joint Coordination Committee Meeting held in France in October 2009. An Amendment Agreement was signed, on the occasion by the Chairmen of Department of Atomic Energy and CEA enabling DAE to join the Consortium for the Jules Horowitz Reactor construction and operation. After the unanimous adoption of the Inter Governmental Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation by the Senate on 16 October, 2009, the National Assembly ratified the agreement on 24 November, 2009.

After the unanimous adoption of the Inter Governmental Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation by the Senate on 16 October, 2009, the French National Assembly ratified the agreement on 24 November, 2009. The instruments of ratification were exchanged on 14 January, 2010, following which the Agreement has come into force.

In 2009 bilateral cultural relations continued to be prolific. There were more than 70 major performing arts events including performances by maestros of Indian Classical Music like Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma in prestigious Parisian venues and 82 visual art (photos and paintings) exhibitions. Indian films participated in 17 major film festivals including an annual film festival at Musee Guimet "Indian Summer" which screened Marathi and Malyalam cinema this year. At the Cannes Film Festival there were films by young and new Indian directors. A total of four spectacles

based on mainstream cinema (Bollywood), attracted extraordinary numbers of audience of all ages in Paris and other cities of France. India was the Partner Country at the '*Salon du Cinema*' in January 2009. One sees a growing trend of combining Trade fairs with Cultural activities. In France India participated in five Trade and Culture fairs including in Montpellier where India was the country of honour this year. Besides eight exclusively Cultural Festivals were also organized.

The President of the ICCR Dr. Karan Singh visited Paris in September and held meetings with the French Minister for Culture Mr. Frederic Mitterand and the Chairman of Culture France. Discussions covered the planned cultural festivals of the two countries "*Bonjour India*" by France in early 2010 and an Indian Festival "*Namaste France*" in France in 2010-2011. A memorandum of understanding on the subject was later signed between ICCR and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 November, 2009.

Minister of Textiles Shri Dayanidhi Maran is scheduled to visit France from 31 January-3 February 2010 to promote Indian textiles. Minister of Food Processing, Shri Subodh Kant Sahai will be visiting France from 3-5 February, 2010 at the invitation of Ms. Anne-Marie Idrac, the French Minister for Foreign Trade. The Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers is expected to visit France from 11-12 February, 2010 to promote 'India Chem 2010'.

Various cultural events are scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2010. The Indian Cultural Festival '*Namaste France*' will be flagged off in March 2010 with the Exhibition on Indigenous art "*Other Masters of India*" in Museum of Quai Branly. An exhibition of Indian costumes "*The Last Maharajas*" comprising the Hutheesing collection will be organized at the Foundation Yves Saint Laurent, in Paris in February 2010. Several performing arts, film festivals, etc are also being held during the period.

Germany

Germany is India's largest trading partner within the EU, second most importance source of technological collaborations globally and an important investor. The year 2009 was especially important as an election year. While India had Lok Sabha elections in April 2009, Germany witnessed hectic political activity with the European Parliamentary elections, election of the Federal President, elections in many Federal states and finally the Bundestag elections in September 2009. In the Bundestag elections, Chancellor Merkel's Christian Democratic Party (CDU), along with its sister party from Bavaria - the Christian Social Union (CSU), managed to get re-elected for the second consecutive term with a new coalition partner the Free Democratic (Liberal) Party (FDP). The grand coalition of the two major political parties, CDU & the Social Democratic (SPD) came to an end as the people of Germany voted in favour of a growth oriented agenda of the CDU-FDP. While Ms. Angela Merkel took over as Chancellor on 28 October, 2009, Mr. Guido Westerwelle from the FDP took over as the Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister in a 16-member cabinet. In spite of being an election year, bilateral exchange in terms of important visits continued as in past years. There was significant expansion of bilateral trade and investment ties and a substantial expansion of partnerships in science and technology.

In the field of Science & Technology, following important visits took place. A delegation of Indian Scientist led by Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India visited Dresden for the Indo-German Second CAR-Fraunhofer Symposium from 25-28 May, 2009. Dr. G. Madhavan Nair, Chairman, Space Commission/Secretary, Department of Space, Bangalore along with Dr. Radhika Ramachandran, Counsellor (Space), EoI, Paris visited European Space Agency (ESA) in German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Koln from 27-28 May, 2009. Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Human Resource Development and Shri Prithiviraj Chauhan, Minister of State for Science and Technology participated at the meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Bavaria from 27-28 June, 2009. Shri Kapil Sibal was honoured by being inducted as a member of the Honorary Senate of the Lindau Council in recognition of his contributions to the Lindau effort. 43 Indian students from the field of Chemistry also participated in this event. Other important events in the field of cooperation in economic and education field included the inauguration of Bavarian-Indian Centre for Business and University Cooperation on 28 July, 2009 at Hof in the Bavarian state of Germany. The erstwhile Minister for Economics & Technology Dr. Karl Theodor Freiherr von Guttenberg and Ambassador jointly inaugurated the centre.

The increasing economic and trade ties generated lot of interest in both the countries as many high-level visits took place in the year 2009. These included a delegation from Lower Saxony led by its Minister for Economics Dr. Phillip Rösler on a visit to Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Kolkata from 25 April-2 May 2009. Another delegation from Bavaria led by Ms. Emilia Müller, the Bavarian State Minister for European and International Affairs, visited Karnataka from 22-26 July, 2009 to identify concrete projects for implementing the objectives of the

Action Plan for further strengthening cooperation between Bavaria and Karnataka (which was signed on the sidelines of the Global India Business Meeting held in Munich in June 2009).

The visits from the Indian side included a visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma for the first Global India Business Meeting (GIBM), at Munich from 28-30 June, 2009 hosted by the State of Bavaria. CIM's speeches/interaction focused on Government's thinking on the policy framework/measures for addressing the impact of the current global economic slow down, ensuring continued investor friendly environment, keeping the economy on fast track, approach towards Doha Round and global financial regulatory infrastructure, Indo-EU and Indo–German economic ties etc. While Shri B. N. Bachegowda, Minister for Labour, Government of Karnataka, led a delegation that visited Germany (Frankfurt & Berlin) from 16-19 June, 2009 to attend meetings related to social protection and to visit important institutions in this area, Shri Murugesh R. Nirani, Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industry, represented Karnataka in the German India Business Meeting. A separate programme for Karnataka, namely '*Spotlight on Karnataka*', was organized to highlight the state's industrial potential and investor-friendly schemes for attracting investments from global firms. On the margins of the GIBM, Bavarian Minister for Federal and European Affairs, Ms. Emilia Müller and the Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Shri Murugesh R. Nirani signed an 'Action Plan' on 30 March, 2009 for implementing some concrete projects in the priority areas recognized by the Karnataka-Bavaria MoU.

The momentum of bilateral visits continued even after the elections as Minister President of the state of Baden-Wurttemberg, Mr. Gunther Oettinger led a 140-member delegation to India (New Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Bangalore) from 15-20 November, 2009. This was by far the largest German delegation to India. The delegation comprised of senior ministers of the state Government, members of state Parliament, member of the Press, company representatives, bankers, state tourism officials and representatives of universities. His political level meetings included meetings with Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resources and Development, Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of New Delhi and Shri Raj Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka. The Minister and his delegation participated in various economic and scientific meetings and visited various German companies operating in India.

Dr. Christoph Heugsen, Advisor to German Chancellornon Foreign and Security Policy, and Shri M. K. Narayanan, NSA, who are co-chairs for the Indo-German Strategic Dialogue, held a meeting in New Delhi on 21 December, 2009.

Minister of State for Textiles Smt. Paanabaaka Lakshmi visited Germany from 15-20 January, 2010 to participate in the Heimtextile Fair 2010 at Frankfurt and Dometex Fair 2010 at Hanover.

Dr. Horst Koehler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany will be leading a delegation comprising of senior officials, businessmen and journalists on his scheduled visit to India from 1-6 February, 2010. He will be visiting New Delhi, Pune and Mumbai.

Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Union Minister for Textiles will be visiting Frankfurt from 3-4 February, 2010 to meet leading German textile importers.

Shri M. K. Alagiri, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers will be visiting Germany from 8-12 February, 2010 for the promotion of bilateral collaboration in this important sector.

Ireland

India-Ireland relations continued to develop in various spheres, especially in economic and commercial, S&T, and education sectors. The growing Indian population in Ireland in the healthcare and IT sectors, as well as significant increase in the number of Indian students for higher education in Ireland and steady growth of bilateral trade in goods and services enhanced the bilateral interaction between the two countries.

Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary (S&T) visited Ireland in May 2009 for a Joint Committee Meeting under the bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technololgical Cooperation. During the visit, he called on Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation of Ireland and they signed a Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology.

The visit of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India to Ireland in June 2009 made a significant in contribution to our bilateral ties. During the visit, he met Irish President Ms. Mary McAleese. Irish Foreign Minister Michael Martin hosted a dinner in his honour. Dr. Kalam addressed a large gathering of intellectuals at Trinity College Dublin, outlining his vision of India transforming into a developed nation by 2020, and highlighting the potential for closer cooperation in the areas of interest between the two countries.

The Fifth Round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Ireland took place in New Delhi in September 2009, recognizing the roadmap for strengthening bilateral relations.

The Chief Justice of India visited Ireland in October 2009 for a public lecture in Trinity College Dublin on 'Judicial Activism under the Indian Constitution'.

Italy

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Italy from 7-11 July, 2009, to participate in the G-8/G-5 Summit at L'Aquila. On the sidelines of the Summit, he had a bilateral meeting with Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Silvio Berlusconi. During the meeting bilateral relations were reviewed and international issues of mutual interest discussed.

Earlier, the External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna visited Trieste, Italy from 25-27 June, 2009, to participate in the G-8 Outreach Foreign Ministers' meeting on stabilisation of Afghanistan and Pakistan. External Affairs Minister also had a bilateral meeting with Italian Foreign Minister, Mr. Franco Frattini on the sidelines of the Outreach session.

In the context of the G-8/G-5 interaction, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar participated in the G-8/G-5 Speakers' Conference held in Rome from 12-14 September, 2009. She also had bilateral discussions with Italian Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr. Gianfranco Fini.

Gen. V. Camporine, Chief of Defence Staff of Italy visited India from 23-26 September, 2009.

Other visits include those of Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture (15-18 November, 2009), Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Textiles (28-31 October, 2009); Dr. Abijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission (18-20 April, 2009); Labour Secretary (29-31 March, 2009); Agriculture Secretary (18-20 April, 2009); Environment Secretary (22-24 April, 2009); Economic Relations Secretary (23-24 April); Petroleum Secretary (24-25 May, 2009); Foreign Secretary (26-27 June).

The Italian Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Claudio Scajola, along with the Deputy Minister Adolfo Urso led a official delegation, including representatives from the Italian Regions, and a business delegation of more than 120 Italian businessmen to India from 14-16 December, 2009. The 18th session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic cooperation was held during the visit in New Delhi on 14 December, 2009 under the co-chairmanship of Commerce and Industries Minister Shri Anand Sharma and Italian Minister Scajola. The delegation had bilateral meetings with a number of Ministers in Delhi and the Italian business delegations had B2B interactions in New Delhi and Mumbai in coordination with the FICCI.

Luxembourg

India and Luxembourg signed an Agreement on Social Security (SSA) & Administrative Arrangements to Implement the SSA on 30 September, 2009 during the visit of Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi to Luxembourg from 29-30 September, 2009.

The 11th round of Economic Joint Commission Meeting between India and Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was held in Brussels from 4-5 May, 2009 after a gap of eight years.

Luxembourg is the 26th largest investor in India worldwide and 11th largest within the EU.

A six member delegation of the Dutch Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economic Affairs visited India at the invitation of the National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan from 22-24 December, 2009. The delegation also visited Pune, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

The Minister of Economy & External Trade of Luxembourg Jeannot Krecke led a business delegation to India from 9-14 January, 2009. The delegation visited New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and had B2B interactions, apart from several official meetings. This was the fourth visit of the Minister to India after his appointment to the post in 2004 and the first ministerial level visit from Luxembourg to India after April 2007. His previous visits, leading similar business delegations, took place in 2005 (28 March-2 April); 2006 (28-29 March); and 2007 (23-26 April).

Netherlands

India-Netherlands relations continued to be cordial and friendly during the course of the year. The multifaceted ties saw an all round strengthening with regular exchanges of high level visits from both sides. The trade and investment cooperation remained a key component of the India-Netherlands relationship and showed satisfactory growth despite the global economic downturn. Two-way trade has been growing steadily, and stood at Euro 3.86 billion in 2008. The Netherlands remained among the top ten partners of India both in terms of the volume of bilateral trade with a significant positive balance

of trade for India as well as of the foreign direct investment into India.

The highlight of the year was the *Pravasi Bhartiya Divas* (PBD) – Europe held in The Hague on 19 September, 2009. This was the third such event in a series of PBDs held abroad by GoI. The Netherlands has a significant presence of Indian Diaspora, close to 200,000. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi visited the Netherlands to address the Convention. The Dutch side was represented by former Prime Minister Dr. Ruud Lubbers, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Mr. Piet Hein Donner and Mr. J. Van Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague. The Convention brought prominent members of the Indian Diaspora in Europe on a common platform to discuss the role of the Indian Diaspora in enhancing Indo-European Cooperation, and deliberate on the opportunities and challenges faced by them in the fields of culture, heritage and tradition, as also trade and investment opportunities available for them in India.

The Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Mr. Piet Hein Donner visited India from 22-24 October, 2009. During the visit he met the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi and signed the Bilateral Social Security Agreement which will allow export of social security benefits between India and the Netherlands, encouraging the mobility of skilled human resources between the two countries. Minister Donner also met Minister of Labour Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and discussed enhancement of cooperation both bilaterally and in international forums on labour related issues.

Among other visits were, visit of Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Afghanistan, Ambassador S. K. Lambah to represent India at the International Conference on Afghanistan held on 31 March, 2009. India also participated in the Fifth meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism held at The Hague from 16-17 June, 2009.

On the consular cooperation field, a notable development has been the withdrawal of Dutch opposition to India joining the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Document under the Hague Conference of Private International Law. This accession has removed the legalization requirement for Indian documents like birth and marriage certificates before their use in the Netherlands and in all other member countries of the Hague Convention.

Foreign Policy & Security Adviser to the Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Karel van Oosterom visited India at the invitation of the National Security Adviser, Shri M. K. Narayanan, from 22-24 December, 2009.

A six member delegation of the Dutch Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economic Affairs led by its Chairperson, Ms. A. J. Timmer visited India from 2-9 January, 2010.

Kumari Selja, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Tourism is expected to lead a delegation of Mayors and Municipal Commissioners to the Seventh Forum of World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) to be held in the city of Rotterdam from 24-26 February, 2010.

Common Fund for Commodities

India played an active role at the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) headquartered at Amsterdam during the year. India continued to fulfil all its obligations related to the CFC in line with its commitments. India participated in the Twenty-First Annual Meeting of the Governing Council of the CFC, held in The Hague from 15-16 December, 2009. Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce was elected as the Executive Director for the Twenty-First Constituency of the CFC member states, comprising India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Serbia, for a two-year term beginning 2010. India also participated in an '*International Seminar on the Role of Commodities*' organized by the CFC to commemorate its Twentieth Anniversary, held at the World Forum in The Hague on 14 December, 2009.

Portugal

Traditionally cordial and friendly ties were maintained with Portugal during 2009-10. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor participated in the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies and spoke at the inaugural session chaired by Foreign Minister Luis Amado of Portugal on 11 July, 2009 in Lisbon.

This year saw active co operation in Defence with the visit of a 16-member National Defence College group led by Major General Abhijit Guha from 17-22 May, 2009 and the visit by INS *Delhi* and INS *Beas*, two battleships of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy under command of Rear Admiral SPS Cheema, AVSM, NM from 8-11 July, 2009.

Member Secretary (Finance) Shri R. Ashok led a three member delegation to the Fourth WTO Forum on Policy issues of the ITU held in Lisbon from 21-24 April, 2009. Other Indian dignitaries included Dr. K. Kasturirangan,

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) who was a key note speaker on "*Understanding and Governing the risks of Planetary scale Geo-engineering*" and Dr. Rajendra Pachouri of TERI who was also a keynote speaker on '*Climate Change and the Challenge of Sustainable Development*'.

Artists sent by ICCR were the violinist, Dr. L. Subramanyam and *shehnai* player, Pandit Ashok Chaurasia who gave performances which were well attended by Portuguese music lovers, the members of Indian community and others.

Spain

2009-10 was an important year in the bilateral relations between India and Spain as the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid the first-ever State Visit from India to Spain from 20-23 April, 2009 at the invitation of the King of Spain. Apart from meeting with the King, she had detailed discussions with Prime Minister Zapatero. Seven areas viz. infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, cooperation in Latin America, renewable energy, SMEs and research and development in S&T were identified as focus areas for strengthening bilateral cooperation. She also proposed doubling of bilateral trade over the next five years. The following three MoUs were signed during the visit:

i. MoU on Agriculture and Allied Fields

ii. MoU on Tourism Cooperation

iii. MoU on Renewable Energy

The State Visit was followed by the first-ever official visit by Crown Prince of Spain Prince Felipe of Asturias to India from 10-12 November, 2009 at the invitation of the Vice President of India. He was accompanied by Princess Letizia. In New Delhi, the Prince had meetings with the Vice President, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and External Affairs Minister. The President hosted a private lunch for the Crown Prince and Princess. The Prince also inaugurated the Cervantes Institute in New Delhi, named after the well-known Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes and an Investment Seminar in Mumbai.

Prof. K. V. Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, Food & and Public Distribution visited Spain from 13-17 September, 2009 to participate the Fifth International Fisheries Ministers´ Conference and World Fishing Exhibition in Vigo (Galicia). During the visit, he also had bilateral meetings with the Minister of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain and Mayor of Santiago de Compustela.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MoS visited Barcelona from 15-17 January, 2010 to participate in the Seminar "*War and Peace in the 21st Century*" being organized by Centre for International Studies of Barcelona (CIDOB).

Kumari Selja, Minister for Tourism and HUPA visited Madrid from 18-22 January, 2010 to attend the Fifth Tourism Leadership Forum of UN World Tourism Organization (Headquarters in Madrid) and the Annual International Tourism Fair (FITUR) 2010.

Shri A. Raja, Minister of Communications and IT is expected to visit Spain to participate in the GSMA Mobile World Congress to be held at Barcelona from 15-17 February, 2010.

United Kingdom

The highlight of the year was the State visit of President Smt. Pratibha Patil to UK from 27-29 October, 2009 which was the third such visit of an Indian President to the UK and the first State visit after the commencement of the Strategic Partnership between India and the UK in 2004. President had detailed interactions with Her Majesty the Queen and other Royal Family members. She met Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Conservative Party Leader David Cameron and Liberal Democratic Party Leader Nick Clegg. At a ceremony, President received the 'Baton' from the Queen as a curtain raiser to the 2010 Commonwealth Games to be held in New Delhi. During her visit, the President had a meeting with a wide cross-section of the Indian Community in the UK.

Prime Minister met the UK Prime Minister Mr. Gordon Brown in London on 1 April, 2009 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in London. He met PM Brown again on 8 July, 2009 in L'Aquila in Italy on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit and in Pittsburgh on 25 September, 2009 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit. He again met UK PM Gordon Brown on the sidelines of the CHOGM in November 2009 in Port of Spain.

A meeting between External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, and UK Foreign Secretary Mr. David Miliband took place in Trieste on 25 June, 2009.

A number of other Ministerial exchanges of visits took place. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited UK from 21-24 June, 2009. He again visited from 17-18 September, 2009 to participate in Emerging Markets Summit. Minister of Finance Shri Pranab Mukherjee, led a delegation to London from 4-5 September, 2009 to participate in G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting. He again attended the meeting in Scotland from

6-7 November, 2009. Minister for Road Transport & Highways Shri Kamal Nath led a delegation to London from 1-2 September, 2009 to participate in a road show titled '*Building India-Road Infrastructure Summit*'; Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora visited London from 8-9 September, 2009 to participate in a road show.

Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma visited London for the Sixth Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting in London on 4 February, 2010.

Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Kapil Sibal visited UK from 13-15 January, 2010 for the second meeting of UK-India Education Forum.

First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills Lord Mandelson led a delegation to India from 18-23 December, 2009. Besides Delhi, Lord Mandelson also visited Bengaluru.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal P. V. Naik will visit U.K. from 14-19 March, 2010 at the invitation of his counterpart.

Air Marshal S. C. Mukul, AVSM, VM, VSM, Chief of Integrated Staff is scheduled to visit UK from 26-28 February, 2010.

The next India- UK Round Table meeting will be held in the Ditchley Park, UK from 26-28 February, 2010.

Chief Justice of India Dr. K. G. Balakrishnan, accompanied by a delegation was in London from 13-15 June, 2009 to attend the '*International Conference of Jurists for Judicial Reforms*'. Minister for Law & Justice Shri Veerappa Moily, visited London from 29 September-2 October to attend opening of the legal year in England and Wales.

The Executive Steering Group (Army) Meetings were held in Delhi from 14-16 September, 2009. The India-UK Military Sub Group meeting was held in London from 14-16 October, 2009.

From the UK side, Lord Bach, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Ministry of Justice visited India from 23-28 August, 2009; Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development and Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Climate Change jointly visited India from 1-2 September, 2009; Lord Mervyn Davies, Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Foreign and Commonwealth Office visited India from 14-18 September, 2009; Lord Hunt, Minister of State for Climate Change visited India from 22-23 October, 2009.

A six member delegation of MPs from the Conservatives Friend of India (CFIN) led by the Chairman Mr. Shailesh Vara visited India from 27 July-2 August 2009. A delegation of Liberal Democrats led by Lord Alderdice visited India from 27 September-3 October 2009.

Two-way bilateral trade has shown an impressive growth. Total trade (in goods and services) is around £ 12 billion. The UK's exports to India were up almost 30% in 2008 to £ 5.9 billion while imports were up 17% in 2008 to £ 6.2 billion (UK figures). The UK is the most preferred nation for investments by India Inc. so far, accounting deals worth US$ 6 billion (till August 2008). UK is the third largest investor in India. Top sectors attracting FDI inflows from UK are power, oil & gas, telecom and service industries.

Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate cooperation in the prevention, detection, investigation and combating of customs offences between Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) of India and HMRC of UK was signed in London on 9 November, 2009.

European Union

India and the European Union (EU) are Strategic Partners whose relationships are founded on shared values and principles of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. India and the EU have regular interactions at various levels including at the highest level. The India-EU Joint Action Plan which was adopted in 2005 and reviewed in 2008 covers the entire gamut of relations between India and the EU.

India's relations with the EU assumes importance in the context of the EU's strength as the largest economic block in the world, advancements in the fields of science and technology and technologies related to energy and environment sectors. As EU acquires greater power and influence in more areas of interaction within the Union, it can be expected that the ambit of its cooperation with India will also increase.

Following the successful ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by all the Member States of the EU, the European Council on 19 November, 2009 appointed Mr. Herman Van Rompuy as the President of the European Council and Ms. Catherine Ashton as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of external relations. The Treaty which entered into force on 1 December, 2009, among other things, is expected to streamline the functioning of EU institutions and also assist in better co-ordination of foreign policy among EU Member States.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the British Prime Minister, Mr. Gorden Brown, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, at Pittsburgh, USA on 25 September, 2009.

India-EU Summit

The 10th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi on 6 November, 2009. India was represented by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the EU was represented by Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden and President of the rotating Presidency of the European Council and European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso. The Summit reviewed India-EU Relations and exchanged views on developments in India and EU; recognized the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the system; resolved to jointly fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestation; took note of the signing of the India-EU Agreement in the field of nuclear fusion energy research underlining the importance of energy security and clean energy; agreed to work towards early conclusion of the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement and the Maritime Transport Agreement. The leaders also identified trade and investment, energy, counter-terrorism, science and technology, climate change, and free movement of peoples as priority areas of cooperation.

European Parliament

The European Parliament in its plenary session in September 2009 approved the establishment of a India Delegation in the European Parliament and formally constituted it on 30 September, 2009. There are 20 members and 20 substitutes in the delegation. Mr. Graham Watson, British MEP was elected the Chairperson.

India-EU Troika & Senior Officials Meeting

The 20th India-EU *Troika* Meeting took place in Prague on 30 June, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation. The EU side was led by Mr. Jan Kohout, Foreign Minister of Czech Republic in his capacity as the President of the European Council for External Relations. European Commissioner for External Relations Ms. Benita Ferrero Waldner also participated in the meeting. India-EU Relations, regional issues and global issues including climate change, terrorism, global financial crisis, non-proliferation and energy security were discussed at the *Troika* Meeting.

There is regular mechanism of Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) between India and the EU. Two meetings were held during the year once in New Delhi on 15 June, 2009 and on 28 September, 2009 in Brussels.

Joint Working Groups Meetings

The 13th meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on Consular Issues was held in New Delhi on 25 May, 2009. Issues raised by the Indian side related to facilitation of movement of genuine travellers, reduction of excessive documentation, work permits, fast-track system for Indian business travellers, timely consular access and prevention of harassment of Indian nationals transiting via Schengen countries. The EU side raised issues relating to delayed consular access, possibility of issuing temporary ID cards for EU nationals who stand acquitted or bailed by the courts, clarity regarding rules on purchase of properties by the foreign nationals, progress on Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, formalizing an MoU with the Indian Air Force for mountain rescue operations for EU nationals, permitting EU prisoners to make and receive telephone calls and ensuring rapid exit of EU nationals in case of emergencies like the Mumbai terror attacks.

The India-EU JWG on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 11 June, 2009. The meeting discussed issues including dialogue issues related to terrorist organizations in India's neighbourhood with special focus on *LeT, Al Qaida, Taliban*, fight against terrorist financing, technical assistance to third countries, prevention of radicalization, cooperation at UN (CCIT, Global Counter Terrorism strategy) and exchange of information about latest developments in combating terrorism in India and in the EU.

The India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism, jointly organized by Indian Council of World Affairs and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), was held in New Delhi from 8-9 October, 2009.

Energy Panel

The India-EU Energy Panel met in Brussels on 6 October, 2009. The meeting concluded with the decision that the two sides would focus on the three areas of the cooperation namely, Energy Efficiency; Coal/Clean Coal Technology; and renewables, in particular solar.

Trade and Investments

The EU continues to be India's largest trading partner. In 2008, total bilateral trade between India and the EU grew to Euro 60.92 billion. Indian exports to EU was valued at Euro 29.39 billion while imports from the EU was Euro 31.53 billion. In 2008, total Indian Exports to the EU in the different services sectors was Euro 7.94 billion whereas total Indian Imports from the EU was worth Euro 8.56 billion. In the first half of 2009, India's exports

to EU was Euro 12.9 billion while India's imports was Euro 12.7 billion.

The EU is one of the largest sources of FDI for India. However, FDI inflows from the EU to India declined from Euro 4.019 billion in 2007 to Euro 3.27 billion in 2008. India has also emerged as a major investor in the EU with total investments from India increasing from Euro 1.003 billion in the year 2007 to Euro 3.69 billion in 2008.

Important Visits

Important visits between India and the EU include visits by Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development who visited Brussels from 6-8 March, 2009 to interact with the European Commission and to sign the Joint Declaration on Multilingualism between India and the European Commission and Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas who visited Brussels at the invitation of EC Commissioners for External Relations and Energy to attend the ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Energy Security on 18 June, 2009.

EU Commissioner for Commerce, Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Agriculture Ms. Mariam Fishcher Boel visited India at the invitation of Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry on 3 September, 2009 to attend the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi.

Commissioner for Competition Neelie Kroes visited India from 15-18 November, 2009 to attend a conference on "*Competition, Public Policy and Common Man*" organized in New Delhi by CII.

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8 The Americas

United States of America (USA)

There was a growing convergence in the interests of India and the USA – both within the bilateral framework as well as on regional and global issues. The first priority, this year, was to work together towards a recovery from the global economic and financial crisis. India and the USA played a key role in the Summit meetings that were held to address the most immediate challenges.

Prime Minister met President Obama on 2 April, 2009, at the G-20 Summit in London. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed several positive and constructive steps to take the India-US global partnership forward. They discussed regional and global issues including the threat that the terrorism emanating from India's neighbourhood poses to all free societies - and the international efforts required to deal with the problem. The two leaders had a significant convergence of views and approaches in this regard. President Obama informed Prime Minister Singh of the new comprehensive US strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Prime Minister welcomed his clear enunciation of the problems and the goals and stated that India would continue to play a constructive role, working to build peace and stability in her periphery. They discussed global issues like energy security and climate change and the manner in which India and the USA could work together on these issues, and committed themselves to the strengthening and reform of the G-20, World Bank and the IMF and an early and balanced outcome of the Doha Round of World Trade Organisation negotiations with focus on the development dimensions.

Visit of US Secretary of State to India

US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton visited India from 17-21 July, 2009 in response to an invitation of External Affairs Minister of India Shri S. M. Krishna, with whom she jointly reviewed bilateral relations and announced a new agenda for Indo-US bilateral cooperation in (i) science and technology, health and innovation; (ii) strategic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture encompassing new areas of enhanced cooperation in the fields of health, education, women's empowerment, climate change and strategic security. They also discussed regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, the impact of climate change and issues of shared interest such as disarmament, UN reforms, global food and energy security among others. The US Secretary of State called on Prime Minister and Shri L. K. Advani, Leader of the Opposition.

Two agreements – Technology Safeguards Agreement (Space) and an Indo-US Science and Technology Endowment Fund and Board Agreement were signed during the visit. The Science and Technology Agreement provides for the establishment of an India-US Board and an Endowment for developing Joint Research and Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurial and Commercialization Activities in Science and Technology. The Technology Safeguards Agreement provides for India to launch third country civil or non-commercial satellites of US origin or which have US components. Both Governments announced their agreement on a formulation on End Use Monitoring (EUM) to be included in letters of offer and acceptance for defence equipment to be acquired from USA for Government of India. A Joint Statement was issued during the visit highlighting the significance of Indo-US relationship and the global and bilateral agenda that would be pursued by the two sides.

Earlier, the US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Mr. William J. Burns had made a preparatory visit from 10-13 June, 2009 in which he held talks with Foreign Secretary Shri Shiv Shankar Menon to discuss new elements of cooperation for the above bilateral agenda announced in July 2009. Under Secretary Burns called on Prime Minister and handed over a letter addressed to him by President Obama, congratulating him on his election victory, reiterating his invitation to Prime Minister to visit Washington and renewing his commitment to the bilateral relationship.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the US President, Mr. Barack Obama, at White House, Washington on 24 November, 2009.

US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton calling on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi on 20 July, 2009.

Other High Level Exchanges

US NSA

US National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones visited New Delhi from 25-26 June, 2009. He held talks with Shri M. K. Narayanan, National Security Advisor and called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony.

Home Minister

Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram visited USA from 8-10 September, 2009 to strengthen India's bilateral partnership with the USA in the field of counter-terrorism and to identify areas for mutual cooperation with focus on procurement of advanced technology and sharing of information and best practices in investigation and prevention of terrorist attacks. Earlier, the India-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism led on the Indian side by Shri Vivek Katju, Special Secretary (Pol & IO), Ministry of External Affairs held its 11th meeting in Washington on 17 June, 2009. The meeting enabled the Working group to address a wide range of issues relating to Counter Terrorism and India's membership of the Financial Action Task Force.

Visit of Foreign Secretary of India to the USA

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao met with her US counterpart, Mr. William Burns, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, US State Department on 21 September, 2009 in Washington. She also met with Ms. Maria Otero, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, US State Department and discussed the agenda and issues identified for co-operation in the India-US Global Issues Forum.

External Affairs Minister

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna met with Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton on 25 September, 2009 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed progress in the Bilateral Strategic Dialogue and other issues of mutual interest.

National Security Advisor

National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan visited USA from 25-29 October, 2009. He met with his US counterpart, Gen. James Jones, Defence Secretary, Secretary Homeland Security, Director, FBI and several Senators and Congressmen. NSA also visited the National Counter Terrorism Centre.

US Under Secretary for Political Affairs

Mr. William Burns, US Under Secretary for Political Affairs, made a visit to New Delhi from 15-16 October, 2009 to discuss the agenda and preparations for the Summit meeting of Prime Minister of India with the US President in Washington in November 2009. He met with Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao and called on several Ministers participating in the Strategic Dialogue including Human Resource Development Minister Shri Kapil Sibal, Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

Former US President

Former US President Mr. George W. Bush visited New Delhi from 29-31 October, 2009 to participate in the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit. He also visited Mumbai.

Prime Minister's visit to the USA

From 22-24 November, 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited the USA in response to the invitation of the US President conveyed by the US Secretary of State who visited India on 20 July, 2009. It was the first State visit hosted by the US President. The US House of Representatives in a rare gesture, adopted, unanimously, a resolution to commend the maturing of India US relations and welcome Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, to the United States.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister and the US President launched a new phase in the India-US partnership, describing it as a 'global strategic partnership'. Both Governments reaffirmed that the common ideals and complementary strengths of India and the United States provide a foundation for addressing the global challenges of the 21st century and resolved to build on these to expand the US-India global partnership for mutual benefit , peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, and to make a significant contribution towards a better world .

Prime Minister of India and the US President underscored the compelling need to put in place global institutions "which are both inclusive and effective to meet present and future challenges and committed themselves to achieving genuine reform of the United Nations including in its Security Council in a manner that reflects the contemporary realities of the 21st century" and thereby "enhances its ability to carry out its mandate as a

representative, credible and effective forum for meeting the challenges of the new century". Their discussions covered the need to have an "open and inclusive architecture" for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. They welcomed the emergence of the G-20 as a premier forum to deal with international economic issues. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthen and reform the global economic and financial architecture in the G-20, World Bank and the IMF.

Both leaders reviewed the bilateral relationship, welcomed the understandings reached on bilateral co-operation in agriculture, education, health, clean and efficient energy while addressing the impact of climate change and also discussed the next steps to take new initiatives and further bilateral co-operation in these areas. They discussed global issues of shared interest and regional issues of immediate concern to both Governments – particularly the threat of terrorism emanating from India's immediate neighbourhood. They underscored the absolute imperative to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks of 26 November, 2008 and the need for resolute and credible steps to be taken to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries that provide shelter to terrorists and their activities.

Both leaders reaffirmed a shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and pledged to work together, as leaders of responsible states with advanced nuclear technology, for global non-proliferation, and universal, non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament. They agreed to consult each other regularly and seek the early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament.

In the field of defence, both Governments agreed to continue pursuing mutually beneficial defence cooperation through the existing security dialogue, service-level exchanges, defence exercises and trade and technology transfer and collaboration and to expedite necessary arrangements to facilitate these activities.

It was agreed to enter into a Green Partnership to address the global challenges of food security, clean energy and energy security. During the visit, Memoranda of Understanding were concluded with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the USA for collaboration with India's Solar and Wind Energy Research Centres respectively.

It was also agreed to increase India-US agricultural cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural cooperation and food security and collaboration in the application of space technology and related scientific capabilities in outer space for development purposes – including in the field of agriculture.

Both Governments looked forward to the conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty and called upon the India-US CEOs Forum to identify new directions in the India-US economic relationship.

A Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Access Agreement between the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and US Patent and Trademark Office was signed.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed on facilitating comprehensive bilateral cooperation on a range of IPR issues focusing on capacity building, human resource development and raising public awareness of the importance of IPR.

A Memorandum of Intent was also signed to promote two-way investments between 'Invest in America' of the US Department of Commerce and 'Invest India', a joint venture of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and various State Governments of India and FICCI concerning the promotion of investment in the US and India.

In the field of education, both Governments launched a 21st Century Knowledge Initiative with a total funding of US$ 10 million that will be allocated to increasing university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between US and Indian universities, including greater emphasis on community colleges. They announced the expansion of the Fulbright-Nehru scholarship program.

A Memorandum of Intent was signed on the establishing of a Regional Global Disease Detection Centre in India in partnership with the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Other Visits

Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan visited India on 18 January, 2010 to consult Government of India and seek our assessment about the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He met with Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, National Security Adviser Shri M. K. Narayanan, and called on External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Dr. Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defence visited India from 19-20 January, 2010. He exchanged views with Defence Minister, External Affairs Minister and called on Prime Minister. The visit was an occasion to review bilateral defence cooperation and discuss the regional security situation.

Congressional/Parliamentary visits

In February 2009 Congressman John Lewis, a close associate of the US Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, led a delegation to visit India - comprising Senior US Congressmen and Martin Luther King III, the son of the revered Dr. Martin Luther King Junior and several other US Congressmen including – Representative Spencer Bachus, Representative Jim McDermott, Representative Al Green, Representative Loretta Sanchez, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee and several Congressional Staff officials. The delegation was received by the President of India and other dignitaries as they retraced the journey of the revered Civil Rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior through India when he came here in 1959 on a pilgrimage to experience the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

A US Congressional delegation led by Representative (Rep.) Howard Berman and comprising Rep. Gary Ackerman, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Rep. Dan Lungren, Rep. Jim Costa and Rep. Jim Moran visited India from 15-20 April, 2009. The delegation called on Prime Minister and met with National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao.

A US Senate delegation led by Senator Judd Gregg accompanied by Senator Evan Bayh, Senator Arlen Specter, Senator Michael Enzi, Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator John Cornyn visited India from 31 December 2009-4 January 2010. The delegation called on Prime Minister and discussed India-US relations.

A US Congressional delegation led by Senator Claire McCaskill accompanied by Senators Jeff Merkley, Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Barron Hill would be visiting New Delhi on 16 February, 2010 to discuss India-US relations.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Pursuant to the Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation signed by both Governments on 10 October, 2008, a number of steps were taken towards implementing the Agreement. India-US talks on Arrangements and Procedures on Reprocessing as per Article six (iii) of the 123 Agreement were held in Vienna from 21-22 July, 2009, from 8-9 October, 2009 and thereafter in Washington from 6-7 November, 2009 and from 21-22 November, 2009. The next round of negotiations is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 15-19 February, 2010.

The second meeting of the India-US Civil Nuclear Working Group, one of the five working groups under the India-US Energy dialogue was held from 28-30 April, 2009 in Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho, USA. Both countries identified specific areas of collaboration in the field of nuclear energy and reactors and agreed to draw up a work-plan for collaboration in their next meeting.

A 55-member Civil Nuclear Trade Mission from the US led by the US-India Business Council and the Nuclear Energy Institute, Washington visited New Delhi and Mumbai from 6-11 December, 2009. They called on Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Secretary, Ministry of Power. The delegation interacted with Indian public and private power sector companies and FICCI and CII. Mr. Mark Weber, Advisor, Bureau of Industry, US Department of Commerce accompanied the Trade Mission.

India-US Civil Nuclear Working Group held its third meeting from 3-5 February, 2010 in Mumbai. The meeting was led by Dr. R. B. Grover, Director (Strategic Planning Group) in the Department of Atomic Energy and Dr. Warren Pete Miller, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy in the US Department of Energy.

Energy Dialogue

US Energy Secretary Mr. Steven Chu visited New Delhi from 12-16 November, 2009. He co-chaired a meeting of the India-US Energy Dialogue along with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 13 November, 2009. He met with Minister of Power Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Special Envoy of Prime Minister on Climate Change Shri Shyam Saran. Both Governments agreed to pursue a bilateral memorandum of understanding on co-operation in clean energy and the establishment of a clean energy research centre - which was later finalised and signed during the visit of Prime Minister to the USA.

Trade and Economic Collaboration

India-US bilateral trade in goods in the period January-October 2009 stood at US$ 31.5 billion. India exported goods worth US$ 17.6 billion to the US in this

period and imported goods worth US$ 13.9 billion from USA in the same period. India exported IT and IT enabled services worth US$ 28.3 billion in 2009 to the USA.

The US is of one of the leading foreign investors in India. Total FDI equity inflow to India from the US during the period April 2000-August 2009 was US$ 7.44 billion accounting for 8% of total inflows into India during this period. US-bound investment from India increased about 48% on an average per year over 2004-08. In 2008, Indian companies invested around US$ 8.5 billion in the US market through M&Q, equity participation and other routes.

Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM), Shri Anand Sharma visited Washington from 16-19 June, 2009 to attend the 34th anniversary of the US India Business Council. He met with his US counterpart US Trade Representative, Ambassador Ron Kirk with whom he discussed Indo-US trade relations. CIM also met with US Commerce Secretary Mr. Gary Locke and US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton at the 'Synergies Summit' hosted by the US India Business Council. CIM visited USA from 13-15 October, 2009 to attend the Global Services Summit.

The first round of India-US negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty was held in New Delhi from 11-12 August, 2009.

Road Transport & Highways Minister Shri Kamal Nath visited USA from 13-17 September, 2009 to seek US investments in the road sector in India.

A meeting of the India-US Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 20 October, 2009. Mr. Michael Froman, Deputy Assistant to the US President & US Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs met Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with whom he co-chairs the Economic Dialogue.

