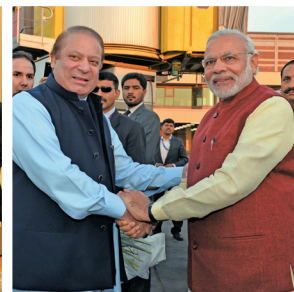


DIPLOMACY FOR DEVELOPMENT

From Aspirations to Achievements





Diplomacy for Development

2015: The Year in Review

Path-breaking, Proactive, Pragmatic – these three Ps encapsulate the development-centric diplomatic initiatives and outreach of the Government of India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.

It was a year marked by out-of-box thinking, boldness of vision and energetic execution, which has reignited the 'India Story.' In the process, India proved itself to be a major player in shaping evolving debates across issues, ranging from global governance reforms and climate change to trans-national terrorism and cyber security.

The neighbourhood continued to be the primary focus of attention. Transformational diplomacy acquired a new resonance as



India and Bangladesh signed a historic land boundary agreement, ushering in a new life of hope and dignity for around 51,000 people living in 162 enclaves across both countries. A time-tested friend, India rushed to assist Nepal after a devastating earthquake. The Afghan President came calling, while relations with Sri Lanka received a new impetus. Underlining its commitment to regional peace, India resumed the dialogue process with Pakistan, but kept the focus firmly on addressing issues relating to terror.

2015 was a milestone in Indian diplomacy



in reinvigorating India's ties with all P5 powers, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the US, China, France, Britain and Russia, paving the way for a marked acceleration of multi-faceted relations with all these countries. It was also a year in which India's multi-hued engagement with crucial regions of the world, including Africa, West Asia, Central Asia, South-East Asia and Pacific Island States acquired a new vitality and a long-term vision, opening new vistas for mutually empowering cooperation. The third India-Africa Forum Summit rejuvenated old historical and cultural ties between the two growth poles of the world and placed this special partnership at the heart of an evolving

world order. Relationships with multilateral groupings such as BRICS, SCO, G-20 and Commonwealth were strengthened, with growing global support for UN reform and remapping the global governance architecture. The year also saw India celebrating and bolstering its connections with the 25-million strong Indian diaspora spread across hemispheres, through a host of new initiatives.

DOVETAILING DIPLOMACY & DEVELOPMENT

Through the year, India's diplomatic thrusts spanned far and wide, but what made 2015 a milestone year in India's foreign policy was an intimate dovetailing of diplomacy with development and national resurgence. Insofar as foreign policy aims to create a congenial environment for domestic growth and prosperity, the list of achievements in 2015 is significant.

Moving beyond the photo-ops, visits and declarations, it was a year of action-oriented diplomacy and concrete outcomes that will visibly transform people's lives and elevate India's global standing to new heights. On



the economic front, the sentiments for private investment have turned positive, with FDI inflows going up by 40% in this year alone.

India's growth story got a ringing endorsement from the world's leading financial institutions. The country has been ranked as the most attractive investment destination by Ernst & Young and emerged as number one in a ranking of the top Greenfield investment destinations. India has improved its UNCTAD ranking of investment attractiveness from 15th to 9th, and jumped 16 places on the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness index. Projecting the changes underway in India abroad has been a key focus of our diplomacy.

The transformation of India's image as a narrative of opportunity has nourished the



larger project of national flowering. Much of India's foreign policy has been driven by the need to translate possibilities into real achievements and harness partnerships into benefits for key initiatives of national renewal like Make in India, Skill India, Digital India and Clean India. By opening India's doors to foreign expertise and leveraging multiple partnerships for common benefit, Indian diplomacy seeks to take the goal of foreign policy for domestic transformation for the common man further than ever before. This booklet showcases and celebrates defining outcomes in the arena of India's foreign policy and their direct impact on the country's ongoing resurgence.



INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT

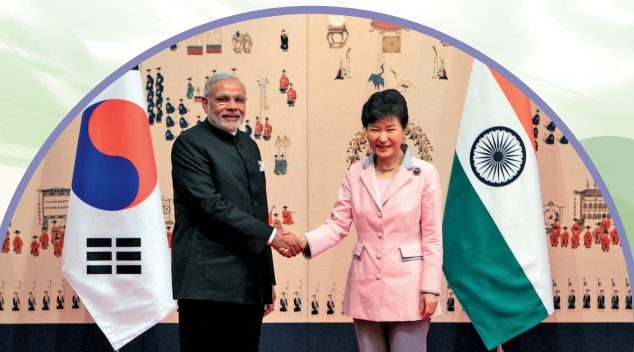
Transforming People's Lives

Creating world-class infrastructure and transforming India's urban landscape underpinned India's development-centric diplomacy in 2015. If diplomacy is about harnessing external relationships for visible transformation of people's lives through better infrastructure, upgraded public transport system and smart & sustainable cities, then the year saw generous pledges of support from India's friends and partners.

