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2005 – 2006**

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Government of India**

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Executive Summary

The year 2005-06 has been eventful for India's emerging role and status in the comity of nations. India's foreign policy has had to adapt to the rapidly changing global environment, and at the same time, correlate with the remarkable changes taking place within India itself. India's engagement with the rest of the world community has grown notably, as it has become ever more important to ensure a peaceful and supportive international environment, an environment that contributes to India's development goals.

The success of India's foreign policy has been in tandem with India's manifest ability to adjust to change, change inherent in the sustained dynamism and technological sophistication of the Indian economy, change inherent in its emergence as a responsible Nuclear Weapon State, change inherent in India's capability to shoulder regional and global responsibilities, and the consequent change in global expectations of India's role on the international stage.

In this tangibly transforming international environment, the fundamental tenets of India's foreign policy have retained their essential validity; autonomy in decision making, the commitment to the Panch Sheel or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, friendly and cooperative relations with all countries, resolution of conflicts through dialogue and peaceful means, and equity in the conduct of international relations. The Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government has reaffirmed these basic principles.

India's focus has increasingly come to bear on trans-national issues that today constitute the priority challenges, whether it is terrorism or proliferation of WMD, pandemics, environmental depredation or disaster management. Through a vigorous and articulate

diplomatic effort, India has been able to explain its positions and advance its interests.

Corresponding with its economic growth and technological development, India has strengthened and enlarged its engagement with the developed nations, and at the same time, expanded its economic and technical cooperation with fellow developing countries, reinforcing India's political solidarity with them. India's contribution to the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, and the India-Brazil-South Africa Facility for Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger are worthy initiatives of South-South Cooperation. The Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa reaffirmed the role of South-South Cooperation, in the context of multilateralism and the challenges arising from globalization.

Convinced that the management of global interdependence requires strong, representative international institutions, and a rule-based multilateral system, India has assiduously pressed for the reform of the UN, and critically, the expansion of the UNSC in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, to make its structure and decision making process reflect the contemporary geopolitical reality.

India has advocated the need to evolve a new paradigm of cooperation, relevant to the contemporary world, in which global threats demand global responses, and multilateralism becomes the only effective tool for addressing global challenges.

A notable feature of India's foreign policy has been the progress achieved in developing strategic partnerships with the major powers of the world. India has entered into strategic partnerships with the United States, Russia,

Japan, and the European Union and is pursuing strategic cooperation with China, thus enlarging India's policy choices and developmental options. Through the IBSA forum, India has had a productive engagement with two of the leading emerging economies, Brazil and South Africa.

Geography has imparted a unique position to India in the geo-politics of the Asian continent, with its interests and concerns straddling across its sub-regions – be it East Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, or South East Asia. It is this geo-political reality and India's conviction that enhanced regional cooperation is mutually advantageous, which has sustained India's active participation in the SAARC, the ASEAN, the East Asia Summit and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Neighbours

India has accorded the highest priority to closer political, economic and other ties with its neighbours. India has a vision of South Asia, unshackled from historical divisions and bound together in collective pursuit of peace, and prosperity. With Afghanistan's joining the SAARC, the region would acquire a fuller regional identity. India views the SAARC process as a stimulus to strengthen economic inter linkages, through initiatives such as the South Asia Free Trade Agreement. In this process an economically vibrant India is an asset and opportunity for all its members.

There is a strong consensus in India on improving and developing India's relations with China, India's largest neighbour. Through a range of dialogue mechanisms, India and China have been able to appreciate each other's point of view and address outstanding issues.

Afghanistan: Bilateral relations between India and Afghanistan have gained substantially during the year. President Karzai visited India from 23-25 February 2005 and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Afghanistan on 28 & 29 August 2005.

Prime Minister reaffirmed India's support to the goal of a sovereign, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. India's

contribution of \$ 550 million for projects in the areas of infrastructure, institutional and human resource development is an expression of India's abiding partnership with Afghanistan. Notwithstanding violent tactics such as the unfortunate killing of BRO (Border Roads Organisation) official, Maniyappan Raman Kutty, India remains committed to completing the reconstruction projects.

Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka: India attaches high priority to strengthening and expanding the mutually beneficial relations with Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. India shares with them deep rooted historical and cultural links. It has remained India's continuous endeavour to work with them to build a climate of shared prosperity, stability, security, durable trust and understanding in the region, on the basis of mutual goodwill and respect for each other's concerns. High level exchanges have strengthened the interaction. Enhanced economic and commercial exchanges, people to people contacts and cooperation in development projects have reinforced India's links with each of these nations.

India's bilateral interaction with Bangladesh has been wide-ranging and purposeful. At the same time, the spurt in violence and extremism, as also the continued operation of forces inimical to India from Bangladeshi soil have been cause for concern.

India's relations with Myanmar progressed substantially. The strategic and border management dimensions, the need to achieve development and economic integration of India's North-Eastern region with Western Myanmar through cross-border infrastructure development, and energy security were the key constituent elements of the India-Myanmar interaction. President's state visit to Myanmar scheduled for 8-10 March 2006, would contribute to further strengthening the bilateral ties.

The visit of the newly elected President of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapakse, to India from 27-30 December 2005 reinforced the close bilateral relationship that the two countries already share. India has extended three currently operational lines of credit to Sri Lanka totaling US \$ 381 million.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations based on mutual trust, understanding and goodwill. The exchange of high level visits contributed to further deepening of the special ties between the two countries. His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck visited India from 1-4 August 2005. Bilateral cooperation in several sectors including hydropower, health, education, human resource development, information technology and infrastructure was further strengthened during the year.

Nepal: India continues to remain deeply concerned at the political instability and adverse security situation in Nepal. It is convinced about the utmost importance for the constitutional forces to work together towards a political settlement of the problems facing Nepal that is based on national consensus. India, as Nepal's close and friendly neighbour, hopes that conditions of peace and stability and economic development will be restored in the country, sooner rather than later. On its part, India stands ready to support all efforts aimed at bringing about a peaceful resolution to the problems confronting Nepal.

Pakistan: India pursued a policy of constructive engagement to establish peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan. The dialogue process it is engaged in, is based on the commitment given by the President of Pakistan on 6 January 2004 in Islamabad not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism. The composite Dialogue spanning all important aspects and issues of bilateral relations achieved significant progress during the year and resulted in the signing of two important agreements-one on Pre-notification on Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles and the other, an MoU for Establishment of a Communication Link between the Coast Guard of India and the Maritime Security Agency of Pakistan.

The visit of President Musharraf to India in April 2005, the meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf at New York in September; and the visit of External Affairs Minister to Islamabad in October imparted the necessary impetus to the ongoing bilateral dialogue.

The commitment to ensure a peaceful settlement of all pending issues was reaffirmed through a Joint Statement after the meeting between the Prime Minister and President Musharraf in New York in September 2005. India's prompt delivery of relief assistance, pledge of \$ 25 million and opening of 5 points on the LOC for movement of people and relief material were an unmistakable expression of India's goodwill. On its part, Pakistan released 435 Indian prisoners including 371 fishermen in pursuance of an agreement reached in August 2005. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service started on 7 April 2005 and the Amritsar-Lahore bus service on 20 January 2006. However, the great caveat remains, that the bilateral relations can thrive only in an atmosphere free from violence and terrorism.

China: The Year 2005 marked the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. There is a mutual recognition that India-China relations transcend bilateral issues and have acquired a global and strategic perspective.

With China, India is pursuing a strategic and cooperative partnership. The Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles signed in April 2005, during the visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, signified a substantive upgradation of the bilateral dialogue on the boundary question. Both countries have taken a forward looking approach. The bilateral trade has expanded substantially. A Joint Statement signed by the two Prime Ministers laid down the blueprint for future development of bilateral relations.

South East Asia and the Pacific

The Look East policy, launched more than a decade ago, is now an essential element of India's foreign policy. India is convinced that the key to ensuring long term security and stable equilibrium in Asia lies in the collective ability of Asian countries to build mutual economic stakes in one another.

India's Look East Policy, its partnership with the ASEAN, its active engagement with BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Economic and Technical

Cooperation) are part of an irreversible process of integration of India's economy with that of South East Asia. The Fourth India-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005 and Prime Minister's participation in the East Asia Summit have signified India's growing role and integration with the evolving global economy.

The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement signed with Singapore and a similar model being developed with Thailand, and the Joint Study Group set up for conclusion of FTA with Malaysia, and Indonesia, signal closer inter-linkages with this dynamic region.

India's relations with countries of South East Asia and the Pacific continued to broaden and intensify during the year. The President of Indonesia, the Prime Ministers of Fiji, Singapore and Thailand visited India. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Indonesia to attend the Asian-African Summit and the golden jubilee commemoration of the Bandung Conference. President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's State visits to Philippines and Singapore in February 2006 underscored the importance of this region.

East Asia

Japan: India's ties with Japan are growing in substance and strategic significance, and are particularly relevant to addressing India's infrastructural challenges. The global partnership with Japan was substantially enhanced with the visit to India of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in April 2005. The Eightfold Initiative in bilateral cooperation and the agreement on closer collaboration to secure peace, stability and prosperity in Asia are bound to bring the two countries together in more intensive engagement. Foreign Minister Taro Aso's visit to India in January 2006, carried forward the substantive bilateral engagement.

Republic of Korea (ROK): Since the launching of a "Long term Cooperative Partnership for Peace & Prosperity", during the visit of President Roh Moo-hyun to India in October 2004, the bilateral relations between India and ROK have strengthened and made steady

progress. The State visit to ROK by President APJ Abdul Kalam in February 2006, reinforced the strong multifaceted bilateral ties.

The Foreign Ministerial level, India-Korea Joint Commission Meeting held in August 2005, provided a strong impetus especially to bilateral trade and investment, collaboration in science and technology, and cooperation in the energy sector.

Eurasia

India's relations with Russia and other CIS countries were characterized by traditionally close and extensive interaction. Regular exchange of high level visits, enhanced trade and economic cooperation, visits of cultural troupes and extensive people to people contacts have strengthened India's engagement with this important proximate region.

Russia: India and Russia are committed to strengthening their multi-faceted bilateral relationship founded on their traditional strategic partnership. President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's State visit to Russia in May 2005, and Prime Minister's visit to Russia to participate in the May 9 Victory Day celebrations, and again in December 2005 for the Annual Summit, were part of a process to bring about a comprehensive re-engagement between the two countries. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Putin have reaffirmed the centrality of the India-Russia relationship, and set out a practical and achievable agenda that covered bilateral trade, investment, cooperation in high technology fields, defence and security.

The Gulf, West Asia and North Africa

The Gulf: India has devoted considerable energies to building upon the traditional and historical bonds with this region, which is of crucial importance to India. The "Look West" policy that India has launched, is premised upon the facts, that the Gulf region signifies for India, a major economic partner, a host to the over 4 million Indian expatriates, and a vital source of India's energy security.

The year 2005-06 witnessed significant developments in India's relations with the countries of the region. The State visits to India by the King of Saudi Arabia, H.M. Abdullah

bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day 2006 celebrations, and by the Emir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani in April 2005, signified the commitment of the leaders to substantially enhance the partnership between India and the countries of the region.

India remains committed to assist Iraq in their political and economic reconstruction. India welcomed the democratic process under way in Iraq, which should enable the Iraqi people to take full sovereign control of their nation's destiny.

India's bilateral relations with Iran have acquired greater depth and substance. Regular institutionalised exchanges such as the Joint Commission meeting, the Security dialogue, and the Working Group meetings have contributed to substantial cooperation in the energy sector, trade and commerce, IT, and the crucial issues of transit and security. The two countries are committed to strengthen the bonds of friendship for mutual prosperity, and peace and stability in the region

West Asia and North Africa (WANA): India's relations with the countries of West Asia and North Africa continued to witness significant growth during the year. Exchanges of high level visits, and interaction at the functional and institutional levels, imparted momentum to enhancing India's relations with this region. The visits of President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestine National Authority, and Prince Hassan of Jordan were reaffirmation of the strong links that bind India and the region. The region holds great promise for meeting India's energy needs. India has considerable stakes in oil exploration in Sudan, Egypt, Libya and Syria. Over the years, the cooperation with countries of this region has steadily grown and diversified in to sectors such as education, training of security personnel, defence cooperation, science and technology, IT, pharmaceuticals, textiles and automobile industry.

It was symbolic of India's growing engagement with the region, that India attended for the first time the Arab

league Summit at Algiers in March 2005 as an observer. India has been fully supportive of the efforts of the international community in finding a just and durable solution to the problems faced by the Palestinian people, so that they may achieve a State of their own. India, has at the same time attached high importance to strengthening and diversifying its friendly relations with Israel.

Africa

India accorded high priority to rejuvenating India's traditional ties with nations of the African Continent, South of Sahara. The several high level visits exchanged between India and Africa during the year reflected the commitment on both sides to strengthen the partnership. India responded in large measure to the widely felt appreciation among the African nations, that India could partner them in their march towards progress and prosperity.

The Pan-African E-Network Project, for which an MoU has been signed between India and the African Union, is designed to help bridge the digital divide in Africa. It will use Indian expertise in IT, education and healthcare to deliver affordable distance education and medical services in remote locations. It will also put in place a network offering secure video conferencing and VOIP facilities to African Heads of State and Government.

India has extended concessional lines of credit to the tune of over a billion dollars to a number of countries in Africa, for projects ranging from road and rail transport, to agricultural machinery, and food processing. The New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), and the TEAM-9 initiative, a techno- economic cooperation venture between India and 9 countries of West Africa, have given the much needed impetus to deepen India's engagement with the countries South of Sahara.

The Ministry's active involvement in the India-African Project Partnership Conclaves organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry in March and November 2005, helped to mobilize extensive participation by African

Governments and business and generated an enormous amount of business interest, leading to concrete enquiries and actual tying up of bilateral projects.

India has provided steadfast support to peacekeeping missions in different parts of Africa. Currently Indian personnel are serving in UN missions in Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Sierra Leone and Sudan. The services of the Indian troops and personnel are highly rated and appreciated by the beneficiary nations.

The ITEC programme, and the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) have been extensively utilized by African countries. Currently over a thousand officials from Africa are receiving training in India under these programmes. Similarly, diplomats from several African nations draw benefit from the programmes organized by the Foreign Service Institute.

Europe

Europe figures prominently in India's external relations. India attaches great importance to its relationship with the EU member countries, as also with the other countries of the European Continent.

The shared values and beliefs in democracy, human rights, pluralism, independent media, and rule of law make India and the European Union natural partners. India – EU relations were upgraded to a strategic partnership at the 5th India – EU Summit in 2004. The New Delhi Summit of September 2005, under the EU Presidency of UK, adopted a Joint Action Plan to strengthen political dialogue, to enhance economic policy dialogue and cooperation, and to promote trade and investment. Separately, India has established strategic partnerships individually with UK, France and Germany. Prime Minister's visit to France in September 2005, and French President's visit to India in February 2006, mark significant milestones in India – France strategic relationship. The EU continues to be India's largest trading partner. Presidents of Austria, Italy and the Czech Republic and the Prime Ministers of Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway

and the Czech Republic paid State/Official visits to India during the year imparting renewed vigor to their bilateral ties with India.

The Americas

Unites States: The transformation of India – US relationship has been a very significant development in India's diplomatic outreach. The bilateral relationship is anchored on common values and common interests.

Prime Minister's visit to the US in July 2005, the Joint Statement of July 18, the Science and Technology Framework Agreement of October 2005, the New Framework of Defence Relations of June 2005, and the India –US Energy Dialogue initiated in May 2005, have the potential to fundamentally redefine India – US relationship. The decision of the two Governments to work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation is indicative of a relationship of trust and goodwill. The enactment of the WMD Bill, the proposed separation of civil and military nuclear facilities, and the upgradation of the national export control lists are intended to make India a viable destination of advanced dual use technologies.

During the year, India and United States made a commitment to transform their steadily growing bilateral ties into a strategic partnership marked by frequent contacts at political and official levels. 2005 also saw a growing convergence of views on global, regional and bilateral issues of common concern between the two countries. The interactions focused on strategic and security issues, defence, counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, trade and investment, science and technology, space, health, energy and environment. .

Canada: The bilateral relations between India and Canada were characterized by growing understanding, good will and cooperation. The visit of the Prime minister of Canada, Mr. Paul Martin in early 2005 followed by a number of ministerial visits on either side served to impart a fresh momentum to the bilateral relations. The two countries signed two agreements relating to civilian nuclear collaboration and science and technology during

the year. The visits to Canada by the External Affairs Minister in September 2005, and by Minister of State for Science and Technology in November 2005, and the visits to India by the Canadian Minister for International Trade in April and September 2005, contributed significantly to strengthen bilateral collaboration, especially in high technology fields.

Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC)

India has intensified its engagement with the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, and expanded its trade and investments with them. The relations with Brazil have been deepened, in the context of their mutual recognition as strategic partners, bilaterally, trilaterally (IBSA), and multilaterally (G-4 and G-20). The relations with Mexico have been reinvigorated with exchange of visits and Joint Commission Meeting during the year. India received the visits of the Presidents of Chile, and Venezuela, and Foreign Ministers of several Latin American nations, in 2005, signifying the substantive relationship that India has forged with these countries.

As part of India's initiative to establish dialogue and cooperation with the countries of Central America and the Caribbean region, ministerial level interactions were held for the first time with 8 Central American countries, India – SICA, and 14 Caribbean Community countries, India – Caricom.

India's exports to the LAC region rose to three billion dollars in 2005 from two billion in 2004. The ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) acquired a large oil field in Venezuela, contributing to India's energy security. The Preferential Trade Arrangements (PTA) with MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay), and Chile are steps towards enhanced trade with this important region.

The thrust of the Indian policy towards the region was on strengthening and widening the existing relationship, setting up a mechanism for political dialogue and cooperation and enhancing trade and commerce. During the year Framework agreements were entered into/ followed up with the regional groupings such as the

MERCOSUR, CAN (Andean Community), CARICOM, and the Central American Group of countries (SICA) leading to enhanced trade relations with this increasingly important region.

United Nations and International Organisations

The highlight of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly was the convening of the World Summit 2005. The Outcome Document of the Summit laid the roadmap for further action on important issues relating to UN reform, international terrorism and development.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. The Prime Minister called for greater efforts to mobilize the resources needed to meet targets outlined in the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000. He stressed the necessity for reform and restructuring of the UN, including that of UN Security Council. India played a constructive role in UN debates on major issues. India continued to have a significant participation in UN Peace Keeping Operations.

It was a signal recognition of India as a vibrant democracy, that the Indian Prime Minister was called upon, by the UN Secretary General along with other leaders to launch the UN Democracy Fund, to which India's initial contribution is \$ 10 million. India's active involvement in the Community of Democracies and its endorsement of the Global Democracy Initiative provide India a valuable platform to share its rich experience, institutional capabilities and training infrastructure with nations that share democratic values and ideals.

India's commitment to non-discriminatory and universal nuclear disarmament and the global elimination of all Weapons of Mass Destruction was articulated in its policy pronouncements and diplomatic initiatives.

Harmonization of India's national imperatives and security obligations with international concerns on non-proliferation and disarmament progressed well, during the year.

India has been exercising 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 enactment in June 2005 of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act reflect India's commitment to contributing to the objective of global peace and security.

At the regional level, India's participation in the confidence and security building process and structure under the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) acquired greater momentum.

Multilateral Economic Relations

India's economic diplomacy focused on enhancing India's inherent strengths even as it sought to deepen its integration with the world economy particularly with regions where there is a natural synergy. In this regard, India actively sought to engage with regional economic groupings such as ASEAN, Mekong - Ganga Cooperation, BIMSTEC, IBSA, G-15 and IOC-ARC. The Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 4th India – ASEAN summit held in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005 where it was agreed that negotiations on the India-ASEAN FTA would be completed by June 2006. The Prime Minister also attended the inaugural East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, where a declaration to commit the participating countries to promoting development and deeper economic integration in the region was adopted. India remains committed to the interests of developing countries and continues to play an active role in furthering their cause particularly in important organizations such as the WTO.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and Development Partnership (DP)

The ITEC programme has been designed to bring India closer to fellow developing nations, share Indian technical and scientific expertise with these countries, and bring

about greater solidarity among developing countries. At present, there are 156 countries in Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Pacific, and Small Island countries which are covered under the ITEC programme. The main components of the ITEC Programme are (a) Civilian and Military Training, (b) Deputation of Experts, (c) Study Visits, (d) Gifting of Machinery and Equipment, (e) Projects and Project related activities such as Feasibility Studies and Consultancy Service and (f) Aid for Disaster Relief. Commensurate with India's growing economic strength and international role, initiatives are being taken to enhance and expand India's technical and other development cooperation with developing countries. In addition to the Technical Cooperation (TC) Division that has been administering the ITEC programme a new 'Development Partnership Division' has been created in the Ministry to further strengthen India's development projects cooperation.

Investment and Technology Promotion (ITP)

Promoting and facilitating the flow of investment & technology into India continues to remain a focus area in India's economic diplomacy. The ministry worked in close partnership with business and industry to foster international business partnerships and the flow of FDI and technical know-how into the country. Promotion and enhancement of external trade and ensuring higher levels of energy security were also important aspects of the Ministry's economic work.

Policy Planning and Research (PPR)

The PPR Division of the Ministry maintained close interaction with institutions specializing in policy research and analyses on themes having a direct bearing on India's foreign policy and international relations and provided financial assistance for holding seminars and undertaking research studies with a view to deriving invaluable inputs for the Ministry's foreign policy planning, formulation and implementation process. During the year 2005, the division sponsored 29 such seminars and research projects. The PPR Division brings out the Annual Report of the Ministry.

Protocol

The Protocol Division remained fully engaged with the large number of incoming and outgoing high-level visits, conferences, credential ceremonies, official entertainment and other multifarious functions. Its ability to attend to a large number of visits of foreign dignitaries contributed to India's enhanced image in the international community. The VAT refund framework has been implemented for entitled foreign missions, diplomats and consulate officials during the year.

Consular, Passport & Visa Services

The CPV division of the Ministry through the Central Passport Organization and the passport, visa and consular wings of Indian Missions and Posts abroad provides Passport and Consular services to Indian citizens and NRIs and Consular and Visa services to foreign nationals. All the 30 passport offices in India have been computerized and all routine work related to the issuing of machine readable passports are being done electronically. Facilitation Counters and Help desks are being set up in all the Passport Offices(PO) to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. As provided for in the Right to Information Act 2005, the Ministry has appointed a Central Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officers at the Centre and at all the POs respectively.

Administration

Ministry continued with the objective of making optimum utilization of available resources in order to ensure the efficient functioning both at Headquarters and in the 164 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. All promotion panels were brought out well in time to ensure adequate number of qualified personnel. The Joint Consultative Mechanism with the Staff side was made more active with regular interactions. Some secretarial assistance work was outsourced temporarily pending recruitment of regular staff against vacant posts. Inspections of various Missions were undertaken by the recently set-up Directorate General of Inspections. The process of re-opening the consulate General of India, Karachi was initiated.

Disbursement of salaries to officers was automated through use of the Electronic Clearing System mechanism. Greater utilization of name-based/designation-based e-mail Ids was made. The Ministry vigorously implemented the Government's Special Recruitment Drive to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for SCs / STs.

Consistent with the Government's policy of promotion and propagation of Hindi, MEA has been making special efforts to support Hindi. All important documents such as bilateral treaties, MoUs, Credentials, Speeches of President and Prime Minister, Annual Report of the Ministry and Parliament Questions were issued bilingually. The computers in most Indian Missions/ Posts abroad are now bilingual. Missions are actively engaged in teaching of Hindi and its propagation through various schemes. A high-level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State, was reconstituted to promote introduction of Hindi as a language in UN. Hindi forms an integral part of the Foreign Service Institute's training programmes.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring gender equality in all spheres of its functioning and provides equal opportunities to women officers to take up challenging and prestigious assignments. Both at Headquarters and in Missions/Posts abroad, women officers are occupying positions of prominence.

Coordination

The Coordination division of the ministry serves as the nodal point for all work relating to parliament in MEA and for examination of proposals for clearance of foreign tours of Ministers, legislators and government officials. It also clears holding of International conferences and sports events in India. The students cell of the division deals with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign self financing students against reserved seats in the medical and engineering institutions in the country.

External Publicity

The External Publicity Division as the nodal source of MEA for information dissemination, effectively projected

India's perspective on crucial issues and events through regular press briefings, statements, press releases and other means of communication. The website of the Ministry proved to be an invaluable source in this regard. India's multilateral and bilateral relations with major world powers, neighbours and the rest of the world were given due publicity. India's stand on all relevant issues including terrorism, democracy, development, international peace and security, disarmament and UN reforms was articulated at various fora. Indian Missions abroad were provided with films, documentaries, other audio-visual products and publications/books as well as Ministry's own monthly publication *India Perspectives* for projecting and promoting India abroad.

Foreign Service Institute (FSI)

The Foreign Service Institute continued its diplomacy and foreign policy programmes for foreign diplomats apart from training IFS probationers and other officials of the ministry. The IFS probationers of the 2004 batch were put through a comprehensive training programme spread over a year, to prepare them for their professional career and were reverted back to the ministry in January 2006. Three professional courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), an Advanced Course on Asia for Foreign Diplomats (ACAFD), the 1st Diplomacy and Foreign Programme for Foreign Diplomats (DFPFD) and special courses for Vietnamese and Sudanese diplomats were among the other programmes conducted by the Institute during the year. The Institute continued to maintain institutional linkages with its counterparts in other countries.

Cultural Relations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), fulfills the primary role of strengthening India's cultural links with countries and peoples of the world. ICCR through its

Indian Cultural Centres and Chairs of Indian studies in Universities/ Institutions abroad helps create awareness about India and its rich cultural heritage and thereby plays a significant role in promoting bilateral cultural relations. Besides this, the council also organizes/facilitates cultural events in India /abroad, awards scholarships for overseas students and brings out its own publications to spread awareness on India's culture.

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

The ICWA founded in 1943 to encourage the study of Indian and International affairs has established itself as an important centre for the study of international relations. The Council, declared an institution of national importance by the ICWA Act, 2001, has continued to pursue a vigorous programme of activities such as organizing seminars/symposia/conferences in furtherance of its mandate. Besides having a specialized library, the council also publishes its own periodicals viz. *India Quarterly* and *Foreign Affairs Report*.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

As an autonomous policy think-tank, RIS conducted policy research on international economic issues and provided analytical support in preparation for major Summit meetings and other important negotiations such as the ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit, Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of WTO, SAARC Summit, the bilateral joint study groups on comprehensive economic dialogue with South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, and Pakistan, IBSA dialogue, GSTP negotiations, and FTA negotiations. RIS has extensive networks with think-tanks in other countries to bring policy coherence and capacity building on international economic issues and development cooperation.



Afghanistan

The year 2005 saw the fulfillment of the Bonn Agreement in Afghanistan with the completion of the Parliamentary and Provincial Council elections in September 2005. India's bilateral relations with Afghanistan attained a higher level of interaction. Afghan President Hamid Karzai paid a working visit to India from 23-25 February 2005 and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh paid a return visit to Kabul on 28&29 August 2005. There were regular political exchanges between the two countries. India continued to strengthen its assistance programme for Afghanistan's rehabilitation and reconstruction.

One of the significant changes in the political landscape of Afghanistan in 2005 was the conduct of the Parliamentary and 34 Provincial Council elections, in September 2005. Subsequently, the newly constituted Afghan National Assembly was convened on 19 December 2005. However, peace and stability eluded Afghanistan with repeated incidents of violence engineered by suspected Taliban, Al Qaeda and Hizb-e-Islami elements, with outside support. The year 2005 was the bloodiest year in Afghanistan since the end of Taliban regime in 2001, when more than 1500 Afghan citizens died. In addition, the problem of cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs persisted, thereby undermining the political and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Despite the difficult internal situation in Afghanistan, bilaterally, India and Afghanistan achieved significant progress. One of the first bilateral interactions at the highest level in 2005 was the working visit of President Karzai, accompanied by eight Cabinet Ministers, to India from 23-25 February 2005. Two MoUs on Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation and Media & Information were signed during the visit.

Minister of External Affairs visited Kabul on 15 February

2005. He called on President Karzai, Baba-e-Millat and former King Zahir Shah and held talks with Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah. He inaugurated the new surgical block of the Indira Gandhi Hospital, which had been reconstructed with India's assistance. Afghan Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdullah paid a return visit to India on 3&4 July 2005.

Bilateral relations got further strengthened when Prime Minister paid an official visit to Afghanistan on 28&29 August 2005. The two leaders underlined that the establishment of a sovereign, stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan was essential for peace and stability in the region. They condemned global terrorism as a threat to democracy and declared that there could be no compromise with those who resorted to terrorism. The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's continued commitment to Afghanistan's reconstruction and pledged an additional financial assistance of \$ 50 million. During the visit, the foundation stone for Afghanistan's new Parliament building, to be constructed under India's assistance programme, was also laid. Three documents were signed, which included an MoU on Small Development Projects, an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Medicinal Science and an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education. A Joint Press Statement was issued during the visit.

India welcomed Afghanistan's decision to seek membership of the SAARC. In the Final Declaration of 13th SAARC Summit on 13 November 2005 in Dhaka, Afghanistan was formally invited to join SAARC as a member.

India's Assistance to Afghanistan

India's present commitments add up to US \$ 550 million over the period 2002-2010. Some of the major commitments made by India in Afghanistan in 2005 included:

- Funding and execution of the construction of 220kV Double Circuit Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20kV Sub-station at Kabul in Afghanistan, at an estimated cost of US \$ 111 million, to bring power from Uzbekistan to Kabul;
- Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament building by the Central Public Works Department at an estimated expenditure of US\$ 67 million to be completed by 2010;
- Institution of 500 Scholarships for Afghan students for university education in India and 500 scholarships for short-term training programme for Afghan trainees from 2006 onwards.

Some of the other ongoing projects under India's Assistance Programme in Afghanistan included:

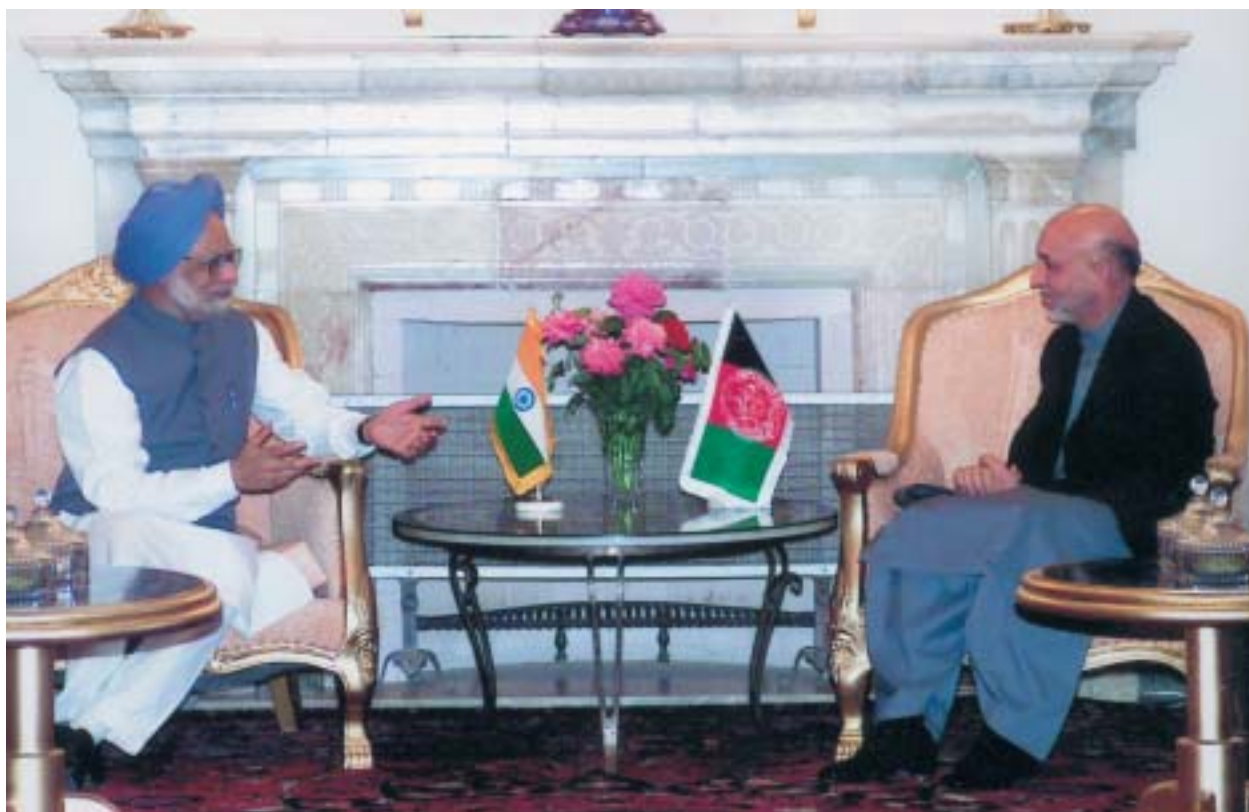
- Supply of biscuits for school feeding programme in Afghanistan under the aegis of World Food Programme.
- Up-gradation/ re-construction of Zaranj-Delaram road in Afghanistan at an estimated cost of US \$ 84 million by the Border Road Organisation to be completed by December 2007.
- Reconstruction and completion of Salma Dam Power Project in Herat province in Afghanistan at an estimated cost of US\$ 77 million by Water and Power Consultancy Services India Ltd., to be completed by January 2009.
- Contribution of US \$ 200,000 per annum for four years to the World Bank managed Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund, till 2005-06.
- Supply of medicines and medical equipment to Indian Medical Missions at Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Herat and Kandahar.
- Completion of the construction of 5000 tonnes capacity cold storage in Kandahar by Central Warehousing Corporation.
- Rehabilitation of Habibia School and Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health Hospital.
- Construction and inauguration of a Common Facility and Tool Room Centre at Pul-e-Charkhi industrial Park in Kabul.

- Restoration of basic telecommunication network in 11 provincial capitals;
- Supply of power transmission line and substations equipment in Faryab province;
- Capacity building of more than 250 Afghan nationals in various training institutes in India.
- Supply of 300 vehicles to the Afghan National Army.
- Restoration/revamping of Information set up, including setting up of printing press, 100 KW-SW Transmitters, TV Satellite uplinking/downlinking facility for 10 TV Stations;
- Supply of 1000 Sewing machines to Afghan women organizations in Afghan villages.
- Ongoing project of Solar electrification of Teachers' Training Centre at Signan
- Rehabilitation of Amir Ghazi Quargah Reservoir Dam started in September 2005 to be completed by December 2006.

In an unfortunate turn of events, an official of the Border Roads Organisation, Shri Maniyappan Raman Kutty, who was working in the Zaranj-Delaram road project was abducted on 19 November 2005 and later killed on 22 November 2005 by suspected Taliban militants. The Government of India had made every effort to seek the safe release of the abductee, in cooperation with Afghan authorities. Despite this set back, India reiterated its commitment towards Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Bangladesh

India's relations with Bangladesh are characterized by close historical and cultural affinities. Ties with Bangladesh were strengthened through wide ranging interaction and visits at political and official level including at the highest political level in the context of the SAARC Summit. In recent years, there have been a number of initiatives that have strengthened bilateral ties though security concerns continue to impede greater development in bilateral ties. These concerns relate to the presence and activities of Indian insurgent groups and their leaders from the northeast of India on Bangladesh soil, the rising influence of political parties and organizations of radical Islamic and fundamentalist orientation and border crimes including illegal crossings.



*Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the President of Afghanistan Mr. Hamid Karzai
at the Presidential Palace in Kabul on 28 August 2005.*



*H.M. Jigme Singye Wangchuk, the King of Bhutan with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in
New Delhi on 2 August 2005.*

Prime Minister visited Bangladesh to attend the 13th SAARC Summit at Dhaka where he met the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on the sidelines of the summit. Issues relating to Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs), transit, energy and water resources were discussed in the meeting.

Bangladesh has proposed dates in the latter half of March 2006 for the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to India.

External Affairs Minister visited Bangladesh from 6-8 August 2005. It was the first visit by a Minister from the UPA government to Bangladesh and was widely welcomed in Bangladesh. During the visit issues pertaining to security, illegal immigration, border fencing, trade and commerce, investments, improving connectivity between the two countries, sharing of water resources, Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline and UN reforms were discussed. EAM also delivered a letter from Prime Minister to the Bangladesh Prime Minister inviting her to visit India. External Affairs Minister during the visit announced 100 additional ITEC slots for Bangladesh, training of 600 Bangladeshi teachers in IT, gifting of 620 computers, and scholarships for Bangladeshi students.

The 36th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission took place in Dhaka from 18-21 September 2005 after a gap of two years. The Indian delegation was led by Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, Minister of Water Resources. The Joint Rivers Commission meeting provided an opportunity for both the sides to review bilateral co-operation in the issues relating to sharing of water resources between the two countries. Issues relating to flood forecasting, arsenic mitigation, India's River interlinking Project and Tipaimukh Dam were also discussed.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Dhaka from 4-6 September in connection with the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India Trilateral Gas Pipeline.

From the Bangladesh side, Mr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Bangladesh Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited India from 7-9 April 2005 as leader of their delegation to a meeting on 'Maternal, Newborn and Child Health' organised by Government of India in conjunction with WHO.

Foreign Office Consultations were held after a period of nearly four years from 20-23 June 2005 at New Delhi. The two Foreign Secretaries discussed issues relating to security, peaceful management of the borders, cross border illegal movement of people, cooperation in water resources, economic and trade cooperation, investment promotion, cooperation in science and technology and agriculture, defence exchanges and cultural relations. The open and frank discussions on matters of common interest were held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, which characterizes the bilateral relationship.

The sixth Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh took place on 27&28 October 2005 in New Delhi. During the talks, issues related to security, border management, illegal immigration, joint boundary, pending treaties and consular matters were discussed.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash visited Bangladesh from 17-20 December 2005. He also called on the President of Bangladesh.

Institutional interaction on key issues relating to border management at the level of Directors General of the border guarding Forces i.e. Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) continued. Two meetings were held from 12-17 April 2005 and from 26 September-1 October 2005. Issues relating to border management were discussed. The two forces also discussed confidence-building measures to improve understanding between the two forces.

The Third meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade was held in Dhaka on 1&2 August 2005. Issues relating to Tariff barriers, Bilateral Free Trade Agreement and Revision of the bilateral Trade Agreement were discussed.

The Joint Boundary Working Group is expected to resume its activities with a meeting to be held in Dhaka in February 2006.

The second round of discussions for extending a \$150 Million line of credit to Bangladesh for projects in the infrastructure sector were held in New Delhi on 22&23 August 2005. Further discussions are expected to take place on the list of projects to be included for financing under the line of credit and the terms and conditions.

Cultural and educational exchanges continued to grow. A Cultural exchange Programme for 2005-2008 was signed between the two countries in August 2005.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations based on mutual trust, understanding and goodwill. These relations were further strengthened in all areas during the course of the year.

Following upon his visit to India in January 2005, His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck visited India from 1-4 August 2005 during which he held wide ranging discussions with the Indian leadership. The visit contributed to further deepening of ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had a bilateral meeting with Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in Dhaka 12-13 November 2005. The then External Affairs Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh visited Bhutan in October 2005, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja in June 2005, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Defence, Shri B. K. Handique in July 2005 and Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Namo Narain Meena in August 2005. The Chief Justice of India, Justice R.C. Lahoti visited Bhutan for the 8th SAARC Chief Justices' Conference in June 2005. From Bhutan, Minister for Trade and Industry, Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba and Deputy Minister for Environment, Dasho Nado Rinchen visited India in October/November 2005. Foreign Minister Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk visited India and met Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, and Foreign Secretary on 16 January 2006.

The talks on renewing the bilateral Trade, Commerce and Transit Agreement were concluded and it was agreed to renew Trade, Commerce and Transit Agreement for 10 years; an Umbrella Agreement on power projects in Bhutan was finalized during the visit of the Power Secretary in November 2005; an MoU on Air Services Agreement was signed during the Civil Aviation talks providing for an increase in the flight frequencies from 12 to 49 per week; and an MoU between UPSC and Royal

Civil Service Commission of Bhutan was signed to institutionalise cooperation between them.

The Bhutan-India Foundation met in Thimphu in October 2005. There were also visits by delegations from Indo-Bhutan Friendship Association and Antarashtriya Sahyog Parishad. Manipuri and Punjabi folk dance troupes gave performances in Bhutan. A photo-exhibition "India-Bhutan: along the Friendship Trail" was organized at Delhi in December 2005.

India continued to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. Bilateral development cooperation encompassed projects in such varied areas as health, education, roads and bridges, power, trade & industry, civil aviation, culture, urban development and housing, judiciary, media, human resource development, IT and telecommunications. Projects agreed upon for implementation under Bhutan's 9th Plan progressed satisfactorily. Official level Talks to review India-Bhutan development cooperation were held in New Delhi on 12 & 13 January 2006. The hydro-power sector constituted an important area for cooperation between the two countries. The 1020 MW Tala Hydroelectric Project is expected to be commissioned by middle of 2006. The Detailed Project Report for the Punatsangchu-I Hydroelectric Project is expected to be ready in 2006, with the Punatsangchu-II and Mangdechu Hydroelectric projects DPRs to be taken up, thereafter, within the 9th Plan period.

The 3rd Bhutan-India Trade Show in May 2005 and the 2nd Construction Expo in Thimphu in September 2005 witnessed participation by a large number of leading Indian companies.

Indian scholarships were granted to 50 Bhutanese students during the year to study in Indian institutions of higher learning. These scholarships were in addition to facilities extended under the ITEC/Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of Colombo Plan Schemes. In addition, a large number of Bhutanese students study in schools and colleges in India.

Cooperation with Bhutan in the areas of security and border management was further strengthened at the Central level through the Joint Working Group and at

State levels through coordination meetings with State officials. Arrangements were put in place for regular coordinated patrolling by security forces of the two countries and timely exchange of information between the two governments.

China

The year 2005 marked the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. During the year, high-level political exchanges coupled with expansion of functional cooperation enhanced the bilateral relationship.

The visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India 9-12 April 2005 signified a milestone in bilateral relations. The outcome of the visit was substantive. Eleven Agreements/MoUs were signed. A report of the Joint Study Group (JSG) on the future direction of India-China trade and economic relations was presented to the two Prime Ministers.

Both sides reached broad consensus on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. Reviewing the progress in bilateral ties in recent years the two sides agreed that India-China relations had entered a new stage of comprehensive development. It was decided to upgrade the India-China relationship to a “strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity”.

The two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Statement on April 11 2005. The Joint Statement reflected the consensus that India-China relations transcended bilateral issues and have acquired a global and strategic perspective. In this context, it was agreed to further develop and diversify bilateral relations and to resolve outstanding differences in a proactive manner without letting them come in the way of continued development of relations. The year 2006 was declared as the “Year of India-China Friendship”.