A meeting of the India-US Trade Policy Forum was held in New Delhi on 26 October, 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and the US Trade Representative, Ambassador Ron Kirk. A range of issues was discussed in the five focus groups on Agriculture, Innovation and Creativity, Investment, Services and Tariff and Non-Tariff barriers. A Social Security Agreement, a Bilateral Investment Treaty between the two countries were also discussed as were next steps for providing market access for items of interest to both sides.

US Deputy Trade Representative, Ambassador Demetrios Marantis visited India from 11-13 August, 2009 and again from 24-26 October, 2009 for the India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting.

A Trade Mission from the State of Washington led by Mr. Sam Sumner Reed, Secretary of State of Washington visited India from 11-21 September, 2009. The trade delegation interacted with industry members in Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

The second India-US Aviation Partnership Summit was held in Washington D.C. from 7-9 December, 2009. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Shri Madhavan Nambiar led the Indian delegation which comprised Director General, Civil Aviation, Dr. Naseem Zaidi, Chairman, Airports Authority of India, Shri V. P. Agrawal among others. The US was represented by Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Ray LaHood, Administrator, US Federal Aviation Administration, Mr. Randolph Babbit, US Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Mr. Dennis Hightower among others. More than 200 representatives from 80 aviation companies both from India and the US participated in the event. The Summit gave a boost to India-US Civil Aviation Cooperation and was an important platform for the stakeholders in the two countries – regulators, service providers, industry and government to deliberate and discuss issues for strengthening civil aviation ties.

A Joint Working Group meeting on civil aviation security was held in New Delhi on 20 January, 2010. Two Memoranda of Understanding – one on Deployment of Air Marshals by US on its aircraft coming into India and the second on cooperation to facilitate airport technical visits were signed.

Defence Relations

The fifth meeting of the India-US Senior Technology and Security Group was held from 11-12 May, 2009 in Washington USA. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri S. K. Mathur, Additional Secretary in Ministry of Defence and Mr. James Hursch, Deputy Under Secretary of Defence, Acting Director Defence Technology Security Administration in the US Department of Defence. Issues related to technology transfer and technology collaboration were discussed.

Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander, US Pacific Command visited India from 13-15 May, 2009 to discuss with Government of India issues related to the regional security situation, terrorism, and maritime security. He met Foreign Secretary, National Security Adviser and Chief of Naval Staff. India's Chief of Army Staff, General Deepak Kapoor, visited USA from 20-24 July, 2009.

India-US Army to Army Joint Exercises – *Yudh Abhyas* was held in Babina, Madhya Pradesh from 12-29 October, 2009. A similar India-US Joint Exercise – Cope India (Air Force) was held in Agra from 15-25 October, 2009.

The India-US Defence Procurement and Production Group meeting was held in New Delhi from 3-4 November, 2009. Vice Admiral Jeffrey Wierenga and Director General (Acquisition), Ministry of Defence co-chaired the meeting. A meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary and Mr. William Lynn, Deputy Secretary, US Department of Defence took place in New Delhi from 5-6 November, 2009.

US Pacific Command (PACOM) Commander Admiral Robert Willard, visited India from 3-4 December, 2009. He called on National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan and Chief of Army Staff Gen. Deepak Kapoor. They exchanged views on issues related to defence cooperation & regional security situation.

India-USA Joint Technical Group held its 12th meeting in Delhi from 28-29 January, 2010. The meeting was co-chaired by the Chief Controller Defence Research and Development in DRDO and his US counterpart Mr. Alfred Volkman, Director of International Cooperation in US Department of Defence.

Global Issues

Ambassador Ron Kirk, US Trade Representative visited New Delhi from 3-4 September, 2009 to attend the informal ministerial meeting of the Doha Round hosted by India.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission visited USA from 22-25 September, 2009 as the Indian Sherpa at the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh.

The seventh meeting of the Indo-US Global Issues Forum took place in New Delhi on 5 November, 2009. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao and the Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, US State Department, Ms. Maria Otero co-chaired the meeting. The two sides discussed cooperation in addressing global issues related to climate change, sustainable development, food security, energy security, health, elementary education, democracy, human rights and disaster management.

Ambassador Melanne Verveer, US Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues visited Delhi from 8-11 November, 2009 to attend the India Economic Summit in New Delhi. She called on Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Krishna Tirath and held exploratory discussions with Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shri D. K. Sikri, Co-Chair of the India-US Womens' Empowerment Forum, to set the agenda for the India-US Women's Empowerment Dialogue.

Disarmament and Non-proliferation

Ms. Ellen Tauscher, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs visited India from 11-13 November, 2009 for India-US Strategic Security Talks co-chaired by Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao and Under Secretary Tauscher. She called on National Security Advisor, Shri M. K. Narayanan and met with Special Envoy of Prime Minister, Shri Shyam Saran, to discuss India's proposals for bilateral co-operation in disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

High Technology Cooperation

High Technology Cooperation remained a top priority area of focus in India-US co-operation. Bilateral trade in high technology products stood at US$ 5.56 billion in 2008. India imported high technology products worth US$ 4.5 billion from the US and exported products worth US$ 1.06 billion to the US in 2008. Aerospace (US$ 2.6 billion - 60%) and IT and Communication products (US$ 1.03 billion - 22%) constituted the bulk of High Technology Products imported from the US.

The India-US Biotechnology and Life Sciences Working Group under the bilateral High Technology Cooperation Group met on the sidelines of BIO 2009 on 20 May, 2009 in Atlanta. Discussions focused on capacity building in harmonising regulatory framework and collaboration in R&D, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues like data protection, traditional knowledge disclosure norms, differentiation between legitimate generics and counterfeits *inter alia*. India's leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and Government of India Ministries demonstrated their technological capabilities and explored opportunities for enhancing biotech exports and R&D collaboration.

A public-private meeting of the Biotechnology and Life sciences Working Group of the High Technology Cooperation Group was held in New Delhi on 27 July, 2009. Participants included the US Delegation Department of Commerce, members of ADVAMED (US medical device Industry organization) and US biotechnology Industry and from the Indian side, the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Health, Department of Biotechnology and Department of

Pharmaceuticals, FICCI, CII and members of the Indian Industry. The meeting focused on collaboration in the field of medical devices, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

The seventh India-US High Technology Cooperation Group meeting would be taking place in Washington from 15-16 March, 2010.

Education Cooperation

Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Kapil Sibal visited New York and Washington from 25-31 October, 2009. He met with US Education Secretary and visited several universities in both the cities. During the visit of Prime Minister to Washington, both Governments launched the *"Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative"* with funding from both sides – US$ 5 million each - to increase university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between US and Indian universities. They also agreed to substantially expand the Fulbright – Nehru Programme with additional funding of US$ 1 million by each Government - to provide more student and scholar exchange grants in jointly identified priority fields that complement the areas of bilateral cooperation under the Strategic Dialogue.

The Fulbright scholarship program in India celebrated its 60th anniversary on 2 February, 2010. The Minister of External Affairs was the chief guest at an event organized by the United-States India Education Foundation to mark the event.

On 1 February, 2010, Ms. Judith McHale, Under Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy in the US State Department initiated the India-US Education Dialogue in New Delhi along with Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development. Their discussions focused on strengthening bilateral education cooperation and implementation of the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative which was launched in November 2009 with a financial commitment of US$ 5 million each from India and USA.

Science, Technology and Health Partnership

An Agreement to establish an India-US Science and Technology Endowment Fund and Board was signed on 20 July, 2009 in New Delhi.

A preparatory meeting for establishing the India-US Science & Technology Joint Commission was held in Washington on 8 December, 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Department of Science and Technology Dr. T. Ramasami.

India and the US set up a separate dialogue on Health cooperation co-chaired at the ministerial level to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two countries in the health sector.

An India-US Joint Working Group meeting on maternal and child health, human development research and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS was held at the National Institutes of Health, USA from 18-19 November, 2009. Under the India-US Programme on Environmental and Occupational Health, a workshop on Climate Change and Health was organized in Goa from 31 August-2 September 2009.

An MoU between the University of Minnesota and the Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR), New Delhi was signed in October 2006 for cooperation in health research. A joint workshop on Diabetes and Cancer under the MoU was organized in New Delhi from 26-28 August, 2009. A delegation from the University of Minnesota visited New Delhi to attend the third Joint Steering Committee meeting on health cooperation with ICMR on 1 October, 2009.

Bilateral talks on India-US Commercial Space Launch Agreement took place in Bengaluru from 27 - 28 October, 2009. Assistant US Trade Representative for Services and Investment Ms. Christine Bliss led the talks from the US side. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. A. Bhaskaranarayana, Scientific Secretary, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Canada

The India Canada agenda was steadily expanded during the year - pursuant to the Foreign Office Consultations held in Ottawa in December 2008. The visit of Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper to India in November 2009, accompanied by the Mr. Stockwell B. Day, Canadian Minister of International Trade, and the Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs was a culmination of intensified high level bilateral contacts between leaders of both Governments through the year as they pursued an enhanced bilateral agenda across a wide range of areas.

Clean Energy

In April 2009, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia led an Inter-Ministerial delegation to participate in the Canada India Energy Forum hosted in Toronto by the Canada India Foundation from 15-17 April, 2009. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission called on the Premier of Ontario and addressed several prestigious institutions, at their invitation, on India's growth strategy, prospects and the present opportunities in India for investments.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Government of India and the Government of Canada pursued their common intention in finalising an inter-governmental agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation. Discussions and negotiations were held between experts on both sides led by Dr. R. B. Grover, Director (Strategic Planning Group) in Department of Atomic Energy and Mr. Don Sinclair, Director General, International Security Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada. On 28 November, 2009, both sides finalised the text of an agreement for Civil Nuclear Cooperation between India and Canada.

Petroleum & Natural Gas

Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas (PNG) led a delegation to Calgary, Canada from 22-25 August, 2009 for a Road Show as part of the eighth round of NELP-VII and CBM-IV.

Trade and Economy

Mr. Gerald Keddy, Parliamentary Secretary to Canadian Minister of International Trade visited India from 1-5 September, 2009 to inaugurate a Canadian Zonal Trade office in Kolkata. He also participated in the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting and called on the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of State for Finance and Minister of State for Science & Technology.

Province of Ontario's Minister of Trade & Investment Ms. Sandra Pupatello visited India from 21 August-3 September 2009. She met Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Commerce Secretary and Secretary, Department of Science and Technology. In Mumbai, she interacted with members of the Indian Industry.

India-Canada bilateral trade

Bilateral trade for the period January-November 2009 are as under:

[Figures in US$ billion]

Description	January-November 2008	January-November 2009	% change
India's Total Exports	1.9	1.6	- 15.1
India's Total Imports	2.05	1.7	-14.4
Trade	3.9	3.3	-14.7

[Statistics Canada]

Mr. Stockwell B. Day, Canadian Minister of International Trade visited Ahmedabad on 25 September, 2009 to inaugurate Canada's Trade office in that city. The sixth India-Canada Trade Policy Consultations held in Ottawa from 29-30 September, 2009, provided an opportunity for both Governments to review bilateral economic and commercial relations. Commerce Secretary Shri Rahul Khullar led the Indian delegation, while Mr. Louis Levesque Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade led the Canadian delegation.

Discussions between India and Canada were held in Ottawa and Quebec City from 19-23 October, 2009 regarding a draft Social Security Agreement with the Federal Government in Canada and with the province of Quebec. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was the lead Ministry from the Indian side at the discussions.

Agriculture Cooperation

On 4 June, 2009 Punjab's Minister of Agriculture Mr. Sucha Singh Langah and Manitoba's Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Ms. Rosann Wowchuk signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Province of Manitoba and Punjab to support the establishment of a Food Development Centre in Punjab.

Senator Donald Oliver from the Province of Nova Scotia in Canada led the Atlantic Canada delegation to India from 15-23 January, 2010. He met Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, Ministers of Industries, Employment, Government of Maharashtra and Secretaries in the Union Ministries of Shipping, Transportation.

Strategic Issues

India-Canada Dialogue on Strategic Issues was held on 18 June, 2009 in Ottawa. Shri Vivek Katju, Special Secretary (Pol & IO) in Ministry of External Affairs led the GoI delegation. Ms. Colleen Swords, the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), in Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, was his counterpart. Both delegates exchanged perceptions to enhance mutual understanding on the situation in the South Asian region, issues related to disarmament, refugee

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Stephen Harper witnessing the signing of agreement between India and Canada, in New Delhi on 17 November, 2009.

President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of Argentina, Ms. Cristina Fernandez De Kirchner, at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 14 October, 2009.

issues, disaster management and other global issues of common concern.

Counter-terrorism Cooperation

The India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism met in Ottawa on 19 June, 2009. The Government of India delegation was led by Shri Vivek Katju, Special Secretary (Pol & IO) in MEA. The meeting enabled a discussion on global threat perceptions, ongoing terrorist investigations, technical cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism, terrorism-finance, drug-trafficking etc. Special Secretary also called on the Mr. Stockwell B. Day, Canadian Minister of International Trade who chaired the Afghanistan Committee in Canada's Parliament, and met Mr. Leonard Edwards, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs to exchange views on the situation in Afghanistan, where Canada's defence personnel are deployed.

Defence Cooperation

Major General M. G. Macdonald, Canadian Chief of Defence Intelligence visited India and held discussions with his counterpart in India, and with Deputy National Security Advisor on 23 September, 2009 in New Delhi.

Science & Technology

The third India-Canada Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation was held in Ottawa on 8 June, 2009. Both countries announced seven joint projects and expressed interest in enhancing cooperation in nano-technology. The two countries are working towards establishment of a virtual network of "Certain of Excellence in Nano-technology" with participation of Canadian universities. The Government of India delegation was led by Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology. Dr. Ramasami called on Mr. Stockwell Day, Canada's Minister of International Trade and Mr. Gary Goodyear, the Canadian Minister of State for Science and Technology.

Environment

The first meeting of the India-Canada Environment Forum which has been set up under the India-Canada Agreement for cooperation in the area of environment, was held from 18-19 June, 2009 in Ottawa. The Government of India delegation was led by Shri Hem Pande, Joint Secretary (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The two countries discussed the preparation of an Action Plan for specific proposals for bilateral cooperation.

Visit of Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada to India

Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper visited India on an official visit from 15-18 November, 2009. PM Harper was accompanied by the Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Mr. Stockwell B. Day, Canadian Minister of International Trade and senior Members of the Canadian Parliament, officials of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and a business delegation. The visit was an important milestone in the transformation of the bilateral relationship as it reinforced the commitment of both Governments to chart a higher-level strategic agenda.

Both Prime Ministers agreed on initiatives to strengthen and diversify bilateral relations and to collaborate on a shared global agenda. They discussed regional security issues - especially their shared commitment to the reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan and their mutual interest in closer cooperation in countering terrorism. They reiterated the need for intensified global cooperation in addressing these challenges. Both Governments agreed to work for the early conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism within the UN framework.

It was agreed that bilateral trade and the economic relationship between India & Canada would be intensified by putting in place facilitating mechanisms through the signing of bilateral economic agreements. Both leaders express the hope that with the finalisation of the proposed bilateral institutional framework, bilateral trade could be taken from the current level through concerted efforts to US$ 15-20 billion in the next five years.

Building on the success of both India and Canada in weathering the economic downturn, both Governments agreed to work collaboratively towards global economic recovery and to build international efforts in advance of the G-20 meetings that Canada will host in 2010. They also discussed climate change in the context of the Copenhagen meeting to be held in December 2009 and the importance of moving forward constructively on World Trade Organisation Doha Round negotiations.

Two MoUs were signed in the presence of the Prime Ministers of India and Canada. The first was Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Joint Study Group consisting experts from both countries to examine the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries. The second was a Memorandum of Understanding on

cooperation in the field of energy, including renewable energy & energy efficiency, hydrogen fuel-cell technology, bio-fuels, wind and solar energy, power-generation, transmission, distribution and end-use, energy research and development, increased sustainable exploration and production, mining and drilling of oil and gas.

Prime Minister Harper held talks with Prime Minister during which both leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Stephen Harper was received by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil and Vice-President, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and Leader of Opposition, Shri L. K. Advani called on Prime Minister Harper. The Canadian Prime Minister called on Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA. Prime Minister Harper met the leaders of the Indian industry and business community and participated in Round Table discussions on the themes of investment, education, and infrastructure. Prime Minister Harper also visited Mumbai and Amritsar.

A Joint Statement issued during the visit welcomed ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional framework for bilateral relations including through the signing of a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, a Social Security Agreement and a Civil Nuclear Cooperation agreement. It also recognized education, science and technology and innovation as areas which could be explored further to build people to people contacts and synergies between institutions of higher learning in both countries. In this context, discussions were held in pursuance of the interest on both sides to take initiatives to facilitate exchanges in the field of culture including the celebration of the Festival of India in locations across Canada in 2011.

During the visit, the Mr. Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs exchanged views with Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony, National Security Adviser Shri M. K. Narayanan and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Mr. Stockwell B. Day, Canadian Minister of International Trade, met the Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma and the Minister of State for Science and Technology Shri Prithviraj Chavan.

Culture

A three member delegation led by Dr. Vijay S. Madan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture visited Ottawa from 25-29 January, 2010 for discussions with National Art Gallery, regarding the Inuit Art Exhibitions to be held in October 2010 in India, exhibitions/events connected with the Year of India in Canada 2011 and the MoU for Cultural Cooperation which is under negotiation.

Science and Technology

A three member delegation led by Dr. S. Natesh, Senior Advisor & Head, International Collaboration, Department of Biotechnology visited Vancouver from 20-26 January, 2010 to take part in business-to-business partnering summit with Canadian experts, and the Bio partnering North America event.

Other High Level exchanges

Premier of the Province of Ontario, Mr. Dalton McGuinty visited India from 6-11 December, 2009. He led a 75-member mission focused on clean technologies and comprising leading Canadian companies in this sector. In Delhi, Premier McGuinty and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia jointly addressed the plenary session on "Partnering in Clean Technology, Innovation & Adoption" on 7 December, 2009. Premier McGuinty offered eco-friendly technologies to clean/conserve Yamuna River in Delhi. He met Minister of Roadways, Commerce Minister, Minister of Human Resource Development, and Minister of State for Science &Technology and Chief Ministers of Delhi and Maharashtra. He also interacted with the corporate sector in India and chaired a Round-Table discussion on global trade at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad.

Mr. Mark Mayrand, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada visited India at the invitation of Shri Navin Chawla, Chief Election Commissioner of India to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the founding of Election Commission of India in Delhi from 25-27 January, 2010.

Ms. Maria Barrados, President, Public Service Commission of Canada visited India from 27 January-6 February 2010. She met Chairperson of Union Public Service Commission and Directors of the Indian institute of Public Administration and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration.

Mr. Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec Province, visited India from 31 January-7 February 2010. He is led a 186-member delegation comprising business leaders, researchers, scientists and university representatives with the aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas such as energy, hydropower, biotech, life sciences, ICT, R&D, infrastructure, education and tourism. Mr. Charest met Ministers of Human Resource Development, Civil Aviation, Road Transport &

Highways, Mines & DONER and the Chief Ministers and Governors of Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Mr. Mark Carney, Governor, Bank of Canada is visiting India on February 16, 2010.

Chief Justice of Canada, Beverley Mc Lachlin accompanied by Justices Morris J. Fish & Marshall Rothstein and Witold Tymowski, Legal Officer, from the Supreme Court of Canada will be travelling to India from 22-26 February, 2010. The visit is part of an ongoing Indo-Canadian legal exchange, the last visit having taken place in May 2008 to Canada.

There is also expected to be a visit to India by a 20-member Canadian Forces National Securities Programme (NSP) delegation from 22-26 February, 2010.

India-Canada Foreign Office Consultations will be held on 3 March, 2010 in New Delhi. Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Vivek Katju, and Mr. Leonard Edwards, Deputy Minister in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada will lead the discussions and review of bilateral, regional and global issues.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission is expected to visit Canada for the G-20 Sherpas meeting, scheduled from 18-19 March, 2010.

Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Road Transport and Highways proposes to visit Canada from 22-26 March, 2010. The visit is aimed at sensitizing the business and investor community of the opportunities in the Highway sector in India as per the PPP model.

Latin American Countries

Argentina

India and Argentina reiterated their mutual desire to work towards a strategic partnership during the state visit of President of Argentina Dr. (Ms.) Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner to India from 14-15 October, 2009. She was accompanied by a large delegation consisting of Ministers including Foreign Minister Mr. Jorge Taiana, Governors of the Province of La Pampa, San Juan and a large business delegation. This was the first Presidential visit from Argentina in 15 years, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Argentina. President Pratibha Patil met the visiting dignitary, Prime Minister held delegations level talks and Vice President of India, Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance and Leader of Opposition called on the President of Argentina. The joint statement released during the visit reflects desire on both sides to strengthen their multifaceted bilateral relations and work towards a strategic partnership. In all, nine Agreements/MoUs covering various sectors such as S&T, Hydrocarbons, sports, trade promotion and outer space were concluded. An Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was initiated. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing economic engagement and bilateral trade which has increased from US$ 694 million in 2003 to US$ 1328 million in 2008 and set a trade target of US$ 3 billion by 2012. President Cristina participated in Business Seminars in Mumbai and Delhi and invited Indian businessmen to invest in Argentina.

Indo-LAC Business Conclave in Buenos Aires was organized by the Embassy of India in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industries on 2 July, 2009 in Buenos Aires in which Presidents of Chambers of Commerce from India, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina as well as Commercial Representatives from Indian missions in Brazil, Chile and Colombia participated. Business seminars were also organized in Uruguay, Cordoba and Buenos Aires. A Cultural Festival of India was organized from 5-15 November, 2009, in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. The Festival included handicrafts exhibition, *Bharatanatyam* and *Dandiya* Gujrati folk dance performances, Film Festival, seminars, literary contest, Food Festival, photo exhibition besides Incredible India tourism promotional activities.

Bolivia

Bolivian Vice-Minister for External Trade and Integration Mr. Pablo Guzmán Laguia visited India at the invitation of Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma for the informal WTO Ministerial meeting of the Trade Ministers held in New Delhi from 3-4 September, 2009. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd., completed the infrastructure facilities for export of iron ore from their leased mine in El Mutun in Bolivia which they acquired with a total investment of over US$ 2.1 billion.

Brazil

The strategic partnership with Brazil received further impetus with the visit of External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna to Brazil from 31 August-1 September 2009 for the Fourth Bilateral Joint Commission meeting and the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Dialogue Forum. EAM co-chaired the Joint Commission Meeting along with Brazilian Foreign Minister Mr. Celso Amorim. The JC discussed various issues of bilateral interest including agriculture, energy, trade and investment, science and

technology, defence and space research. Both sides reiterated the strategic relevance of their bilateral relations and the importance of close consultations with each other on various multilateral issues. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to supporting each other's candidature for a permanent seat on an expanded Security Council in the UN and make concerted efforts to sensitize other countries on the importance of the expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. The Brazilian side has assured to consider resolving the pending issue of allocating Block BMS 17 to ONGC Videsh. The two sides agreed to encourage the participation of their petroleum companies through joint bidding, joint ventures and collaboration in upstream and downstream opportunities and activities in Brazil, India and third countries. Engineers India Limited (EIL) expressed keen interest in servicing segments of Hydrocarbons sector in Brazil in Petroleum Refineries, Petrochemicals, Oil & Gas Processing (Onshore), Oil & Gas Processing (Offshore) and Pipelines.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mr. Celso Amorim visited India in September 2009 to take part in an informal meeting on the WTO Doha round in New Delhi at the invitation of Minister of Commerce Shri Anand Sharma. Trade between India and Brazil was to the tune of US$ 3.68 billion during 2008-09.

Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju held bilateral talks with Mr. Roberto Jaguaribe, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil from 28-29 January, 2010 in New Delhi. They comprehensively reviewed bilateral relations, issues pertaining to India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) and Brazil, India, Russia, China (BRIC).

Chile

India-Chile Defence Cooperation have been further strengthened with the visit of Chief of Army Staff General Deepak Kapoor to Chile from 31 May-5 June 2009. Earlier, an 18-member National Defence College delegation visited Chile from 11-15 May, 2009. During this visit, talks were held on strengthening cooperation between NDC and ANEPE (counter part of NDC).

Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and father of the Green Revolution of India, visited Chile from 23-29 October, 2009 at the invitation of the President of Chile. He was accompanied by seven eminent scientists from the Foundation. A Partnership Framework Agreement was signed between the MSSRF and *Fundacion Para la Innovacion Agraria*.

Colombia

Bilateral relations with Colombia intensified during the year with exchange of Ministerial level visits. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor, visited Colombia from 18-19 January, 2010 and called on President Mr. Alvaro Uribe, Vice President Mr. Francisco Santos and President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Edgar Gomez Roman. He held bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Bermudez and also exchanged views on regional developments and multilateral issues. The visit coincided with the valedictory of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations. MoS signed an MoU on Cooperation in Health. An MoU for Cooperation between National Institute of Information Technology and SENA (a Colombia Government entity for vocational and professional training) was signed which will help to expand the scope of training in IT and software to cater to the Colombian BPOs and call centres. Earlier Foreign Minister of Colombia Mr. Jaime Bermudez, accompanied by Minister of Commerce, Industry & Tourism, Luis Guillermo Plata and a small business delegation visited India. External Affairs Minister held delegation level talks where both sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues. During the visit, an MoU for Cooperation in Bamboo Applications and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) were signed.

Earlier, bilateral Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 2 April, 2009. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia Ambassador Clemencia Forero Ucros and Shri Nalin Surie, Secretary (West) headed the Colombian and Indian delegation respectively. The Vice Minister also called on Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor and discussed bilateral relations. The first meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation with the Colombia was held in Bogota from 7-9 September, 2009. Additional Secretary Shri R. S. Mathur, Ministry of Defence and Colombian Vice-Minister co-chaired the meeting which focused on cooperation in defence production and training.

Several business delegations visited Colombia during the year to explore business opportunities: a high power delegation in June 2009 and Spices Board of India delegation in July 2009. On 6 August, 2009 Finacle TM Universal Banking Solution, a subsidiary of Infosys Technologies signed a contract with Bancolombia, Colombia's largest bank. A delegation led by President of

the state oil company Ecopetrol visited India from 8-11 September, 2009.

India participated as the Country Invitee of Honour in the 26th Festival of Cine of Bogota from 1-9 October, 2009. Six films of the famous Indian Director, Shri Shyam Benegal, including the film '*Making of the Mahatma*' was shown on 2 October, 2009, day celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti.

Ecuador

Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) had handed over five of the seven *Dhruv* Helicopters purchased by Ecuador to the Defence Minister of Ecuador Javier Ponce in May 2009. A Memorandum of Understanding to set up an IT Centre in Ecuador with Indian assistance was signed on 11 August, 2009 in Quito. A Festival of India was organized on 19 November, 2009 in Ecuador in which Vice President Mr. Lenin Moreno was the Chief Guest.

Mexico

In pursuance of our Privileged Partnership with Mexico, bilateral interactions were facilitated during the year. The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Navin Chawla, visited Mexico from 1-6 July, 2009, at the invitation of his Mexican counterpart, as an observer for the midterm elections in Mexico on 5 July, 2009.

Bilateral trade with Mexico is approximately US$ 2.3 billion in favour of Mexico [US$ 650 million + US$ 1738 million]. A 40-member business-cum-tourism delegation from Bancomer, the largest Bank in Mexico, visited India from 20 November-4 December 2009. Seven Indian engineering companies, led by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), participated in Auto-mechanica in Mexico City from 15-17 July, 2009. 10 Indian companies representing book publishing and printing industry, participated in an international book fair held from 29 November-3 December 2009 in Guadalajara. A six member textile delegation coordinated by the Mexican Apparel Industry Association visited India from 18-20 November, 2009.

ICCR has decided to open an Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico in 2010 which will give a further boost to our cultural relations with Mexico. India participated, for the first time, in the Third International Cultural Festival of Acapulco "*La Nao*" from 5-8 November, 2009, with an ICCR folk dance troupe from Mathura, Geetanjali International Folk Tang (GIFT).

Paraguay

Festival of India was organized for the first time in Paraguay in 2009. Food Festival, Film Festival and Classical and Folk Dance shows were organized.

Peru

Bilateral relations with Peru received a boost with the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor to Peru from 20-22 January, 2010. He held discussions with Foreign Minister of Peru, Mr. Jose Antonio Garcia Belaunde on strengthening bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues. Both the Ministers signed a bilateral Protocol of Cooperation in Science and Technology for the year 2010-2012 and an MoU for Cooperation between Indian Council of World Affairs and its counterpart CEPEI was signed in the presence of MoS. He also met the Mayor of Lima Mr. Luis Castaneda Lossio and Secretary General of the Andean Community Mr. Freddy Ehlers with whom he exchanged views on the developments with regard to the Andean community. He interacted with the members of the Peru-India Chamber of Commerce, Indian community, think-tanks and academicians.

Peru sent one candidate for the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats and UN Peace Keeping Courses in New Delhi. Business delegations from the CHEMEXCIL, Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) and TEXPROCIL visited Peru during this period and various Buyer Seller Meets were held in Lima.

Uruguay

Festival of India was organized for the first time in Uruguay in 2009. Food Festival with two chefs from India (ITDC) along with Classical and Folk Dance shows were organized. Film Festival was also organized with ten Bollywood movies.

Venezuela

In 2008-09 Venezuela became India's largest trade partner in the LAC region due to high imports of crude oil to the tune of US$ 4 billion and exports from India were US$ 179 million. An 18-member delegation of the National Defence College visited Venezuela from 17-22 May, 2009. A nine member ICCR sponsored troupe visited Venezuela from 23-28 May, 2009 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Venezuela. A Festival of India was also held on the occasion at Merida, where two seminars on "*India: Multiple Dialogues*" and "*India and the Global Financial Crisis*" were organized. A photo exhibition

on Kashmir, an art exhibition, an Indian film and documentary festival and a food festival were also organized as a part of the Festival of India.

Central America

Belize

In September 2009, at the request of Belize India has agreed to depute an Indian police officer for revamping of Belize Police Academy.

Costa Rica

As part of our endeavour to participate in the capacity building of Costa Rica an MoU to set up an IT Centre in Costa Rica by the Government of India was signed on 18 September, 2009.

El Salvador

El Salvador started implementing visa free agreement signed between India and El Salvador for Diplomatic and Official passport holders of both countries with effect from 1 April, 2009. As a gesture of solidarity, Government of India made a cash donation of US$ 250,000 to El Salvador as humanitarian assistance in the wake of hurricane '*Ida*' in November 2009.

Guatemala

India has opened its mission in Guatemala in December 2009. Following an appeal for international assistance by the Government of Guatemala due to recurring droughts and food insecurity, the Government of India made a cash donation of US$ 250,000 to Guatemala in November 2009.

Honduras

Honduras utilized the US$ 30 million credit line extended by GoI for acquiring trucks, communication equipment, etc. from India.

Nicaragua

The training of IT personnel at "*NIIT-INATEC India-Nicaragua IT centre*" manned by NIIT staff, under the auspices of MEA, gained popularity in imparting IT skills.

Panama

The Government of Panama relaxed the visa regime for Indian nationals after the assumption of charge by the newly elected President, Ricardo Martinelli, on 1 July, 2009. Now Indian nationals having visa for USA/Canada/UK/Australia or any country of the European Union that has been used at least once, can enter Panama on the basis of a Tourist Card valid for 30 days issued on arrival.

Caribbean

Antigua & Barbuda

It supported India's candidature for various international organizations including External Auditor of International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN Appeals Tribunal.

Cuba

India's relations with Cuba gained a new momentum in 2009 with a series of activities and exchange of high level visits from both sides. Shri E. Ahamed, MoS led a ten member Indian Delegation to the NAM Ministerial COB Meet in Havana from 27-30 April, 2009. During this visit, he met Cuban Foreign Minister Mr. Bruno Rodrigues Parrilla and discussed a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues.

"*India Cuba Knowledge Centre*" was extended for one more year at the request of the Cuban Government. A "*Co-operation Convention in the ICT Sector*" was signed on 8 June, 2009 with Cuba. On 20 November, 2009, at the ITEC Day Reception, the beginning of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between India and Cuba (1960-2010) was officially announced. As part of these celebrations, ICCR sponsored the visit of a renowned Cuban Painter Ms. Zaida del Rio to India.

India extended a Line of Credit of US$ 5 million to Cuba for the purchase of agricultural machinery from India in November 2009.

Dominican Republic

Bilateral Relations with Dominican Republic continued to widen and deepen in all spheres. The relations received fresh impetus with the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor to Dominican Republic from 23-25 January, 2010 at the invitation of President of Dominican Republic, Dr. Leonel Fernandez with whom he held discussions on strengthening bilateral relations, regional developments and multilateral issues. He also met Foreign Minister, Mr. Carlos Morales Troncoso and Foreign Trade and Tourism Minister, Mr. Eddy Martinez. An MoU for setting up an IT Centre in Dominican Republic was signed during the visit.

Guyana

An ICCR composite dance and music troupe participated in the 171st anniversary celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Guyana in May 2009. An Agreement to extend a line of credit (LoC) of US$ 4 million to purchase heavy duty agricultural pumps for drainage and irrigation projects in Guyana has been concluded.

Haiti

India made a cash contribution of US$ 5 million as emergency relief to Haiti for earthquake devastation on 12 January, 2010. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor visited Haiti on 26 January, 2010 to personally convey our sympathies to the people and Government of Haiti. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Minister to Haiti and he met President of Haiti Mr. Rene Preval. The first Indian Formed Police Unit (FPU) Contingent which joined the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to support international efforts to ensure a safe environment in Haiti successfully completed one year duty on 17 October, 2009. The contingent proactively supported the Haitian National Police (HNP) & United National Police (UNPOL) in routine duties as well as special operations. The contribution of IFPU in furtherance of the mission mandate has been highly appreciated by MINUSTAH authorities. The second Contingent arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on 17 October, 2009 itself.

Jamaica

ICT Centre established with the Indian assistance under the ITEC Programme, in Kingston, started functioning from February 2009.

Suriname

Bilateral relations between India and Suriname reached higher plane this year, with investments in commercial farming in Suriname. An Indian company, Three-F (Foods, Fats & Fertilizers) has been offered 21,000 hectares of land by Suriname government for its oil-palm project. Once the project is fully operational, it will involve an investment of over US$ 200 million and is likely to create more than 4000 jobs locally.

Ministry of Defence, Suriname has signed an MoU with Hindustan Aeronautical Limited for supply of three *Chetak* helicopters at US$ 13.407 million under a Line of Credit extended by Government of India.

Suriname's Minister for Public Works Mr. Ganesh Kandhai visited India from 13-17 April, 2009 at the invitation of the Kirloskar Brothers in connection with the Second Phase of the Pumping stations being set up by Kirloskar Brothers.

St. Lucia

India made a cash donation of US$ 250,000 to St. Lucia for reconstruction of St. Jude Hospital which was destroyed in a fire accident.

Trinidad & Tobago

During the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Trinidad & Tobago for the CHOGM Summit from 27-29 November, 2009, he held bilateral discussions with several countries of the region.

National Institute of Fashion Technology and University of Trinidad and Tobago signed an MoU for cooperation in Fashion Technology.

CII organized the first ever India-Caribbean Conclave on 23 June, 2009 which was inaugurated by T&T Trade and Industry Minister Mr. Mariano Brown. Suriname, Cuba and El Salvador also took part in the Conclave. A CII team also participated in the 10th Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) from 24-27 June, 2009. An India Tourism and Travel Seminar was inaugurated by the T&T Minister of Tourism Ross. The new India-T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce was launched to foster trade and investment not only in India and T&T but also in the region.

A Festival of India was also organized from 7-31 August, 2009 to coincide with celebrations of both India and Trinidad & Tobago's Independence Day which falls on 31 August. An ICCR-sponsored cultural troupe, visited Trinidad and Tobago from 26 May-1 June 2009 to participate in the Indian Arrival Day celebrations.

United Nations and International Organizations

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UNP

64th Session of the UN General Assembly

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the General Debate of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), New York from 20-27 September, 2009. In his address to the UNGA on 26 September, 2009, EAM stressed the need for reform and restructuring of the UN and other global governance structures to effectively meet challenges that confront the current international system. He said that the voice of the developing world, including the small island nations and of Africa, was of principal and core relevance to have truly participatory and global responses to global challenges. In particular, EAM highlighted the need for revitalization of the role of the UNGA and strengthening its role in global deliberations; and converting the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) into a strong body for development; and reforming the UN Security Council and making it more representative by expanding its permanent and non-permanent membership.

Speaking of the economic and financial crisis, External Affairs Minister said that the international response should not be limited to measures to stimulate economies but more importantly, include ways to restructure the current international governance system which failed to respond to the crisis. He pointed out that hard-won gains in alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease were being reversed and the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals were seriously threatened by the economic turmoil. It was imperative, he said, that the United Nations act in concert to coherently overcome these challenges and the developing countries receive priority in any global response to the crisis.

Underlining the central role of international trade and commerce in revitalizing global economic growth, External Affairs Minister reiterated India's commitment to negotiations in the Doha Development Round and called for their resumption at an early date. He said that India strongly favoured fair and equitable rule-based multilateral trade negotiations, which recognized and address the legitimate demands of the developing countries.

On climate change, External Affairs Minister said that India would work for an outcome at the Copenhagen Conference that recognized the development imperatives of developing countries and was rooted in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. He stressed the need to move away from concentrating on 'mitigation' only and ensure that there was focus on adaptation, which was critical for developing countries. EAM stressed that developing countries must be supported financially, technologically and with capacity building resources so that they could cope with the immense challenges of adaptation and special efforts were required to develop programmes that addressed the critical needs of Small Island States and of the most vulnerable countries. In this context, he mentioned the hosting of a high-level global conference on "*Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer*" (22-23 October, 2009) by India in cooperation with the UN. EAM also spoke about domestic measures taken by India such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change with separate eight National Missions, including Missions for Enhanced Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy, doubling the budget for forestry in 2009 to US$ 1.3 billion, setting ambitious goals, supporting and facilitating major research to assess various aspects related to climate change.

Underscoring the highest priority attached by India to the goal of nuclear disarmament, External Affairs Minister welcomed the renewed global debate on achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. He reiterated India's proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention for banning the production, development, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and to provide for their complete elimination within a specified time-frame, first articulated in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan in 1988 and mentioned by the Prime Minister at the 63rd UNGA session in September 2008.

Recalling India's long-standing association with UN peacekeeping operation, External Affairs Minister stressed that strengthening the normative basis for peacekeeping operations and giving major Troop

Contributing Countries (TCCs) a greater say would serve to make peacekeeping more effective.

External Affairs Minister also called upon all countries to make serious efforts to arrive at an early consensus on the text of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) to strengthen the international legal framework of the fight against terrorism.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, External Affairs Minister represented the Prime Minister at the "*Summit on Climate Change*" organized by UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban ki-Moon on 22 September, 2009. In his intervention at the Round Table, EAM said that India has a major interest in ensuring a substantive and constructive outcome in Copenhagen and would be part of the solution, even though we have not caused the problem. He said that the outcome must be rooted in equity and respect the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially common but differentiated responsibilities and also historical responsibility. Further, it must also ensure that developing countries can pursue accelerated development, also so that they have the resources to cope and adapt to climate change. The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh and the Special Envoy to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Shri Shyam Saran also attended the meeting on Climate Change.

On the margins of the UNGA Session, External Affairs Minister participated in several high-level multilateral meetings held in New York, namely, 14th Summit Meeting of the Group of Fifteen (G-5) (25 September), IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Ministerial Meeting (21 September), G-5 Foreign Ministers' meeting (22 September), Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Terrorism (24 September), BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India & China) Ministerial Meeting (24 September), meeting on the 60th anniversary of establishment of UNRWA (24 September), Ministerial meeting of the Group of Fifteen (24 September), Fifth India-GCC Political Dialogue (25 September), G-77 Ministerial Meeting (25 September), and Informal Meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers (26 September). In addition, the Indian delegation also participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations (26 September) and the Ministerial meeting of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (ICNRD) (29 September).

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs participated in the 64th Session of the UNGA and made a statement on 19 October, 2009 on the subject of "*Sports for Peace and Development: Building and Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal.*"

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs participated in the 64th UNGA Session and delivered a statement on 20 October, 2009 on the subject of "*New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support.*" Dr. Tharoor also made a statement in the UNGA on 12 October, 2009 during the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population & Development.

A non-official delegation of India consisting of 18 Members of Parliament participated in the 64th UNGA Session during October-November 2009 and delivered statements on India's position on a number of topical issues.

India was among the 16 Member States elected as Vice Presidents of the 64th UNGA Session in the elections held in June 2009. The 16 elected members and five permanent members of the Security Council together serve as members of the General Committee of the UNGA.