Building on ambitious commitments by India's key partners in the first few months of the NDA government in 2014, 2015 saw economic diplomacy acquire a new force, dynamism and purpose. Major countries like US, Japan, China, Britain, Germany and Singapore underlined their optimism in the India Growth Story by unveiling new investment plans and mechanisms to partner India's ongoing economic renaissance. This globally connected web of prosperity is set to enlarge in days to come, with a fresh infusion of funds, ideas and initiatives.



Agreement between India and Japan for building India's first bullet train project. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail link is expected to cut the travel time from seven to two hours.



- ▶ Launch of India-US Infrastructure Collaboration Platform to promote enhanced market access and financing.
- ▶ Launch of UAE-India Infrastructure Investment Fund, with the target of USD 75 billion to support investment in India's plans for rapid expansion of next generation infrastructure.
- ▶ India-UK Partnership Fund under the umbrella of India's National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF).
- ▶ Joint plan to develop Japan Industrial Townships in India to attract greater Japanese investments.
- ▶ Japan to provide ODA loans for the improvement of road network connectivity in northeastern states of India, the peripheral ring road surrounding Bengaluru, and horticulture irrigation in Jharkhand.
- ▶ 2 billion Euros credit line from French Agency for Development (AFD).



SMART CITIES: Transforming India's Urban Landscape

- ▶ Signing of MOUs between India and US to develop Visakhapatnam, Allahabad, and Ajmer as Smart Cities.
- ▶ France commits to invest over 2 billion Euros for Smart City projects in India with special focus on Chandigarh, Nagpur and Puducherry.
- ▶ Germany partners India in developing three smart cities: 6-member joint committee set up
- ▶ GIFT City in India and Shenzhen in China identified as pilot smart cities.
- ▶ Setting up of sister-city relations between Chennai and Chongqing, Hyderabad and Qingdao and Aurangabad and Dunhuang.
- ▶ Germany is providing 200 million Euros in reduced interest loans for energy efficient residential housing.
- ▶ Germany is providing 120 million Euros as reduced interest loans in the field of climate friendly urban mobility in Indian cities.
- ▶ Unveiling of three UK-India city partnerships with Indore, Pune and Amaravati.
- ▶ Malaysia to assist in setting up of a world class convention centre in India.
- ▶ Singapore contributes to the Master Plan for the new Capital City of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.
- ▶ South Australia announces sister state agreement with Rajasthan.

RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT:

On Fast-Track

- ▶ First ever government-backed rupee bond to be launched in London for financing railway infrastructure in India.
- ▶ France to fund the second phase of Bangalore and Kochi Metro projects and Nagpur Metro project.
- ▶ India, China enhance railway sector cooperation with projects on speed raising on the existing Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysore line and setting up of a railway university.
- ▶ The first-ever India-US Transportation Partnership to advance safe, secure, efficient and integrated transportation systems.



Launch of the survey by Japan for Ganga rejuvenation, targeting Varanasi and neighbouring cities.

Germany offers technology and expertise for Ganga River rejuvenation strategies, providing Euros 120 million for environment friendly urban development to Ganga states.

Launch of a new Thames/Ganga partnership for healthy river systems.

- ▶ Germany to provide loan of Euros 500 mn each for Nagpur Metro Rail Project and Bengaluru Metro Project.
- ▶ ALSTOM, French multinational company, to build an electric locomotive plant in Madhepura, Bihar, for manufacturing 800 locomotives to the tune of 3.2 billion Euros.
- ▶ Launch of BHARAT Fund in San Jose, California, to encourage startups to invest in India.
- ▶ Signing of 17 agreements between Indian and German companies, encompassing diverse areas ranging from renewable energy and skill development to manufacturing and civil aviation.

- ▶ Stage set for launch of an India-US Innovation Forum in 2016.
- ▶ Signing of a Framework Agreement to establish an integrated PhotoVoltaic Industrial Park in

INVESTMENT: WEAVING A WEB OF PROSPERITY

**\$22
BILLION**

Total value of MoUs signed between Indian and Chinese companies. Proposed investments span renewable energy, power infrastructure, steel as well as small and medium industries.

Pledge by South Korea in infrastructure, comprising Economic Development Cooperation Fund (\$1 billion) and export credits (\$9 billion) for priority sectors, including smart cities, railways, power generation and transmission.

**\$10
BILLION**

**£9.2
BILLION**

Value of private sector deals between Indian and British companies, including £1.3 billion pound investment by Vodafone.

Commitment by German auto engineering giant Bosch to invest in India. Setting up of three new manufacturing plants by Bosch in India.

**£100
MILLION**



Mundra SEZ, and to explore investments in gas power generation and natural gas industry between Adani group and Golden Concord Holdings Ltd.

- ▶ Enhanced India-South Korea cooperation in the steel sector and shipbuilding, including the construction of Indian vessels such as LNG carriers.
- ▶ Enhancement of integration with regional value chains and production networks with entry into force of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area in July 2015 (covering services and investments, in addition to goods.)