During the visit, the two sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question and reiterated their readiness to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution, through equal and friendly consultations and proceeding from the overall interests of bilateral relations. An important outcome of the visit was the signing of the “Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary

Question”. This marked the successful conclusion of the first phase of the work of the Special Representatives who are tasked to explore the framework of a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. In the second stage of their work, the two Special Representatives are engaged in exploring the political framework and the specifics of adjustments to be made by both sides for the boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles. The last stage will involve actual delineation and demarcation of the boundary on map and ground by the civil, military and survey officials from the two sides.

A “Protocol on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas” was also concluded during the visit. It was reiterated that pending a final resolution, the two sides would continue to make joint efforts to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. Both sides also agreed that it was important that the Joint Working Group (JWG) also continued its work to seek an early clarification and confirmation of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Development of trade and economic relations was a major area of focus of Premier Wen’s visit. Both sides agreed to set a target of bilateral trade volume of US\$ 20 billion or higher by 2008. The Joint Study Group (JSG) report presented to the two Prime Ministers identified a series of measures related to trade in goods, trade in services, investments and other areas of economic cooperation, and recommended their expeditious implementation to remove impediments and facilitate enhanced economic engagement between India and China. The two Prime Ministers tasked the Ministerial-level India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) to consider these recommendations and coordinate their implementation. The JSG has also recommended an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement, comprising trade in goods and services, investments, trade and investment promotion and facilitation, and measures for promotion of economic cooperation in identified sectors. The two Prime Ministers agreed to appoint a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from, the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give

recommendations regarding its content. Both sides also concluded an agreement to institute a Financial Dialogue mechanism between India and China.

High-level exchanges continued following Premier Wen's visit. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Chinese President Hu Jintao in Jakarta during the Afro-Asian Conference in Jakarta on 23 April and again on 9 May during the Victory Day celebration in Moscow. Later, Prime Minister held talks with President Hu Jintao on the margins of the G8+5 Summit in Gleneagles, UK on 7 July and again, on the margins of the UN High Level Plenary Meeting in New York on 14 September. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Premier Wen Jiabao also met for a bilateral interaction on the margins of the first East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December.

The structured exchanges with the Communist Party of China (CPC), which began in 2004, were further strengthened. Party Secretary of Qinghai province Mr. Zhou Leji visited India in September 2005 at the invitation of the Government of Haryana. CPC Politburo Member and Minister, Publicity Department of CPC, Mr. Liu Yunshan visited India in October 2005 at the invitation of Shri Jaipal Reddy, then Minister of Culture and I&B. Mr. Wang Zhaoguo, CPC Politburo Member and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China visited India in November 2005. At provincial level, Jiangsu Party Secretary Mr. Li Yuanchao visited India in September 2005, while Jilin Party Secretary, Mr. Wang Yunkun visited India in December 2005.

The Sixth Round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question – Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo, Executive Vice Foreign Minister of China - was held in Beijing 26-28 September 2005, marking the commencement of the second phase of the negotiations. The next round of talks will be held in New Delhi.

The second round of India-China Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing 9-10 January 2006 between Foreign Secretary, Shri Shyam Saran and the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Wu Dawei. The first round of the Strategic Dialogue was held on 24 January 2005 in New Delhi.

The continuing progress in bilateral defence ties between India and China was manifested in increased defence exchanges, and mutual participation in training courses and joint activities. Among the important high level visits that took place from India to China in 2005 were: Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Yashwant Prasad in April; Director General of Military Intelligence, Lt. Gen. D.H. Summanwar in May; Director General of Military Operations, Lt. Gen. Madan Gopal in September; a delegation from National Defence College in May; and a delegation led by Vice Admiral Raman Puri to attend an academic seminar in China in June. An Indian delegation participated as observer in China-Russia joint military exercise "Peace Mission 2005" in August 2005 and later in China's military exercise "Northern Sword 2005" in September 2005. From the Chinese side, Chief of General Staff of People's Liberation Army (PLA), General Liang Guanglie visited India in May 2005. A PLA Navy delegation led by Rear Admiral Zhang Yongyi visited India in October 2005. In addition, a seven-member delegation led by the Deputy Chief of General Office of China's Central Military Commission visited India in July-August 2005. Three officers of PLA attended, as observers, the Indian military exercise "Desert Strike" in November 2005. A task force of two ships from PLA Navy visited India from 28 November to 1 December 2005 and held search and rescue exercises with the Indian Navy off the coast of Kochi. Raksha Mantri Shri Pranab Mukherjee is scheduled to visit China in March 2006.

India-China cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism and public security was marked by the visit of Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil to China 7-11 September 2005. During the visit, an MoU was signed between India's Ministry of Home Affairs and China's Ministry of Public Security, which provided for cooperation in combating international terrorism, transnational crimes including money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal trading of arms, forgery of passports and visas, and cyber crime; training and capacity building of law enforcement agencies; and cooperation between national Interpol agencies in a mutually beneficial manner.

Trade and economic linkages between India and China maintained steady growth. The two-way trade in 2005 reached US\$16.97 billion by November, as per Chinese

statistics, registering an annual growth rate of 39.6%. During January-November 2005, India's exports to China recorded a total value of US\$ 8.96 billion while India's imports from China reached US\$ 8.01 billion, showing increases by 30% and 58% respectively over the corresponding period in 2004. Main exports from India to China included iron ore, iron & steel, plastics, precious stones and organic and inorganic chemicals. Chinese exports to India included machinery, organic & inorganic chemicals, mineral fuel (coal & coke), textiles, iron & steel and iron/steel products.

The commitment on both sides to expedite the implementation of the recommendations presented by the India-China Joint Study Group to facilitate enhanced bilateral economic engagement was reiterated during the talks between Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and the Chinese Commerce Minister Mr. Bo Xilai, on the margins of the WTO Mini-Ministerial Meeting held in China in July 2005. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram and Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Shri Y.V.R. Reddy also visited China 14-16 October 2005 to attend the G-20 Finance Ministers' Meeting, during which they held bilateral talks with their counterparts. Both sides agreed to enhance India-China cooperation in the economic and financial sector and to hold an early meeting of the newly constituted India-China Financial Dialogue.

The growing global interest in India and China and their economic cooperation was reflected in a high level conference entitled "China's and India's Changing Economic Structures: Domestic and Regional Implications", organized by the International Monetary Fund in Beijing in October 2005. Participants from India included Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Rakesh Mohan and Shri Ashok Lahiri, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance. Senior officials from China, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong also participated in the conference.

India-China cooperation in water resources continued with the signing of an MoU on sharing hydrological data during the flood season in respect of River Sutlej. The agreement also provided for the two sides to continue bilateral discussions to finalize at an early date similar

arrangements for two other rivers flowing from Tibet into India - Parlung Zangbo and Lohit/Zayu Qu Rivers. India and China already have such an MoU with regard to sharing of hydrological data for the Brahmaputra.

To explore bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas led a delegation of government officials and oil companies to China 11-13 January 2006. During the visit, both sides signed an MoU for Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas of India and the National Development and Reforms Commission of China.

In the cultural field, the India-China Cultural Exchange Programme (2003-2005) continued to provide the framework for various exchanges and activities, which included dance, theatre, painting, photographic exhibitions, films, literary exchanges and cultural restoration. During Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in April 2005, it was agreed to hold a Cultural Month of China in India and a Cultural Month of India in China. An MoU was also signed between the sides for the construction of an Indian-style Buddhist temple adjacent to the White Horse Temple in Luoyang, China. An Advisory Committee constituted by the Prime Minister has selected the design and the architect for the project. The construction work to be undertaken by the Chinese side is expected to begin in 2006.

There were also bilateral exchanges in the field of mass media, youth affairs and sports. A Protocol on India-China Film Cooperation Commission was signed during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India. Chinese films participated in the International Film Festival of India in Goa and the Golden Elephant Children's Film Festival in Hyderabad in November 2005. During the visit of the Chinese Sports Minister Mr. Liu Peng to India in July 2005, the two sides signed an MoU on cooperation in the field of sports.

Educational exchanges also expanded. Indian students enrolling in medical courses in China are a recent, but a growing phenomenon. According to unofficial estimates, there are currently around 1000 Indian medical students in China.



The Chinese Premier Mr. Wen Jiabao offering flowers at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, Rajghat on 11 April 2005.



Foreign Secretary Shri Shyam Saran with Pakistan Foreign Secretary Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan in Islamabad on 1 September 2005.

For the period April-November 2005, the Embassy of India, Beijing issued 10,347 visas as against 6,359 during the same period in 2004. Consulate General of India, Shanghai issued 7,479 visas during April-November 2005. According to official Chinese figures, there are presently 4,717 Indian nationals registered and staying in different provinces and cities of China.

Ministerial Level Exchanges

- Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister for Agriculture visited China in March-April 2005 and held discussions with his Chinese counterpart Minister Du Qinglin.
- Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss, visited China from 14-20 November 2005, and met the Chinese Minister of Health, Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission and Head of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
- Smt. Renuka Choudhary, Minister of Tourism visited China during 31 August-2 September 2005 to participate in the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.
- Shri E.V.K.S Elangovan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry visited China 1-2 November 2005 to attend the First Session of Ministerial Council of the Bangkok Agreement.
- Shri Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh visited China during 24 November - 1 December 2005.
- Chattisgarh Speaker Shri Prem Prakash Pandey, Madhya Pradesh Speaker Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, Haryana Speaker Shri Harmohinder Singh Chatha, Himachal Pradesh Speaker Shri G.R. Mussafir, Tamil Nadu Deputy Speaker Shri A. Arunachalam, visited China as part of study tour during August – September 2005 and interacted with China's National People's Congress.
- Shri Raghubar Das, Minister for Finance and Urban Development, Government of Jharkhand visited China in October 2005.
- Shri Nirupam Sen, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of West Bengal visited China

at the invitation of China Economic Cooperation Centre in November 2005.

- Mr. Sun Wensheng, China's Minister of Land and Resources visited India at the invitation of the Minister of Mines in September 2005. During the visit, an MoU on India-China bilateral cooperation in the filed of mining was signed.

In addition, there were visits by a number of functional level delegations between the two countries to address a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation.

Hong Kong

According to Hong Kong's statistics, during the period January-November 2005, bilateral trade touched US\$ 6.89 billion, a growth of 27% over the same period in 2004, with India's exports to Hong Kong reaching US\$ 4.29 billion (increase of 22%) and imports from Hong Kong reaching US\$ 2.59 billion (increase of 37%).

Shri Kamal Nath, Commerce and Industry Minister visited Hong Kong together with representatives of various Government departments and industry bodies to participate in the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong from 13-18 December 2005.

In 2005, the two sides negotiated and finalised an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between India and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, which is expected to be formally signed by the representatives of the two governments in 2006.

Maldives

India and the Maldives have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. The goodwill and warmth that marks the relationship has been sustained through high level exchanges. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives paid an official visit to India from 27 March-1 April 2005. He met President of India and held discussions with the Prime Minister. Both the leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as on matters of regional and international interest.

Reflecting close bilateral political understanding between the two countries, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Foreign Minister of Maldives visited India from 11-14 August 2005, after

assumption of office in July 2005. In the meeting with External Affairs Minister the two leaders reviewed the status of bilateral relations and exchanged views on matters of regional and international interest. He also met Prime Minister on 12 August 2005.

Dr. Shaheed accompanied by Mr. Gasim Ibrahim, Minister of Finance and Treasury of Maldives again visited India from 6-8 September 2005. The Ministers called on Minister of Finance on 8 September 2005.

Mr. Ismail Shafeeu, Minister of Defence and National Security of Maldives visited India from 24-28 September 2005. He met the Defence Minister on 27 September 2005 and reviewed the on-going cooperation between the two countries.

The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Arun Prakash visited Maldives from 20-23 November 2005. Besides holding talks with the Minister of Defence and National Security of Maldives, he also called on President of Maldives and Foreign Minister.

Prime Minister and President of Maldives met on the sidelines of SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005.

During 2005-06, India continued to provide training facilities to Maldivian nationals in areas such as defence, police and education, under its aid assistance programmes.

Mr. Mohamed Jameel Ahamed, Minister of Justice of Maldives visited India from 16-20 January 2006. He held discussions with the Union Minister of Law and Justice on bilateral cooperation to develop legal institutional framework in Maldives.

India-Maldives Joint Coast Guard Exercises, DOSTI-VIII were conducted off Male Coast from 20-25 December 2005. Vice Admiral A.K. Singh visited Maldives to oversee the conduct of these exercises. Besides holding talks with the Maldivian Minister of Defence and National Security on 21 December 2005, he also called on President of Maldives on 22 December 2005.

Foreign Secretary visited Maldives from 10-12 February 2006 for bilateral consultations.

Myanmar

India-Myanmar relations are rooted in shared social, cultural, religious and historical ties. Both countries have a long land border of nearly 1650 km as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Four north-eastern states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram border Myanmar. Myanmar also has a large population of Indian origin estimated at 2.5 million. Geo-strategic factors make it important for India and Myanmar to have a close relationship.

India-Myanmar relations are reflective of the two countries' common desire to cooperate with each other in order to promote peace and tranquillity along their border, achieve sustained economic development, foster people-to-people interaction and work towards achieving common goals in the sub-regional, regional and international contexts. Recent years have seen a steady growth of exchanges in a variety of sectors, resulting in the deepening and widening of bilateral ties.

Continuing the momentum of high-level visits, the then Minister of External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh paid an official visit to Myanmar from 24-27 March 2005 at the invitation of the Myanmar Foreign Minister, U Nyan Win. During the visit, External Affairs Minister called on Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Senior General Than Shwe and Prime Minister Lt. General Soe Win and held extensive talks with Foreign Minister Nyan Win. The Myanmar leadership recalled with pleasure Chairman Than Shwe's State visit to India in October 2004 and expressed satisfaction with follow-up action taken by authorities in both countries since the visit. External Affairs Minister stated that India attached a "very high priority to its relationship with Myanmar as a valuable neighbour". The two sides agreed that dialogue and concrete cooperation on counter-terrorism would be further strengthened and cooperation relating to various development projects would be stepped up and monitored. The Agreement signed between India and Myanmar in 2003 exempting diplomatic and official passport holders from the requirement of visa came into effect from 15 March 2005.

External Affairs Minister's visit was followed by two visits of the Myanmar Energy Minister, Brigadier General Lun Thi to India. During his first visit from 5-7 July 2005 at

the invitation of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Brig-Gen. Lun Thi reiterated Myanmar's desire to export gas to India at the earliest. The two sides discussed various options for transportation of gas from Myanmar to India. A GOI line of credit of US\$ 20 million was also announced for revamping of the Thanlyin refinery in Myanmar. The Myanmar Energy Minister again visited New Delhi on 3&4 October 2005 as the leader of the Myanmar delegation to the 1st BIMSTEC Energy Ministers Meeting. The President's State visit to Myanmar scheduled for 8-10 March 2006, would contribute to further strengthening the bilateral ties.

India hosted the ninth round of annual Foreign Office Consultations at senior officials level with Myanmar in New Delhi from 18-21 October 2005. The delegations undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and worked towards evolving a more dynamic and action-oriented approach to take the relationship forward.

The 11th National Level Meeting between Myanmar and India was held in Yangon from 13-17 October 2005. The Home Secretary led the Indian delegation and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe headed the Myanmar delegation. The deliberations focused on security issues, drug trafficking, joint inspection and maintenance of boundary pillars, border trade and cross-border projects.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General J.J. Singh visited Myanmar from 29 October-2 November 2005 at the invitation of Vice Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye. During his visit, the COAS also toured the Defence Services Technological Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay and Bagan.

An Army delegation led by Lt. Gen. Daljeet Singh, General Officer Commanding 3 Corps visited Myanmar from 5-9 May 2005, and Lt. Gen RN Kapur, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff from 5-11 December 2005. The Indian Army Football and Volleyball teams visited Myanmar from 26 May-2 June 2005 to participate in the 6th Indo-Myanmar Sports Meet.

The Myanmar Naval Chief Vice Admiral Soe Thane visited India in March 2005. This was followed by the

visit of Rear Admiral RP Suthan, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command to Yangon from 30 April-3 May 2005 in conjunction with the overseas deployment of two Indian Naval Ships, INS Vela (Submarine) and INS L-34 which paid a goodwill port call at Yangon from 1-4 May 2005. Rear Admiral Sanjeev Bhasin, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, also paid a visit to Myanmar from 22-26 December 2005, along with the overseas deployment of two ships, INS Ranjit and INS Kuthar. Myanmar Navy teams visited INS Satavahana, Vishakapatnam in July-August 2005 for training and Delhi and Kochi in September 2005, while INS Tillanchang visited Yangon in August 2005 on operational turn around. The Myanmar naval ship UMS Anawrahta participated in MILAN 2006 at Port Blair in January 2006. The Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash visited Myanmar from 19-22 January 2006.

An important consideration of India's policy with regard to Myanmar has been to achieve greater development and integration of its North-Eastern region with Western Myanmar by implementing cross-border infrastructure development projects. Important bilateral projects include construction and upgradation of border roads, a multi-model transport project, development of hydel power, educational and science and technology exchanges as well as communications and information technology projects. Of particular significance is the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Facility which seeks to provide the North-East access to the Bay of Bengal. The year 2005-06 saw the legal instruments on the project being finalised. The Pre-Feasibility Report on the Tamanthi Hydroelectric Power Project proposed to be developed as a joint project on River Chindwin in Myanmar was also prepared and accepted, and the two sides are now discussing further steps for implementation of the project. A Detailed Project Report on upgrading the Rhi-Tiddim and Rhi-Falam roads in Mizoram sector was commissioned through the Border Roads Organisation and an Initial Feasibility Report on developing Dawei as a deep sea port was prepared by the Ministry of Shipping and submitted to the Myanmar side for consideration. A Technical report on upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Line and a Feasibility Report on an India-Myanmar Rail Link prepared by RITES were also handed over to the Myanmar side in October 2005.

On the economic front, India remains committed to achieving the mutually agreed target of increasing bilateral trade to US\$ 1 billion by 2006. During 2004-05, India's exports to Myanmar reached US\$ 84 million while Myanmar exported US\$ 341 million worth of goods to India. A Direct Container Service was inaugurated on 13 March 2005 between Chennai and Yangon. Exchanges between the business chambers also continued with a PHDCCI delegation visiting Myanmar from 2-6 May 2005 and a 15-member delegation of Indo-Myanmar Chambers of Commerce & Industry visiting Yangon from 23-27 May 2005. Government of India also gifted to Myanmar 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat which had been announced during the first meeting of the Joint Trade Committee.

ONGC Videsh Limited and GAIL signed contracts with the South Korean company Daewoo to participate in the exploration of natural gas in the A-III block off the Rakhine coast, after a similar agreement for the A-I block in 2004. Essar Oil Limited signed production-sharing contracts for the A-II block and the on-shore L-block on 7 May 2005. As regards transportation of gas from Myanmar to India, the two sides are discussing various options including a pipeline through North-East India and import of compressed and liquefied natural gas.

India is assisting Myanmar with the delimitation of its continental shelf and to this end, a workshop was organised for Myanmar scientists at the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research in Goa from 24-28 October 2005. This will be followed by further studies at NCAOR, Goa. Meanwhile, the third India-Myanmar Joint Workshop on Oceanography was held in Yangon from 16-24 December 2005.

India provided 142 slots to Myanmar in 2005-06 under the Colombo Plan and ITEC programmes. Several experts in select fields were deputed to the University of Yangon to supervise Ph.D programmes under the MoU on exchange of experts. Equipment was also gifted to the University of Yangon for upgrading its Physics, Biotechnology and IT Laboratories.

A 11-member media delegation from India visited Yangon from 22-25 May 2005 under the India-ASEAN Media Exchange Programme. Bharatnatyam exponent, Shri Janak Khendry participated in a lecture-cum-

demonstration workshop at the University of Culture, Yangon on 25 May 2005. A film titled "Netaji Subash Chandra Bose - The Forgotten Hero" was shot by Shyam Benegal in Myanmar and screened in Yangon on 15 & 16 August 2005. An exhibition of contemporary art from India was organized from 18-25 November 2005 at the National Museum in Yangon. A 7-member Qawwali team from Hyderabad led by Shri Iqbal Hussain visited Myanmar on 23-24 December 2005 and performed at the annual Urs festival at Panj-peer Dargah and at the Mazar of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.

Eighty-two photographs on Buddhist heritage by Benoy K. Behl titled "Path of Compassion", which were exhibited during the World Buddhist Summit in December 2004, were gifted by India to the Shwedagon Pagoda Trust for permanent display. A three member delegation of religious officers and monks from Myanmar visited India from 24 November - 8 December, 2005 to study academic and research methods used in Buddhist universities in Nalanda, Varanasi, Agra, Kolkata, Delhi and Hyderabad.

Nepal

As close neighbours India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation underpinned by cultural and wide-ranging commercial and economic links. India shares over 1850 kms of open border with Nepal. There has been a long tradition of free movement of people across the borders.

The political instability and adverse security situation in Nepal were causes of deep concern to India during the year. The gap between the Monarchy and political parties widened, particularly after the 12-point Understanding in November 2005 between the seven party alliance and the Maoists. The decision by the Maoists to call-off their four month long unilateral ceasefire on 2 January 2006 was an unfortunate one. India maintained regular interaction with the Constitutional forces in Nepal including the Monarchy and the political parties. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met His Majesty King Gyanendra of Nepal on the sidelines of Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta on 22 April 2005. The two leaders met again on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit at Dhaka on 13 November 2005. The Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh visited Kathmandu from

21-23 July 2005. Foreign Secretary Shri Shyam Saran visited Nepal from 11-13 December, 2005. India has reiterated that multi-party democracy, as enshrined in the 1990 Constitution of Nepal, should be restored and the Constitutional forces which include both the institution of Monarchy and the political parties, should work together in order to confront the challenges facing Nepal, including the Maoist insurgency. There is no military solution to the problems facing Nepal. India wishes to see a peaceful, stable and prosperous Nepal in its neighbourhood and stands ready to support all efforts aimed at bringing about a peaceful solution to the problems confronting Nepal.

Officials of the two Governments met in May, 2005 to discuss ongoing cooperation in construction of embankments on selected rivers in Nepal and developing comprehensive short-term and long-term strategies for joint efforts at flood control and management of common rivers. The Joint Team of Experts on Sapt Koshi High Dam and Sun Kosi Diversion Scheme, to be developed in Nepal, met in June 2005 to review the field investigations for the projects being carried out by the Joint Project Office, established in Nepal in August 2004 for a period of 30 months with Indian assistance.

India and Nepal launched a pilot project for regulating cross-border movement from 1 November 2005 at Rupaidiha (District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh) – Nepalgunj (District Banke, Nepal) check-posts. Under this scheme Indian and Nepalese citizens crossing the border at this check-post would require to be in possession of identity documents, as mutually agreed upon by both Governments.

India-Nepal bilateral trade grew by 14.4%. By the end of the Nepalese fiscal year 2004-05, bilateral trade with India amounting to USD 1.8 billion accounted for 65.8% of Nepal's total external trade. India's share in Nepal's imports stood at 64.9%. India, on the other hand, absorbed about 67.7% of Nepal's exports.

Senior officials from Nepal and India met in Kathmandu (2-3 December, 2005) to review the provisions of the India-Nepal Treaty of Transit which was due for renewal on 5 January, 2006. India decided to extend for a period of three months the modalities, routes, conditions of

transit and customs arrangements as contained in the Protocol and Memorandum to the Treaty of Transit so as to enable the two Governments to complete the review process.

Indian joint ventures accounting for 35% of Foreign Direct Investment, reported good performance, in spite of disruptions resulting from the Maoist insurgency. Regulatory difficulties and market barriers, continued to adversely affect a few of the Indian joint ventures. No fresh investments have been reported during the period.

India's aid package to Nepal has an average annual outlay of between Rs. 60 crores to Rs. 75 crores. The India-Nepal Economic Cooperation programme, in particular the Small Development Project Scheme worked successfully with focus on three sectors – Education, Health and Infrastructure. At present 115 small and large projects are under implementation under the small Development Project scheme, covering 61 districts of Nepal.

Major projects are at the take-off stage. They include the Bir Hospital Trauma Centre, Manmohan Adhikari Polytechnic and other border infrastructure development projects. Invisible Goiter has been eradicated through the supply of iodized salt from India.

India offers annually about 1000 scholarships to Nepalese students in various courses. In addition, a number of Nepalese students come to India to study at their own expense.

Pakistan

Relations between India and Pakistan during this period were marked by a desire to expand their interaction in an atmosphere free of violence and terrorism, though India continued to have concerns on this account. The ceasefire along the Line of Control, International Border and Actual Ground Position Line (Siachen) that came into effect on 25 November 2003 continued to hold except for some minor incidents.

Increased People to People Contacts

The Composite Dialogue on eight major subjects gave a structural basis to deepen and expand the bilateral relations that have been on an upward graph since 2004. The second round of the Composite Dialogue which

commenced with the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries in December 2004 crossed several milestones during the year. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service started on 7 April 2005 across the Line of Control, allowing the people to move across and meet with their divided families. A decision was taken to link up Poonch-Rawalkot by bus across the LoC and to start a truck service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route. The two countries commenced bus service between Amritsar & Lahore while bus service between Amritsar-Nankana Sahib is expected to start shortly. The rail service between Munabao in Rajasthan and Khokhrapar in Sindh of Pakistan has been resumed after 40 years on 18 February 2006. The two Governments also agreed in principle, to expand the list of pilgrimage sites and increase the number of pilgrims by revising the Protocol signed in 1974. The third round of the Composite Dialogue commenced as agreed in January 2006.

Humanitarian Approach to Prisoners

Another achievement of the dialogue process was the release of 435 Indian prisoners including 371 fishermen, and 148 Pak prisoners including 51 fishermen by the two Governments, on 12 September 2005. This was based on an agreement reached during the Home Secretary level meeting on 30 August 2005. It was also agreed that the prisoners issue would be dealt with in a humanitarian manner by notifying the arrests immediately, providing consular access within three months and releasing prisoners as soon as the prison term was over. India unilaterally released another 26 prisoners on 18 November 2005. There was commitment to continue the goodwill approach to this humanitarian issue of prisoners.

Important Agreements

Two important agreements were signed : an Agreement on Pre-notification of the Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles and an MoU for Communication Link between Coast Guard of India (CGI) and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA). The former was an important Confidence Building Measure while the latter was expected to provide better coordination between the maritime agencies guarding the coasts. Besides, an MoU for cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking was agreed to in principle and would be signed shortly. Visa and Consular Agreements/Protocols were under review

while discussions on the Shipping Protocol of 1972 to revise it were underway. Cultural Exchange Programme of 1988 was also being revised.

Commerce & Trade

The year 2005-06 witnessed substantial growth in bilateral trade which grew from US\$ 240 million during April-August last financial year to US\$ 299 million during the same period in 2005-2006, an increase of 25%. Exports from Pakistan registered a rise of 93% though the trade balance remained in favour of India. Pakistan increased its positive list allowing import of Indian goods marginally to 773 while the Attari-Wagah border was opened by it for select goods, namely onions, tomatoes, potatoes, garlic and meat. In July 2005, while announcing its Trade Policy, Pakistan added three items- sugar, oats and mild steel for construction to the list of importable items from India. However, India was still awaiting MFN status to be accorded by Pakistan even though the same had already been given by India to Pakistan. The Commerce Secretaries of two countries had met in August 2005 and agreed to open Bank branches in each other's country. Reserve Bank of India and its Pakistan counterpart announced that the process for opening two branches by each side would start.

Other Important Developments

There were further discussions on issues such as Siachen and Sir Creek. It was agreed in the second round of Composite Dialogue that a Joint Survey will be held on the Sir Creek. Differences on Baglihar Hydroelectric Project were referred to a neutral expert who had held two meetings so far with the two sides and the third meeting is expected to be held in February 2006. Cooperation was also witnessed in the areas of Civil Aviation and both sides agreed in principle to increase the number of destinations, frequencies and designated airlines. The underlying principle for this flexibility was the desire to provide additional facilities for travel to the people. The same spirit had also encouraged the two Governments to agree to reopen their Consulates in Karachi and Mumbai.

High Level Contacts

Year 2005-2006 witnessed several high level contacts. President Musharraf visited India in April 2005. The Joint

Statement issued by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf reiterated their commitment to the dialogue process. Foreign Secretary visited Islamabad from 31 August-2 September 2005 to review the second round of the Composite Dialogue. Foreign Secretary's visit was followed by the visit of the then External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh from 2-5 October 2005 to review the progress made in the first two rounds of the Composite Dialogue and to revive the Joint Commission after a 16-year interregnum. The revival of the Joint Commission was a major achievement which was reflective of the desire of the two countries to provide an institutional basis for bilateral interaction on a sustained basis.

On 14 September 2005, the Indian Prime Minister met the Pakistan President at New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting. The two leaders reaffirmed that they would not allow terrorism to impede the peace process.

In January 2006, Pakistan Foreign Secretary visited India for talks with his Indian counterpart and to commence the third round of the Composite Dialogue. They also held talks on Peace and Security including CBMs and on Jammu & Kashmir. The third round of the Composite Dialogue is expected to conclude by July/August 2006.

Assistance to Earthquake Victims

There was an outpouring of sympathy in India for the victims of the earthquake. Prime Minister spoke to President Musharraf telephonically the same day on 8 October 2005 when the devastating earthquake hit the northern parts of southern Asia that claimed more than 80,000 lives in PoK and Pakistan. India sent relief material immediately and announced an assistance of US\$ 25 million at the international conference in Geneva organised by UN Coordinator for Emergency Relief. Government of India sent Minister of State for External Affairs to represent India at the international conference held in Islamabad on 19 November 2005 and offered to take up reconstruction projects in health and education sectors and to source construction material from the amount it pledged at Geneva. Government of India provided more than 1300 tonnes of relief goods including the material that were handed over across LoC. Besides

hundreds of tons of relief material was also donated by private sources. The total worth of relief material sent to Pakistan both from government and private sources was Rs. 69 crores or US\$ 15.5 million. The High Commission of Pakistan was also permitted to source supplies and to open a Bank Account to receive cash donations from Indians.

Prompt over-flight clearances were accorded for relief planes of other countries. Pakistan's rescue helicopters were allowed to fly in the 'no-fly' zone close to the LoC with permission, as a special gesture. Special telephone centres were opened on the Indian side of the LoC to facilitate calls by Indians to their relatives in Pakistan/PoK. Foreign organisations were allowed to source supplies from India. India also opened 5 crossing points on the LoC for the movement of people and relief material. The five crossing points were opened by 16 November 2005. It was also agreed that two meeting points would be opened on the LoC for people on both sides to meet.

Pakistan, however, declined Indian offers of helicopters, relief camps, cross-LoC joint relief operations, medical relief teams and repair of telecom infrastructure.

Cross Border Terrorism

India had continuing concerns on cross-border infiltration and incidence of terrorist violence in India linked to it. Despite Pakistan's assurance that steps would be taken to prevent such infiltration, there was no sustained decline in infiltration and violent incidents. India expressed the hope that Pakistan would take concrete action in this regard. The importance of Pakistan fulfilling its commitment outlined in the Joint Press Statement of 6 January 2004 of not permitting the use of territory under its control to support terrorism in any manner was repeatedly reiterated. India made it clear that the whole dialogue process hinged on building an atmosphere of trust and confidence, free from violence and terror.

Sri Lanka

India-Sri Lanka relations saw further consolidation and growth during this period. A number of high-level visits were exchanged; the institutional framework of the relationship was expanded; trade and commercial links continued to demonstrate satisfactory growth; and



The President of Maldives Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 28 March 2005.



President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh receiving the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse and Mrs. Rajapakse at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 28 December 2005.

defence cooperation continued. The President of Sri Lanka, the Foreign Ministers and the Leader of Opposition visited India during this period in order to exchange views on bilateral issues and other areas of mutual interest and to work towards further intensification of bilateral relations. Foreign Office Consultations to review the whole range of bilateral relations held in May 2005, were succeeded by the sixth meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held in Colombo in June 2005 under the co-chairmanship of External Affairs Minister and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister.

Presidential elections were held in Sri Lanka in November, 2005 and a new government under President Mahinda Rajapakse assumed office. President Mahinda Rajapakse paid a State Visit to India from 27-30 December 2005. Earlier, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera visited India in November 2005. The then Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Anura Bandaranaike had also visited India on 25 & 26 August 2005. The then President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga visited India from 2-4 June 2005, and Leader of Opposition Ranil Wickremesinghe was in India from 16-18 August 2004 and earlier from 6-9 April 2005. Speaker WJM Lokabandura visited India from 27 April - 1 May 2005. From the Indian side the External Affairs Minister visited Colombo from 9-11 June 2005. He also visited Colombo accompanied by the Defence Minister to attend the funeral of the slain Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar on 15 August 2005. Minister of State for Tourism Renuka Chowdhury visited Sri Lanka from 23-25 July 2005. Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran visited Sri Lanka from 30 April-2 May 2005.

The visiting Sri Lankan leaders briefed India on developments relating to the peace process in Sri Lanka. India is opposed to the resumption of violence and is in favour of a negotiated political settlement that meets the just aspirations of all communities. India continues to have an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and is committed to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. India also continues to remain committed to the rehabilitation of the Northern and Eastern Regions of Sri Lanka. India strongly condemned the assassination of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

The existing understandings between India and Sri Lanka on the humane treatment and early release of fishermen who stray across maritime boundary lines continued to be in place. Sri Lankan authorities have been sympathetic in their approach towards this problem. The first meeting of the newly constituted Joint Working Group on Fisheries which deals with issues relating to straying fishermen, will work out modalities for prevention of use of force against them and the early release of confiscated boats, and explore possibilities of working towards bilateral arrangements for licensed fishing took place in New Delhi in April 2005.

A number of Sri Lankan soldiers, sailors and airmen continue to receive training in Indian defence establishments.

A technical cooperation training programme for 450 Sri Lankan Police officers in various Indian police establishments on advance policing techniques commenced on 5 December 2005.

Bilateral economic ties saw further intensification during this period. Six rounds of technical level talks on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which will widen and deepen the FTA by including trade in services and investments have been held.

India is today the fourth largest foreign direct investor in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka Board of Investment have given approvals to 147 Indian projects with total FDI of US\$ 450 million. Indian Oil Corporation has invested over Rs. 300 crores while a major power project involving setting-up of a 300 MW coal or LNG driven power plant by the National Thermal Power Corporation is under consideration.

India has extended a number of credit lines to Sri Lanka. Three of them are currently operational. These are a US \$100 million line for capital goods, consumer durables, consultancy services and food items; a US \$31 million line of credit for supply of wheat to Sri Lanka (scope has been expanded to allow procurement of buses); and a US \$150 million line of credit for purchase of petroleum products. Following the tsunami, the Sri Lankan government has sought to utilize another US \$ 100 million



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the inaugural Session of the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka on 12 November 2005.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Heads of States/Governments at the 4th India-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December 2005.

credit line for rural infrastructure projects offered in June 2004 towards development of the Southern Railway in Sri Lanka. This has been agreed to. A total of about US\$ 381 million (approx Rs. 1700 crores) is thus being made available to Sri Lankan Government through lines of credit.

India treats development cooperation with Sri Lanka as a priority sector. Projects currently being processed in the Health sector include constructing a 150-bed hospital at Dickoya, upgradation of the hospital at Trincomalee and a US\$ 7.5 million grant for setting up a Cancer Hospital. Projects being considered for the Education sector include upgrading the educational infrastructure of schools in the Central province, a scholarship scheme in Sri Lanka (for +2 students) and setting up 2 Vocational Training Centres. Projects that have recently been implemented, include a Rs. 1 crore grant for upgrading 30 schools in the Central Province, donation of medicines and

equipment to the hospital in Point Pedro, providing equipment to the hospital at Hambantota, supply of 4 ambulances, a cataract eye surgery programme for 1500 people and providing equipment and infrastructure to a number of universities

India remains committed to the national reconstruction effort in Sri Lanka following the tsunami of 26 December 2004. Indian assistance has been focused on projects, namely, Salvage operation in Kankesanthurai harbour, Upgrading the Negombo-Colombo-Matara railway line, Upgrade base hospitals in Hambantota, Jaffna and Trincomalee, Experience sharing exercises, and Debt deferral for a period of three to five years.

Exchange of information on the Sethusamudram issue continued. A second round of discussions was held on 1 August 2005 and a copy of the Detailed Project Report, Environmental Impact Assessment and details about Hydrodynamic modeling of the project were handed over.



Building on historical and cultural linkages with the South-east Asia region, India continued to pursue closer relations with South East Asia as envisioned in its Look East Policy. India's Look East Policy has been extended beyond South East Asia to the Pacific region. Regular exchange of high level visits at bilateral level and interactions at regional and multilateral fora have contributed to imparting fresh dynamism in India's relations with these countries. The visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the Asian-African Summit and the golden jubilee commemorations of the Bandung Conference, where Prime minister was requested to speak on behalf of Asia and Prime Minister's visit to Kuala Lumpur for the fourth India-ASEAN Summit on 13&14 December 2005 were significant milestones in India's interaction with this region. President of Indonesia Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Prime Ministers of Fiji, Singapore and Thailand visited India. A number of ministerial visits that took place during this period also helped in the further consolidation of India's relations with the region.

India participated for the third time in the Post Forum Dialogue meetings with the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) in Port Moresby in October 2005. India's bilateral relations with countries of this region saw further consolidation and growth. India continued to attach due importance to countries of South East Asia and the Pacific region.

Brunei Darussalam

Bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam continued to be cordial and friendly.

The 5th meeting of the India-Brunei Joint Committee was held in New Delhi on 28 May 2005 at the level of senior officials. The whole gamut of bilateral issues were discussed during the meeting.

A term sale agreement for supply of 1.8 million barrels of

Seria Light Export Blend was signed in June 2005 between Brunei Shell Petroleum Berhard (BSP) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

A group of ten Indian media representatives visited Brunei in October 2005 under ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme.

Cambodia

Relations between India and Cambodia were further strengthened during the course of the year. The Second meeting of the India- Cambodia Joint Working Group on Tourism was held in Siem Reap on 10 January 2006. India pledged a contribution of US\$ 1 Million towards Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia.

Indonesia

India's relations with Indonesia, the largest country in South East Asia and a strategically important neighbour with which India shares a maritime boundary were marked by growing understanding and cooperation.

Indonesia hosted an Asian-African Summit in Jakarta and the Golden Jubilee Commemoration of the 1955 Bandung Conference from 22-24 April 2005. The Prime Minister participated in both the events. A New Asian-African Strategic Partnership was launched on 23 April 2005.

A series of Ministerial visits were exchanged during the year, signifying the mutual desire of both countries to intensify bilateral relations. The Indonesian Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Culture, Agriculture and Health visited India. External Affairs Minister, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State (PMO) visited Indonesia. The Chief Minister of West Bengal visited Indonesia in August, 2005. The Governor of Jakarta visited India in September, 2005.

The India-Indonesia Joint Consultative Forum met in Yogyakarta from 27-29 September 2005.

The highlight of the year was the State Visit of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to India from 21-24 November 2005. A large official delegation, including the Coordinating Minister for Economy, Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, Trade Minister, Industry Minister, State Secretary, three MPs, Chief of Air Staff and President of Kadin accompanied President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The Indonesian President addressed an India-Indonesia Business Summit organized by the Apex Chambers on 23 November, 2005.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono signed a Joint Declaration following bilateral talks, establishing a New Strategic Partnership (NSP) based on shared values as pluralistic democracies. The NSP is designed to address the long-term interests of both countries through closer diplomatic coordination, stronger defence relations, enhanced economic relations, greater technological cooperation, as well as intensified cultural ties, and educational linkages.

Three MoUs were signed during the visit, covering cooperation between the respective Foreign Service Institutes, Marine and Fisheries Cooperation and the establishment of a Joint Working Group to consider the conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

The NSP placed emphasis on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation. An annual India-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue is to be launched. Cooperation to combat terrorism will be intensified. Both sides will take measures to facilitate tripling of bilateral trade to \$ 10 billion by 2010. Cooperation in the energy sector is to be enhanced. Both countries will work together to promote bilateral and regional cooperation in Tsunami Early Warning Systems for the Indian Ocean. India will establish a second Vocational Training Centre in Indonesia, located in Aceh.

The two countries affirmed the need for all 16 East Asia Summit (EAS) countries to fully participate and actively contribute towards a common vision of an East Asian

Community that would facilitate closer regional cooperation and integration.

Admiral Arun Prakash, Chief of Naval Staff and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, visited Indonesia from 27-31 July 2005. A five-ship squadron of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet led by INS Viraat visited Jakarta from 28 July to 1 August 2005. An Indian Defence Exhibition was organised onboard INS Viraat during the visit, which also featured flying demonstrations by HAL's Dhruv helicopter. Month-long bi-annual coordinated patrols conducted by the two Navies were held in September and November 2005.

A Vocational Training Centre for the Construction Sector, set up in Jakarta with ITEC funding, was inaugurated on 10 May 2005. A total of 147 training and scholarship slots were allotted to Indonesia under ITEC, Colombo Plan and GCSS Schemes for 2005-06.

Bilateral trade was poised to expand by around 30% to reach \$ 4 billion during 2005. An exclusive Indian Exhibition "Indiatech 2005" was organized in Jakarta by EEPC and the Embassy.

Cooperation in Space remained the centerpiece of India-Indonesia bilateral S&T cooperation. ISRO expanded its facilities at Biak in the Papua Province of Indonesia by constructing a Second Telemetry, Tracking and Command Ground Station for satellites and GSLVs. ISRO also agreed to undertake a piggy back launch of Indonesia's TUBSAT Micro Satellite in early 2006.

India's two Cultural Centres in Indonesia (Jakarta and Bali), in addition to conducting regular classes, organized Symposiums on "Cultural links between Indonesia and India" on 30 March and 23 September 2005, Both Centres are now fully staffed, with three faculty members each.

Lao PDR

Relations between India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic continued to strengthen during the year. 32 Lao Army Personnel visited India on a study trip from 12 December 2005-7 January 2006.

Malaysia

India's relations with Malaysia were further strengthened during the year. Pursuant to a decision reached during



President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh receiving the President of Indonesia Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Mrs. Bambang Yudhoyono at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 23 November 2005.



President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam being received by the President of Philippines, Mme. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at Malacanang Palace in Manila on 4 February 2005.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's visit to India in December 2004, a Joint Study Group set up to examine the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement completed its report. Dato' Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works of Malaysia visited India in April 2005 and August 2005. The Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash visited Malaysia coinciding with a Port call by five naval ships of the Indian Navy led by the aircraft carrier, INS Virat in July 2005.

Tan Sri Dato'Seri DiRaja Ramli Ngah Talib, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malaysia accompanied by a parliamentary delegation visited India from 25-29 July 2005. Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha visited Malaysia on a Study visit in September 2005.

The First Foreign Office Consultations with Malaysia were held at Senior Officials' level in Putrajaya on October 20 2005. Issues of bilateral, regional and multilateral importance were discussed in the meeting.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed visited Kuala Lumpur from 5-8 September 2005.

Philippines

Bilateral relations between India and the Philippines continued to broaden and strengthen. Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee led an eight-member Parliamentary delegation to the Philippines to attend the 112th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from 3-8 April 2005. The 8th round of Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) was held in New Delhi on 7 July 2005 and the 2nd India-Philippines Security Dialogue was held on 8 July 2005. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahmad visited Manila on a goodwill visit from 8-10 September 2005.