Third International Day of Non-Violence

UN commemorated the Third International Day of Non-Violence by release of a commemorative stamp and a souvenir card by Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, the President of the UN General Assembly and Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, the UN Deputy Secretary General in an event held at the Dag Hammarskjold Library, New York on 2 October, 2009. The one dollar stamp issued by the UN Postal Administration depicts an artistic rendition of Mahatma Gandhi and was designed by Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. The souvenir card depicts a block of the four new stamps and carries messages from External Affairs Minister of India, Shri S. M. Krishna and the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

Political Issues in the UN

Indian representatives made statements in the UNGA Plenary and its Committees on the issues of reform of the UN Security Council, revitalization of the General Assembly, international terrorism, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, Central Emergency Response Fund, promotion and protection of human rights, protection of civilians in armed conflicts, the situation in Afghanistan, the situation in the Middle East, the Question of Palestine, and support by the UN to the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or Restored Democracies. Highlights of India's participation in discussions in the UN on main political issues are given below.

Middle East

India remained engaged in the consideration of the Middle East issue in the Fourth Committee as well as the Plenary of the 64th UNGA. India's statements on the Palestinian issue reiterated its long-standing, historic and steadfast support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including their right to live in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and UNSC Resolutions 1397 & 1515. India's statements also underscored its commitment to support Palestinian people in pursuit of their legitimate goals and their efforts aimed at economic and social development with dignity and self-reliance while reiterating its resolute opposition to all acts of terror and violence.

Stressing on the primacy of humanitarian concerns in the Gaza Strip, India called for an end to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and easing restrictions on free movement of goods and persons within Palestine. India condemned in the strongest possible terms the violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law committed during the Gaza conflict in December 2008-January 2009 and called for the unqualified adherence by all the concerned parties to the relevant instruments of international humanitarian law and human rights law. India voted in support of the Resolution on the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict at the UN Human Rights Council and also at the UN General Assembly. At the same time, India expressed its reservations on some of the recommendations made by the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, including on involvement of the International Criminal Court and the UN Security Council as well as on some of the procedures adopted by the Mission.

India enhanced its contribution to the UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) during 2009 which was 60th anniversary year for its establishment for undertaking relief work in the occupied Palestinian territories. India also provided US$ 10 million as budget support to the Palestinian National Authority after the International Conference to Support the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza held in Sharm-el-Sheikh in March 2009.

The Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People stated that concerted and all round action is necessary to invigorate the peace process with the objective of achieving a durable, comprehensive and just settlement.

Reform of the UN Security Council

India remained actively engaged in the pursuit of a genuine and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, involving expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent membership categories and improvement in its working methods. A significant development in the process of UNSC reform was the commencement of intergovernmental negotiations in informal plenary of the UN General Assembly in March 2009. Three rounds of negotiations took place from March-September 2009 in during the 63rd UNGA session. During these negotiations, the most delegations clearly expressed their preference for an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. This aspect was noted in the summaries issued by the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations.

At the end of the 63rd UNGA session, India, in concert with other G-4 countries (Brazil, Germany and Japan) and other like-minded African, Asian, Caribbean and Pacific Island states, successfully worked for adoption by the UNGA of a resolution that called for immediate resumption of the negotiations in the 64th UNGA, building on progress achieved in the 63rd Session. The fourth round of negotiations was held in December 2009. Subsequently, the G-4 countries and South Africa mobilized 138 countries to sign a petition to the Chair of the negotiations, requesting him to present a text on which negotiations could proceed.

Terrorism

Strengthening international cooperation for prevention and suppression of terrorism remained a key priority for India's engagement at the United Nations. In this context, India continued its engagement with other countries for early conclusion of negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT). External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, in his address to the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly in October 2009, stressed the importance of Comprehensive Convention in fight against international terrorism and urged member states to finalize and adopt the draft CCIT without further delay. India continued to support the implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006 and the institutionalization of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). India maintained close cooperation with UN agencies dealing with counter-terrorism. Mr. Richard Barrett, Coordinator of the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to UNSC resolution 1267 on Al-Qaida and Taliban, visited India

in September 2009 to discuss cooperation in implementation of counter-terrorism.

Peacekeeping

India participated actively in the policy debate on UN peacekeeping and made three statements in the UN Security Council during 2009 on peacekeeping related issues. India also made a statement in a debate on Protection of Civilians in UN Peacekeeping Operations in the UN Security Council. In addition, 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 is one of the oldest, largest and consistent contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations. In 2009, India was the third largest troop contributor with around 8,760 military personnel deployed with nine UN Peacekeeping missions. The largest Indian presence was in the UN Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (4,547), followed by the UN Mission in Sudan (2,677). The high standards of performance consistently maintained by the Indian troops and policemen deployed on UN Missions under challenging circumstances have won them high regard world-wide.

UN Democracy Fund

India continued to play a prominent role in the UN Democracy fund launched in 2005 to assist projects that consolidate and strengthen democratic institutions and facilitate democratic governance. India is one of founding members and the second largest contributor to UNDEF with US$ 20 million. Since its inception, UNDEF has committed approximately US$ 80 million for around 271 projects in three rounds. During 2009, the Advisory Board of the UNDEF met twice, in April and October. It was recommended in the last Board meeting in October 2009 to launch the fourth round of funding of new projects. In the Advisory Board as well as in the Expert group meetings, India has focused on effective monitoring of projects and proper utilization and disbursement of funds.

High Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation

Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the High Level United Nations Conference on South-South cooperation at Nairobi, Kenya from 1-3 December 2009. In her address at the Conference on 2 December, 2009, she underlined India's steadfast commitment and efforts to advance the collective cause of the South, bilaterally as well as in the framework of regional and multilateral groupings. She also urged the UN to expand South-South Cooperation and facilitate enhanced triangular cooperation by bringing in resources from the North and harnessing the Southern capacities, expertise and experience.

Other International Organizations

Non Aligned Movement

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt from 15-16 July, 2009. The two themes of the Summit were '*The Current Economic and Financial Crisis*' and '*International Solidarity for Peace and Development*'. PM in his statement at the Summit highlighted the importance of NAM, particularly, in addressing global challenges of food security, energy security, climate change and reform of the international institutions. Expressing serious concern on international terrorism, PM called for an early agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the NAM Ministerial meeting held from 13-14 July, 2009 just before the NAM summit. EAM also participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine held on 13 July, 2009.

Shri E. Ahamed, the then Minister of State for External Affairs, led the Indian delegation to the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau held in Havana, Cuba from 29-30 April, 2009 to prepare for the NAM Summit. The Final Document adopted by the NAM Ministerial meeting, inter-alia, strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Mumbai from 26-29 November, 2008 and called for international cooperation against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of the reprehensible attack.

The Commonwealth

Largest among the 54 member-states of the Commonwealth, India is among the leading contributors to its activities and fifth largest contributor to its budget. India provides the largest number of technical experts after UK under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) for providing assistance to developing Commonwealth countries and contributed US$ 1 million to the fund in 2009-10. India has also committed Euro 1 million to the Commonwealth Connects Special Voluntary Fund created at CHOGM

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing a Press Conference, on the sidelines of the 15th NAM Summit, at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 July, 2009. Union Minister for External Affairs, Shri S. M. Krishna is also seen.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the President of Egypt, Mr. Hosni Mubarak on the sideline of the 15th NAM Summit, at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 July, 2009.

2005 in Malta to bridge the digital divide in the Commonwealth Countries.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 27-29 November, 2009. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna took part in the pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers meeting held in Port of Spain from 25-26 November, 2009. The theme of CHOGM 2009 was: '*Partnering for a more equitable and sustainable future*'. The Indian delegation played an active role in the finalization of the 2009 CHOGM Communiqué and other stand alone statements including one on Climate Change. During the CHOGM 2009, Prime Minister announced the following additional initiatives by India for the Commonwealth:

a) A fully financed Diplomatic Training Module for Commonwealth countries in the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi beginning in 2010.

b) India will underwrite the cost of the first phase of the Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal (CP3).

c) As host to the Commonwealth 2010 Games, India will fund the post of a Sports Development Adviser in the Commonwealth Secretariat for four years.

d) An additional 250 slots for training for the Commonwealth countries under India's International Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

e) A contribution of US$ 80,000 per annum for a newly established Commonwealth Small States Joint Office in Geneva.

f) Doubling of India's contribution to the Commonwealth Media Development Fund to US$ 120,000, spread over a period of two years.

g) Support for Commonwealth Secretary General's initiative to convene a body of National Elections Commissions to share experiences and learn lessons from each other.

The Government of India announced several initiatives and projects to mark 2009 as the 60th anniversary year of the creation of the Modern Commonwealth, including release of commemorative stamps and first day covers and release of commemorative coins of Rs. 100 and Rs. 5 denominations.

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

India continued its participation in the deliberations of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) established in January 2009 as an international forum of countries and organizations interested in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. India is a founding member of CGPCS which currently includes 45 countries and seven international organizations (UN Secretariat, NATO, the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States, INTERPOL and International Maritime Organization) along with two maritime industry groups, BIMCO and INTERTANKO, who take part as Observers.

Community of Democracies

Minister of State of External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor represented India at the 5th Ministerial Conference of Community of Democracies (CoD) hosted by Portugal as the Chair of the group in Lisbon from 11-12 July, 2009. The conference held three thematic sessions on "*Implications of the Current Financial and Economic Crisis in Democratic Governance, Democratic Governance and Development and Future Challenges for the Community of Democracies*". India is a member of the Convening Group of the CoD, which is a forum of democratic countries to promote strengthening of the democratic form of governance throughout the world.

Economic issues

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation to the General Debate of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2009. In his address to the UN General Assembly on 26 September, 2009, External Affairs Minister stressed on the need for deeper introspection on whether the United Nations and other global governance structures are geared to effectively meet the challenges that confront the current international system. He said that the reform and restructuring of the global governance architecture is the critical need of our times and the voice of the developing world, including the small island nations and of Africa, is of principal and core relevance, if we are to have truly participatory and global responses to global challenges.

External Affairs Minister said that in the face of the current economic and financial crisis, hard-won gains in alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease are being reversed and the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals are seriously threatened. He added that it is imperative that the United Nations act in concert to coherently overcome these challenges. India, which is actively engaged in the G-20 and other processes, has always stressed that developing countries must receive priority in any global response to the crisis.

External Affairs Minister expressed India's commitment to negotiations in the Doha Development Round and stated that India strongly favoured fair and equitable rule-based multilateral trade negotiations, which recognize and address the legitimate demands of the developing countries. He also recalled India's efforts in resuming the negotiations at an early date, in particular, the international ministerial level conference held in New Delhi on 3-4 September, 2009.

Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the United Nations Conference on '*World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development*', held in New York from 24-30 June, 2009. She addressed the Plenary on 25 June, 2009. India also participated in the four roundtables held during the Conference.

India participated in the "*Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the UN General Assembly on the Global Food Crisis and the Right to Food*" held on 6 April, 2009 and the Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the UN General Assembly on the "*Energy Efficiency, Energy Conservation and New and Renewable Sources of Energy*" held on 18 June, 2009 in New York.

Ms. Praneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs also participated in the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and made a statement on the subject of "*Sports for Peace and Development: Building and Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal*."

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs participated in the 64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and made a statement on the subject of "*New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Suppor*t."

Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments held in New York from 16-17 November, 2009.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held in Geneva from 6-30 July, 2009. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, led the Indian delegation to the Ministerial segment of this session. The Spring High-level Meeting of the ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization and the UN Conference on Trade and Development was held on in New York on 27 April, 2009. Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs Dr. Arvind Virmani, represented India at the meeting.

Commission on Sustainable Development

India participated actively in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the high-level commission within the UN system for sustainable development with the role of reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. MoS (Environment and Forests) Shri Namo Narain Meena led the Indian delegation to the 17th session of the Commission, held in New York from 4-15 May, 2009. This was a policy session of the two-year implementation cycle, and focused on the thematic cluster of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa.

UN Forum on Forests

India participated in the Eighth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 8), held in New York from 21 April-1 May 2009. India also participated in the special session of UNFF 9, held in New York on 30 October, 2009.

Humanitarian Affairs/Disaster Risk Reduction

India maintained a close contact with the two main organizations based in Geneva in this area, namely, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). A High-Level delegation led by Shri. Mullappally Ramachandran, Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction convened by UNISDR in Geneva from 16-19 June, 2009.

Ms. Margareta Wahlström, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction visited India at the invitation of the National Institute of Disaster Management to attend the second Disaster Management Congress of India from 4-6 November, 2009.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees visited India from 1-2 December, 2009. This was his second visit to India, coming after his initial visit of 2006 and the first round of formal bilateral consultations held at the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva in 2008. The discussions were fruitful and presented an opportunity to share India's experience and expertise besides an exchange of views on present challenges to the international protection agenda.

India participated in the 60th session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR's programme which was held in Geneva from 28 September-2 October 2009.

Social and Human Rights Issues

India actively participated in the debate in the United Nations General Assembly plenary on various agenda items including report of the Human Rights Council, follow-up to the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, support by the United Nations System of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or Restored Democracies, Results of the High-Level segment of the 52nd Session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs. Interventions were also made on issues related to social development, advancement of women, rights of the child, elimination of racism and racial discrimination, right of peoples to self determination, crime prevention and criminal justice and report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

India also participated in the debate at the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which examines social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues. The Committee held interactive dialogues with 27 Special Procedure mandate-holders, Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies and Chairpersons of Working Groups of the Human Rights Council. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also briefed the Third Committee about her office's work and priorities.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held its fifty-third session from 2-13 March, 2009. India is a member of the Commission since 2009 for a four year period. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, among others, represented India in the meeting. The priority theme this year was 'equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS'. In addition to the agreed conclusions, the Commission also adopted a number of resolutions on issues related to women, including the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; the girl child and HIV/AIDS.

Second meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

India participated in the Second meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held from 2-4 September, 2009. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment represented India at the meeting. The focus of the meeting was to encourage countries to become States Parties to the Convention. Interactive discussions were also held on the implementation of the Convention, especially in the fields of physical accessibility, reasonable accommodation, access to justice and decision making process; as well as on the legislative measures for the implementation of the Convention at national level. At present there are 66 States Parties to the Convention.

Observance of the Third International Day of Non-Violence at the UN

India commemorated the Third International Day of Non-Violence in the UN which was marked by the unveiling and issue of a commemorative stamp by the UN Postal Administration. The one dollar stamp which was issued by the UN Postal Administration depicts an artistic rendition of Mahatma Gandhi and was designed by Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. The souvenir card depicts a block of the four new stamps and carries brief messages from External Affairs Minister of India Shri S. M. Krishna and the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council maintained a busy schedule during 2009, having successfully operationalized the mechanisms outlined in the institution-building package by the fourth year of its existence. Besides the three regular sessions, the Council held four Special sessions (two on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, one on Sri Lanka and one on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on the enjoyment of human rights). The Council also held three Universal Periodic Review (UPR) sessions, reviewing the situation of human rights in 48 countries. In addition to the sessions of the Advisory Committee, Social Forum, Forum on Minority Issues and the Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples, the Council held sessions on the Right to development and on the elaboration of Complementary Standards as well as an Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Durban Review Conference on Racism was held from 20-24 April, 2009, with several preparatory as well as follow-up sessions of the Working Group held during the year.

In keeping with its traditional commitment to human rights and values, India actively participated in all sessions, in a constructive and inclusive manner, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Council in promoting and protecting human rights the world over. Our approach was guided by our firm belief that the objectives of the Council can be best pursued through dialogue and co-operation. The salient aspects were as follows:

- Ms. Navanetham Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, visited India from 22-24 March, 2009, the first such visit in over a

decade. The high-level discussions resulted in a frank exchange of views and an open dialogue about the situation of human rights in the country.

- India was represented by Special Secretary (Political & International Organizations) at the High-Level segment of the Durban Review Conference held from 20-22 April, 2009.
- India actively contributed to the preparations for the Durban Review Conference on racism, inter-alia, as a Member of the Preparatory Committee Bureau.
- India served as a Rapporteur on the *Troika* for the Universal Periodic Review of China, Bhutan and Vanuatu; and chaired the *Troika* for both China and Bhutan.
- India served as the Regional Coordinator of the Asian Group on human Rights issues till October 2009.
- Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu, Special Rapporteur on the Adverse Effects of Movement and Dumping of Toxic and Dangerous Products and Waste visited India from 11-21 January, 2010.

A number of eminent Indians continued to serve with distinction as members of important Treaty Monitoring Bodies and human rights mechanisms. These include Shri P. N. Bhagwati (Member, Human Rights Committee), Shri Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (Member, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), Shri Dilip Lahiri (Member, Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination), Ms. Indira Jaisingh (Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and Shri Arjun Sengupta (Chairperson, Inter-Governmental Working Group on the Right to Development). Shri Anand Grover continued to discharge his mandate as Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Elections

After a successful campaign, India won the election as a member of the Executive Council of the IOC at the elections to be held during the 25th Session of the IOC General Assembly from 16-25 June, 2009 at UNESCO in Paris.

After a successful campaign, India won the election to the council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under Category 'B' during the 26th Session of the Assembly of the IMO to be held in London from 23 November-4 December 2009.

India was appointed as the External Auditor for the International Organization for Migration for the period 2010-12, after a successful campaign.

Climate Change Negotiations and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

India has taken initiative in facilitating international dialogue and discussion on critical climate change issues that are important for developing countries. In this context, in the area of technology transfer, India hosted a high-level global conference on "*Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer*" from 22-23 October, 2009 in New Delhi in collaboration with the United Nations. The conference brought together governments, experts, industry representatives and civil society from a number of countries to help formulate a roadmap for technology in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation to support the multilateral negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC). The conference provided important inputs to the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations.

External Affairs Minister attended a High Level Event on Climate Change, described as "*Summit on Climate Change*", hosted by the UN Secretary General at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 September, 2009, where leaders from all over the world were invited to deliberate on the issue of climate change. The objective of the Summit was to mobilize the political will and vision needed to reach an ambitious agreed outcome based on science at the ongoing multilateral negotiations under UNFCCC. It was not a negotiating forum. EAM was assisted during the meeting by MoS (Environment & Forests) and Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shri Shyam Saran on Climate Change.

A large Indian delegation comprising officials, Parliamentarians, civil society members and youth attended the 15th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-15) on climate change held at Copenhagen from 7-18 December, 2009. While MoS (Environment & Forests) and Special Envoy of Prime Minister on Climate Change led the Indian side during the negotiations at COP-15; the high-level segment of the conference, which was held from 16-18 December, 2009 and saw the participation of Heads of States/Governments of almost 120 countries, was attended by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 18 December, 2009. The conference witnessed continued sharp division between developed and developing countries. As a result, COP-15 could not achieve the conclusion of negotiations

on the twin tracks of AWG-LCA (Ad-hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action – relating to enhanced implementation of UNFCCC under Bali Action Plan) and AWG-KP (Ad-hoc Working Group on further commitments for Annex-I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol – relating to emission reduction commitment of the Annex-I Parties for the second commitment phase of the Kyoto Protocol), as mandated by the Bali Roadmap. However, the COP-15 took decisions to mandate the continuance of this twin-track negotiating process started at the Bali Conference to reach an agreed outcome at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP-16) to be held in Mexico in November-December 2010.

In a parallel development at COP-15, in a "Friends of the Chair" process, where India was a participant, convened by the Danish hosts among 25-30 countries, a "Copenhagen Accord" was finalized, which deals with the various elements of the Bali Action Plan relating to the issues of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology, without setting any legally binding targets. However, the Conference of Parties did not adopt the Copenhagen Accord as initially expected and merely "took note of" it, due to continued reservations of a few countries. The Accord thus is neither legally binding nor constitutes a mandate for any new negotiating process under the UNFCCC.

India was represented at official level in the climate change negotiations at AWG-LCA and AWG-KP under the UNFCCC preceding COP-15 at Copenhagen. These included meetings of AWG-LCA and AWG-KP in Bonn (29 March-8 April 2009 and 10-14 August, 2009), Bangkok (28 September- 9 October 2009) and Barcelona (2-6 November, 2009).

India hosted Ministerial-level consultation of four major developing economies (Brazil, South Africa, India and China – also known as the BASIC group) in New Delhi on 24 January, 2010 to take stock of the Copenhagen outcome and the direction of future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

In addition, India actively participated in a number of major international forums with focus on climate change and related issues. Prime Minister attended the summit meeting of Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) comprising 17 major economies of the world, held at L'Aquila (Italy) on 9 July, 2009, on the sidelines of the G-8+five Summit (group of eight most industrialized countries – USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and Russia, and their outreach interaction with group of five major developing economies – India, China, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa). India was represented at official level, including representative from MEA, in the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP) – a voluntary partnership of seven Asia-Pacific countries (Australia, China, India, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, and United States) to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies – held in Shanghai from 26-27 October, 2009.

Migration

India continued to enhance its engagement at the international level on migration issues, ever since becoming a Member of the International Organization on Migration (IOM) in June 2008. IOM is already undertaking several projects in India in collaboration with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which are aimed at improving conditions for Indian workers abroad.

India conducted a successful campaign resulting in the election of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAGI) by a large majority for the post of the External Auditor of IOM for the period 2010-2012.

A delegation led by India's Permanent Representative to United Nations Offices in Geneva represented India at the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Athens from 4-5 November, 2009. India became a Member of the Steering Group of GFMD in 2009 and attended the preparatory meetings of the Friends of the Forum as well as the Steering Group in Geneva.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs led the four member delegation to attend the 18th session of Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which was held in Vienna from 16-24 April, 2009.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

As a founder member of UNESCO India plays a key role in all its core mandates and is often a bridge between developed and developing countries in its role as negotiator, facilitator and consensus builder.

The most significant achievement from India's perspective was the adoption by consensus of India's proposal for the establishment of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development in New Delhi, India as a UNESCO Category-1 Institute. The Institute is the first to be established in the Asia Pacific Region and only the Third in a developing country.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference, at Copenhagen on 18 December, 2009.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh alongwith the Heads of Commonwealth countries with the Queen Elizabeth II, at CHOGM 2009, in Port of Spain on 27 November, 2009.

India was re-elected as a member of the Executive Board where India has been continuously a Member since 1947. Our victory was due to our high profile in UNESCO especially on issues of concern to developing countries, India's role as a bridge between North and South on key issues and our democratic, pluralistic, multi-cultural and secular credentials. Dr. Karan Singh was nominated by Government of India as India's representative to the Executive Board.

At our invitation the outgoing Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura paid his fifth official visit to India from 10-11 November, 2009. This was a special gesture as this was his last official visit before demitting office on 15 November, 2009. The new Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova also accepted India's invitation to make her first official visit as Director General to India from 11-14 January, 2010.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The 121st Assembly of the IPU was held in Geneva from 19-21 October, 2009. An Indian delegation of Parliamentarians headed by Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar participated in the deliberations.

Important items of agenda included (i) Debate of emergency item (ii) Briefing and debate on progress of UN reform followed by an update on UN Climate Change Conference and discussion (iii) Launch of Handbook of Missing Persons (iv) Discussion on UN Development Cooperation Forum and Implementation of UPU Resolution on Foreign Aid (v) Panel discussion on HIV/AIDS – Universal Access to Prevention Treatment and Care.

A one-member Parliamentary delegation led by Shri P. C. Chacko, MP Lok Sabha visited Geneva to attend the 19th Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation from 28-30 September, 2009. Main topics of agenda included (i) Current state of multilateral trade negotiations and possible scenario for the conclusion of the Doha Round (ii) Exchange of views concerning WTO Public Forum 2009. The title of the theme was "*Global Problems, Global Solutions: Towards Better Global Governance*".

A two-member delegation comprising Dr. (Smt.) Bocha Jhansi Lakshmi MP and Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, MP visited Geneva to attend the Fourth Conference of the members of Parliamentary Committees on the Status of Women and other Committees dealing with Gender Equality from 28-29 September, 2009.

UN Commission on Science, Technology and Development (CSTD)

The 12th Annual Session of the UN Commission on Science, Technology and Development (CSTD) was held in Geneva from 25-29 May, 2009. The Session included a Ministerial segment and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), while considering two priority themes, "Development-oriented policies for an inclusive information society" and "*Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity- building in education and research*". India was represented in the meeting and participated actively in discussions on identifying ways to narrow the global digital divide and integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development plans.

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

A delegation of officials and scientists led by Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences attended the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) which was held in Geneva from 31 August-4 September 2009. Main items of the agenda included (i) Economic and social benefits of climate information (ii) Advancing climate prediction science (iii) Round table discussion on Climate adaptation and the Copenhagen process (iv) Climate extremes, warning systems and disaster risk reduction.

World Health Organization (WHO)

India participated in the 62nd World Health Assembly from 18-22 May, 2009. India was elected to the Executive Board of WHO for a three-year term starting 2009. India continued to emphasize on the need for focusing on primary healthcare, improving health services, promoting access to essential medicines, and encouraging full use of Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities to address public health concerns in the WHO forum.

India remained engaged with the Inter-Governmental process for finalization of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIPF). In the context of the A/H1N1 pandemic (Swine Flu), the framework has acquired increasing relevance. India continued to emphasize that both benefit-sharing and access to pandemic influenza material should be equitably addressed in the framework to ensure availability of vaccines and medicines to all affected populations. We have been engaged in the ongoing consultations for formulating a global strategy on reducing the harmful effects of alcohol and have called for evolving the strategy through the prism of public health

concerns. India has also been taking part in the ongoing Inter-Governmental negotiations for a protocol on illicit trade in tobacco products under the umbrella of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

International Labour Organization (ILO)

India participated in the 98th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of ILO from 3-19 June, 2009, which endorsed the Global Jobs Pact as an employment-focused policy tool for addressing the labour consequences of the ongoing economic crisis. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Minister of Labour and Employment participated in the deliberations of the high-level segment of the ILC from 15-16 June, 2009 and spoke of the labour oriented social policies in India. India showcased the various initiatives undertaken to address the economic crisis and the focus being given to the social segments of economic activity. In that context, the social protection and unemployment benefits to protect the vulnerable sections of society that were launched in India have been welcomed in the ILO. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), as an important social safety net; the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) as a national health insurance scheme for below poverty line families in the unorganized sectors; the National Skills Development Policy (NSDP); the New Pension Scheme (NPS) as a voluntary social security net have gained recognition as important social protection measures within the ILO constituents.

Follow-up to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Internet-Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 15-18 November, 2009. A delegation from the Ministry of Information & Technology represented India in this meeting whose theme was "*Internet-Governance - Creating Opportunities for All*". It examined issues such as access and diversity, security, openness and privacy, internet-governance and managing internet resources. The meeting recognized the internet as an enabler for economic growth and social development, and emphasized the need for bridging the digital divide.

International Standards Organisation (ISO)

The 45th Meeting of the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB) was held in Geneva from 9-11 June, 2009. Additional Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution participated in the Meeting.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Shri A. Raja, Ministry of Communications and I.T. led the official delegation to the "ITU Telecom World 2009" which was held in Geneva from 5-9 October, 2009.

A delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Communications and IT visited Geneva to finalize signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to hosting of an ITU Conference in Hyderabad next year. The MoU was signed on 20 October, 2009 by Secretary, Ministry of Communication and IT and the Vice Chairman of the ITU.

Legal and Treaties Division

The important activities of the Legal and Treaties Division for the year 2009 were as follows:

Investments Agreements

During the current year, a bilateral investments promotion and protection agreement (BIPA) with Colombia has been signed and BIPAs with Libya, Myanmar, Mozambique and Bangladesh have been ratified. Instruments of ratifications in respect of BIPAs with Jordan and Serbia have been exchanged in Delhi for bringing the Agreement into force. Negotiations with Canada have been completed and final text is ready for signing. The exploratory talks with United States of America are completed and negotiations with Iran, Uganda, Tunisia, Namibia, Nepal, Estonia and Slovenia are underway.

Cabinet Notes

During the year, the draft Cabinet Notes regarding Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreements (BIPA) with Colombia, Lithuania and Seychelles have been circulated and approved. Similarly, draft Cabinet Notes in respect of Air Services Agreement with Bhutan and Air Services Agreement with Bosnia & Herzegovina have been examined and conveyed the concurrence of the Ministry. Further, this Division has also examined and cleared Cabinet Notes on Defence Cooperation with Ecuador, Sweden, Vietnam and UK and Cabinet Notes relating to MoU between Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland regarding proposal to accede to Convention on Control and Marketing of Articles of Precious Metals, proposals to sign Social Security Agreements between India and Switzerland, Denmark and kingdom of Luxembourg. The Division has also examined Cabinet Notes relating to climate change and Clean Development Mechanism projects with Denmark, Norway, Finland and Austria.

During this year, Legal and Treaties Division has examined a number of agreements and tender documents on various projects in India and abroad; gave its opinions on various court cases involving service matters, various passport and consular issues; and also gave inputs and offered legal opinions on a number of RTI requests addressed to the MEA. The Division has processed for the payment of India's annual contribution to the international organizations like Hague Academy of International Law, Permanent Court of Arbitration, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and Asia Africa Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO).

Social Security Agreements

This division has actively participated in the negotiations of Social Security Agreements with various countries like Germany, Australia, France, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Korea, Luxembourg and Hungary.

SAARC

This division has proposed the draft Headquarters Agreement between the Government of India and the SAARC Museum of Textiles and Handicrafts. Pursuant to the Headquarters Agreement, the museum will be functional in Delhi and the Agreement will also confer certain privileges and immunities on the basis of functional necessity. Further, during the third intergovernmental meeting on South Asian University held in Kathmandu in October 2009, the modalities pertaining to academic plan, business plan and financial outlay has been discussed.

This division has also participated in the third meeting of the Regional Task Force to implement SAARC Convention relating to Trafficking in Women and Children and Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia.

Extradition and other International Judicial Assistance

The Legal and Treaties Division has participated in bilateral negotiations for concluding extradition treaties, agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal and in civil matters with foreign countries. Following successful negotiations of Extradition Treaties with Mexico, Tajikistan and Portugal, the procedure for their entry into force and effectiveness was completed in the year 2009. Extradition Treaties were negotiated and finalized with Morocco and Israel. Negotiations were also initiated on Extradition Treaties with Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan. In addition, the Legal and Treaties Division has examined the draft texts of extradition treaties proposed by Colombia and Serbia

The Legal and Treaties Division has participated in negotiations on treaties on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with Bangladesh, Israel and Azerbaijan. As a result, treaties with Bangladesh and Israel were finalized. The division participated in negotiations with Saudi Arabia, Israel and Iran on Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons and the texts of all these treaties were finalized.

The Legal and Treaties Division has examined extradition requests and other requests for international cooperation received from the domestic as well as foreign jurisdictions and rendered legal advice therein.

Environmental Law

During the last year the Legal and Treaties Division examined a number of agreements relating to cooperation in the field of environment and natural resources, MoUs between Wildlife Life Research Institutes, marine pollution, climate change and clean development mechanism

The division participated in the following negotiations relating to biosafety, access to genetic resources and climate change. With respect to biosafety the division was represented at the First Meeting of the "*Group Friends of the Chairs*" concerning Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartegena Protocol on Biosafety (Article 27) in February 2009. This meeting adopted three documents: a legally binding 'administrative approach' on liability resulting from the damage to the conservation and use of the biological diversity from transport, transit, handling and use of Living Modified Organisms, originating in a transboundary context; a non-legally binding principles on civil liability (although some core elements were inserted in the administrative approach on account of the strong pressures by developing countries); and supplementary financial mechanisms. These instruments are to be further negotiated at the second meeting slated in February 2010. As regards access and benefit sharing relating to genetic and biological resources, the division was represented at the: First Meeting of the Group of Technical and Legal Experts established by CoP-9 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), for drawing up an international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), in January 2009; and the Seventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), held in April 2009; and the Eighth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), held on 15 November, 2009. These meetings have produced what is called the Montreal Annex which contains the basic negotiating text on access and benefit sharing of genetic

and biological resources. This Annex contains the core elements on access and benefit sharing of genetic and biological resources.

The division was also represented at the two UN Climate Change Negotiations in Barcelona in November 2009; and CoP 15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen held in December 2009. These two meetings and earlier ones held in 2009 were instrumental in achieving what is now called the "*Copenhagen Climate Change Accord*'.

Tobacco Protocol

The division was represented at WHO negotiation meetings on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. The meetings attended were the: Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB-2) on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, held in June 2009; First Meeting of the Drafting Group Two to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, Geneva, held in October 2009; and the Second Meeting of the Drafting Group Two to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, held in November 2009. The Protocol as it now stands contains a negotiating text with most elements finalized that include the entire supply-chain control and the legal remedies/sanctions for illicit trade in tobacco products.

Water Resources

The division participated at the Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission held in New Delhi, in May-June 2009. The division was also involved in providing inputs and participating in the preparation of the Draft Report of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) regarding Brahmaputra water diversion by China. We also provided inputs/ comments on the Ganges River Treaty and concerns raised on the Tipaimukh dam in Manipur. The division also provided numerous comments on various objections raised by Pakistan on the construction of the Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project. .

Antarctica

The Division was represented at the Legal and Institutional Group Meeting of the 32nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Committee Meeting (ATCM), held in April 2009, in Baltimore, USA.

UN and International Law

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism: No breakthrough could be achieved in this year's meeting of the Ad hoc Committee on Terrorism that is negotiating the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). While there is considerable support for the new text proposed by the Facilitator that seeks to address the issue of impunity as well as delineation between this Convention and IHL, some delegations did not find the new elements fully reflective of their concerns. In this session the Chairman, to facilitate the discussions, consolidated in a single text the different proposals that have been in circulation for a number of years.

Counter Terrorism Strategy: India continues to support the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and participated actively in its biennial review last year. India welcomes the institutionalization of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force which will bolster United Nations system's ability to "deliver as one" and ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system

Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization: The Special Committee considers specific proposals made by Member States with a view to enhancing the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes, as well as other suggestions for the more effective functioning of the United Nations that might not require amendments to the Charter. The main focus during the meeting in 2009 also remained on the Russian Federation's working document on "*Basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations*". The Rio Group withdrew the proposed agenda item entitled "consideration of legal aspects of the reform of the United Nations". Cuba submitted a revised working paper on the proposal submitted by it at the 1997 session entitled "*Strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness*".

Administration of Justice at the United Nations: The Sixth Committee continued the examination of the legal aspects of the topic "administration of justice at the United Nations", a new internal justice system for the staff of the United Nations and finalized the draft Statutes of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and United Nations Appellate Tribunal. The General Assembly in March 2009 appointed five judges to serve on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and seven for the United Nations Appeals Tribunal key bodies created in 2007 to help bolster the world body's system of dealing with internal grievances and disciplinary cases. As on 1 July, 2009, the United Nations has a two-tier judicial system to address work-related disputes. However, to avoid unnecessary

litigation, the new system will also promote the informal resolution of conflicts, with strengthened ombudsman and mediation services.

Oceans and Law of the Sea

Fish Stocks Agreement: The eighth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties (ICSP) to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) was held from 16-19 March, 2009. The substantive theme of this year's meeting was "Continuing Dialogue," focusing on promoting wider participation in the Agreement. During the session, participants also discussed the scope of the review to be undertaken at the Review Conference that would resume in 2010.

UN Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea: The theme of the tenth meeting of the UN Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea was "*Implementation of the outcomes of the Consultative Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its first nine meetings*".

Delegations exchanged views on the implementation of the outcomes of ICP since its inception in 1999, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings; inter-agency cooperation and coordination; and identification of issues that could benefit from future work of the UNGA on oceans and the law of the sea. It was decided in the meeting that the ICP should discuss topics linked to sustainable development issues in the context of Law of the Sea.

Meeting of the States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

The 19th Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was held from 13-20 June, 2008. The States parties were given comprehensive briefings by the heads of the three bodies - the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and reports on the Tribunal's external audits and budgetary matters.

The Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf highlighted the practical difficulties in managing the Commission's increased workload, noting that it had received 51 submissions, including joint and partial submissions and 43 sets of preliminary information. In view of the large number of submissions, the Chairman informed, at the present strength of Members and schedule of meetings, the Commission would be able to exhaust the present list only by 2030. (India's claim will come up in 2027). To address this situation, he said it was necessary that the members of the Commission were available for extended periods of time in New York.

As regards the issue of allocation of seats in the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the West European and Other Groups (WEOG) relinquished their one seat in each of the two bodies which will now be a floating seat available to candidates from Asia, Africa and WEOG. Separately Asian-African States came to a mutual understanding to present a joint Asian African candidate alternately for each of the bodies and support each other to ensure that there is no possibility of WEOG candidate being elected.

The Legal and Treaties Division examines issues related to the law of the sea on agenda of different international forums. At its 64th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted two resolutions 64/71 and 64/72 on the agenda items "Oceans and Law of the Sea" and "*Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December, 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments.*" The Division was actively involved in advising on issues which came up during the finalization of resolutions.

The Legal and Treaties Division participated in the Meeting of Group of Experts for review and finalization of the Draft Guide to the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, relating to Marine Scientific Research, held at New York from 20-24 April, 2009.

Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia

L&T Division has actively participated in the Working Group II on Legal Issues of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia. This Working Group has accomplished the assigned tasks such as continuous exchange of information on legal challenges arising from piracy off the coast of Somalia, examination on the possibility of establishing additional mechanism for prosecution of suspected pirates, establishment of

international legal network consisting of legal experts, developing 'legal tool box' containing check-lists of steps states may take to ensure that they are able to prosecute suspected pirates, list of impediments and terms of reference for the International Trust Fund. The Working Group was also involved in the compilation of the international legal basis for prosecution, and developing a generic templates on evidentiary standards, "ship rider" agreements, and for drafting a MoU on the conditions of transfer of suspected pirates and armed robbers.

UNCITRAL: This Division has participated in the meeting of the 42nd Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and also the meetings of the UNCITRAL Working Group V and VI dealing with Insolvency Law and Security Interests, respectively. This year the Commission has adopted UNCITRAL Notes on Cooperation, Communication and Coordination in Cross Border Insolvency proceedings. The draft UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement and the Annex to the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions are progressing well in their respective Working Groups and will ripe for adoption in 2010. Although Indian membership to UNCITRAL expires on 20 June, 2010, India has been re-elected to UNCTIRAL for a six years term beginning on 21 June, 2010 in an election held in General Assembly on 3 November, 2009.

UNESCO

This Division has participated in the 15th Session of the UNESCO Inter-governmental Committee for promoting the return of Cultural Property to its country of Origin and also participated in the Legal Committee Meeting held during the 35th Session of the UNESCO's General Conference in Paris.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

This division has actively participated in the 34th Session of the ICAO Legal Committee Meeting held in Montreal from 9-17 September, 2009 to discuss and finalize the proposed amendments to the Hague Convention, 1970 and the Montreal Convention, 1971. The amendments, in essence, reflect the idea of advancing both counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation goals. It is proposed to add various acts which States would have to make punishable under their domestic laws. This includes: Use of civil aircraft as a weapon; Use of civil aircraft to unlawfully spread biological, chemical and nuclear substances; Attacks against civil aviation using biological, chemical and nuclear substances; Threats to commit any of these acts; and acts contributing to such acts including abetment, participation, organizing, delivering etc. would be punishable as offences prohibited under the Convention.

In 2009, a Diplomatic Conference at Montreal was convened during April-May 2009 and the Conference adopted the Draft Convention on Compensation for Damages caused by Aircraft to Third Parties, in the case of Unlawful Interference (Unlawful Interference Convention) and also the Draft Convention on Compensation for Damage Caused by Aircraft to Third Parties (General Risks Convention) with a view to approving a final draft on each Convention. The texts as finalized during the 33rd Session would be adopted at the Diplomatic Conference to be held at Montreal on 2010.

The L&T Division has actively participated in various multilateral conferences leading to the adoption of various international conventions which include: The International Convention on Compensation for Damages caused by Aircraft to Third Parties, in the case of Unlawful Interference (Unlawful Interference Convention); the International Convention on Compensation for Damage Caused by Aircraft to Third Parties (General Risks Convention); the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, that was adopted in May 2009.

Hague Conference on Private International Law

The Hague Conference on Private International Law held a meeting of Special Commission on the practical operation of the Hague Apostille, Service, Evidence and Access to Justice Conventions at The Hague from 2-12 February, 2009. The Legal and Treaties Division participated actively in the Meeting of the Special Commission.

India is a Member of the Hague Conference and a Party to three out of four conventions (except the Access to Justice Convention) examined in the Meeting. In addition to the examination of the provisions of the Conventions, the Meeting discussed the practices and procedures followed by States for implementing these Conventions. The interaction at the Meeting enhanced our understanding of the system prevailing in different States and its utility in the effective implementation of the Conventions in States Parties. The Legal and Treaties Division participated actively in the Meeting of the Special Commission.

The division has examined a number of defence co-operation agreements, agreements on international co-operation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology agreements, during the year. The Division has vetted International Agreements/MoUs on Cooperation in Drug Control and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and Related Matters, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the field of Agriculture, Cooperation in the fields of Education, Information Technology, Health and Medicine, Traditional Medicine, Tourism, Cooperation in the field of Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration, Aid for the establishment of the Centre for Excellence in the field of IT in various Countries and Cultural Exchange Programmes.