CONNECTIVITY

Linking India and the World

India's civilizational ethos of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' (the world is one family) found reflection in the government's focus on promoting connectivity and enhancing the arc of regional prosperity. The launch of new direct flights linking cities across continents and bus services with neighbouring countries are set to boost people-to-people contacts, tourism and spur business linkages with India. India's pledge of \$1 billion Line of Credit to ASEAN for supporting connectivity projects showcased our commitment to transformative regional integration.

- ▶ Pact between India and Bangladesh on the use of Chittagong and Mongla Ports.



- ▶ Trial run of Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati Bus Service completed.
- ▶ Launch of Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service.
- ▶ Trial run of the Bangladesh-India-Bhutan bus service completed.
- ▶ Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) for easier movement of vehicles within the region and enhanced sub-regional connectivity.
- ▶ \$1 billion Line of Credit committed by India to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN.
- ▶ Fast-tracking of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) linking India, Iran and Central Asia through the ship-rail-road route.
- ▶ Inter-governmental pact signed to enable India to build Chabahar port in Iran.



Fast-tracking of the construction of the trilateral highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand to be completed by 2018.



DIGITAL INDIA Catalyst of Change

Blending technology and innovation to drive digital economy, foster transparent governance and connect people across India is a key driver of India's diplomatic thrusts. This focus on digital connectivity was epitomized in PM Modi's interaction with tech titans at Silicon Valley, the breeding ground of innovation and entrepreneurship, in September. The revolutionary use of internet to promote inclusion and empower every citizen with access to digital services, knowledge and information figured prominently in interactions with the US, Germany, Britain, Japan and Malaysia. The response from our partners was constructive, creative and tangible.

- ❖ Microsoft unveils plans of cloud computing from data centers in India.
- ❖ Qualcomm unveils plan to set up \$150 million



fund to promote start-ups and foster digital connectivity in India.

- ❖ Google to collaborate with Indian Railways (RailTel) to provide free Wi-Fi services at 500 stations by 2016. Google will provide high speed Internet services at 100 railway stations in India initially and then expand it by 400 more by next year.
- ❖ To enhance rural connectivity, Google to explore applications of Project Loon in areas like long distance education, rural schools and telemedicine.
- ❖ Google to provide Knowledge Panels app in all Indian languages.
- ❖ Japan to set up a new mechanism, "Japan-India IoT Investment Initiative," to promote investment in Internet of Things (IoT)-related areas.
- ❖ India and Germany to explore new collaboration under the 'Digital India' initiative, which includes building business collaborations through innovation in the area of Industry 4.0 and the 'Internet of Things'.
- ❖ Enhanced cooperation with South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore and UK on Digital India initiatives.



“We have to create opportunities of employment. If the poor have jobs, the purchasing power of families will increase. We have to increase manufacturing and at the same time ensure that the benefits reach the youth of our nation”
- *Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, India*



MAKE IN INDIA

Igniting National Resurgence

Making India into a manufacturing powerhouse and indigenizing the defence-industrial base became reigning motifs of India's intersecting international engagements. The Make in India anthem fired global imagination, with friends and

partners unveiling concrete plans and initiatives to fructify PM Modi's vision of national resurgence. Co-development and co-manufacturing are set to define India's ascent in years to come.



Launch of \$12 billion "Japan-India Make-in-India Special Finance Facility" (up to 1.5 trillion Yen).

Unveiling of joint venture by Boeing in India to produce aero structures for the AH-64 Apache helicopter and to compete for additional manufacturing work packages across Boeing platforms.

Lockheed Martin to engage in joint development and production in the aerospace sector in India.

Maruti will manufacture cars in India and export them to Japan.

Signing of MOU between L&T and France's AREVA to increase indigenisation of the Jaitapur project and facilitate transfer of technology.

France's aerospace giant Airbus to set up assembly lines, supply chains and related infrastructure for military transport aircraft and helicopters in India.



❖ **Signing of an agreement between India and Russia on joint production of the Ka 226 helicopters in India.**

❖ Unveiling of \$1.3 billion (INR

13,000 crore) investment by Vodafone to support "Digital India" and "Make in India".

❖ **Collaboration between India's Department of**

Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and Germany's Fraunhofer Society in the field of manufacturing.

❖ TATA and AIRBUS signed an

agreement for joint manufacture of C-295 transporter aircraft.

❖ **Mahindra and AIRBUS signed preliminary agreement for joint manufacture**

of helicopters in India.

❖ ABB announces plan to make India its manufacturing and export hub for Asia and Africa.