The former President of Philippines Mr. Fidel V Ramos visited Delhi on 19 & 20 January 2006. During his stay, the former President met various ministers to discuss bilateral relations particularly those involving economic cooperation.

On the invitation of Philippines President, the President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam visited Philippines from 3-6 February 2006. The visit marked a significant milestone in enhancing the bilateral relationship. The President

addressed the Philippines National Assembly. An MoU on cooperation in Agriculture was signed during the visit.

As part of the continuing interaction between the Armed Forces of the two countries, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal SP Tyagi visited Philippines from 21-25 August 2005.

Bilateral trade increased from US\$ 443.64 million in 2003-04 to US\$ 577.08 million in 2004-05. While exports from India increased from US\$ 321.53 million to US\$ 395.16 million, imports from the Philippines rose from US\$ 122.11 million to US\$ 181.92 million.

Civil Aviation delegations of India and Philippines met in New Delhi on 20&21 July 2005 and signed an MoU. The 9th India-Philippines Joint Working Group Meeting was held in Manila on 1&2 September 2005.

A number of visits by business and commercial delegations took place: a 10-member delegation sponsored by CAPEXCIL visited Manila from 5-9 August 2005; a 7-member delegation sponsored by CII (Goa Council) visited Manila from 8-10 August 2005; a 3-member Philippine delegation attended the Handicrafts & Gift Fair in New Delhi from 13-17 October 2005 and a 3-member Philippine delegation visited Hyderabad on 1& 2 December 2005 to participate in the India-Africa-GCC-ASEAN Pharma and Health Conference.

During 2005-06, Philippines was allotted 68 slots under ITEC, Colombo Plan and three scholarships under Cultural Exchange Programme. Out of 68 slots under ITEC and Colombo Plan during 2005-06, 57 slots have been utilised so far.

Singapore

India-Singapore bilateral relations continued to expand and deepen. The friendly and warm ties were marked by regular exchange of high level visits, and substantial growth in economic and commercial links.

Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Mr. T.R. Baalu paid an official visit to Singapore from 7-9 September, 2005. He inaugurated a conference on "Gateway to Logistic Opportunities in India". Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Singapore on 24 October 2005 and held talks with Mr. Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for Health.



The Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsein Loong with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 29 June 2005.



The Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 3 June 2005.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation under the aegis of India Singapore Parliamentary Forum (ISPF) visited Singapore from 3-5 October 2005.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker of Lok Sabha visited Singapore from 9-11 April 2005.

India-Singapore Air Services talks were held on 23&24 August 2005 in New Delhi, India. A Memorandum of Understanding aimed at expanding the air services between the two countries was signed. There has been significant growth of air traffic between India and Singapore, and two new airlines from India – Jet Airways (April 2005) and Air Sahara (May 2005) started operations between Singapore and India in 2005.

An Indian Mango festival was held in Singapore from 9-15 June 2005 in collaboration with APEDA. Shri Babulal Gaur, Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh visited Singapore on 26 May 2005 and addressed an investment promotion seminar. Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal led a 25 member business delegation to Singapore from 22-24 August, 2005 and delivered a lecture on economic opportunities for Singapore in India. Mr. Ebrahim Kunju, Minister for Industries and Social Welfare of Kerala, Mr. D. Jayakumar, Minister of Law and IT of Tamil Nadu, and Dr. (Mrs.) J. Geeta Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Sugar, Major Industries & Export Promotion of Andhra Pradesh, visited Singapore during the year to promote investment, tourism and cooperation in IT Sector.

The VII Round of Foreign Office consultation at Senior Officials level was held in New Delhi on 26 September, 2005.

Temasek Holdings, Singapore Government's investment arm, has invested over a US\$ 1 billion through FII route since it established office in Mumbai in 2004.

Mr. B.K. Handique, Minister of State for Defence Production visited Singapore from 16-20 May 2005 for participating in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition 2005. Adm Arun Prakash, Chief of Naval Staff Indian Navy and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee visited Singapore to participate at the IMDEX 2005, and delivered the keynote address at the 10th Naval Platform Technology seminar. Two indigenously built ships of the

Indian Navy, INS Mysore, INS Tarasa alongwith an Indian Coast Guard Ship Sagar participated in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition 2005 held at Singapore from 16-22 May 2005.

The Indian Aircraft carrier 'Viraat' with four other IN ships from the Eastern Fleet of Indian Navy visited Singapore from 19-22 July 2005. The Indian Navy(IN) band accompanying the aircraft carrier performed at the Victoria Concert Hall.

A delegation of 10 Indian journalists visited Singapore under India-ASEAN Media exchange programme in July, 2005. Shri Rohit Anand, flute player sponsored by ICCR performed in Singapore on 20 May 2005.

Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong paid a State Visit to India from 28-30 June 2005. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mr. George Yong Yeo, Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade & Industry and Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth & Sports and Members of Parliament. During the visit, two Agreements were signed – the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) in Criminal Matters. The CECA is an integrated package comprising an FTA, a bilateral agreement on investment promotion and protection, a double taxation avoidance agreement and a work programme of cooperation in healthcare, education, media and tourism. India-Singapore Parliamentary Forum was launched during the visit. Prime Minister Lee addressed a business luncheon meeting on the theme "India's engagement with South East Asia".

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Minister Mentor paid a visit to India from 18-23 November 2005. He delivered the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture titled "India in an Asian Renaissance" in New Delhi.

Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education visited Chennai and New Delhi from 11-15 Sep 2005. In Chennai, he opened an International Technology Park. Mr. Cedric Foo, Minister of State for National Development visited Chennai and Bangalore from 10-15 April 2005 in connection with projects of Singapore companies in these cities.

Major General Desmond Kuek, Singaporean Chief of Army paid an official visit to India from 20-22 June 2005.

The President Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited Singapore from 31 January-3 February 2006. The visit reinforced the strong bilateral links.

Thailand

India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and widen with the exchange of high level visits and strengthening of economic & trade links. Prime Minister Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra (PMTS) accompanied by a high level delegation including Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon (FMKS) and Science & Technology Minister Korn Thapparansi visited India on a working visit on June 3 2005. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited India from 18-23 November 2005 to receive the Indira Gandhi Award 2004 for her work in the area of development. HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol visited Bangalore and Delhi from 21-29 November 2005 to attend a scientific conference.

Other important visits from Thailand to India included those of Mr. Suchart Tanjaroen, First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives from 12-18 September 2005; Mr. Viset Choopiban, Energy Minister, for the BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting on 3&4 October 2005.

Visits from India to Thailand included those of Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, to attend the 61st Annual Session of UNESCAP at Bangkok from 12-18 May 2005; Admiral Arun Prakash, Chief of Naval Staff, 19-21 May 2005; Prof. Ram Kapse, Lt. Governor of A & N Islands from June 29-2 July 2005 to sign the Agreement on Cooperation between Port Blair and Phuket; Dr. J. Geeta Reddy, Minister for Tourism of Andhra Pradesh, to attend a Tourism Destination Promotion Show organized by AP Tourism Board at Bangkok on 29 June 2005; Shri B.K. Handique, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Defence, from 12-15 July 2005 as part of the BIMSTEC People-to-People Contact Programme; Commerce Secretary to Bangkok for ASEAN-India SOM on 25 August 2005; Mr. Surya Narayan Patra, Minister of Tourism of Orissa, and Dr. Damodar Rout, Minister of Culture of Orissa, to participate in the Buddhist festival at Bangkok from 25-28 August 2005, and Lt. Gen. B.S. Thakur, Vice Chief

of Army Staff, to attend the Asia Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC IV) at Bangkok from 1-5 August 2005.

The first Joint Working Group meeting between India and Thailand took place at Bangkok on 9&10 January 2006. The bilateral relations in areas such as agriculture, tourism, culture, education, trade, investment, civil aviation, science & technology were discussed in detail. Both the sides also exchanged views on political situation in South Asia and neighbourhood States. A Joint Work Plan was formulated to monitor the progress made in agreed areas of cooperation.

The fourth Joint Working Group Meeting on Security was held in New Delhi on 13 & 14 October 2005. Bilateral Defence cooperation has been strengthened. An MoU on Coordinated Sea Patrol was signed. The 1st Coordinated Sea Patrol was conducted by the Royal Thai Navy and the Indian Navy from 15-23 September 2005. Two Indian Naval Ships – INS VELA and INS LUC L-34- visited Phuket from 21-24 April 2005.

Asian Defence Exhibition was held in Bangkok from 2-5 November 2005. A four-member Indian delegation visited Bangkok to attend the Exhibition. Two Indian firms, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Brahmos participated and displayed their products in the Exhibition.

Bilateral trade continued to register consistent growth. The Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) under the Framework Agreement for Bilateral FTA, covering 82 items (at 6-digit HS Code level), has been in operation since 1 September 2004. India's exports to Thailand during January-October 2005 amounted to US \$ 1075.1 million, a growth of 9% compared to the same period last year whereas Thailand's exports to India during the same period reached US \$ 1228.6 million, representing a growth of 63%.

Major trade delegations from India that visited Thailand during April-October 2005 included (i) visit of a delegation from Indian Textile Accessories & Machinery Manufacturers' Association (ITAMMA) in April 2005; (ii) visit of a delegation from Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO), Bangalore in May 2005; (iii) visit of a paper & paper products delegation sponsored by the

CAPEXIL, Chennai in August 2005; (iv) visit of a delegation from Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India in August 2005; (v) visit of a delegation from Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture in October 2005.

Important Cultural events included (i) the International Sanskrit Conference from 23-26 June 2005, and (ii) the Kalakshetra performance of the Ramayan on 2 October 2005 as part of the Bangkok Dance and Music Festival.

India offered 104 scholarships to Thai nationals during 2005, including 16 long term university scholarships for graduate, post-graduate and PhD courses.

Vietnam

India and Vietnam continued to enjoy close and cordial relations.

The Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien visited India 31 March-4 April 2005. Apart from holding delegation level talks with the then External Affairs Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh, Foreign Minister Nien called on the President and met with Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Kamal Nath and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met President Tran Duc Luong in May 2005 in Bandung during the 50th Anniversary of 1955 Bandung Conference. External Affairs Minister had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Vietnam on 22 September 2005 in New York on the sidelines of 60th UNGA session.

Defence Minister of Vietnam Mr. Pham Van Tra visited India from 5-7 March 2005 and held discussions with the Defence Minister. Indian naval vessel INS Magar paid a goodwill visit to Vietnam from 9-13 June 2005. Training of Vietnamese defence forces officers under the ITEC programme continued. An NCC team comprising 13 cadets and 2 officers visited Vietnam from 15-24 November 2005.

Fisheries Minister of Vietnam Mr. Ta Quang Ngoc visited India from 20-23 March 2005. A Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Trinh Huy Quach, Deputy Chairman of the Budgetary and Economic Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam visited India from 18-20 September 2005.

A delegation led by the President of Vietnam Fatherland Front Mr. Pham The Duyet visited India from 11-16 October 2005. The Vietnamese delegation had meetings with the Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, and Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh. A Vietnamese Parliamentary Delegation comprising 8 MPs led by Mme Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, MP and Chairperson on Social Committees of Vietn Parliament visited Bangalore, Maharashtra & Kerala from 8-17 January 2006 to study social policy for poor group support for women & children suffering from domestic violence and social policy for immigrants from rural to urban areas.

Bilateral trade with Vietnam has continued to grow. India's exports to Vietnam during the period January-September 2005 amounted to US\$ 440 million and imports from Vietnam amounted to US\$ 71.09 million. The Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam sent an investment promotion delegation to India from 10-17 April 2005.

India and Vietnam signed an agreement in August 2005 on Vietnam's accession to the WTO.

The 6th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held in New Delhi on 20 May 2005. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Vice Minister Dr. Le Dinh Tien. It was agreed that two joint workshops would be organized every year (one in India and one in Vietnam) in the areas including biotechnology and healthcare, science management and indicators, new materials and climate research.

The Tourism Cooperation Plan for 2005-06 was signed in Hanoi on 14 October 2005.

A 13-member Viet Bac traditional artist troupe from Vietnam visited India 23 August-1 September 2005. A photo exhibition entitled "Vietnamese face" was also organized on the occasion.

Australia

India-Australia bilateral relations continued to develop with several exchanges at political level and bilateral meetings taking place during the year.

The India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission met in



Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee meeting the Prime Minister of Fiji, Mr. Laisenia Qarase during the 51st CPA Conference in Suva, Fiji, in September 2005.



The Foreign Minister of Australia Mr. Alexander Downer calls on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 9 June 2005.

Sydney in May 2005. The Indian delegation was led by Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Kamal Nath and the Australian delegation was led by Trade Minister Mr. Mark Vaile. A meeting of the Joint Business Council was also held at the same time. The two sides agreed to commence negotiations for a comprehensive Trade and Economic Framework.

Minister of Mines Shri Sis Ram Ola accompanied by a delegation consisting of representatives also from the State Governments of Orissa, Jharkand, Karnataka, Chattisgarh visited Australia from 23-31 May 2005. The Minister held discussions with Mr. Ian Macfarlane, Australian Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Provincial Ministers and representatives of the mining industry.

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Shri Suresh Pachouri, led a delegation to Australia from 21-31 May 2005 on a study visit relating to public service. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, visited Australia from 19-23 September 2005 to deliver the annual David Finch Lecture at the Melbourne University. Minister of State (IC) for Non-Conventional Energy Sources Shri Vilas Muttemwar visited Australia from 3-8 November 2005.

Foreign Minister of Australia Mr. Alexander Downer visited India from 6-9 June 2005 for the India-Australia Foreign Ministers Framework Dialogue.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard is scheduled to visit India from 6 March 2006. His visit would mark an important mile stone in the development of the bilateral relations. Prior to his visit, Senior Officials Meeting/ Strategic dialogue is slated to be held from 14-16 February 2006 in New Delhi in which bilateral as well as regional issues will be discussed.

There was considerable interaction at the State level during the year. A delegation led by Shri P.G.R. Sindhia, Minister for Industries and Infrastructure of Karnataka visited Queensland and Victoria from 26 April-2 May 2005. The Premier of Victoria, Mr. Steve Bracks led a business delegation to India from 12-17 April 2005. The State of Victoria also opened a Trade and Investment Office in Bangalore in November, inaugurated by the Minister for Information Technology of Victoria,

Ms. Marsha Thomson. The Premier of Western Australia, Dr. Geoff Gallop, visited India for ten days from 30 September 2005.

The first meeting of the India-Australia Joint Science and Technology Committee was held on 29 July 2005 in Canberra. The two delegations, led by Prof. V. S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Ms. Lisa Paul, Secretary, Department of Education, Science and Training of Australia, identified several areas for cooperation including biotechnology and efficient use of energy.

The fourth meeting of the India-Australia Track-II Diplomacy Round Table was held in Canberra on 11&12 April 2005.

India-Australia trade relations continued to grow during the year. Bilateral trade was A\$ 7.3 billion in 2004-05 (July 2004-June 2005). Several Australian companies set up offices and offshore centers in India.

Bilateral cooperation in the field of defence continued to grow. Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd, Chief of Australian Air Force, visited India from 23-29 September 2005. Chief of Army Staff General J. J. Singh visited Australia from 23-28 October 2005.

During the year Australia signed the ASEAN Treaty of Peace, Amity and Cooperation and was included as a participant in the East Asia Summit. Australia is also a part of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, which also includes China, India, Japan, South Korea and USA. These provided additional opportunities for India's interaction with Australia in the multilateral fora.

Fiji Islands

The Indo-Fijian bilateral relations witnessed remarkable growth due to several ongoing initiatives.

The inaugural round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Fiji held at senior officials' level in Suva (Fiji) on 14&15 July 2005, discussed the various aspects of Indo-Fijian bilateral relations including enhanced assistance to Fiji in diverse fields such as Agriculture, Health care, Information Technology, Water Resources Development, Tourism, and Remote Sensing. The Indian delegation thanked the Government of Fiji

for co-sponsoring the G-4 resolution. An invitation was extended to Prime Minister Qarase to visit India.

The sporting links with India and Fiji were revived after a gap of several years when the Indian National Football team visited Fiji in August, 2005.

A Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and comprising the Speakers of State Assemblies, MPs and senior officials visited Fiji from 1-10 September 2005 for attending the Commonwealth Parliament Association (CPA) Conference. During the Conference, Mr. Hashim Abdul Halim, Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly was elected Chairman of the CPA Executive Committee. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, also inaugurated the Sub-Centre of the Indian Cultural Centre in Lautoka during the visit.

Mr. Mahendra Chaudhry, Leader of Opposition and former Prime Minister visited India from 8-18 September 2005 and called on the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Minister for HRD, former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Leader of Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani.

The official visit by the Fijian Prime Minister, Hon'ble Laisenia Qarase to India 8-15 October 2005 marked a milestone in India-Fiji bilateral relations. During the visit, India and Fiji signed Agreements on Cooperation in Health and Tourism and MOUs on the establishment of a Joint Trade Committee and Cooperation in IT. He inaugurated the Fijian High Commission in New Delhi. The delegation visited Kochi, Bangalore and Mumbai for discussions with the representatives of the Coconut Industry, IT and Film Industry respectively.

The Defence Adviser in the High Commission of India, Canberra was concurrently accredited to the Republic of Fiji Islands. Two Fijian Army Officers attended the UN Peace Keeping courses in New Delhi this year.

A Line of Credit agreement of US\$ 50.40 million for the proposed Sugar Restructuring in Fiji was executed between the EXIM Bank of India and the Fiji Sugar Corporation in Suva on 7 November 2005.

New Zealand

India and New Zealand enjoy close and friendly bilateral relations. Mr. Trevor Mallard, Education Minister of New

Zealand, visited India from 17-22 April 2005. He held discussions with Human Resources Development Minister Shri Arjun Singh. During the visit an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Education between India and New Zealand was signed.

A ten-member Rajasthani Folk Dance Troupe and a 10-member puppet troupe visited New Zealand from 21-31 October 2005.

Papua New Guinea(PNG), Solomon Islands & Vanuatu

India's relations with Papua New Guinea have grown closer since the opening of a resident Mission in Port Moresby in April 1996. India has been receiving support from PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for its candidature to various international organizations. PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are supportive of India's candidature for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.

15 ITEC slots were allotted for PNG, and 8 slots each for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. In addition, one officer each from Vanuatu and Solomon Islands participated in the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. Under ITEC Programme, India would extend a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to PNG for setting up of an HIV/AIDS resource Centre.

Under the programme of assistance to Small Island Developing States, India has donated IT equipment to PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

A two-member delegation visited Papua New Guinea from 28-30 October 2005 to participate in the Post Pacific Islands Forum Dialogue. India is a Dialogue Partner in the Pacific Islands Forum.

India's bilateral trade with Papua New Guinea has been growing, with Indian exports valued at US\$ 16 million.

Timor-Leste

The process of nation and institution building in Timor-Leste continued to consolidate. In April, 2005, the UNSC approved the establishment of UNOTIL, a one-year follow-up special political mission that will remain in the country till May 2006.

Exchanges of high level visits further improved relations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. In March 2005, the two countries set up a Commission of Truth and Friendship (CTF) to examine human rights violations in 1999. The ten-member CTF commenced work in Bali in August 2005. The CTF's recommendations will be non-binding.

India continued to maintain close relations with Timor-Leste and extend its cooperation in the process of nation building. 10 ITEC training slots and 10 GCSS scholarships were provided to Timor-Leste for 2005-06. An IT Capacity Building Project for Timor-Leste under ITEC is under consideration.

Tonga

The Defence Advisor in HCI, Canberra was concurrently accredited to the Republic of Tonga. Two Tongan officers

attended the UN Peace Keeping courses in New Delhi this year.

External Affairs Ministers Special Envoy on UN Reforms, visited Tonga in July/August, 2005 and met Foreign Minister of Tonga and discussed issues of mutual concern.

Tuvalu

External Affairs Ministers Special Envoy on UN Reforms, visited Tuvalu in July/August, 2005 and met the Prime Minister of Tuvalu and discussed matters of mutual interest.



Japan

India values its close, cooperative and friendly relations with Japan. The Global Partnership for the 21st Century that India and Japan jointly established in August 2000 has contributed to the broadening and deepening of bilateral relations as also to the stability and prosperity of Asia and the world. The shared recognition in both countries of their commitment to democratic ideals and values, economic complementarities and strategic convergences has provided a resilient foundation for a multifaceted relationship of cooperation.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to India from 28-30 April 2005 marked a new phase of enhanced engagement in India-Japan bilateral relations. Mr. Koizumi and Dr. Manmohan Singh issued a Joint Statement during the visit strengthening the partnership at the bilateral, regional and global levels. In order to realize the full potential of their global partnership, the two leaders decided on an Eight-fold Initiative, which comprised measures for cooperation in eight key areas of interaction, namely: (i) enhanced and upgraded dialogue architecture, including strengthening of the momentum of high-level exchanges, launching of a High Level Strategic Dialogue and full utilization of the existing dialogue mechanisms; (ii) comprehensive economic engagement, through expansion of trade in goods and services, investment flows and other areas of economic cooperation, and exploration of an India-Japan economic partnership agreement; (iii) enhanced security dialogue and cooperation; (iv) Science and Technology Initiative; (v) cultural and academic initiatives and strengthening of people-to-people contacts to raise the visibility and profile of one country in the other; (vi) cooperation in ushering a new Asian era; (vii) cooperation in the United Nations and other international organizations, including cooperation for the early realization of U.N. reforms, particularly Security

Council reform; and (viii) cooperation in responding to global challenges and opportunities.

During the year, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, Mr. Shoichi Nakagawa visited India to attend the first Round Table on Energy Security held in New Delhi on 6 January 2005. The Finance Minister of Japan, Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki visited India from 12-14 January 2005. Mr. Heizo Takenaka, Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy visited India 12-13 January 2005. Senior Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Takayoshi Tsuneda visited India from 11-13 January 2005. Minister of Communication & Information Technology, Shri Dayanidhi Maran visited Japan from 17-19 January 2005.

Former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori visited India in March 2005 to attend a Symposium on Japan-India relations. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Secretary General of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party visited India in March 2005. The third round of Comprehensive Security Dialogue was held on 23 March 2005, followed by Military-to-Military Talks in Tokyo on 24 March 2005. Ms. Yuriko Kawaguchi, Special Adviser to Prime Minister on Security and a former Foreign Minister, visited India in April 2005. Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce visited Japan in April 2005 to attend the fourth round of India-Japan Investment Dialogue. Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission attended the Future of Asia conference organized by *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* in May 2005. Mr. Hiroshi Imazu, Senior Vice Minister of Japan Defence Agency visited India in May 2005. India participated in the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan, held from March-September 2005 by mounting an India Pavilion and arranging for performances by ICCR cultural troupes. Mr. E.V.K.S. Elangovan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, visited Japan from 19-21 July 2005, to attend the India National Day at the Aichi Expo

on 20 July 2005. Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda of Haryana visited Japan in November and held meetings with representatives of Japanese trade and industry to attract Japanese investment into Haryana. Mr. Taro Aso, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India 3-4 January 2006. The two sides agreed to conduct henceforth Foreign Minister-level talks with a strategic perspective and have annual Joint Secretary/Director General-level consultations on Disarmament and Non-proliferation. Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister visited Japan from 17-19 January 2006.

Mr. Taro Aso, who was then Japanese Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, led a delegation to India during August 2005 for the first meeting of the ICT Forum. This forum, comprising CEOs from the IT and communication industry of India and Japan, decided to form six working groups to chart out the course for future cooperation in the areas of broadband, mobile communication, e-governance, information security, R&D and ubiquitous network. Further, IIT Guwahati, C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) and C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) signed MoUs with NICT (National Institute for Information and Communication Technology, Japan) for R&D collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Japan in September 2005 when a Joint Statement was issued identifying areas of future bilateral cooperation including energy security and energy conservation. Japanese Senior Vice Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. Akira Nishina, visited India from 25-26 November 2005 to attend the Ministerial Round Table of Principal Suppliers of Central and North Asia and the Principal Buyers of Asia.

Pursuant to the decisions taken during the visit of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to India in April 2005, the India-Japan Joint Study Group was tasked with drawing up a road map for future India Japan economic engagement in a comprehensive manner. The JSG held its first meeting in New Delhi during 18-19 July 2005 and its second meeting in Tokyo from 15-16 November 2005. The third meeting of the JSG took place on 1&2 February

2006. The feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement will also be examined by the JSG.

The Policy Dialogue between the Department of Commerce and METI held its first meeting in Delhi in April 2005. Under this mechanism, the first meeting of the working group, tasked specifically with identifying trade and investment barriers was held in Tokyo from 26-27 October 2005.

A Japanese business delegation from Nippon Keidanren led by its Chairman, visited India in November 2005.

The India-Japan Science Council met in Japan from 28-29 January 2005. During Japanese Prime Minister's visit to India in April 2005, it was agreed to launch a new Science and Technology Initiative to explore substantial cooperation in frontier areas of research. The meeting of the Joint Committee on India-Japan Cooperation in Science and Technology held on 3 November 2005 debated the elements of such an Initiative and implementation mechanism.

General Hajime Massaki, Chairman of the Joint Staff Council of Japan Self-Defence Forces, visited India in September 2005. Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Samar' took part in the Sixth Bilateral Coast Guard Exercise in Japan in November 2005. An MoU for Cooperation between the two Coast Guards is presently under consideration. The Director General of Indian Coast Guard visited Japan on the occasion.

Ms. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State for Tourism, visited Japan from 2-16 October 2005, to attend a Road Show organized in Tokyo to promote tourism. A number of Indian cultural troupes sponsored by ICCR performed in various parts of Japan, besides the Aichi Expo. Thirty-two television teams from Japan visited India for shooting documentaries during the period April-November 2005.

Two-way trade in 2003-04 amounted to US\$ 4.356 billion (Indian exports being US\$ 1.714 billion and imports US\$ 2.642 billion). In 2004-05, exports to Japan grew by 15% to reach US\$ 1.978 billion and imports from Japan also registered a growth of 13% to touch US\$ 3.006 billion. Japan is the fourth largest FDI investor in India. Around 265 Japanese companies made actual investment of



The Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Junichiro Koizumi with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 29 April 2005.



President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam being received by the President of South Korea Mr. Roh Moo-Hyun at the Presidential Palace, Seoul on 7 February 2006.

US\$ 1.944 billion between 1991 and June 2005. Japanese FII in India witnessed a quantum jump, with 10 India focused funds having invested around US\$ 4 billion in portfolio investment in Indian capital markets.

Visits by a large number of delegations at the functional level were exchanged between the two countries, actively carrying forward the bilateral agenda of cooperation.

Republic of Korea

India-Republic of Korea (ROK) relations witnessed significant and steady progress during the year 2005. Exchange of high-level visits, increasing economic and commercial linkages, growing two-way investment flows, enhanced functional exchanges and cooperation in international fora imparted added momentum to the relationship. Earlier, during the visit of President Roh Moo-hyun to India in October 2004, the two countries had decided to establish a “Long-term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity”. India and ROK are taking a long-term and strategic view of their relationship.

President paid a State visit to ROK from 6-9 February 2006 at the invitation of President Roh Moo-hyun. Agreements on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs, collaboration in Science and Technology and on the setting up of a Joint Task Force to develop a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement were signed during the visit.

The Fourth Session of the India-Korea Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation was held on 1 August 2005 in New Delhi co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers. There was considerable progress in cooperation in various fields including in trade and investment, science and technology, defence, civil aviation, energy, health, tourism and culture. An agreement on visa free travel by holders of diplomatic and official passports and an MoU on defence industry and logistics cooperation were signed.

Shri Suresh Pachouri, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, visited Seoul from 23-26 May 2005 for taking part in the Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government. Shri Saif-ud Din Soz, Member of Parliament, visited Seoul to participate in the Standing Committee Meeting of the International

Conference of Asian Political Parties held in Seoul from 25-27 May 2005. Shri K. Natwar Singh, the then External Affairs Minister, had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade of ROK on 1 June 2005 during his transit halt in Seoul. Mr. Satbir Singh, Mayor of Delhi, participated in the Seoul World Mayors' Conference held from 29 September-3 October 2005. Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda visited ROK in November 2005 and held meetings with representatives of Korean trade and industry to attract Korean investment to the State.

A fifteen-member National Defence College delegation visited the Republic of Korea from 16-22 May 2005.

The Ministry of National Defence of ROK and the Ministry of Defence of India signed an MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics Cooperation on 13 September 2005 in New Delhi during the visit of Deputy Minister of Acquisition of ROK to India.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship ‘Samar’ visited Busan from 21-24 October and conducted joint exercises with the Korean Coast Guard (KCG). The exercises involved joint interception of pirate vessels, search and rescue missions and fighting fires on ocean going ships.

ROK's largest steel maker POSCO signed an MoU with Orissa State government on 22 June 2005 to build an integrated steel plant in Orissa state. As per the MoU, POSCO would cumulatively invest US\$ 12 billion to develop iron ore mines, set up a steel plant, develop port facilities at Paradip and produce 12 million tonnes of steel annually.

India-ROK Civil Aviation talks were held in Seoul from 13-16 July 2005. Air India resumed its service to Seoul with effect from 8 July 2005. It now operates four services per week between Seoul-New Delhi-Mumbai.

The first meeting of the India-Korea Joint Science and Technology Committee was held in Seoul on 31 August 2005. The Joint Committee decided on an agenda of cooperation that included mutual visits of technical missions, holding academic seminars/workshops/forums and conducting joint research. It was also agreed that each side would allocate budgetary funding of US\$ 3,00,000 annually for supporting joint R&D projects in priority areas.

The Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, visited Seoul on 2&3 October 2005 and held detailed discussions with Mr. Hee Beom Lee, Minister of Commerce, Industry & Energy, on energy issues including ROK's participation in the Round Table Conference of Principal Asian Oil Suppliers and Buyers on 25 November 2005. On 3 October 2005, the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas also participated in the signing ceremony of Assignment Agreement for Block A-3 (in Myanmar) in Seoul. Daewoo International Corporation which held 100% of the share in the A-3 block assigned 20% to ONGC Videsh Limited and 10% to GAIL (India) Limited. Mr. Hee-Beom Lee, Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy of the ROK, visited India from 25-26 November 2005 to attend the Ministerial Round Table of Principal Suppliers of Central and North Asia and the Principal Buyers of Asia. During this visit, India and ROK signed six MoUs for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. These included an umbrella agreement on hydrocarbon cooperation between India and Korea and five MoUs on strategic underground petroleum storage facility, gas hydrate related technical collaboration, hydrogen and compressed natural gas (CNG), hydrogen and fuel cells and establishment of a strategic alliance.

The Minister of State for Tourism, Smt. Renuka Choudhury, visited Seoul on 11&12 October 2005 to participate in a road show to promote tourism from ROK to India, in particular to the Buddhist circuit.

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, visited ROK from 19-22 October 2005 to participate in a seminar on traditional medicine held in Daegu. Dr. Ramadoss discussed with Mr. Kim Geun-Tae, ROK Minister of Health and Welfare the difficulties faced by Indian pharmaceutical companies for registering with the Korean Food and Drug Administration.

The bilateral trade volume increased by 29% to touch US\$ 4.157 billion (exports US\$ 963 million; imports US\$ 3.194 billion) in 2004-05. The actual inflow of FDI from Korea for the period 1991-September 2005 has been US\$ 698.0 million. The India-ROK Joint Study Group (JSG) held its final meeting on 6 January 2006 and finalised its report recommending measures to strengthen bilateral

trade in goods and services, investment flows and other economic cooperation. The JSG report also recommended that both countries launch a Joint Task Force to negotiate a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

The visits exchanged at the functional level included: visit of the Secretary, Department of Posts, to take part in the Ninth Congress of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) held in Seoul from 30 May-4 June 2005; visit by a Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum from 16-18 May 2005 to hold discussions with Korea National Oil Corporation regarding storage of crude oil and underground tanks; visit by a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce to take part in the second meeting of the Joint Study Group on Comprehensive Economic Partnership between India and South Korea held in Seoul from 19-20 May 2005; and visit of a delegation led by Commerce Secretary to take part in the fourth and final meeting of the Joint Study Group held in Seoul on 6 January 2006.

A delegation led by Shri Ashok Chavan, Minister of Industries, Government of Maharashtra visited ROK from 27-30 September 2005 to promote trade, exchange information and discuss joint ventures and investments.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The relations between India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continued to be cordial and friendly during the period. The Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries was held in Pyongyang on 14-15 June 2005 at the level of Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and the Vice Foreign Minister of DPRK. India dispatched 2,000 tonnes of rice to DPRK as humanitarian assistance. Under the ITEC programme, DPRK candidates were trained in computer applications, courses in English language for professionals and education planning and administration. DPRK diplomats participated at the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organized by the Foreign Service Institute.

A thirteen member Manipuri Dance troupe visited Pyongyang in April 2005 to take part in the Twenty Third April Spring Friendship Art Festival. An Indian boxing team participated in the Pyongyang International Invitational Boxing Contest held from 18-23 July 2005.

Mongolia

Traditionally close and friendly ties between India and Mongolia were further strengthened during the year 2005, which marked the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, visited Ulaanbaatar from 23-25 June 2005 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President N. Enkhbayar.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Mr. Ts. Munh-Orgil undertook an official visit to India from 22-27 December 2005. His visit coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia. The following agreements were signed during the visit: Agreement on Mutual Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports; Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the years 2006-2008; Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to establish an India-Mongolia Friendship Agropark in Darkhan Uul Aimag, Mongolia; and Agreement on Leasing of Indian Chancery Premises in Ulaanbaatar. During the visit, both sides agreed in principle to launch a new joint initiative for the establishment of a satellite-based e-network for tele-education and tele-medicine in Mongolia to mark the

fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

A five member Indian delegation visited Mongolia from 8-14 May 2005 to discuss cooperation and exchanges between the defence forces of the two countries. Mongolian Defence Minister Ts. Sharavdorj visited India from 5-11 December 2005 and held talks with Defence Minister. During the visit, he attended the Second India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise conducted in Mizoram.

Five Indian teachers have been deputed to the India-Mongolia Joint School to teach English language, mathematics, and information technology.

As part of the expansion of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in Information and Communication Technology, India has agreed to establish new Community Information Centres in the provinces of Sukhbaatar, Dornod, Khovsgol, Bulgan and Kharkhorin. A four-member delegation from National Informatics Centre visited Ulaanbaatar in November 2005 for setting up five new Community Information Centres in Mongolia.

A three-member Indian delegation visited Ulaanbaatar from 16-20 November 2005 to discuss the project on the digitalization of Buddhist manuscripts.

India is undertaking a pilot solar electrification project at Dadal Soum village in Khentti Aimag in Mongolia.



India's relations with Russia and other CIS countries were marked by traditionally close and extensive interaction. High-level bilateral visits were interspersed with the exchange of official, parliamentary and commercial delegations and cultural troupes. Film festivals, seminars, conferences and trade exhibitions were organized regularly; bilateral agreements in various fields were signed, training courses were offered and assistance provided to several CIS countries within the parameters of the ITEC Programme as well as through other channels.

Russia

The period was marked by intensified bilateral political contacts. Prime Minister visited Moscow to attend the May 9 Victory Day celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. President paid a State visit to Russia in the same month. At the invitation of President Putin, UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi visited Russia in June. In July 2005 the Prime Minister held a meeting with President Putin on the sidelines of the Gleneagles G-8 meeting, and then in September in New York on the sidelines of UNGA.

External Affairs Minister visited Vladivostok in early June to attend the trilateral (India-Russia-China) FM level meeting. External Affairs Minister also held a bilateral meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov. External Affairs Minister visited Moscow again in October to co-chair the 11th Session of Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. External Affairs Minister attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Heads of Government meeting in Moscow. Defence Minister paid a visit to Russia in November for the meeting of Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation. Earlier in October, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov visited India in connection with joint

military exercises in India. Defence Secretary visited Moscow in April. Russian Energy and Industry Minister Victor Khristenko visited Delhi in November to attend a Round Table of North and Central Asian Oil Producers and Consumers. Shri Manishankar Aiyar, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, visited Russia in February, and then again in September-October to attend the ceremony marking the first production of Sakhalin-1 Project. Minister of State for Science & Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal, visited Russia in September. National Security Adviser Shri M.K. Narayanan visited Moscow twice, in May and again in September, and held meetings with Russian Defence Minister and Secretary of the Russian Security Council. The latter paid a reciprocal visit to Delhi in October.

"Days of India in Russia" were held in Moscow from 26 September-4 October 2005. The event was inaugurated jointly by the Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture, and the Russian Minister of Culture.

Prime Minister paid a visit to Russia from 4-7 December 2005 for the annual summit level meeting, a practice that has been instituted from the year 2000. On 6th December Prime Minister had detailed talks with President Putin at a restricted meeting and subsequently at the delegation level meeting. He also received the Defence Minister and the Energy and Industry Minister of the Russian Federation for separate meetings. His engagements included his address in the Moscow State University. The three agreements signed after summit level meetings with President Putin were: (i) Agreement on Reciprocal Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in the field of Military-Technical Cooperation; (ii) Agreement on Safeguard Technologies while implementing long-term cooperation in the area of joint development, operation and use of the GLONASS System for peaceful purposes;

and (iii) Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Federal Space Agency of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of solar physics and solar-terrestrial relationships within the framework of the Coronas-Photon Project.

Commerce Secretary visited Russia from 20-24 January 2006 to conclude negotiations on the WTO Agreement with Russia, as per the commitment given at the time of Prime Minister's recent visit to Moscow.

Mr. German Gref, Minister of Trade and Economic Development of Russia visited India from 4-7 February 2006. The WTO Agreement with Russia was signed during the visit. Mr. Gref also visited Bangalore to explore possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the two countries on the IT front.

Mr. Mironov, Chairman of the Upper House of the Russian Duma is scheduled to visit India from 26 February-1 March 2006, at the invitation of the Indian Parliament.

Prime Minister Fradkov of Russia is scheduled to visit India from 16-17 March 2006 at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Kislyak is also expected to visit India at the end of February or the beginning of March 2006.

Preparations are being made to hold a Trilateral Meeting among the business communities of India, Russia and China, as per a decision taken during the Foreign Minister level Trilateral Meeting towards the end of March 2006.

Armenia

India's bilateral relations with Armenia received a further boost with the State Visit of Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat in October. The Vice President handed over to the Armenian Prime Minister the shipping documents for the first consignment of 60 Sonalika Indian Tractors (out of the total gift package of 300 tractors). A Protocol of Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the bilateral Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, and an MoU on Cooperation between the Parliaments of the two countries were signed during the visit.

Mr. Sergo Yeritsyan, Minister of Science & Education of the Republic of Armenia visited India from

3-12 December 2005, at the invitation of the Minister for Human Resource Development.

A meeting of the India-Armenia Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation is also due to take place shortly.

Azerbaijan

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar led a delegation, to Baku in June, 2005. Shri Aiyar was the Guest Speaker at the First Plenary Session of the 12th Caspian International Oil and Gas Conference. A PHARMEXCIL delegation visited Baku in November for promoting export of drugs and pharmaceuticals. With the establishment of air-links, Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) now operates a bi-weekly flight between Baku and Delhi.

On the cultural front, a Manipuri Pung Dhol Cholan Dance group performed in different cities in Azerbaijan in September. A festival of Hindi films was also organized in Baku. The President of the Centre for National and International Studies in Baku visited India in November to address a conference on "India – Eurasia, The Way Ahead" and deliver lectures at the Centre for Caucasian Studies in Chandigarh.

Finance Minister of Azerbaijan Mr. Avaz Alakbarov, accompanied by Mr. Azer Bayramov, Deputy Minister of Finance of Azerbaijan visited India from 9-12 January 2006. During his stay, he called on the Ministers for Finance and Commerce and also had meetings with senior officials from financial institutions.

Preparations are underway for the visit of the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan to Azerbaijan in mid-March 2006 to sign the Joint Commission Agreement on Trade, Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation between India and Azerbaijan & to co-Chair the first meeting of the Commission.

Belarus

India and Belarus have maintained cordial and close relations. Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker of



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Mr. Vladimir Putin at the Annual Bilateral Summit in Moscow on 6 December 2005.



Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat being received by the President of Armenia Mr. Robert Kocharian in Yerevan in October 2005.

Lok Sabha, visited Belarus from 23-28 May 2005 as the leader of a 12-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation. Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat visited Belarus and held talks with President Alexander Lukashenko. The two sides signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. The CII held a trade exhibition called 'Enterprise India' in Minsk from 26-30 August 2005. In April, a retrospective of Indian Films, and a Photo Exhibition on the theme, "Different Shades of India", were held in Minsk. A set of 18 ICCR-sponsored Indian Musical instruments was gifted to the Belarusian Academy of Music.

The Third Session of the Indo-Belarus Joint Commission on Trade, Economy, S&T and Cultural Cooperation is expected to take place shortly in Minsk.

Georgia

India's relations with Georgia continued to be close and friendly. In April, the CII organized an Enterprise India 2005 Exhibition at Tbilisi. A delegation from the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India visited Tbilisi in November, and participated in a productive and fruitful Business Meet which was inaugurated by the Georgian Deputy Minister of Health.

Kazakhstan

The First Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons formed pursuant to a decision to that effect, in February 2005, of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission - was held in Astana in April. KMG has offered data to the OVL on two specific offshore oil blocks in the Caspian Sea. The first official meeting between President Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took place on 8 May 2005 in Moscow on the sidelines of the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Victory Day. India was admitted as an Observer of the SCO at the Astana Summit in July. At the Summit, External Affairs Minister stressed the significance of establishing closer economic cooperation between India and Central Asia.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, visited Almaty in October, and met his Kazakh counterpart, with whom he jointly inaugurated the 13th Kazakhstan International Oil and Gas Exhibition

'KIOGE 2005'. He also spoke at the Oil and Gas Conference (KIOGE 2005), in which the ONGC participated. A meeting of a Special Working Group of the Conference for Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in Almaty in August, followed by the Senior Officials Committee meeting.

A 16-member National Defence College team from India visited Kazakhstan in May. Foreign Office Consultations at Senior Officials level were held in Astana in August. The Indian side was led by Secretary (East) and the Kazakh side by the Deputy Foreign Minister. During the visit, Secretary (East) also inaugurated an India Study Centre at the Kazakhstan National Library in Almaty.

An Indian Food Festival, focusing on Awadhi cuisine, was organized in Hotel Hyatt Regency in Almaty in May, combined with a photo exhibition, and an exhibition of Indian musical instruments, costumes and handicrafts. The 50th anniversary of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's first visit to Almaty in 1955 was marked by the Embassy on 17 June with an international seminar organized by the Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies, and a photo exhibition held in the National Library in Almaty. Kazakh Post issued a special stamp to commemorate the occasion.

On the sidelines of the International Business Conference held in Almaty in June, CII signed an MoU with Kazinvest for bilateral commercial and business cooperation between the two organisations.

The 2nd meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on International Terrorism is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 20 & 21 March 2006.