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries during the year. A comprehensive list is placed at **Appendix-X.** A list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2009 is at **Appendix-XI** and a list of Instruments of Ratification is at **Appendix-XII.**

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Disarmament and International Security Affairs

10

Introduction

India continued to reaffirm its long-standing and consistent advocacy of global non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament as one of the highest priorities for the international community. India felt encouraged by some positive signs which indicated that nuclear disarmament is back on the international agenda. This included US President Mr. Barack Obama's speech in Prague in April 2009 and negotiations between US and Russia to negotiate a successor agreement to START-1 for further reducing their nuclear arsenals. India supported the adoption of a Programme of Work, including on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) after a decade of hiatus.

At the 64th UN General Assembly in New York, India reiterated its proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention for banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and providing for their complete elimination within a specified time frame. The proposal is consistent with India's long-standing commitment to nuclear disarmament as articulated in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988. India also recalled its other proposals on nuclear disarmament, including a Working Paper presented to the UN in 2006, proposing elements to fashion a new global consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation.

During the year, India participated constructively in various multilateral meetings on disarmament including *inter alia* those related to Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. India also participated actively in the meetings of ASEAN Regional Forum and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. Regular contacts were maintained with non-governmental organizations in the field of disarmament to disseminate India's views on various issues. India continued to maintain dual-use related export control regulations and their effective implementation, including through outreach activities with the Indian industry and other stakeholders and appropriate coordination efforts.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

During the First Committee meeting of the General Assembly, India underlined its commitment to nuclear disarmament and expressed its belief that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. India suggested a set of practical measures to stimulate debate and promote consensus on the way forward. These measures had already been put forward in General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament and include:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
- Taking into account the global reach and menace of nuclear weapons, adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon states to reduce nuclear danger, including the risks of accidental nuclear war, de-alerting of nuclear weapons to prevent unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on 'no-first-use' of nuclear-weapons;
- Negotiation of a universal and legally-binding agreement on non-use of nuclear- weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states;
- Negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- Negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time-frame.

As in past few years, India tabled three resolutions in the First Committee, *viz*. 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from

Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction', 'Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons' and 'Reducing Nuclear Danger'. India's resolution on 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)', which was first introduced in 2002, was again adopted by consensus, highlighting the unanimity in the international community on the need to avert such a danger. The resolution called upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring WMDs and underlined that the international response to this threat needed to be inclusive, multilateral and global. This year, the resolution was co-sponsored by 71 States showing the importance the international community accorded to this resolution.

The resolution 'Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons' reiterated the call on the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations to reach agreement on an international convention on prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. India's resolution on 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' highlighted the importance of de-alerting and other measures required to mitigate the accidental use of nuclear weapons. The resolution called for a review of nuclear doctrines, as also immediate steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through the de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons and requests the Nuclear Weapon States to take measures to implement the suggested steps. Both these resolutions were adopted with the support of a large majority of countries. The First Committee and the General Assembly also adopted without a vote a draft decision proposed by India on "Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security and Disarmament".

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the single multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. During its 2009 Annual session, the CD reached consensus on a Programme of Work after more than a decade of impasse. On 29 May, 2009, the Conference adopted by consensus the document CD/1864, entitled "Decision for the establishment of a Programme of Work for the 2009 session". India supported the adoption of the Programme of Work. India stated that it was willing to join a non-discriminatory, multilaterally negotiated and internationally verifiable FMCT as and when it is concluded in the CD, provided it meets India's national security interests. The CD, however, was not able to commence substantive work on the basis of decision contained in CD/1864 during the 2009 Annual session. India is committed to participating constructively in the FMCT negotiations in the CD as part of its Programme of Work.

UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)

The three week 2009 Session of the UNDC was held in New York from 13 April-1 May 2009. The UNDC, as per its mandate, functions as a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly and deliberates and makes recommendations on disarmament issues. The 2009 session was the beginning of a new three-year cycle of the UNDC. It adopted a three item agenda for the new cycle: "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation of nuclear weapons', "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010 as the fourth disarmament decade', and "Practical Confidence Building Measures in the field of conventional weapons, upon conclusion of elements of draft declaration (preferably by 2010 but in any case not later than 2011)". Substantive discussions on the first two agenda items took place during the 2009 session. India participated constructively in the negotiations on finalizing the Agenda of the new cycle of UNDC. While reaffirming the importance of multilateralism, India called upon members of UNDC to redouble efforts to give a positive impulse to global non-discriminatory disarmament.

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

In pursuance of the decision of the sixth BTWC Review Conference held in 2006, the meeting of States Parties to the BTWC was held in Geneva from 7-11 December, 2009 and the Meeting of Experts from 24-28 August, 2009. These meetings were held under the chairmanship of Canada and discussed international cooperation in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment of infectious diseases.

India participated constructively in both the Meeting of States Parties and the Meeting of Experts. At the Meeting of States Parties, India submitted a Working Paper on its experience in international cooperation and capacity building in surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment of infectious diseases in the context of Article ten of the BWC. The Indian delegation also made a presentation on India's experience in dealing with the H1N1 outbreak. India took a lead in the negotiations of the final document of the Meeting of States Parties. Earlier, at the Meeting of Experts India made two presentations, one on international cooperation in the context of Article ten of BTWC, and the second on disease surveillance in India.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

India played an active role at the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague. India continued to fulfil its obligations under the Convention in line with its commitments. India was widely commended for fulfilling its commitments under CWC, including successful completion of destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles as per its obligations under the CWC.

India participated actively in the 14th Conference of the States Parties to the CWC held at The Hague from 30 November-4 December 2009. It played a key role at the 56th, 57th and 58th sessions of the 41-member Executive Council, where it has been an active member since the inception of the Organization in 1997. India highlighted all issues of interest and concern to it and to other developing countries in these meetings. India also actively participated in various subsidiary bodies of the Organization, including the Scientific Advisory Board and the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters. As part of its commitment to promoting international cooperation in peaceful uses of chemistry under Article XI, India is the only developing country to have hosted Associate Programme for the second year in a row for foreign participants. India has also emerged as a major provider of mass spectra to the OPCW Central Analytical Database. At specially convened meetings on the sidelines of the Executive Council meetings, India also gave presentations on chemical industry, verification and administrative & financial issues to delegations of interested States Parties.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

India is a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and has ratified all its protocols, including the Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Mines, Booby Traps and other Devises and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. India has also ratified the Amendment to Article I of the Convention.

The annual meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on CCW was held at Geneva from 12-13 November, 2009. The 2008 CCW Meeting had requested a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations and present it before the 2009 meeting. The GGE met in two formal and one informal session for a total of three weeks in 2009. It was not able to conclude its negotiations. The annual meeting decided that the GGE would continue its negotiations and make every effort to conclude it as rapidly as possible and report to the next meeting of High Contracting Parties (2010). The GGE was mandated to meet for up to two weeks in 2010 for this purpose.

The Third Annual meeting on Protocol V of CCW on Explosive Remnants of War, which entered into force in November 2006, was held from 9-10 November, 2009 in Geneva. Permanent Representative of India to the CD Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao was elected as the President of the Third Annual Meeting. The meeting discussed and agreed on ways and means to strengthen the implementation of the Protocol. Progress was achieved with regard to a guide for national reports and establishment of a website under UN auspices to act as a platform for electronic sharing of information under Protocol V. Thirteen countries including US, Pakistan and Canada became States Parties to Protocol V before the Third Conference.

The Annual Meeting of the States Parties to the Amended Protocol II to the "Convention on CCW on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devises" was held at Geneva on 11 November, 2009. The meeting discussed the issue of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and decided to continue discussion on the issue, including practical steps to address the challenges posed by IEDs in 2010 Meeting of Experts. India underlined that it has fulfilled all its obligations with regard to Amended Protocol II and has undertaken measures to address the humanitarian concerns arising from indiscriminate use of landmines with regard to the international humanitarian law. India also highlighted the problems of frequent use of IEDs by terrorists and non-State actors and the trans-border dimensions of the supply chain for procurement of IEDs by them.

India shares the vision of the United Nations of a mine-free world, and is ready to replace landmines when alternative technologies become available. India attended the second Review Conference of the Convention held in Cartagena from 30 November-4 December 2009 as an Observer. Likewise, India also participated in the Standing Committee Meetings of the Convention held in Geneva from 25-29 May, 2009 as an Observer. However, India is not a State party to the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction" or the Ottawa

Convention as it continues to regard landmines, when used responsibly by States, as a legitimate tool for defence.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA) adopted in July 2001 provides for a comprehensive set of national, regional and global measures to achieve its goal. India has supported international co-operation to achieve this goal multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally.

India remained committed to the goal of transparency in armaments and participated in the 2009 Group of Governmental Experts on UN Register of Conventional Arms. The Register's operation and further development is reviewed every three years by a GGE.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

India signed an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between India and IAEA for the Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities on 15 May, 2009.

India participated in the 53rd IAEA General Conference held from 14-18 September, 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy. The General Conference adopted several resolutions on the subjects of nuclear safety, security, safeguards, nuclear applications and nuclear power.

On 16 September, 2009 India submitted to the IAEA the Declaration to place voluntarily its civilian facilities under Agency safeguards in a phased manner in accordance with the provisions of Para 13 of the India-IAEA Safeguards Agreement. Following this, India filed notifications on 16 October, 2009 and 19 October, 2009 for the facilities to be put under IAEA safeguards.

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

India and the NSG *troika* held two rounds of meetings during the year. The first meeting was held in New Delhi on 11 May, 2009 and the second meeting was held in Vienna on 17 September, 2009. These meetings took place in the context of the September 2008 NSG decision, enabling its members to engage in full civil nuclear cooperation with India. The discussions included an exchange of views on future cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

India continued its active and constructive participation in the meetings of CICA. It participated in the CICA Special Working Group (SWG)/Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meetings held in June 2009 and January 2010 in Almaty and in October 2009 in Beijing. India also participated in the Experts Meetings held on various subjects including *inter alia* energy security and cyber-security. India's participation in the CICA process continues to be guided by its view that CICA can help contribute to the development of a cooperative and pluralistic security order in Asia, based on mutual understanding, trust and sovereign equality, mindful of the diversity and the heterogeneity integral to the Asian identity.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

India hosted a meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional Support Group (ARF-ISG) on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in New Delhi from 9-11 November, 2009. The meeting was held pursuant to an announcement made by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna at the 16th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Phuket, Thailand in July 2009. Vietnam was the ASEAN co-Chair for the ISG meeting. This was the second occasion when India hosted the ARF-ISG; the first one being in 2001. India would co-Chair the next ARF-ISG meeting scheduled to be hosted by Vietnam in March 2010.

India's decision to be the co-Chairs for the ISG was reflective of the importance India attaches to its membership in the ARF. India believes that as a premier political and security forum for dialogue in the Asia-Pacific, ARF continues to be a central pillar of the security architecture in the region. Since its formation in 1994, ARF has played an important role in building trust and confidence among its members and maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and has evolved into a key mechanism for exchange of views on regional and international security issues. India also participated in various other ARF activities including the Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) on disaster relief and non-proliferation and disarmament.

Strategic Exports Control

India continued to exercise control over exports of sensitive goods and technologies which can have direct or indirect application for weapons of mass destruction

or their means of delivery. The Ministry encouraged and participated in various outreach activities with the industry, relevant departments and other stakeholders pursuant to the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems Act 2005.

Other Issues

A India-US Strategic Security Dialogue was held on 13 November, 2009 in New Delhi. The Indian and US delegations were led by Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao and US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ms. Ellen Tauscher respectively. The talks followed upon a decision taken by External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna and US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton in New Delhi in July 2009 on a new dialogue architecture. The Dialogue covered global and regional strategic issues as well as developments in multilateral forums on disarmament and non-proliferation.

India participated in the Fifth Plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism held at The Hague from 16-17 June, 2009. India had joined the Global Initiative at its Madrid meeting in June 2008.

11 Multilateral Economic Relation

India's multilateral economic engagement further widened and deepened during the year. Global Economic and Financial crisis, food security and climate change continued to occupy the focus of discussions in multilateral fora. Highlights of this year's multilateral engagement were Prime Minister's participation in the G-8 – Outreach Summit for the fifth successive time, the first formal Summit of the Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China [BRIC] in Russia, India-ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit. India's hosting, in September 2009, of the WTO Ministerial Conference to develop a broad-based consensus to remove the impediments coming in the way of multilateral discussions and to provide clear directions to negotiators to re-energise the multilateral process at the WTO was another important milestone during the year.

Engagement with other key regional groupings such as ACD, ASEM, BIMSTEC, MGC, IBSA, G-15, IOR-ARC and others also consolidated during the year. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna represented India at the Ministerial Meetings of BRIC, G-5 and IBSA. BRIC Finance Ministers also met in the context of G-20 Summits to coordinate positions on various issues.

Asia – Europe Meeting (ASEM)

India continued to actively participate in various ASEM meetings and initiatives. Shri N. Ravi, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian delegation to the Ninth ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in Hanoi from 25-26 May, 2009. The Chairman's Statement issued at the end of the Meeting *inter alia* welcomed the applications of Australia and Russia to join ASEM and asked the Senior Officials to work out modalities in this regard to enable both the countries join ASEM at the Eighth Summit to be held in October 2010 in Brussels. India, as the coordinator for North East and South Asia subgroup under ASEM, hosted the meeting of the Senior Officials of the Asian member countries of ASEM in New Delhi, in September 2009, to facilitate discussions among the Asian members on the key issue of ASEM expansion.

BRIC [Brazil, Russia, India and China]

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Yekaterinburg, Russia from 15-17 June, 2009 to attend the first formal Summit of the Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and China [BRIC]. This was Prime Minister's first visit abroad in his second term in office.

At the Summit, among other issues, the Leaders focused on the state of global economic and financial crisis. The Leaders stressed the need to intensify cooperation in the quadrilateral BRIC format on economic matters, to seek implementation of G-20 decisions of interest to developing countries, and reform of present systems of global governance and the international financial system. The Summit adopted a Joint Statement of BRIC Leaders and a Joint Statement on Global Food Security.

BRIC Finance Ministers also met before the G-20 Summits of London and Pittsburgh to coordinate positions on issues of mutual interest. National Security Adviser Shri M. K. Narayanan attended the first meeting of BRIC National Security Advisers hosted by Russia, in end May 2009. India also participated in the meeting of BRIC Competition Authorities held in Kazan, Russia on 1 September, 2009.

External Affairs Minister, Shri S. M. Krishna, represented India at the BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting held on 24 September, 2009 on the sidelines of the 64th UN General Assembly in New York. The Ministers discussed issues regarding the global economic and financial crisis, BRIC Institutionalization, Energy, climate change and other issues.

G-8 Outreach and the G-5 summits

Prime Minister attended the G-8 Outreach and the G-5 Summits in the Italian city of L'Aquila from 8-10 July, 2009. This was Prime Minister's fifth successive G-8 Summit since 2005.

The agenda of the G-5 leaders meeting included global economic and financial crisis – its implications for developing countries with special focus on MDGs, green recovery, Doha Round, reform of international financial

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the leaders of G-5 countries, in L'Aquila, Italy on 8 July, 2009.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel, before the G-8 Summit, in L'Aquila, Italy on 9 July, 2009.

institutions, food security, climate change and future direction of G-5 cooperation. Prime Minister, in his intervention, emphasized that future growth has to be inclusive and the countries need to guard against stagflation. The G-5 Leaders issued a Political Declaration after the Meeting. Noting that the G-8 declaration on the Doha Round was rather weak, the G-5 leaders also issued a separate statement on this issue.

At the Summit of G-8/G-5 countries plus Egypt (invited by the Italian hosts), discussion was focused on global economic crisis and the issues of global governance. The G-8/G-5 Leaders issued a Joint Declaration, "Promoting the Global Agenda" after the Summit.

Prime Minister also attended meetings of the Major Economies Forum (MEF) held within the framework of G-8/G-8 Outreach Summit in L'Aquila. The first session of the MEF, on 9 July, 2009 focused on Doha Round and the Second Session focused on Climate Change issues.

The G-8 Presidency for 2009, Italy, invited India and other Outreach countries to attend various Ministerial meetings in the run-up to 2009 G-8 Summit. Speaker Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, attended the meeting of G-8 Outreach Speakers in Rome in September 2009. This was the first meeting of Speakers of G-8 and the Outreach countries.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, attended the G-8 Outreach Meeting on Afghanistan. Other G-8 Outreach Ministerial meetings which were attended by India include the meetings of Labour Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, Environment Ministers, and Energy Ministers. Conference of G-8 and Outreach Ministers on Destabilizing Factors and Trans-national Threats, held in Rome in April 2009, was attended by Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs.

G-5 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

G-5 Foreign Ministers met on the sidelines of the 64th UNGA in New York on 22 September, 2009 to discuss the changing international geometry, institutionalization of the G-20, and future coordination among G-5. External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna, represented India at the Meeting.

BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation)

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, led the Indian delegation to the 12th meeting of BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 10-11 December, 2009. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by a Senior Officials' Meeting on 10 December and a Preparatory Meeting from 8-9 December, 2009. At the 12th Ministerial Meeting, India handed over the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC to Myanmar.

The Meeting saw signing of the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Trans-National Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking. India is the Lead Country in this area of cooperation.

Climate Change was adopted as the 14th area of cooperation at the 12th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting. All members endorsed the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study conducted by Asian Development Bank (ADB), which would facilitate further growth of overall cooperation in BIMSTEC.

WTO Ministerial Conference

India hosted the WTO Ministerial Conference, in September 2009, bringing together groups from across the spectrum of interests and positions in the Doha negotiations, as an endeavour to give a determined push to the multilateral trade negotiations under WTO. At the Conference, there was a unanimous affirmation on the need to conclude the Doha Round within 2010. There was a strong re-affirmation that development remains at the heart of the Doha Round. The participants recognized that differences subsist on issues and intensifying negotiations was the first step towards bridging these gaps.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

Director General, WIPO, Dr. Francis Gurriy visited India from 9-14 November, 2009. During the visit he was received by the Prime Minister, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of State for External Affairs, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The visit was in connection with the Fifth International Forum on Creativity and Inventions, International Conference on Traditional Knowledge and a Round Table on the Entertainment Sector. The events were hosted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

India's focus on a strengthened and multi-faceted relationship with ASEAN is an outcome of the significant

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Heads of States/Governments at the 4th East Asia Summit (EAS), in Hua Hin, Thailand on 25 October, 2009.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in a group photo with the leaders of the ASEAN before the 7th India-ASEAN Summit, at Hua Hin, in Thailand, on 24 October, 2009.

changes in the world's political and economic scenario since the early 1990s and India's own march towards economic liberalisation. India's search for economic space has resulted in our 'Look East' policy. ASEAN's economic, political and strategic importance in the larger Asia-Pacific Region and its potential to become a major partner of India in trade and investment is a significant factor in our policy paradigms. ASEAN's steady expansion westward to include Myanmar has also brought it to our land boundaries. It now provides a land bridge for India to connect with the Asia-Pacific-centred economic crosscurrents shaping the 21st century market place. ASEAN, on its part, seeks access to India's professional and technical strengths. Our traditional friendship with the CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar) countries also makes India a valuable ally for promoting the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

India and ASEAN have convergence in their security perspectives. We have vital stakes in peace and stability in the region, including the security of the sea-lanes of the Indian Ocean for smooth flow of raw materials, merchandise and energy supplies. Since 1996, India has been an active participant in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

The ASEAN-India Trade-in-Goods Agreement was signed on 13 August, 2009 at ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Meeting at Bangkok after six years of intensive negotiations. The agreement will pave way for tariff reductions to stipulated levels and creation of a market of over 1.5 billion people in the region. The next step is for conclusion of negotiations on Trade-in-Services and Trade-in-Investment Agreements in near future, to complete the India-ASEAN FTA.

The annual ASEAN Summit with Dialogue Partners and the East Asia Summit took place in October 2009 in Thailand. The India-ASEAN Summit and EAS Summit were held from 24-25 October, 2009 at Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced several new initiatives at the India-ASEAN Summit to further strengthen and reinforce the growing India-ASEAN partnership. At the EAS Summit, India participated in the discussions on the issues of Disaster Management, Climate Change, Education, Finance, Energy and Pandemics. Indian proposal for revival of Nalanda University was prominently focused with the issue of a Joint Press Statement.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

India is one of the founders and key members of IOR-ARC. Indian Ocean Rim is a heterogeneous area with a wide diversity of languages, cultures and religions from 18 countries. The Ninth IOR-ARC Council of Ministers (CoM) Meeting was held in Sana'a, Yemen on 25 June, 2009. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor led the Indian delegation for the CoM. The major outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting were setting up of the Regional Centre for Science and Transfer of Technology (RSSTT), Fisheries Support Unit and Maritime Transport Council. India took over as Vice Chair from Yemen which became the Chair of IOR-ARC for a period of two years. India would be taking over as Chair in 2011.

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)

IBSA, a Forum of three developing country democracies from three different continents, has become an important mechanism for strengthening coordination on international and regional issues, fostering South-South cooperation to amplify the collective voice of the South and deepening mutually beneficial trilateral cooperation, based on common experiences, complementarities and resources.

The Sixth IBSA Ministerial Meeting was held in September 2009 in Brasilia. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna led the Indian delegation. The 14th Focal Points Meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 15-16 July, 2009. Several working group meetings in areas such as Agriculture, Culture, Education, Environment, Human Settlements, Information Society, Revenue Administration, Social Development, Trade, Public Administration and Governance, Transport and preparatory meeting of the IBSA Women's Forum were held during the year.

IBSA undertook projects in Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Burundi, Laos, Cape Verde, Cambodia and Palestine under IBSA Facility Fund for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger established to enhance activities related to poverty eradication and the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

ACD is a unique Pan Asian grouping of 31 countries focusing on economic dialgoue and cooperative projects. ACD's goal is to build a united, strong, competitive and prosperous Asian Community through consolidating Asia's strengths and leveraging Asia's diversity for the mutual benefit of the region and its peoples.

The Eighth Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on

15 October, 2008. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The theme of the Meeting was "*Global Economic Recovery and Development Prospects*".

It was agreed that emphasis should be given to cooperation in the clusters of tourism, trade and transport, which have the potential to create enhanced people-to-people contact in the region. 18 June was designated as 'ACD Day' to mark the establishment of ACD.

India would be organizing the Fourth ACD Tourism Business Forum on 24 March, 2010 and the first meeting of think-tanks, as part of the Track II process, from 11-12 February, 2010.

12 SAARC Division

The impetus provided by India during the 14th SAARC Summit hosted in New Delhi in April 2007, has been largely responsible for the gradual and irreversible transition of SAARC from declaratory to implementation phase. This phenomenon has been further complemented by India's commitment to discharge its responsibilities in an asymmetric and non-reciprocal manner, coupled with the increasing needs of other member states to look to SAARC for solutions for their domestic developmental challenges.

The SAARC region, in recent times, has been witnessing increasing cooperation on security issues. The 31st Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (Colombo, 27-28 February, 2009) adopted the '*SAARC Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism*' to forge deeper collaboration to address the growing menace of terrorism in the region. The Declaration states that Member States will ensure that their respective territories are not used for terrorist training camps or organization of terrorist acts. The SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) based in Sri Lanka will enable exchange of information on terrorist and drug related cases. The infrastructure for the desks is being strengthened with financial assistance from the Government of India. Similarly, an internet based network among police authorities of Member States is being set up by India for exchange of open/unclassified information. In another significant achievement, the *Standard Operating Protocol on Trafficking of Women & Children* has also been finalized at the Third Meeting of the Regional Task Force to Implement the SAARC Conventions relating to Trafficking in Women & Children and Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia held in Shimla from 28-29 May, 2009.

The most visible manifestation of this new dynamism in SAARC has been the early operationalization of the *SAARC Development Fund* (SDF), pending establishment of its permanent premises in Bhutan in 2010. India is the only SAARC Member State to have transferred its full commitment of US$ 189.9 million to the SDF. Two regional projects are currently being implemented under the aegis of the SDF with technical assistance from India - project on women's empowerment and maternal and child health care. The third project proposed by India on providing bio-mass cooking stoves and solar lanterns is also on the anvil.

Cooperation in the field of higher education is set to touch a new horizon with the establishment of the *South Asian University* (SAU) in New Delhi in the near future. The prestigious project is on schedule with the establishment of the Project Office, finalization of its international legal contours by the South Asian University Act 2008, grant of privileges and immunities as per UN Immunities and Privileges Act 1947 and funding as per "*Principles of Regional Centres*". The total cost of establishing the SAU and to make it fully functional as per the agreed parameters will be US$ 308.91 million. India will be contributing US$ 229.11 million to the project which will include bearing 100% of the capital cost. The University is expected to be fully established by 2015.

In a bid to preserve the rich textile and handicraft traditions of the South Asian region, at the 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, in November 2005, Prime Minister had proposed the establishment of a *SAARC Museum of Textiles and Handicrafts* in New Delhi. The Museum would be an Intergovernmental Body on the lines of the other SAARC Regional Centres and will be housed in Delhi Haat, Pitampura. The Second Inter governmental Steering Committee Meeting to finalize the legal and financial contours of the proposed SAARC Museum was hosted in New Delhi from 29-30 September, 2009.

Taking forward the theme of creating greater physical connectivity, the Second Meeting of the Transport Ministers held in Colombo (24-25 July, 2009) decided to convene a Special Meeting of the Expert Group to negotiate the two Draft Regional Agreements on Motor Vehicles and Railways (proposed by India) in a time-bound manner, preferably to finalize them for signing at the 16th SAARC Summit. The ferry service between India and Sri Lanka through the Colombo-Cochin route and direct air links between New Delhi- Male are expected to be resumed shortly. Member States have agreed to hold

trilateral consultations in order to operationalize the Akhaura-Agartala Corridor.

Commendable progress has taken place for the full implementation of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) in letter and spirit. Member states have appreciated India's gesture to give zero duty access to LDCs from 1 January, 2008, one year ahead of target date and unilateral reduction of its Negative List with respect to LDCs from 744 to 480. India continues to revise its Sensitive Lists and, as of now, has 740 items outside its ambit for the LDCs and 868 for the Non-LDCs. A draft Agreement on Trade in Services is also in final stages of negotiation. Taking note of the effects of the global recession on SAARC economies, the 31st Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in Colombo (27-28 February, 2009) adopted the '*SAARC Ministerial Statement on Global Economic Crisis*' calling for a coordinated regional approach to address the crisis. It was decided that mechanisms must be developed for creating bilateral arrangements in the region to address short-term liquidity difficulties. It underlined the need for global initiatives to protect the interests of developing economies, that should include a moratorium on the repayment of debt to multilateral aid agencies and other development partners.

India also hosted two crucial SAARC Meetings. The eighth Meeting of the SAARC Environment Ministers was held in New Delhi from 19-21 October, 2009. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of Bhutan to adopt Climate Change as the theme of the 16th SAARC Summit in April 2010, the Meeting issued the *Delhi Statement on Environment*, directing Member States to identify regional projects based on the concept papers circulated by India on Biodiversity, Solid Waste Management etc. and discussed the establishment of 50 weather stations for advance storm warning systems in SAARC Member States with the help of Government of India, starting with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The draft Regional Environment Treaty was also circulated by India for consideration of Member States. The growing synergies in SAARC also found expression in a "*cooperative position on Climate Change*" presented on behalf of Member States of SAARC to the UNFCCC Secretariat before the Copenhagen Summit.

SAARC Cabinet Secretaries from all Member States met in New Delhi from 13-14 November, 2009 and had a call on the Prime Minister. The Meeting exchanged information and best practices on areas where significant administrative reform initiatives had taken place within SAARC with the aim of accelerating the process of eradication of poverty in the region. Member States noted with appreciation the presentation by India of two Concept Papers on Performance Management and Evaluation and Sharing of Best Practices in Information Technology and expressed the desire for enhanced cooperation.

The strengthening of regional cooperation was pursued through Meetings of other SAARC mechanisms viz the Fifth SAARC Intergovernmental Steering Committee on Establishment of the SAU (Delhi, 7-9 January, 2010) and the Meeting to Negotiate the Draft SAARC Treaty on Environment (Delhi, 18-19 January, 2010). Movement towards greater trade liberalization is expected to be achieved during the upcoming Meeting to finalize the Draft SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services scheduled to be held in Kathmandu from 8-10 February, 2010. The resolve of the Member States to operationalize better transport connectivity in the region will be pursued in the First Expert Group Meeting to negotiate the SAARC Regional Agreements on Motor Vehicles and Railways to be held in Kathmandu from 1-2 February, 2010. The issue of funding development projects in the region will be taken up at the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Board of the SDF to be held in Kathmandu from 3-5 February, 2010. Furthermore, the Third Meeting of the SAARC Home Ministers and its preceding meetings is being hosted in Islamabad from 16-20 February, 2010 and will deal with the entire gamut of police cooperation, combating drug trafficking, immigration and other security related issues.

People-to-people activities in the SAARC region, have also witnessed a phenomenal increase. India hosted the hugely successful Second SAARC Bands Festival in New Delhi, SAARC Festival of Literature in Agra and the Second SAARC Folklore Festival in Chandigarh. Furthermore, India has funded projects in the areas of telemedicine, tele-education, environment friendly projects such as solar rural electrification, rainwater harvesting, seed testing laboratories and shuttle breeding of pulses using a hub-and-spoke approach, with India as the hub and member states as spokes. The projects are in various stages of implementation. With increasing economic interdependence among Member States, therefore, SAARC will undoubtedly metamorphose into the core vehicle for enhanced economic cooperation in South Asia.

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13 Technical & Economic Cooperation and Development Partnership

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP), centred on the sharing of experiences, transfer of technology and capacity building, formed an important component of India's development partnership and cooperation with the developing world. The usefulness and relevance of these cooperative interactions in different countries was reflected in the increasing number of participants in the ITEC programme which has acquired a brand name in the developing world. Starting on a modest scale in 1964, ITEC has grown over the years and is today a major component and dynamic part of India's bilateral assistance programme manifesting itself in diverse areas of cooperation. It is demand-driven and response-oriented. There are 158 ITEC/SCAAP partner countries (list at Appendix-XIV).

ITEC and SCAAP continue to draw large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions in India, both Government and in the private sector, under the civilian and defence training programmes. The existing ITEC website was re-designed and activated at new address: *itec.mea.gov.in*. It is now more user-friendly and specifically targeted to the needs of ITEC participants in terms of making it easier for them to access details relating to empanelled institutions and approved courses as well as to download forms, etc. A brochure - an annual compendium of ITEC/SCAAP courses and the training institutions - was brought out as a reference document for both participating Governments from 158 ITEC/SCAAP partner countries as well as individual candidates interested in the courses. Alumni networks have been encouraged including through the annual 'ITEC Day' functions organized in Missions abroad.

Civilian Training Programme

Around 5000 civilian training slots were allotted during 2009-10 to 158 developing countries in areas of interest and advantage to them. The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India with 42 institutions on the panel, conducted around 200 courses, primarily short-term, for working professionals on a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines. The most sought after courses were in the field of Information Technology and English language. Training was imparted to Government officials in areas such as finance & accounts, audit, banking, education, planning & administration, parliamentary studies, crime records, etc. Others availed of training facilities in technical/specialized courses such as textiles, rural electrification, tool design and ophthalmologic equipment. In addition, general courses pertaining to rural development, SMEs and entrepreneurship development also attracted many participants. (List of institutions offering civilian training courses under ITEC and SCAAP programmes of the Ministry of External Affairs is at Appendix-XV).

The ITEC Programme is essentially bilateral. However, in recent years the scope of ITEC's activities has increased and it has also been associated with regional and multilateral organisations. These organisations and groupings include the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN), G-15, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC), African Union (AU), Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Pan African Parliament, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Commonwealth and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

As a follow up to the India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in 2008 and in response to requests received from ITEC partner countries, the following special courses were conducted during the year: (i) Special Training-cum-English Proficiency Course for Sri Lankan Teachers; (ii) Special Course for Afghanistan on 'International Programme on Rural Development, Management & Good Governance'; (iii) Special Course for Africa on 'Mineral Exploration '; (iv) Special Course for Africa on 'Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing'; (v) Special Course on 'Narcotics Dog Training' for Ghana; (vi) Special Course on 'Solar Energy Technology and Applications'; (vii) Special Course for Namibia - Orientation Course for Geologists-Zawar Module; (viii) Special Course titled 'Leadership Programme for Post Masters and Managers' for members of Pan-African Postal Union;

(ix) International Training Programme on 'Wind Turbine Technology and Applications' and (x) Special Course for Africa on 'Geographic Information System'.

Defence Training

Growing interest in defence training was evident with the three wings of the Defence Services, i.e. Army, Navy and Air Force accepting 797 officers/trainees in various defence training institutions, showing an increase from 757 participants in the previous year. The courses were general and specialized in nature and included security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counter-insurgency and jungle warfare as also foundation courses for young officers in the three services. Applications to the premier defence courses at the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi, and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, were oversubscribed and saw officers from developed countries also attending on a self-financing basis. The increasing interaction attests to the importance attached to defence training in India by developing and developed countries.

Deputation of Experts

At the request of Governments and international organizations, 40 experts in the civilian and defence fields were on deputation to advise and provide expertise in areas including information technology, auditing, legal expertise, diverse agricultural fields, pharmacology, statistics and demography, public administration and textiles. The services of defence teams were availed of by Laos, Lesotho, Seychelles, Zambia, Ethiopia and Mongolia in training and advisory capacities.

Study Tour

(i) At the request of Ethiopia, two experts from the Department of Central Board of Excise & Customs were deputed to Ethiopia to help Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ECRA) in development of customs value data base.

(ii) At the request of Kenya, a three member Kenyan delegation visited India to study the system of training of civil servants.

(iii) On the request of Indonesian Government, one expert in the field of water management from IIT, Roorkee visited Indonesia.

Development Partnership & Projects Cooperation

A number of bilateral projects were undertaken in 2009-10 notably in the field of Information Technology (IT) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), civil construction and vocational training. The focus of the projects under the bilateral cooperation programme was on setting up the requisite physical infrastructure and capacity building to ensure long-term sustainability of the projects under way.

The main projects under implementation included the following

(i) A project for conservation and restoration of *Vat Phou* temple complex in Laos has commenced. A team from Archeological Survey of India has set up their camp at the site for implementing the project.

(ii) A project to strengthen capacity building in Information Technology sector in Laos has made considerable progress and is nearing completion.

(iii) A project on setting up of a Vocational Training Centre at Aceh, Indonesia was awarded to HMT(I) Limited and implementation of the project has commenced.

(iv) A feasibility study was conducted for establishment of an administrative staff college at Aceh, Indonesia. The feasibility report received from Administrative Staff College of India has been presented to the Indonesian authorities.

(v) Information Technology (IT) training centres in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua have been set up and second year training is in progress. These centres are in their final stage of completion. A similar IT Centre has been established in Jamaica and first year training has commenced. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up IT centres in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Benin have been signed. These centres aim at capacity building as also strengthening the IT infrastructure in these countries.

(vi) A project in the field of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Zimbabwe is at an advanced stage of completion. Last phase of on-the-job training to Zimbabwean personnel has commenced.

Feasibility Studies

A feasibility study for sewerage water treatment plant in Antigua & Barbuda conducted by Hyderabad Water Supply and Sewerage Board has been completed and the feasibility study report presented to the Government of Antigua & Barbuda.

Several other consultancy services for setting up infrastructure projects are at various stages of

implementation, notably the feasibility studies for construction of a deep water port as well as mining of coal for production of sponge iron & steel, both in Guyana; and for setting up a communication network in Montenegro.

Aid for Disaster Relief

India rendered relief assistance to countries affected by natural calamities. Humanitarian assistance was extended to countries like Lebanon, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Myanmar, Burkina Faso, El-Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti affected by earthquakes or cyclones/floods. Request for financial assistance from St. Lucia for reconstruction of a hospital damaged by fire is under implementation.

Investment and Technology Promotion 14

Lines of Credit

As part of its diplomatic strategy, the Government of India extends concessional Lines of Credit (LoCs) to developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation, these LoCs are a form of soft lending that enable the borrowing countries to undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building.

123 Lines of Credit worth US$ 5.02 billion have been extended by the Government of India to various developing countries so far. During the current financial year, 25 Lines of Credit amounting to US$ 1.03 billion have been approved up to 22 January, 2010. This includes LoCs of US$ 492 million to Sri Lanka for railway projects, LoC of US$ 100 million to Syria for financing the Tishreen Power Project, US$ 60 million to Belarus for reconstruction of the Grodno-II Power Plant and US$ 20 million to Mongolia for IT and livestock vaccination. The remaining amount has been allocated to countries in Africa and Latin America including Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Suriname and Tanzania. Projects approved include a wide range of sectors such as IT, railways, agriculture, water supply, electricity generation, industrial parks, etc.

These LoCs have not only contributed to the socio-economic development of the recipient countries and generated considerable amount of goodwill for India, but also helped project our growing economic strength in various sectors and enabled Indian companies get project contracts and orders for supply of goods and services. Often times, these orders have helped Indian companies generate additional business on a purely commercial basis.

To help countries which do not have the technical expertise to undertake feasibility studies for identifying viable projects under LoCs, an amount of Rs. five crores has been earmarked for providing consultancy services to them.

The ITP Division has been working closely with the Department of Economic Affairs, EXIM Bank and Indian Missions to ensure efficient implementation of the LoCs. An exercise has also been undertaken to review GoI policy relating to Lines of Credit with a view to introducing greater efficiency and transparency.

Investment and Trade Promotion

The ITP Division carried out a detailed study on the functioning of Commercial Wings abroad with a view to making them more effective and responsive to the growing demands of Indian industry and business. Noting that financial resources acted as a major constraint, it has been decided to allocate additional funds to the tune of Rs. 9.09 crores to Indian Missions during 2009-10 based on the volume of bilateral trade handled by them. These funds are to be utilized by Commercial Wings to undertake market expansion activities including market surveys, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, etc. Several innovative proposals received from Missions have been approved under this scheme.

The ITP Division continued to liaise with the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Civil Aviation, Shipping, etc. to provide policy inputs; and RBI, EXIM Bank and prominent industry organizations like FICCI, CII, etc. to facilitate foreign investment and trade. It assisted trade promotion bodies and visiting delegations in their external interface. Trade and investment issues pertaining to export of generic drugs, fertilizers and railways concessions were actively taken-up during this period.

The ITP Division also worked closely with the Department of Commerce to facilitate proposals from Missions under the Challenge Fund set up by the Ministry of Commerce to support their export promotion activities. It participated in bilateral civil aviation talks conducted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation including discussions with 17 countries at the second International Civil Aviation Organization Negotiations (ICAN) conference in Turkey.

ITP Division assisted CII in organizing the conference on India-China "Drivers of the Asian Century in a Post Crisis World" in March 2009. It will also partner with FICCI in organizing the second India-Arab Investment Projects Conclave in February 2010.

The Ministry's website *www.indiainbusiness.nic.in,* that provides comprehensive information on investment and trade opportunities in various sectors of the Indian economy as well as updated data on important economic indicators, was revamped and upgraded with a better layout to make it more user friendly. An updated edition of ITP Division's Annual Publication entitled "India-Dynamic Business Partner" is under preparation and will be widely disseminated to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. This booklet along with a CD-ROM provides details of investment opportunities in India, both sector-wise and state-wise, for potential investors.

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Energy Security

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An Energy Security unit was first set up within the ITP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in September 2007. Given the country's increasing dependence on energy imports and the growing reference to energy security issues in the international affairs narrative, it was decided in 2009 to upgrade the Energy Security unit into a full-fledged division.

This new thematic division provided inputs to articulate India's position on energy security matters in various multilateral fora like the UNGA, G-20, NAM, BRIC, ASEM, IBSA, East Asian Energy Ministers Meeting, CICA, Commonwealth, etc. The division played a key role in the country joining the first-ever global body on renewable energy sources – *International Renewable Energy Agency* (IRENA). The Energy Security division was closely associated with India's membership of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency and Cooperation (IPEEC) and also guided our growing engagement with the world's biggest energy consumer club - the International Energy Agency (IEA).

As the nodal point in MEA for energy matters, the division maintained close coordination with the energy line ministries and facilitated their international engagements on energy issues. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was assisted in organizing the second India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference in December 2009. The Division continued to coordinate with oil and infrastructure PSUs through periodic meetings of the Informal Working Group on Energy Security.

The Energy Security Division coalesced the country's various stakeholders on energy security, including the private sector. An outreach programme was also begun to involve private sector companies, especially in the renewable energy sector, by organizing brainstorming sessions on bio-diesel, ethanol, etc. Advice was extended to corporates, chambers and think-tanks on energy-security related matters. Energy Security related seminars were co-sponsored and papers commissioned on subjects relating to energy security.