SKILL INDIA

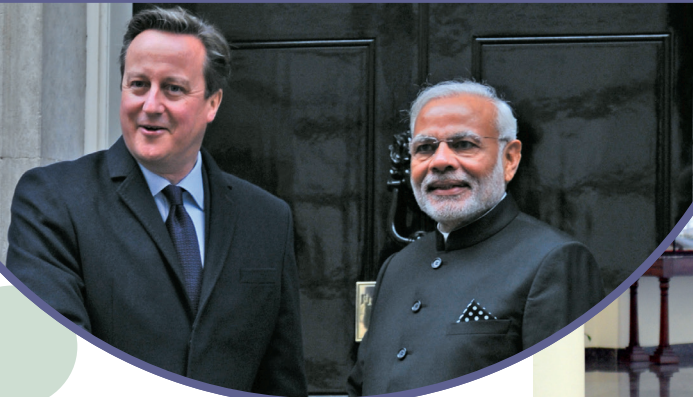
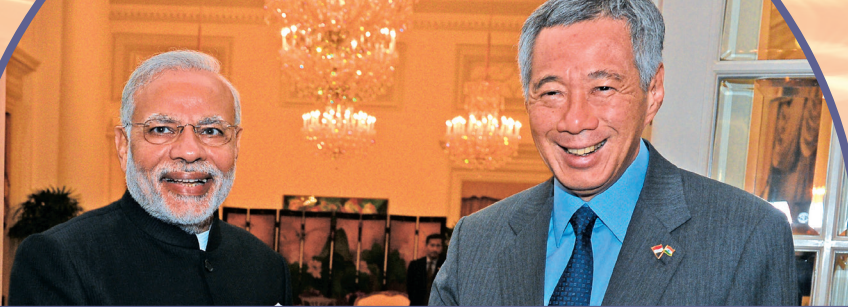
Empowering Youth, New Opportunities

It's a game-changer for spurring India's resurgence. With the overarching objective of imparting skills training to 400 million people over the next decade, India's foreign policy outreach sought to leverage the country's major strategic partners to translate this dream into reality. Initiatives unveiled by US, Germany, Britain, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia, among others, will reinforce the Indian government's multifarious efforts to empower and enrich the country's youth with requisite skills to excel in the 21st century world.

- Collaboration between the National Skill Development Council of India and 13 premier institutions of Canada across a wide spectrum of sectors.
- US to devise new programmes to build capacity for curriculum and teacher development in India.
- Japan to provide Training at Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs), skills development for managers, curriculum development and the Skills Evaluation System Promotion Program. In the next five years, 10,000 young Indian talents will be visiting Japan for Skill Development.

- Germany to support policy reforms in the apprenticeship system, including dual system pilot projects in selected industry clusters.
- Assistance by Germany in curriculum development and VET training as well as in helping India establish a National Institute for Skill Development for Higher Learning.
- German Agribusiness Alliance and Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) to collaborate in agricultural studies.
- UK to set up "Centres of Excellence" in key





sectors, starting with a Centre for Automotive and Advanced Engineering in Pune; 11 UK companies have committed to support skill development in India.

- ▶ UK to send 100 academics to India's GIAN programme.
- ▶ Launch of "Skills for Life" initiative by HSBC in India - a £10 million programme to skill 75,000 disadvantaged young people and children over 5 years.
- ▶ Two skill development training institutes being set in India through private Swiss initiatives.
- ▶ Singapore to establish a Skill Centre in the Northeast through train-the-trainer and consultancy projects.
- ▶ Upgradation by Singapore of selected Industrial

Training Institute (ITI) Centres in India, including in New Delhi and Rajasthan, which serve as models for other skills centres in India.

- ▶ China to assist in setting up of a National Skill Development Institute in Gandhinagar.

13th ASEAN-India Summit

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 21 November 2015



REMAPPING GLOBAL ORDER India Rising

India's global stature was in the ascendant in 2015, with the year witnessing the country's robust engagement in the world's leading multilateral fora, including UN, BRICS, SCO, ASEAN, EAS, G20, NAM and RIC trilateral. In a triumph of India's relentless drive for UNSC reform, the UNGA approved the launch of the text-based negotiations for reform and expansion of the UN Security Council. Given its growing economy and rising global stature, India was seen as a major player in shaping the evolving debates on an entire spectrum of cross-cutting issues, ranging from global governance reforms, climate change and multilateral trade negotiations to trans-national terrorism, piracy and cyber security.

- Declaration of support by a large number of countries for India's candidacy of a permanent seat in an expanded UNSC; UNGA adopts by consensus decision to commence text-based negotiations on Security Council Reform.
- India to increase its contributions to UN peacekeeping through a slew of steps,

including additional battalion of up to 850 troops in existing or new operations, additional three Police units with higher representation of female peacekeepers, and a new training course at the Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK), New Delhi dedicated for Training of Trainers.

- Widespread support for India-backed proposal for adopting the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by UNGA.
- Global appreciation for India's key role in the final COP21 climate agreement. Upholding



VII BRICS Summit Russia Ufa 2015



climate justice, the climate pact incorporates India's proposals for climate finance, technology transfer and the differentiation principle.

- Unveiling of 10-point plan by PM Modi at the BRICS summit in Ufa to bolster intra-BRICS cooperation.