Kyrgyzstan

India's relations with Kyrgyzstan continued to be close and friendly. India welcomed the new government which, under the leadership of President Kurmanbek Bakiev, expressed keenness in reinforcing cooperation with India. In September, India sent humanitarian aid for victims of natural disasters in Kyrgyzstan. The visit by the Kyrgyz Defense Minister to India in November was fruitful in initiating a dialogue for bilateral defence cooperation.

Bilateral trade is limited but growing, with an annual turnover of over of US\$ 49.31 million. Apparel and



President Dr. A. P.J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh receiving the President of Uzbekistan Mr. I. A. Karimov and Mrs. Karimov at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 5 April 2005.



Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekawat being received by the Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus in Minsk on 4 October 2005.

clothing remain the major Indian exports to Kyrgyzstan. A CHEMEXCIL delegation visited Kyrgyzstan in July, and took part in a buyer-seller meet. ITEC slots for civilian training programs were well-utilized. In the cultural sphere, two Indian Film Festivals were organized; the first in Bishkek in September and the second in Talas in November 2005.

Tajikistan

Bilateral relations between India and Tajikistan continued to grow. A bilateral agreement on Visa-Free Travel for holders of diplomatic passports, signed during Prime Minister's visit to Tajikistan in 2003, came into force on 1 July 2005. The second session of the Indo-Tajik Joint Commission on Trade, Economy, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation was held in Dushanbe in July, Co-chaired by the Indian Commerce Secretary and the Tajik Minister for Economy and Trade. A Fruit Juice Processing Plant was inaugurated in April, partly funded by a US\$ 0.6 million grant from GOI under the bilateral Trade Agreement. A new Indian Military Training Team replaced the earlier one in August, to train Tajik cadets for entrance into the NDA, Khadakvasla. Senior Tajik military officers also attended short term courses under the ITEC Programme.

The Himachal Pradesh Forest & Wildlife Department gifted several wild animals to the Dushanbe Zoo.

The first meeting of the India-Tajikistan Joint Working Group on Countering International Terrorism was held in Dushanbe on 9&10 January 2006. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary (International Organisation) while the Dy. Minister for Foreign Affairs led the Tajik side. A Protocol containing common positions and agreed action points was signed at the end of the meeting.

Turkmenistan

Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the delegation accompanying him held a brief meeting with the Head of the Turkmen Parliament and the Turkmen Foreign Minister, during their transit halt in Ashgabat on 1 October 2005. Secretary (East) led a delegation to Ashgabat from 16-18 October 2005 for Foreign Office Consultations. Talks were held with the Turkmen

Ministers for Oil and Gas, Health & Education and Foreign Affairs, and covered a wide spectrum of bilateral cooperation in the sectors of oil and gas, the TAP Gas pipeline project, JWG on energy, revival of Joint Commission, lines of credit, joint venture of Ajanta Pharma (with the Turkmen Ministry of Health), civil aviation, visa regime, Trilateral Transit Agreement, BIPPA, ITEC programme, PCFD, the scholarship scheme of ICCR and health and education facilities available in India. A ten member 'Bhangra' and 'Gidda' dance troupe sponsored by the ICCR gave performances during the Independence Day celebration, which was attended by several Turkmen dignitaries. Twenty six Turkmen nationals were received in India under the ITEC programme for short term training in IT and the English language.

Mr. A. K. Pudakov, Head of Turkmenbashi Oil Refinery and former Oil Minister of Turkmenistan, visited India on 25 November 2005 to attend the Round Table Conference of Asian Oil Ministers.

Ukraine

Foreign Office Consultations between India and Ukraine were held in Kyiv in May, with the two delegations led by Secretary (East) and the Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister respectively. President Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam paid a State Visit to Ukraine in June 2005. Talks were held with the Ukrainian side on enhancing cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, science and technology, space and culture. Two agreements, on standardization and metrology, and on peaceful uses of outer space, were signed. During the visit, President Abdul Kalam interacted with Ukrainian academicians and scientists, and visited the Satellite Design Office of Yuzhoye in the city of Dnipropetrovsk.

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts organized a Buyer-Seller Meet with Ukrainian importers in September 2005. The Tea Board of India participated in a Food Expo in November 2005. The Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation of India-Ukraine Inter Governmental Commission met in Delhi on 13 February 2006.

Uzbekistan

Indo-Uzbek relations were marked by traditional warmth.

The Uzbek President paid a State visit to India in April, accompanied by a high-level delegation consisting of Deputy Prime Ministers in charge of Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Higher Education and Social Affairs, and the Defence Minister. In bilateral talks issues related to bilateral cooperation, including trade and economic cooperation in oil and gas, pharmaceuticals and Information Technology sectors, development of inter-parliamentary relations, international and regional developments were discussed. Agreements on Cooperation in military and military-technical areas, culture, support of small and private entrepreneurship and an exchange programme in the field of education were signed between the two governments. In addition, eight other documents in the fields of economy, commerce, education, culture and tourism were also signed and a joint statement was issued in which Uzbekistan expressed its support for India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. The Second Meeting of

the Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 31 October 2005. A six-member parliamentary delegation headed by the Speaker of the Uzbek Legislative Chamber (Lower House) visited India in November 2005.

The Second India Trade Exhibition was held in Tashkent in September 2005. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry visited Uzbekistan during this period. Under the ITEC Programme, Uzbekistan was allotted 90 slots.

A 6-member group from the Shastri School of Tashkent visited India in July under the distinguished visitors programme sponsored by ICCR during Lal Bahadur Shastri Birth Centenary Celebrations. Regular dance, music, Yoga, language and Indian Studies classes were organized by the Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture, Tashkent. Eighteen scholarships were awarded to Uzbek students under the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme for higher studies in Indian universities.



The Gulf

The Government has launched a “Look West” policy, in recognition of the facts that the Gulf region has become a major economic partner, is a home to over 4 million Indians and a major source for oil and gas. This year was marked by increased interaction, enhanced trade and economic relations and launch of negotiations towards FTA with the GCC countries. The year witnessed two important visits from the Gulf. His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar visited India in April 2005 and The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia His Majesty Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day 2006 celebrations. A number of other high level visits were also exchanged. An MoU on Defence Cooperation was signed with Oman in December 2005, Agreement on Juridical and Judicial cooperation was signed with Kuwait in August 2005. Air services agreement was signed with Qatar in April 2005 and Instruments of Ratifications of the Extradition Treaties were exchanged with Bahrain in July 2005 and Oman in September 2005. The 3rd India- GCC Political Dialogue was held in New York in September 2005. An India- GCC Industrial conference is being planned to be held in Muscat during March 2006. The Government is keen to cooperate with the Gulf countries in the promotion of peace and stability in the region. It has appointed a Special Envoy for the Gulf and West Asia. The Government has been carefully monitoring events in Iraq and expects that the democratic process on way would enable the Iraqi people to take greater control of their destiny in their own hands. It remains committed to assist in the reconstruction of Iraq.

India's relations with Iran have acquired a strategic dimension in the recent times. High level interactions at the level of Foreign Ministers, exchanges in security and strategic spheres, in the energy sector, cooperation in transit to Afghanistan and burgeoning trade have all

strengthened bilateral relations between the two countries.

Bahrain

Bilateral relations between India and Bahrain grew closer with greater exchanges in the fields of business and commerce, and people-to-people interaction.

Instruments of Ratification were exchanged on 16 July 2005 between India and Bahrain on the Extradition Treaty; the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; and, the Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters signed by the two countries in January 2004.

Iran

Dr. Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran visited India in February 2005 to co-chair the the Joint Commission meeting.

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited Iran at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Manouchehr Mottaki, from 2-4 September 2005. During the visit, External Affairs Minister called on President Mahmoud Ahmadi-nejad and had meetings with Dr. Gholam Ali Hadad-Adel, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis, Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council and Foreign Minister Mottaki. The bilateral talks also included useful exchange of views on the liquefied natural gas contract.

Dr. Gholam Ali Hadad-Adel, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis accompanied by a Parliamentary delegation visited India from 28 February- 4 March 2005.

Joint Commission meeting

The 14th session of India-Iran Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 21& 22 February 2005. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran and Shri K. Natwar Singh, the then EAM led the respective

delegations. Detailed discussions for cooperation were held in the seven sub-committees set up by the Joint Commission dealing with Petroleum & Natural Gas; Trade; Transport & Communications; Industry; Agriculture & Rural Development; Culture, Science & Technology; Information technology and Consular matters. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce held Joint Business Council alongside the 14th Joint Commission Meeting.

The 15th India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held on 11-12 March 2006 at Tehran. The two sides would discuss issues in the fields of energy, trade & commerce, transport & communication, industry, agriculture & rural development; culture, science & technology and consular issues.

Security and Strategic Consultations

Bilateral cooperation between the National Security Council bodies of the two countries has been institutionalized within the framework of Strategic Consultations. Dr. Ali Larijani, Secretary, Supreme National Security Council of Iran made a working visit to India on 30 & 31 August 2005. Dr. Larijani met Shri M.K. Narayanan, NSA and called on Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. India and Iran held the Fourth Round of Strategic Dialogue on 1 May 2005.

Bilateral trade

The annual bilateral trade was valued at US\$ 4.13 billion in 2004-05 registering a 43.7% growth over the previous year (\$2.9 billion in 2003-04). Import of Iranian crude oil (US\$ 2.47 billion in 2004-5) constituted the single largest item in the bilateral trade. India's exports to Iran have increased steadily during the last four years. Non-oil trade reached USD \$970 million, up from US\$ 700 million in 2003-04; Iranian non-oil exports were about US\$ 410 million. During 2004-2005, total Indian exports to Iran were close to US\$ 1.24 billion, which included about US\$ 680 million of gasoline and petro-chemical exports.

Cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector

An MoU for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector signed in 2003 underlines energy security as an important area in bilateral relations. Discussions between the two countries have continued on purchase of LNG from Iran

and on the modalities of the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.

Dr. Bijan Zanganeh, former Iranian Minister for Petroleum attended the First Round Table of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Economy held in New Delhi on 6 January 2005. The two sides agreed on a package for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar visited Iran in June 2005 to finalise agreement on import of 5 million metric tonnes per annum of LNG for a period of 25 years beginning 2009.

The India-Iran third Special Joint Working Group on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline was held on 28-29 December 2005 in New Delhi. The project structure, gas pricing and schedule of further meetings were discussed.

India and Iran are cooperating in the development of an alternative access route to the sea for Afghanistan through the Chahbahar port of Iran connecting to Afghanistan through the Melak-Zaranj-Delaram road stretch. The road construction project of India in Afghanistan is in progress for which Iran has been providing material and logistic support by visa facilitation to personnel involved, sourcing raw materials from Iran, port and transit facilities.

Iraq

Subsequent to the elections held on 30 January 2005 and the formation of a new Transitional Government in May 2005, the drafting of a Constitution and its ratification in the referendum held on 15 October 2005 and the Parliamentary elections held on December 15 2005 were the noteworthy developments in Iraq. India welcomed these developments.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Dr. Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the Head of Transitional Government reiterating India's commitment to assist Iraq in their political and economic reconstruction. Shri C. R. Gharekhan, Special Envoy for West Asia, visited Iraq from 22-25 May 2005 and called on the Prime minister and met senior Ministers of the Government of Iraq. India participated in the multilateral Donor Committee meeting held in Jordan in July 2005. The then External Affairs Minister Shri K.

Natwar Singh participated in the EU/US organized International Conference on Iraq held in Brussels on 21&22 June 2005 and reiterated India's commitment to Iraq's reconstruction. The balance payment of US\$ 5 million of India's contribution of US\$ 10 million to the two Iraqi Trust Funds administered under the aegis of UN and the World Bank was made during the year. A project for providing biscuits to Iraqi school children in cooperation with WFP is being implemented. Training of Iraqi personnel in diverse sectors is ongoing.

Kuwait

Shri Jagdish Tytler, the then Minister of State for Overseas Indian Affairs visited Kuwait on 12&13 April 2005. He addressed the Labour Officers Conference held in Kuwait and met Indian community representatives and business leaders. He also called on the Kuwaiti authorities.

Shri C.R. Gharekahan, Special Envoy for West Asia and Middle East Peace Process visited Kuwait on 17&18 June 2005 and called on Dr. Mohamad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

Mr. Ahmad Yaqoub Baqer, Minister of Justice of Kuwait visited India from 15-17 August 2005 and had meetings with the External Affairs Minister, Minister of Law & Justice and Minister of State for External Affairs. An Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters between India and Kuwait was signed during the visit.

Government of India declared State Mourning on 16 January 2006 in memory of HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al Jaber Al -Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, who passed away on 15 January 2006. The President, Prime Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs sent condolence messages to the Kuwait Government and people. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas visited Kuwait on 16 January 2006 to offer condolences.

Compensation for Indian Expatriates

A Special Kuwait Cell (SKC) was set up in 1991 for facilitating compensation to Indian citizens who suffered losses in life & property during the Gulf War of 1990-91. This compensation is being paid by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), Geneva. The

disbursement of compensation money received from UNCC is being done through four nationalised banks designated for the purpose i.e. Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Syndicate Bank, Union Bank of India.

The scrutiny of claim applications and the determination of the quantum of payment in each case and the timing of the payment (or the rejection of a claim) lies totally in the domain of UNCC. Under Article 40(4) of the Provisional Rules for Claims Procedure adopted by the UNCC Governing Council, the decisions of UNCC are final and not subject to review or appeal on substantive, procedural or any other grounds.

Between 1 April 2005 and 10 January 2006 the UNCC has transferred US\$ 2,729,675.50 for 538 claims in the individual claims category. The money received in the previous year, which remained undisbursed for various reasons, continued to be distributed during this period. A total of US\$ 3,825,874.24 was disbursed to 542 claimants by the four designated banks. The break up is given below: -

Category	No. of Claims	Amount Paid (US \$)
A	342	650,500.00
C	182	963,950.05
D	18	2,211,424.19
Total	542	3,825,874.24

In May 2005, an official delegation from India met the UNCC officials at Geneva and sought the extension of 1 January 1996 deadline for receiving claims for compensation. But as the Commission was getting wound up by September 2006, extension of deadline could not materialize. The Indian delegation sought and received a consolidated list of untraced and undisbursed claims for compensation under A&C Categories from the UNCC. Presently the Ministry is in the process of completing the compensation process.

Oman

Relations between India and the Sultanate of Oman progressed steadily.

The year 2005 marked the 50th anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Oman. Several events were organized by the Indian Embassy in Muscat and the Oman Embassy in New Delhi to celebrate the occasion.

The Oman-India Fertilizer Project (OMIFCO), involving an investment of US\$ 1 billion is expected to be inaugurated in January 2006. Omani Defence Minister Mr. Sayyid Badr Bin Saud Bin Hareb Al Busaidi visited India from 5-7 December 2005. During the visit an MoU on Defence Cooperation was signed.

The Instruments of Ratification of the Extradition Treaty signed in December 2004 were formally exchanged on 14 September 2005 in New Delhi.

Qatar

The State visit to India by Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar from 13-15 April 2005 accompanied by a delegation comprising the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Minister of Commerce & Trade and Finance Minister marked a watershed in bilateral relations.

The bilateral talks covered areas such as oil & gas, civil aviation, trade, health, education, security and defence. An Air Services Agreement was signed between the two countries during the visit.

Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar led a multi-disciplinary delegation to India 19-24 June 2005. Bilateral discussions focused on engendering closer cooperation in areas such as Trade, Industrial Investment, Energy, Security, Defence, Education, Science & Technology, and, Health.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas led an Indian delegation to Qatar 20&21 November 2005 to participate in the International Petroleum Technology Conference in Doha.

HH Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasr Al-Misned, First Lady of the State of Qatar visited India from 6-9 February 2006.

Saudi Arabia

The 6th session of the Joint Commission meeting (JCM) took place at Riyadh on April 12 2005. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram led the Indian delegation to the

JCM. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Riyadh in April 2005 and in November 2005.

India declared State mourning on the passing away of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and both the Houses of Parliament made obituary references. The President and the Prime Minister sent condolence messages. Late Shri P.M. Sayeed, Minister of Power led the Indian delegation to attend the funeral.

The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud visited India from 24-27 January 2006 accompanied by a delegation including the Foreign Minister, the Ministers of Finance, Petroleum, Labour and Culture and Information. A Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation, an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports, and an MoU on Combating Crime were signed during the visit. A Delhi Declaration signed by HM King Abdullah and the Prime Minister set forth the vision for a partnership between India and Saudi Arabia and an agenda for future cooperation.

His Majesty the King was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations. During the visit, Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University conferred on His Majesty the King an honorary doctorate.

Haj

The Haj Committee pilgrim quota was raised from 82,000 to 100,000 for Haj 2006. Another 47,000 pilgrims (appx.) performed Haj through the private tour operators, taking the total number of Indian pilgrims performing Haj 2006 to 147,000, the full permissible Haj pilgrim quota for India. Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Leader of a 23-member Haj Goodwill delegation that visited Saudi Arabia on 5-23 January 2006, met with His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. Earlier, the Minister of State for External Affairs [MOS(EA)], Shri E. Ahamed, visited Saudi Arabia on 15-17 May 2005 and signed the Agreement for Haj-2006.

56 Indian pilgrims died in a stampede on 12 January 2006, the last date of Haj 2006 pilgrimage. All possible assistance

was extended to the next of kin in visiting Saudi Arabia and for arranging burial of the bodies.

Shri K. Natwar Singh, the then External Affairs Minister inaugurated the All India Annual Haj Conference in New Delhi on 6 June 2005.

The system of registration of Private Tour Operators, which had commenced from Haj 2003 has been continued for Haj 2006 as well.

United Arab Emirates

India's bilateral relations with UAE were close and cordial. On 29 April 2005, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Shri Praful Patel and Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Oommen Chandy visited Abu Dhabi on the occasion of the inaugural flight of Air India Express from Thiruvananthapuram. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy visited UAE from 10-12 July 2005 to promote business and investment. Similarly, Chief Minister of Uttaranchal, Shri N.D. Tiwari visited UAE from 12-15 September 2005. An IMC sponsored India Business Summit held in Dubai in December 2005 was inaugurated by Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs. Chief Minister of Punjab visited UAE in December 2005. Chief Minister of Delhi Smt. Sheila Dikshit led a four member delegation to Dubai from 3-6 January 2006 to participate in Delhi Day at "Global Village, Dubai".

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Education visited India in August 2005 to explore opportunities for investment.

India declared state mourning on the passing away of Shiekh Makhtoum, Vice President and Prime minister of UAE and ruler of Dubai on 4 January 2006. The President sent a condolence message to HH Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi. The Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekawat visited Dubai accompanied by the Minister of State for External Affairs to convey the condolences of the Government and people of India.

Gulf Cooperation Council

The Trade and Economic Relations Committee of the Cabinet decided in its meeting on 27 July 2005 to enhance India's engagement with the GCC.

The 3rd India-GCC Political Dialogue was held on the margins of the 60th Session of the UNGA in New York on 22 September 2005. The Bahrain Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa in his capacity as the Chairman of the GCC led the GCC side and Shri K. Natwar Singh, the then External Affairs Minister led the Indian side. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the GCC. It was agreed to enhance India-GCC institutional cooperation in areas such as finance, trade, and education.

Private sector led initiative of economic dialogue between India and GCC continued. The 2nd India – GCC Industrial Conference is expected to take place in Muscat in March 2006.

WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA

India's relations with the countries of West Asia and North Africa continued to witness significant growth during the year. There were several high level incoming as well as outgoing visits. India's exports to this region increased substantially. Indian investment in these countries in various sectors grew significantly. Imports from these countries also increased. The year also saw increased number of visits of cultural troupes to these countries.

Algeria

India and Algeria have enjoyed traditionally close and cordial relations. A 17-member delegation from the National Defence College, led by Air Marshal P.P. Rajkumar, AVSM visited Algeria on a Study tour from 15-20 May 2005.

Special Envoy Shri Syed Shahabuddin visited Algeria from 26-28 June 2005 to hold discussion with the Algerian authorities, on the theme of comprehensive UN Reform and expansion of UNSC.

The bilateral trade grew from US\$ 55 million in 2001 to over US\$ 256 million in 2004. The figure for January-March 2005 was \$71 million.

Several Indian companies were awarded contracts in Algeria. Kalpatru Power Transmission Ltd. won a turnkey project in Algeria valued at US\$ 30 million for construction of 120 Kms power transmission line,



President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, H.M. the King of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz al - Saud, and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26 January 2006. His Majesty the King was the Chief Guest.



President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh receiving the Emir of Qatar H.H Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al - Thani at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 14 April 2005.

WELLSPUN-Gujarat was awarded a contract valued at US\$ 75 million for supply of 163 km of 3LPE Coated onshore pipelines, M/s KEC International Ltd. was awarded two projects for construction of transmission lines (of 400 kv single circuit) at a total value of US\$ 51.210 million and Engineers India Limited (EIL) was awarded a contract at US \$20 million for the modernization, reconstruction and upgradation of the oil refinery of the National Oil Company for Refining. EIL also won contract worth \$ 3 million for reconstruction and modification of refineries in Algeria.

Under ITEC programme, nine slots were allotted to Algeria.

Djibouti

Bilateral relations with Djibouti remained friendly and cordial. Mr. Youssouf Omar Doualeh was accredited as Djibouti's first resident Ambassador to India. Djibouti continued to support India's candidature for various international fora. Indian Naval Ship INS Tarangini visited Djibouti in May 2005.

Egypt

There was forward movement in the existing friendly relations between India and Egypt. Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs of Egypt, Mr. Ezzad Saad led the Egyptian delegation to the fifth round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in New Delhi on 17 May 2005. Shri C.R. Gharekhan, India's Special Envoy for West Asia and Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) visited Egypt from 20-22 November 2005 and held talks with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Aboul El Gheit, and Arab League Secretary General, Mr. Amre Moussa.

The Defence Secretary visited Egypt from 2-4 July 2005 and held wide-ranging discussions with Egyptian Defence Ministry officials on matters of mutual cooperation.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Egypt from 2-6 December 2005.

Egypt remained one of the important commercial and economic partners of India in the WANA region during the period.

India has investments in Egypt of over \$ 400 million in

diverse fields. In November 2005 *Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited* (IFFCO), floated *Indo Egyptian Fertilizer Company* – with a 76% equity stake, for producing phosphoric acid in a plant in Upper Egypt. It entails an investment of US\$ 325 million. Indian exports grew by 18% during 2004-05 over the previous year to US\$ 432 million. Engineering goods including diesel engines, pumps and vehicles, textiles, fiber and yarn, plastics and rubber articles, as well as chemicals and fertilizers constituted the bulk of India's exports to Egypt.

Israel

Bilateral relations with Israel continued to develop and expand in diverse areas.

Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal visited Israel from 28-31 May 2005. He called on Israeli Vice-Prime Minister Mr. Ehud Olmert and signed an MoU for setting up a joint Research & Development Fund (India-Israel Industrial Research and Development Cooperation Initiative) under which the two sides would contribute US\$ 1 million each to provide financial support for joint R&D by companies of both countries. It was also agreed by the two sides to set up joint groups for furthering cooperation in the areas of nanotechnology, biotechnology, space and aeronautics, non-conventional energy and water.

The 9th round of India-Israel Foreign Office consultations at Senior Officials level was held on August 28 2005 in Jerusalem. Secretary (East) who led the Indian delegation also called on Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Israel Mr. Silvan Shalom.

Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja, visited Israel from 24-27 September 2005, to attend the "International Conference for Women Leaders on Gender and Migration issues under the Millennium Development Goals".

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Kamal Nath visited Israel from 9-11 November 2005 to attend the Prime Ministers' Economic Conference. Shri Kamal Nath met his Israeli counterpart, Mr Ehud Olmert, Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour, and the Finance Minister of the State of Israel. They adopted and released the Joint Study Group report identifying areas of future cooperation

and outlining the mechanism to further boost the bilateral trade. India participated in the Israel Gateway 2005 Exhibition held on 9 November 2005.

Between January-October 2005, bilateral trade reached US\$ 2135.4 million, a growth of 18.21% compared to the same period in 2004. Several Israeli companies established manufacturing and R&D facilities in India. Indian companies also set up operations in Israel. The State Bank of India was granted permission to open a branch in Israel and is in the process of starting its operations.

Shri Sharad Pawar Minister of Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution visited Israel from 13-16 November 2005 to participate in the State ceremonies organized to commemorate the 10th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He called on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and had a bilateral meeting with the Agriculture Minister of Israel, Mr. Israel Katz.

Mr Ehud Barak, former Prime Minister of Israel addressed the Hindustan Times Leadership Initiative Conference on November 16, and met with the Prime Minister, and the National Security Adviser during his stay in India.

In a statement issued on 12 September 2005 India welcomed the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the Northern West Bank as a positive development and the beginning of a process that would culminate in a mutually acceptable, negotiated settlement in accordance with the Roadmap and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.”

Special Envoy Ambassador C.R. Gharekhan, visited Israel from 14-16 November 2005 and met several leaders of Israel. In a statement issued on 15 November 2005, India welcomed the Agreement on Movement and Access concluded between Israel and the Palestinian Authority regarding opening of the Rafah border crossing; travel between Gaza and the West Bank; and for building a sea port in the Gaza Strip.

India supports “The Roadmap” and resolution of all tracks of the MEPP.

Jordan

India enjoys cordial and friendly relations with Jordan.

A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Sami Khasawneh visited India from 19- 23 April 2005 and called on President, Vice President, and the Lok Sabha Speaker.

In May 2005, Prince Hassan of Jordan and former UN Secretary General Butros Ghali representing the South Commission visited India to address the Democracy Forum and met with Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Prince El Hassan Bin Talal visited India from 1- 6 February 2006 to participate in “Sustainable Development Summit Meeting” in New Delhi.

India remained the largest importer of Jordan Potash and Phosphates. India’s main items of imports from Jordan were fertilizers, phosphates and phosphoric acid

The commissioning of the US\$ 169.5 million joint-venture phosphoric acid plant of M/s Indo-Jordan Chemicals company has been a significant mile stone in Indo-Jordan business collaboration. It is also the largest joint venture in Jordan. The municipality of greater Amman awarded the contract for the construction of Abdoun Cable Stay Bridge, at a project cost of US\$ 15.4 million to M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited.

Lebanon

Minister of State, Shri E. Ahmad, visited Lebanon from 27 September-1 October 2005 and met President General Emile Lahoud, Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture. The visit was to underline the importance of bilateral relations in the context of political changes in Lebanon, following the death of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri in February 2005 in a bomb blast. Minister of State also conveyed India’s readiness to assist Lebanon through human resource development under the ITEC programme.

Indian Peace Keeping troops are part of the United Nations’ Interim Force in Lebanon. Their services are highly valued by Lebanese authorities.

Libya

Minister of State, Shri E. Ahmad, accompanied by a business delegation, visited Libya from 26-29 May 2005. During the visit, Minister of State met Prime Minister Shukri Ghanem, Mr. Matug Mohammed Matug, Minister for Manpower, Training & Employment, Mr. Shahoumi,

Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Libyan Parliament and Mr. Treiki, Minister of State for African Affairs in Foreign Office. He also met General Ahmed Mahmood, Head of the Libyan Defence Procurement and Mr. Badri, Chairman, National Oil Corporation (NOC). Minister of State also had meetings with Energy Minister Dr. Fathi Omar Ben Shatwan and Chairman, General Electrical Company of Libya (GECOL) Omran Abu Kra'a.

Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Libya to attend the AU Summit held in Sirte from 1-5 July 2005. The Minister of State also had a meeting with Foreign Minister Shalgam.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Educational Consultants India Ltd, New Delhi (EdCIL) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Libya on 18 September 2005, for enrolling 319 Libyan students in Indian Universities

NIIT, India signed an agreement with M/S Stockside of Libya to establish an IT training centre in Libya. I-flex Solutions is implementing a project on core banking solutions with Central Bank of Libya and five other banks.

BHEL is completing a 600 MW power plant. The first unit was commissioned and began power generation in November 2005. Shri R.K.Dutta, Chairman of Oil India alongwith a team of officials from Oil India and Indian Oil Corporation visited Libya from 3-8 December 2005 and signed contracts with Libya National Oil Corporation (NOC) for oil exploration in two blocks.

India's exports to Libya increased from US\$ 19 million in 2003-04 to US\$ 169 million in 2004-05.

Morocco

Relations between India and Morocco continued to remain cordial, cooperative and friendly. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Morocco from 23-25 May 2005 and held wide-ranging discussions with Moroccan leaders. He had an audience with His Majesty King Mohammed VI and also called on the Moroccan Prime Minister Driss Jettou and the Minister-delegate for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Taieb Fassi Fihri.

Shri Syed Shahabuddin, Special Envoy of the Government of India visited Morocco from 22-24 June 2005 and held

discussions with Prime Minister Driss Jettou and Foreign Minister Mohammed Benaissa.

Indian Naval Ship "INS Tarangini" visited Tangiers from 12-15 September 2005 on a goodwill visit.

The bilateral trade and economic relations continued to grow steadily during the year. Tata Chemicals Limited invested US\$200 million and became a partner in an existing Indo-Moroccan Joint Venture company, IMACID. The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council of India organized an exclusive Indian Textile Exhibition-cum-Buyer-Seller Meet in Morocco on 22&23 December 2005.

An ICCR-sponsored Odissi dance troupe called Odisha Vision participated in the 40th National Popular Arts Festival held at Marrakech from 2-9 July 2005.

An Indian Cultural and Film Week was organised in Khouribga in July 2005.

Palestine

Bilateral relations with Palestine remained friendly, with growing interaction with the Palestinian National Authority. India has been extending assistance to Palestine. President Mahmoud Abbas accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr. Nasser Al Kidwa visited India on 19&20 May 2005 and held discussions with Indian leaders. During the visit, India announced an additional aid of US\$ 15 million for the reconstruction projects and humanitarian assistance to Palestine. 6 projects are under discussion with the Palestine authorities. They include, Palestine Embassy building in New Delhi, Prime Minister's Office in Ramallah, Cardiac Centre in Gaza, school in Abu Dis and IT centers in Gaza and Al Quds University. Secretary(East) visited Palestine on 27 August 2005 and called on President Abu Mazen, Prime Minister Abu Ala, Minister for Interior and National Security General Nasser Yusuf and Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

Shri C.R.Gharekhan, Special Envoy for West Asia and the Middle East Peace Process visited Palestine from 17-20 November 2005.

30 slots were allotted to Palestine under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.



*Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed calling on the King of Morocco
H.M. Mohammed VI in Rabat on 26 May 2005.*



*The President of the Palestinian National Authority Mr. Mahmoud Abbas with Prime Minister
Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 19 May 2005.*

Somalia

Because of internal instability in Somalia, the interaction between the two countries was limited. In September 2005 in New York on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly, the Foreign Minister of Somalia met the External Affairs Minister and briefed him on the political situation and economic deprivation in Somalia.

Sudan

On 9 January 2005, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed represented India at the Ceremony in Nairobi when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement was signed ending two decades of Civil War and ushering in peace.

In April 2005, Minister of State Shri E. Ahamed attended the Sudan Donor's Conference in Oslo and pledged a grant of US\$ 10 million and a concessional line of credit of US\$ 100 million. 720 Indian troops were deployed as UN Peace Monitors in South Sudan. This is likely to increase to 2,600 at full strength.

Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, accompanied by an 18-member business delegation visited Sudan on 6&7 November 2005, to meet with the leaders of new Government of National Unity formed under the Comprehensive Peace Accord between North and South and to explore potential areas of joint venture/cooperation. Minister of State called on President Omer Ahmed al-Bashir and had meetings with Ministers of Energy & Mining, Agriculture & Environment and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Sudan. The delegation extended their stay by two days and visited Juba and interacted with the leadership of the Government of South Sudan as well.

From Sudan, the Interior Minister, Major General (PSC) Abdel Rahim Mohammed Hussein, visited India in January 2005 at the invitation of Home Minister as Special Envoy of his President.

Foreign Minister of Sudan, Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail visited India from 7-9 June 2005. He called on Prime Minister and held talks with External Affairs Minister.

India-Sudanese bilateral trade has shown significant

growth. Indian exports to Sudan increased from Rs. 309.72 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 493.41 crores in 2003-04.

Syria

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed visited Syria from 26-28 September 2005. He called on Syrian President Dr Bashar Al-Assad, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Farouk Al-Shara and Minister of Higher Education, Dr Hani Murtada. Shri Ahamed reiterated an invitation to the Syrian President to visit India.

The Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development visited Syria from 10-16 September 2005 and participated in the 15th General Session of Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) Conference held at Damascus. The Indian candidate Ms. Seema Bahuguna was unanimously elected to the post of Assistant Secretary General of Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO).

A "Contemporary Graphic" exhibition sponsored by the ICCR was organized in Syria in October, 2005.

Indian companies participated in the 4th international exhibition "Techno-Stone 2005" on marbles, ceramics and cement products, held in Damascus, in May 2005. ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) jointly won the bid for Petr-Canada's share (38% stake in the Shell operated Al Furat venture) in Syrian oil and gas fields.

Shri C.R. Gharekhan, Special Envoy for West Asia and Middle East Peace Process visited Damascus from 19-21 June 2005 and held meetings with Syrian Foreign Minister Mr Farouk Al-Shara' and senior officials, on the latest developments in the region and the UN Security Council reform, as well as bilateral relations.

A team from the Archaeological Survey of India visited Damascus in August 2005 under the India-Syria Cultural Exchange Programme 2003-06.

Tunisia

Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers led the Indian delegation to the 2nd meeting of the Indo-Tunisian Joint Working Group on Pharmaceuticals which was held in Tunis in April 2005. The 3rd meeting of the JWG on

Pharmaceuticals was held in New Delhi during November 2005. A delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation visited Tunisia and signed an Air-Services Agreement between India and Tunisia. A delegation from the Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation visited Tunisia in July 2005 to hold exploratory talks on setting up of a fertilizer plant in Tunisia. The Minister for Communications & Information Technology, Shri Dayanidhi Maran, visited Tunisia from 16-18 November 2005 to participate in the World Summit on the Information Society. The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) organised an exclusive Indian textiles Exhibition in Tunis during December 2005.

India's export to Tunisia during the first 8 months of 2005 was US\$ 70.92 million and its import from Tunisia touched US\$ 55.30 million.

India-Arab League Relations

India participated as an observer for the first time in an Arab League Summit, which was held in Algiers on 22&23 March 2005. The 5-member Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed. An MoU for Bilateral Cooperation between India and the Arab League is in operation.



East and Southern Africa

India's relations with countries of Africa have strengthened over the years. In recent years India's ties with Africa have expanded in economic and commercial fields. India has a sizeable two-way trade with most of the African countries. There is recognition that Indian goods, both consumer and capital, are competitive, in quality and price. Indian technology is valued and there is a widely felt appreciation that India can be of help to the African Nations as they march toward progress and development.

Several African countries have been opening their diplomatic missions in India. A resident mission of Lesotho was opened in New Delhi in October 2005, which was inaugurated by their Foreign Minister. Comoros has set up an office of Honorary Consul General in New Delhi.

Several high-level visits exchanged between Africa and India during the year reflected the closeness of their relations. The President of Seychelles visited India in July-August 2005. The Prime Minister of Mauritius undertook a State visit to India in October 2005. The First Lady of Zambia visited in October 2005 at the invitation of ICCR. A delegation led by the Minister of Public Services and Administration of South Africa visited India in November 2005. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa visited India in December 2005.

From India, the Prime Minister paid a State visit to Mauritius in March-April 2005. The Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly visited Uganda in August. Minister for Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries visited Mauritius in April 2005. Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh visited South Africa in April 2005. Another step in strengthening relations between India and the African Nations was the holding of bilateral Joint Commission Meetings to review progress of bilateral cooperation and initiate new programmes for bilateral collaboration. Such meetings were held with Zambia and South Africa during the year.

Similarly Foreign Office Consultations were held with Mauritius and South Africa.

India is cooperating closely with South Africa both bilaterally as well as within the framework of IBSA dialogue. IBSA is looked upon as a model of cooperation in the developing world. India continued its engagement with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The two sides have agreed to have closer and long-term economic association as envisaged in the India-COMESA MoU. A Southern Africa Development Council (SADC) – India Forum was approved by the SADC Council of Ministers in March 2003, to bring about deeper engagement between India and this sub-region.

Indian troops have also been playing an important role in peace-keeping operations in various countries of Africa such as Burundi, Ivory Coast, DR Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea. About 1500 Indian troops are presently deployed on the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea as part of the United Nations Mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) Force.

Since March 2005, India has been formally accredited to the African Union and has intensified its engagement with the organisation. The Ministry of External Affairs and African Union signed an MoU on 27 October 2005 for Pan-African Network Project to achieve the twin goals of e-education and tele-medicine in African countries.

India provided a number of scholarships to nominees from African nations under the ITEC, SCAAP, and ICCR scholarship schemes. In addition special courses have been conducted from time to time, in response to specific requests from individual countries.

CII and EXIM Bank organised a Conclave from 6-8 November 2005 in New Delhi on India-Africa Project Partnership 2005 – 'Expanding Horizons'. This was a successful event. A number of Ministers from the African

countries participated in the event, apart from business leaders and entrepreneurs.

Botswana

Relations between India and Botswana remain “excellent” as described by the President of Botswana, Mr. Festus Gontebanwe Mogae. Cooperation in defence and civilian fields strengthened during the year. The President visited India in May 2005 as the chief guest at the International Diamond Conference in Mumbai.

Burundi

National Assembly elections were held in Burundi on 4 July 2005. The former rebel group CNDD-FDD secured majority (59 seats). The leader of the party, Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, was elected President of Burundi on 19 August 2005. A new government was sworn-in on 26 August 2005.

Comoros

India continued to enjoy friendly and cordial relations with the Union of Comoros. As a gesture of goodwill, Indian Naval warship Trishul paid a 4-day friendly visit to Port Moroni (capital of Union of Comoros) from 29 May-1 June 2005.

Eritrea

The then External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh had a bilateral meeting with his Eritrean counterpart Mr. Ali Said Abdella on the sidelines of the Asian-African Summit in Jakarta on 22 April 2005. The Eritrean Foreign Minister expressed appreciation for India's contribution to Eritrea's education sector where 600 teachers from India were imparting education. He also thanked India for its contribution of 1400 peacekeepers on Eritrea's border with Ethiopia under the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

5 slots were allotted to Eritrea under the ITEC Programme for 2005-06. India also offered 7 training courses for the defence personnel of Eritrea.

Ethiopia

India and Ethiopia have maintained cordial bilateral relations. Both countries have convergent views on terrorism and expansion of UNSC. Excellent trade

relations exist with Ethiopia. 150 Indian companies have operations in the country. Addis Ababa is the headquarters of the African Union.

Ethiopia has been selected for the first pilot project under the India-AU Pan African E-Network Project.

Kenya

Bilateral relations between India and Kenya are friendly and cooperative. India's exports to Kenya grew by 83.5% in 2004-05. The total bilateral trade increased by 71% to US\$ 455 million.

Prof. Peter Anyang Nyang'o, Minister for Planning & National Development participated in the Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in New Delhi from 2-4 March 2005.

Mr. Najib Balala, Minister of State for National Heritage visited India from 5-7 June 2005 as a guest of ICCR.

Mr. Chistopher Murungaru, Minister for Transport accompanied by three officials of the Kenya Ports Authority visited the Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Nhava Sheva, Mumbai on 28&29 August 2005 as part of a study tour of 12 leading ports in the world.

The Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)organised a Buyer-Seller Meeting in Nairobi on 29&30 March 2005.

Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, attended the 23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum from 20-25 February 2005, as also the High Level segment of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Nairobi on 24&25 October 2005.

Mr. Kamal Nath, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry attended the WTO mini-Ministerial meeting at Mombasa from 2-4 March 2005.

The High Commission organized a Symposium at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi on 'Is Gandhian path, the right way forward for the conflict-torn world of today?' on 3 October 2005. The High Commission also organized another Symposium at the UN Headquarters in Nairobi on 14 November 2005 on 'Nehru, Non-aligned Movement and the World Today'.

Lesotho

Foreign Minister of Lesotho Mr. Monyane Moleleki inaugurated the new High Commission of Lesotho in New Delhi on 14 October 2005.

Lesotho has utilized the US\$ 5 million Line of credit extended by Government of India for purchase of agricultural equipment.

Madagascar

Bilateral relations with Madagascar remained cordial. The visit to India by Malagasy Foreign Minister Lt. Gen Marcel Ranjeva from 21-23 March 2005 served to strengthen the bilateral relations. Government of India extended an invitation through the visiting Malagasy Foreign Minister to the Malagasy President Mr. Marc Ravalomanana to pay a state visit to India at a mutually convenient time.

Malawi

Bilateral relations between India and Malawi remained cordial. Shri V.K. Grover, Special Envoy of the Government of India visited Lilongwe from 4-6 May 2005 to discuss matters concerning the reform of the United Nations and bilateral relations.

India has allotted 10 scholarships to Malawi for training under the ITEC Programme in 2005-06 and these are being utilized.

Mauritius

Prime Minister paid a State Visit to Mauritius from 30 March-2 April 2005. During the visit the Prime Minister inaugurated the 'Ebene Cyber Tower', which was built with Indian assistance, through a Line of Credit of US\$ 100 Million. The Prime Minister also inaugurated 'Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre built with Indian assistance at a cost of US\$ 15 Million.

Prime Minister addressed a special session of the National Assembly. During the high level official talks, a number of measures for further strengthening of bilateral cooperation were discussed, including Indian assistance for surveying the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), for transformation of Mauritius into a knowledge hub in the fields of medicine, engineering and IT and for development of its small and cottage industries sector.

An Agreement on Cooperation to combat Terrorism, an

MoU relating to Bilateral Air Services Agreement, an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Protection of the Environment and an Agreement for an EXIM Bank line of credit for the Baie du Tombeau Sewerage Project were signed during the visit.

Minister for Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries Shri Mahavir Prasad visited Mauritius from 8-12 April 2005.

INS Sharda visited Mauritius from 20-23 April 2005. INS Delhi and INS Trishul visited Mauritius from 21-24 June 2005.

General elections held in Mauritius on 3 July 2005 led to a change of government. The Socialist Alliance, led by the Labour Party, won the elections and Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Leader of Labour Party, was sworn in as the new Prime Minister. Shri N. Gopalswami, Election Commissioner and Shri Anand Kumar, Deputy Election Commissioner, were observers for the elections.

Foreign Secretary Shri Shyam Saran visited Mauritius from 23-25 August 2005 to discuss with the new leadership priority areas for bilateral cooperation.

The first round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Mauritius was held in New Delhi on 31 August 2005. Madan Murlidhar Dooloo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation, led the Mauritian delegation. The Indian delegation was led by the External Affairs Minister.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Takhar, PVSM, VSM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Army Command, visited Mauritius from 3-6 October 2005 for discussions on bilateral cooperation in defence and security areas.

An "India Fair" was organized in Mauritius on 19-23 October 2005 by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in collaboration with the High Commission of India.

Mauritian Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam undertook a State visit to India on 23-28 October 2005. He was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development Mr. Ramakrishna Sithanen, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation Mr. Madan Murlidhar Dooloo. During the visit, an Agreement on



The President of Seychelles Mr. James Alix Michel with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 1 August 2005.