16 Policy Planning and Research

The main activities of the Policy Planning and Research Division include processing of Research Projects and studies relating to foreign policy and global affairs; preparation/updation of database of think tanks, research bodies, universities etc. dealing with subjects related to India's foreign policy and international affairs; interaction with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and its affiliates and the area study centres of different universities, specializing in research on different regions of the world; and preparing the draft for Minister/ MoS if and when directed. In addition, the Policy Planning and Research Division prepares and dispatches Monthly Summary of important developments of the month, for the Cabinet and senior officials of Government of India. The Division also compiles, edits, prints and distributes MEA's Annual Report in a time bound manner. The Report serves as a compendium of India's relations with the rest of the world and the views of the Government on various issues of the international relations. The Division also collates and compiles materials for "India & Abroad" chapter of INDIA, published by Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

During this period, one of the major activity of the Division was the organization of Heads of Missions (HoMs) Conference in August 2009 which was attended by about 120 Ambassadors and High Commissioners. The HoMs were addressed by Vice President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Minister of External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna, Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi, National Security Advisor Shri M. K. Narayanan, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Aluwalia, MoS for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor and MoS for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shri Shyam Saran, Rajya Sabha Member and Chairperson IIC Smt. Kapila Vatsayan and Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao.

The National Interest Project (NIP) conducted by Indian Council of Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has been funded and monitored by the PP&R Division. The NIP has already been completed and almost 20 papers have been produced on important issues which have direct bearing on India's national interest and foreign policy.

The Policy Planning Division has co-coordinated and monitored the establishment of the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in the Calcutta University which has been established with the financial assistance of the Ministry of External Affairs. Its programmes include introduction of M.Phil courses and undertaking research/projects in India's foreign policy with a focus on East Asia and South Asian countries. The Policy Planning and Research Division has been mandated together with the MER Division of the Ministry to prepare a project paper on IOR-ARC (India Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation).

During the period, foreign policy consultations were held with China and Japan. On both occasions, JS [PP&R] led the Indian delegation.

A list of Seminars, Conferences, meetings and Studies partly funded by the Policy Planning and Research Division during the period is given at Appendix-XIII.

The Policy Planning and Research Division also looks after the work of the Situation Room and Boundary Cell. All their administrative issues and substantial works are looked after by the Division. The Division was responsible for scrutinizing the depiction of India's external boundaries in the foreign publications imported into our country and offered its advice to the Ministries dealing with this matter. It coordinated the supply of map-sheets to various government and semi-government offices and research scholars for use in their official work with the Survey of India. The Division also dealt with the requests from research scholars for access to the old records of the Ministry.

Boundary Cell

The functions of Boundary Cell, established as part of PP&R division, are enumerated as under:

a) Examine all aspects of India's external boundaries and scrutinise map sheets involving international

boundaries of India in coordination with the Survey of India, for publication.

b) Provide cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to Territorial Divisions.

c) Assist in collection, collation and digitization of the available cartographic strip/Basis maps.

d) Liaise with Survey of India/State Governments regarding joint boundary survey work including maintenance/repairs of boundary pillar and on reports of any encroachment into Indian Territory (maintaining database etc.).

e) Assist in the collection and digitization of information pertaining to the maritime boundary, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and delineation of the Continental Shelf.

f) Scrutinise restricted map sheets in coordination with the Ministry of the Defence requested by various Government and semi-Government Organisations, for the purpose of development work.

g) Liaise with the Naval Hydrographic Office and Ministry of Earth Sciences.

h) Be a repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's international borders.

(j) Scrutinize inaccurate maps published in foreign magazines, journals and atlases and take necessary action for getting these maps corrected.

Boundary Cell has participated in various Internal/Inter-ministerial meetings on International Land and Maritime Boundary of India as given below:

a) Participated in Inter-ministerial meeting on Baseline system of India.

b) Provided inputs for Gazette notification for Baseline System of India.

c) Organized lecture for IFS Probationers on "Surveying and Mapping trends and technologies" and conducted visit to Boundary Cell and Survey of India for field duties.

d) India-Nepal Boundary Technical Level Meeting held at Dehradun.

e) Provided Cartographic and Technical Inputs to all Territorial Divisions on various aspects of International Boundary (Land and Maritime).

f) Authentication of location of Gandak Bund Project in Nepal near India-Nepal International Boundary for North Division.

g) Provided comments with relevant inputs to FSO in response to Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, Ahmadabad Zonal Unit regarding investigation of survey and exploration activities in Krishna Godavari Basin to ascertain the basis of leviability of service tax.

h) Assam-Nagaland Boundary meetings convened by MHA and supplied relevant information and maps to BSM Division.

i) Attended Government level meeting on India-Bhutan Boundary talks as part of the Indian delegation.

j) Authentication of International Boundary on OSM and DSM Maps (12 sheets) submitted by SoI through PP&R Division.

k) Building database for Boundary Strip Maps covering the External Boundary of India.

l) Archival and Digitization of Boundary Strip Maps.

m) Archival of Topographical Maps in digital and hard copy form, published by Survey of India covering International Boundary of India.

Situation Room

General

Situation Room is a multifaceted, multi facility state of the art complex of the Ministry. Set up in 2007, it has the requisite communication connectivity and display panels which would be required for handling any crisis situation. Besides its primary role as a Crisis Management Cell of the Ministry, the complex has been effectively utilized by all Divisions for various purposes such as presentations & conferences including telephone /video conferences etc.

Role

The role of Situation Room is as given below:

(a) Act 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.

(b) Act as a Crisis Management Cell (Control Room) in case of crisis.

Activities During the Period of the Report

Establishment of Video Conferencing Facility in Missions. In consonance with the vision of Foreign Secretary to add a new dimension of communication in the Ministry, video conferencing facility is being established in selected Missions in a phased manner. As part of Phase I of the project, facility was installed in six Missions in 2008. During the period of this report, Phase II of the project was completed and work on Phase III was initiated. Process of installing this facility in Missions at Thimphu, Vienna, Kathmandu and Kabul is under progress. The facility has been installed in following Missions till date:

Sl. No.	Mission	Installed in Month
Phase I		
1.	Embassy of India, Paris	June 2008
2.	Embassy of India, Brussels	June 2008
3.	High Commission of India, London	June 2008
4.	High Commission of India, Dhaka	November 2008
5.	High Commission of India, Colombo	November 2008
6.	Embassy of India, Beijing	December 2008
Phase II		
7.	PMI to the UN, New York	April 2009
8.	Embassy of India, Washington	April 2009
9.	Embassy of India, Moscow	June 2009
Phase III		
10.	High Commission of India, Male	June 2009
11.	PMI to the UN, Geneva	June 2009
12.	CGI Shanghai	June 2009

Protocol

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There were 95 visits (73 incoming and 22 outgoing) during the April 2009-March 2010 period at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister. Three countries (Burundi, Gambia and Georgia) opened resident missions during this period bringing the total number of resident missions in New Delhi to 140. Opening of new Consulates General in Mumbai were approved for Ethiopia and New Zealand in 2009. Five countries got permission to open trade offices and nineteen were granted permission to open honorary consulates in Indian metro cities. Honorary Consul of Hungary in Mumbai and Honorary Consul of Ireland in Bengaluru were upgraded to Honorary Consul Generals in January and February 2010 respectively. 157 new posts were created by foreign missions and international organisations in the period April 2009- February 2010. The keen interest evinced in India as witnessed in the large numbers of VVIP visits; opening of new missions, consulates, and trade offices; as well as the creation of numerous additional posts by diplomatic missions – was reflective of India's active and multifaceted engagement with the world.

State Visits by Head of State/Government and Equivalent Level

S.No.	Dignitary	Dates
	2009	
1	H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of Namibia	30 August-3 September
2	H.E. Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia	13-16 September
3	H.E. Dr. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of Argentina	13-15 October
4	H.M. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, King of Bhutan	21-26 December
	2010	
1	H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh	10-14 January 10-14
2	H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland	11-17 January
3	H.E. Dato Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minsiter of Malaysia	19-23 January
4	H.E. Mr. Lee Myung-bak, President of Republic of Korea	24-27 January
5	H.E. Mr. Horst Kohler, President of Germany	1-7 February
6	H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey	7-12 February
7	H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal	15-18 February
8	H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Russian Federation	12 March

Official/Working visits by Head of State/Government/Vice President and Equivalent Level

	2009	
1	H.E. Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan	28 June-3 July
2	H.E. Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal	18-22 August

3	H.E. Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minsiter of Denmark	11-12 September
4	H.E. Madam Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice President of Vietnam	30 September-4 October
5	H.M. King George Tupou, King of Tonga	11-20 September
6	H.E. Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark	11-12 September
7	H.E. Mr. Mizengo K Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania	13-17 September
8	H.E. Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minsiter of Sweden – India EU Summit	5-7 November
9	H.E. Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of European Commission – India EU Summit	6-8 November
10	H.E. Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minsiter of Australia	11-13 November
11	H.R.H. Prince Felipe of Austurias, Crown Prince of Spain	10-12 November
12	H.E. Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minsiter of Canada	15-18 November
13	H.E. Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minsiter of Japan	27-29 December
	2010	
1	H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestinian National Authority	11-12 February
2	H.E. Dr. Mohammed Waheed Hassan, Vice President of Maldives	19-28 February
3	H.R.H. Prince Philippe, Crown Prince of Belgium	22-26 March

Official Visits by Foreign Minister and Equivalent Level

	2009	
1	H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of UAE	11-12 June
2	H.E. Mr. Yu Myung-hwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Korea	22-24 June
3	H.E. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, USA	17-21 July
4	H.E. Samuel T Abal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea	23-29 July
5	H.E. Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan	25-28 July
6	H.E. Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Maldives	27-30 July
7	H.E. Mr Dai Bingguo, SR of China	6-9 August
8	H.E. Ms. Sujata Koirala, FM of Nepal	10-14 August
9	H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh	7-10 September
10	H.E. Mr. Stephen Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia	12-16 October
11	H.E. Mr. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Foreign Minister of Congo	27-30 October
12	H.E. Mr. Sergey Sobyanin, Deputy Chairman of the Government of Russian Federation	8-12 November
13	H.E. Mr. Jaime Bermudez Merizalde, Foreign Minister of Colombia	9-11 November
14	H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana Mashabane, Minister for International Relations of South Africa	12-16 November

15	H.E. Mr. Manocheher Mottaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran	16-17 November
16	H.E. Mr. Jose Brito, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde	18-22 November
17	H.E. Mr. Carlos Tini, Foreign Minister of Sao Tome and Principe	29 November-2 December
18	H.E. Mr. Vygaudas Usackas, Foreign Minister of Lithuania	2-5 December
19	H.E. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Minister Mentor of Singapore	14-17 December
20	H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya, Foreign Minister of Thailand	22-27 December
	2010	
1	H.E. Dr. Tonia Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Malta	6-11 January
2	H.E. Dr. Peter Baltazs, Foreign Minister of Hungary	17-21 January
3	H.E. Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, Foreign Minister of Bhutan	27 January-1 February
4	H.E. Dr. Thong Loun Sisoulith, Foreign Minister and DPM of People's Democratic Republic of Lao	31 January-3 February
5	H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Bahrain	12 February
6	H.E. Sergei S. Sobyanin, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia	15 February
7	H.E. Mr. Jonas Gahr Store, Foreign Minister of Norway	2 March
8	H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Foreign Minister of Indonesia	24 March

Private/Transit visit of Heads of State/Government/Vice President and First Ladies and Equivalent Level/FM

	2009	
1	H.R.H. Maha Vajiralongkorn, Crown Prince of Thailand	30 May, Mumbai
2	H.R.H. Maha Vajiralongkorn, Crown Prince of Thailand	30 June, Mumbai
3	H.E. Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia	12 July, Chennai
4	H.R.H. Maha Vajiralongkorn, Crown Prince of Thailand	15 August, Mumbai
5	H.E. Mr. Aneerudh Jugnauth, President of Mauritius	29 November-9 December
	2010	
1	H.E. Mr. James Alix Michel, President of Seychelles	8-11 January, Chennai
2	H.M. Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan	18-25 January
3	H.E. Mr. Mohammed Nasheed, President of Maldives	22-24 January, Chennai
4	H.R.H. Maha Vajiralongkorn, Crown Prince of Thailand	21 January, Mumbai
5	H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk,President of the Republic of Slovenia for DSDS	4-7 February
6	H.E. Mr. Anote Tong,President of the Republic of Kiribati for DSDS	4-7 February
7	H.E. Mr. Jigmi Yoser Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan for DSDS	4-7 February
8	H.E. Mr. Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland for DSDS	4-7 February

9	H.E. Mr. George Papandreou, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic of Greece for DSDS	4-5 February
10	H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg,Prime Minister of Norway for DSDS	4-7 February
11	H.E. Dr. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun, G.C.S.K., Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities, Republic of Mauritius for DSDS	4-7 February
12	H.E. Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec (Canada) for DSDS	4-7 February

Visits Abroad of President/Vice President/Prime Minister of India

	2009	
1	Vice President to Kuwait	6-8 April
2	President to Spain and Poland	20-27 April
3	Vice President to South Africa	8-10 May
4	Prime Minister to Russian federation for SCO & BRIC	15-17 June
5	Prime Minister to Italy for G-8	7-11 July
6	Prime Minister to France & Egypt for NAM	13-17 July
7	President to Russia & Tajikistan	2-8 September
8	Prime Minister to Pittsburgh – G-20	23-27 September
9	External Affairs Minister to Moscow, Russia and Tashkent, Uzbekistan	20-24 October
10	Prime Minister to Thailand (7th ASEAN-INDIA Summit)	23-25 October
11	President to UK and Cyprus	26 October- 1 November
12	External Affairs Minister to Kabul, Afghanistan	18-19 November
13	External Affairs Minister to Washington, USA	21-25 November
14	Prime Minister to USA & Port of Spain [CHOGM 26-28]	21-28 November
15	External Affairs Minister to Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago	26-29 November
16	External Affairs Minister to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	10-11 December
17	Prime Minister to Copenhagen (Climate Summit)	17-18 December
	2010	
1	Vice President to Zambia, Malawi, Botswana	5-12 January
2	External Affairs Minister to London, UK	26-31 January
3	External Affairs Minister to Kuwait	3-4 February
4	Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia	27 February-1 March
5	External Affairs Minister to Iran	30 March

List of Foreign Ambassadors/High Commissioners who Presentedtheir Credentials during the Period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Name	Presentationof Credentials
H.E. Mr. Abdul Azeez Yoosuf High Commissioner of Maldives	12 June, 2009
H.E. Mr. Felix Badji High Commissioner of Gambia	12 June, 2009

H.E. Mr. El Khidir Haroun Ahmed Abdulrazia Ambassador of Sudan	12 June, 2009
H.E. Mr. Marian Tomasik Ambassador of Slovak Republic	15 July, 2009
H.E. Mr. Faisal Hassan Trad Ambassador of Saudi Arabia	15 July, 2009
H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ghali Umar High Commissioner of Nigeria	15 July, 2009
H.E. Mr. Timothy J. Roemer Ambassador of U.S.A	11 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. Krit Kraichitti Ambassador of Thailand	11 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. Ahmad Traiq Karim High Commissioner of Bangladesh	11 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde Ambassador of Peru	24 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. Peter Joseph Noozhumurry Varghese High Commissioner of Australia	24 September, 2009
H.E. Ms. Nafsika Chr. Krousti High Commissioner of Cyprus	24 September, 2009
H.E. Ms. Terhi Hakala Ambassador of Finland	24 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. Janez Premoze Ambassador of Slovenia	24 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. Adli Shaban Hassan Sadeq Ambassador of Palestine	24 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. Sami Mohammad S.M. Al-Sulaiman Ambassador of the State of Kuwait	24 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. Julio De La Guardia Arrocha Ambassador of Panama	11 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Genaro Vicente Pappalardo Ayala Ambassador of Paraguay	11 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Jovan Mirilovic Ambassador of Serbia	11 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Thomas Matussek Ambassador of Germany	11 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson Ambassador of Iceland	11 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Jaime Virgilio Nualart Sanchez Ambassador of Mexico	20 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Jose Maria de Silva Vieira Morais High Commissioner of Mozambique	20 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Ara Hakobyan Ambassador of Armenia	20 November, 2009

H.E. Mr. Alexander Mikhailovich Kadakin Ambassador of Russia	20 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Robert Tachie-Menson High Commissioner of Ghana	20 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Petar Jovanovski Ambassador of Macedonia	21 December, 2009
H.E. Mr. Rukma Shumshere J.B. Rana Ambassador of Nepal	21 December, 2009
H.E. Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam High Commissioner of Sri Lanka	21 December, 2009

List of the Heads of Missions who left India during the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Name	Date of Departure
H.E. Mr. Bernd Mutzelburg Ambassador of Germany	28 April, 2009
H.E. Mr. Vuk Zugic Ambassador of Serbia	1 May, 2009
H.E. Mr. Khalaf Abass Khalaf Al-Foudari Ambassador of the State of Kuwait	8 May, 2009
H.E. Mr. Liaquat Ali Choudhury High Commissioner of Bangladesh	13 May, 2009
H.E. Mr. Alexander Ilascik Ambassador of Slovak Republic	1 June, 2009
H.E. Mr. Osama Musa Ambassador of the State of Palestine	8 June, 2009
H.E. Mr. Manuel Ernesto Picasso Botto Ambassador of Peru	25 June, 2009
H.E. Mr. Kemal Muftic Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina	2 July, 2009
H.E. Mr. Carlos Agostinho Do Rosario High Commissioner of Mozambique	20 July, 2009
H.E. Mr. Alberto J. Pinzon M. Ambassador of Panama	30 July, 2009
H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov Ambassador of Russian Federation	31 July, 2009
H.E. Dr. Hynek Kmonicek Ambassador of Czech Republic	5 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. John Mc Carthy High Commissioner of Australia	10 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. Ashot Kocharian Ambassador of Armenia	16 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. Asko Numminen Ambassador of Finland	19 August, 2009
H.E. Mr. Andreas Zenonos High Commissioner of Cyprus	31 August, 2009

H.E. Mr. Raouf Chatty Ambassador of Tunisia	1 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov Ambassador of Kazakhstan	28 September, 2009
H.E. Mr. C. R. Jayasinghe High Commissioner of Sri Lanka	30 September, 2009
H.E. Ms. Patricia Figueroa Rodriguez Ambassador of El Salvador	1 October, 2009
H.E. Dr. Noureddine Bardad-Daidj Ambassador of Algeria	6 November, 2009
H.E. Mr. Fahd Salim Ambassador of Syrian Arab Republic	7 December, 2009
H.E. Archbishop Pedro Lopez Quintana Apostolic Nuncio of Apostolic Nunciature (Ambassador of Holy See)	30 December, 2009
H.E. Dr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	15 January, 2010
H.E. Francisco L. Benedicto Ambassador of Philippines	2 February, 2010

Following Countries Opened their Resident Missions in New Delhi during the Period from 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2010

1 Burundi

2 Gambia

3 Georgia

List of Trade Offices/Consulate Generals/Honorary Consulates of Foreign Countries in India approved in 2009

Trade Offices Approved in 2009

1	Mexico	Mumbai
2	Canada	Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad
3	Greece	Mumbai
4	Indonesia	Chennai
5	Denmark	Ahmedabad

Consulate Generals Approved in 2009

1	Ethiopia	Mumbai
2	New Zealand	Mumbai

Honorary Consulates Approved in 2009

1	Benin	Bengaluru
2	Dominican Republic	Mumbai
3	El Salvador	Mumbai

4	Ethiopia	Kolkata
5	Equador	Mumbai
6	Finland	Hyderabad
7	Gabon	Chennai
8	Latvia	Chennai
9	Lithuania	Mumbai
10	Luxemburg	Kolkata
11	Lao PDR	Kolkata
12	Macedonia	Kolkata
13	Malta	Chennai
14	Paraguay	Mumbai, Kolkata
15	State of Samoa	New Delhi
16	Seychelles	Kolkata,Chennai
17	Spain	Bengaluru
18	Suriname	Mumbai, Kolkata
19	Mongolia	Bengaluru

Honorary Consul of Hungary in Mumbai upgraded to Honorary Consul General in the Month of January 2010.

Honorary Consul of Ireland in Bengaluru upgraded to Honorary Consul General in February 2010.

Honorary Consul of Hungary in Mumbai upgraded to Honorary Consul General in the Month of January 2010.

Month-wise Details of the Newly Created Posts in Foreign Missions/Posts in India during the Period from April to January 2010

Month	No. of new posts approved
April 2009	22
May 2009	29
June 2009	12
July 2009	13
August 2009	16
September 2009	14
October 2009	14
November 2009	12
December 2009	10
January 2009	4
February 2010 (upto 22 February, 2010)	11
Total	**157**

■■

Consular, Passport and Visa Services 18

Passport Offices

There are presently 37 Passport Offices and 15 Passport Collection Centres in India. All Passport Offices are computerized and they issue machine-printed and machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Passport applications are being scanned and stored electronically.

Passport Services

There has been a significant increase in the number of passports issued over the years. The growth in the number of passports issued is enumerated in the table, below:

Year	1979-80	1989-90	1999-2000	2009
No. of passports issued in lakhs	8.51	15.58	25.80	50.28
% increase	-	83 %	66%	94%

The number of passports issued in 2008 by the 37 Passport Offices was 53.10 lakh. However, during the year 2009, the growth has stabilized, in issue of 50.28 lakh passports. The total revenue generated through the Passport and Visa services during the period April 2009-20 January 2010 are Rs. 685.5 crores & Rs. 924.41 crores respectively.

The Ministry has been taking a number of measures to make the passport issuance system simpler and speedier for the comfort and convenience of the public. Some of the important steps are delineated as under:

(a) Decentralization through District Passport Cells and Speed Post Centres

With a view to taking the passport issuance and related services nearer to the doorsteps of the applicants, District Passport Cells (DPCs) have been opened at the district level where the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police receives passport applications and after scrutiny and police verification, forwards them to the concerned Passport Office for issuance of passports. Currently, there are 463 DPCs. The passport applications are also received through the network of 1096 Speed Post Centres. One Speed Post Centre was added during the year at Chavakkad post office, District Thrissur, Kerala.

(b) Online Applications

Online submission of passport applications has been introduced in all Passport Offices. The District Passport Cells referred to above and Speed Post Centres have also been allowed to file applications on-line and transfer the data to the Passport offices which facilitates quicker turnaround in the issuance of passports.

(c) Infrastructure

During 2009, Passport office at Bhubaneshwar shifted to newly constructed Government owned building. Construction is nearing completion in respect of the Passport office at Vishakhapatnam and the office is expected to shift in 2010. Construction for the new office at Mumbai is expected to begin by early 2010.

(d) Centralized Printing of Passports

In respect of 140 non-computerized Missions/Posts abroad, the Ministry has so far issued 170196 passports up to 31 December, 2009 after successfully implementing the project for centralized printing of Machine Readable Passports (MRP) at CPV Division, New Delhi.

RPOs Conference

A conference of 16 Regional Passport Officers from the Southern and Western regions was convened at Thiruvananthapuram on 10 August, 2009. Another conference of 17 Regional Passport Officers from the Northern, Central and Eastern Regions was organized at Kolkata on 31 October, 2009. Both the conferences were chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Steps have been taken to strengthen the public grievance redressal mechanism in all Passport Offices. Facilitation

Counters and Help Desks have also been set up to assist applicants and also to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. A public grievance redressal mechanism has also been set up in the CPV Division under the close supervision of the Joint Secretary (CPV) and Chief Passport Officer. In addition, all the Passport offices handle public grievances through the *CPGram* website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Passport Adalats

Passport Offices have been holding Passport Adalats periodically to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of old cases.

Right to Information Act (RTI)

A Central Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officers have been appointed in every Passport office to provide information to applicants under the RTI. A total of 932 RTI applications and RTI 363 appeals were received and disposed off by the Division.

Website

The website of CPV Division *http://passport.gov.in*, which was established in 1999, is being updated from time to time to make it more user-friendly. It has detailed information on passports, status enquiry and links to various passport offices and also has downloadable forms.

Issuance of Visas

Over the years, the procedure for grant of visas by our Missions and Posts has been simplified including computerization of the issuance system. Most Missions and Posts grant visas either across the counter on the same day or at the most within 48 hours.

Visa-Waiver Agreements

India has Visa-Waiver Agreements with 48 countries by which diplomatic/official passport holders are exempted from requirement of visa. During the current year, an agreement has been signed with Namibia.

Issuance of Diplomatic/Official Passports

CPV Division issued 2659 diplomatic and 22594 official passports in 2009, as compared to 2775 diplomatic and 22948 official passports in 2008. CPV Division issued 7173 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passports holders in the year 2009.

New Projects

The Ministry has embarked on several projects with a view to modernizing and upgrading the passport/visa issuance system. These are as follows:

(i) Issuance of E-Passports

The President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil launched the issuance of e-passports, also known as bio-metric passports on 25 June, 2008. All diplomatic and official passports are now being issued as e-passports as part of a pilot project. The evaluation of global PQB applications for procurement of ICAO compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating systems for manufacture of e-passports by the India Security Press Nashik was taken up on 16 October, 2009. The full roll-out of e-passports is expected by September 2010.

(ii) Passport Seva Project

On approval of the Union Cabinet in September 2007, the Ministry embarked on the prestigious Passport Seva Project. The Project aims at delivering all passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible and reliable manner.

The Project envisages setting up of 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) across the country where the non-sovereign functions, involved in the passport issuance process, such as initial scrutiny of the application forms, acceptance of fee, scanning of the documents, taking photos, etc. will be performed by Tata Consultancy Services Limited, the Service Provider. The sensitive activities such as granting will be performed by the Government staff. The Project is expected to result in the issue of passports within three days, and where police verification is required, within three days after completion of the verification process.

Launch of the Project at seven Pilot sites under Regional Passport Office Bangalore and Chandigarh is expected to be announced after Ministry is satisfied with testing of the application software developed by the Service Provider. Later, the Project will be implemented in three waves to cover the entire country.

(iii) Outsourcing of Visa Work

Fifty five Indian Missions/Posts abroad have been authorized to outsource visa application collection work. 18 Indian Missions/Posts abroad commenced the outsourcing working during the year. The total number of Indian Missions/Posts abroad which have outsourced the visa work now stand at 48.

(iv) Launch of Apostille Convention Project

During the year, 317078 personal and educational documents and 227625 commercial documents were attested by the Ministry. In addition, 124661 documents were apostilled for use abroad in the apostilled members' countries.

(v) 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 visit of the President of Kazakhstan to India, an Extradition Treaty was signed between the two countries on 24 January, 2009. During the year, an Indian official delegation visited Morocco, Azerbaijan and Israel to negotiate Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil & Commercial Matters. Official delegations from Vietnam and Bosnia and Herzegovina also visited New Delhi to negotiate Extradition treaty and Mutual Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters with India.

During the year, two persons were extradited from India to the United Kingdom and United States of America and four people were extradited from foreign countries to India. The Government of India received request for extradition of four persons from various countries.

19 Administration and Establishment

Administration

There are 173 resident Indian Missions and Posts abroad. In the year reported upon, two new Missions were opened, namely, Embassy of India, Bamako and Embassy of India, Niamey. Another Mission in Guatemala City will be opened shortly.

With a view to streamline the administrative machinery, constant efforts are on to achieve greater decentralization of decision-making and simplification of process. The Rules in respect of Home Leave Fares have further been liberalized: an additional set of fares has been provided for officers adjusted in the same Mission for additional three years also and five more stations have been included in the list of airports upto which travel under HLFs/ Emergency Passage is permitted. List of Missions enjoying heating concession during winters has been expanded. Rules relating to Ex-India Leave have also been liberalized. With the revision of the Rules regulating various allowances in the wake of Sixth Pay Commission, norms have been evolved for equitable application of revised rules in respect of officials deployed in Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Cases, where relaxation of Rules was necessary, have been processed and relief provided to deserving officials after obtaining approval of the competent authorities, keeping in view the human and welfare approach to their problems.

Indents for fresh recruitment were placed on time and review of deployment of manpower at all levels was conducted periodically. A comprehensive exercise to review deployment of manpower in all Missions and Posts was initiated and is currently underway.

Management of different Cadres in the Ministry was undertaken through regular Departmental Promotion Committee meetings and through implementation of provisions under Modified Assured Career Promotion Scheme.

The current strength of Ministry is 3414. Details are given in Appendix I. These personnel are deployed in India and in 173 Missions/Posts abroad. This includes officials from Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service, Branch "B", Interpreters' Cadre, Legal and Treaties Cadre and the Library Cadre, but excludes Group 'D' and ex-cadre posts.

Recruitment made to various groups in the Ministry on 1 April-30 November 2009, through methods of Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotion (DP) and Limited Departmental Examination (LDE), including against reserved vacancies, are given in the table at Appendix-II.

Gender Issue

Gender equality has been a key element of Ministry's overall policy. In keeping with this, equal opportunities are provided to women officers to take up important responsibilities. There 52 officers of the rank of Director and above in the Ministry(23 at headquarters and 29 at Missions/Posts abroad). Out of 29 lady officers posted abroad, 17 are HoMs/HoPs.

Persons with Disability

Ensuring adequate opportunity to persons with disability and to have suitable representation of persons with disability among its personnel is an important objective of the Ministry. Towards this goal, the Ministry has identified posts suitable for appointments of persons with disability, including in Indian Foreign Service.

Establishment Division

The charge of the Establishment Division primarily includes renting and maintenance of properties, fixation of foreign allowance and representational grant, purchase supply and maintenance of office equipment, furniture and official vehicles, supply of Object d' Arts, management and maintenance of MEA housing complexes and hostels, maintenance of Toshakhana and purchase and supply of stationery. During the year, new initiatives were taken to streamline the rules, regulations and procedures, governing some of these issues in order to make them simple and transparent.

Annual review of the foreign allowance was undertaken under the indexation scheme by a joint team of the

Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. For the first time, foreign compensatory allowance was introduced for the non-Representational Officers deputed abroad under various bilateral and other programmes. Property Team visited Melbourne and Port Moresby to improve the conditions of our Missions in these places by relocating them to larger and better locations.

As part of the inspection of Indian Missions, our Missions in Lisbon, Georgetown, Caracas and Bogotá were inspected by a high level team of inspectors. Their reports have helped considerably in streamlining the functional as well as administrative issues in these Missions. Follow up actions were taken on the reports of inspections undertaken during the last financial year.

Renovation of External Affairs hostel at Gole Market has been completed. B&C Blocks of the Hostel at Kasturba Gandhi Marg have been handed over to NBCC for renovation. As a result, considerable improvements have taken place in the living conditions in these hostels. In K. G. Marg Hostel, a newly built block of six suites, to be used by visiting Heads of Mission, has been made functional. Repair and renovation works in MEA pool accommodation in Pushp Vihar, has been completed. With the improvement in the living conditions in the Housing Complex, Dwarka, the occupancy rate has gone past 93%. Chanakyapuri Housing Complex of MEA became functional from March 2009. This has considerably helped the Ministry in addressing the housing needs of its officers.

A system of annual physical verification of Od'A items was introduced to increase accountability. The exercise initiated for digitalization of Od'A items in the Ministry is nearing completion. CCTV was installed to cover all rooms where Od'A items are stored/handled. Complete physical verification of all items in Toshakhana was undertaken.

Delegated powers of Missions for repair and maintenance of official vehicles have been enhanced to reduce unnecessary references to the Ministry. Satellite phones have been provided to selected missions to ensure smooth communication during emergency situations. Armoured vehicles were supplied to selected high risk countries to provide protection against security threats.

The Division also introduced a new system for better maintenance of Government as well as rented properties abroad to avoid unnecessary litigation and financial loss to the Government. New policy guidelines on these issues were issued to all Missions and Posts. Rental ceilings for several Missions were revised to facilitate better housing.

Further steps were taken at Headquarters to improve cleanliness and maintenance of Government Offices, particularly South Block, Akbar Bhawan and Patiala House. Steps were also taken to further streamline the purchase and maintenance of office equipments for all MEA offices.

Projects Division

Projects Division is responsible for construction of properties and purchase of built-up properties in India and abroad for use of Ministry of External Affairs for its offices and residences for employees. Proposals relating to repairs/renovation of Government owned properties in stations abroad are also handled by the Projects Division. As of now, Government owns 80 Chancery Buildings in 77 stations abroad, residences for Heads of Missions/Posts in 91 stations abroad and 635 residences for officers/staff in 47 stations abroad. In addition, government also owns property for Cultural Centres in two stations and a Liaison Office in one station. Currently 53 construction projects including major renovation/re-development projects are at different stages of implementation.

Amongst projects abroad, construction work for the Indian Embassy Complex in Muscat and Tokyo (Embassy Residence and other Residences) have been completed. Construction on major projects such as Chancery and/or Residences in Kabul, Kathmandu, Beijing, London, Islamabad, Singapore and Budapest are making progress. Projects in Dhaka, Brasilia, Tashkent and Warsaw are likely to go into construction phase in the next few months. Renovation work is in progress at Beirut, Brussels and Dublin. Renovation projects in Damascus and Paris are likely to be awarded in the next few months.

Built-up properties have been purchased for Embassy Residence in Hamburg and Dublin. The Ministry is making vigorous efforts to acquire built-up properties in high-rental stations. Major proposals under process for purchase of built-up properties include Chancery in Hong Kong and Rabat, Embassy Residences in Dubai, Birmingham, Paramaribo, Sao Paulo and Vancouver and Cultural Centres in Sao Paulo, Paris and Washington. In addition, a number of purchase proposals from different Indian Missions/Posts are also under consideration. MoU has been signed for exchange of properties between Vietnam and India. After evaluation of two buildings for Chancery and Embassy Residence in Hanoi, these will be exchanged for a plot of land in Delhi for Embassy of Vietnam.

Amongst projects in India, construction work for Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan, the future Headquarters of the

Ministry of External Affairs, is in progress and likely to be completed in June 2010. The Chanakyapuri Residential Complex for officers of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Transit Accommodation project at Canning Lane and the Foreign Service Institute Complex in New Delhi have been completed.

The work in AALCO Complex being built in New Delhi for the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization and ICCR Cultural Centre, Kolkata has also been completed.

Sale of surplus properties at Lagos and Dublin are also under process in the Ministry.

An allocation of Rs. 400 crores has been made under Capital Outlay during 2009-2010. Budget estimates for 2010-2011 have been kept at Rs. 683.64 crores, to provide for a number of projects expected to go into construction phase in the next financial year.

Welfare Division

Welfare Division deals with all matters relating to general welfare of serving officers and members of staff of the Ministry and in Missions abroad. Specifically, this include giving of emergency first aid, transmission of telegraphic messages in respect of deceased personnel or cases of death.

(i) Educational Matters

Welfare Division facilitates admission of Ministry of External Affairs children in Kendriya Vidyalayas against 60 seats allotted to this Ministry by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. Welfare Division also assisted children of the officials of the Ministry at Headquarters in securing admission in colleges. Also Welfare Division has processed applications for admission in Medical/Engineering Courses. In 2009-2010 students were selected from about 15 applications for admission to five Medical Degree Courses and from 85 applications 52 children were accorded admission in Engineering courses.

(ii) Staff Benefit Fund

Welfare Division operates a staff Benefit Fund formed over the years by contributions from officers and members of staff of the Ministry. This is mainly used to give financial assistance of Rs.15,000 per death case to meet the funeral expenses in the case of death of members of staff of MEA. On the recommendation of Welfare Division External Affairs Spouses Association (EASA) presented cheques amounting to Rs. 10,000-Rs.20,000 respectively to each of the dependents of deceased employees of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(iii) Compassionate Appointment

Whenever a member of the staff passes away, Welfare Division examines the financial status of the surviving family members and examines if spouse or any children of the deceased person is educationally qualified to be recruited in any Group 'C' or Group 'D' posts. A list of such persons is maintained in the Welfare Division strictly on the basis of financial position of the family.

(iv) Grant In-Aid

Welfare Division controls Grant in-Aid to all Indian Missions abroad and to all Regional Passport Offices in India for recreation facilities and sports activities. The Division also arranges and financially supports inter-Ministry sports activities.

(v) Family Disputes

Though rare, Welfare Division extends its help in settlement of family disputes by listening to their grievances, differences, complaints and consoling them to continue a reasonably happy family life.

(vi) Flag Days

Welfare Division arranged for celebration of different Flag Days like Red Cross Day, Communal Harmony Day, Armed Forces Day and collected funds for these organizations.

(vii) Canteens

Welfare Division administered MEA Departmental Canteens located in Akbar Bhawan, South Block and Patiala House. As usual canteens provided quality products and professional services to the officers and staff of the Ministry. In addition, Canteens were also able to provide excellent service to visiting Diplomatic Corps, International visitors and VIP's. To further augment and improve canteen services a canteen under Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd.(IRCTC) has also been started in South Block from November 2006.

(vii) General

As and when officers and members of the staff returned from Missions to Headquarters, they faced difficulties in getting admission in various public/ private schools, gas connection, ration card and telephone connections. Welfare Division issued letters to Schools, MTNL etc. which helped them in getting these domestic facilities faster. The Welfare Division is headed by a Joint Secretary and

assisted by a Director, an Under Secretary, a Section Officer, an Assistant, a LDC and Group 'D' staff.

Vigilance

Annual report of Vigilance Unit, Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2009-2010

- No. of cases pending as on 31 March, 2009: 134
- No. of cases received during the period 1 April 2009-30 November 2009: 20
- Total number of cases up to 30 November, 2009 = (134+20): 154
- Number of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty up to 30 November, 2009: 14
- Number of cases closed without imposition of formal penalty, on account of VRS, death, etc. up to 30 November, 2009: 12
- Total number of cases closed up to 30 November, 2009 = (14+12): 26
- Total number of cases pending as on 30 November , 2009 = (154-26): 128

Vigilance Awareness week was observed from 3-7 November, 2009. All Indian Missions/Posts aboard and various departments in Ministry of External Affairs administered the pledge prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission.

e-governance and IT

During the year, computerization of Passport & Visa services at Indian Missions & Posts at Kuwait, Toronto, Madrid and outsourcing of visa and passport services at Embassy of India, Moscow and Vancouver were completed.

Right To Information & Chief Public Information Office

"A total of 804 applications under the RTI Act, 2005 have been received by the Ministry during the period 1 April -31 December, 2009. Applications covered subjects such as administration, personal grievances, *Haj* pilgrimage, *Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra*, Gulf War compensations, foreign policy, economic issues etc. Out of these applications, 238 appeals have been filed by the applicants to the Appellate Authority of the Ministry during the same period. Further, the CPIO and Nodal Officers of the Ministry have been attending the hearings held at the Central Information Commission, as and when required, to respond to the queries raised by the Commission. Efforts are being made to ensure full implementation of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005"

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20 Coordination

Coordination Division consists of three wings viz. Parliament Section, Coordination Section and Education Section.

Parliament Section

Coordination Division functions as the nodal point of the Ministry of External Affairs for all work relating to Parliament including questions-answers, assurances, debates on foreign relations and laying of reports on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. The Division has also the responsibility to organize the meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs, and coordinates the work relating to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and other Parliamentary Committees.

Coordination Section

Coordination Section processes all proposals for grant of no objection from the political angle for the foreign visits of Governors, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislative Assemblies, Members of the Judiciary, government officials, etc. Political clearance is accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration the guidelines laid down by the government for the purpose, the political and functional justification for the visit, meetings arranged and the recommendation of the Indian Mission/ Post concerned. During the current year, Coordination Division has issued 2706 political clearances for such visits as against 2539 during the corresponding period in 2008. The Section also handled work relating to grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled flights and visits by naval ships. During the current year, the Division issued 996 clearances for foreign non-scheduled flights as against 971 during the same period in 2008.

Coordination Section had processed a large number of approvals for participation of Indian sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad and visits of foreign sports persons / teams to India. The Section also examines requests for grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, workshops, grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act 1885, grant in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies located in foreign countries.

Coordination Section coordinates the work relating to 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.

Observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), *Sadbhavana Divas* (20 August) and *Quami Ekta* Week/Diwas (19-25 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad were also undertaken by the Coordination Division; pledges were administered to the officials, both at Headquarters and in Missions/Posts abroad.

Coordination Section has been assisting the Ministry of Defence in interaction with the Ministry and the Indian Missions/Posts abroad for the forthcoming DEFEXPO India – 2010 to be organized by the Ministry of Defence in February 2010.

Coordination Section represented and gave Ministry's input at various inter-ministerial meetings on divergent issues. Similarly, the Coordination Section collated inputs from various Divisions of the Ministry in preparation of documents, notes and briefs on important subjects.

Education Section

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 in various medical institutions and research courses were also processed by the Education Section.

For the academic year 2008-09, Education Section received and processed 52 and 83 applications for admission to the MBBS/BDS and B.E/B.Pharmacy courses respectively. In addition, during the current year 1345 foreign applicants were granted no objection from the political angle to pursue various courses in India.