- Operationalization of two key India-backed initiatives at BRICS, including the \$50 billion New Development Bank (NDB) and \$100 billion Contingent Reserve Agreement (CRA).
- Elevation of India from an observer to a full-time member in the SCO summit in Ufa in July.
- Clear recognition of India as a key player in the Asia-Pacific, positive articulations of support by key countries for India's candidature for APEC.
- India plays a key role in the revision of the High Risk Area by the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) from 78 Degrees East to 65 Degrees East from December 2015.
- Declaration of support by major powers for India's membership of global export control regimes, including Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Nuclear Suppliers Group, Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement.



DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Making India Safe



Protecting India from proliferating security threats, including the scourge of terrorism, and modernizing India's defence infrastructure animated New Delhi's burgeoning partnerships with other countries. Acquisition of cutting-edge weapon systems, weaving technology transfer into defence deals, intensifying

cyber security cooperation and the of a series of strategic-security dialogues with key power centres were central thrusts of India's foreign policy, which dovetailed economic prosperity with peace and stability in India and the world beyond. Maritime security emerged as an important pillar of India's security.





Terrorism

- ❖ Enhanced cooperation with countries like USA, Russia, France, UK and Japan to target and disrupt assets and financial flows of terrorist networks, and to isolate sanctuaries for cross border terrorism.
- ❖ Successful extradition / deportation of wanted fugitives including Chota Rajan,



Identification of four Pathfinder projects under the India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).



Setting up of a dedicated rapid reaction team focused exclusively on advancing DTTI.

Setting up of India-US working group to explore aircraft carrier technology, sharing and design, and development of jet engine technology.



Signing of an enabling agreement between India and Japan for transfer of defence equipment and technology cooperation.



Signing of agreement between India and Japan for reciprocal protection of classified military information.



Defence cooperation agreement between India and Singapore to include Defence Ministers' Dialogue, joint exercises between armed forces and cooperation between defence industries.



India to acquire 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition from France.



Forging of cyber security partnerships with US, Canada, Singapore and Malaysia.

Stepping up maritime security cooperation with US, Japan, France, Mauritius, Seychelles, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Australia.

Anup Chetia, Willy Naru and Jagtar Singh Tara.

- ❖ Enhanced cooperation with Bangladesh on counter terrorism; MoUs on Prevention of Smuggling of Fake Currency Notes, Cooperation between Coast Guards and Prevention of Human Trafficking.
- ❖ Initiation of dialogue between the National Security Advisors of India and Pakistan to discuss all issues related to terror.
- ❖ India to train Japan's counter-terrorism intelligence unit.
- ❖ India and UAE to enhance counter-terror cooperation and coordinate efforts to counter radicalization and misuse of religion by groups and countries.
- ❖ Setting up of meeting between National



Security Advisors of India and UAE, every six months. Setting up of a Strategic Security Dialogue between India and UAE.

- ❖ Setting up of a ministerial mechanism between India and China for combating terrorism.
- ❖ Signing of MoU between India and Singapore to combat illicit narcotics trafficking.



COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

States in the Global Arena

Given India's rich diversity and needs of specific regions, states of the Indian Union acquired a new profile in the country's foreign policy outreach and the global arena. Acting on Prime Minister Modi's mantra of cooperative federalism, a new division has been created in the Ministry of External Affairs for liaising with States/Union Territories to facilitate their trade promotion, investment, tourism, academic/educational and cultural outreach to the rest of the world.

- ❖ States to identify priority sectors and target countries for focused promotional campaigns.
- ❖ Launch of Forum of State/Provincial Leaders of India and China.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh sign pacts with Ministry

of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan for various projects.

- ❖ Three UK-India city partnerships with Indore, Pune and Amaravati.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan sign pacts with US Trade and Development Agency to develop Visakhapatnam, Allahabad, and Ajmer as Smart Cities.
- ❖ Nodal Officers in Embassies and Consulates for coordination with States.
- ❖ Renewed focus on twinning arrangements between sister cities.
- ❖ Effective crisis-coordination with states, whose citizens were affected by the crisis in Yemen and the Nepal earthquake.
- ❖ West Bengal and Rajasthan sign pacts with Singapore for partnering development projects.



ENERGY SECURITY Powering A Brighter Future

With India emerging as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, energy security acquired an added salience in the country's diplomacy in 2015. Deals and pacts cutting across hydrocarbon, hydropower and renewable sectors were signed. The accent was on forging green energy partnerships, which was exemplified in the

launch of the pioneering International Solar Alliance by PM Modi in Paris and the signing of civil nuclear and uranium pacts with Japan, UK, Canada and France. Green & Clean will be the animating mantra as India scales up the production of renewables to achieve the target of 175 gigawatt by 2022.



CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY

- Signing of India-UK Civil Nuclear Co-operation Agreement.
- Memorandum on civil nuclear cooperation between India and Japan.
- Contract between India and Kazakhstan for a renewed long term supply of natural uranium to India.
- First shipment of Canadian uranium reaches India, following an Indo-Canadian civil nuclear agreement.
- Entry into force of India-Australia Civil Nuclear agreement.