The Prime Minister of Mauritius Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 24 October 2005.

Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, an Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, an MoU for Cooperation in the field of Hydrography, an MoU on Harmonisation of Standards between concerned agencies, an MoU for Cooperation on Consumer Protection and Legal Metrology, an MoU between IIPS and Government of Mauritius and an MoU on setting up a Preferential Trade Agreement were signed.

Mozambique

The close ties with Mozambique were strengthened during the year. The bilateral trade during the year 2004-05 was US\$ 117 million (exports from India US\$ 77 million, imports from Mozambique US\$ 40 million). Exports from India to Mozambique included rice (other than Basmati), drugs & pharmaceuticals, organic agro chemicals, footwear and manufactured rubber products, chemicals, transport equipments, silk and cotton yarn. The major items of imports from Mozambique were cashew nuts, raw cotton, metal scrap, and tea.

A total of 20 SCAAP scholarships were allotted to Mozambique during the year, and were fully utilized by them.

Namibia

The bilateral relations between India and Namibia continued to be very friendly. Namibia has been consistently supporting India in the UN and other international organisations. It has supported India's claim for Permanent membership of the Security Council.

High-level interactions were maintained. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed had a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister in Doha during the Second South Summit in June 2005.

India's assistance in the area of human resource development has been appreciated by the Namibian leadership. During the year 40 Namibian candidates benefited from training under the scholarship schemes of SCAAP/ITEC. Nine candidates availed ICCR Scholarships under CEP and GCSS.

A retail outlet for the TATA Vehicles in Namibia was opened in June 2005.

Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Agriculture Minister of Namibia visited India from 5-10 December 2005.

Rwanda

Bilateral relations between India and Rwanda were friendly and cooperative. President Paul Kagame took over as President of the COMESA at the 10th COMESA Summit held in Kigali from 2-4 June 2005.

Seychelles

Seychelles President Mr. James Alix Michel paid a State-visit to India from 31 July- 2 August 2005. He held talks with various Indian leaders following which a number of areas were identified for bilateral cooperation. India pledged to support Seychelles' reform programme with a US \$13 million financial aid package. Of this, \$ 5 million is in the form of a grant to help reinforce the country's balance of payments and \$ 8 million as a line of credit from EXIM Bank of India for purchase of commodities from India.

On the occasion of Seychelles National Day (June 18th), INS TRISHUL visited Port Victoria to participate in the celebrations. An Indian Defence delegation, led by Lt. Gen. B.S. Takhar of Southern Command, visited Seychelles on a regional consultation visit in October 2005. An MoU was signed between National Institute of Education of Seychelles and Mysore University to enable Seychellois students undertake higher education in India. The Taj Group took over management and operations of Denis Island Resort in Seychelles. AIRTEL [a leading Telecom provider in Seychelles since 1998] bought Le-Meridien BARBARONS Hotel on Mahe Island.

Seychelles supported India's candidatures for seven international bodies (International Law Commission, Executive Board of UNESCO, Executive Council of WTO, Council of FAO, Council of IMO and Vice-President of (Asia) Interpol, Council of IMO and Council of WCO).

South Africa

India has close and extensive bilateral relations with South Africa. It has a large Indian origin community. It is also an important partner in multilateral forums, and especially the trilateral IBSA forum.

Trade and economic interaction between the two countries increased substantially during the last decade. There is close cooperation in the field of defence.



The Foreign Minister of Sudan Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail calls on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 7 June 2005.



Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu addressing a Round Table on "Building Peace Through Dialogue – Resolving Differences" organized by ICCR in Bangalore on 14 December 2005.

Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh visited South Africa from 1-5 April 2005 and held bilateral discussions.

At the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Bandung Conference President Mbeki conferred South Africa's highest award for foreigners-the order of the Companions of OR Tambo posthumously on Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru on 26 April 2005. The award was received by Shri Rahul Gandhi, MP on behalf of the late Prime Minister.

South African Parliamentary delegation from the Portfolio Committee on Mineral & Energy visited India from 30 July-5 August 2005.

8-member delegation from the Parliament Select Committee on Land and Environment Affairs visited India from 7-12 August 2005.

A 16-member delegation of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Development & Community Development of South Africa visited India from 24-28 September 2005.

Minister of Communications Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casburri undertook an extensive tour of India from 27-29 November 2005.

Mrs. Geraldine J. Frasaer-Moleketi, Minister of Public Services and Administration led a ministerial delegation from 14-17 November 2005 to discuss ways and means in which India can assist South Africa in enhancing human resource development in the country. The delegation also included Dr. Essop Pahad, Minister in Presidency, Mr. Radhakrishna L. Padyachie, Minister of Communications, and Mr. E. Surty, Deputy Minister of Education.

South Africa has extended its support to India for its claim to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. It has actively worked to evolve a consensus position of AU with G-4.

Swaziland

Bilateral trade between India and Swaziland was US\$ 24 million during the year 2004-05 with exports from India being US\$ 21 million and imports from Swaziland US\$ 3 million. The major items of export to Swaziland were drugs and Pharmaceuticals, dyes, marine products, tea, footwear, gems and jewelry.

During the year, 5 scholarships were allotted to Swaziland under SCAAP.

Tanzania

Bilateral relations between India and Tanzania remained cordial and friendly. Of late medical tourism from Tanzania has become an important element of people to people interaction. Tanzania is a large beneficiary of ITEC programme with 75 training slots allotted to it.

Bilateral trade between India and Tanzania continued to increase. In 2004, India's exports to Tanzania increased by 29% to US\$ 218 million compared to US\$ 169 million in 2003. India's imports from Tanzania grew by 39% to US\$ 101.69 million in 2004 from US\$ 73.18 million in 2003.

Uganda

India and Uganda enjoy friendly and cooperative bilateral relations. A nation-wide referendum was held in Uganda on 28 July 2005 in which Ugandans voted in favour of a multiparty political system commencing with the elections of 2006. Parliament approved a Constitution amendment Bill removing a two-term limit on Presidential tenure. President Yoweri Museveni was nominated as the Presidential candidate by the National Resistance Movement (NRM) in the NRM Convention held in November 2005. Uganda will host the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM).

Shri V.K. Grover, Special Envoy of the Government of India, visited Uganda on 28&29 April 2005. Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly visited Uganda on 9&10 August 2005.

Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests visited Uganda on 11&12 November 2005 to participate in the Ministerial segment of the 9th Meeting of Conference of Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in Kampala.

Prof. Gilbert Bukenya, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, paid a private visit to India from 8-12 August 2005 at the invitation of Cipla (India) Ltd. He signed an MoU with Cipla (India) Ltd to set up a Joint Venture with M/s Quality Chemicals, Kampala for manufacturing anti-retroviral drugs in Uganda.

Prof. Semakula Kiwanuka, Minister of State for Investments, led a three-member Ugandan delegation to the Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership 2005-“Expanding Horizons” held in New Delhi from 6-8 November 2005.

Zambia

Foreign Office Consultations at senior official level were held in Lusaka from 27 February-1 March 2005.

From the Zambian side, First Lady, Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa visited India in October 2005 at the invitation of the ICCR. The 5th Indo-Zambian Joint Permanent Commission met in New Delhi in September 2005. Zambian Minister of Finance and National Planning, Mr. Ngandu Magande led the 10-member Zambian delegation. Zambian Energy and Water Development Minister, George Mpombo also visited India in March 2005, while the former President Kenneth Kaunda attended an HIV/AIDS related conference in India in March 2005.

Zambia utilized a major part of the \$ 10 million line of credit by importing vehicles from India for several government departments. In December 2005, a consignment of agricultural equipment worth Rs. 8 million was donated to Zambia as part of the Rs. 25 million grant pledged during the Presidential visit in 2003.

Bilateral trade in 2004-05 grew to US\$ 73.9 million from US\$ 54.5 million a year earlier. Zambia also cleared outstanding dues amounting to US\$ 9.4 million under a 2003 agreement. EXIM Bank and the Development Bank of Zambia signed a 5-year partnership agreement in March. India increased ITEC slots for Zambia for 2005 from 35 to 50.

A 10-member ICCR sponsored Percussion Group performed in Lusaka in October.

Zimbabwe

As Zimbabwe celebrated the 25th Anniversary of its independence, friendly relations with India continued to expand. Trade and economic relations with India continued to grow, in consonance with Zimbabwe’s “Look East” policy.

Indian companies have had success in Zimbabwe, in the

pharmaceutical, irrigation and rural electrification sectors. Zimbabwe remains a country endowed with rich resources, with fertile agricultural land and vast mineral reserves, including the second largest reserves of platinum.

An Indian grant of US\$ 5 million for development of SMEs on a report by HMT (International) is being finalised.

A Zimbabwean delegation led by the Industry Minister Mr. Mumbengegwi attended the Conclave on India-Africa Partnership Projects, which resulted in Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) signing an agreement with the National Railways of Zimbabwe. The Health Minister of Zimbabwe Mr. David Parirenyatwa also visited India.

India participated in the Annual Harare International Festival of Art with a Kuchipudi Dance Troupe led by Ms. Sailaja. The Indian cricket team played one day internationals and test matches in Zimbabwe.

COMESA

India continued its engagement with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Secretary (West) met Mr. Erastus J.O. Mwencha, Secretary General of COMESA on 28 February 2005 and Special Secretary (ER) met Mrs. Nagla El-Husseini, Acting Secretary General, COMESA in Lusaka on 28 November 2005, to strengthen India’s interaction with COMESA in pursuance of the India-COMESA Memorandum of Understanding. Two experts from the Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) of India Limited visited Zambia in September/October 2005 to study the existing irrigation facilities in the country. The WAPCOS experts are scheduled to visit Eritrea, Uganda, Swaziland and Zimbabwe in the coming months.

India participated in the COMESA Summit meeting held in Kigali, 30 May-3 June 2005, as an observer.

SADC

Southern African Development Community (SADC) formed in August 1992 comprises 14-member countries.

An MoU on Economic Cooperation between India and SADC was signed in October 1997. SADC Council of

Ministers approved proposal for institutionalized SADC-India Forum in its meeting in Luanda in March 2003. The first meeting of the India-SADC Forum is expected to be held in April 2006.

West Africa

India enjoys cordial links with the countries of West Africa. India's relations with the countries of this region have intensified in recent years. The TEAM-9 Initiative, a techno-economic cooperation venture between India and 8 countries of West Africa has provided a much needed impetus to deepen India's relations with several important countries of West Africa. Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs met Foreign Ministers of TEAM-9 countries on the sidelines of the African Union Summit in Sirte, Libya on 3 July 2005. The Minister of External Affairs met the TEAM-9 Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York on 16 September 2005. At the New York meeting it was decided to accept Niger's request to join the group, taking the group's total membership to 10.

The year also saw tangible action to operationalize the US\$ 500 million line of credit offered by India to TEAM-9 countries. Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh used the opportunity of the TEAM-9 meeting in Sirte to hand over letters approving projects to the tune of US\$ 260 million in TEAM-9 countries. The implementation of these projects in diverse sectors like road and rail transport, agricultural implements, construction, irrigation, electrification, cotton ginning and food processing industries is expected to deepen India's relationship with West Africa.

India has been extending lines of credit for execution of projects and purchase of equipment. Out of the US\$ 200 million credit line extended under New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), lines of credit amounting to US\$ 84.3 million have already been approved for projects in Senegal, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia and Niger.

An important initiative in economic diplomacy was the Ministry of External Affairs' active participation in the India- African Project Partnership Conclaves organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry in March and

November 2005. These Conclaves saw the participation of ministerial level delegations, heads of key financial institutions and chambers of commerce and captains of industry. The Conclaves generated an enormous amount of business interest, leading to concrete enquiries and actual tying up of bilateral projects.

Angola

Bilateral relations between India and Angola have been close and friendly. After the cessation of civil war in Angola in April 2002, India's exports to and investments in Angola have grown. A 10-member delegation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry visited Luanda from 20-23 September 2005.

India has extended a \$ 40 million Line of Credit to the Government of Angola for a railway rehabilitation project. The RITES Technical Assistance team is in Lubango since June 2005.

The Angolan Minister for Agriculture Mr. Gilberto Buta Lutucuta visited India from 18-21 February 2005. Mr. Abrahao Pio Dos Santos Gourgel, Vice Minister of Industry visited India from 20-25 August 2005. Five ambulances were gifted to Angola.

Benin

India's friendly relations with the Republic of Benin gathered momentum during the year 2005-06. The Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Integration Mrs. Mariam Aladjì Boni Diallo visited India in April 2005 in preparation of the visit of the Foreign Minister of Benin Mr. Rogatien Biaoou.

India donated 60 tractors and implements to the Government of Benin under the Aid to African Countries Programme.

Burkina Faso

President Blaise Compaore won the presidential elections held on 13 November 2005. He was sworn in as President of Burkina Faso on 20 December 2005. Relations between India and Burkina Faso have strengthened in recent years.

India approved an LOC of US\$ 30.97 million under TEAM-9, of which US\$ 30 million is for implementation of Agricultural Projects and US\$ 0.97 million for

construction and equipping of National Post Office and to create modern foreign exchange bureau.

Mr. Jean Baptiste Compaore, Minister of Finance and Budget visited New Delhi from 1-4 August 2005 in connection with the line of credit sanctioned to Burkina Faso under Team-9 initiative. The delegation held discussions with Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh and called on Shri P. Chidamberam, Minister of Finance.

Cameroon

Relations between India and Cameroon continued to grow. India announced the donation of 60 tractors and implements to the Cameroon Government to help develop its agriculture sector.

Chad

Bilateral relations between India and Chad received a strong impetus when the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Chad visited India in March 2005 to participate in the CII conclave. Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, met the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Chad Mr. Nagoum Yamasoum, and other TEAM-9 representatives, in July 2005 in Libya on the sidelines of the African Union Summit. Minister of State handed over a letter conveying the approval of Government of India for four projects worth US\$ 50 million in Chad under the TEAM-9 initiative, for setting up a bicycle manufacturing plant; assembly and manufacture of tractors and implements; steel billet plant and rolling mill; and cotton yarn plant.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire is an important member of TEAM-9 initiative. India's relations with Cote d'Ivoire are friendly and cooperative. Foreign Minister Mamadou Bamba led his country's delegation to the CII Conclave in March 2005. An LOC amounting to US\$ 26.08 Million has been granted to the Cote d'Ivoire for the transport and agriculture sectors.

During bilateral discussions, Cote d'Ivoire affirmed its strong desire for closer collaboration with India in the fields of agriculture, SMEs and IT.

A delegation from Cote d'Ivoire participated in the CII Conclave in November 2005 and signed an MoU with

NRDC for setting up a Technology Demonstration Centre in Abidjan. Ministry of External Affairs has conveyed its decision to extend support for this important project.

Democratic Republic of Congo

India and DR Congo enjoy close and cooperative bilateral relations. After the visit of Foreign Minister of DR Congo Mr. Ramazani Baya, Vice President Mr. Jean Pierre Bemba visited India from 2-4 March 2005 to attend the CII conclave in Delhi.

Under the NEPAD programme, India has approved an EXIM Bank line of credit to the DRC of US\$ 33.5 million for execution of 4 projects viz. rehabilitation of a cement factory, acquisition of 500 buses, rehabilitation of manganese mines and acquiring equipment for Societe Miniere De Bakwanga (Miba).

India has also responded to a request from the Foreign Minister of DRC by shipping 60 tractors along with spares and accessories.

Equatorial Guinea

India has maintained cordial relations with Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea has been extended an LOC amounting to US\$ 15 million for a drinking water project.

Ghana

Bilateral ties with Ghana have maintained their strong momentum. The India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT which was set up with India's assistance is now fully operational. In addition to providing IT training to Ghanaians, it is also serving the needs of other ECOWAS countries.

To facilitate bilateral trade, two Lines of Credit (LOCs) were approved for Ghana. The disbursement under the first LOC of \$15 million for a rural electrification project has already become effective. The agreement for the second LOC of US\$ 27 million was signed in August 2005.

India approved an LOC of US\$60 million under TEAM-9 – US\$ 30 million each for 'Rural Electrification project' and 'Construction of Presidential Complex'. The Minister of Finance of Ghana visited India in August 2005 and signed the LOC Agreement with EXIM Bank.

A number of Indian business delegations visited Ghana during the year. In the petroleum sector, an MoU was

signed between ONGC (Videsh) and the Ghana National Petroleum Company for co-operation in petroleum exploration, development and production. State Bank of India is in the process of opening a branch in Accra.

An Indian delegation led by the Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj attended the 13th Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Accra from 1-20 October 2005.

Mr. Ernest Debrah, Minister of Food and Agriculture visited India in April/May 2005. Deputy Minister of Finance of Ghana visited India from 22-26 August 2005 and signed Agreements on Lines of Credit. Deputy Minister of Communication visited Bangalore to attend "Bangalore IT. Com 2005". Ghanaian Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture visited India in September 2005 in connection with acquisition of equipment for Cassava processing and sugar mills.

Guinea-Bissau

Mr. Joao Bernardo Vieira assumed office as Bissau-Guinean President after elections in July 2005. President Vieira appointed a new Cabinet in November 2005. The relations between India and Guinea Bissau continued to be cordial and friendly. India has, in principle, agreed to extend a line of credit of US\$ 25 million to Guinea-Bissau under the TEAM-9 initiative.

A delegation consisting of Mr. Joao Gomes Cardoso, Minister and Chief of Staff in the President's Office and Dr. Ysuf Sana, Minister for Economic Planning of Guinea-Bissau visited India in November 2005 to participate in the CII Conclave.

Mali

Bilateral relations between India and Mali were friendly and cooperative. A 10-member Malian delegation visited India from 7-14 August 2005 in connection with the Line of Credit of US\$ 27 Million extended to Mali for a plant for assembling agricultural equipment and for an electrification project. The delegation was led by Mr. Abou Bakar Traore, Minister of Economy and Finance and included the Ministers of Agriculture and Mines, and Energy and Water as well as the Senior Advisor to the President of Mali.

Malian President's Special Envoy Mr. Modibo Sidbe

visited India on 13 May 2005 and held detailed discussions with Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh. The Malian Minister of Mines visited India in December and held discussions with Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh.

A 7-member business delegation from EEPC visited Mali in November-December 2005.

Mauritania

Mauritania witnessed a military coup on 3 August 2005, leading to the installation of a new dispensation led by Col. Ely Ould Mohammed Vall.

Mauritania was represented at the CII Conclave in November 2005. Petrol India International (PII) has been engaged in the restoration of the Mauritanian oil refinery, Somir, while another Indian company the CSL Senegal has started work in Mauritania on upgradation of a cement plant.

Niger

India's relations with Niger received a fresh impetus with the visit of Mme Aichatou Mindaoudou, Foreign Minister of Niger along with the Minister for Energy and Minerals to participate in the CII Conclave in March. India has provided a line of credit of US\$ 17 million to the Government of Niger to enable it to procure buses, trucks and agricultural equipment from India. Prime Minister of India met the Prime Minister of Niger on the sidelines of UNGA in New York and promised assistance for the country's agricultural sector. The TEAM-9 meeting in New York agreed to admit Niger to the grouping. The Minister of Commerce and Industry of Niger represented Niger in the CII Conclave held in Delhi from 6-8 November 2005.

In response to a request from the Government of Niger, India despatched a consignment of pediatric medical supplies for famine-affected children.

Nigeria

Relations with Nigeria continued to be warm and cordial with close cooperation in the political and economic spheres. The signing of an MoU in November 2005, between Nigeria's Ministry of Petroleum Resources and ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd. (OMEL) marked a significant step in bilateral cooperation. India would be allocated two



The Foreign Minister of Nigeria Ambassador Olu Adeniji with External Affairs Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh in New Delhi on 22 March 2005.



The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Chad Mr. Nagoum Yamassoum with External Affairs Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh in New Delhi on 3 March 2005.

deep sea offshore blocks and long term supply of 120,000 barrels per day (6 million metric tonnes per annum) of crude oil. In turn, OMEL would set up a 180,000 barrels per day refinery in Nigeria and would invest substantially in the Nigerian economy, in the power and refining sectors, construction of railway lines and infrastructure development.

An inter-ministerial delegation from Nigeria comprising the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Minister of Power and Steel, Minister of Commerce and Chairman of Nigeria Railway Corporation visited India in October 2005. Several opportunities were identified during their meetings with ONGC, NTPC, RITES and IRCON and discussions with the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Mani Shankar Iyer.

An Indian delegation from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Nigeria in March 2005 and initiated discussions on energy cooperation. Following this, Indian Oil Corporation signed a long term contract with Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for supply of 40,000 barrels per day of crude oil to India. Later, a delegation from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) visited Nigeria in August 2005.

India continued to be the largest source of Nigerian imports of pharmaceutical products. A pharmaceutical delegation from India visited Nigeria in July 2005 and held meetings with the Nigerian Minister of State for Health and other key officials.

Another notable development during the year was the waiver of US\$ 31.5 million fine imposed on Air India by a local court for a drug related offence which occurred in 1987. The Nigerian Minister of Aviation formally communicated the waiver on 13 June 2005, paving the way for Air India to fly to Nigeria. Direct air link between Nigeria and India was restored in June 2005 when Bellview Airlines of Nigeria started two weekly flights between Lagos and Mumbai.

A 35-member delegation led by Nigerian Minister of State for Works participated in the India-Africa Conclave in March 2005 in New Delhi. Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji visited New Delhi in March, 2005 for consultations with External Affairs Minister on bilateral relations and UNSG reform.

The active defence cooperation with Nigeria continued during the year with 16 officers from the Nigerian Armed Forces undergoing training in various defence training institutions in India. Chief of Army Staff General J. J. Singh visited Nigeria from 27 November-1 December 2005.

Republic of Congo

Mme. Adelaide Moundele Ngollo, Minister of Commerce, accompanied by a 4-member delegation, paid an official visit to India from 11-18 November, 2005. She held discussions with Minister of State Rao Inerjit Singh, Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry. CII organized a business interaction for the Minister to acquaint Indian businessmen about trade and investment opportunities in Congo.

Responding to a request from the Government of Congo, India has sent a consignment of anti-malarial and other medicines to Brazzaville.

Republic of Gabon

India has friendly relations with Gabon. In May 2005, an Oil India Limited delegation visited Gabon and carried out a preliminary evaluation of two onshore oil blocks. Government of Gabon has sought strengthening of bilateral cooperation with India.

Republic of Guinea

India maintained friendly relations with Republic of Guinea. A 4-member delegation led by Mr. Alhaji Theirno Habib Diallo, Cooperation Minister visited India from 10-17 September 2005. The delegation called on Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh and visited RITES, NSIC, NRDC, BHEL and CII. Another 5-member delegation led by Dr. Ahmed Tidiane Soure, Minister of Minister and Geology represented Republic of Guinea in CII conclave held in Delhi from 6-8 November 2005.

Senegal

India's relations with Senegal witnessed significant growth during the year. Shri Natwar Singh the then EAM visited Senegal on 25&26 May 2005 and held wide-ranging discussions with various political leaders including President Abdoulaye Wade and the Foreign Affairs

Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio. The areas of cooperation identified during these discussions included Agriculture, Railways, IT and SMEs. The two Foreign Ministers signed a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations. Shri Natwar Singh laid the foundation stone for Mahatma Gandhi Plaza at Corniche West in Dakar. A cooperation agreement was also signed between National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi and Senegalese Ministry of Small & Medium Enterprises, Women Entrepreneurship and Micro Finance.

Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh visited Senegal on 6&7 April 2005 to formally launch the induction of 300 buses imported by Senegal from India under a bilateral line of credit of US\$ 18 Million. Minister of State called on President of Senegal, Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, Prime Minister Macky Sall and Foreign Minister, Cheikh Tidiane Gadio. An agreement for conducting a feasibility study of the proposed Dakar-Tambacounda-Ziguinchor railway line was signed between RITES and Senegalese Agency for New Railway System. India also extended a line of credit of US\$ 27 million for a major irrigation project under the TEAM-9 programme, and another line of credit of US\$ 27.7 million jointly to Senegal and Mali for supply of locomotives and coaches for the Dakar-Bamako railway line.

India donated a consignment of relief material including tents, blankets, water pumps and medicines for those affected by the unusual floods in Senegal in September.

Sierra Leone

Relations between India and Sierra Leone have been close and friendly. India has agreed to assist the country's army by providing 400 units of military barracks. Work on this project is currently underway.

The Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone led a delegation to CII conclave in Delhi in November 2005.

The Gambia

Bilateral relations between India and Gambia gathered momentum, with the Gambian Foreign Minister Mr. Sidi Morro Sanneh, visiting India twice this year accompanied by large delegations. India extended a credit line of US\$ 6.7 million to Gambia for purchase of agricultural machinery and tractor assembly plant. India also gifted a

consignment of medicines to the Department of Health of the Gambian government in September 2005.

Togo

Presidential elections were held in Togo on 24 April 2005, after the death of former President Eyadema. Mr. Faure Gnassingbe won the elections and was sworn-in as President on 4 May 2005. Bilateral relations between India and Togo have remained cordial. Responding to a request from the Government of Togo, India decided to donate 60 tractors.

ECOWAS Bank for Industrial Development (EBID), which is headquartered in Lome, has sought India's participation in EBID's capital, and financial and technical assistance for various projects in West Africa. The President of EBID visited India in March and May 2005 and met the officials of Ministries of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs and EXIM Bank in this regard.

India continued to offer training courses under the ITEC/SCAAP programme. Togo was allotted 2 training slots this year.

Trade with Togo has grown, with India's exports to Togo amounting to US\$ 260.83 million. Imports from Togo stood at US\$ 41.97 million.

The African Union

India has been formally accredited to the African Union since March 2005. Close interaction with the African Union on political and developmental issues has been maintained. Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh represented India at the Extra-Ordinary AU Summit in Sirte in July. Secretary (West) visited Addis Ababa in August and again in October 2005 to interact with delegations on the sidelines of the Extraordinary AU summit held there.

Pan African e-Network

The initiative to connect all 53 AU-member countries through an e-network was announced by President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam during his address to the Pan-African Parliament in September 2004. The proposed project is aimed at providing tele-medicine, tele-education with the help of ISRO, AIIMS and IGNOU. It would also provide video conferencing facilities to Heads of Governments/

Heads of States of the member countries of AU. TCIL has been selected as the lead agency for implementing the project.

Delegations from India visited Addis Ababa in May and July 2005 and January 2006, for discussions with senior AU officials on the project. A high level delegation from the African Union visited New Delhi in October 2005 and concluded MoUs with the Government of India and with TCIL to put in place a formal framework for implementation of this landmark project.

Work on a pilot project has commenced in Ethiopia within the framework of an MoU between TCIL and the Government of Ethiopia and a separate MoU between Ministry of External Affairs and TCIL.

The cost of the project would be met in a phased manner under the Aid to Africa programme of Ministry of External Affairs.



Europe figured prominently in India's external relations. India attaches considerable importance to its relationship with the European Union (EU) member countries, as also with the other countries of the European Continent. India shares a strategic partnership with the 25-member European Union as also individually with France, Germany and the UK. During the year, India's engagement with the EU, and individual countries in Europe intensified and diversified further.

The Summit level interactions with the EU, UK, France and Italy and a growing exchange of visits at Ministerial levels, were indicative of India's steadily growing co-operation with this strategic region.

The 6th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on 7 September 2005 endorsed a comprehensive Joint Action Plan setting out a road map for India-EU interaction in diverse sectors. India-EU relations have grown from what used to be a trade and economic driven relationship to one covering a wider spectrum. The Summit also issued a Political Declaration on the Strategic Partnership, which updated the last India-EU Political Statement, adopted by the two sides in 1993.

Trade, investment and technology links continued to intensify between India and the countries of Europe and showed excellent growth.

Albania

Parliamentary elections were held in Albania on 3 July 2005. Democratic Party leader Mr. Sali Berisha was elected the new Albanian Prime Minister.

Austria

President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer paid a State visit to India from 16-21 February 2005. An Agreement on Infrastructure Cooperation in Health Sector, and a Memorandum of Understanding on Development of

Collaboration between the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and the Medical University Innsbruck were signed during the visit.

Belgium

Belgium has emerged as India's second largest trading partner in EU with a trade turnover at around € 6.5 billion in 2004. Gems and Jewellery constitute about 75% of bilateral trade. Belgium co-sponsored the G-4 framework resolution on UNSC.

The visit to India of HRH Crown Prince Philippe in March 2005 at the head of a large business delegation provided impetus to bilateral commercial relations. The then External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh visited Brussels on 20&21 June 2005 for the Iraq International Conference and G-4 Ministerial Meeting.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 29 June 2005 Mr. Ivo Miro Jovic officially took over as the chairman of the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Presidency from Barislav Paravic. He will hold this position for 8 months

Bulgaria

Mr. Sergei Stanishev became the new Prime Minister of Bulgaria leading a coalition formed by Socialists, Centrists, and ethnic Turks in August 2005.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science Mr. Daniel Valtchev visited India from 3-7 December 2005 and signed a programme of cooperation in science and technology for 2005-07 with the Minister of Science & Technology Shri Kapil Sibal .

Croatia

President of Croatia Mr. Stjepan Mesic was sworn in office in February 2005, for a second five-year term. The European Union agreed to commence accession talks for Croatia as

it was confirmed that Croatia was fully cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). General Ante Gotovina, who was to be tried for war crimes, and was the main reason for delay in Croatia's accession talks was arrested in the Canary Islands, and would face trial before the ICTY.

Cyprus

India-Cyprus bilateral relations remained cordial and cooperative during the year. In a significant development, the government of Azerbaijan announced on 30 June 2005 that it would start accepting Turkish Cypriot passports. Azerbaijan will be the second country, after Turkey, to give certain degree of recognition to the breakaway regime in northern Cyprus.

Czech Republic

President Vaclav Klaus paid a state visit to India from 6-12 November 2005. Apart from Delhi, the Czech President also visited Kolkata, Bangalore, Goa and Aurangabad. The visit served to further cement friendly relations and growing trade and investment ties. President Vaclav Klaus articulated Czech support for India's candidature for permanent membership of UNSC.

The new Czech Republic Prime Minister Mr. Jiri Paroubek, who succeeded Mr. Stanislav Gross in April 2005 visited India from 17-19 January 2006 and met with President, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Heavy Industries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport, Mr. Milan Simonovsky visited India from 8-12 February 2005.

Skoda Auto from Czech Republic which entered the Indian market in Aurangabad in 2000 has plans to assemble a new model "Skoda Fabia Sedan" cars in its plant in Aurangabad in 2007. It also plans to expand its market to cover South and Southeast Asia.

Denmark

Prime Minister Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen is scheduled to visit India from 3-6 April 2006. A parliamentary Committee for Trade and Industry visited India from 11-18 February 2006.

Finland

Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Foreign Minister of Finland visited India to participate in the Helsinki Process meeting in New Delhi from 6-10 February 2005 and held talks with the External Affairs Minister. The Finnish Minister for Trade and Industries visited India from 15-19 January 2006 and had meetings with Minister of Commerce and Industries and Minister of State, Information Technology. Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen is scheduled to visit India on 13&14 March 2006. The visit of Finland Prime Minister is significant in view of the fact that Finland will be assuming the presidency of the EU in the second half of 2006 and the 7 th Annual India – EU Summit is to be held in October 2006 in Helsinki.

France

India and France share a strategic partnership that was initiated in January 1998 during the visit of President Jacques Chirac to India. It spans cooperation across various important sectors including civilian nuclear energy, space and defence. France co-sponsored the G-4 Framework Resolution on reform of the UNSC.

Prime Minister visited France from 11-13 September 2005 at the invitation of President Chirac. The two sides reaffirmed the Strategic Partnership between India and France and committed themselves to further strengthening and deepening the relationship. During the visit, India announced its decision to purchase six Scorpène submarines from France.

Both sides recognized that nuclear energy provided a safe, environment friendly and sustainable source of energy and the need to further develop international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. France acknowledged the need for full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India and agreed to work towards this objective by working with other countries and the NSG and by deepening bilateral cooperation. France appreciated India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and the ongoing steps it was taking in this regard. Both countries agreed to work towards conclusion of a bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement as well as a framework agreement on defence cooperation, and to pursue further cooperation in the space sector.



The President of Austria Mr. Heinz Fischer with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 17 February 2005.



President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh receiving the President of the Czech Republic Mr. Vaclav Klaus and Mrs. Livia Klaus at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 7 November 2005.

The two sides also agreed to work toward forging business partnerships in the following priority sectors: infrastructure, information technology, pharmaceuticals, environment, advanced and new technologies, food processing, automobiles and aeronautics. The actual inflow of French FDI into India since 1991 is around € 760 million.

France conveyed its willingness to welcome more Indian students in French universities and 'Grandes Ecoles'. In the cultural field, an exhibition of art from the Gupta period will be held in the Grand Palais in 2007.

The Indo-French Forum held its 10th meeting under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Jean Francois-Poncet and Mr. M. Rasgotra, in New Delhi on 7 October 2005

The 14th round of the Strategic Dialogue took place in Paris on 2 September 2005 between NSA and Mr. Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Diplomatic Counsellor and Special Representative of the French President.

In the continuing exchange of other high level visits, Mr. Jean Jack Queyranne, President of the Rhone-Alpes region of France along with a large delegation visited India from 22-28 October 2005. Mr. Michel Guerry, a French Senator visited India from 1-9 November 2005. Earlier, Mr. Jerome Monod, senior adviser to President visited India in October 2005. Visits to France included those by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Jaipal Reddy (May), Minister of Health and Social Welfare Dr. Ramadoss (May), Minister of State for Railways Shri R Velu (May), Minister for Commerce & Industry Shri Kamal Nath (for WTO/OECD meetings in May), and the Minister of State in PMO Shri Prithvi Raj Chauhan (OECD meeting on sustainable development in May). Secretary, Urban Development visited France in June 2005 for the intermediary technical meeting of the JWG on Urban Development.

The French Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Spatial Planning, Tourism and The Sea, Mr. Gilles de Robien visited India in April for the JWG on Roads. The French Secretary of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Affairs, Nicolas Forissier visited India in April for the 1st Meeting of the JWG on Agriculture.

The 8th meeting of the Indo-French High Level Defence

Committee, set up in 1998, was held on 8 & 9 December 2005 in New Delhi. The French side was led by Mr. Thierry Borja de Mozota and the Indian delegation by the Defence Secretary.

The JWG on Energy and Mineral Exploration & Development were held on 29&30 November 2005 respectively. The JWG on Agriculture held its first meeting in April 2005 in New Delhi. An intermediate Technical Group meeting of the JWG on Urban Development was held in June 2005 in New Delhi. The 2nd session of the Steering Committee on Railways was held in May 2005 in New Delhi.

The 18th meeting of the Governing Board of the Indo-French Forum on Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) was held on 14 November 2005 in New Delhi.

President Jacques Chirac paid a State visit to India on 19&20 February 2006. The visit underlined the commitment of the Indian and French leadership to vigorously pursue their strategic partnership in the political, economic, defence, space and civilian nuclear energy fields.

Among the agreements signed during the visit, a Declaration on Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes, and an Agreement on Defence Cooperation were the most important outcome of the visit. India appreciated the French support for the ongoing efforts to enable full civilian nuclear energy cooperation between India and the International Community.

Germany

India and Germany have been engaged in a Strategic Partnership since 2001. Germany is a significant trading, investment and technology partner for India. India and Germany also cooperated closely in the context of G-4 framework resolution on reform of the UNSC.

The 15th session of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation was held in New Delhi in April 2005. Mr. Wolfgang Clement, German Minister of Economics & Labour and Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance, co-chaired the session.

Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram visited Duesseldorf



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mr. Tony Blair and the President of the European Commission Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso at the India-EU Summit in New Delhi on 7 September 2005.



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh being received by the French President Mr. Jacques Chirac in Paris on 12 September 2005.

and Berlin from 6-9 June 2005. In Berlin, the Finance Minister met the German Minister for Economy and Labour, Mr. Wolfgang Clement, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul and the German Finance Minister, Mr. Hans Eichel. In Berlin, the Finance Minister addressed economists and business leaders on "India in a Globalising World" at the Bertelsmann Foundation.

An India-Week showcasing India's advances in the economic, commercial and cultural fields was held in the State of Bavaria in October 2005. Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan participated in the event.

The 14th Meeting of the Indo-German Consultative Group on Business, Trade and Investment was held in Chennai from 4-6 November 2005.

India is the Partner Country at the Hanover Trade Fair 2006 to be held in April. India has also accepted the invitation to be the 'Guest of Honour' Country for the Frankfurt Book Fair-2006 to be held in October 2006.

Germany is India's third largest trading partner in Europe. Bilateral trade is growing and reached € 6.3 billion in 2004. Germany is also a major investor in India (€ 160 million in 2004). There is also a significant scientific and technological collaboration between the two countries.

Dr. (Ms.) Antje Vollmer, Vice President of the Bundestag and a member of the Indo-German Parliamentary Group visited India in August 2005.

There was a change of government in Germany during the year with Ms. Angela Merkel of the CDU taking over as the new German Chancellor at the head of a coalition government comprising the CDU-CSU and SPD.

Greece

India and Greece enjoy close and friendly bilateral relations. Mr. Karolos Papoulias became the sixth President of the Hellenic Republic in March 2005. Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan inaugurated on 3 July 2005 the project to build a natural gas pipeline connecting the two countries, which will be extended subsequently to Italy, linking up gas-producing regions in the Middle East with European markets.

Holy See

Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, accompanied by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs and the Minister of State for Programme Implementation and Statistics, visited the Vatican on 8 April 2005 for the funeral of Pope John Paul II.

Hungary

Dr. Laszlo Solyom was elected as the new President of Hungary

The then External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh paid an official visit to Hungary in June 2005. An Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed during the visit. A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was installed in Balatonfured. The Hungarian Minister of Culture Mr. Andras Bozoki visited India from 14-20 January 2006 and inaugurated the Hungarian Cultural Festival. A Hungarian Parliamentary Goodwill delegation also visited India from 17-22 January 2006 and called on Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Minister of State for External Affairs.

Iceland

President of Iceland, Mr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson paid a visit to India from 3- 9 February 2005 to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI.

President Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam paid a State visit to Iceland in May 2005. The visit was path-breaking, and opened up new cooperation possibilities in earthquake precursor studies, energy, fisheries, pharmaceuticals and information technology.

Icelandic Foreign Minister Geir H.Haarde is scheduled to visit India from 26 – 28 February 2006. During this visit, he is to inaugurate the new Icelandic embassy in New Delhi. An agreement on Air Services is also proposed to be signed during the visit.

Ireland

Minister of State (PMO), Shri Prithviraj Chavan visited Ireland in June 2005 to participate in the memorial ceremony on the 20th anniversary of the tragedy of Air



President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam receiving H.M. the King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf and the Royal Technology Mission at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 24 November 2005.



The Prime Minister of Norway Mr. Jens Stoltenberg with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 8 December 2005.

India's 'Kanishka' crash at Ahakista, County Cork. The Indian delegation included the Minister of Public Works and Culture, Government of Punjab, Shri Pratap Singh Bajwa.

The Education Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari visited Dublin 12-17 April 2005 to attend the UN Global Forum on a Multi-Stakeholder Approach: Harnessing the Potential Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Education, held as part of the GESCI (Global E Schools Initiative of Ireland).

The Prime Minister of Ireland Mr. Bertie Ahern paid an official visit to India from 16-21 January 2006. Agreements on Cultural Cooperation, and Cooperation in Science & Technology were signed during the visit. The visit strengthened bilateral interaction in diverse fields such as software services, education, engineering, healthcare, food and construction.

The annual bilateral trade is of the order of Euro 250 million.

Italy

India's relations with Italy acquired a fresh momentum, following the visit of the Italian President, Mr. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi to India in February 2005.

Bilateral trade grew by 22% during January-September 2005 (€ 3.3 billion in 2004). Italy is India's 4th largest trading partner in the EU.

The then External Affairs Minister, Shri Natwar Singh visited Rome from 20-22 June 2005 at the invitation of the Italian Foreign Minister.

Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Milan from 23-27 May 2005, to promote business interaction. He addressed a gathering of CEOs at Verona and NRI businessmen at Milan.

Shri Narpat Singh Rajvi, Minister for Industries, Government of Rajasthan visited Italy from 1-4 June 2005 to attend the Carraramarmotec fair in Carrara.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, visited Italy in June 2005 and met

with the business leaders from the automobile sector in Italy, including Fiat, IVECO, Piaggio and representatives of Confindustria. The Minister visited the Joint Research Centre, at Ispra as well as the Design Centre at Turin and the Piaggio Institution.

Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry, visited Italy from 1-4 September 2005 to attend the Ambrosetti Forum. He met the Italian Minister for Productive Activities, Dr. Claudio Scajola.

Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture visited Italy from 16-21 November 2005 to attend the 33rd bi-annual FAO Conference and 130th FAO Council. During the visit, Shri Sharad Pawar had a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart, Mr. Giovanni Alemanno.

Kumari Seilja, Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation led a 4-member delegation to Italy from 26-28 May 2005 and had meetings with the President of Toscana Region Mr. Claudio Martini, and the Ministers for Infrastructure, Transport and Social Politics, in Florence.

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Culture visited Rome and Venice from 13-16 May 2005. He held meetings with Mr. Rocco Buttiglione, Italian Minister for Cultural Activities and Mr. Antonio Martuscello, Vice Minister for Cultural Heritage. An Agreement for Audiovisual Co-production between India and Italy was signed during the visit.

The Italy-India Friendship Group of the Inter Parliamentary Union headed by Senator Maria Claudia Ioannucci visited India from 22-30 November 2005. The delegation called on the Vice President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker of the Lok Sabha .

Mr. Pietro Lunardi, Italian Minister of Infrastructure and Transport led a delegation to India from 19-21 September 2005. The delegation had meetings with Ministries of Civil Aviation, Commerce & Industry, Urban Development and the Planning Commission.

A 13-member delegation from the Indian infrastructure sector visited Italy from 5-8 September 2005 to attend



The Prime Minister of Ireland Mr. Bertie Ahern with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 19 January 2006.



The Prime Minister of The Netherlands Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 20 January 2006.

the Italy-India Logistic Week held at Interporto Campano, Nola (near Naples).

Latvia

Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Latvia from 5-7 October 2005. The Latvian Foreign Minister Dr. Artis Pabriks' is scheduled to visit India from 21-25 March 2006. Latvia has extended support to India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UNSC and has co-sponsored the G-4 resolution.

Lithuania

Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Lithuania from 3 - 5 October 2005. The visit served to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Lithuania has supported India's candidature to a permanent seat in the UNSC.

Luxembourg

Mr. Jeannot Krecké, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg visited India from 28 March-1 April 2005. The then External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh had a meeting with his counterpart in New York on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2005.

Luxembourg led the EU side during the extensive India-EU interaction when it held the EU Presidency during the first half of 2005.

Moldova

The first Ambassador of Moldova concurrently accredited to India from Uzbekistan, Mr. Efim Chilari presented his credentials to the President on 26 April 2005.

Norway

A delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Norwegian Parliament (Storting) visited India from 23-26 January 2005. Mr. Borge Brende, Norwegian Trade and Industry Minister led a business delegation to India from 3-8 February 2005. He also participated in the "Delhi Sustainable Development Summit" organised by TERI.