External Publicity

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External Publicity (XP) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) continued to articulate the views/positions of the Government of India on various national and international issues through interaction with Indian and international media. This was done through regular and special press briefings, statements, backgrounders and postings on MEA's website. The main activities of the Division were focused on dissemination of information on India's relations with its immediate neighbours as also with key countries of the world. Following the barbaric terrorist attacks of 26/11 at Mumbai, a sustained publicity drive to project India's concerns on terrorism emanating from across our borders was undertaken. Besides this, as part of our new initiatives, a series of new projects to reach out to African countries were undertaken, including the flagship 'India Africa Connect' 'website which was launched by External Affairs Minister. The Division also hosted a number of groups of foreign journalists as part of its Outreach Programme, besides also reaching out to the Urdu and other non-English media.

Press Coverage of Incoming VVIP Visits

India's robust engagement with international community was marked by a number of high level visits to India. Notable among them were the Heads of States/ Government of Bhutan, Russian Federation, Denmark, Argentina, Canada, Australia, Japan, Bangladesh, ROK, Malaysia, Turkey, Germany and Nepal. A number of other important dignitaries like the US Secretary of State also paid official visits. The Division used the opportunities provided to highlight India's position on important bilateral, regional and international issues. The Division also arranged joint press interactions with the visiting dignitaries during these visits. Special briefings by the Official Spokesperson and other senior officials of the Ministry were also held regularly to keep the media briefed.

Press Coverage of Indian Dignitaries' Visits Abroad

All logistical arrangements, including setting up and operating fully equipped Media Centres for journalists, media briefings and other facilitation for the media accompanying the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister on their visits abroad, formed an important part of work of the Division to ensure suitable media coverage. During the year, media teams accompanied President on her visit to Spain, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, UK and Cyprus; Prime Minister to UK (G-20 Summit), Russia (BRIC & SCO Summits), Italy (G-8, G-5 Summits), France and Egypt (Non Aligned Movement Summit), USA (G-20 Summit), Thailand (Association of South East Asian Nations and East Asian Summits), USA (State Visit) and Port of Spain (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet Summit); the Vice President to Kuwait and South Africa and the External Affairs Minister to Japan, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal, Australia, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Liaison with National and International Media

The official spokesperson's office liaised with the 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 development. During the year *(up to 21 January 2010)* 187 press releases, 63 press briefings and 34 joint press statements and 60 media advisories were issued by the Division on various issues of concern. Interviews with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and other dignitaries were arranged with Indian and international newspapers and TV organizations. These were also placed on the Ministry's website.

Official Spokesperson's Office

The Official Spokesperson's Office functioned as the hub for information dissemination on day-to-day developments related to the conduct of India's foreign policy. The Office arranged regular media briefings by the Spokesperson, which were duly supplemented by press releases, briefing points and statements. From 9 April-21 January 2010, about 58 press briefings were organized by Official Spokesperson's office. In addition, more than 187 press releases and statements were issued during this period. These were circulated to the media

through emails and simultaneously placed on the Ministry's website. The Division actively used the medium of SMS alerts for informing the media about briefings and updates to the website. During the year, External Affairs Minister, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Ministry addressed special media briefings on important issues. Additionally, constant efforts were made to communicate the position and perspective of the Government on various significant issues by providing background briefings to media persons. Interviews with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Ministers of State for External Affairs and other dignitaries were arranged with Indian and international newspapers and TV organizations.

MEA Website

Ministry of External Affairs' website continued to serve as a useful instrument in the dissemination efforts of the Division. The press section of the website was regularly updated with the speeches/interviews/statements on foreign policy by the Prime Minister, Minister(s), press releases, briefings by the Official Spokesperson and other Senior Officers. The website is widely accessed both inside and outside India and is hyperlinked to the websites of Indian Missions / Posts abroad and various Ministries. The Division continued to use the Ministry of External Affair's Notice Board to provide the Missions/Posts abroad with professionally written features on various aspects of India for publicity purposes in local media. News clippings of interest from national newspapers were also uploaded on daily basis on the Board for use by our Missions/Posts

New Initiatives on MEA Website

a) **Revamping of MEA Website:** The project for revamping the MEA website to make it more user-friendly and further improve its look and feel has been initiated. Genpact, has been entrusted with the project, which is likely to be completed soon.

b) **Hindi Section of Ministry's website:** Hindi section of the website has been continuously updated to make it identical with the English section, as far as possible. Since almost all original text is in English, updation of the Hindi section of the website is completely dependent on translation work, which has been outsourced to a panel of professionally qualified Hindi translators. Members of general public and Hindi lovers, including representatives from Indian media, have much appreciated the Hindi section of website.

c) **Urdu translations:** For the first time, arrangements have been made with ANI to post Urdu translations of MEA press releases on its Urdu website. A link has been provided to the site on MEA website.

India-Africa Connect Website

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna launched the 'India-Africa Connect Website' on 17 August, 2009 in New Delhi. The website was jointly developed by XP Division along with Indian Association of News Services and is devoted to promoting relations with our African counterparts, and hosts news, features and essential information on India and African countries, with special emphasis on development cooperation. The website was launched with the aim of facilitating closer cooperation between India and Africa The website can be accessed at *http://www.indiaafricaconnect.in* and a link is also available on MEA website home page.

Logistical Support to Foreign Media Based in India

Over 300 foreign media representatives based in India were provided necessary facilitation to enable their smooth functioning, through provision of necessary information and access, regular interactions, as well as, assistance in matters of credential documents, visas and residence permits. Visa extensions and/or accreditation facilities were also extended to them.

Familiarization Visits by Foreign Journalists

Familiarization visits by foreign journalists to India constitute a key element of the Division's efforts to expose them to different facets and views of modern India. It enables them to gain first-hand impressions of Indian politics, foreign policy, economy, culture and science and technology. Based on the recommendations of Indian Missions/Posts abroad, the Division organized the familiarization visits of over 90 foreign journalists to India from the period April 2009-January 2010. During these visits, all logistical arrangements to enable the journalists to visit important institutions and centres of excellence in India were made by the Division. The Division also organized meetings for visiting foreign journalists with Ministers, Senior Officials, Academicians, Intellectuals and Business Representatives and site visits to select centres of industrial excellence in India.

Documentaries and Films

An important area of work of the Division pertains to the clearance of documentaries by foreign audio-visual agencies. An exercise to streamline the procedure for granting approval for making documentary films in India

by foreign producers was undertaken by the Division. As a result of inter-ministerial consultations, the process has largely been streamlined. During the year, over 400 proposals for making documentaries by foreign producers from USA, UK, Japan, Australia, France, Sweden, Italy, South Africa, Malaysia and China were cleared by the Division.

Training, Workshops, Conferences and Special Events

The Division, on recommendations of the concerned Territorial Divisions, organized specialized training programmes and other events for media from neighbouring countries like Afghanistan. 19 journalists *(Eight AV and 11 Print)* from 10 Anglo phone African countries were also invited, for a three week specially designed course, in consultation with Jamia Millia Islamia University. The division also hosted journalists from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia and from Gulf countries during this period. Meetings for them were organized with senior officials and academics, as well as visits to centres of excellence. The Division also facilitated the placement of correspondents from IANS and Press Trust of India in select African countries to enhance mutual understanding and bridge the information gap.

Booklet on General Elections

To disseminate accurate information about General Elections in April-May 2009, which have been hailed as the world's largest democratic exercise, the Division published a compact and colourful handbook, containing useful statistics and detailing the manner in which elections are conducted in India. This served as a handy reference for foreign readership and journalists in particular. A web link to the booklet was also placed on the MEA website.

Administration/Housekeeping

In order to improve the general working environment and create an aesthetically pleasant appearance, a major renovation exercise of XP Division at Shastri Bhawan was concluded recently. Display of select historical photographs, along with a liberal splash of green plants, has made the area more presentable and attractive.

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22 Public Diplomacy

The mandate of the Public Diplomacy Division includes, inter-alia, the production of print and audio visual material that enables our missions to project the diverse facets of India more effectively. In addition, the division also organizes a wide range of outreach activities that are aimed at creating a greater understanding of India and its foreign policy concerns both within India and abroad. To achieve these objectives, the division partners with major domestic and international think tanks and research organizations to organize seminars and conferences on subjects that are relevant to our concerns. The division hosts delegations from various countries and organizations to provide them with a broad-based exposure to India. In addition, the division organizes lectures and other events within India with the objective of fostering a more informed discourse on India's foreign policy.

Outreach Activities

The division organized a number of outreach activities including delegation visits, seminars, conferences, engagement with universities and other educational institutions, distinguished lecture series and screening of films to highlight major issues related to India's foreign. These include:-

Incoming Visits

Visit by the Friends of India Group of the UK Conservative party in July 2009. Apart from meetings with Speaker Smt Meira Kumar, Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority and MoS for Rural Development, the delegation was briefed by senior officials of MEA and the National Security Council Secretariat. The delegation also visited Kochi where they had meetings with the State Government and visited the Naval establishment.

A delegation of the Liberal Democratic Friends of India Group from UK was hosted in September 2009. In addition to their meetings with Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Minister for Road Transport & Highways, the delegation was briefed by senior officials of MEA, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Security Council Secretariat, Center for Policy Research, and business and industry representatives. The delegation also visited the National Defence Academy and the Film and Television Training Institute of India.

A delegation visit of the Indo-Slovene Parliamentary Friendship Group from Slovenia visited in November 2009. Apart from meeting with MoS Smt.Preneet Kaur, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Vayalar Ravi and Mayor of Delhi, the delegation also interacted with FICCI and IBEF and visited business organizations specializing in IT and biotechnology. The delegation also witnessed the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

A 26-member delegation of PIO journalists from 15 countries was organized during PBD 2010 in January. In addition to participation in PBD the journalists were briefed by CII, IDSA and the Planning Commission on India's economy, our security scenario and efforts to foster inclusive development and economic growth in India. The group also visited Mumbai Stock Exchange and Film City.

The visit of a six member delegation of Permanent Representatives of Pacific Small Island Developing States was organized on 23-31 January, 2010. The delegation witnessed the Republic Day Parade, attended President's 'At Home' and witnessed Beating Retreat in addition to meetings with External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna, Minister for Environment and Forests Shri Jairam Ramesh and a short briefing by CII on the economic scenario in India. The delegation also visited business organizations specializing in irrigation and energy resources relevant to their countries. The delegation was also briefed on the developments in Indian Space Research at ISRO.

Outgoing Visits

A visit by Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor, Gujrat Vidyapeeth to Slovenia to deliver lectures on Mahatma Gandhi and his legacy was organized in September. Prof. Iyengar also participated in an International conference on Mahatma Gandhi, held in Slovenia.

Seminars/Conferences/Bilateral Dialogues

PD Division partnered with a diverse range of organizations to facilitate seminars and conferences related to different facets of India's foreign policy. These included:

i) The Eighth India-Korea Dialogue from 20-21 May, 2009 jointly organized by Indian Council for Research on Economic Relations and the Seoul Forum of International Affairs.

ii) An international seminar titled '*Society, Culture and Politics in the Karakoram Himalayas*' from 23-24 July, 2009 organized by Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation.

iii) An international seminar on '*Peace and Stability in Afghanistan: the Way Ahead*' from 6-7 October, 2009 organized by The United Service Institution of India.

iv) The Fourth Sustainability Summit organized by CII from 25-26 November, 2009

v) An International seminar on Indo-Bangladesh relations organized by Centre for Rural Research and Industrial Development, Chandigarh in December 2009

vi) Seminars on India-GCC relations was organized in partnership with the Dubai based Gulf Research Centre and the Indian Study Group were organized in Dubai in June 2009 and in New Delhi in January 2010.

vii) The Third IISS-MEA Foreign Policy Dialogue held in London on 22 February, 2010 where the keynote address was delivered by the Foreign Secretary.

viii) A seminar on Indo-Nepal relations organized in Patna from 25-27 February, 2009 in collaboration with the Bihar state government

ix) An international seminar titled '*Women Guiding the Destiny of South Asia*' (a) Media Perspective by Women Journalists (b) Women as Partners in Development' jointly organized by CRRID and Jamia Millia Islamia University from 13-14 March, 2010 in Chandigarh.

x) A seminar on '*Indian Foreign Policy in the 21st Century: Challenges and Prospects*' by Deptartment of Political Science, Punjab University from 24-25 March, 2010 in Chandigarh.

Distinguished Lecture Series

The "*Distinguished Lecture Series on India's Foreign Policy*" was launched at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on 17 February, 2009 with the lecture '*India's Emergence as a Global Power: Prospects and Challenges*'. The lecture was delivered by Amb. (Retd.) A. N. Ram and is part of a new initiative aimed at taking the discourse on key foreign policy issues to university campuses around the country.

Outreach to Universities/think tanks

JS (PD) has visited the campuses of Mumbai university, Jadhavpur University and Guru Nanak Dev University to conduct interactive sessions with students and faculty on themes related to India's foreign policy and to create a platform for the Distinguished Lecture series and other initiatives.

Other Outreach Activities

With support from PD Division, the International Day of Non Violence was celebrated by a number of Missions and Posts. The programmes included lectures, seminars, conferences, photo exhibitions, film festivals, debates, competitions for school children and cultural shows.

Screening of the PD Division documentary '*Negotiating Justice*' highlighting India's position on climate change was organized at the India International Centre, the United Services Institute and other prestigious venues. At USI, the screening on 4 February, 2010 was also accompanied by a panel discussion aimed at creating greater awareness of India's position at the Copenhagen summit.

Screening of the PD division documentary '*Indian Elections: A Mammoth Democratic Exercise*' was organized on several occasions, including on January 24 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Election Commission.

An exhibition of rare archival photographs on evolution of Indo-Bhutan relations and some remarkable photographs taken by His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, The King of Bhutan was organized at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi in December 2009. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh, President of ICCR in his presence.

Audio-Visual Publcity

As in the past, the division continued to commission documentaries to promote and project India's image abroad. Participation in film festivals and Indian film weeks abroad, organizing cultural and photo exhibitions were the other audio-visual publicity activities undertaken by the division.

Several documentaries were completed during the year including:

(a) Can You Hear Me (a film on the Community Radio revolution).

(b) Through Lens Clearly : Raghu Rai's India.

(c) Indian Elections - A Mammoth Democratic Exercise.

(d) Kashmir Elections 2008.

(e) Spirit of India (a short film to showcase different facets of India).

(f) Religious Linkages Between Bhutan & Ladakh.

(g) Watering the Grassroots (a film on microfinance).

(h) Negotiating Justice (a film on India's position on Climate Change).

(i) Cinema with a Purpose (a film on communication of values and tradition through Cinema).

(j) *Mast Qalandar* (a film on three Sufi saints).

(k) Partners in Progress : Indo-US Relations.

(l) India in the Moon (Chandrayan-1).

(m) Soldiers of Peace (a film on engagement of men in uniform with civilians in peace time).

(n) Fragments of History (a film on life of M. S. Subhalakshmi).

The Missions/Posts were supplied audio-visual material in the form of Betacam cassettes, CD-ROMs, audio and video CDs, DVDs, 35mm format films and Cassettes for use in library, participation in film festivals and for presentation purposes.

Several documentaries were telecast/screened by foreign TV channels/Doordarshan and in international film festivals, including:

(a) Documentaries "*Timeless India*" and "*The Jewel in the Lotus*" screened in Phnom Penh on 19 March, 2009 on ITEC Day.

(b) Screening of documentaries "*India Wins Freedom*" and "*Quit India*" by Sri Lankan TV channel on the occasion of India's Republic Day. Documentaries "Sufi traditions of India", "*Beating Retreat*" and "*Bismillah & Benaras*" were also telecast by Sri Lankan TV in the month of August 2009.

(c) Telecast of documentaries "*Indian Elections – A Mammoth Exercise*" and "*Spirit of India*" were telecast by Doordarshan in May/July 2009.

(d) Screening of PD Division's documentaries by HCI Bogotá at the Bogotá International Film Festival in October 2009.

(e) Telecast of documentaries "*Commonwealth Games 2010*", "*The Sky is not the Limit*", "*Dismantling the Digital Divide*"; "*Friends for evermore*" and "*Beyond Tradition*" on Tanzanian TV channel 'Smart' in September 2009.

(f) Screening of documentary "*The Story of Gitanjali*" at the Short Film Center in the International Film Festival of India in November/December 2009 in Goa.

In addition our Missions/Posts in Accra, Ho Chi Minh City, Mexico City, Amman, Reykjavik, Tel Aviv, Minsk & Paris organized film festivals/screening with 35mm Hindi films sent by the division.

India Perspectives Magazine

India Perspectives the flagship magazine of the Ministry has grown in popularity, over the years. The magazine focuses on a wide range of subjects such as the growth story of India, its rich cultural heritage, literature, wildlife, film industry, information technology, health care etc. The magazine is published in 17 languages including Arabic, Bahasa, Indonesia, Bengali, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Pashto, Persian, Portugese, Russian, Sinhala, Spanish, Tamil and Urdu and distributed to all corners of the globe.

The Hindi edition "Bharat Sandarsh" was awarded the first prize under the *Griha Patrika Puraskar Yojana* of the Government of India by the President of India. The magazine was distributed at the Book Fair at Frankfurt, International Book Fair at Turin, film festivals in Italy, Russia, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and also at the London Book Fair where India was the market focus country.

Books and Other Publications

Projecting India's image through books and publications is an integral part of the Division's publicity strategy abroad. Books on Indian economy, foreign policy, art & culture, history & science and technology etc. were supplied to Missions abroad for presentation purpose and use in their libraries. Many of our Missions celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2 October, 2009 as the International Day of non-violence. The division has supplied books on Mahatma Gandhi to these Missions for distribution on this occasion. Various Journals & magazines were also dispatched to Missions/posts abroad.

The following books/publications were printed by the division during the period:

(a) A Coffee table book titled "*Himalaya with Lens & Passion*" capturing the beauty of Himalayan region by Mr. Ashok Dilwali.

(b) A Coffee table book titled '*India for a billion reasons*' featuring articles and photographs on diverse aspects of India by eminent contributors.

(c) A booklet on Climate change "*The Road to Copenhagen: India's position on Climate Change issues*".

(d) Booklet on Prime Minister's visit to USA & France.

The division also extended financial support to our Missions/posts in Berlin, Slovenia, London, Sofia, Bogotá, and Minsk for bringing out publications such as "*The Story of My Experiments with Truth*", in Slovene language, and for "*Glimpses of World History*" in Bulgarian language.

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Foreign Service Institute 23

Training of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Probationers

One of the primary activities of the Foreign Service Institute is the training of IFS Probationers. The Probationers undergo a one-year long training programme at FSI to prepare them to handle the wide range of tasks that they would be required to perform during their professional careers, both at Headquarters and in Missions and Posts abroad.

At the completion of the training of IFS Probationers of the 2007 batch, the Bimal Sanyal Gold Medal for the Best Probationer of the Batch was awarded to Ms. Satwant Khanalia and the Silver Medal for Best Dissertation was awarded to Dr. N. Nandakumar. The medals were presented at a function held at FSI on 26 May, 2009.

The IFS Probationers of 2008 batch have been attending their training programme at FSI since December 2008. The year-long training programme was implemented through lectures as well as attachments to various institutions. It included modules on a large number of subjects such as international relations and foreign policy, international law, defence and security, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy and social development, etc. The programme also included modules on practical skills relating to administration, establishment, accounts, protocol, reporting skills, official language policy, external publicity, representational skills, etc. A module on India's cultural heritage was introduced for the first time for the Probationers.

The training also included attachment with the Indian Army and Air Force, visits to Western Naval Command and Mazagon Dockyard Ltd. in Mumbai, and interactive sessions with leading financial institutions and industrial establishments. In order to develop their skills in management, leadership techniques and economic issues, a two-month long training course was specially organized for the Probationers at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

The Probationers went on a 'Bharat Darshan' tour with a view to acquaint themselves with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and economic and tourism potential of the country. In order to familiarize the Probationers with the work of Indian Missions abroad and enhance their knowledge of India's immediate neighbourhood, the Probationers also visited the Indian Missions in Colombo and Thimphu in two groups in May-June 2009.

IFS Probationers of 2009 batch joined the Institute in December 2009 and their training programme has commenced.

Training of Officials of the Ministry

The first Mid-Career Training Programme for Joint Secretary level officers was carried out from 12 April-1 May 2009 in two phases at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and at FSI premises. 36 officers of the rank of Joint Secretary participated in the training which, inter alia, covered international relations and India's foreign policy, India's security environment, energy security, economic diplomacy, strategic decision making and implementation, etc.

The second Mid-Career Training Programme for Joint Secretary level officers was carried out from 4-16 January, 2010 in two phases at the Indian School of Business (ISB) Hyderabad and at FSI premises. 36 officers of the rank of Joint Secretary participated in the training.

The email-based Mid-Career Training Programme for Director-level officers of 1991 batch was completed in June 2008. The programme for 1992 batch IFS officers is in the final stage of completion, and that for 1993 batch is also concurrently running. This programme consists of five modules of India's foreign policy, economy, security, regional issues, and Indian diaspora. Officers are also required to write a monograph.

A media training programme for officers of the Ministry of the rank of Joint Secretary/Director/Deputy Secretary was carried out from 6-10 July, 2009. The officers were imparted training on facing the media and conducting press conferences etc.

Two Refresher Courses for Section Officers of the Ministry were conducted from 15-24 June, 2009 and

4-13 November, 2009. The participants were briefed on communication skills and various functions in Missions abroad. The participants also underwent training in the Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS).

Three Basic Professional Courses (BPCs) for Assistants and Clerks of the Ministry were carried out from 15-24 July, 14-23 September and 7-15 December, 2009. The participants were imparted training on Mission-related topics as well as on the Integrated Mission Accounting Software (IMAS).

The First Induction Course for Direct Recruit Assistants of the Ministry was held from 5-16 October, 2009. In this orientation programme, while training in general topics was carried out by Institute of Secretariat Training & Management faculty, the topics related to Ministry were covered by the officers from the concerned Divisions in the Ministry.

A one day Course on Right to Information (RTI) was organized at Foreign Service Institute on 20 January, 2010 with the cooperation of Central Information Commission (CIC) in which officials from the Ministry, including IFS Probationers of 2009 batch, participated.

Promotion of Links with other Ministries and Training Institutes

The fourth Vertical Interaction Course for senior police officers on the theme "*Main Currents in India's Foreign Policy*" was held at the FSI from 2-6 February, 2009. Officers from various state police services, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), etc. attended the course.

Senior officers of the Cabinet Secretariat participated in a three-day training programme from 21-23 July, 2009. The topics covered included, India's foreign policy, structure and functions of the Ministry of External Affairs and Missions abroad, Passport/Visa/Consular and Immigration matters, Intellectual Property Rights, Vienna Convention, Kashmir, impact of technology control regime on national security, WTO matters, etc.

FSI also organized a one-day briefing on 22 December, 2009 for 12 Army and Air Force officers who will shortly be proceeding on their postings as Defence Attaches in our missions abroad.

At the invitation of its Secretary-General, one of the Joint Secretaries at FSI visited RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration, Bhopal, and addressed the probationers of the State Civil Service and the State Revenue Service on "*India's Foreign Policy Compulsions*" on 8 December, 2009, while another Joint Secretary, represented the Foreign Service Institute at the 10th Conference of Central Training Institutions held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussoorie from 21-23 October, 2009.

Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

Foreign Service Institute continued to conduct various training programmes for Foreign Diplomats in its efforts at building bridges of friendship with countries around the world.

The 47th & 48th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) were successfully organized by FSI from 11 February-23 March and from 4 November-3 December 2009 respectively. 24 diplomats from various countries attended the 47th PCFD course and 29 diplomats from 25 countries participated in the 48th PCFD programme. The 49th PCFD is expected to be organized from 23 February-23 March 2010.

The Institute also organized three special courses, one for 15 diplomats from Maldives, one for 21 diplomats from Afghanistan and a third one for 37 ASEAN diplomats. During the two PCFDs and the Special Courses, the foreign diplomats were taken to various places of historical, cultural and industrial importance in and around Delhi. They also visited Agra, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bodhgaya, Goa, etc.

Linkages with Counterpart Institutes Abroad

A Delegation from Bhutan led by Mr. Lyonpo Thinley Gyamtsho, Chairman of the Royal Civil Service Commission called on both the Joint Secretaries in September 2009. An Israeli delegation led by Ms. Alona Fisher Kamn, Head of Department of Training called on the concerned Joint Secretary in November 2009. A three member delegation from Poland led by Dr. Andrzej-Ananicz, Deputy Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs and Director of Diplomatic Academy, Foreign Affairs of Poland called on Dean (FSI) in November 2009.

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Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

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The Ministry has a well-organized programme for propagation of Hindi abroad with the involvement of our Missions/Posts. Under this scheme Hindi teaching materials including Hindi books on various subjects, text books, magazines, Hindi learning CD's, software to work in Hindi on computers, dictionaries etc. are supplied to our Missions / Posts abroad for presentation to educational institutions / organizations involved in the work of propagation of Hindi. The Ministry also extends financial support to various foreign universities and other educational institutions through Indian Missions abroad for Hindi related activities. During the year 2009-2010, Hindi books, teaching materials and software were supplied to about 70 Missions/Posts abroad. Hindi magazines were supplied to about 100 Missions/Posts abroad. Honorarium was paid to several teachers for teaching Hindi in classes organized by our Missions/Posts in Belarus, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Surinam, Hungary and Brazil. Miscellaneous grants were also sanctioned to four Missions/Posts for undertaking various activities towards promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad.

The Ministry coordinates work relating to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. 100 scholarships are on offer annually. 70 students availed scholarships in 2009-2010.

Organizing Regional Hindi Conferences in different countries by the Ministry has been greatly appreciated by Hindi scholars, teachers and students abroad. A two day Regional Conference was organized in Muscat in March 2009. There is a demand for organizing such conferences on regular basis in different countries where Hindi is taught in local Universities. The Ministry is considering various proposals for organization of a World Hindi Conference and Regional Conferences.

Implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry of External Affairs. Documents like Bilateral Treaties, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, Annual Report of the Ministry, Parliament Questions and other documents meant to be placed before the Parliament are prepared bilingually.

Training in Hindi as official language forms an integral part of the training programme of Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in the Ministry. Six such programmes were held on 21 January, 2009, 12 February, 2009, 24 March, 2009, 18 June, 2009, 16 July, 2009 and 15 September, 2009. A total of 210 Officials attended the training programmes.

The Ministry organized Hindi Pakhwara and Hindi Diwas at Headquarters. Competitions like Hindi Essay Writing, Hindi Noting & Drafting, Hindi Typing, Hindi Stenography, Hindi General Knowledge and Hindi Kavita Path were organized during the fortnight. This time the response from the officials of the Ministry was overwhelming and the participation was beyond expectations. Hindi Pakhwara's prize distribution function was organized in the Committee Room of the South Block and the Foreign Secretary, Smt. Nirupama Rao, Chief Guest at the function, distributed prizes to the winners. In her speech the FS appreciated the Hindi Section for its contribution towards the propagation of Hindi abroad. (Photograph of Hindi Day)

Our Regional Passport Offices also organized different competitions such as Hindi Essay Competition, Hindi Writing Competitions and Quiz Competitions on the occasion of Hindi Pakhwara, 2009. Our Missions abroad also organized Kavi Sammelans, Essay Competitions and Cultural Activities on the occasion of Hindi Diwas on 14 September, 2009. Special grants were sanctioned to 25 Missions/Posts abroad for organizing these activities.

Hindi Section organized a Hindi Workshop from 10-19 November, 2009 for the officials deployed in Administrative Sections of the Ministry in Akbar Bhavan. Participants were taught about Government's Official Language Policy and other subjects such as Noting and Drafting in Hindi etc. Hindi books were also distributed to the participants on the concluding day. More such workshops are proposed to be held for the Under Secretaries in the Ministry in February 2010.

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year in all our Missions/Posts abroad as well as at Headquarters on 10 January. 31 Missions/Posts abroad were sanctioned special grants for celebrating the World Hindi Day on

10 January, 2010. At the Headquarters, a function was organized in the Foreign Service Institute to celebrate the World Hindi Day. Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur was the Chief Guest. An essay competition was organized among the foreign students by the Ministry through Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and Delhi, Delhi University and JNU. A brief Kavi Sammelan was organized by ICCR on the occasion.

Parliament Committee on Official Language visited Regional Passport Offices at Vishakhapatnam, Chennai, Pune, Surat and Ghaziabad for inspection during year 2009-2010. Work related to these visits was coordinated by Hindi section of the Ministry. During current year 25 sections of the Ministry and two Regional Passport Offices were inspected by the officers of Hindi Section to assess the progress made in use of Hindi. Proper guidance was given regarding implementation of the Official Language Policy to officials of these offices.

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Minister of State, Smt. Preneet Kaur with prize winner Foreign Hindi Students alongwith Additional Secretary (AD) and Joint Secretary (OSD Estt.).

Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foriegn Secretary and Shri Dinkar Khullar, AS(AD) during the award ceremony of Hindi Pakhwara 2009.

25 Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations was formally set up in 1950, with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Its aims, as enunciated in the Memorandum of Association, are:

- To participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations;
- To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people;
- To promote and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; and
- To establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

The Council has worked steadily to attain these objectives.

The major activities of the Council are:

Administration of scholarship schemes for overseas students on behalf of the Government of India and other agencies, welfare of international students; grant of scholarships to foreign students to learn Indian dance and music; exchange of exhibitions; organization of and participation in international seminars and symposia; participation in major cultural festivals abroad; organization of "Festival of India" in countries abroad; exchange of groups of performing artists; organization of lecture-demonstration by performing artists abroad; Distinguished Visitors Programme under which eminent personalities from abroad are invited to visit India, and the outgoing visitor's programme in which experts are sent abroad for delivering lectures, presentation of books, audio-visual material, art objects and musical instruments to institutions abroad; providing the secretariat for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding; organization of the annual Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture, conducting Maulana Azad Essay Competition; publication of books and journals for distribution in India and abroad; maintaining Indian Cultural Centres abroad; maintaining a well stocked library and the manuscripts of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; and digitization of rare manuscripts.

The Council has 14 Regional Offices which continue to function in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Pune, Varanasi, Shillong, Cuttack and Guwahati. The activities of the Regional Offices include coordination with local bodies/organizations & providing assistance to foreign students studying under the Council's scholarships schemes. The Regional Offices also extend logistic facilities to incoming and outgoing cultural delegations & the Council's distinguished visitors.

The Primary objective of the Council is to establish, revive and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. In order to promote awareness and appreciation of India's composite cultural heritage abroad, the ICCR maintains Chairs of Indian Studies in various Universities and institutions abroad. Indian Professors are deputed to these Chairs on short-term and long-term basis.

Presently, the Council is maintaining 19 Long Term Chairs to teach Indian languages as well as Social Sciences with their focus on India, under the bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes, Scheme of Propagation of Hindi Abroad and Council's own programmes. The Council has a Hindi Chair for Professors each in Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Budapest (Hungary), Moscow (Russia), Warsaw (Poland), Sofia (Bulgaria), Beijing (China), Ankara (Turkey), Brussels (Belgium), and Valladolid (Spain); Chairs of Sanskrit in Bangkok (Thailand) and Paris (France); a Chair of Tamil in Warsaw (Poland); Chairs of International Relations in Osh (Kyrghzystan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan); a Chair of Peace Studies in Johannesburg (South Africa); a Chair of Film/Cinema Studies in Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago) and three Hindi Chairs for Teachers at Bucharest (Romania), Paramaribo (Suriname) and Jalalabad (Afghanistan).

The Council is also maintaining 11 Rotating/Short-Term Chairs in various countries, these include a Chair of Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), a Chair of Indian Literature in Pennsylvania (USA), five

Chairs of Indian Studies in various Universities in Germany, one Chair of Indian Economy in Paris (France), a Chair of Indian Studies in Johannesburg, (South Africa), Chair of India-China Comparative Economy in Guangzhou (China) and Chair of Humanities & Social Sciences in Tel Aviv (Israel).

Besides these, the Council has signed an MoU to establish the following Chairs under its 'Expansion Plan': Slovenia (Hindi, Short-Term), UK (Economics, Short-Term), South Korea (Economics, Short-Term), Greece (Economics, Short-Term), Japan (Humanities, Short-Term), Croatia (Hindi, Long-Term), Armenia (Hindi, Long-Term), Turkmenistan (Hindi, Long-Term), Denmark (Economics, Short-Term), USA (Non-Violence/ Peace Studies, Long Term).

Scholarship and Welfare of International Students

One of the important activities of the ICCR is the implementation of scholarship schemes for overseas students for doctoral, post-graduate and under-graduate courses, as well as professional courses such as engineering, pharmacy, business administration and accountancy. Around 1368 foreign students are currently studying in India under the various scholarship schemes administered by the ICCR. During April-November 2009, the Council offered 2226 new scholarships, including 675 scholarships for Afghan students and 526 from African students.

The Council regularly organizes "winter and summer camps" and "study tours" for the benefit of international students.

Meeting of Regional Directors/Regional Officers: A meeting of the Heads of Regional Offices was convened by Dr. Karan Singh, President, ICCR on 26 June, 2009 at Azad Bhavan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi to discuss various issues concerning the welfare of foreign students and to review the activities undertaken by the Regional Offices for foreign students. All Sectional Heads at Headquarters were also present.

Orientation Programme: An Orientation programme for the IFS probationers of the 2008 batch was organized by the Council from 25-29 May, 2009. Lectures/lecture-cum-demonstrations/visits to Museums, Galleries and places of historical interest were also arranged for them. Eminent speakers delivered, inter-alia, lectures on Indian traditional & modern art and art-forms, cultural & architectural heritage, theatre and films.

The Council also organized the 17th International Students Cultural Festival called "**Friendship Through Culture"** on 11 November, 2009 at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. It was very well attended and also received excellent media coverage.

Incoming Cultural Delegation

ICCR organizes the visits of foreign performing artists to India for performances in various cities of India. These groups are hosted under the ambit of bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes as well as in response to recommendations of Indian Missions abroad and requests received from foreign diplomatic missions and Cultural Centres in India. During the period April-November 2009, the Council hosted the visits of 19 foreign cultural groups from Geneva, Malaysia, Mauritius, USA, Pakistan, UK, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Spain, Egypt, Tanzania, Paraguay, Brazil, Iran, Columbia, Portugal, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela. The Council also organized 17 special events including the *Thumri* Festival and the *Malhar* Festival in Delhi and a Sufi Music Festival at Srinagar.

Publications

The Council has an ambitious publication programme, which has grown over the years. The Council published five journals in five different languages namely, "Indian Horizons" and "Africa Quarterly" (both English Quarterlies), "*Papeles de la India*" (Spanish, bi-annual), *Rencontre Avec L' Inde*" (French bi-annual) and "*Thaqafat-ul-Hind*" (Arabic Quarterly).

Conferences and Seminars

During the period under review, the Council collaborated in the holding of various International Conferences & Seminars with a view to facilitate interactions between intellectuals, opinion makers and academicians representing various countries. These included a) Indology conferences in Prague and Bali during June 2009; b) an International Seminar on " Nicholas Roerich "in Delhi; c) Indology Conferences in Sofia (from 24-26 September, 2009) and Almaty (from 19-20 November, 2009). "Indologists" from India, the host country and the Europe and Central Asian region participated in the Seminar; d) The Council organized a Colombian Cultural Week and hosted the interactive sessions of the Poets in Delhi and Kolkata in association with Embassy of Colombia in New Delhi from 20-26 October, 2009. The Council also assisted various organization and prominent institutes like IIT, JNU, Delhi University, Allahabad University and Jamia Millia Islamia in organizing 17 International Conferences in India, in which several prominent Indian and foreign scholars participated and deliberated on cultural and literary themes, including the Urdu and Persian languages.

Busts and Exhibitions

The Council sent three statues of Mahatma Gandhi for installation at the Gandhi Memorial at the Bellevue Library, San Francisco, Washington State, the Strathcona Park in Ottawa (Canada) and the Piazza Gandhi in San Donato, Milan (Italy). Three busts of Mahatma Gandhi were also sent for installation at the University of Puerto Rico, PR, New York; Vicenza, Milan, (Italy); and University of UNSW, Sydney. The Council also sent two busts of Rabindranath Tagore for permanent installation in Ust Kamenogorsk City, Kazakhstan and Tagore Museum, Bangladesh. A Statue of Sri Aurobindo was air freighted by ICCR for permanent installation at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The ICCR also sent eight major exhibitions (ICCR's own collection), including the Exhibition entitled "Celebrating Women-Amrita Shergill Revisited" to Seoul (Korea); Astana (Kazakhstan); and Kabul (Afghanistan); the Exhibition "Women by Women" to Algeria; a SAARC Paintings Exhibition to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh & Maldives; a Photographic Exhibition, "The Murals of India", to Rome, Italy; a Photographic Exhibition, "Legacy of Compassion", to London; Berlin & Casa de la India, Valladolid (Spain); an Exhibition (first set) of Reprints, "Kalpana – Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings", to London; Casa de la India, Valladolid (Spain) & Berlin (Germany). A second set of the same exhibition was sent to Port of Spain & Suriname, with a third set going to Philippines.

The Council also sponsored visits of artists accompanying their exhibitions abroad. These included the following visits: (a) Ms. Nandita Palchaudhuri and her associate to Durban (South Africa) to participate in the "Make Art – Stop Aids" Exhibition held in May 2009; (b) Shri Aditya Arya accompanying Kulwant Roy's Photo Exhibition, "History in the Making" in May/June 2009 to Canada & USA; (c) Shri R. K. Bhatnagar with his painting Exhibition to Suriname in June 2009; (d) Ms. Aparajita Jain, Mr. Sadashiv Kuncolienker, Mr. Susanta Mandal and Ms. Mithu Sen with their Exhibition "Contemporary Indian Arts Festival" being organized at Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Shanghai during July 2009; (e) Shri Tilak Gitai & Shri Pratik Gitai, with the Exhibition "RAGAMALA – The Missing Link" which was held at The Nehru Centre, London & Tagore Centre, Berlin from August to September 2009. The Council also provided airfare to an four member delegation which participated in a seminar on the Exhibition, "CHALO INDIA: A New Era of Indian Art" held in Vienna from 1-3 November, 2009. Air freight were also provided to exhibits for the Exhibition "Painted Narratives", to Durban & Johannesburg (South Africa) from 1 September-5 October 2009; Ms. Anuradha Rishi with the Exhibition "Nature in Peace" – a Tribute to Mahatma held at The Nehru Centre, London (UK) from 29 September-1 October 2009; and the Photo Exhibition on Gandhiji mounted by the Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti, New Delhi and sent to Croatia during September 2009.

The ICCR organized nine Incoming/Local exhibitions & visits:

(1) Exhibition: Paintings of Contemporary Art from Ministry of Culture, Egypt at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi during May 2009; (2) Exhibition "Winsome Strokes" by Ms. Deepa Seth Bhando at Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi – 110001 in June 2009; (3) Photographic Exhibition on Satyajit Ray curated by NGMA at RTC, ICCR, Kolkata in June 2009; (4) Painting Exhibition by Group of Eminent Painters from Egypt at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi during October 2009; (5) Exhibition by famous Cuban Painter Ms. Zaida del Rio from Cuba at Lalit Kala Akademi New Delhi from 2-7 November, 2009; (6) Painting Exhibition "This, That and Then" by Ms. Shuchi Khanna at Gallery Romain Rolland, Alliance Francaise, New Delhi from 13-15 November, 2009. The Council also sponsored the visit to India of a Bhutanese team led by Mr. Lyonpo C K Dorji, Chairman, Royal Privy Council (RPC), along with three Bhutanese artisans, for familiarization with Bronze Casting Skills in India, from 3-7 November, 2009. The team met Indian sculptors & artists and visited their workshops/studios in Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad & Delhi. The Council also financed the painting exhibition and visit of two artists, Ms. Victoria Lieana Dragomirescu and Ms. Sanda Butiu from Romania. The Exhibition was held at RTC, ICCR, Kolkata as well as at the Azad Bhavan Art Gallery, New Delhi, from 27 November-5 December 2009.

Outgoing Cultural Delegations

During the period, the Council sponsored 63 cultural delegations (up to 10 November, 2009).

The Council sponsored many outstanding artists, including Ms. Geeta Radhakrishnan (*Mohiniattam*), Ms. Susheela Mehta (*Bharatnatyam*), Ms. Aditi Mangaldas (Contemporary Dance group "*Drishtikon*"), Ms. Sruti Bandopadhay (*Manipuri* dance), Ms. Sangeeta Dash *(Odissi)*, Shri Hari and Ms. Chethna (*Kathak*), Ms. Arushi Mudgal *(Odissi)*, Pt. Debu Choudhury (*Sitar*), Shri Ahmad Hussain and Shri Mohammad Hussain *(Ghazal)*.