RENEWABLES: CLEAN & GREEN



Launch of the path-breaking International Solar Alliance of over 100 countries in Paris. India will provide land and contribute around \$30 million to build the secretariat infrastructure at the premises of the National Institute of Solar Energy in Gurgaon.



Launch of India-US \$30 million initiative to scale up renewable energy integration into India's power grid.



India-US collaboration to promote off-grid clean energy access through the 7.9 million PACEsetter Fund for innovative off-grid clean energy projects and a new public-private partnership to mobilize \$41 million in finance for clean energy entrepreneurs.



California-based Tesla Motors to explore application of its Powerwall battery for India.



Indo-German Solar Energy Partnership, based on concessional loans of around 1 billion Euros over the next 5 years.

- Germany to provide an additional Euro 400 million for expanding the Euro 1 million Green Energy Corridor Project.

- Germany to provide Euros 200 million for energy efficiency



in energy intensive sectors and Euros 40 million for Green Sustainable Industrial Parks.

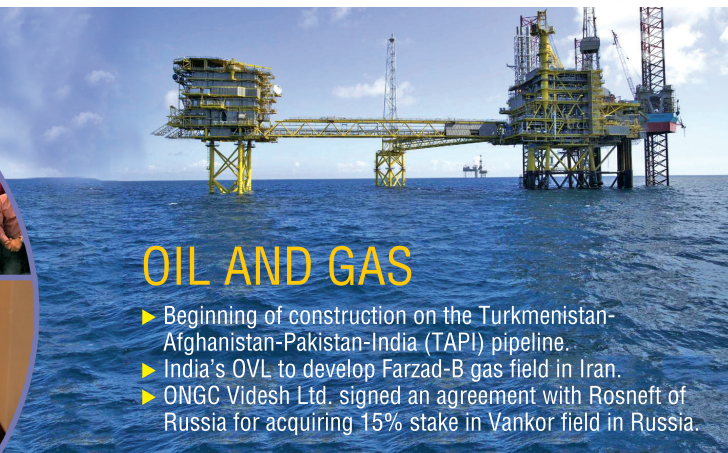
Signing of an India-UK MoU to bolster energy cooperation.



Signing of tripartite MoU between Axis Energy Ventures India in the renewable energy sector with Chinese companies Mingyang Wind Power and Global Wind Power.



Unveiling of credit line of 1 billion euros by France over the next three years for sustainable infrastructure & urban development in India which includes promoting use of LED lighting in select Indian municipalities and enhancing renewable energy cooperation.



OIL AND GAS

- Beginning of construction on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline.
- India's OVL to develop Farzad-B gas field in Iran.
- ONGC Videsh Ltd. signed an agreement with Rosneft of Russia for acquiring 15% stake in Vankor field in Russia.

CULTURE

Connecting Hearts and Minds

Interweaving India's core civilizational values and cultural richness into the practice of diplomacy, India's foreign policy acquired a new emotive energy that made the world more receptive to our ideas and initiatives. Amid ongoing flux and volatility, people across the world connected to Indian cultural icons like Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, and Dr Babashaeb Ambedkar, and bonded with Buddha and Bollywood. Yoga and Ayurveda found global affirmation as pathways to health, healing and vitality.

- ◆ Inauguration of the 16th World Sanskrit Conference in Bangkok by EAM Sushma Swaraj.



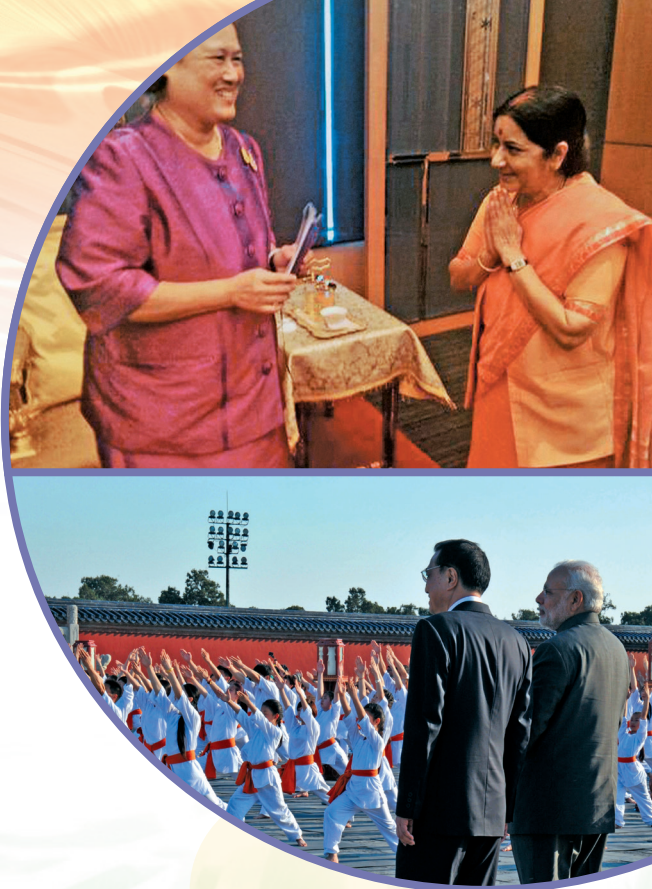
- ◆ Celebration of 1st International Day of Yoga on June 21, with the record participation of 192 countries.
- ◆ Launch of an alternative route through Nathu La Pass for Indian pilgrims going for the sacred Mansarovar yatra in June.
- ◆ 10th World Hindi Conference held in Bhopal with largest ever participation.
- ◆ Three new awards instituted - Distinguished Indologist Award, World Sanskrit Award and Distinguished ICCR Alumni Award.
- ◆ Former Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo appointed as new Chancellor of Nalanda University.
- ◆ Many countries, including France and Malaysia, to promote research in Ayurveda. AYUSH information cells established in 3 countries.
- ◆ Partnership forged with Kyoto to develop Varanasi as a smart heritage city.
- ◆ 12 MoUs with Universities to set up Indian chairs, including China's Fudan University