External Affairs Minister visited Norway on 16&17 June 2005 to chair the first session of the Indo-Norwegian Joint Commission. The existing Joint Working Group (JWG) on Hydrocarbons was brought under the Joint

Commission. Two JWG's on Science & Technology, and Culture have been established to work out a programme of collaborative action in the specified fields.

Indian Naval Ship Tarangini participated in the Tall Ships Race in Fredrikstad (Norway) from 3-6 August 2005.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Norway from 29 August-2 September 2005. He emphasized the importance to India of new technologies developed in Norway in deep sea exploration as also exploration in complex geological areas. He sought Norwegian support in the area of increased oil recovery and enhanced oil recovery (IOR/EOR). Five MoUs were signed during the visit.

The Prime Minister of Norway Mr. Jens Stoltenberg paid a visit to India from 7-9 December 2005. The visit was in connection with the third Meeting of Partners of the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI), held in New Delhi on 7 December 2005, but was enlarged to a bilateral working visit with meetings with the President and the Prime Minister. He also met the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and Minister of Science & Technology Shri Kapil Sibal. Both sides agreed to set up a Task Force to devise a strategy for pooling their research & development efforts on vaccines and their production. India conveyed its intention to set up an International Institute for Earthquake Precursors Studies in India and invited Norwegian partnership. The Norwegian side has expressed its interest in joining the project.

Poland

Substantial bilateral cooperation marks India - Poland relations. The Central & Eastern European Conference on Indology was held in Warsaw from 15-17 September 2005.

Elections in Poland brought in President Lech Kaczynski of the Law & Justice Party (PiS) replacing President Kwasniewski. Mr. Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz of the same party was elected as the new Prime Minister.

Portugal

Foreign Office consultations with Portugal were held in Lisbon on 25&26 July 2005. Secretary (West), Ministry

of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. Secretary, Ministry of Culture visited Portugal from 31 March-5 April 2005 for finalization of the text of the Cultural Exchange Programme for the year 2005-2006. Mr. Franciso Sardanha, Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly visited Portugal on 17 & 18 September 2005. INS Tarangini made a good will visit to Lisbon from 17-19 June 2005.

A Lisbon street has been named after the late Bishop of Cochin Dr. Joseph Kureethara (1929-1999) at a ceremony organized by the City Council of Lisbon on 15 September 2005, in recognition of his contribution to the preservation of the Portuguese heritage in India.

An Indian Textile Exhibition was organized by SRTEPC in Porto, Portugal on 12&13 September 2005. An exhibition of the paintings of Antonio Xavier Trindade (1870-1935), a Goan artist, was organized by the Orient Foundation in September 2005 at the National Fine Arts Society, Lisbon. An exhibition of photographs by Mr. Benoy K. Behl titled 'Velha Goa' (Old Goa) was inaugurated on 1 June 2005 in the Art Gallery of Instituto Cameos by Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, Dr. Antonio Braga. The Indian architect Charles Correa received an honorary doctorate conferred on him by the faculty of Architecture, Technical University of Lisbon on 13 April 2005.

Indo-Portuguese bilateral trade was around US\$ 240 million in 2004; Indian exports constituted 70% of the bilateral trade.

At the instance of Government of India two Indian citizens were extradited by Portugal to India in November 2005.

Romania

The Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat visited Romania from 1-4 October 2005. The Romanian Government expressed keenness for bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of automobiles, machinery, textiles, pharmaceuticals, energy, tourism, real estate and defence.

Vice-President announced two cultural scholarships to be granted in addition to the existing scholarships under

ITEC. The Romanian leadership reiterated support to India's candidature to the UNSC as well as support to the G-4 resolution. India's trade has quadrupled over the last 4 years and is poised to cross the half billion mark this year. India's investments are also increasing in a diverse range of sectors.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Mani Shanker Aiyer led an Indian delegation to Romania from 1-4 July 2005. Four Memoranda of Understanding on bilateral cooperation were signed during the visit.

Economy and Commerce Minister Mr. Ioan-Codrut Seres visited India from 22-26 October, 2005 to discuss specific proposals for trade, investment and cooperation in the petroleum, and science and technology sectors.

Serbia and Montenegro (SCG)

Mr. Bajram Kosumi was elected as Kosovo's new Prime Minister on 23 March 2005. 130,000 citizens of Kosovo signed a petition for the pretrial release of former Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj who had resigned and surrendered to the Hague Tribunal in the first week of March 2005, after being indicted of war crimes by the Tribunal.

Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr. Branimir Gvozdenovic visited India from 24-28 April 2005. He was accompanied by the Minister of Shipping of Montenegro and the Mayor of Bar. The Discussions revolved around seeking Indian investments in their ship repair ports, opening of a shipping line to Bar and the privatization process in Montenegro. The delegation also visited Mumbai and held discussions with the Film Industry.

Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh paid an official visit to Serbia & Montenegro from 6-10 July 2005 and held bilateral consultations on issues of common concern including reform of the UN system as well as the G-4 Resolution. He also visited Podgorica (Montenegro). The Minister for Economic Relations of the State of Serbia & Montenegro, Dr. Predrag Ivanovic, visited India from 7-11 February 2006. During the visit, a Trade Agreement and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement were signed.

The EU Enlargement Commissioner announced on

10 October 2005 in Belgrade the opening of negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the EU, a fundamental step on the country's road towards full membership

Slovak Republic

India and Slovak Republic share close and friendly bilateral relations. The bilateral trade has been growing. An 'Enterprise India Exhibition' was jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the Ministry of Small Scale Industries in Bratislava from 27 September-3 October 2005. A bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement was negotiated, and the text was initialed during the year. A Kathak dance troupe sponsored by the ICCR took part in the Bratislava Summer Festival. Dr. Grigorij Meseznikov, President of the Institute for Public Affairs visited India under ICCR's distinguished visitor's programme.

Spain

Spain is one of the six major trading partners of India within the EU. Bilateral trade has been growing steadily, crossing US\$ 2 billion in 2004 and is expected to reach US\$ 3 billion in 2005.

The 8th Session of the Indo-Spanish Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 29 November 2005, led by Mr. Pedro Melija, Minister of State for Tourism and Trade on the Spanish side and by Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry on the Indian side.

The Mayor of Barcelona Mr. Joan Clos, visited India from 22-24 October 2005. He called on the Chief Minister of Delhi and met the Mayor of Delhi.

An Indo-Spanish Tribune organized by the Casa Asia and Casa de la India was held in Barcelona on 15&16 December 2005. It was addressed by HRH Princess Irene of Greece.

Sweden

The King of Sweden King Carl XVI Gustaf as Patron of the "Royal Technology Mission" (RTM) led a high level delegation to India from 19-26 November 2005. The visit focused on Bangalore and Delhi, and sectors devoted to IT, telecom and other hi-tech areas. The King and

members of the RTM called on President on 24 November 2005 and had an interactive session covering areas such as IT and Telecom, Biochemistry research, Transport and Road Networks, nanotechnology in the health sector and energy issues. The visit demonstrated the importance Sweden attached to enhancing ties with India in the economic as well as science and technology sectors. Two other large delegations, one of CEOs of Swedish companies led by the Swedish Bank group SEB, and another a business delegation from Sweden and other Nordic countries visited New Delhi in September 2005.

Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Sweden from 28 September-2 October 2005. The Minister held talks with his Swedish counterpart on enhancing bilateral cooperation, as also on reform of the UN system.

A 17-member delegation from the Swedish Parliamentary Committee on Constitution paid a study visit to India in February 2005. Again in August/ September 2005 an 11-member multi-party delegation of the Swedish Parliamentary Committee on Cultural Affairs visited India.

Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & IT visited Sweden in June 2005. Swedish Minister for Communications, Regional Policy and Tourism Ms. Ulrica Messing visited India from 25 September-1 October 2005. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science & Technology visited Sweden on 9&10 December 2005 and signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology between India and Sweden. On 9 & 10 January 2006, State Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office and National Security Advisor Lars Danielsson visited India on an official visit. He met National Security Advisor Shri M.K.Narayanan and held delegation level talks on 9 January 2006.

This year's World Water Week prize was awarded by King Carl XVI Gustaf to Ms Sunita Narain, Director, Center for Science and Environment (CSE).

Switzerland

President Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited Switzerland in May 2005. He visited the European Nuclear Research

Organisation (CERN) in Geneva, as well as the Federal Institutes of Technology at Lausanne and Zurich and interacted with key scientists in areas such as particle physics, nanotechnology, brain and mind analysis. He also visited the Bose-Einstein Lab at Zurich. The President stressed on the convergence of biotechnology, nanotechnology and information technology and the need to accelerate bilateral cooperation in these areas between India and Switzerland. At the delegation level talks, Switzerland offered training in fields like protection against Weapons of Mass Destruction and Mountain Warfare as well as in security policy areas. President suggested joint research in Avalanche Forecasting. The President called for a quantum jump in bilateral trade. Switzerland, as the 10th largest foreign investor in India, has a significant presence in India. President indicated possible new areas of cooperation such as agro-food processing and film production. The Swiss side also offered to facilitate investment for small and medium enterprises in India.

A referendum was held on 25 September 2005 in Switzerland for extension of an accord on the free movement of people to the ten new EU member states. 56% of people voted in favour of the accord and 44% against it.

Under the rotational Presidency system of Switzerland, the Swiss Parliament on 8 December 2005 elected Federal Councillor and Transport Minister Moritz Leuenberger as President of Switzerland for the year 2006. Current Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey, also a Federal Councillor will be Vice-President. Both will retain their present portfolios.

The Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs Mr. Joseph Deiss visited India from 19-23 January 2006. In New Delhi, he had extensive interaction with the Minister and officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Mr. Deiss accompanied by a high level business delegation also attended the CII Partnership Summit in Kolkata on 19&20 January 2006.

The Netherlands

India and the Netherlands are linked by substantial bilateral cooperation. Bilateral trade between India and The Netherlands is growing and is of the order of € 2

billion. Cumulative Dutch investment into India is of the order of US\$ 2 billion.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs of The Netherlands Mr. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst visited India from 21-26 October 2005. An MoU on Biotechnology was signed between the Dutch Institute for Higher Education and the Department of Biotechnology, during the visit.

Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Praful Patel visited The Netherlands in June 2005. A meeting on Consular matters was held in The Hague on 21 November 2005.

Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende paid an official visit to India from 17-20 January 2006. The visit underlined the importance of sustaining the momentum of growing bilateral relations, characterised by substantial trade and investments.

Turkey

India and Turkey share friendly and cooperative bilateral relations. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha led a six-member Parliamentary delegation to Turkey in June 2005.

Dialogue between the respective National Security Councils are continuing and as part of military exchanges at the highest level, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, S.P. Tyagi visited Turkey in May 2005. The Turkish Chief of Air Staff is scheduled to visit India in February 2006.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Istanbul (Turkey) in June, 2005 to discuss participation in each other's hydrocarbon sector, cooperation in third countries in Africa and Central Asia and the possibility of transportation of Caspian crude to India via Turkey.

State Bank of India has been given necessary approval by the Turkish Banking Regulation and Supervision Board to open a representative office in Istanbul.

United Kingdom

India's relationship with the UK is significant in view of the historical ties, increasingly close political consultations, substantial economic linkages and the

presence of a large community of Indian origin people. UK is the largest investor in India and the fifth largest post-1991 till September 2005. Bilateral trade is valued at £5 billion per annum. The UK attracts 60% of all Indian investment into Europe; India is the eighth largest investor in the UK in terms of number of projects.

Prime Minister Tony Blair visited India in September 2005. The India-UK bilateral Summit was held on 8 September 2005 in Udaipur. The UK delegation included Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, besides senior officials. The Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister, who was assisted by External Affairs Minister and CIM.

The bilateral Summit was a follow up to Prime Minister's visit to the UK in September 2004 when the two Prime Ministers adopted a Joint Declaration titled 'India-UK: Towards a New and Dynamic Partnership', setting out plans to strengthen and broaden bilateral ties through a comprehensive strategic partnership. The Joint Declaration envisaged annual Summits as well as meetings between Foreign Ministers and outlined areas for future cooperation, with focus on reinforcing the partnership in foreign and defence policy, on combating terrorism, expansion of economic ties and intensifying cooperation in the areas of Science & Technology, education and culture.

The UK reviewed its policy with regard to civilian nuclear technology cooperation and scientific contacts with India a few weeks before the Summit. At the Summit, the two sides agreed to cooperate in the civilian nuclear energy sector.

India and the UK were in agreement on the need to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism. They agreed that there can be no justification whatsoever for terrorism on any grounds - religious, political, ideological or any other. Prime Minister Blair reaffirmed his commitment to India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. Prime Minister expressed India's deep appreciation for his Government's clear and long held position.

The two sides signed agreements on Air Services, substantially increasing the direct flights between the two countries and on Cooperation in the field of

Hydrocarbons. Prime Minister announced that India would fund a chair at a Cambridge college in honour of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Prime Minister Blair announced a UK-India Education Initiative to provide scholarships and short-term academic exchanges, research awards to young Indians to go to Britain and young British researchers to spend time in Indian institutions.

Agreements on co-production of films and on intellectual property rights were also finalised.

The MoU on Return of Illegal Immigrants, signed in January 2004, was renewed in Feb 2005 for a period of one year during the visit of Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. The mechanisms in place for verification of the status of the nationality of the suspected illegal immigrants has been streamlined so as to facilitate speedy completion of the process.

Mr. Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education visited India from 31 July- 5 August 2005. The UK Secretary of State for Defence Dr. John Reid visited New Delhi on 5 & 6 October 2005. Mr. Tony McNulty, British Minister of State for Immigration, Nationality and Citizenship visited India from 7-9 November 2005.

Minister for Environment and Forests Shri A Raja visited UK from 10-12 October 2005. He met British Environment Minister Elliot Morley. The two sides signed a declaration on high-level sustainable development dialogue.

A British Parliamentary delegation led by Lord Paul of Marylebone and 5 Members of the Parliament (House of Commons) visited India from 8-15 October 2005. The delegation was from the UK Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The delegation held meetings with the President, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and Members of the India-UK Parliamentary Friendship Group. A delegation from the Friends of India group of Liberal Democratic Party visited India from 25 September- 3 October 2005.

The India-UK Strategic Dialogue was held in London 17-18 November 2005 where NSA met his counterpart Sir Nigel Sheinwald, Foreign Policy Advisor.

The India-UK Roundtable, a non-governmental body set up in 2000 to make recommendations on development of bilateral relations in all spheres, held its 8th Meeting under the co-chairmanship of Shri M. H. Ansari and Lord Swaraj Paul on 6&7 February 2005 in Leeds.

Prime Minister visited UK from 6-9 July 2005 to participate at the G-8 plus 5 Summit held in Gleneagles on global economy, climate change and sustainable development. India presented a Country Paper outlining its perspectives on dealing with the threat of climate change and also presented its proposals for a new paradigm for international cooperation for action on climate change.

Prime Minister was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by Oxford University on 8 July 2005.

European Union (EU)

At the 6th India-EU Summit in New Delhi on 7 September 2005, the two sides adopted a comprehensive Joint Action Plan that sought to implement deeper cooperation and engagement as envisaged by the Strategic Partnership. The two sides also issued a Political Statement on the occasion. India and the EU upgraded their relationship to a Strategic Partnership at the 5th India-EU Summit held in 2004 at The Hague.

The European Union, a strong economic player, is an evolving political entity, expanding eastwards geographically and in the process of evolving a common foreign & security policy.

The EU as a bloc of 25 nations with an area slightly larger and a population less than half of India, is India's largest export destination and one of the largest sources of FDI and major source of high technology. Bilateral trade has been growing and reached € 33 billion in 2004. The period between January to August 2005 witnessed a growth of 20% in the bilateral trade over the corresponding period last year. Indian investment into the EU has also been growing.

Among the EU Member States, UK & France are permanent members of the UN Security Council. Germany is an aspirant and a member of the G4 along with India. UK, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and The Netherlands are important trade & investment partners for India.

The 6th India-EU Summit was a significant event with Prime Minister Tony Blair leading the EU delegation (UK held the rotating Presidency of EU during the second half of 2005) that included Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Dr. Javier Solana, EU Secretary General and High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Dr. (Ms.) Benita Ferrero Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy and Mr. Peter Mandelson, Commissioner for Trade. The Secretary of State for Trade of UK, Mr. Alan Johnson was also present during the Summit discussions. Prime Minister led the Indian delegation and was assisted by Ministers of External Affairs and Commerce & Industry.

The Joint Action Plan (JAP) endorsed at the 6th India-EU Summit provides for Strengthening Dialogue and Consultation mechanisms; Deepening political dialogue and cooperation; Bringing together People and Cultures; Enhancing Economic Policy Dialogue and Cooperation; and Developing Trade and Investment.

The two sides will further intensify dialogue by strengthening existing mechanisms as well as initiating them in new areas being considered for cooperation. These areas include: Pluralism and Diversity; Regional Cooperation (EU and SAARC); Democracy & Human Rights. There will also be greater cooperation in the areas of Effective Multilateralism Peacekeeping, Peace-building and post-conflict assistance; Disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD and the fight against terrorism and organized crime.

With regard to bringing people and cultures together, the two sides will hold dialogue on migration and consular issues; facilitate parliamentary, education & academic and civil society exchanges; cultural cooperation; and work to increase mutual visibility.

India and EU will also hold closer dialogue and enhance cooperation in economic areas and science & technology including environment; clean development and climate change; energy; information and communication technologies; transport; space technology; pharmaceuticals and biotechnology; agriculture; customs; employment and social policy; business cooperation; development cooperation.

India and the EU have agreed to take positive steps to further increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation and to remove barriers to trade and investment. The steps include setting up of a High Level Trade Group; and dialogue on issues relating to World Trade Organisation (WTO) /Doha Development Agenda (DDA); including Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)/Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Issues; Trade Defence Instruments; and Services.

At the Summit, a Framework Agreement on India's participation in the Galileo project was initialed. An India-EU Business Summit was also held, on the same day as the political Summit.

The EU's strong support for India's participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project in Nuclear Fusion as a future source of energy for peaceful purposes, re-iterated at the Summit, was an important factor in India being accepted as full member of ITER in December 2005.

The 9th Meeting of the India-EU Round Table (RT) was held in Hyderabad from 18-20 September 2005.

The 15th India-EU Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held on 24 & 25 October 2005 in New Delhi. Mr. Herve Jouanjean, Deputy Director General, External Relations (Asia & Latin America), European Commission led the EU Delegation. The Indian side was led by Commerce Secretary. During the JCM, the two sides agreed that the High Level Trade Group would meet shortly to hold discussions on trade and economic cooperation matters.

The two sides have also agreed to finalise the terms of reference of the four new Working Groups (Food Processing, Pharmaceuticals and Bio-Technology, SPS (Sanitary & Phyto-Sanitary)-TBTs (Technical Barriers to Trade), Agriculture Marine Products) and hold their first meeting by the first quarter of 2006.

The India-EU Energy Panel held its first meeting in

Brussels on June 29, 2005, headed on the Indian side by Foreign Secretary, Shri Shyam Saran and on the EU side by Mr. Lamoureux, Director General for Energy and Transport in the European Commission. The Panel set up Three Working Groups on Coal and clean coal conversion technologies, Energy efficiency and renewable energies, and Fusion energy including India's participation in ITER.

The 9th meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on Consular Issues was held in New Delhi on 9 November 2005. The India-EU JWG on Counter Terrorism was held in Brussels on 12 December 2005.

The India-EU JWG on Textiles met in Brussels on 22 November 2005.

The 4th meeting of the JWG on Information Society was held in Brussels on 7 October 2005.

The second India-EC Science & Technology Steering Committee meeting took place in New Delhi on 29 April 2005. The committee adopted an EC-India S&T Action Plan for 2005-06, which foresees cooperation in Information Society Technologies, Genomics and Biotechnology for health, Nanotechnology & Functional Materials, Surface Transport research and development, High Energy Physics and Aeronautics.

As envisaged in the Joint Action Plan, the meeting of the Environment Forum was held in New Delhi on 12 November 2005. The main theme was waste management-especially management of hazardous waste and urban waste management. Besides this an India-EU Workshop on implementing the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was also held in New Delhi on 11 November 2005.

A seminar on EU-India Economic Cross Cultural Programme (ECCP) was held in Delhi on 13&14 December 2005.



United States of America

India and United States (US) made a commitment to transform their bilateral ties into a strategic partnership – marked by frequent contacts at political and official levels – and a growing convergence of views on global, regional and bilateral issues of common concern. India-US interactions focused on strategic and security issues, defence, counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, trade and investment, science and technology, space, health, energy and environment.

Following the March 2005 visit of US Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Shri Natwar Singh, the then External Affairs Minister visited US in April 2005. He called on President Bush, who reiterated his commitment to use his second term to take India-US relations to a substantially higher level. The US President referred to his administration's resolve to work very closely with India for international peace and security and for mutual economic benefit. External Affairs Minister and US Secretary of State explored ways to intensify cooperation, to accelerate work on the India-US Next Steps in Strategic Partnership initiative and to launch an Energy Dialogue.

Shri Shyam Sharan, Foreign Secretary visited the USA from 16-19 May 2005 for the meeting of the India US Global Issues Forum. Foreign Secretary also held discussions with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Nicholas Burns and other officials on bilateral as well as regional and global issues under the Asian Security Dialogue framework.

Prime Minister's US Visit

At the invitation of President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited United States from 18-20 July 2005. In the Joint Statement the two leaders declared their resolve to transform India-US relationship and establish a global partnership. Discussions were held

on various aspects of the multifaceted cooperative relationship and a number of new initiatives were launched. These included cooperation in the field of economic and trade relations, revitalizing the India-US Economic Dialogue and launching a bilateral CEOs Forum, energy and environment, democracy and development, combating international terrorism, non-proliferation and security issues, completion of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative, high technology, space, civilian nuclear technology, science and technology, agricultural education, fight against HIV/AIDS and disaster relief operations.

Recognizing the significance of civilian nuclear energy, the two leaders discussed India's plans to develop its civilian nuclear energy program. Expressing his appreciation over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation, President Bush stated that as a responsible State with advanced nuclear technology, India should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other such States. The President assured the Prime Minister that he would seek agreement from Congress to adjust US laws and policies, and US would work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. The President also indicated that US would encourage its partners to consider India's request for its inclusion in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor research project and Generation IV International Forum. India was invited to join the ITER initiative in December 2005.

The Prime Minister conveyed that India would reciprocally agree to assume the same responsibilities and practices and should acquire the same benefits and advantages as other leading countries with advanced nuclear technology, such as the United States. These responsibilities would include identifying and separating

civilian and military nuclear facilities and filing a declaration regarding civilian facilities with IAEA; voluntary placing of civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and signing an additional IAEA protocol with respect to these facilities; and harmonization and adherence to MTCR and NSG guidelines.

Prime Minister addressed a joint session of the US Congress on 19 July 2005. He had an interactive session with the Indian-American community and also with the US media at the National Press Club.

Prime Minister met the US President again on 13 September 2005 during his visit to New York for the 60th UNGA session. Prime Minister and the US President, along with the UN Secretary General, participated in the launch of the United Nations Democracy Fund on 14 September 2005. India made a contribution of US\$ 10 million to the Democracy Fund.

Defence

Defence Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited US from 27-30 June 2005 at the invitation of the US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld. A 'New Framework for US-India Defence Relations' was signed, which visualizes an enhanced level of cooperation over the next ten years. It was agreed to constitute a new 'Defence Procurement and Production Group' under the US-India Defence Policy Group (DPG).

Malabar 2005, the annual bilateral naval exercise between the Indian and the US Navies, was held from 25 September-4 October 2005 off the West Coast of India. Indian and US Air Forces held their joint training exercise, *Cope India 05*, in West Bengal from 7-19 November 2005.

The seventh meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) was held in Washington, DC from 21-23 November 2005. The DPG reviewed the reports of the four sub-groups – Military Cooperation Group, Joint Technology Group, Senior Security Technology Group and Senior Technology Security Group. The newly constituted Defence Procurement and Production Group held its first meeting in Washington, DC on 21 November 2005.

Economic

India and US launched a new bilateral Energy Dialogue

on 31 May 2005 at a meeting between Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia and US Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman. Under the dialogue, five Working Groups were established for co-operation in the areas of (i) oil and natural gas, (ii) coal, (iii) renewable energy and new technologies, (iv) power and energy efficiency and (v) civil nuclear power. The Working Groups have held a series of discussions. Foreign Secretary and the Under Secretary of Energy Chaired the first meeting of the first Steering Committee on 22 December 2005 in Washington DC.

The first meeting of the reconstituted Cabinet level Economic Dialogue took place on 1 June 2005 in Washington DC when Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission met Economic Advisor to US President, Allan Hubbard. They focused on early conclusion of TDA framework agreement, and adopting measures for promoting investment and enhancing private sector participation. On 15 December 2005, the Cabinet approved the purchase of 68 aircrafts for Air India from Boeing Corporation of the US. The issue of Dhabol power plant was resolved in July 2005 and the plant is expected to start producing electricity from July 2006.

India and US signed a new 'Open Skies' *Air Transport Agreement (ATA)* on 14 April 2005 during the visit of US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta. Pursuant to the new ATA, which replaces the 1956 Agreement, a number of airlines have commenced direct flights between India and US. India and US also signed two Memorandums of Cooperation, one on *Transportation Science and Technology* and another on *Maritime Science and Technology*. While the first would facilitate cooperation to utilize US experience in developing toll-based expressways and highways network projects, the second seeks to facilitate cooperation in fields such as port management, inland water transport, maritime training and technological developments.

The third meeting of the India-US Financial and Economic Forum was held in New Delhi on 9 November 2005 during the visit of US Treasury Secretary John W. Snow. A Co-operation Framework Agreement between the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and India's Ministry of Finance was signed on 9 November 2005.

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Kamal Nath and US Trade Representative Ambassador Rob Portman co-chaired the inaugural session of the India - US Trade Policy Forum, in New Delhi on 12 November 2005. The Forum is designed to expand bilateral trade and investment and its agenda includes discussions on tariff and non-tariff barriers, agriculture, investment, services, intellectual property and the Doha Round of WTO.

US continued to be India's largest trading partner. India's bilateral trade with US for the period January-October 2005 was US\$ 22.21 billion (up 23% from US\$ 18.07 billion in the same period last year). Indian exports to US grew by 20% during this period. Diamonds, precious stones and textiles constitute over 50% of India's exports to US, whereas engineering goods and machinery, precious stones and aircraft and aviation components are India's primary imports from the US.

On 12 November 2005, during the visit of US Under Secretary for Agriculture, J B Penn, US and India signed a declaration to formalize a U.S.-India Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture, launched during the July 2005 US visit of Prime Minister. The 1st meeting of the Board members of the Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture was held in Washington DC on 15-16 December 2005.

Technology

As envisaged under the NSSP initiative, the US Department of Commerce, on 30 August 2005 removed the licensing requirements unilaterally imposed by the US Government in respect of India - and also removed six Indian entities from the US Entity List. The six entities removed from the Entities List include the Tarapur, Rajasthan and Kudankulam Atomic Power Stations. The other three entities are subordinate institutions of the Indian Space Research Organization.

The fourth meeting of the India-US High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) was held from 30 November-1 December 2005 in New Delhi. Foreign Secretary and US Under Secretary for Commerce David McCormick co-chaired the meeting. A public-private forum on 30 November 2005 provided an opportunity for Indian and US companies to recommend measures for enhancing bilateral cooperation in nano-technology, biotechnology,

and defense trade. The HTCG also reviewed recent developments in export control policies and procedures.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed a Science and Technology Agreement in Washington DC on 17 October 2005. The Agreement includes an Intellectual Property Rights Protocol, which will boost joint R&D in areas such as basic sciences, space, energy, nano-technology, health, and IT.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in September 2005, India contributed US\$ 5 million in cash to American Red Cross to help relief activities in affected areas. In addition, 25 tonnes of relief supplies comprising blankets, bed sheets, tarpaulins and items of personal hygiene were delivered to the US by Indian Air Force aircraft.

The Indo-US Forum of Parliamentarians made its annual visit to Washington DC from 25-28 October 2005. Led by Shri B.J. Panda, MP, the delegation called on, among others, Secretary of State and the current and former chairs of the House India Caucus.

Nuclear

India and US set up a Joint Working Group on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation to implement the 18 July 2005 Joint statement. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns visited India on 21&22 October 2005 for the first meeting of the Working Group. Subsequently Foreign Secretary and Mr. Burns met in December 2005 in Washington and in January 2006 in New Delhi for the 2nd and 3rd Working Group meetings.

Space

India and US have established a Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation. A Technology Assistance Agreement for *Chandrayan* mission has also been finalized for signing.

Canada

Nuclear

The interaction between Canada and India has intensified resulting in important agreements between the two countries. Particularly significant was the Canadian announcement of its willingness to supply nuclear-related dual use items to Indian civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, in accordance with the Nuclear

Suppliers Group dual-use guidelines. The then Minister of External Affairs, Shri K Natwar Singh visited Canada in September 2005. Bilateral discussions led to an agreement on nuclear safety collaboration as well as scientific and technical interaction on a broad range of civilian nuclear issues. It was also announced that the Prime Minister would visit Canada in 2006.

Strategic issues

Bilateral talks were held in New Delhi between the Foreign Offices of the two countries on policy planning, counter-terrorism and strategic issues in February and April 2005 respectively.

Trade and Investment

In April 2005, Mr. Jim Peterson, Canadian Minister of International Trade led a business delegation to India. In May 2005, the second round of Trade Policy Dialogue took place in Ottawa. The Chief Ministers of Punjab and Chattisgarh visited Canada in May 2005 to promote trade and investment. In June 2005, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation led an Indian delegation to Ottawa to conclude an agreement on a five fold increase in flights between the two countries. In January, 2006, the Premier Jean Charest of Quebec led a delegation of representatives from the commercial and education sectors in Quebec and also participated in the Partnership Summit in Kolkata.

Oil and Natural Gas

In August 2005, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas signed an MoU with the Alberta Research Council for bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas. Canadian Minister for International Trade Mr. Jim Peterson led a 115-member delegation to the 11th Technology Summit and Technology Platform 2005 held in New Delhi in September, 2005. Mr. Peterson announced that Canada had earmarked C \$ 6.75 million for promoting R&D cooperation between the scientific and technological institutions of the two countries.

Science and Technology

In November 2005, Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal visited Canada and signed the India-Canada Science and Technology Agreement. The Secretary, Department of Science and Technology visited Canada to explore the possibility of setting up a joint nano-technology center in India.

Environment

In September 2005, the Canadian Minister for Environment visited India for discussions on bilateral and multilateral/global environmental issues of mutual concern. Shri A Raja, Minister of Environment and Forest visited Ottawa to participate in the preparatory ministerial-level meeting for Conference of Parties – 11th Session (CoP-11), and the Global Environment Conference, CoP-11 which were held in Montreal in November/December 2005.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

India's engagement with the Latin American region continued to strengthen during the year. The focus was on reinforcing the mechanisms for political dialogue, cultural interaction and enhancing business, commerce and investment. Framework agreements were entered into or followed up with the regional groupings such as the MERCOSUR, CAN (Andean Community), CARICOM, and the Central American Group of countries (SICA).

Argentina

Relations with Argentina continued to be friendly and cordial. Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh visited Argentina in April 2005 and held discussions with the Argentine authorities on enhancing bilateral cooperation. He also met the Group of Parliamentarian Friends of Asia Pacific and Oceania and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Minister of State for Agriculture visited Argentina in July 2005 and discussed avenues for bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

Bolivia

Bolivia underwent a period of political turmoil in 2005. India's bilateral relations with Bolivia remained cordial and cooperative. Mr. Eva Morales of the Leftist Party was elected President in January 2005.

Brazil

India's relationship with Brazil continued to strengthen with exchanges of visits and high-level interaction at bilateral, and multilateral fora such as the G-4, G 8 plus 5 Summit and the IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa). Important visits from India included those of the Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar in July, Minister of State



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the Joint meeting of the U.S. Congress at the Capitol Hill on 19 July 2005.



Members of the CEOs Forum with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush at the White House on 18 July 2005.

for Science and Technology and Ocean Development Shri Kapil Sibal in June to attend the IBSA Ministerial meeting in Rio de Janeiro, and the Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee in June 2005. An MoU between ICAR and its Brazilian counterpart EMRAPA was signed during the visit of Agriculture Minister to Brazil. The Governor of Sao Paulo visited India in November 2005. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Anand Sharma led a comprehensive delegation consisting of representatives of various Ministries and businessmen to Brazil from 2-4 February 2006 in connection with Joint Commission Meeting and a Business Seminar.

India's exports to Brazil reached US\$ 984 million (Jan-Sept.) and imports, US\$ 919 million in the same period. Imports included the five legacy jets from Embraer at US\$158 million. Trade delegations from the Chemixcil and Pharmaxcil visited Sao Paulo in May 2005. Delegations from the Brazilian petroleum company Petrobras visited India in May 2005 and the mining company CVRD in July 2005. Interaction between the private sectors of the two countries has increased notably.

Chile

Bilateral relations between India and Chile have developed substantively. Chile has reiterated its support for India's claim to a permanent seat on the UNSC and has extended support to India's candidatures in several international organisations.

A nine member Goodwill Delegation of Indian Parliamentarians led by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development visited Chile in June 2005. An Indo-Chilean Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group was established. Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh visited Chile from 27 April-2 May 2005 representing India at the Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies. A Preferential Trade Agreement was finalized in November 2005 in New Delhi after four rounds of negotiations.

In pursuance of the mutual interest in developing close bilateral defence cooperation, the Chilean Minister of Defense visited India in April 2005. A 21-member NDC delegation from India visited Chile in May 2005. The Defence Minister Shri Pranab Mukherji visited Chile from

27 October-1 November 2005. An agreement between HAL and ENAER of Chile was signed authorizing ENAER to build aircraft spares for HAL. The three Service Chiefs of Chile visited India during the year 2005-06.

Colombia

Bilateral relations with Colombia grew and diversified. A twenty-member delegation of the Chemexcil and a delegation of the National Center of Trade Information (NCTI), visited Bogota. The Minister of State for Science & Technology and Ocean Development Shri Kapil Sibal visited Colombia in June 2005, and signed a Bilateral Agreement for Cooperation in Science & Technology with the Colombian Foreign Minister.

Cuba

India-Cuba relations continued to be warm and friendly. Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh visited Cuba in September 2005. A Cultural Exchange Programme was signed during the visit. ONGC Videsh Limited conducted negotiations with Cuban authorities for allocation of oil blocks for exploration in the Cuban EEZ. Indian pharmaceutical firms participated in the Health Fair in Havana in April 2005.

Dominican Republic

The Minister of Information Technology and Investment Promotion visited India in June 2005 and again in November 2005. He discussed ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of Communications and IT. He interacted with Indian IT companies, and called on the Minister of State (Communications & IT) and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed. The Secretary of State for External Relations Mr. Carlos Morales Troncoso paid an official visit to India from 16-23 February 2006. The Foreign Minister announced the decision of his government to open an Embassy in New Delhi.

Ecuador

Ecuador was in the grip of political turmoil. Vice-President Mr. Alfredo Palacio was appointed President in April 2005. The first Foreign Office Level Consultations between India and Ecuador were held in Quito in June 2005 when

Secretary (West) led a delegation to Ecuador. The two sides agreed to pursue early formalization of BIPPA, DTAA, a Cultural Agreement, MoU between OVL and PetroEcuador, and an agreement of cooperation between the diplomatic academies of the two countries.

Mexico

Bilateral relations between India and México continued to develop and strengthen. The Fourth India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi in October 2005. Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Ms. Lourdes Aranda Bezaury, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico led their respective delegations. Understanding was reached on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official passport holders, Academic Cooperation between FSI India and MRI Mexico, a Cultural Exchange Programme, an Educational Exchange Programme and a Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology. An MoU on cooperation in the small-scale industries sector is scheduled to be signed during the visit of the Minister of SSI to Mexico in February 2006.

A four-member delegation of the Mexican Senate Committee on Competitiveness visited India in October 2005 and interacted with the Standing Committee of Parliament on Commerce, and HRD.

Indian exports to Mexico are expected to cross US\$ 1 billion mark this financial year. The total bilateral trade is expected to reach the US\$ 2 billion mark making Mexico one of the largest Indian trade partners in the region.

Paraguay

India's relations with Paraguay remained friendly and cooperative. Dr. Leila Rachid de Cowles, Foreign Minister of Paraguay visited India in March 2005 to discuss ways to enhance cooperation and announced the opening of a resident diplomatic Mission in New Delhi.

Peru

Bilateral relations continued to be close and substantive. The third round of Foreign Office Consultations were held in Lima in June 2005 when Secretary (West) led the Indian side. Peru expressed support for India's claim to a

permanent seat in an expanded UNSC. Peru proposed the creation of a Joint Commission between India and CAN (Andean group of countries). Peru expressed interest in bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and defence. Peruvian Foreign Minister is likely to make an official visit to India in March 2006.

Venezuela

The visit of President Hugo Chavez to India in March 2005 marked a turning point in bilateral relations. The 4th Meeting of the India-Venezuela Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons was held in Caracas in April 2005. Thereafter, oil fields of San Caristobal were assigned to OVL as per an MoU signed during the Presidential visit. The second phase of the joint venture between Oil India Ltd. and PDVSA for extraction of heavy oil in Rajasthan was inaugurated in October 2005.

A Parliamentary delegation led by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Urban Development, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, visited Venezuela in June 2005. Cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sectors have led to higher exports of pharmaceuticals, and vision aids to Venezuela. Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh, led a delegation to Venezuela for the first India-Venezuela Joint Commission from 31 August-3 September 2005. An agreement for waiver of visas for diplomatic and official passport holders was signed.

The Vice-Minister for Investment promotion of the Ministry of Basic Industries and Mining of Venezuela visited India in November 2005. The 1st round of DTAA negotiations were also held in India in November 2005.

Central America

India's relations with the seven countries that comprise Central America, namely Costa Rica, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama developed substantially. Economic and commercial relations registered an upward trend. Photographic exhibitions and film festivals were organized in different countries of the region.

Panama

The First Vice President and Foreign Minister of Panama Mr. Samuel Lewis Navarro accompanied by a business

delegation, visited India in November 2005. The delegation held talks with the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Kamal Nath and Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh. Letters were exchanged facilitating speedy issue of business visas.

An MoU between Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) and the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) was signed in Panama on 20 October 2005. An MoU on Maritime Transportation and Port Development, a Cultural Exchange Programme and a Work Plan on Agriculture have also been agreed upon. An 18 member Chemixcil Delegation visited Panama in June 2005. A festival of Indian films was organized in Panama in July 2005.

Guatemala

Mr. Jorge Briz Abularach, Minister of External Relations of Guatemala, visited India from 1-7 May 2005. An MoU on Foreign Office Consultation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of External Relations of Guatemala was signed. The visiting minister also met with private sector companies and visited Biotechnology and Information Technology firms in Bangalore. India sent medicines as relief assistance to Guatemala in the aftermath of the Hurricane Stan in October 2005.

CARICOM

India has traditionally maintained close relations with the CARICOM region. CARICOM region in its turn has welcomed India's offer of economic and technical cooperation and lines of credit. Science and Technology, disaster management, pharmaceuticals, including HIV/AIDS drugs, ICT and agriculture were identified as the thrust areas for cooperation.

Guyana

Relations between India and Guyana continued to be close. A goodwill delegation of Indian Parliamentarians led by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development visited Georgetown from 30 May - 2 June 2005. Construction of the US\$ 25 million Cricket Stadium in Georgetown financed by the Government of India commenced in April 2005.

Negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) commenced in July 2005. Indian ITEC experts continued to impart technical expertise. A project for the computerization of CARICOM secretariat valued at US\$ 1.3 million and funded by India was completed and handed over to the Secretary-General on the occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on 6 August 2005.

An exhibition of Indian books and an Indian Food Festival were held in June and November 2005 in Georgetown. Prime Minister Samuel Hinds inaugurated both the events.

Jamaica

India's relations with Jamaica continued to grow. India-Jamaica Foreign Office Consultations were held in September 2005 when Secretary (West) led an Indian delegation to Kingston. Jamaica has sought India's cooperation in IT, pharmaceutical, and health sectors. Indian exports to Jamaica during 2004-05 registered a 40% increase over the previous year. Jamaica continued to support India in several International forums.

The Bahamas

Relations with The Bahamas were given a further impetus when Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation to The Bahamas for the first Foreign Office Consultations in September 2005. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to establish regular Foreign Office Consultations. Foreign Minister, Mr. Frederick Mitchell visited India from 22-29 January 2006 and held bilateral talks on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. A bilateral Cooperation Agreement was signed during the visit.

Trinidad & Tobago

Bilateral relations between India and Trinidad and Tobago continued to grow and diversify. Priority was accorded to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation. India-CARICOM Economic Forum was organized in August 2005. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry led the Indian delegation. Bilateral trade grew by 30% to cross US\$ 50 million mark during the year.



The President of Venezuela Mr. Hugo Chavez Frias with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on 5 March 2005.



The Foreign Minister of Paraguay Ms. Leila Rachid with External Affairs Minister Shri K. Natwar Singh in New Delhi on 22 March 2005.

The Essar group has announced its decision to establish a steel making facility in Jamaica. An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Somnath Chatterjee visited Trinidad & Tobago to participate in the 160th anniversary celebrations of Indian Arrival Day in May 2005.

Grenada, the Commonwealth of Dominica and Montserrat

Relations with Grenada, the Commonwealth of Dominica and Montserrat continued to grow during the period. In

the aftermath of the devastation caused by hurricane Ivan, India supplied relief materials to Grenada and deputed IT and Agricultural Experts to assist in the reconstruction process. India provided essential medical supplies to the Commonwealth of Dominica following a major fire accident that destroyed the Central Medical Depot there.

Suriname

India and Suriname share close and friendly bilateral relations. Bilateral cooperation grew in diverse development areas.



United Nations and International Organizations

9

United Nations

The year 2005 marked the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. The highlight of 2005-06 was the convening of the World Summit 2005 at the onset of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September, 2005.

The Outcome Document of the Summit, reflected the decisions of the member states reached with consensus. India played an active and constructive role in the negotiations. The Outcome Document stressed the need for the conclusion and adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) within the 60th Session of the UNGA and called for early reform of the UN Security Council. It authorized the setting up of new bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council (HRC), and broadly endorsed UN's oversight capacity. India continued its active engagement with other member states on a wide range of issues related to the reform of the United Nations.

India continued to play a crucial role at the United Nations on issues relating to disarmament, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, economic, social, humanitarian and legal affairs. India's role in discussions at the UN was often instrumental in evolving consensus on important contentious issues, especially those involving the promotion of the interests of developing countries.

The High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly

The High-level Plenary Meeting (HLPN) of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), also known as World Summit 2005 or the Millennium Review Summit, was held from 14-16 September 2005, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to the HLPN and the 60th Session of the UNGA. In his address to the HLPN on 15 September 2005, PM observed that the

United Nations suffered from a democracy deficit and its structure and decision-making process reflected the world of 1945, not of 2005. Prime Minister stressed the need for urgent and comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories to make it a truly representative body. Recalling the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the UN in 2000, Prime Minister called for greater efforts to mobilize the resources necessary to meet these goals.