The Council provided 38 travel grants to Composite Dance group of Outstanding artists - Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan (*Shehnai)*, Ms. Mom Ganguly *(Mohiniattam)*, Ms. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath *(Carnatic* vocal), Shri T. M. Krishna (*Carnatic* vocal), Choir group of Vishwa Bharati University, West Bengal, Ms. Daksha Seth Dance Company, Kerala. 50% of travel grant to Contemporary Dance Group of *Attakalari* Centre for Movement and Arts led by Shri Joychandran Palazhy, *Bharatnatyam* dance group led by Shri V. P. Dhananjayan & Ms. Shanta Dhananjayan and a vocal group led by Shaguna Purushottaman was also provided. Apart from this, the Council also provided travel grants to many outstanding artists such as Shri Deepak Kumar Chakraborty (*Tabla*), Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt (*Mohan veena*) and Ms. Manisha Gulyani *(Kathak)*.

Festival of India

As part of its effort to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, the Council organized the following Festivals:

Year of India in Russia

The Festival Unit of the Council coordinated various events for the "Year of India in Russia", which opened on 31 March, 2009 at the New Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow in the presence of Dr. Karan Singh, President, ICCR and Mr. Zhukov, Dy. Prime Minister of Russia. The inaugural event was based on a seamless blend of Indian Classical Dances and comprised of eight performing arts groups from various parts of India.

The Council also organized a gala presentation on 3 September, 2009 during the visit of President to Russia in which 18 performing arts group comprising of Folk dancers from all over India who presented a spectacular show. In the course of the year, the Council organized the following four Exhibitions in collaboration with ROSIZO, Federal State Entity State Museum and Exhibition Centre:- 1) "Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi": a Unique Legacy in the State Leo Tolstoy Museum (Moscow) which was displayed in the Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy Yasnaya Polyana (Tula) where Leo Tolstoy resided; 2) "A Journey of Indian Cinema" in the Art Museum named after A. Tuganova (Vladikavkaz Republic of North Ossetia-Alania) on 10 November, 2009; 3) "The Modern Art of India: pictorial Trajectories" (art works from the collection of NGMA, New Delhi) ; 4) "Divines and Mortals": the most important exhibition of the "Year of India in Russia" (artworks from collection of National Museum of India, New Delhi).

The Council decided to send approx 38 performing arts groups to Russia for participation in the "Year of India", out of which 37 groups have already performed in Russia. The Festival brought to a formal close on 7 December, 2009, with a specially designed presentation by sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

Festival of India in Argentina

The Council sponsored two dance troupes – a five member *Kuchipudi* Dance Group led by Ms. Sailaja, and a 12-Member *Dandiya* Group led by Shri Ranabhai Sida from Gujarat, from 4-15 November, 2009, for the Festival of India in Argentina

Festival of India in Indonesia

The Council also participated in the Festival of India in Indonesia by way of sending three performing arts groups 14-member *Bhangra* Group led by Shri Daljit Singh, 10-member *Parikrama* Band Group led by Shri Subir Malik and three member *Mohan Veena* Group led by Shri Vishwa Mohan Bhatt.

Outgoing Visitors Programme

The Council sponsors the visit of Indian intellectuals, scholars, academicians and artists to facilitate their participation in seminars, symposia, study tours and conferences abroad.

During the period April-November 2009, the Council sponsored the visits of 82 eminent scholars to various parts of the world.

Distinguished Visitors Programme

As part of its effort to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, the Council facilitates the visits to India of eminent public personalities as well as scholars, intellectuals, academicians and artists from other countries under its Distinguished Visitors Programme. During the period, the Council hosted 11 distinguished visitors from different countries such as Ukraine, Japan, Republic of Korea, Germany, Hungary, USA and Spain.

Awards

President of India presented the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2007 to the President of Iceland , Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, at a special function held on 14 January, 2010.

26 Indian Council of World Affairs

During the period from 1 April 2009-31 March 2010, the Indian Council of World Affairs organized and planned the events as under:

Events organized from 1 April 2009-29 January 2010:

i)	Lectures	7
ii)	Seminars	15
iii)	Bilateral Strategic Dialogue	13
iv)	Panel Discussions/Background Briefings	3
v)	Other events (Book Release etc.)	2
	Total	40

Some of the major events included:

i) Lecture by an eminent China scholar Prof. V. P. Dutt on "India and China: The Past and the Future", chaired by Shri Shiv Shankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary (4 September, 2009).

ii) India-EU Forum on Effective Multilateralism – Keynote address was delivered by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs (8-9 October, 2009).

iii) International Conference: Asian Relations Conference Series on *'Emerging China: Prospects for Partnerships in Asia'*- Inaugural address was delivered by Shri M.Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and valedictory address by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs (21-23 November, 2009). The conference was addressed by 25 foreign scholars and 15 Indian scholars and was attended by over 300 persons including academics, diplomats, officials etc.

iv) Major address on strategic affairs by Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia – Presided over by: Dr. M. S. Gill, Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports (12 November, 2009).

v) ICWA' Second India-Australia Round Table with the Lowy Institute, Australia (12-13 November, 2009).

vi) Interaction with Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand (24 December, 2009).

vii) Annual Lecture' of the Association for India's Development [AID] on "India's Place in the World" by Prof. Lord Bhikhu Parekh (8 January, 2010).

A list of the events organized and planned by the ICWA is attached (Appendix-XVI).

Outreach programmes with Universities and Centres for International Affairs within India:

During the period, the ICWA signed MoUs for bilateral cooperation with the following:

i) Manipal Advanced Research Group, Manipal University.

ii) Department of Political Science, University College of Arts and Social Science, Osmania University.

Outreach programmes with Universities and Centres for International Affairs outside India:

During the period, the ICWA signed MoUs for bilateral cooperation with the following:

i) Argentine Council for International Relations.

ii) European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

Visits of Foreign Dignitaries to ICWA

The Council hosted the following foreign dignitaries during the above period:

1) Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives; 29 July, 2009.

2) Shri Jhala Nath Khanal, Chairman, Communist Party of Nepal(UML); 6 November, 2009.

3) Dr. Jaime Bermudez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia; 11 November, 2009.

4) Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister of Australia; 12 November, 2009.

5) Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran; 17 November, 2009.

6) Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; 24 December, 2009.

7) Prof. Lord Bhikhu Parekh; 8 January, 2010.

ICWA continued to develop as a think tank and as an important platform for foreign affairs discussions in India during the above period.

During the period, ICWA strengthened its research wing by appointing one Director (Research) and five Research Fellows. At present there are six research fellows and a Director of Research, who are specialists in area studies and are working on different aspects of foreign and domestic policies of their respective geographic areas of specialization. The aim of the research wing is to acquire in-depth knowledge about the various regions, understand the Indian foreign policy towards the specific region and formulate policy options for India working on the regions of Russia and Eurasia, China, Japan, South Asia including Afghanistan, West Asia North Africa, and South East Asia. The Research Wing works in close co-ordination with the Research Committee of the ICWA. ICWA research fellows regularly participated in seminars with lectures and contributed papers in various reputed journals.

With the research faculty, the ICWA aims to come out with a series of publications including books, monographs and articles on various developments across the world that can be used as reference tools by the policy makers.

ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' (IQ) was brought out regularly during this period. In addition, the ICWA is bringing out a Special Edition of the IQ for the fourth quarter (October-December 2009) on Indian foreign policy. The Minister for External Affairs Shri S. M. Krishna has contributed the lead article to the issue which will feature articles on various themes of interest to India contributed by eminent retired members of the Indian Foreign Service.

ICWA participated in the following Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) related events organized from April 2009-January 2010:

1. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Transnational Crime Hubs held at Bangkok, Thailand from 30 April-2 May, 2009 attended by Shri C. D. Sahay.
2. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Naval Enhancement held at Singapore from 25-26 May, 2009 attended by Capt. P. K. Ghosh.
3. 31st Steering Committee Meeting held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 1 June, 2009 attended by Ambassador K. K. S. Rana and Dr. AVS Ramesh Chandra.
4. 23rd Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting held at Kuala Lumpur from 1-4 June, 2009 attended by Dr. P. K. Dadhich and Shri Ajai Sahni.
5. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Climate Change held at Kuala Lumpur from 30-31 May, 2009.
6. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons and Mass Destruction held at Beijing, China on 29 June, 2009 and ARF ISM Nuclear Disarmament held at Beijing from 1-2 July, 2009 attended by Ambassador Dilip Lahiri.
7. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Transnational Crime Hubs held at Phuket, Thailand from 10-11 October, 2009 attended by Shri C. D. Sahay.
8. 32nd Steering Committee Meeting of CSCAP & seventh General Conference held at Jakarta, Indonesia from 15-16 November, 2009 attended by Ambassador Dilip Lahiri.
9. 10th Meeting of CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia Pacific, from 6-8 December, 2009, *Fortuna Hotel*, Hanoi, Vietnam.
10. Fifth Meeting of CSCAP Export Controls Experts Group, from 8-10 December, 2009, *Fortuna Hotel*, Hanoi, Vietnam.

ICWA Library is gradually redeeming its glorious past of yester years as a premier store house of information and data related to foreign affairs. Library's membership has substantially increased, and its membership in January 2010 touched 627. It is continuously growing. The increase in the number of researchers now using the library is a testimony to the growing popularity of the place. The automation and computerization work in the Library began in early 2009 and about 75,000 books of the book collection have already been entered in the system. The catalogue of the books will be available online by 31 January, 2010, which will give researchers the facilities of accessing and getting to know the *Sapru House* collection. *Sapru House* has now memberships of esteemed institutions and reputed national and international professional bodies viz. DELNET, IASLIC, IFLA. These memberships are optimally used to seek information or borrow material for our Research faculty and research students.

ICWA routinely receives queries from American Centre, British Council, India International Centre, Nehru Memorial and Museum Library, Central Secretariat, DELNET and various other renowned libraries. Media personnel of prestigious newspapers have been visiting the library for reference information. A large number of books are being added to the collection such as books on key issues in international affairs and foreign policies pertaining to Africa, South Asia, Central, East and West

Asia, and on themes such as Energy Security, Environment and Climate Change, Global warming etc. Professors and Research scholars alike from reputed Indian Institutions and Universities have referred to the books, periodicals and press clippings available in the library. A decision has been taken for creating the digital content of the immense and valuable treasure available in the ICWA library. The press-clippings 10 lakh in number, bound volumes of newspapers of 10 number of major Indian dailies from the 1964 and rare books 700 in number will be preserved through digitization and will be made available online giving readers a special search tool on the web to look into the vast store- house of information from the past available with the ICWA making it a distinct treasure house.

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Research and Information System for Developing Countries

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Overview

RIS, a New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, is an organization that specializes in international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS has the mandate to function as an advisory body to the Government of India on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, including regional and sub-regional cooperation arrangements, as may be referred to it from time to time. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing country think-tanks on international economic issues.

RIS conducts policy research on international economic issues and provides analytical support to the Government of India in preparation for major meetings and negotiations. The focus of the work programme of RIS has been on promoting South-South cooperation and on assisting developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various areas. RIS has prepared major research studies to assist various NAM Summits, East Asia Summit, SAARC Summits, IBSA Summit, BIMSTEC Summits UNCTAD Ministerial Conferences, WTO Ministerial Conferences, among other high level events. RIS has been engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives, including the Track-II Study Group of CEPEA. RIS has also provided analytical support to the Government of India during the negotiating processes for concluding comprehensive economic partnership agreements with different countries. The organization has been engaged in policy dialogue on the way forward for an Asian Economic Community with leading policy think-tanks in Asia. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, both in India and other countries, RIS has sought to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues.

Highlights of the RIS' work during the year 2009-10 are presented below:

Research and Policy Inputs Provided to the Government

RIS conducted research studies to assist the policy formulation specifically in the context of India's economic engagement with its partner countries. Some of the specific inputs provided by RIS include:

- **ASEAN-India:** Inputs were provided during the Meetings of 15th ASEAN-India Working Group, ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee and ASEAN-India Senior Office Meetings held in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **CEPEA:** RIS participated in the Meeting of Track II Study Group on CEPEA held in Sydney, Australia in May 2009 and provided important inputs.
- **Asian Cooperation Dialogue:** Briefing paper in connection with the Eighth ACD Ministerial Meeting on Update of the Think-Tanks Initiative was submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs on 6 October, 2009.
- **SAARC:** Inputs were provided on various issues concerned with SAARC in the in the interactive sessions held with the high officials of the Ministry of External Affairs from time to time.
- **Chiang-Mai Initiative and EAS:** A brief note on Chiang-Mai Initiative and EAS was submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on 2 April, 2009.
- **IOR-ARC:** Inputs were provided during the Meetings IOR-ARC convened in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Joint Study Group for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia:** Inputs were provided on different aspects of these issues in the interactive sessions held with the high officials of the Ministry of Commerce from time to time.
- **Heiligendamn Process**: A note on the "*Heiligendamn Process – Possible Deliverables for La Maddalena Summit 2009 – Some Comments*" was submitted to the MEA on 4 April, 2009. The following Notes on the Heiligendamn L'Aquila Process were submitted the MEA on 1 October, 2009: 1) Comments on Draft Elements for Work on "Freedom of Investment to Mutual Benefit"; 2) Inputs on the Theme of "Development"; and 3) Inputs on the theme of "Innovation and Technology".

Policy Dialogue, Conferences and Symposia

During 2009-10 RIS organized a number of policy dialogues, conferences and symposia to fulfil its mandate of fostering intellectual dialogue among developing countries. The select major events organized in the period include the following:

The Second South Asia Economic Summit, 11-12 December, 2009: The second South Asia Economic Summit (SAFES) was organized by RIS in New Delhi from 11-12 December, 2009 in New Delhi in collaboration with SACEPS, UNDP, ESCAP, ADB and FICCI. The partner institutes were IPS, CPD, IIDS and SAWTEE. The programme of the inaugural session began with welcome remarks by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS. Prof. Muchkund Dubey, President, Council for Social Development and Chairman, RIS Research Advisory Council chaired the inaugural session. Mr. Xiaoyu Zhao, Vice President (Operations 1) Asian Development Bank delivered the Special Address and also released the ADB study on Intraregional Trade and Investment in South Asia. Mr. Tariq Sayeed, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry made a special presentation. Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director for Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific, UNDP. The UNDP RCC study "The Global Financial Crisis and the Asia-Pacific Region" and the latest RIS Discussion Papers were also launched during the inaugural session.

Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Corporate Affairs, Government of India was the Guest of Honour. He also delivered a Special Address. Governor Atiur Rahman, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka chaired the special session. The participants took part in open discussion that followed after the special address of the Minister.

The themes of the different technical sessions of the second SAES included: Global Economic Crisis and Implications for South Asian Economic Integration and Development; Regional Economic Integration: Deepening of SAFTA; Strengthening Physical Connectivity in South Asia; Towards an Inclusive Society in South Asia; Scope for Project-based Plurilateral Cooperation in South Asia; Trade, Climate Change and Food Security Issues for South Asia; Special and Differential Treatment to LDCs in South Asia; Migration and Development; South Asian Regionalism; South Asian Integration: ADB Case Studies; and Vision of Integration and Development in South Asia. Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, Secretary General, SAARC, Kathmandu delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS extended the vote of thanks to all the participants.

International Symposium on "Under Economic Crises, How Should Asia Promote Further Economic Integration?" 24-25 September, 2009: RIS and Japan Economic Foundation hosted the International Symposium on "Under Economic Crises, How Should Asia Promote Further Economic Integration?" in New Delhi from 24-25 September, 2009. The programme began with an Open Forum which was chaired by Prof. Arjun Sengupta, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Chairman, RIS. Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS made welcome remarks. Mr. Noboru Hatakeyama, Chairman and CEO, Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) (Former Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan) delivered the Opening Speech. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs delivered the keynote address. Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS was the moderator. The programme of the international symposium had sessions on The Financial and Economic Crisis and FTAs – How Can Intra-regional Export Growth through FTAs help Tackle the Crisis?; Asian FTAs in Progress – An Introduction to EAFTA, CEPEA, and TPP; What Would be the Future Shape for Regional Economic Integration in East Asia? The concluding session was chaired by Ambassador L. K. Ponappa, Vice Chairperson, RIS and Dy. National Security Advisor. Summing up was done by Mr. Noboru Hatakeyama and Dr. Biswajit Dhar. The programme of the second day had Experts' Informal Roundtable Discussion. The Media Briefing session was led by Dr. Biswajit Dhar and Mr. Noboru Hatakeyama. The overall coordinator of the event was Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, RIS.

18th Biennial Meeting of Association of Indian Economic and Financial Studies on "Emerging India and the Global Economy", 19-20 June, 2009: RIS, jointly with the Association of Indian Economic and Financial Studies (AIEFS), organized the 18th Biennial Meeting of the Association of Indian Economic and Financial Studies on Emerging India and the Global Economy in New Delhi from 19-20 June, 2009. The programme began with the welcome remarks Prof. Suhas Ketkar, President, AIEFS and Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS. Prof. Arjun Sengupta, MP (Rajya Sabha) and Chairman, RIS made the Chairman's remarks. Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission delivered the keynote address. The Meeting had the following important sessions: Presidential Session on Global Recession and Development Financing; Perspectives on Indian Economy; Productivity and Trade;

Financial Sector and Global Financial Crisis; Productivity Challenges of Agriculture Sector; Socio-economic Consequences of Globalization; Globalization and Trade In the Valedictory Session Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS made the initial remarks. Prof. Suhas Ketkar, Vanderbilt University did the Summing up. Ambassador L. K. Ponappa, Vice-Chairperson, RIS, Deputy National Security Advisor and Secretary, NSCS delivered the Valedictory Address. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, RIS was the coordinator of the event.

Workshop on Alternate Patent Regime and Access to Health, 25-26 May, 2009: RIS and the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development organized a two-day "*Workshop on Alternate Patent Regime and Access to Health*" in Beijing from 25-26 May, 2009. The inaugural session began with the welcome remarks by the Vice President of CASTED and by Mr. Miltos Ladikas, Coordinator, and Innova-P2. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS extended the vote of thanks. The Workshop had the following sessions: Panel on Global Pharma and R&D Priorities in India; Panel on Global Pharma and R&D Priorities in China; Trends in IPR Regime India: Focus Health Sector; Trends in IPR Regime China: Focus Health Sector; IPR, Indigenous Knowledge and Medical Sector: Policy Imperatives: Case Study of India; IPR, Indigenous Knowledge and Medical Sector: Policy Imperatives: Case Study of China; Dynamics of Innovation in Health Sector in India; Dynamics of Innovation in Health Sector in China; Access to Health and IP: Alternative Approaches and Innova P-2 - WHO Work Overview: Chinese perspective and Indian perspectives; and the Work Agenda Ahead and Joint Perspectives for Innova - case study for pharmaceutical survey and analysis to Innova P-2.

Pan-Asian Integration: Linking East and South Asia and National Strategies for Regional Integration: South and East Asian Case Studies, 20 November, 2009: RIS jointly with ADB organized a seminar and launch of books on "*Pan-Asian Integration: Linking East and South Asia*"; and "*National Strategies for Regional Integration: South and East Asian Case Studies*" in New Delhi on 20 November, 2009. The Seminar began with welcome remarks by Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, RIS. Dr. Srinivas Madhur, Senior Director, Office of Regional Economic Integration, ADB made the opening remarks. Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS addressed the participants on the theme of linking South Asia with East Asia. Dr. Isher Ahluwalia, Chairperson, ICRIER delivered the keynote address. It was followed by the presentation on Pan-Asian Integration: Main Findings of the Book by Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Principal Economist, Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank. Participants also took part in the open discussion that followed.

RIS-ITPO Conference on India-ASEAN FTA: Business Opportunities, 18 November, 2009: India and ASEAN have signed a Trade in Goods FTA recently. Linking together the dynamic economies of the 10 ASEAN countries and India in a trade pact is an important event in the direction of strengthening their mutual partnership in the realms of trade in goods, services and investment as well as a stepping stone towards a broader architecture for regional economic cooperation in Asia. Against this background, RIS jointly with India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), New Delhi organized a Conference on India-ASEAN FTA: Business Opportunities on Wednesday, 18 November, 2009 in New Delhi. The programme began with Opening Remarks by Dr. Subas Pani, Chairman and Managing Director, ITPO; and Opening Remarks by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director-General, RIS. Mr. Yogendra Kumar, Additional Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs made inaugural remarks. Mr. Rajiv Yadav, Executive Director, ITPO extended the vote of thanks. It was followed by the panel discussion on India-ASEAN FTA in Goods. Mr. P. K. Dash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry chaired. The panelists included Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, RIS; Professor N. Chandra Mohan, IILM Institute for Higher Education; Mr. D. Matsushima, Senior Director, JETRO; and Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Director General, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), New Delhi. It was followed by open discussion.

IDEAs-RIS Workshop on Nature and Implications of Expanding Presence of India and China for Developing Asia, 5-6 November, 2009: RIS and the International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), New Delhi, India hosted the .workshop on "*Understanding the Nature and Implications of the Expanding Presence of India and China in the Global Economy*", with special reference to Asia in New Delhi from 5-6 November, 2009. The brought together activists, policy makers and academics from various parts of developing Asia. The Workshop focused on the following broad themes: On the Question of the Shifting Power Centres in Global Economic Order: Role of China and India; China's Importance for Developing Asia: Trade and Investment Relations; China's Impact on Developing Asia: Case Studies; India's Importance for Developing Asia: Trade and Investment Relations; Asian Experience of Integration through Trade, Aid and Investment: South Asia; Asian Experience of Integration through Trade, Aid and Investment: South-East Asia; and Future Regional Integration: Possible Trajectories.

Prominent participants in the workshop were Prof. Abhijit Sen, Prof. Prabhat Patnaik, Prof. Muchkund Dubey, Ambassador Navrekha Sharma and Ambassador L. K. Ponappa. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Andi Muhammad Ghalib, Ambassador of Indonesia in India delivered a Special Address.

Discussion Meeting on the Unrelenting Pressure of Protectionism, 18 December, 2009: Global Trade Alert, coordinated by the Centre for Economic Policy Research, an academic and policy research think-tank based in London, has come out with the report entitled "The *Unrelenting Pressure of Protectionism: The third GTA Report*". The Report represents the latest data on the protectionist dynamics at work since the first G-20 crisis-related Summit in November 2008 and highlights the many anti-trade measures that are in the pipeline. Drawing upon a rich evidential base of over 600 completed investigations of state measures that could affect foreign commercial interests, the main findings are discussed in the report. This report has a particular focus on developments in the Asia-Pacific Region, which contains several export-led powerhouses.

RIS organized launching of the report cum discussion meeting on the third Report in New Delhi on 18 December, 2009. Dr. Simon Evenett, Professor of International Trade, University of St. Gallen, who is the editor of the Report, made a presentation on the main findings of the Report. A large number of participants took part in the discussion that took place during his presentation.

Discussion Meeting on ASEAN Plus Agreements and Opportunities for India, 19 January, 2010: RIS organized a Discussion Meeting on ASEAN Plus Agreements and Opportunities for India, on 19 January, 2010 in New Delhi. Dr Mia Mikic, Deputy Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network (ARTNeT), UNESCAP, Bangkok, initiated the discussion. A large number of participants took part.

RIS-ERIA Brainstorming Symposium on Economic Integration in East Asia: Emerging Landscape, 22 January, 2010: RIS in collaboration with ERIA organized a one-day Symposium on the theme of "*Economic Integration in East Asia: Emerging Landscape*" in New Delhi on 22 January, 2010. Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, ISEAS, Singapore chaired the Inaugural Session which began with the welcome remarks by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS. Mr. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director, ERIA, Jakarta delivered the keynote address.

Ambassador S. T. Devare, Director General, ICWA, New Delhi chaired the first session which addressed the theme of Deepening Economic Integration in East Asia. Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Editor, Business Standard, New Delhi delivered the special address. Mr. V. L. Kantha Rao, Director, MOC&I, New Delhi; Mr. Sugato Sen, Senior Director, SIAM, New Delhi; and Mr. D. K. Nair, Secretary General, CITI, New Delhi were the panelists.

Mr. Pushpanathan Sundaram, Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat chaired the second session which had Presentation of ERIA Study: Comprehensive Development Plan. Dr. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, ERIA, Jakarta was the lead presenter. The panelists were: Mr. Manab Majumdar, Assistant Secretary General, FICCI, New Delhi and Dr. Rashmi Banga, Senior Economist, UNCTAD, New Delhi.

The third session was on the "*Role of India in East Asian Economic Integration*." Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Executive Editor, The Nation, Bangkok chaired this session. Mr. P. K. Dash, Joint Secretary, MoC&I, New Delhi delivered the special address. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Senior Fellow, RIS; and Mr. Daisuke Matsushima, JETRO, New Delhi were the panelists.

Seminar on Patent Regime and Access to Health: Define Strategies Urgently, 12 June, 2009: RIS and the India Habitat Centre jointly organized the Seminar on Patent.

Regime and Access to Health: Define Strategies Urgently in New Delhi on 12 June, 2009. The seminar began with initial remarks by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS and Mr. R. M. S. Liberhan, Director, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. A large number of participants took part in the discussion that took place during the Seminar. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Senior Fellow, RIS was the coordinator of the event.

Seminar on Fast Growth in India and China: Implications for Jobs in the US in the Context of the Financial Crisis, 15 April, 2009: RIS organized the seminar on "*Fast Growth in India and China: Implications for Jobs in the US in the Context of the Financial Crisis*" in New Delhi on 15 April, 2009. Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS made the initial remarks. Professor Ajit Singh, Director of Research, Cambridge Endowment for Research in Finance, University of Cambridge; Chair in Economics, University of Birmingham Business School; and Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Cambridge initiated the discussion on the subject at this Seminar. Mr. R. Gopalan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry chaired. A large number of participants took part in the open discussion that followed.

Informal Dialogue Trade and Climate Change in Emerging Economies: The Competitiveness, Technology, and Intellectual Property Rights Dimension, to be organized by ICSTD and RIS in New Delhi on 30 March, 2010.

Outreach, Global Presence and Networking

In keeping with its mandate, RIS has developed working relationship with think-tanks in other developing countries for undertaking collaborative programmes with a focus on critical economic issues facing the global community. Towards this end, RIS has developed strong institutional links with Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; Development Research Centre (DRC) of State Council of China; Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Colombo; Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER); Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; Korea Institute of International Economic Policy (KIEP); Institute of Developing Economies of Japan; International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), Bangkok; Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka; South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Kathmandu; NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC), Jakarta; Institute of Developing Economies (IDE/Jetro), Japan; Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Indonesia; and Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences. RIS also works in close collaboration with several inter-governmental and international organizations including, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok; Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila; the Commonwealth Secretariat, London; South Centre, Geneva; and International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva.

Capacity Building and Training Programmes

- **Capacity-Building Module on Global Economic Issues and Regional Trade Blocs with Special reference to SAARC:** RIS, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, organized a special course on Capacity-Building Module on Global Economic Issues and Regional Trade Blocs with Special reference to SAARC for the Diplomats from Maldives in New Delhi from 3-4 August, 2009.
- **Capacity-Building Programme on Regional Trade Blocks with particular reference to India-ASEAN Cooperation:** On behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, RIS organized the Capacity-Building Programme on Regional Trade Blocks with particular reference to India-ASEAN Cooperation for Diplomats from ASEAN in New Delhi on 26 August, 2009.
- **Training Programme for IFS Probationers (2008 Batch) on Global Economic Regime and India's Regional Economic Engagements:** RIS, on behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, organized the Training Programme for IFS Probationers (2008 Batch) on Global Economic Regime and India's Regional Economic Engagements in New Delhi from 7-11 September, 2009.
- ESCAP ARTNeT/RIS Follow-up Workshop on Gravity Modelling of Trade Facilitation and "Behind the Border" Measures Affecting Trade: The ESCAP ARTNeT/RIS Follow-up Workshop on Gravity Modelling of Trade Facilitation and "Behind the Border" Measures Affecting Trade was held in RIS from 21-25 September, 2009.
- **Training Module on Understanding Global Training System and Regional Economic Cooperation:** RIS organized a Training Module on Understanding Global Training System and Regional Economic Cooperation on 23 October, 2009 in conjunction with the UGC Refresher Training Programme in Economics for College and University Teachers conducted by the Academic Staff College, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.
- **International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP) Programme.** IEIDP Programme in New Delhi from 15 February-12 March 2010.

RIS Publications

RIS published three Policy Briefs; 14 Discussion Papers; one issues of the *South Asia Economic Journal;* two issues of the *Biotechnology and Development Review*; two issues of the New *Asia Monitor, and* one issue of the *RIS Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief* were brought out. In addition one combined issue of the *RIS Diary* was also published (see Appendix-XVII). RIS publications can be downloaded from its website *http://www.ris.org.in.*

Budget

RIS has sought a budgetary support of Rs. 3.14 crore during 2009-10 from the MEA.

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28 Library

The Ministry's Library has over 100,000 books, rich resource material and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research. The library subscribes / receives and maintains about 480 Periodicals/Journals (including online journals and databases) and newspaper titles.

The library has an in-house computer system consisting of a server, and 12 PCs. The system support data entry and retrieval in Hindi as well. The Library has CD-ROM databases on foreign affairs and current affairs. The Library PCs are also equipped with CD writers and laser printers. It also has a colour scanner (with OCR capability as well as facility for storage and retrieval of Image), a microfilm/ microfiche reader printer, photocopiers and a HP Office jet pro-laser printer with Desk Top Publishing (DTP) software.

A Library Committee manages library activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals/ periodicals. In April 2008, Foreign Secretary has reconstituted the Library Committee which now consists of Joint Secretary (PP & R) as Chairman, three Directors from territorial divisions as Members and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary.

All Documentation / Bibliographic Services as well as other library operation and services have been computerized, using an integrated library software package "*LIBSYS*" covering all features of library management. LIBSYS follows MARC as well as non-MARC format. It supports word based free text searching using boolean operators. It also provides online validation of input data prior to updating the database. Information on all books, maps, documents and selected articles from periodicals received in the Library since 1986 [and also pre-1986 publications in active use] are available online through intranet on all PCs of Ministry of External Affairs Library at Patiala House. 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. Using this database and CD-ROM Database, the Library provides Current Awareness Service and Bibliographical and Reference Service. In addition, the Library regularly issues:

Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin (FADB): a list of Selected articles on International Relations and related subjects.

Recent Additions: an annotated list of Books/ Publications added to the Library.

Chronicle of Events: important news items on International Relations and related subjects

The library also regularly issues daily Chronicle, Book Alerts and Article Alerts, which consist of abstracts and full text of important articles from journals/periodicals subscribed by MEA Library through group email id to all Foreign Service Officers in the Ministry and Missions abroad.

In addition, the MEA Library has become a virtual Library in reality and have started subscribing **"***EIU online services", "MBIC from DATAMONITOR"* and *"JSTOR"* databases for the users at Head Quarters in New Delhi and all Indian Missions Abroad. The library also subscribes 118 online journals / periodicals along with print copies. These online databases and journals / periodicals can be accessed on Internet via username and password. A list of such titles has also been circulated at Head Quarters as well as Indian Missions abroad and also available on MEA Library's Website: *http://mealib.nic.in.*

The Library in cooperation with NIC has brought out a full text CD-ROM version of Annual Report of Ministry of External Affairs [from 1948 to 1998-99] and foreign Affairs Record [1995 to 1999 (August)]. The information on the CD can be retrieved via combination of searches including Boolean search on any given word or combination of words. This CD-ROM version was prepared based on material available as on 1 January, 2000. This CD can be consulted in the MEA Library at Patiala House, New Delhi.

Retro-conversion and bar-coding of MEA Library records project have been approved last year. The work has been awarded last year and will be completed in the current financial year.

Library also provides practical training to the student of Library Science studying in various Institutions of Delhi from time to time.

Dr. S. S. Dhaka, Director (Library & Information) and Shri Sanjay K. Bihani, ALIO have been elected to IFLA Committees and attended their meetings. MEA Library has also been represented in International and National Conferences/Seminars of various professional Organizations and Associations including IFLA and SLA. On request from HCI, Kuala Lumpur, Shri Sanjay K. Bihani, ALIO went on a month's temporary duty to set up the library in Indian Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur during September-October 2009.

The Library has also processed case for Category five Library as per orders of Ministry of Finance after a gap of more than 17-18 years.

MEA Library website (*http://mealib.nic.in*) is being updated regularly. A circular in this regard has been sent to all Officers in the Ministry including Indian Missions abroad as per instructions of Foreign Secretary.

Library users including research scholars are welcome to access the Library and its database, including CD-ROM Database, and the Foreign Affairs Information Retrieval System (FAIRS). Photocopy and Computer print-out facilities are also available to all Library users including research scholars.

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Appendices

Appendix I

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad during 2009-10 (including Posts budgeted by Ministry of Commerce and those ex-cadred etc.)

S. No	Cadre/Post	Posts at Headquaters	Posts at Mission	Total
1	Grade I	5	28	33
2	Grade II	6	40	46
3	Grade III	38	122	160
4	Grade IV	36	118	154
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior scale	47	164	211
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	**245**	**497**	**742**
IFS(B)				
7	(i) Grade I	84	122	206
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6	-	6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II&III	147	236	383
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30	-	30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16	-	16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25	-	25
9	(i) Grade IV	189	416	605
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55	-	55
10	(i) Grade V/VI	154	101	255
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	-	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14	-	14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	41	145	186
	(ii) Leave Reserve	24	-	24
12	(i) Stenographer's cadre	142	488	630
	(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	14	1	15
	Sub Total	**1137**	**1535**	**2672**
	Grand Total	**1382**	**2032**	**3414**

Appendix II

Data on recruitment through direct recruitment, departmental promotion and Ltd Departmental Examination made in the Ministry along with the reserved vacancies for April 2009 to November 2009

Groups	Total No. of Vacancies	Number of Vacancies Reserved			Unreserved
		SC	ST	OBC	
Group A	4	-	-	-	4
Group A (Ex-Cadre)	3	-	-	-	3
Group B	85	4	8	4	69
Group C	15	-	-	1	14
Total	**107**	**4**	**8**	**5**	**90**

Appendix III

Number of IFS Officers with Proficiency in various languages

Language	Number of Officers	Language	Number of Officers
Arabic	86	Sinhalese	1
Korean	1	German	30
Bahasa Malaysia	2	Spanish	55
Nepalese	3	Hebrew	3
Bhasa Indonesia	12	Thai	2
Persian	19	Italian	3
Burmese	1	Turkish	6
Portuguese	20	Japanese	23
Chinese	56	Ukranian	1
Russian	73	Kazakh	1
Dutch	1	Vietnamese	1
Serbo-Croatian	3	Kiswahili	5
French	65		

Appendix IV

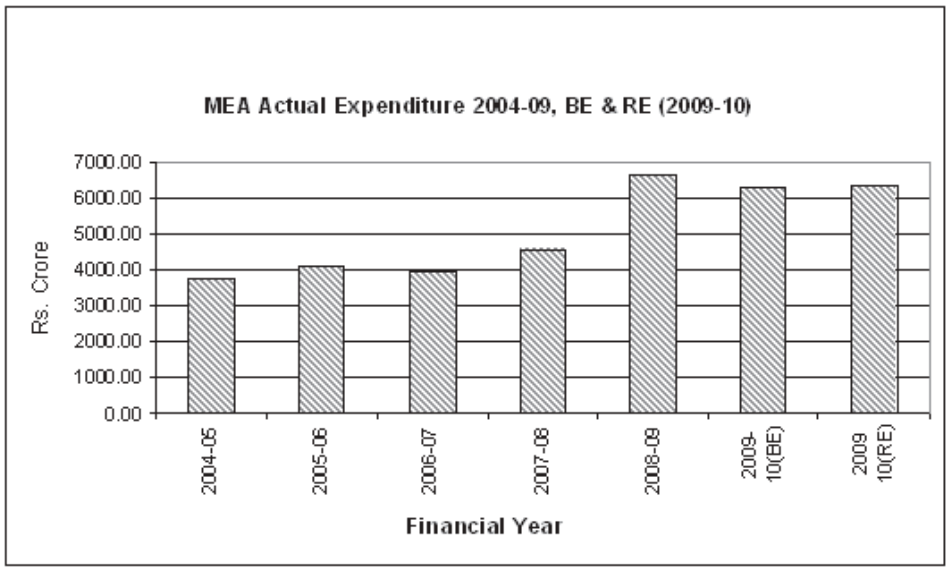
Statement showing the number of passport applications received and passports issued, miscellaneous applications received and services rendered, No. of Passports issued as well as Revenue under Tatkaal Scheme and total Expenditure of Passport Offices from 1 January - 30 November 2009.

Name of RPO/PO	No. of Applications received	No. of Passports issued	No. of miscellaneous applications received	Miscellaneous services rendered	Passports issued under Tatkaal	Revenue under Tatkaal Scheme	Total Revenue	Total expenditure
Ahmedabad	273159	272593	8843	9012	-	26814750	298576250	54542707
Amritsar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangalore	272700	271191	24196	22327	38879	68826100	305016175	44064883
Bareilly	60492	57412	1899	1735	2814	4521000	66497770	20389512
Bhopal	71912	59498	2001	1949	9358	14049500	85467969	17226803
Bhubneswar	40320	39062	2440	2025	17217	29033000	67036600	8418104
Chandigarh	234944	242228	28395	28534	14015	38866995	269538957	41433183
Chennai	216392	197792	24537	21563	666000	337979931	54038279	103794000
Cochin	200835	203368	33633	32278	37126	94040900	264106053	46807634
Coimbatore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dehradun	38899	39892	2285	1983	4239	6994600	44713825	6543711
Delhi	261698	244967	21579	20798	53786	78537600	348050187	51920290
Ghaziabad	107433	102807	4223	3973	5787	14229600	110481301	17859853
Guwahati	38099	28906	4056	3518	5700	14790000	44954800	7597938
Hyderabad	292675	255546	27304	26644	51255	137620900	392230849	67174629
Jaipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jalandhar	122193	134749	22505	22339	1942	3149700	146109559	51017224
Jammu	18748	891	17554	819	97	138500	21612915	6793434
Kolkata	212497	187564	15977	15166	11773	29687500	205614259	33080578
Kozhikode	170672	173866	23609	23407	23372	39259000	214856920	36783246
Lucknow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madurai	116188	118668	8012	7595	9322	19323600	140848976	21574560
Malappuram	134678	136951	19043	19043	11693	18124000	170918420	26037920
Mumbai	251904	244640	15634	15381	14793	23287500	278644309	79544206
Nagpur	55489	53314	1337	1292	4471	5779750	61053612	6732122
Panaji	27528	26786	4279	4604	1353	2065500	31832821	6337767
Patna	13545	14700	877	1125	347	562500	14655530	2667748
Pune	104725	103418	6181	6175	10327	15022500	105939975	17777495
Raipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ranchi	38998	37987	3796	3319	6930	10467500	40371910	5962118
Shimla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Srinagar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surat	77429	77560	6529	6241	1207	1593500	79595600	13694877
Thane	137013	133507	4726	4878	5651	10004500	147263210	-
Trichy	108711	118311	9411	9162	6413	9285000	253955615	-
Trivandrum	124964	122252	25008	24004	25715	39071500	174802720	17296287
Vishakapatnam	59147	61745	13477	11735	9221	14237000	184875776	19063230
Total	3883987	3762171	383346	352624	1050803	1107363926	4623661142	832136059

Appendix V

MEA Actual Expenditure and 2004-2009, BE & RE (2009-10)
(Revenue & Capital)

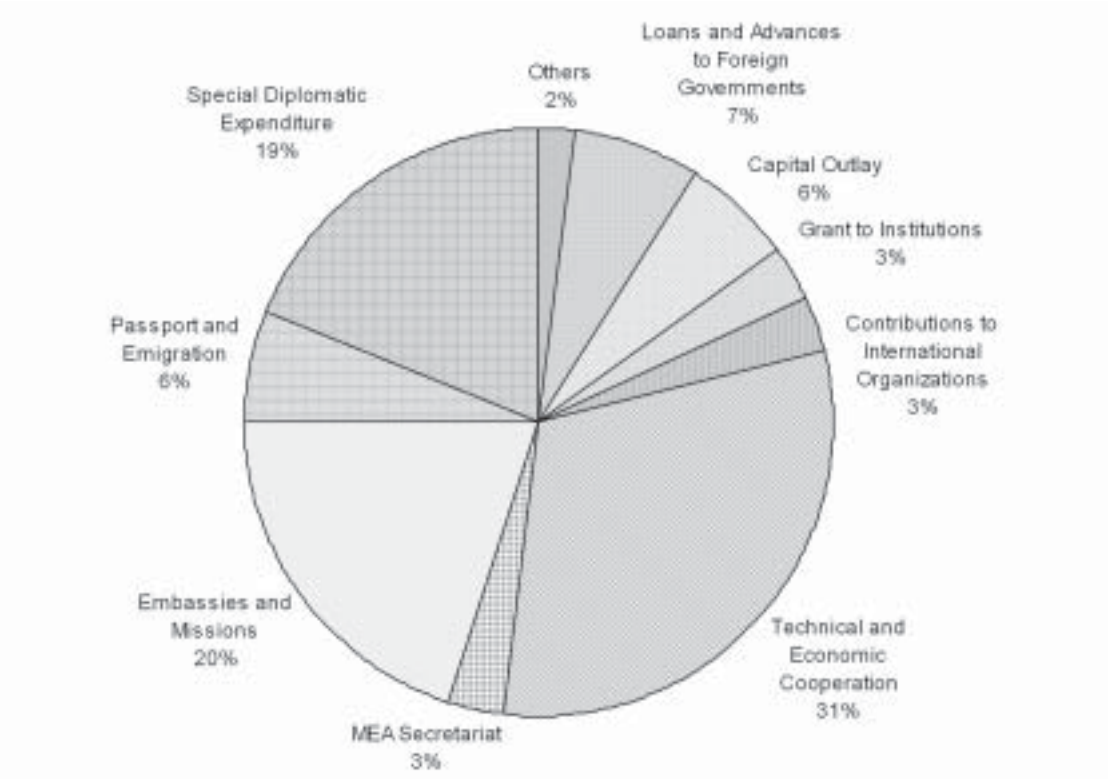
Years	Actuals (in Rs. Crores)	Percentage of variation from previous year
2004-05	3756.15	12.31
2005-06	4089.67	8.88
2006-07	3949.68	-3.43
2007-08	4572.39	15.77
2008-09	6630.73	45.01
2009-10(BE)	6293.00	-5.09
2009 10(RE)	6333.00	0.64



Appendix VI

The Major Sectoral Allocations in the 2009-2010 Budget (Revised Estimate) (Revenue & Capital)

Sectors	% of Total Budget	Allocation (in Rs. Crores)
MEA Secretariat	3.45	218.79
Embassies & Missions	20.34	1288.05
Passport & Emigration	6.49	410.84
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	18.61	1178.40
Technical & Economic Cooperation	30.57	1936.29
Contributions to International Organizations	3.11	197.19
Grant to Institutions	2.53	160.36
Capital Outlay	6.32	400.00
Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments	6.67	422.50
Others	1.91	120.58
Total	**100.00**	**6333.00**



Appendix VII

Principal Destinations of India's Aid & Loan Programmes

The principal beneficiaries of our Aid and Loan Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2009-2010 are as under in Revised Estimates 2009-2010

Aid & Loan to Countries	(In Rupees Crores)	% of India's total aid and loan budget
Bhutan	1301.98	55.20
Afghanistan	287.00	12.17
Nepal	150.00	6.36
African Countries	125.00	5.30
Mongolia	125.00	5.30
Sri Lanka	80.00	3.39
Myanmar	55.00	2.33
Eurasian Countries	20.00	0.85
Bangladesh	3.76	0.16
Maldives	3.50	0.15
Latin American Countries	2.00	0.08
Others	205.55	8.71
Total	**2358.79**	**100.00**

1. The Government of India has extended loans to the Government of Bhutan and Government of Mongolia to assist in the implementation of developmental projects. During 2009-10, the loan extended to the two Governments amounts to Rs. 422.50 crores.