which is to set up a Center for Gandhian and Indian Studies.

- ◆ Yunnan Minzu University to establish a Yoga College.
- ◆ UAE allotted land for construction of a temple in Abu Dhabi.
- ◆ Festival of India held in Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.
- ◆ Canada to hold the Year of Canada in India in 2017.
- ◆ Celebration of UK-India Year of Culture in 2017, to mark the 70th anniversary of India's Independence.
- ◆ India-UK collaboration for digitization of the shared archival collections housed in the British Library and the National Archives of India.
- ◆ Launch of 'Visit India' Year in China.
- ◆ Launch of 'Namaste Russia' festival in Moscow.
- ◆ Inauguration of a Centre of Yoga and Traditional Medicine in Ashgabat.
- ◆ India to build Rabindranath Tagore Auditorium



in Matara, Sri Lanka.

- ◆ India to establish an AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) Center in Kyrgyz Republic.
- ◆ Germany facilitated in the retrieval and return of the tenth century statue of Goddess Durga (Mahishasurmardini) to India.
- ◆ Project on documenting historical and cultural links between India and ASEAN launched.



DIASPORA

Bridge-Builders and Stakeholders

The 25-million strong NRI and PIO populations abroad have not only become brain trust and bridge-builders, but a key player in the unfolding national renaissance. Diaspora outreach has become the signature diplomatic style of PM Modi and the Indian government's unstinting commitment to their welfare. The celebration of the Indian community, which began with the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Gandhinagar, acquired more colour and vibrancy this year, with PM Modi addressing rapturous crowds across hemispheres,

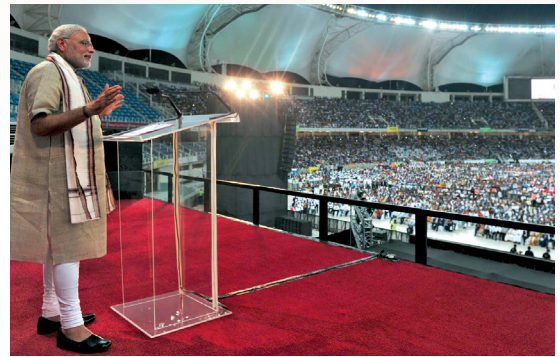
including Paris, Berlin, Toronto, London, San Francisco, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The Indian diaspora is set to scale up its contribution to the mission of remaking India through enthusiastic participation in 'Swachh Bharat', 'Make in India', 'Skill India' and "Clean Ganga."

- ❖ Launch of MADAD - an online grievance monitoring system for the diaspora, now operational across all Missions and Posts.
- ❖ Merger of OCI and PIO cards.

Operation Raahat



The humane and compassionate face of Indian diplomacy was reflected in its prompt initiative in rescuing Indians in distress abroad. In Yemen, stricken by a civil war, India launched Operation Raahat, which rescued not only 4741 Indians stranded in the war zone, but also 1,947 nationals from 48 countries.



- ❖ India to build a War Memorial to its fallen soldiers at the site of Battle of Kampar in Perak.
- ❖ India gifts \$1.1 million Torana Gate at Little India in Brickfields in Kuala Lumpur.
- ❖ E-Travel Visa (e-TV) Scheme now available for passport holders from 113 nations.
- ❖ Los Angeles hosted regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD).
- ❖ Easing diaspora investment in India for funding flagship schemes of the government, the Swacch Bharat Kosh and Clean Ganga Fund.
- ❖ Launch of 'Bharat ko Jaano', and Bharat ko Maano' programmes to make the diaspora youth aware of the rich cultural past of India and the current achievements of the country.





DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Arc of Sharing & Knowledge

India's foreign policy found a new traction in expanding development and knowledge partnership with fraternal developing countries of the global South. The South-South solidarity found its most resonant images in the largest gathering of African leaders on the Indian soil at the third India-Africa Forum Summit and the second summit with Pacific Island states. With the overarching goal of shaping a narrative of co-prosperity, India lent its resources, expertise and strength in knowledge industries to fellow nations in their development journey.

- ⌘ Setting up of a regular formal monitoring mechanism by India and Africa to review the implementation of projects.
- ⌘ India-supported Salma Dam in Afghanistan on fast track for completion.





- ⌘ Inauguration of India-supported Afghan Parliament building by PM in December 2015.
- ⌘ Ground breaking ceremony of 600 MW Kholongchu HEP (first of three HEPs) in Bhutan held in September.
- ⌘ Lines of Credit and developmental partnerships with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Mongolia.
- ⌘ Support for the development of infrastructure in Assumption Island in Mauritius.
- ⌘ Composite Training Centre for Maldives National Defence Force completed.



\$10 BILLION

Concessional credit by India for development projects in Africa.

\$600 MILLION

Grant assistance for Africa, including an India-Africa Development Fund and an India-Africa Health Fund.



5,000 CRORE

India continues to be largest socio-economic developmental partner of Bhutan with continuing assistance of Rs. 5000 crore to its 11th Five Year Plan.

\$680 MILLION

Inauguration of Joint Venture Jordan-India Fertilizer Co. (JIFCO) between IFFCO and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. to produce Phosphoric Acid for export to India, by President Pranab Mukherjee.



50,000

Scholarships to Africa over the next 5 years.

\$5 MILLION

India to enhance the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund from US\$ 1 million to US\$ 5 million, and set up ASEAN-India Innovation Platform.



When Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale in April, India launched a massive multi-faceted operation to assist Nepal. India was the first to respond to this tragedy and launched its largest disaster response abroad, Operation Maitri. In June, India pledged \$1 billion for reconstruction of the quake-ravaged country, over and above its existing assistance of \$1 billion over the next 5 years.



- ⌘ Unveiling of a pioneering initiative by India to create a Project Development Fund to develop manufacturing hubs in CLMV countries.
- ⌘ India to expand and upgrade the Pan African E-Network.
- ⌘ Fast-tracking the implementation of feasible capacity building institutions under IAFS-III.

- ⌘ Enhancing ITEC slots and ICCR scholarships for FIPIC countries, Palestine, Central Asian nations.
- ⌘ India to establish at least one information technology laboratory in each Pacific Island country.
- ⌘ India to set up an IT park in Ramallah and a Palestinian Institute of Diplomacy.



- ⌘ Enhanced collaboration with educational institutions of Japan, US, Britain, France, Germany, Jordan and Israel.
- ⌘ Setting up of India-China Think-Tanks Forum.

- ⌘ Setting up of India-Kazakhstan Centre of Excellence in Information & Communication Technologies at the Eurasian National University.
- ⌘ Centre for Excellence in IT established in Peru.
- ⌘ Up-gradation of the India Turkmenistan Industrial Training Centre in Ashgabat.
- ⌘ Launch of tele-medicine links in Kyrgyzstan.
- ⌘ India to set up tele-medicine project in Tajikistan.

PASSPORT SERVICES

Speed & Sensitivity



Speed and sensitivity. This was the reigning mantra of the passport services, which emerged as the epitome of excellence and swiftness. Animated by the credo, 'Connectivity with Citizens,' the seamless and robust mechanism for speedier issuance of passports to Indian citizens and fast-tracking visas to foreign nationals earned appreciation from all.

- ❖ **21** - The average passport issuance time (minus police verification process) was brought down to under 21 days for 96% of the applications.
- ❖ **5** - The top five States in terms of number of passport applications received were Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, accounting for more than 50 percent of total applications.
- ❖ **1610** - The number of public dealing counters has been increased from 350 to 1610 in the

2015: In Numbers



new system and public dealing hours have gone up from 4 hours to 7 hours a day.

- ❖ New PSKs in North-Eastern States: The government expedited operationalisation of new Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in the north-eastern states of India—Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim besides the one already functional in Assam. PSKs in the remaining north-eastern states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura are ready for operational launch.

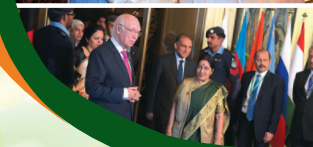
- ❖ Special instructions to all Indian Missions abroad to scale up quality and speed in delivering consular, passport and visa services. Several visa outsourcing contracts were finalised.





“The world speaks in one voice that India is the new bright spot of hope for our region and the world. It is a nation of 1.25 billion people blessed with the extraordinary resources in the form of 800 million youth. India’s potential has never been in doubt. And, in the course of the past year, we are translating promise into a reality; hope into confidence!”

– Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, India



AN INITIATIVE BY
XPD DIVISION
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