2. The Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs is essentially a Non-Plan Budget. However, from 1996-97, a Plan Budget Head has been established with the approval of the Cabinet. The Plan Budget caters to certain large developmental projects undertaken in some of the neighbouring countries of India, such as Bhutan, Afghanistan and Myanmar. The Tala-Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan has been commissioned. The other projects in Bhutan being funded from the Plan Budget Head are the Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Projects – I and II, the Mangdechu Hydroelectric Project, and the construction of the Dungsum Cement Plant. The construction of the Kabul to Pul-e-Khumri double circuit transmission line in Afghanistan has been completed. Two sub-stations would be now constructed at Doshi and Charikar in Afghanistan as additional components of this project. The Kaladan Multimodal Transport project in Myanmar and the proposed Nalanda International University being set up in India are also being funded from the Plan allocations.

3. The estimated expenditure of the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs during the Financial Year 2009-10 is Rs. 218.79 crores, which is 4.29 % of the total estimated revenue budget of Rs. 5096.00 crores (Non-plan). Estimated expenditure on Indian Missions and Posts abroad is expected to be Rs. 1288.05 crores, which is about 25.28 % of the total revenue budget of the Ministry.

4. The Ministry of External Affairs revenue from Passport and Visa fees and other receipts for 2009-10 are likely to be of the order of Rs. 2334.20 crores. It is estimated that Passport fees would account for Rs. 994 crores, Visa fees for Rs. 1240 crores and other receipts for Rs. 100.20 crores .

Appendix VIII

Extracts from C&AG's Report on Ministry of External Affairs

Irregular appointment of local staff	Ex Consul General, Hamburg in the Federal Republic of Germany made appointments against three local posts in contravention of guidelines of MEA and facilitated the appointments of personnel directly from India resulting in an irregular expenditure to the tune of Rs. 1.27 crore. *(Report No. CA 14 of 2008-09)*
Extra expenditure due to deployment of India-based chauffeurs	The deployment of India-based chauffeurs to three Missions namely Dushanbe, Kyiv and Oslo resulted in extra expenditure of Rs. 57.98 lakh during three years ending 2007-08. Inability to use the India-based chauffeurs outside the city limits' due to their lack of familiarity and absence, of local language skills were other issues over and above the extra expenditure. *(Report No. CA 14 of 2008-09)*
Indian Council for Cultural Relations	Indian Council for Cultural Relations made payments totalling Rs. 49.91 lakh to a public relations consultant without adequate justification and in contravention of Government policies. *(Report No. CA 15 of 2008-09)*
Persistent irregularities	Unauthorised expenditure on engagement of contingency paid staff of Rs. 58.10 lakh during April 2004 to May 2008 . Loss of interest due to injudicious retention of excess cash balance resulting in loss of interest of Rs. 50.85 lakh during August 2002 to March 2008 . Recovery at the instance of audit on account of overpayment of pay and allowances to employees of 44 MissionS/POSits abroad of Rs. 36.55lakh . Unrealised VAT refunds aggregating Rs. 26.94 lakh, due to improper filing, inadequate monitoring and deficiency in pursuance of VAT refunds in Indian Missions at Durban, Kampala, Kathmandu and Nicosia. *(Report No. CA 14 of 2008-09)*

Appendix IX

Status of Action Taken Note (Financial Year 2003-2009)

SI.No.	Year	No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit	Details of the Paras/PA reports on which ATNs are pending		
			No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time	No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry	No. of ATNs which have been finally vetted by audit but have not been submitted by the Ministry to PAC
1	2003	-	-	1	-
2	2004	-	-	1	-
3	2005	-	-	2	2
4	2006	-	-	-	1
5	2007	-	-	3	3
6	2008	-	6	1	4
7	2008-09	-	9	1	1

Appendix X

Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other countries 2009

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
A. MULTILATERAL				
1.	C-142 Human Resources Development Convention, 1975	25.3.2009	19.1.2009	25.3.2010
2.	Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (the Montreal Convention 1999).		27.4.2009	
3.	**ASEAN** Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South East Asian Nations:Trade in Goods Agreement along with its annexes; Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism; Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement; and Understanding on Article 4 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods Agreement.	13.8.2009	16.12.2009	1.1.2010
B. TRILATERAL				
1.	Trilateral Agreement among the Government of the Republic of **India,** the Government of the Federative Republic of **Brazil** and the Government of the Republic of **South Africa** concerning Merchant Shipping and other Maritime Transport related Matters.	13.9.2006	20.1.2009	
C. BILATERAL				
1.	**Argentina** Framework Agreement between India and **Argentina** on cooperation in the Peaceful uses of Outer space.	14.10.2009		
2.	MoU between SEGEMAR of Argentina Republic and Geological Survey of India.	14.10.2009		
3.	POC in S & T between Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of the Argentina Republic on Sports Cooperation.	14.10.2009		
4.	MoU between Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport of the Republic of India and Sport Secretariat of the Argentina Republic on Sport Co-operation.	14.10.2009		
5.	MoU on cooperation in the field of Trade Promotion & Technology Transfer in International Trade between the Government of Argentina Republic and the Government of Republic of India.	14.10.2009		
6.	MoU between INTI, Republic of Argentina and National Research Development Corporation New Delhi.	14.10.2009		
7.	MoU between ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and ENARSA.			
8.	Institutional Cooperation Agreement between the Argentina Council on Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR India.	14.10.2009		

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
9.	Exchange of letter for Five year Multiple entry gratis business visas.	14.10.2009		
10.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Argentina for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.	14.10.2009		
11.	**Bangladesh** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's **Republic of Bangladesh** for the Promotion and Protection of Investment.	9.2.2009	26.3.2009	
12	**Belarus** Agreement between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation in the field of Physical Training and Sport.	17.9.2009		17.9.2009
13	**Benin:** Protocol for consultations betweenMinistry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration of the Republic of **Benin.**	4.3.2009		4.3.2009
14	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of **Benin** for the creation of the India – **Benin** Joint Committee for Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation	4.3.2009		4.3.2009
15	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of **Benin** for setting up an Information Technology Centre of Excellence(CETI) in the Republic of **Benin.**	4.3.2009		
	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Benin in the years 2009 – 2012.	23.9.2009		
17	**Burkina Faso** Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of **Burkina Faso** for the establishment of the Joint Commission for Political , Economic, Scientific, Technical and Socio – Cultural Cooperation	20.3.2009		20.3.2009
18	**Bulgaria** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Republic of **Bulgaria** on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic And Official/Service Passports.	3.3.2009		

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
19	Programme for Cooperation in the Fields of Science, Education and Culture between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of **Bulgaria** for the period 2009-2011.	3.3.2009		3.3.2009
20.	**Canada** MoU between The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of **Canada** on the Establishment of a Joint Study Group to Examine the Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.	17.11.2009		17.11.2009
21.	MoU between the Department of Natural Resources of **Canada** and the Ministry of Power of the Republic of India concerning Cooperation in the field of Energy.	17.11.2009		17.11.2009
22.	MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Department of Agriculture and Agri-food, Canada on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	13.1.2009		
23.	**Chile** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of **Chile** on Cooperation in Science and Technology.	21.4.2008	27.3.2008	
24.	MoU on Cooperation in the field of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and the National Energy Commission of the Republic of **Chile**	17.3.2009		17.3.2009
25.	**China** The Memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of **China** on organizing the "Festival of India" and the "Festival of China" in the year 2010.	16.4.2009		16.4.2009
26.	**Colombia** MoU between the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Colombia and The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India on Defence Cooperation.	4.2.2009		
27.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Colombia for Promotion and Protection of Investments.	10.11.2009	27.11.2009	
28.	**Congo** Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of India and the Democratic Republic of the **Congo.**	29.10.2009		29.10.2009
29.	**Cape Verde** MoU on Protocol for consultations between MEA of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of **Cape Verde.**	20.10.2009		20.10.2009
30.	MoU between MEA of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of **Cape Verde** for Establishment of IT Centre of Excellence.	20.10.2009		20.10.2009

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
31.	**France** Agreement on Social Security between the Government of the Republic of Government of the **French** Republic**.**	30.9.2008		
32.	**Germany** Agreement between the Republic of India and the Federal Republic of **Germany** on Social Insurance.	8.10.2008	19.3.2009	
33.	**Hong Kong** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the People' s Republic of China Concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	14.9.2009	19.10.2009	
34.	**Italy** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India & the Government of the **Italian Republic** on Defence Co-operation	3.2.2003	27.3.2009	
35.	**Jordan** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Hashemite Kingdom of **Jordan** for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	1.12.2006	26.3.2007	22.1.2009
36.	**Kazakhastan** Memorandum of understanding between Nuclear Power Corporation of India and JS NAC Kazatomprom of **Kazakhstan.**	24.1.2009		24.1.2009
37.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Space Research Organization of the Republic of India and National Space Agency of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** on Cooperation in the field of space activities.	24.1.2009		24.1.2009
38.	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of **Kazakhstan.**	24.1.2009	13.2.2009	
39.	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of **Korea.**	7.8.2009		
40.	**Kuwait** Executive Programme for the cultural and information exchanges between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of **Kuwait** 2009-2011.	7.4.2009		7.4.2009
41.	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of **Kuwait.**	7.4.2009		
42.	Executive Programme for Education and Learning cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of **Kuwait** 2009-2011.	7.4.2009		7.4.2009
43.	**Liberia** Protocol for consultation bet. MEA of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of **Liberia**.	18.9.2009		18.9.2009
44.	**Libya** Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between India and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.	25.5.2007	8.11.2007	25.3.2009

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
45.	**Mali** Protocol for consultations between MEA of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali.	9.10.2009		9.10.2009
46.	Agreement of Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mali.	9.10.2009		9.10.2009
47.	**Mexican States** Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Criminal Matters between India and the **United Mexican States.**	10.9.2007	28.9.2007	17.1.2009
48.	Programme of cooperation between the Government of the Republic to India and the Government of **Mongolia** in the field of culture for the year 2009- 2012.	14.9.2009		14.9.2009
49.	MoU between Departments. of Atomic Energy of the Government of the Republic of India and the Nuclear Energy Agency, Regulatory Agency of the Government of **Mongolia** on cooperation in the field of Peaceful use of Radioactive Minerals and Nuclear Energy.	14.9.2009		14.9.2009
50.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of **Mongolia** on Stabilization Loan Assistance.			
51.	Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health, Government of **Mongolia** on the Cooperation in the field of Health and Medical Science.	14.9.2009		14.9.2009
52.	MoU between the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India and The National Statistical Office of **Mongolia** on Cooperation in Statistical Matter.	14.9.2009		14.9.2009
53.	**Mozambique** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of **Mozambique** for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments.	19.02.2009	18.5.2009	
54.	**Myanmar** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Union of **Myanmar** for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	24.6.2008	1.10.2008	5.2.2009
55.	**Nigeria** MoU between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Standards Organization of **Nigeria.**	4.9.2009		4.9.2009
56.	**Poland** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicine.	24.4.2009		
57.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of **Poland** on Tourism Cooperation.	24.4.2009		24.4.2009

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
58.	**Qatar** Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Qatar.	14.11.2009		
59.	**Romania** Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of **Romania** amending the Agreement between the Government of **Romania** and the Government of the Republic of India on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.	16.2.2009	6.5.2009	
60.	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of **Romania** on the authorization for the gainful occupation for the family members of a member of the diplomatic mission or consular post.			17.9.2009
61.	**Scotland** MoU on India – Scotland Renewable Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Scotland.	14.10.2009		14.10.2009
62.	**Serbia** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Federal Government of the Federal Republic of **Yugoslavia** for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	31.1.2003	5.5.2003	24.2.2009
63.	Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government Republic of **Serbia** on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	3.3.2009		
64.	**Sao Tome and Principe** Protocol for Consultations Between Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign , Cooperation and Communities of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.	1.12.2009		
65.	**Singapore** Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of **Singapore** on Science and Technology Cooperation.	3.8.2009		3.8.2009
66.	**Spain** MoU between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Kingdom of Spain in the field of Renewable Energy.	7.10.2009		
67.	MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine of the Kingdom of Spain in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	23.4.2009		23.4.2009
68.	**Syria** Memorandum of Understanding between the India and **Syria** on cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector.	14.1.2009		

S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
69.	**Sierra Leone** Agreement of Political, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation between the Republic of India and The Government of the Republic of **Sierra Leone.**	13.1.2009		
70.	**Tajikistan** Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and Republic of **Tajikistan.**	14.11.2003	10.6.2005	18.02.2009
71.	**USA** MoU for the collaboration on Solar Energy Research and Development between the Solar Energy Centre, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Republic of India and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, United States Department of Energy.	23.11.2009		23.11.2009
72.	MoU for the collaboration on Wind Energy Research and Development between the Centre of Wind Energy Technology, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Republic of India and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, United States Department of Energy.	23.11.2009		23.11.2009
73.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of **USA** to Establish a Board and an Endowment for Joint Reserch and Development, Innovation, Enterpreneurial and Commercialization Activities in Science and Technology.	20.7.2009		20.7.2009
74.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of **USA** on Technology Safeguards at all facilities under the Jurisdiction and/ or Control of the Government of the Republic of India Associated with the Launch of U.S Licensed Spacecraft.	20.7.2009		20.7.2009
75.	MoU between the Ministry of New and Renewable energy of the Republic of India and The Department of Energy of the **USA** on Cooperation in the Development of Bio Fuels.	3.2.2009		3.2.2009
76.	**Vietnam** Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Recognition of **Vietnam's** Full Market Economy Status.	21.10.2009		

Appendix XI

Instruments of Full Powers Issued during the period 1 January 2009 to December 2009

Sl. No.	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
1.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources Management.	15.1.2009
2.	Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) adopted at Bonn on the twenty sixth day of January in the year two thousand and nine.	20.2.2009
3.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Mozambique for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments.	06.5.2009
4.	The Protocol between the Republic of India and the Republic of Finland for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.	08.7.2009
5.	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea.	14.7.2009
6.	Agreement between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore on Science and Technology Cooperation.	14.7.2009
7.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America to Establish a Board and an Endowment for Joint Research and Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurial and Commercialization Activities in Science and Technology.	15.7.2009
8.	Memorandum of Understanding on Labour Mobility Partnership between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Denmark.	31.7.2009
9.	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of South East Asian Nations: Trade in Goods Agreement along with its annexes; Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism; Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement; and Understanding on Article 4 of the Agreement on Trade in Goods Agreement.	7.8.2009
10.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.	10.8.2009
11.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Recognition of Vietnam‘ s Full Market Economy Status.	10.8.2009
12.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Qatar.	12.11.2009
13.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Colombia for Promotion and Protection of Investments.	9.11.2009
14.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Bamboo Applications and R&D between the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Government of the Republic of Colombia.	9.11.2009
15.	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Colombia for Promotion and Protection of Investments.	10.11.2009
16.	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation	20.10.2009

Appendix XII

Instruments of Ratification/Accession issued during the period 1 January 2009 to December 2009

Sl. No.	Instruments of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification
1.	C-142 Human Resource Development Convention, 1975	19.1.2009
2.	Trilateral Agreement among the Government of the Republic of India, the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of South Africa concerning Merchant Shipping and other Maritime Transport related Matters.	20.01.2009
3.	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan.	13.02.2009
4	Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Romania amending the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of India on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.	6.5.2009
5	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India & the Government of Republic of Chili on cooperation in Science and Technology.	27.3.2009
6	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India & the Government of the Italian Republic on Defence Co-operation.	27.3.2009
7	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Federal Republic of Germany on Social Insurance.	19.3.2009
8	Agreement between the Govt. of Republic of India And the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investment.	26.3.2009
9	Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (the Montreal Convention 1999).	27.4.2009
10	Agreement between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Republic of Mozambique for the Reciprocal Promotion and .Protection of Investments.	18.5.2009
11.	Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Permanent Court of Arbitration(PCA)	22.6.2009
12	Agreement on Social Security between The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic	22.5.2009
13	Agreement between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the People' s Republic of China Concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	19.10.2009
14	Treaty between the Republic of India and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	27.11.2009
15	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Colombia for the Promotion and Protection of Investments	27.11.2009

Appendix XIII

Conference/Seminars/Study projects organized/undertaken by Institutions/NGOs, which were funded, partially or wholly, by Policy Planning & Research Division during the Period

Sl. No.	Event	Institution / Beneficiary
1	Heads of Missions Conference,New Delhi	PP&R Division, M.E.A., New Delhi
2	Research Project on PoK(5 years)	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delh
3	Two-day seminar on "Terrorism of 26/11: Implications for Indian Foreign Policy"	Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Mumbai
4	Three seminars on Nepal, China and Pakistan(1 year)	Asia Centre, Bangalore
5	Seminar on Ragiv Gandhi's Disarmament initiatives: Global and South Asian Context.	Madanjeet Singh University, Pondicherry
6	Celebrations of Nehru's Birthday as "Asian Unity Day"	Association of Asian Union, New Delhi
7	Two-day seminar on "India and Africa : An Emerging Partnership".	Society for Indian Ocean Studies (SIOS), New Delhi
8	One time financial Assistance. of Rs.75,00,000/-	Centre for Indian Studies Beijing University, Beijing
9	Setting up an Institute of Foreign Policy Studies in Calcutta University Campus, Alipur	Kolkatta University, Kolkatta
10	Three-day Seminar on "Fertile Crescent : India and Great Powers"	Centre for West Asian and African Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi
11	Two-day seminar on "New Dimension of Indo-Arab Relations"	Maharaja College, Ernakulam
12	Second China-South Asia forum	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi
13	National Workshop on "Costal Security: Needed a New Look"	Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala
14	Seminar on "India and Asia Pacific: Convergence and Divergence"	Centre for Southeast Asia & Pacific: Studies, Sri Venkateshwar University, Tirupati
15	National Interest Project (20 topics)	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi
16	Financial Assistance for the expenditure incurred onmonthly meetings during 2009	Association of Indian Diplomats (AID), New Delhi

Appendix XIV

List of ITEC Partner Countries

S. No	Countries	S. No	Countries
1	Afghanistan	40	D.R. Congo
2	Albania	41	Djibouti
3	Algeria	42	Dominican Republic
4	Angola	43	East Timor
5	Anguilla	44	Ecuador
6	Antigua and Barbuda	45	Egypt
7	Argentina	46	El-Salvador
8	Armenia	47	Equatorial Guinea
9	Azerbaijan	48	Eritrea
10	Bahamas	49	Estonia
11	Bahrain	50	Ethopia
12	Bangladesh	51	Fiji
13	Barbados	52	Gabon
14	Belarus	53	Gambia
15	Belize	54	Georgia
16	Benin	55	Ghana
17	Bhutan	56	Grenada
18	Bolivia	57	Guatemala
19	Bosnia - Herzegovina	58	Guinea
20	Botswana	59	Guinea Bissau
21	Brazil	60	Guyana
22	Brunei Darussalam	61	Haiti
23	Bulgaria	62	Honduras
24	Burkina Faso	63	Hungary
25	Burundi	64	Indonesia
26	Cambodia	65	Iran
27	Cameroon	66	Iraq
28	Cape Verde Island	67	Ivory Coast
29	Cayman Island	68	Jamaica
30	Central African Republic	69	Jordan
31	Chad	70	Kazakhstan
32	Chile	71	Kenya
33	Colombia	72	Kiribati
34	Commonwealth of Dominica	73	Korea(DPRK)
35	Comoros	74	Kyrgyzstan
36	Costa Rica	75	Laos
37	Croatia	76	Latvia
38	Cuba	77	Lebanon
39	Czech Republic	78	Lesotho

Appendix XIV

S. No	Countries	S. No	Countries
79	Liberia	119	Russia
80	Libya	120	Rwanda
81	Lithuania	121	Samoa
82	Macedonia	122	Senegal
83	Madagascar	123	Serbia
84	Malawi	124	Seychelles
85	Malaysia	125	Sierra Leone
86	Maldives	126	Singapore
87	Mali	127	Slovak Republic
88	Marshall Islands	128	Solomon Island
89	Mauritania	129	South Africa
90	Mauritius	130	Sri Lanka
91	Mexico	131	St. Kitts & Nevis
92	Micronesia	132	St. Lucia
93	Moldova	133	St. Vincent & Grenadines
94	Mongolia	134	Sudan
95	Montenegro	135	Suriname
96	Montserrat	136	Swaziland
97	Morocco	137	Syria
98	Mozambique	138	Tajikistan
99	Myanmar	139	Tanzania
100	Namibia	140	Thailand
101	Nauru	141	Togo
102	Nepal	142	Tonga
103	Nicaragua	143	Trinidad & Tabago
104	Niger	144	Tunisia
105	Nigeria	145	Turkey
106	Oman	146	Turkmenistan
107	Palau	147	Turks & Caicos Island
108	Palestine	148	Tuvalu
109	Panama	149	Uganda
110	Papua New Guinea	150	Ukraine
111	Paraguay	151	Uruguay
112	Peru	152	Uzbekistan
113	Philippines	153	Vanuatu
114	Poland	154	Venezuela
115	Qatar	155	Vietnam
116	Republic of Congo	156	Yemen
117	Republic Of Sao Tome	157	Zambia
118	Romania	158	Zimbabwe

Appendix XV

List of Empanelled ITEC Training Institutes

S.No.	Name of Institute	City
1.	Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	New Delhi
2.	Institute of Government Accounts and Finance	New Delhi
3.	International Center for Information and System Audit	Noida
4.	National Crime Records Bureau	New Delhi
5.	National Institute of Training for Standardization (Bureau of Indian Standards)	Noida
6.	Aptech Limited - New Delhi	
7.	Centre For Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali
8.	Centre For Development of Advanced Computing	Noida
9.	Centre For Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management	Mumbai
10.	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
11.	NIIT Ltd.	New Delhi
12.	UTL Technologies Ltd.	Bengaluru
13.	Administrative Staff College of India	Hyderabad
14.	Institute of Applied Manpower Research	Delhi
15.	IIM	Ahmedabad
16.	International Management Institute	New Delhi
17.	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Ahmedabad
18.	National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development	Noida
19.	National Institute of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises	Hyderabad
20.	National Institute of Rural Development	Hyderabad
21.	The English and Foreign Languages University	Hyderabad
22.	Human Settlement Management Institute	New Delhi
23.	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	New Delhi
24.	International Statistical Education Centre	Kolkata
25.	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
26.	National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research	Chennai
27.	National University of Educational Planning and Administration	New Delhi
28.	Research and Information System for Developing Countries	New Delhi
29.	V.V. Giri National Labour Institute	Noida
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.	Indian Institute of Production Management	Orissa
36.	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing	Dehradun
37.	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee
38.	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research	Punjab
39.	RITES (Courses for Railway Personnel only)	Gurgaon
40.	South India Textile Research Association	Coimbatore
41.	The Barefoot College	Tilonia, Rajasthan
42.	TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute)	New Delhi

Appendix XVI

Seminars/Conferences/Lectures/Meetings: April 2009 - March 2010

No.	Date	Event
Following events already held from April 2009 to January 2010		
Lectures		
1.	29 July 2009	Lecture on "Vision of Indo-Maldives Relationship in the context of Democratization in Maldives" by Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives
2.	4 Sept. 2009	Lecture by Prof. V.P. Dutt on "India and China: The Past and the Future"Chaired by: Shri Shivshankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary
3.	6 Nov. 2009	Talk on "Political Transition in Nepal" by Shri Jhala Nath Khanal, Chairman, Communist Party of Nepal, (UML)
4.	11 Nov. 2009 at 1600 hrs.	Lecture by Dr. Jaime Bermudez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia on "Colombia and its International Perspective" Presided over by:Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs
5.	12 Nov. 2009 at 1500 hrs	Major Address on *Strategic Affairs* byMr.Kevin Rudd, MP, and Prime Minister of Australia Presided over by:Dr. M.S. Gill, Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports [in collaboration with the Australian High Commission in New Delhi]
6.	17 Nov. 2009 at 1100 hrs.	Lecture by Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran
7.	8 January 2010 at 4.30 p.m.	'Annual Lecture' of the AID on "India's Place in the World" by Prof. Lord Bhikhu Parekh.Chief Guest: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs
Seminars		
1.	9-10 April 2009	National Seminar on "Regional Security in South Asia" [in collaboration with the Department of Geopolitics of Manipal University] [Seminar at Manipal University]
2.	5 June 2009	Seminar on "Nepal"
3.	12 June 2009	Seminar on "Sri Lanka"
4.	13 July 2009	Seminar on "President Obama's New West Asian Policy: Prospects and Challenges"
5.	17 July 2009	Seminar on "Nepal Today & Nepal-India Relations"
6.	25 July 2009	Seminar on the "Geo-Political Contest in Afghanistan and its Impact on India's interest"Organized by ICWA and Asia Centre, Bengaluru. (Seminar in Bangalore)
7.	31 July 2009	Seminar on 'Indonesia Today: Post Elections Reassessment of Democracy, Military and Islam'Main Speaker: Mr. Bambang Harymurti, Chief Editor, TEMPO Magazine from Jakarta
8.	12 August 2009	Seminar on "Socio-cultural transformation: Future of Culture in Changing Societies" in Male (Maldives) As part of events during the India-Maldives Friendship Week in Male (Seminar in Male, Maldives)
9.	25 August 2009	Seminar on "Iran-GCC Relations: Understanding Current Dynamics"
10.	8 Sept. 2009	Seminar on 'Climate Change'Chairman: Shri Shyam Saran, Special Envoy of PMSpeaker: Shri Raj Chengappa, CEO, India Today
11.	29 October 2009	One-Day National Seminar on "India and its Neighbourhood: Changing Trajectories of Relations" in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad (Seminar in Hyderabad)
12.	21-23 Nov. 2009	International Conference: Asian Relations Conference Series on *'Emerging China: Prospects for Partnerships in Asia'Inaugural Address by*:Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India*Valedictory Address by*: Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs [in association with the Association of Asia Scholars (AAS), New Delhi (In commemoration of ICWA Foundation Day)]
13.	3 Dec., 2009	Joint Conference with Azerbaijan on "India-Azerbaijan Cooperation: Prospects and Challenges" (on the Occasion of Azerbaijan's National Day Anniversary; in association with the Azerbaijan Mission in New Delhi)The Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and the Azeri Ambassador in India participated

Appendix XVI

No.	Date	Event
14.	7-9 Dec. 2009	India-China-Russia Trilateral Seminar organised by Institute of Chinese Studies at ICWA. Dinner on 7th December 2009 was hosted by Director General, ICWA
15.	19 Dec. 2009	One-Day International Seminar on "India's Effective Look East Policy" in collaboration with the Society for Indian Ocean Studies(SIOS), Calcutta Chapter and Centre for South & Southeast Asian Studies, Calcutta University Venue: Kolkata
Bilateral Dialogues		
1.	20 April 2009	Interactive Session with African Editors
2.	8 June 2009	Interaction with Sri Lankan Editors
3.	11August 2009	Interaction in ICWA with Editors from Bangladesh
4.	16 Sept. 2009	An Interaction with the Indonesian Members of Parliament
5.	18 Sept. 2009 (IIC)	Discussion with Latin American and Caribbean HoMs on cooperation between ICWA and its counterpart Institutions in their countries followed by Lunch at IIC
6.	8-9 Oct. 2009	India-EU Forum on "Effective Multilateralism"Keynote Address by: Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs [in collaboration with the European Union Institute for Security Studies(EUISS) & Delegation of the European Commission]
7.	12-13 Nov 2009	ICWA' Second India-Australia Roundtable with the Lowy Institute, Australia
8.	8-12 Dec. 09	India-Russia DialogueA six member delegation led by Ambassador S.J.S. Chhatwal visited Moscow for the ICWA-MGIMO Annual dialogue[In collaboration with Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)]Venue: Moscow]
9.	14 Dec. 2009	Interaction with a delegation of Senior Journalists (Editors and Correspondents) from Nepal
10.	24 Dec. 2009	Interaction with Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of ThailandChaired by: Ambassador A.N. Ram
11.	29 Dec. 2009	Interaction with Prof. Dr. Amitav Acharya, Professor, South-East Asian and East Asian Studies, American University, School of International Service, Washington D.C. & Ten Students from the School of International Service, American University, Washington DC, USAChaired by: Ambassador Ronen Sen, former Ambassador of India to the United States of America
12.	19 Jan. 2010	Interaction with Senior Editors/Journalists from China Chair: Ambassador K. Raghunath, former Foreign Secretary of India.
13.	27-29 Jan. 2010	India-Malaysia Strategic Dialogue with Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), MalaysiaVenue: Kuala Lumpur
Panel Discussions/Background Briefings		
1.	30 April 2009	In-house discussion on "Regional Security Environment – A Five Year Perspective" by the Association of Indian Diplomats in partnership with ICWA
2.	2 Dec. 2009	Function to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian peopleChief Guest:Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs
3.	5-7 Jan. 2010	Meeting of the Joint Research Project on India-GCC Relations in collaboration with the Gulf Research Centre (GRC) of Dubai being coordinated between the GRC in UAE, the Public Diplomacy (PD) Division, MEA, and the ICWA [Coordinated with Ambassador Shri Ranjit Gupta]
Book Release etc.		
1.	19 June 2009	Release of the Book: "Democracy, Nation Building and Peace in South Asia: Challenges and Prospects" [Edited by Prof. Nalini Kant Jha, Rajiv Gandhi Chair Professor in Contemporary Studies at Allahabad Central University, Allahabad] by Prof. Bimal Prasad, Chairman, National Gandhi Museum and Honorary Director, Rajendra Prasad Academy
2.	21 Dec. 2009	Discussion on the book: "A New Energy Frontier: The Bay of Bengal Region" [Edited by Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare, Director General, ICWA] Chair: Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar, Chairman, Finance Commission of India

Appendix XVI

No.	Date	Event
Activities Planned (February-March 2010)		
1.	4 Feb. 2010	Lecture by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, H.E. Dr. Danilo Türk on "Peace, stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans"
2.	6 February 2010	Joint Seminar in collaboration with Asia Centre Bangalore on "Recent Developments in Bangladesh and India's Security Challenges" Venue: Bengaluru
3.	11 February 2010	Address by the Cuban Ambassador in New Delhi in connection with the 50th Anniversary of India-Cuba Relations
4.	February 2010 (Middle)	Seminar by Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) at the ICWA
5.	Jan.-Feb., 2010	To revive 'Africa Centre' at ICWAA brain-storming meeting to plan Africa related activities
6.	February 2010	Seminar with Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies(CASS), Pune UniversityVenue: PuneWe are in discussion with CASS & the date & precise topic will be decided later in December.
7.	Late Feb. 2010	Seminar on India' Nuclear Policy[Dates yet to be finalized]
8.	Late Feb.-early Mar. 2010	Conference on Afghanistan in N. Delhi [A delegation of Afghan MPs expected to participate in the Conference being tied up in consultation with E/I Kabul]
9.	Feb.-March 2010	Seminar in collaboration with the Kerala International CentreVenue: Thiruvananthapuram
10.	Feb.-March 2010	Seminar with the Institute for Asian Studies, Hyderabad
11.	March 2010	Visit of ICWA Delegation to Sikkim for preliminary discussions at the Sikkim University with North-east academics & scholars on the proposed conference "India's engagement with Asia Pacific and the North-East" and finalization of the same for mid 2010, including the venue (Shillong or Guwahati). [The visit to Sikkim will be held in March 2010]
12.	25-26 March 2010	Foresight Group London: International Seminar on Globalization (TBC)The Alfred Herrhausen Society (a forum of Deutsche Bank) and Policy Network', a think-tank in London have proposed a conference on 'India's role in a Multi-polar world' to be held in Delhi during 25-26 March, 2010. Policy Network will organize and pay for the visit of 40-50 scholars & policy-makers from a number of countries. About 75-100 Indian participants from various Indian Cities will also participate.
13.	March-April 2010	Conference of the Commonwealth Journalists Association (South Asia Chapter) Venue: ICWA, New Delhi
14.		Proposal for EAM's Address at ICWA on a date convenient to EAM
15.		Talk by Ambassador Shri Aloke Sen on 'India-Myanmar Relations'Venue: ICWA, New Delhi
16.		Lecture by Shri B.P. Singh, Hon'ble Governor of SikkimVenue: ICWA, New Delhi
17.		Signing of MoU with the Strategic Research Centre of Turkey (SRCT) – to be signed with Ambassador of Turkey in Delhi
18.	Early 2010	ICWA Delegation to Turkey for Dialogue with the Strategic Research Centre of Turkey (SRCT)Dates for such visit will be considered after signing a MoU with SRCT.
19.	Early 2010	ICWA Delegation to Nigeria for Dialogue with the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs.Dates to be finalized in coordination with our High Commissioner in Nigeria
20.	1st quarter 2010	ICWA - ISEAS Singapore Dialogue.On developing cooperation in research, publication etc. A MoU is proposed to be signed early next year. The Nalanda- Sriwijaya project undertaken by several organizations, including ISEAS could be an appropriate subject to be associated with ISEAS.

Appendix XVII

Seminars Organized by RIS

RIS Publications

Policy Briefs

#44 Agro-industry as the 'Mahayana' of International Cooperation: A World Waiting to be Born, January 2010.

#43 Regional Keynesianism: An Urgent Need of the Hour and Its Relevance for India Today, September 2009.

#42 IPR, R&D Capability and Health Care: Key Issues before India, June 2009.

#41 Financial Crisis, Global Economic Governance and Development: Responses of Asia and the Global South, February 2009.

Discussion Papers

#146 Livestock Industrialization, Trade and Social-Health-Environment Impacts in Developing Countries: A Case of Indian Poultry Sectors by Rajesh Mehta, Clare A. Narrod and Marites M. Tiongco.

#147 India's Role in East Asia: Lessons from Cultural and Historical Linkages by Ellen L. Frost.

#148 India's Outward Foreign Direct Investments in Steel Industry in a Chinese Comparative Perspective by Nagesh Kumar and Alka Chadha.

#149 Eradicating Poverty in India: Lessons from Experiments in Empowerment by Beena Pandey.

#150 Policies for Industrial Learning in China and Mexico by Kevin P. Gallagher and M. Shafaeddin.

#151 Who Uses the Patent System in Developing Countries? A Study of Patent Propensities in Argentina, 1992-2001 by Andres Lopez and Eugenia Orlicki.

#152 The Limited Promise of Agricultural Trade Liberalization by Timothy A. Wise.

#153 Climate Change, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Rights by K. Ravi Srinivas.

#154 Trade Facilitation, Information Technology and SMEs: Emerging Evidences from India by Sachin Chaturvedi.

#155 Addressing the Defaults of Globalization by Jan Pronk.

#156 The European Union's Proposed Carbon Equalization System: Can It be WTO Compatible? by Biswajit Dhar and Kasturi Das.

#157 Regional Economic Integration in South Asia: Prospects and Challenges by Ram Upendra Das.

#158 On Managing Risks Facing the Indian Economy: Towards a Better Balance between Public and Private Sector by Ramgopal Agarwala.

#159 India's Trade in Drugs and Pharmaceuticals: Emerging Trends, Opportunities and Challenges by Reji K Joseph.

#160 Regional Cooperation for Regional Infrastructure Development: Challenges and Policy Options for South Asia by Prabir De

Periodicals

1. *South Asia Economic Journal* (Vol. 10 No. 1) January-June 2009.
2. *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 11(3), July 2009.
3. *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 11(2), March 2009.
4. *New Asia Monitor*, Vol. 6 No. 3, July 2009.
5. *New Asia Monitor*, Vol. 6 Nos. 1 & 2 April 2009
6. *Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief,* No.4, March 2009.

Newsletter

RIS Diary, Vol. 7, Nos. 1& 2, April 2009

Abbreviations

AALCO	Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation
AMM	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASEM	Asia Europe Meeting
ASSO-CHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry
AU	African Union
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CCIT	Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement
CEP	Cultural Exchange Programme
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet
CIC	Central Information Commission
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CORPAT	Coordinated Patrol
COSC	Chiefs of Staff Committee
CPIO	Central Public Information Officer
CPV	Consular Passport and Visa
CRRID	Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development
CSCAP	Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific
CSD	Comprehensive Security Dialogue
DIPP	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
DSSC	Defence Services Staff College
DTAC	Double Taxation Avoidance Convention
EAC	East African Community
EAS	East Asia Summit
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EIL	Engineers India Limited
EMM	East Asia Energy Ministers Meeting
EU	European Union
EXIM	Export Import Bank of India
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FIPB	Foreign Investment Promotion Board
FOC	Foreign Office Consultations
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GAIL	Gas Authority of India Limited
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GST	Goods and Service Tax
HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus / Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IATT	Inter Agency Task Team
IBF	India Business Forum
IBEF	India Brand Equity Forum
ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
IDSA	Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
IFS	Indian Foreign Service
IIBF	Indian Institute of Banking and Finance
IIFC	India International Film Convention
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology

Abbreviations

ILO	International Labour Organisation
INS	Indian Navy Ship
INSTC	International North-South Transport Corridor
INTOSAI	International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IONS	Institute of Noetic Sciences
IOR-ARC	Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation
ISCS	Inter-State Council Secretariat
ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation
JWG	Joint Working Group
LNG	Liquified Natural Gas
MECON	Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants Limited
MERC-OSUR	Market of Southern Cone Countries
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NAFED	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NASSCOM	National Association of Software and Service Companies
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NELP	New Exploration Licensing Policy
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NIC	National Information Centre
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
NSC	National Security Council
NSG	Nuclear Suppliers Group
OCI	Overseas Citizenship of India
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
PDIL	Projects and Developments India Ltd.
PHARM-EXIL	Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India
PIO	Persons of Indian Origin
RBI	Reserve of Bank of India
RITES	Rail India Technical Economic Service
RTI	Right to Information
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFTA	South Asia Free Trade Agreement
SBI	State Bank of India
SCAAP	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
STPI	Software Technology Parks of India
TEAM-9	Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement
TEKES	Teknologian Kehittamiskeskus
TERI	Tata Energy and Research Institute
UNCTAD	United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UPA	United Progressive Alliance
VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
WTO	World Trade Organisation