While in New York, Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with the Heads of State/Government of China, Pakistan, Russian Federation and USA. He participated in the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Summit meeting and the Working Dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia in his capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

On 14 September, Prime Minister addressed an event organised to launch the UN Democracy Fund, along with the President of the USA, UN Secretary General and other leaders. India contributed an amount of US\$ 10 million to this Fund.

Shri K. Natwar Singh the then External Affairs Minister, accompanied Prime Minister for the 60th UNGA Session. External Affairs Minister had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Afghanistan, Chile, Cuba, Greece, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Palestine, Romania, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, USA, Vietnam and Zambia. He hosted a meeting of the G-4 Foreign Ministers and convened a meeting of TEAM-9 Foreign Ministers [Senegal, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali] at which Niger was admitted as a new member. External Affairs Minister also participated in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China; India-Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) Political Dialogue; India-Andean Community Ministerial Meeting; Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Meeting of NAM Foreign Ministers, Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), G-15 Foreign Ministers, the Group of 77 and SAARC Foreign Ministers. He took part in the meeting of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine with the UN Secretary General.

Non-official Delegation to UNGA

Seventeen Members of Parliament participated in the 60th Session of the UNGA as non-official members of the Indian delegation. The Members of Parliament articulated India's vision on important international political, economic and social issues at the UN.

Visit of UN Secretary General to India

UN Secretary General (UNSG) Mr. Kofi Annan paid an official visit to India from 25-28 April 2005. UNSG had extensive delegation level discussions with the then External Affairs Minister on a wide range of issues including comprehensive reform of the United Nations, terrorism, peacekeeping, Tsunami relief and regional and international issues. UNSG appreciated India's quick response in the wake of the Tsunami in providing prompt assistance to other countries. He admired the role of the Indian peacekeeping troops, whose performance he described as exemplary and deserving the fullest praise.

The Security Council

At the Security Council India made six statements during the year in public debates on important issues such as Afghanistan, the Middle East, Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, Humanitarian Crises and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding.

Political, Economic and Social Issues at the General Assembly and Security Council

India made statements in the UNGA plenary on agenda items relating to the Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organisation; World Programme of Action for Youth; New Partnership for Africa's Development; Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-Up of the Major UN Conferences and Summits; Global Road Safety Crisis; Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA); Report of the Security Council and Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in Membership of the Security Council; Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance of the UN; The Situation in Afghanistan; Oceans and the Law of the Sea; and the Question of Palestine and the Situation in the Middle East.

Terrorism

The issue of counter-terrorism has been an area of priority for India at the UN. India had piloted a draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). It actively participated in the Sixth Committee on the item "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism", the Ad Hoc Committee established by UNGA resolution 51/210 and in public debates of the Security Council under the item "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".

Establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission

As a follow-up of the decisions reflected in the Outcome Document of the World Summit held in New York in September 2005, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was set up on 20 December 2005 through a UNGA resolution adopted concurrently with a resolution of the UN Security Council. The PBC has been established as an inter-governmental advisory body to advise on and propose integrated strategies on need for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery; focus attention on reconstruction and institution building efforts and to support development; and provide recommendations and information.

Peacekeeping

India has traditionally played a prominent role in UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKOs). It is among the major contributors to UNPKOs and is presently the third-largest troop contributor. Currently, Indian personnel are serving in UN Missions in Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Georgia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Sierra Leone and Sudan. India has a major civilian police component in the UN Missions in Kosovo and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. At the request of the UN, India agreed during the year to the deployment of a Logistics Company in the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Golan

Heights, and a Medical Team in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi, set up by Government of India in September, 2000 under the aegis of the United Services Institution of India (USI), organised a number of activities including training programmes, seminars and studies. The Government of India funds some of the nominees from developing countries. The 11th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), held at the CUNPK, announced the decision to host the IAPTC Secretariat at the CUNPK.

Security Council Reform

India actively participated in the discussions of the Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council. India's candidature for permanent membership in a reformed and expanded Security Council received further expressions of support during the year.

G-4 Process

The Framework Resolution of the G-4 countries (Brazil, Germany, Japan and India) was introduced on behalf of the G-4 by Brazil on 11 July 2005 in the plenary of the 59th UNGA. The G-4 have continued consultations among themselves and with other member states to carry their initiative forward during the 60th UNGA Session. On 5 January 2006, India, Germany and Brazil re-tabled the G-4 resolution during the 60th Session of UNGA to bring the issue of UNSC reform back into focus.

Afghanistan

India co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan, which was adopted by consensus. It made a statement under agenda items 17: "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" and 74 (e): "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" at the Plenary of the UNGA on 29 November 2005.

Iraq

In May 2005, India contributed an additional amount of

\$ 5 million [\$ 2.5 million each to the UNDG and World Bank Iraq Trust Funds] to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI), bringing its total contribution to this fund to \$ 10 million. Of this, an amount of \$ 2.5 million was earmarked for the electoral cluster of the UN's Iraq Trust Fund. India is a member of the Donor Committee of the IRFFI.

Middle East

India made a statement at the plenary of the 60th UNGA Session on 28 November 2005 under agenda items 14: The situation in the Middle East and 15: Question of Palestine, and in the Fourth Committee under the relevant agenda items. India, as a member of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine, also participated actively in NAM meetings on the issue of Palestine.

United Nations Democracy Fund

The General Assembly has repeatedly called on the UN system to support efforts to promote and consolidate new and restored democracies. Against this backdrop, the UN Secretary General (UNSG) announced, on 4 July 2005, the creation of a UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

India has been deeply committed to the idea and establishment of the Democratic Fund from the very beginning. It was one of the first countries to support the initiative. India has contributed US\$ 10 million to the fund and is a member of its Advisory Board.

Economic Issues

Five years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, an important focus of the 2005 High Level Plenary Meeting were the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the role of the UN in the area of development. India participated actively in the Second Committee of the UNGA to build on the agreements reached at the HLP Meeting, in particular the need for increased aid and trade and deeper debt relief for the achievement of the MDGs.

The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly was held in New York on 27&28 June 2005. Shri E. Ahamed Minister of State of External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the meeting.

Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, led the Indian delegation at an Asia-Pacific meeting on MDGs hosted by Indonesia in Jakarta on 1&2 August 2005.

The Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] substantive session 2005 was held from 29 June-27 July, 2005. The work of the ECOSOC mainly focused on contributions to the preparatory process for the 2005 World Summit.

India was represented at the Spring High-level Meeting of the ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organisations and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 18 April 2005, by Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

Environment and Sustainable Development Issues

India contributed actively to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the high-level commission within the UN system for sustainable development with the role of reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests led the Indian delegation to the 13th session of the CSD [CSD 13] held in New York from 11-22 April 2005. The meeting focussed on policy options and practical measures to accelerate progress in the implementation of the goals and targets as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements.

Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests led the Indian delegation to the Fifth session of UN Forum on Forests [UNFF 5] held in New York from 16-27 May 2005.

2005 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS

The Indian delegation to the UNGA High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in June 2005 was led by Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The

meeting provided the opportunity for an interim technical review of the 2005 goals set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted by the UNGA Session on HIV/AIDS in June, 2001. India also participated in the roundtable on 'Prevention' at the High-level Meeting.

Humanitarian Assistance

India continued to pilot, on behalf of the Group of 77, the annual resolution on "International cooperation in humanitarian assistance for natural disasters, from relief to development." The resolution adopted by the 60th session of the UNGA focussed on the issue of resources and the need for support to recovery and reconstruction efforts in countries affected by natural disasters. The resolution mandated the UN Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on this subject for UNGA's consideration at its 61st session. India also contributed to the drafting resolution on "Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster."

Operational Activities of the UN System/UN Funds and Programmes

India continued to play a significant and constructive role in the work of the UN Funds and Programmes.

Social, Human Rights & Humanitarian Issues

India played a very active role in the NGO Committee. India participated in the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, which was held from 1-12 August 2005.

Climate Change

Climate Change issues were discussed by the G-8 with the five outreach countries, including India, at their Summit meeting in Gleneagles in UK on 6-8 July 2005. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh presented India's perspective for the urgent need for collaborative R&D, including setting up of a network of R&D institutions from the developed and developing countries, transfer of clean technologies to developing countries and the financing of the same. The Gleneagles discussions were



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the launch of the U.N. Democracy Fund in New York on 14 September 2005, with the U.N. Secretary General.



Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee addressing the 112th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union at Manila in April 2005.

followed by a Round Table on Climate Change in London on 1 November 2005 where the Indian delegation was led by Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests.

International Law and Developments

During the 60th session, the Sixth Committee adopted two legal instruments: the Convention on Electronic Communications and International Contracts, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

Elections

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Chairperson, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, was re-elected to the Executive Board of UNESCO in October 2005.

India was re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) under the Category "B" for the period 2006-2007.

India was re-elected to the Executive Council of the Food and Agriculture Organisation during the FAO Session held in Rome on 25 November 2005.

India was re-elected to the Executive Council of the world tourism Organisation for another four-year term at the 16th Session of the World Tourism Organisation's General Assembly held in Dakar from 25 November-2 December 2005.

Smt. Seema Bahuguna was elected as the Assistant Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation, which is based in New Delhi.

Specialised UN Agencies & Conventions/Conferences

World Food Programme (WFP)

India has continued to cooperate with WFP in the school-children feeding programme in Afghanistan and extended support for a similar programme in Iraq. India is a member of the 36 member Executive Board of WFP.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

The 30th session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO held in Vienna from 20-23 June 2005 elected

Dr. Kandeh Yumkella of Sierra Leone as the Director General which was later confirmed by the 11th Session of the General Conference in November 2005. Mr. Carlos Margarinos, Director General, UNIDO visited India from 20-23 November 2005. India maintained its membership of the Industrial Development Board with the support of the Asian Group.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

The reconvened 48th session of the CND held in Vienna under the Chairmanship of the Ambassador of India, Vienna from 7-8 December 2005 approved the consolidated budget of the UNODC for the biennium 2006-2007 with an increase of over 18% compared to previous biennium 2004-2005.

Second Conference of Parties (COP-II) of UNTOC

The Second Conference of Parties to UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) was held in Vienna from 10-21 October 2005. COP-II discussed the progress in implementation of UNTOC and difficulties encountered by the State Parties for the same. The third protocol to UNTOC on firearms had entered into force after the conclusion of the first COP.

UN Convention Against Corruption

India signed the UN Convention against Corruption on 9 December 2005.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Shri A Raja, Minister for Environment & Forests led the Indian delegation to the 11th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, which took place in Montreal on 28 November-9 December 2005 along with the first meeting of the Conference/Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP) of the Kyoto Protocol. A resolution was adopted at the meeting to start the process of future commitments of developed countries to curtail their green-house gas emissions in a manner such that there would be no gap between the first commitment period, which ends in 2012, and the next. The first meeting of the open ended working group established for this purpose is to take place in May 2006.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs

India's commitment to non-discriminatory and universal nuclear disarmament and the global elimination of all Weapons of Mass Destruction continued to be reflected in its policy pronouncements and diplomatic initiatives.

At the regional level, India's participation in the confidence and security building process and structure under the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) acquired greater momentum.

Regular contacts were maintained with key international and non-governmental organisations active in the field of disarmament with a view to disseminating the Indian perspectives on disarmament issues.

India has been exercising 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 enactment in June 2005 of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act reflected India's commitment to contributing to the objective of global peace and security.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his address to the 2005 World Summit, called for renewed efforts to secure the world against nuclear proliferation and achieve nuclear disarmament. Asserting that democratic governance, both within nations and in global institutions, would constitute a powerful weapon in meeting the global scourge of terrorism, he warned "we must not yield any space to terrorism. We must firmly reject any notion that there is any cause that justifies it." External Affairs Minister of India underlined that struggle for multilaterally negotiated, universal and verifiable nuclear disarmament, in a time-bound manner, has to continue with vigor.

India continued to play an active role at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly's First Committee that deals with disarmament and international security issues. In recognition of growing international concerns about the serious global threats posed by the possibility of non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction and using

it, India's resolution on 'Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction' was adopted by consensus, as during previous three Sessions.

India reiterated its stand on global nuclear disarmament that progressively lower levels of armaments will guarantee undiminished security for all. India re-introduced its Resolution "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons", first introduced in 1982, which called upon the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, as a first step towards reducing the salience of nuclear weapons.

India's Resolution on "Reducing Nuclear Danger", first introduced in 1998, which called for the review of nuclear doctrines and immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risk of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, was also re-tabled.

India's resolution "Role of Science and Technology in the Context of International Security and Disarmament" highlighted the qualitative aspects of the arms race, and the need for a genuinely multilateral and non-discriminatory response. India has maintained that technology denial to responsible States does not serve the objectives of non-proliferation but only signals a punitive intent. All these resolutions were adopted as in previous years.

UN Disarmament Commission

The UN Disarmament Commission is the only universal forum with the mandate to deliberate on issues related to disarmament and arms control and to make recommendations to the General Assembly. The Substantive Session of the UNDC in 2005 was not convened. As in 2004, for the second consecutive year, the Commission could not adopt its agenda due to lack of consensus. Though various proposals were made by the Non-Aligned Group, the European Union and the United States, there was no convergence of views.

UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The Board, comprising members nominated by the

Secretary General on the basis of equitable geographical representation, makes recommendations to the Secretary General on the issues related to disarmament and international security. It also acts as a board of trustee for the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). India attended the Geneva session of the Board.

The Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is the 'sole multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body' and comprises 65 militarily significant States. In 2005 Session, it met at Geneva from 24 January- 1 March, 30 May-15 July and from 8 August-23 September 2005. Besides the formal plenary meetings, the Conference held structured informal and formal meetings on the issues on CD's existing agenda and new issues. India actively participated in these meetings and in deliberations on various proposals to end the impasse in the CD. During consultations, India adopted a flexible and constructive approach to help establish a Programme of Work for the CD that reflected the concerns and priorities of all its Member States.

International Atomic Energy Agency

India ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety and deposited the Instrument of Ratification with the Director General of IAEA. India took active part in the Conference on Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). India also cooperated with like-minded countries in the establishment by the Board of Governors (BoG) of the Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the statute of the IAEA.

The 49th Session of the GC of the IAEA was held from 26-30 September 2005. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission.

At the IAEA India stressed and supported the promotional role of IAEA specifically in activities related to the development of nuclear power and associated material technologies and on the application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The Deputy Director General, Department of Management Mr. David Waller and Deputy Director

General, Department of Nuclear Energy, Mr. Yuri Sokolov paid official visits to India. They met Chairman AEC, Director BARC and other unit heads and visited DAE facilities.

Chemical Weapons Convention(CWC)

India continued to play an active role at the Organization for the Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague. India is an original State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). India's record on the destruction of its Chemical Weapons as well as its production facilities in accordance with the timelines set by the Convention is well known.

The Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW at the 10th Conference of State Parties, 7-11 November 2005, in a statement highlighted (i) need for implementation of Article XI on economic and technological development, and (ii) need to review the Article VII Action Plan on National Implementation Measures adopted at the 8th Conference. It was underlined that the State Parties had made noticeable progress in the area of implementation of the Convention, but there were States which were yet to fulfill their obligations under the Action Plan.

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

The Resumed Session of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological (Bacteriological) and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) in November 2002 had decided to hold three Annual Meetings of the States Parties of one week duration each in 2003, 2004 and 2005, leading up to the Sixth Review Conference to be held not later than the end of 2006. It had also decided that each Annual Meeting was to be prepared by a two-week Meeting of Experts.

The third Annual Meeting of the States Parties to the BWC was held at Geneva from 5-9 December 2005 to discuss and promote common understanding and effective action on the content, promulgation and adoption of Codes of Conduct for Scientists. A Meeting of Experts was held from 13-24 June 2005 at Geneva to prepare for the Meeting of States Parties.

The Indian delegation actively participated in the

deliberations at the Meeting of Experts and the Meeting of States Parties. In order to share India's national experience in dealing with the issue of Codes of Conduct, Indian delegation made a presentation, at the Meeting of Experts, on "Indian Initiatives on Codes of Conduct for Scientists". Indian delegation also presented a Working Paper which spelt out the legal and regulatory framework established in India. A Presentation and a Working Paper, presented at the Meeting of States Parties, further elaborated Indian perspectives on Codes of Conduct for Scientists.

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 1 of the Convention.

The Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on CCW held in 2001 had decided to establish an Open-ended Group of Governmental Experts to discuss in two separate Working Groups (a) ways and means to address the issue of Explosive Remnants of War and (b) the Mines Other Than Anti-personnel Mines. India chaired the first six sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts in 2002 and 2003. Six more Sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts were held in 2004 and 2005. India chaired on behalf of the NAM Group, as the Coordinator for the Meetings of the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War in 2005.

A Meeting of States Parties to the CCW was held at Geneva from 21-25 November 2005. The Meeting decided that the Group of Governmental Experts would continue its work in 2006. It also decided that the Group of Governmental Experts would also prepare for the third Review Conference scheduled to be held at Geneva 6-17 November 2006.

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 also held at Geneva on 23 November 2005. India informed the Meeting about the steps taken by it to implement the provisions of Amended Protocol II and its commitment to the vision of a world free of landmines.

India remains committed to the objective of a non-discriminatory, universal and global ban on anti-personnel land mines through a phased process that addresses the legitimate defence requirements of the states while ameliorating the critical humanitarian crisis that has resulted from an indiscriminate transfer and use of land mines. India had attended, as an observer, the first Review Conference of the Convention held at Nairobi in December 2004. India attended, as an observer, the annual Meeting of the State Parties to the Ottawa Convention held in Zagreb on 28 November- 2 December 2005. While India shares the humanitarian concerns arising out of indiscriminate use of APLs, it is not a party to the Ottawa Convention, as the Convention fails to take into account the legitimate security interests of countries which necessitates the usage of landmines for defensive purposes within valid security norms and in accordance with internationally acknowledged and well defined safety parameters.

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

India is acutely aware of the problem of proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and remains committed to participating actively in international search for effective solutions, including the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) adopted at the UN Conference on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2001.

Marking a significant progress in implementation of the UN Programme of Action on preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trade in SALW, in all its aspects, the Open-ended Working Group, established by the Secretary General to negotiate an instrument on marking and tracing of SALW agreed, by consensus, on the text of a politically-binding instrument. The instrument was adopted by the General Assembly at its 60th Session. India participated actively and played a constructive role in the process of negotiation.

The Second Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW was held at New York in July 2005. Though calling for further progress in areas such as illicit brokering in SALW and international cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the Programme, the Meeting expressed satisfaction at the progress in implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW since its inception in July 2001.

Outer Space Affairs

The 48th Session of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) was held in Vienna from 8-17 June 2005. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO. To showcase India's achievement in space and its activities in the area of space application for national development, ISRO organized a very well-received exhibition entitled, "India in Space", coinciding with the 48th session of the UNCOPUOS.

The 44th session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the UN committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was held in Vienna from 4-15 April 2005. The Indian delegation actively participated in the Sub-committee's deliberations.

Non-Aligned Movement

The Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of NAM was held on 20 September 2005 on the margins of the 60th session of the UNGA. India participated in the interactive debate of the meeting on "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPN) of the General Assembly."

India participated in the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine held on 19 September 2005 to discuss the situation in the Occupied Palestinian territory. India, as member of the NAM Ministerial Delegation on Palestine, joined the meetings of the Ministerial Delegation with the members of the Quartet and the permanent members of the Security Council.

A special meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of NAM was held on the sidelines of the Second South Summit in Doha on 13 June 2005. MOS Rao Inderjit Singh, who had led the Indian delegation to the South Summit, participated in this meeting.

Commonwealth

India actively participated at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Valletta Malta from 25-27 November 2005. India's contribution of € 1 million for the Commonwealth Action Programme on Digital Divide, announced at the Heads of Government meeting, as well as the Pan African e-Network Project being funded and implemented by India were recognised as major initiatives.

India is the largest member of the 53-member Commonwealth and its 5th largest financial contributor.

India participated at the Valetta CHOGM from 25-27 November 2005, and the pre-CHOGM meeting of Foreign Ministers on 23 & 24 November. Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) Shri Kamal Nath led the Indian delegation to the Heads of Government Meeting. The Special Theme of Valletta CHOGM was 'Networking the Commonwealth for Development'. India completed its second term as a Member of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) at the Valetta CHOGM.

This was the first CHOGM under the changed format, which saw a greater role for the Foreign Ministers prior to the CHOGM. The Foreign Ministers met over 2 days (Nov 23 & 24). The CMAG also met on 24 November 2005 to finalize its Report to the CHOGM. At the pre-CHOGM Meeting of the Foreign Ministers, the Indian delegation was led by the High Commissioner of India to UK. The main discussions during the meeting focused on Terrorism, Small States, Networking the Commonwealth for Development, and Multilateral Trade.

In addition to the CHOGM Communiqué, the Valetta CHOGM issued the Commonwealth Heads of Government Valetta Statement on Multilateral Trade, the Gozo Statement on Small States, which makes a special effort to meet the concerns of small states and the Malta Declaration on Networking the Commonwealth for Development.

At the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference in Fiji Islands in September 2005, Shri H.A. Halim, Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly was elected the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA for 2005-08. The Speaker, Lok Sabha was elected as

the Vice-President of CPA. India will host the 53rd annual CPA conference in 2007. A delegation of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, led by Lord Swraj Paul visited India in October 2005.

The then Minister of External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh attended the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting on 16 September 2005 and Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on 17 September 2005 in New York. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram attended the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in Barbados on 19&20 September 2005. Minister of Law & Justice Shri Hans Raj Bhardwaj attended the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Accra, Ghana from 17-20 October 2005.

The Commonwealth Asian Colloquium on Development and Democracy, organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Administrative Staff College of India, was held in New Delhi on 25&26 August 2005. Prime Minister delivered the key-note address at the Colloquium.

Justice Shri RC Lahoti, Chief Justice of India, Justice Dr. A. S. Anand, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, and Justice M. Jagannadha Rao, Chairman, Law Commission of India attended the Golden Jubilee Commonwealth Law Conference 2005 in London from 11-15 September 2005.

Commonwealth Secretary General Don Mckinnon visited India from 24-26 August 2005 on the occasion of the Commonwealth Asian Colloquium on Development and Democracy.

ASEAN Regional Forum

The 12th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held in Vientiane, Laos, on 29 July 2005. India was represented by Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs. The Ministerial Meeting agreed to establish the Inter-sessional Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBM & PD) to replace the present Inter-sessional Group on CBMs. In pursuance of the decision taken at the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting, India hosted the ARF Workshop on Training in Cooperative Maritime Security at Kochi from 26-28 October 2005.

India took part in the work of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) through participation in the various meetings organized under the aegis of the ARF, including in ARF ISG on CBMs in Berlin, Germany, co-chaired by the European Union represented by Germany and Cambodia on 22-23 February 2005; Defence Officials Dialogue on 21 February 2005, in Berlin, Germany; Workshop on “enhancing cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues” on 7&8 March 2005 in Sanya, China; Seminar on “Regional cooperation in Maritime Security”, from 2-4 March 2005 in Singapore; ARF Intersessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational from 6-8 April 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand; ARF Seminar in Cyber Terrorism in the Cabu city, Philippines from 3-5 October 2005; ARF Export Licensing Experts’ Meeting, in Singapore, hosted by Singapore and Canada from 17&18 November 2005.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

India is a founding member of CICA. CICA Summit held in Almaty in June 2002 had decided to prepare three documents, (i) CICA Rules of Procedure (ii) CICA catalogue of CBMs (iii) Statute of the CICA Secretariat. The CICA Ministerial Meeting in October 2004 adopted the first two documents. The Statute of the CICA Secretariat is under negotiations.

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DEVELOPMENTS

Report of the Sixth Committee

The Sixth Committee of the UN had a fruitful session this year. The Committee adopted two legal instruments namely, Convention on Electronic Communications and International Contracts and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. Efforts were made, throughout the session, keeping in view the importance given to the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism during this session, to resolve the remaining outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), more importantly, by formulating the language on self determination, delineation of legal regime under the

Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism and International Humanitarian Law, with a view to reach a consensus. To facilitate further negotiations, the Committee decided to convene the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate the Draft Comprehensive Convention from 27 February-3 March 2006. To make it clear that the Ad-Hoc Committee should make every effort to finalize the Convention during this meeting, the Sixth committee resolution on this agenda item this year, unlike previous years, did not authorize any Ad-hoc Committee meeting during the sixty first session. It may be recalled that sixth committee adopted similar provision in the last year's resolution, which facilitated the finalization and adoption of the Draft Convention on Nuclear Terrorism during the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, held in March-April 2005.

Items in the Plenary

This year the debate on the plenary item: "Oceans and the Law of the Sea" mainly focused on protection of world's marine environment and sustainable fishing practices. During this session, The General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Open ended Informal Working Group established pursuant to paragraph 73 of its resolution 59/24, would study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. It also decided to continue with open ended UN informal consultative process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea for the next three years.

The General Assembly decided to launch an "assessment of assessments", to be completed within two years, as a preparatory stage towards the establishment of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of marine environment. In this connection, General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Steering Group on an equitable geographical basis including setting out the functions to be performed by the Steering Group.

On sustainable fisheries, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene in March 2006, the 5th round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Fish Stocks Agreement, to serve as preparation for the Review Conference. It was also decided that States which are not parties to the Agreement can also participate fully

in the 5th round of informal consultations of State Parties to the Agreement on equal footing with States Parties to the Agreement, except that they will not have voting rights.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The Diplomatic Conference of the IMO held in London from 10-14 October 2005 adopted the Final Text of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988. This initiative was taken by IMO in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on US in 2000. The amended SUA Convention and its Protocol provides for various issues that are not connected with terrorism *per-se*, but are aimed at ensuring disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Moreover, this also attempts to legalize the "proliferation security initiative" (PSI) activities initiated by the US and its participants. India opposed these amendments and recorded its reservations during the Legal Committee as also during the IMO Diplomatic Conference.

Oceans and Law of the Sea

At its 60th session, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted two resolutions 60/30 and 60/31 respectively 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 General Assembly reaffirming the unified character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, stressed the need for the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention for the purpose of implementation of its provisions. The Assembly has called upon the donor agencies and States to help financially the developing States and to provide them technical assistance for building up their capacity to implement the provisions of the Convention and to prepare their submissions to the Commission on the Limit of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). It encouraged the States to cooperate in combating piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping and other maritime interests. The Assembly also urged the States to control, reduce

and minimize marine pollution from land-based sources, and also to improve understanding and knowledge of the deep sea, in particular of the extent and vulnerability of deep sea biodiversity and ecosystems. The Assembly has decided to establish an organizational arrangement in connection with the work of the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects ("the global process"). This arrangement would include an ad hoc steering group to oversee the execution of the "assessment of assessments", two UN agencies to co-lead the process and a group of experts. The activities of the arrangement would be financed through voluntary contributions and other resources available to participating organizations and bodies.

On matters relating to fisheries, the Assembly called all States to apply the precautionary and ecosystem approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, including straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks in accordance with the Fish Stocks Agreement and to harmonize their national laws with the provisions of the Agreement. It urged the States not to permit their vessels to engage in illegal fishing on the high seas or in area under the national jurisdiction of other States and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Special Committee on the UN Charter

"The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organizations" is considering several proposals relating to: the maintenance of international peace and security; the Trusteeship Council; coordination with other committees/bodies that are also involved in work related to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular with regard to assistance to third states adversely affected by sanctions. At its 60th session, the General Assembly after considering the report of the Special Committee of its work at its 2005 session has adopted resolution 60/23. The Assembly has requested the Special Committee to give priority consideration to implementation of Charter provisions relating to assistance to third states adversely affected by sanctions. India's stand over the years has been that the Security Council should hold the primary responsibility towards

the affected third States, as a part of the sanctions imposing decisions.

UNCITRAL

The Legal and Treaties Division participated in Working Groups meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) relating to Electronic Commerce, Transportation and Security Interests. During the 38th Annual Session of UNCITRAL in July 2005, the Commission adopted the Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts. The Convention incorporates many of the essential principles of the Model Law on Electronic Commerce, including party autonomy and legal recognition of electronic communications. However, some principles have been significantly modified to meet the need for greater certainty required in a convention, especially provisions on the time and place of contract. New principles have also been incorporated in the Convention, including invitations to make offers, use of automated information systems, and errors in electronic communications, reflecting new legal concerns that have arisen since the release of the first Model Law in 1996.

Maritime Transport Law

The Division participated in the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of Working Group III (Transport Law) of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), held respectively at New York, USA from 18-28 April 2005 and at Vienna, Austria from 28 November-9 December 2005. The Working Group is negotiating a new convention, with a view to reviewing the existing laws relating to the international carriage of goods by sea and other modes, to cope with the practical changes in this field resulting from technological developments. At the fifteenth session, discussions were held on provisions relating to the Freedom of contract, Jurisdiction, and arbitration. At the sixteenth session, while the working Group continued discussion on issues concerning jurisdiction and arbitration, in addition it also deliberated on provisions concerning shipper's obligations, delivery of goods, and period of responsibility of the carrier.

International Hydrographic Organization

The Legal and Treaties Division of the Ministry of External Affairs participated in the restructuring of the Convention

on International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Towards this end, a Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) has been established to revive and enlarge the 1956 Convention establishing the IHO, as well as its General and Financial Regulations. This year the Division participated in the sixth and seventh meetings of the SPWG held in Sydney and Mexico respectively.

AALCO

The Annual Conference of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) for the year 2005 was held at Nairobi (Kenya) from 27 June-1 July 2005. During the conference, the organization discussed several current issues of international law: Report on matters relating to the work of the International Law Commission at its Fifty-sixth Session; International Terrorism; Establishing Cooperation against Trafficking in Women and Children; The International Criminal Court: Recent Developments; Report on the Work of the UNCITRAL and Other International Organizations in the field of International Trade Law; Environment and Sustainable Development; and Expressions of Folklore and its International Protection.

BIMSTEC

The Leaders of BIMSTEC Member States agreed in the Summit Meeting held in 2004 to set up a Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) in order to take forward cooperation among BIMSTEC Member States to strengthen joint efforts on counter terrorism and coordinate their efforts in this regard. India hosted the first Joint Working Group Meeting on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) in New Delhi in December 2004. The New Delhi JWG-CTTC Meeting decided to establish four Sub-Groups on intelligence sharing; financing of terrorism; legal and law enforcement issues and prevention of trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and also decided to entrust the task to four Lead Shepherds - Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, and Myanmar respectively. The First Meeting of the Sub-Group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues was held in New Delhi from 5-7 December 2005. All BIMSTEC Member States participated in the Meeting. The Sub-Group extensively deliberated on the legal framework to

combat terrorism and transnational crime existing in respective member countries. The Member States also highlighted various measures, legislative and administrative, that they have adopted to implement international conventions on international terrorism and relevant Security Council resolutions. The delegations also noted the availability of limited resources, lack of technical expertise and other complexities involved in the implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and other problems involved in inter-governmental coordination. Delegates further highlighted the need for the compilation of national laws, bilateral treaties and regional arrangements to enable them to evolve suitable mechanism to facilitate extradition and mutual legal assistance. The delegations also considered the draft agreement on combating international terrorism, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking amongst BIMSTEC Member States, which was proposed by India. The Sub-group recognised the importance of such an agreement and decided to further work on the same.

Extradition and Judicial Assistance in Criminal Law Matters:

Extradition treaties negotiated and finalized with France and Oman have come into force on completion of requirements for their entry into force. Text of Treaty with Mauritius has also been finalized and is in the process of entry into force. Negotiations were held for extradition treaty with Iran also, which will require further discussion for finalization. However, negotiations with Belarus, Oman and Nepal are at various stages.

In the subject of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, agreements were negotiated and finalized with Iran, Mauritius and Singapore. Necessary requirements for the entry into force were completed regarding agreements with USA, Singapore and France. As a result, they have entered into force. Negotiations with Nepal, Mexico and Hong Kong are going on.

Private International Law

After India's becoming party to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, 1961 and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country adoption, 1993, and on completing the

necessary scrutiny, India is in the process of acceding to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extra judicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1965, and the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters, 1970. It would gradually help the Indian courts and parties to civil suits in seeking international cooperation for the service of documents in and in the taking of evidence from a large number of foreign countries, which are State parties to these conventions.

Participation of L&T Division in the Development of International Law

A Workshop on Treaty Law was organised by the Ministry from 29-31 July 2005, in Kathmandu for training the officials of Law Ministry of the Royal Government of Nepal. About forty officials participated in the workshop.

India participated in the Sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities held in New York in January and August 2005. The proposed Convention seeks to promote the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights of persons with disabilities and towards that end it seeks to put an obligation on states to embody the rights of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of disability in their national legislations and foster respect for their rights.

The Working Group, on a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances, met in Geneva in September 2005. During this meeting, the Working Group adopted the draft Convention, which represents a significant progress in international law for a protection of persons from enforced disappearance. The Convention defines enforced disappearance and recognizes a new right of persons to not to be subjected to enforced disappearance. It also provides for an independent monitoring mechanism. The draft Convention would be forwarded to the Commission on Human Rights and thereafter to the General Assembly of the United Nations for approval.

Several cabinet notes were examined from legal angle, which included: Acceding to the Stockholm Convention

on Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs); Constitution of the National Wildlife Control Bureau; UNESCO Convention on Protection and Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention, Clean Development Mechanism; Promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for constituting the National Tiger Conservation Authority responsible for the implementation of Project Tiger; proposal for approval of the National Environmental Policy (NEP); Amendments to the Copyrights At, 1957 to become parties to the WIPO Copyrights Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and also ratifying the Rome Convention; extradition treaties with Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Various other international legal issues and cases, in particular before the Indian courts, relating to the application of Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961; Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963; Passport related matters under the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967; Section 86 of the Indian Civil Procedure Code requiring the consent of the Central Government before suing the foreign government in Indian Courts were examined.

India has signed/ratified several multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries during the year 2005-06. These included: Agreement for the Establishment of SAARC Arbitration Council, SAARC Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters and SAARC Limited Multilateral Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters; Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network adopted by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific; Global Development Network; Convention Against Corruption; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. A comprehensive list is placed at **Appendix IX**. A list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2004 is at **Appendix X** and a list of Instruments of Ratification is at **Appendix XI**.



India's economic diplomacy focused on enhancing India's inherent strengths even as it sought to deepen its integration with the world economy, particularly with the countries on its East. India played an active role in furthering the economic interests of developing countries in various international organizations and in multilateral, regional and sub-regional groupings.

SAARC

The Thirteenth SAARC Summit took place in Dhaka on 12 & 13 November 2005.

India has long advocated that if South Asia is to become a dynamic component of the larger process of regional cooperation and globalization that is taking place in the world, it must first bring about economic integration amongst the member countries, as an essential prerequisite. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh put forward a new vision of a SAARC, where political divisions do not stand in the way of the free movement of peoples, goods and services, and ideas, across the region. In this context, Prime Minister offered, on a reciprocal basis, transit facilities to all countries of the region and also greater air connectivity through a virtual open skies arrangement.

A consensus decision was taken by the SAARC Heads of State and Government to welcome Afghanistan as SAARC's eighth member. With Afghanistan's entry, SAARC would acquire a more complete regional identity.

The Summit noted the renewed interest of other regional and international organizations and entities to cooperate with SAARC in fields of mutual interest. India has welcomed the interest shown by China as well as Japan to be associated with SAARC as Observers.

India's offer for hosting the SAARC Centre for Disaster Management and Preparedness has been welcomed and accepted by the Summit. There was a clear recognition that a permanent regional response mechanism dedicated

to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation is required. India's record and demonstrated capabilities in this regard are well known. This Centre will be closely associated with the National Institute for Disaster Management in Delhi.

The proposal made by India for the setting up of a South Asia University that would bring together scholars, scientists and students from all over South Asia in a center of excellence was welcomed.

The Summit has also noted with appreciation the other proposals made by India, such as the setting up of a Regional Food Bank, SAARC Museum of Textiles & Handicrafts, a Regional Tele-medicine Network, and the holding of a SAARC Car Rally in the run up to the 14th SAARC Summit.

A major theme at the Summit was cooperation in counter terrorism. The Summit Declaration contained a strong condemnation of terrorism, and a renewed commitment to eliminate this scourge. For the first time, there was also a clear reference to avoid double standards in tackling this collective challenge.

The Summit was also notable for the signing of three important trade facilitation agreements. These included:

- The Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters
- The Agreement on the Establishment of SAARC Arbitration Council.
- The Limited Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

During the year 2005, the outstanding issues relating to SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Area) have been resolved. SAFTA is to enter into force, with retrospective effect, from 1 January 2006, once the Instruments of Ratification have been deposited with the SAARC Secretariat by the Member States.

The Thirteenth Summit was a landmark event, which took place as SAARC enters the third decade of its existence. India has been a strong advocate of collaboration in regional projects, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, poverty alleviation and dealing with cross border challenges such as natural disaster, pandemics like HIV/AIDS and Avian Flu, and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The SAARC Summit accepted India's offer to host the next Summit in the first quarter of 2007.

ASEAN-India Relations

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 4th India – ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005. India – ASEAN interaction was raised to Summit level partnership in 2002.

At the Summit, ASEAN leaders expressed appreciation for India's assistance to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) through support for the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. An Entrepreneurship Development Centre has been established in Lao PDR and has been functioning successfully. Similar Centers are under establishment in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam and should be operational during 2006. India announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million to the ASEAN Development Fund for projects aimed at narrowing the development gap amongst ASEAN countries.

India and ASEAN agreed, to work closely to enhance trade and investment linkages. It was agreed that negotiations on the India – ASEAN FTA would be completed by June 2006.

It was agreed that an India ASEAN Technology Summit would be held and an Information Technology Ministerial and Industry Forum would be established.

India offered to organize an Education Fair in ASEAN countries to bring together prospective students with Indian colleges and universities. This was welcomed by the ASEAN side, which also expressed appreciation for the Indian offer to organize a special training course for their diplomats. The ASEAN leaders also welcomed India's announcement to set up permanent Centers for English Language Training in CLMV countries, as well as to establish and maintain a satellite based network linking India with these four countries for tele-medicine and tele-education applications. Prime Minister announced an

additional US\$ 5 million for the India – ASEAN Cooperation Fund to finance the activities that were agreed upon during the Summit.

An ASEAN Space Technology Mission visited the Indian Space Research Organisation, Bangalore from 13-15 September 2005.

The 5th India-ASEAN Working Group on Science and Technology met in Manesar, Gurgaon from 21&22 November 2005. This was preceded by a workshop on Bioinformatics that was held in Hyderabad.

The India-ASEAN Working Group on Health and Pharmaceuticals met in New Delhi on 13&14 January 2005. This was followed by consultations on Agriculture held in Myanmar on 27 July 2005. The Working Group on Transport and Infrastructure held its 2nd meeting in New Delhi on 20&21 October 2005.

A Media Exchange Programme between India and ASEAN was also launched during the course of the year. Under this Programme, five batches of Indian journalists visited various ASEAN countries.

An IT training course for ASEAN countries was conducted by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing from 16-20 January 2006. The Centre also conducted a training course for CLMV countries in computer networking from 23 January-5 February 2006.

East Asia Summit

The 1st East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005. Prime Minister participated in this Summit along with leaders of ASEAN countries, Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. The East Asia Summit was a historic event. It brought together, for the first time, the leaders of countries, which are characterized by increasing inter-linkages and growing inter-dependence, and have made the region an engine of growth for the world economy.

At the East Asia Summit, Prime Minister outlined a long-term vision for the creation of a harmonious and prosperous community of nations. He said that such a community would be a seamless integrated market for goods, services and investments that could pool its enormous resources to tackle common challenges. Prime Minister proposed the establishment of a robust and institutional architecture that would form the basis for regional cooperation and action. He also suggested that

a pan-Asian Free Trade Area could be the starting block for such a community.

The East Asia Summit adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration that, inter-alia, refers to the goal of community building in the region. The Declaration commits the participating countries to promoting development, financial stability, energy security and to deepening economic integration in the region. The East Asia Summit would be convened annually and would be chaired by an ASEAN member country.

Group of 77

The Minister of External Affairs participated in the 29th annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (G-77) held in New York on 22 September 2005.

Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the Second South Summit held in Doha, Qatar from 12-16 June 2005. India contributed to the Doha Declaration and the Doha Programme of Action adopted at the Summit, and pledged an amount of US\$ 2 million to the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, launched at the Summit.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is an initiative launched in Vientiane in November 2000 by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for enhancing cooperation in tourism, education, culture, transport and communications. As part of Delhi-Hanoi rail link under MGC, feasibility study on Jiribam (Manipur)-Mandalay (Myanmar) rail route, conducted by RITES Ltd. has been completed and the report is under consideration.

MGC Working Group on Transport and Communications met in Bangkok on June 28, 2005 to review the progress on Delhi-Hanoi Rail/Road links. RITES Ltd. briefed MGC countries on the feasibility study on Jiribam-Mandalay rail route.

As part of cooperation in culture, a Museum of Traditional Textiles of MGC countries is at advanced stage of completion in Siem Reap, Cambodia by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

India offered 10 scholarships to each of the MGC countries.

Gleneagles Summit (G-8 Summit)

The G-8 annual Summit for this year was held at Gleneagles Hotel, Scotland from 6-8 July 2005 under the Presidency of the UK. Leaders of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa as well as the Heads of the International Energy Agency, IMF, UN, World Bank and the WTO were invited to join the discussions on the global economy, climate change and sustainable development on 7 July 2005. Leaders of Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania as well as the Heads of the African Union Commission, IMF, UN and the World Bank joined the discussions on Africa and development on 8 July 2005.

The meeting with the G 8 was preceded by a meeting of the Leaders of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, on 7 July 2005. At the conclusion of this meeting, a Declaration was issued which covered issues relating to global economic imbalances, financing for development, the ongoing Doha round of trade negotiations, climate change and sustainable development.

G-15

As a founder member of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), India played an active role in various G-15 projects and activities, in order to promote economic and technical co-operation among the G-15 countries. India is coordinating a number of G-15 projects, viz. Solar energy Applications, Establishment of Gene Banks for medicinal and Aromatic Plants, and Entrepreneur and Technical Development Centre in Senegal (ETDC). The Nigeria Machine Tools which has been commissioned by the Hindustan Machine Tools (India) at a cost of US\$ 5 million, has been completed and will be handed over to the Nigerian Government soon.

Asian Highway Network

The first ever meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network was held on 14 & 15 December 2005 at the UNSCAP Secretariat in Bangkok. The main objectives of the meeting were to review the status of the implementation of Asian Highway Network; adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group; and exchange of information and discussion on policies on issues relating to the development of Asian Highway Network. There are presently 28 signatories out of a total 32 countries. 14 countries have ratified the Agreement.



*Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Heads of States/Governments
at the 1st East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005.*



*IBSA Forum Foreign Ministers - Ms. Nikosazana Diamini - Zuma of South Africa, Mr. Celso Amorim of Brazil and
Shri K. Natwar Singh of India at Cape Town on 10 March 2005.*

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The close and successful follow-up of the initiatives emanating from the Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings at Phuket and the first BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok in 2004 showed a good trend of partnership amongst the Member Countries of BIMSTEC. The 9th Senior Officials' Meeting was held in Dhaka from 31 May-1 June 2005.

The 8th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and 10th Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held in Dhaka from 17-19 December 2005.

Various meetings of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) and Task Force in the context of the Framework Agreement on BIMSTEC FTA have progressed well. While substantial progress has been made with respect to the text of the FTA in goods, some important issues are to be finalised soon in view of the timeline for concluding the negotiations. Negotiations are being held on the Rules of Origin for the BIMSTEC FTA. All outstanding issues are expected to be resolved so that the FTA in Goods is finalized and signed at an early date as BIMSTEC is interested in reaching the conclusion of negotiations by strictly complying with the timeframe laid down in the Framework Agreement. The 10th TNC was held in Kathmandu from 21-27 December 2005. The 11th Meeting of the TNC was held in Bangkok from 6-11 February 2006.

The meetings of BIMSTEC Business Forum, Economic Forum and Trade & Investment Sector to review, assess and further develop trade – and investment-linkages as well as economic cooperation among the BIMSTEC member-countries were held in New Delhi on 29&30 August and 1&2 September 2005 respectively.

A Workshop on Weather and Climate was held in India from 23-25 July 2005. The BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate is already in its virtual phase since August 2004. A meeting of BIMSTEC Member Countries for formation of a Governing Body to discuss the administrative, financial and functional aspects for the Centre's establishment in physical phase was held on 17&18 January 2006.

India has allotted 300 scholarship slots for BIMSTEC

member countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Scheme. Besides these scholarships, 30 scholarship in the fields of traditional medicine, viz. Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy and Siddha at UG/PG and Ph.D levels in Indian Universities and Institutions have also been allotted and being utilized by BIMSTEC Member Countries.

In pursuance of the Meeting of the Chief Executive Officers, and continuing with the training programmes in multimodal transport, the 2nd training course was conducted by Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD) at Railway Staff College at Vadodara from 16-26 August 2005, with focus on resource mobilization and financial management on railways. The 3rd training course on "Trans-Asian Railway Network in Member Countries" is scheduled to be held from 20-31 March 2006. The 2nd meeting of the Chief Executives of the Railways of BIMSTEC Member Countries was held in Myanmar on 8&9 December 2005. As recommended at the meeting, it is proposed to extend this training course to the countries of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC).

India hosted the 1st meeting of Energy Ministers in October 2005 preceded by the Expert Group Meeting on Renewable Energy Development Project. The Conference recognized the potential of energy efficiency measures in promoting economic growth and competitiveness of respective economies of the member countries. In implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the Meeting, India held a Workshop for discussing the "Concept Paper on BIMSTEC Energy Centre" from 25-27 January 2006 and another Workshop on "Harmonization of Grid Standards" on 6 February 2006.

A group of 4 young Parliamentarians led by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Defence Shri B.K. Handique visited three BIMSTEC member countries, i.e. Bangladesh, Thailand and Bhutan from 10-16 July 2005.

An International Seminar on "Relevance of Ancillarisation in the context of Globalization and Emerging Trade Relations" for BIMSTEC member countries was organized by the Indian Council of Small Industries (ICSI) on 28&29 November 2005.

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)

The three Foreign Ministers met in Cape Town on 10& 11 March 2005 for the IBSA Trilateral Commission

and discussed issues related to Millennium Review Summit, UN Reforms, South South Cooperation, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), New Asia Africa Strategic Partnership (NAASP), WTO, climate change, international terrorism, situation in the Middle East and IBSA Facility for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation. The meeting also reviewed the progress made in the areas of functional cooperation amongst IBSA member countries. This was preceded by the 3rd meeting of IBSA Focal Points on 7-9 March 2005.

The IBSA Working Group Meetings/Workshops and Seminars in various sectors held during this year, included: Working Group Meeting on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Cape Town on 4-5 March 2005, an IBSA Seminar on "Economic Development and Social Equity" at Rio de Janeiro on 3-4 August 2005 and a Workshop on E-governance from 3-7 October 2005 in New Delhi. Workshops on HIV/AIDS, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Oceanography have also been organized by India, South Africa and Brazil respectively under Science and Technology Sector. An IBSA Expert Group Meeting on Agriculture was held in New Delhi on 18&19 January 2006. The 3rd Meeting of the IBSA Working Group on Trade and Investment was held in India on 27&28 January 2006.

The 4th Meeting of IBSA Focal Points was convened at Rio de Janeiro on 3&4 August 2005. The meeting reiterated the need to involve parliamentarians and journalists as an important aspect of people to people contact within IBSA Dialogue Forum. The meeting, inter-alia, took note of the conclusion of a Trilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services, the desire of the Working Group on Trade to explore the possibility of an IBSA FTA, the satisfactory interaction in Science and Technology, and progress in development of an IBSA website.

The 5th Meeting of the IBSA focal Points was held in South Africa on 24&25 November 2005. It was decided at the Meeting that the inaugural IBSA Summit will be held in 2006, depending on the convenience of the three Leaders, preceded by the 3rd Meeting of the IBSA Trilateral Commission in the 2nd half of March 2006 in Brazil. A system of lead country has been adopted under which

India has been made responsible for Education, Science and Technology, Trade and Investment and Agriculture. Various meetings/follow-up actions have been agreed to in connection with sectors on Tourism, Agriculture, Trade and Investment, Health, Science and Technology, Climate Change, Energy, IBSA Website, IBSA Defence Ministers and Cultural Festivals.

The 3rd Trilateral Commission Meeting, preceded by Focal Points Meeting is scheduled to be held from 28-30 March 2006.

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

A Workshop on Disaster Mitigation and Management, Tropical Cyclones related issues was held in New Delhi in March 2005.

The 6th Council of Ministers' (COM) of IOR-ARC was held in Tehran from 16-22 February 2006. This would be preceded by the 8th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials' (COS), Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI), Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF), Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG).

Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

The nomenclature of Bangkok Agreement has been changed to "Asia Pacific Trade Agreement". The First Session of the Ministerial Council of the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement preceded by the 24th session of the Standing Committee of Bangkok Agreement (now, Asia Pacific Trade Agreement) was held in Beijing on 1 & 2 November 2005. A Ministerial Declaration was adopted at the Meeting.

Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

The fourth ACD Ministerial Meeting was held in Islamabad on 5&6 April 2005. Saudi Arabia was admitted as a new member of ACD. Qatar will host the 5th Meeting in 2006.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The sixth session of the Ministerial Conference of WTO was held in Hong Kong from 13-18 December 2005. Saudi Arabia was admitted as a new member of WTO at the meeting.



11 Technical & Economic Cooperation and Development Partnership

Technical and Economic cooperation is an important component of India's interaction with fellow developing nations. The Technical Cooperation (TC) Division and the Development Partnership (DP) Division implement the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP). India shares its developmental expertise and experience with 156 developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Island countries in the Pacific and the Caribbean regions.

The ITEC and Development Partnership programme of MEA are instrumental in building goodwill and generating mutually beneficial relationship within the framework of South-South Cooperation. Since its inception in 1964, the ITEC Programme has garnered development partners for India across the continents.

The TC Division has been allocated an amount of Rs. 49 crores under ITEC and Rs. 6.5 crores under SCAAP while the DP Division has been allocated Rs. 8 crores under Development Partnership and Rs. 5.1 crores under Aid for Disaster Relief.

The ITEC programme has six components viz :

- (i) Training in India of nominees of ITEC partner countries (both civilian and military training courses)
- (ii) Deputation of Indian experts abroad;
- (iii) Gifting of Indian equipment.
- (iv) Study visits of senior officials to India;
- (v) Projects and project related assistance such as supply of equipment, consultancy services and feasibility studies;
- (vi) Aid for Disaster Relief (ADR).

Civilian Training

Government of India bears the training expenses for civilians, including international air travel, tuition fees, living allowance, accommodation, study tours, medical assistance, and book allowance. The financial ceiling for hotel accommodation in institutions not having hostels for the civilian trainees has been increased to provide single occupancy accommodation to all the participants. 45 Indian Institutions have been empanelled to conduct 240 courses covering such fields as Information Technology (IT), Finance & Accounts, Audit, Banking, Education Planning & Administration, English Language, Entrepreneurship, Food Technology, Manpower Resource Planning, Labour Administration, Management, Parliamentary Studies, Rural Development, Small Scale Industry, Textiles Technology, Mobile Technology, Rural Electrification and many other training courses.

By and large the ITEC/SCAAP programmes have been implemented bilaterally. However, of late, regional groupings have also been included as beneficiaries of the programmes. Training slots have been provided to the ASEAN, G-15 and BIMSTEC countries and training slots have been earmarked for African Union, AARDO, Pan African Parliament and CARICOM Secretariat. In addition to regular courses approved under ITEC/SCAAP, special courses have been arranged for nominees of these regional groupings.

An international workshop on "Key vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), scope for technology cooperation with India" was organized in collaboration with TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) from 22-25 August 2005 under the ITEC Programme. 25 participants from 22 Small Island Developing Countries attended the workshop.

During the year 2005-06, TC Division expects to provide training to 3600 nominees of ITEC partner countries; List

of the Institutes offering civilian training course to foreign nominees under ITEC/SCAAP Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs is at **Appendix-XIV**. Country-wise position as regards the slots earmarked and utilized for the period April 2005-January 2006 is at **Appendix-XV**.

Appendix-XIII gives the expenditure statement for the financial year 2005-06.

Defence Training: India offers training in all the three wings of Defence Services to nominees from selected countries in prestigious Indian defence institutions, including the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi and Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington in Tamil Nadu. The training covers a number of fields such as Security and Strategic Studies, Defence Management, Artillery, Electronics, Mechanical Engineering, Marine and Hydrography, Logistics, Counter insurgency and Jungle Warfare and Management and Qualitative Assurance Services.

The 46th NDC Course commenced in January 2006, with the participation of 21 senior officers from different countries. The 61st DSSC course, which started in May 2005, is being attended by 29 foreign defence officers. In addition to these two courses, another 301 courses (146 Army courses, 85 Navy courses and 70 Air Force courses) have been earmarked for foreign military trainees, during the year 2005-06. These courses are allotted under ITEC-I & ITEC II Programmes, Self Financing Scheme and on a reciprocal basis. The courses covered under ITEC-I are fully paid for by the Government of India which includes the tuition fees, living allowance, accommodation, medical assistance, study tours and return international air travel; under ITEC-II Programme, only the cost of return international air travel is borne by the recipient government and all other expenses are met by the Government of India. An amount of Rs. 12 crores has been earmarked for defence training courses for the year 2005-06. Details of the slots allotted for the year 2005-06 may be seen at **Appendix-XVI**.

Deputation of Experts

Forty experts have been sent on deputation to various countries during the year. The fields covered by these

experts are Information Technology, Dairy Farming, Town Planning, Defence, Fisheries, Agriculture, Legal Affairs, and Telecommunications. Details of experts serving their assignments abroad may be seen at **Appendix-XVII**.

Development Partnership and Projects Cooperation

A new, 'Development Partnership' Division was created in January 2005, with the objective of achieving a significant enhancement in India's delivery of development projects to fellow developing countries. Concomitantly, the Division is to develop in-house expertise in project delivery and related assistance work, so as to gradually evolve as the nodal agency in the Ministry for all project related cooperation work, subsuming all similar projects presently being handled separately by the several territorial divisions.

The new Division has on hand, projects such as the India-Maldives Friendship Faculty for Hospitality and Tourism Studies in Male, development of small and medium enterprises in Zimbabwe, a solar electrification and demonstration project in Mongolia, an Advance Resource Centre in Information & Communication Technology at Hanoi, conservation and restoration of Ta Prohm Temple complex at Siem Reap in Cambodia, an IT Centre and a speciality hospital in Laos, upgradation of vocational training centers in Ulaan Bataar, and Sanaa, an industrial estate in Yemen, and upgradation of the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School in Zambia.

Aid for Disaster Relief

India has responded promptly by providing disaster relief assistance in various parts of the world struck by natural calamities. Assistance was provided during the year to North Korea, Tuvalu, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Guatemala, Haiti, and Tajikistan. India's disaster relief aid comprised medicines, medical equipment, relief supplies, and rice. This was in addition to India's humanitarian aid extended to Pakistan in the wake of the major earthquake in October affecting POK, and the adjoining areas of Pakistan.



12 Investment and Technology Promotion

The Investment and Technology Promotion Division's annual publication "India : Emerging Global Player on the World Economic Stage" provides the reader a comprehensive picture of India's economic growth, sectoral developments, social and legal background and potential business and investment opportunities. The publication will also be available in Japanese, Chinese, Russian, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Arabic languages, besides English.

The ITP Division continues to provide to Indian exporters and policy makers global perspectives on the trends in trade and opportunities for exports and advise on market strategy through the medium of its detailed Investment and Business Brief. The Brief also serves as a handy and useful document for Indian Missions abroad and helps them in their own promotional activities.

The Division's website <www.indiainbusiness.nic.in> which is devoted exclusively for the economic and commercial expects of India's diplomacy, is regularly updated with new features and hyperlinks. The website has emerged as a useful and reliable source of information.

In its external publicity, the Division in collaboration with the XP Division of the Ministry has projected India as an important economic power, through outreach initiatives like special supplements, brochures, CD ROMs and films.

The Division participated actively in the meetings of Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Reserve Bank of India and other policy meetings concerning reforms and liberalisation of the economy and simplifying of investment procedures and expeditious processing of proposals related to opening of Liaison/Branch offices by foreign companies in India.

The Division took active part in Governmental/non-Governmental meetings on energy issues and through its network of Missions facilitated the work of Indian companies.

The Division interacted with Export Promotion Councils, Trade and Industry bodies, such as CII, FICCI, NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM, Department of Commerce

and DIPP for promotion of India's exports and investment initiatives. Periodicals, Journals and other relevant information brought out by these organizations and concerned Government agencies were regularly circulated to Indian Missions abroad to keep them abreast of various developments in knowledge based industries such as IT, Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals.

As part of its efforts to enhance greater air-connectivity between India and different regions of the world, ITP Division actively participated in the bilateral civil aviation talks held with several countries, including the U.K., France, Germany, Belgium, Qatar, Singapore and New Zealand.

As part of its drive to promote FDI inflows into India, the Division was actively associated with the visits of delegations from the Saudi Arabia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority in November 2005.

The Division actively pursued the policy of using Lines of Credit on concessional terms for promotion of India's political, economic and commercial interests. During the period April 2005-November 2005, Line of Credit amounting to US\$ 450 million have been approved for disbursal. The Line of Credit have helped Indian companies to obtain project contracts and orders for supply of goods and services in number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

ITP Division provided financial support for organizing the first India-Africa-ASEAN and GCC Pharma and Health Conference in Hyderabad on 1& 2 December 2005. The Conference was successful in showcasing Indian capabilities in the field of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, herbal and other health care services and in projecting India as a reliable partner for technology transfer, setting up manufacturing bases and joint ventures in countries of these regions.

ITP Division has been actively involved in the preparation leading to India's participation in Hanover Industrial Fair to be held in Hanover, Germany 24-28 April 2006. India is a partner country in this prestigious event.



The Policy Planning and Research Division serves as an interface for Ministry's interaction with institutions specializing in policy research and analysis on themes having a direct bearing on India's foreign policy and international relations; think-tanks, the University Grants Commission, the Area Study Centres of Universities focusing research on specific regions of the world, and the National Security Council Secretariat, with a view to build and strengthen interlinkages and derive invaluable inputs for Ministry's foreign policy planning, formulation and implementation process.

The Division extended financial assistance to various academic institutions/think-tanks located in different parts of the country for holding conferences, seminars, preparation of research papers, exchange of scholars and support for Track-II programmes on issues related to India's external relations and security. During the current financial year the Division sponsored 29 (twenty-nine) seminars and research projects on important issues of International Diplomacy. A list of seminars/conferences/meetings/study projects organized/undertaken by institutions/NGOs partly funded by the Policy Planning & Research Division is given at **Appendix-XII**.

The Policy Planning Division also prepares a Monthly Summary for the Cabinet outlining the major developments that impinge on India's relations with member states of the international community, from a bilateral and multilateral perspective.

The Research Section of the Division compiles, edits and publishes the Annual Report of the Ministry. The Report serves as a compendium of India's interaction with the rest of the world in the political, economic and cultural fields. The Report also reflects the views of the Government on major issues concerning international peace, security and development.

The Research Section also interacts with Survey of India, Department of Science and Technology, in regard to the examination of all aspects of India's external boundaries and scrutiny of map sheets involving international boundaries of India. It is also the responsibility of the Research Section to scrutinize inaccurate maps published in foreign magazines, journals and atlases and take necessary action for getting these maps corrected. Cases of incorrect depiction were taken up with the concerned governments or the publisher through the Indian Missions abroad for necessary corrective measures. The Division is also responsible for scrutinizing the depiction of India's external boundaries in the foreign publications imported into the country, and offers its advice to the Ministries dealing with the matter. It coordinates with the Survey of India and the Ministry of Defence the supply of map-sheets to various Government and semi-Government agencies for use in their official work. The Research Section also deals with requests from scholars for access to the records of the Ministry.



The Protocol Division attended to a large number of incoming and outgoing high-level visits, conferences, credential ceremonies, official entertainment and other multifarious functions. Protocol Division's ability to look after a large number of visits of foreign dignitaries

contributed to India's enhanced engagement with the international community. Streamlining of protocol norms and standards continued to be a focus of attention. The VAT refund framework was implemented for entitled foreign missions, diplomats and consulate officials.

Visits in 2005-06

State Visits by Heads of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

SNo Dignitary	Dates
1. HE Dr Ricardo Lagos, President of Chile	18-22 Jan
2. HM King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, King of Bhutan	24-29 Jan
3. HE Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of Italy	12-16 Feb
4. HE Dr Heinz Fischer, President of Austria	16-22 Feb
5. HE Mr Hugo Chavez Frias, President of Venezuela	4-7 Mar
6. HE Mr Islam A Karimov, President of Uzbekistan	4-6 Apr
7. HE MR Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of China	9-12 Apr
8. HM Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani	13-15 Apr
9. HE Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore	28-30 June
10. HE Mr James Alix Michel, President of Seychelles	31 July-2 August
11. Hon. Laisenia Qarase, PM of Fiji Islands	8-15 Oct
12. Dr The Hon'ble Navinchandra Ramgoolam, PM of Mauritius	23-30 Oct
12. HE Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic	6-12 Nov
13. HE Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia	21-24 Nov
14. HE Mr Mahinda Rajapakse, President of Sri Lanka	27-30 Dec
15. HM King of Saudi Arabia and the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud	24-27 Jan 2006

Official/Working visits by Heads of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

1. The Rt Hon'ble Paul Martin, PM of Canada	17-18 Jan
2. HE Mr Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	23-25 Feb
3. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand	27 Feb-10 Mar
4. HRH Prince Philippe of Belgium	11-19 Mar
5. HE Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives	27 Mar-1 Apr

6. HE Gen. Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan	16-18 Apr
7. HE Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan	28-30 Apr
8. HE Mr Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestine National Authority	19-20 May
9. H.E. Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka	2-4 June
10. HE Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand	3-4 June
11. HM Jigme Singye Wangchuck, King of Bhutan	1-4 Aug
12. HE Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (for 6 th India EU Summit)	6-8 Sept
13. Official The Rt Hon Tony Blair, PM of UK	6-8 Sept
14. Official visit of HE Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Minister-Mentor of Singapore	18-23 Nov
15. Official Visit of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Princess of Thailand	18-23 Nov
16. Working Visit of HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden	20-26 Nov
17. Working visit of Prime Minister of Norway	7-8 Dec

Official visits by Foreign Minister and equivalent level

1. HE Mr Sidi Morro Sanneh, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of The Gambia	11-13 Jan
2. Working visit of HE Mr Laurie Chan, Foreign Minister of Solomon Islands	17-18 Jan
3. HE Mr Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, Foreign Minister of Senegal	21-24 Jan
4. HE Mr Frederick Mitchell, Foreign Minister of Bahamas	26 Jan-1 Feb
5. HE Mr Ramazani Baya, Foreign Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo	1-4 Feb
6. Rt Hon Jack Straw, British Secretary of State	16-18 Feb
7. HE Mr Kamal Kharrazi, Foreign Minister of Iran	20-22 Feb
8. HE Mr Lakshman Kadirgamar, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka	24-26 Feb
9. HE Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Foreign Minister of Indonesia	28 Feb-2 Mar
10. HE Mr Phill Goff, Foreign Minister of New Zealand	4-6 Mar
11. HE Mr Ramesh Nath Pandey, Foreign Minister of Nepal	7-9 Mar
12. HE Mr Michael Frendo, Foreign Minister of Republic of Malta	7-12 Mar
13. HE Ms Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State of USA	15-16 Mar
14. HE Ms Leila Rachid, Foreign Minister of Paraguay	17-23 Mar
15. HE Ambassador Olu Adeniji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria	21-23 Mar
16. HE General Marcel Ranjeva, Foreign Minister of Madagascar	21-25 Mar
17. HE MR Nguyen Dy Nien, Foreign Minister of Vietnam	31 Mar-4 Apr
18. HE MR Kofi Annan, Secretary General, United Nations	25-28 Apr
19. HE Mr Jorge Briz Abularach, Foreign Minister of Guatemala	1-7 May
20. HE Mr Mustafa Osman Ismail, Foreign Minister of Sudan	6-8 June
21. HE Mr Alexander Downer, Foreign Minister of Australia	6-9 June
22. He Mr Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan	3-6 July

23. HE Mr Ban Ki-moon, Foreign Minister of South Korea	31 July-2 Aug
24. HE Dr Ahmed Shaheed, Foreign Minister of Maldives	11-14 Aug 2005
25. HE Mr Donald C Mackinnon, Commonwealth Secretary General	23-25 Aug
26. HE Mr Anura Bandaranaike, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka	25-26 Aug
27. HE Mr Madan Murlidhar Dulloo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Mauritius	28 Aug-4 Sep
28. HE Mr Samuel Lewis Navarro, First Vice President and Foreign Minister of Panama	18-24 Nov
29. HE Mr Mangala Samaraweera, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka	30 Nov-1 Dec

Private/Transit visit of Heads of State/Government/Vice President and equivalent level

1. HE Mr Jules Rattankumar Ajodhia, Vice President of Suriname (Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharat Diwas 2005)	4-12 Jan
2. HE Mr Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius	10-22 Jan
3. HE Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland and Mrs Dorrit Moussaieff	3-9 Feb
4. Prime Minister of Turkey	6 Feb
5. HM Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen of Bhutan	6-21 Feb
6. HE Mr Jean Pierre Bemba, Vice President of Democratic Republic of Congo	2-5 Mar
7. Transit visit of President HE Mr Joseph Kabila, DR Congo (Mumbai)	13 Mar
8. Transit visit of President HE Mr Joseph Kabila, DR Congo (Mumbai)	23 Mar
9. Transit visit of HE Chief Olusegun Obsanjo, President of Nigeria (In Mumbai)	13-14 April and 23-24 Apr
10. Transit visit of HE Mr Rakhmanov, President of Tajikistan (In Chennai)	21 Apr and 24 Apr
11. Transit visit of President of Peru	1 June (Kolkata) and 7 June (Mumbai)
12. HE Mr. Festus Gontebanwe Mogae, President of the Republic of Bostwana	21-16 May (Delhi & Mumbai)
13. Mrs Museveni, First Lady of Uganda	11-15 June (Mumbai & Pune)
14. Transit visit of HE Mr Andranik Markarian, Prime Minister of Republic of Armenia	13 June
15. HH Princess Lalla Salma, First Lady of Morocco (Mumbai)	28-30 June
16. Transit visit of HE Alhaji Yahya AJJ Jammeh, President of The Gambia (Mumbai)	1 July
17. HE Mr Mahinda Rajapakse, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (Mumbai & Indore)	12-15 July
18. Transit visit of President of Gambia	(Kolkata – 8 Oct) & (Chennai – 12 Oct)
19. Mrs Maureen K Mwanawasa, First Lady of Zambia	8-15 Oct
20. HM the King of Morocco (Mumbai)	2-6 December
21. Transit visit of Vice-President of Indonesia (Delhi)	17-22 January 2006
22. HH Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, First Lady of Qatar	6-13 February 2006
23. Eldest Queen of Bhutan	5-15 February 2006

Private/Transit visits of Foreign Minister and equivalent level

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. HE Mr Jan Petersen, Foreign Minister of Norway | Jan |
| 2. HE Mr Laurie Chan, Foreign Minister of Solomon Islands | 17-20 Jan |
| 3. HE Mr Sadiq S Sofaev, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan | 7-8 Feb |
| 4. HE Mr Sidi Morro Sanneh, Foreign Minister of The Gambia | 4-10 Mar |
| 5. Mr Bill Clinton, Special Envoy of UNSG on Tsunami Relief work | 25-27 May |

Visits abroad of President/Vice President/Prime Minister of India

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. PM visit to Mauritius | 30 March - 2 Apr |
| 2. PM visit to Bandung/Jakarta (for Afro-Asian summit) | 22-25 Apr |
| 3. PM visit to Russian Federation | 8-10 May |
| 4. President visit to Russian Federation, Switzerland, Iceland and Ukraine | 22 May - 4 June |
| 5. PM visit to UK (Gleneagles for G 8 summit) | 6-9 July |
| 6. PM Visit to USA | 16-22 July |
| 7. PM visit to Afghanistan | 28-29 August |
| 8. PM visit to Paris and New York (For UNGA) | 11-17 Sept |
| 9. Vice President's visit to Romania, Belarus and Armenia | 1-8 Oct |
| 10. Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka (for SAARC summit) | 11-13 Nov |
| 11. Prime Minister's visit to Moscow | 4-7 Dec |
| 12. Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia for 13th ASEAN SUMMIT | 12-13 Dec |
| 13. Vice President's visit to Dubai (UAE) for funeral of Prime Minister of UAE | 5-6 January 2006 |
| 14. President of India to Singapore, Philippines, South Korea | 31 Jan 2006 - 9 Feb 2006 |

List of Foreign Ambassadors/High Commissioners who presented their Credentials during the Period 01.03.2005 To 19.01.2006

Name	Presentation of Credentials
H.E. Mr. Alberto J. Pinzon M, Ambassador of Panama	26 April 2005
H.E.Mr. Oleg Laptenok Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus	26 April 2005
H.E. Dr. Ashot Kocharian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia	26 April 2005
H.E.Lt. Gen. Kayumba Nyamwasa Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda	26 April 2005
H.E.Mr. Efim Chilari Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova	26 April 2005

H.E.Mr. Arturo Duarte Ortiz Ambassador of Guatemala	26 April 2005
H.E.Mr.Choeung Buntheng Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia	8 August 2005
H.E. Mr. Liaquat Ali Choudhury High Coomissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh	8 August 2005
H.E.Dr. Shabbir Hossen Peerbhai High Commissioner of the Kingdom of Lesotho	8 August 2005
H.E. Mr. Youssouf Omar Doualeh Ambassador of the Republic of Djibouti	8 August 2005
H.E.Mr. Larbi Moukhariq Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco	8 August 2005
H.E.Mr. Shehloho Francis Moloi High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa	8 August 2005
H.E.Mr. William Ehlers Ambassador of Uruguay	8 August 2005
H.E.Mr. Chrysantha Romesh Jayasinghe High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	8 December 2005
H.E. Mr. John Economides Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic of Greece	8 December 2005
H.E.Mr. Andreas Zenonos High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus	8 December 2005
H.E.Mr. Mohamed Ali Daher - Nsour Ambassador of the Hashemite King of Jordan	8 December 2005
H.E.Mr.Asko Numminen Ambassador of the Republic of Finland	8 December 2005
H.E.Mr. Jairam Ronald Gajraj High Commissioner of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana	8 December 2005
H.E. Mr. Mohammed Bin Yousuf Shalwani Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman	8 December 2005
H.E. Mr. Marten N. Kapewasha High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia	8 December 2005
H.E Mr. Hassan Mohamed Rafea Abdulrahman Al-Emadi Ambassador of the State of Qatar	8 December 2005

H.E. Mr. Francis S.K.Bayah 8 December 2005
High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya

H.E. Mr. Ly Bounkham 8 December 2005
Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic

List of Foreign Ambassadors/High Commissioners who left India during the period 01.03.2005 to 20.01.2006 on completion of assignment

Name	Date of Departure
H.E.Mr. Hemayetuddin High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	14 March 2005
H.E.Mr. Cheang Eng Nguan Ambassador of Cambodia	22 March 2005
H.E.Mr. Nabil T. Talhouni Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	30 April 2005
H.E.Maj. Gen. Charles DNP Namoloh. High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia	20 May 2005
H.E.Mr.H.Mutuma Kathurima High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya	11 June 2005
H.E.Mr. Andreas G.Skarparis High Commissioner of Cyprus	14 August 2005
H.E.Mr. Yousef Hassan Al-Sai Ambassador of the State of Qatar	16 August 2005
H.E.Mr. Mangala Moonesinghe High Commissioner of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka	25 August 2005
H.E. Mr. Efstathios Lozos Ambassador of Greece	3 September 2005
H.E.Mr. Charles M.P. Walimbwa High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda	4 September 2005
H.E.Dr. Mohamed Saad Ali. Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen	13 September 2005
H.E.Mr. Glen Lindholm Ambassador of Finland	28 September 2005
H.E.Mr. Khalifa Bin Ali Harthy Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman	28 September 2005
H.E.Prof. Mike Oquaye High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana	22 October 2005

H.E.Mr. Khampasong Douangsithi Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic	28 October 2005
H.E.Mrs. Ana Maria Carreira Republic of Angola	9 November 2005
H.E.Mr. Zeljko Janjetovic Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 November 2005
H.E.Masood Khalili Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	27 November 2005
H.E.Heimo Richter Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany	2 December 2005
H.E Mr. Hasan Göüs, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey	20 January 2006

Mission Established after 1 March 2005

1. Embassy of the Republic of Djibouti	23 June 2005
2. Embassy of Paraguay	October 2005
3. Embassy of the Republic of Iceland	22 January 2006



The CPV Division of the Ministry of External Affairs through the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) and the passport, visa and consular wings of Indian Missions and posts abroad provides passport and consular services to Indian citizens and NRIs and consular and visa services to foreign nationals.

There are at present 30 Passport Offices in India. All Passport Offices have been computerized; and they issue machine-printed and machine-readable passports. Grant orders for issue of passport are generated electronically. All routine passport related work such as generation of cash, index checking, printing of passports, addresses and dispatch is computerized and records are maintained electronically. Passport Applications are also being scanned and stored electronically.

As part of strengthening the public grievances mechanism, all Passport Offices have been instructed to set up Facilitation Counters and Help Desks to assist applicants and also to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. A public grievances mechanism also exists within the CPV Division under close supervision of the Joint Secretary in charge of the Division. As provided by the Right to Information Act, 2005, a Central Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officers have been appointed to provide information to the citizens.

Passport Services

Decentralisation through Post Offices and District Offices

As part of a Decentralisation Scheme, District Passport Cells (DPCs) have been opened at district levels 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 462 DPCs in 28 States/UTs in India. The opening of

DPCs has resulted in decongestion in Passport Offices to a large extent. In addition to expediting the police verification process, DPCs also provide relief to the applicants who do not have to travel long distances to approach Passport Offices. The passport applications are also received through the network of Speed Post Centres. Currently there are 218 Speed Post Centres accepting passport applications. There is a proposal under active consideration to open additional Speed Post Centres in the future.

Ongoing Innovations

The 'Tatkaal' Scheme for out-of-turn issue of passports has enabled the system to speedily respond to demand for issuance of passports on urgent basis. During the year 2005 a total of 244516 passports were issued under the Tatkaal Scheme resulting in an additional revenue of Rs. 39.85 crore. Tele-enquiry system is available in 22 Passport Offices and touch screen enquiry kiosk has been introduced in PO Bangalore on a pilot basis.

Review of Passport Issuance System

An Inter-Ministerial Committee on 'Review of the Passport Issuance System', which was set up in the Cabinet Secretariat has made several recommendations to simplify the passport issuance system. A large number of recommendations have already been implemented and the remaining recommendations are being processed for implementation, in consultation with the concerned agencies. As a result, the passports are now issued quickly. The time period for Tatkaal for fresh applications has been reduced to a maximum of 20 days instead of the earlier 35 days. In all re-issue cases, the same has been brought down from 1-10 days to 1-5 days. A full 10 year validity passport is now issued in all cases of additional booklet, lost passport, damaged passport and in case of change in appearance, name, date of birth, place of birth and signatures.

Infrastructure

The construction of buildings to house the Passport Offices at Bangalore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar has been taken up. At present, Passport Office buildings at eight places viz Mumbai, Chandigarh, Cochin, Kozhikode, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Patna and Panaji are owned by MEA. Office premises in six Passport Offices are owned by Central Government/State Government and are rented in 16 Passport Offices. The process for purchase of land for four Passport Offices i.e. Tiruchirapalli, Guwahati, Jalandhar and Mumbai is also underway. Due to an incident of fire caused by militants in the month of January 2005, the RPO, Srinagar was completely gutted. It was restored to full function in the month of May 2005 in a rented building.

Computerisation

At present, all 30 Passport Offices have been computerised. E-mail facility is available at all computerised Passport Offices. Web-pages have also been created for all Passport Offices. A proposal for a comprehensive computerised network and connectivity with interlinking of all Passport Offices is being looked in to.

Workload

During the period Jan-Dec 2005, a total number of 3570730 passports were issued and 464122 miscellaneous services were rendered. Passport-Office wise break-up of the figures for number of passport applications received/passports issued/misc services rendered and revenue and expenditure is at **Appendix-IV**. A pendency drive at Delhi RPO during February and March 2005 was undertaken to clear the pendency of about 43000 files. A similar drive was also undertaken at Jaipur and Ghaziabad during the year. The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance conducted norms study of Passport Offices and submitted their report in the first week of December 2005. Proposal for augmentation of staff in various grades in the Passport Offices has been sent to Finance Ministry. This would take care of the increasing workload in the passport issuance system.

Scanning of Passport Files

Lack of sufficient space for storage of old applications and difficulties in speedy retrieval for reference or for court

related matters has been a long standing problem. To overcome this problem, it was decided to scan old applications and to store the information in CDs. CNE (Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure) approval was obtained. Scanning of old passport application has been completed in all Passport Offices.

Passport Officers Conference

A Passport Officers Conference was held at Kolkata on 1 September, 2005. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, who inaugurated the Conference, directed to initiate pendency clearance drive in all Passport Offices during 15-30 September 2005. Accordingly, efforts were made to clear the pendency. Minister of State for External Affairs also desired that the internal vigilance in the CPV Division should be strengthened. Necessary steps were taken to strengthen the vigilance system in the Central Passport Organisation.

Consular Services

All Missions and Posts abroad render consular services to Indian citizens and NRIs abroad. In cases of deaths of Indians abroad, prompt assistance was provided by our Missions and Posts for completing the formalities for early despatch of the mortal remains, liaison with the local and Indian authorities and keeping the relatives of the deceased informed. The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance conducted study, to review the norms for Consular work, which were 27 years old, at Dubai, Dhaka, London, Kuala Lumpur and Kuwait and submitted their report in October 2005. All the Missions and Posts have been requested to send their requirement of staff on the basis of the revised norms evolved. A consolidated proposal for augmentation of staff containing both India based and Local posts has been forwarded in December 2005, to Finance Ministry for approval.

In the case of number of Indians arrested abroad and number of deaths of Indians abroad, the data is incomplete and awaited. The amount of compensation paid to the dependents in cash through Indian Missions at the following countries during the period of report is indicated below:

Kuwait	Rs. 4,62,72,046
Lebanon	US \$ 12,500

Malaysia	US \$ 20,495.54
Oman	Rs. 4,42,93,995
Saudi Arabia	Rs. 1,85, 63, 287
United Arab Emirates	Rs. 1,47, 65, 504

Visa Services

Over the years, the procedure for grant of visa by our Missions and Posts has been simplified. Most Missions and Posts grant visas either across the counter on the same day or within 48 hours.

A project for computerisation of the Visa & Passport Wings of the Missions and Posts in the Gulf, West Europe and North America is under implementation. In the first phase, those Missions and Posts would be computerised where the volume of services rendered is high. Computerisation of Consular activities has been completed in Dubai, Islamabad and New York during the year. Several more Missions are being computerised.

The Official and Diplomatic Passports issued/renewed at the H.Qrs Office of the CPV Division, for the year 2005

1. Number of Diplomatic Passports issued	1552
2. Number of Official Passports issued	17,000
3. Number of Diplomatic Passports renewed	2455
4. Number of Official Passports renewed	4586

In addition to other miscellaneous services rendered, two agreements were signed during the year for exemption of requirement of visa on Diplomatic & Official Passports for short term with Venezuela and Republic of Korea (South Korea).

Consular Attestation

During the year 2005, 531944 documents were accorded consular attestation in CPV Division, of which 195255 were commercial documents. This service is rendered on the same day without any charges and is prompt and efficient.

Consular Agreements – Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements

In order to provide a legal and institutional framework to combat organised crime, international terrorism and drug

trafficking, and to respond to the growing international dimensions of financial and other crime, bilateral agreements are being negotiated with several countries to provide legal underpinning to this international effort. These consular agreements include Treaties on Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters.

During the visit of the Vice-President to Belarus in October 2005, the agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was signed and during the visit of the President of Mauritius to India in October 2005, the two agreements- Treaties on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters were signed. The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties in Criminal Matters came into force with Bahrain, France, South Korea, Singapore and the United States of America.

During the year, Indian official delegation visited Iran to negotiate Treaties on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. An official delegation from Belarus visited India to negotiate the extradition treaty.

Extradition cases and Legal Assistance

The Ministry actively pursues requests for extradition and legal assistance from foreign Governments both for criminal and civil/commercial offences. The requests for extradition emanate from India's obligations under the Extradition Treaties or Extradition Arrangements entered into with various countries. During the year 2005, 9 Extradition requests from various investigation agencies were forwarded to the Foreign Governments. During the same period, India received 10 extradition requests from foreign governments. During the year, 3 persons were extradited by the Government of India and 7 persons were extradited to India from foreign countries. In the year 2005, the Government of India received 78 requests for legal assistance from foreign governments and 27 Indian requests for legal assistance in criminal matters were forwarded to the foreign governments. The Ministry also received 1500 warrant of arrest/summons/notices and other judicial processes from the Judicial Authorities/ State Governments in India for service/execution on the persons residing abroad.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh assumed additional charge of the Ministry of External Affairs on 21 November 2005 following the relinquishment of charge by Shri K. Natwar Singh. In the MEA, the Prime Minister is assisted by two Ministers of State, Shri E. Ahamed and Shri Anand Sharma. Shri Anand Sharma assumed the Office of Minister of State on 30 January 2006. Rao Inderjit Singh, who served as Minister of State till 30 January 2006, relinquished charge on appointment as Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Effective pursuance of India's foreign policy objectives necessitates increase in India's diplomatic presence abroad. Equally important is to ensure that the Headquarters of the Ministry is adequately manned at all levels. The challenge for the Administration Division was to optimize the available resources to ensure requisite deployment levels in the face of dwindling number of support staff. Towards this objective, following detailed studies, deployment of personnel was rationalized taking into account possible synergies in overlapping functions and total available resources. In a special initiative, with the approval of Ministry of Finance, some secretarial assistance work was outsourced temporarily pending recruitment of regular staff against vacant posts.

In order to ensure adequate number of qualified personnel and to keep the morale of personnel high, all promotion panels were brought out well in time. The Ministry vigorously implemented the Government's Special Recruitment Drive to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for SCs / STs. Though such vacancies number only a few, Ministry made efforts to fill them up. The Ministry implemented the relevant guidelines on reservation of posts for persons with disabilities

The Joint Consultative Mechanism with the Staff Side was made more active with regular interactions. A Staff

Grievance Officer was specifically designated to ensure timely response.

As per its mandate, inspection of Missions/Posts in Washington, Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Istanbul, Wellington, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Canberra and Sydney were carried out by the Directorate General of Inspections.

The strength of the Ministry is 3549, excluding Group 'D' posts, as detailed in the table at **Appendix-I**, who are deployed in India and in 164 Missions/Posts abroad. This include Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service B (IFS B), Interpreters' and Legal & Treaties (L&T) Cadres. The process of re-opening the Consulate General of India, Karachi was initiated.

Recruitment made to various Groups in the Ministry from 1 April - 30 November, 2005 through Direct Recruitment (DR), Departmental Promotions (DP) and Limited Department Examinations (LDE) including against reserved vacancies, are given in the table at **Appendix – II**.

The table at **Appendix – III** gives details of the language proficiency of officers of the Ministry.

Ministry continued its efforts aimed at maximizing efficiency through simplification of rules and regulations and adoption of new technology. Disbursement of salaries to officers was automated through use of the Electronic Clearing System mechanism. Greater utilization of Personnel Information System (PIS) and name-based/ designation-based e-mail IDs were undertaken.

Gender Issue

The Ministry is committed to ensuring gender equality among its personnel. Equal opportunities are provided to women officers to take up challenging positions and assignments, and currently 22 women officers are posted

abroad as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Permanent Representatives/Consuls General. There are 6 women officers at Secretary level at present in addition to 7 at Additional Secretary level, 29 at Joint Secretary level and 11 at Director level. Women officers have also held important positions representing India in prominent international organizations such as United Nations and its related organizations like UNESCO.

The present distribution of women officers among the various cadres in the Ministry of External Affairs is given at **Appendix XVIII**.

There is a Women's Cell in the Ministry to address complaints of sexual harassment of women officers at the work place and to coordinate and interact with institutions/bodies such as National Commission for Women. It is headed by a Joint Secretary level officer.

Welfare

Welfare Division looks after general welfare of employees of Ministry of External Affairs and management of canteen services in the Ministry. During the year 2005-2006, seven employees of the Ministry died in active service. The Welfare Division rendered the necessary assistance towards hospitalization, funeral and ex-gratia payment to the entitled dependents from the Staff Benefit fund. On this Division's recommendation External Affairs Spouses Association (EASA) presented cheques amounting to Rs. 20,000 each to the dependents of deceased employees.

The Welfare Division completed the formalities for the admission of five students for MBBS, seventeen for engineering and three for Diploma course, under a scheme to facilitate the university education in India of children of Ministry's employees serving abroad. 60 seats in Kendriya Vidyalaya were utilized by the children of the officers/staff of the Ministry of External Affairs. During the year, other welfare measures undertaken by the Division were arrangements for collection of funds for Flag Days for Communal Harmony, Red Cross, Armed Forces and Ministry of External Affairs Staff Benefit Fund.

Two Dependents were employed in Ministry of External Affairs against regular LDC posts on compassionate grounds and one on daily wages. A policy initiative has been taken for giving priority to dependents of deceased

employees of the Ministry of External Affairs in appointment on daily wages in all offices of Ministry of External Affairs. A secure transport service has been started for families returning from abroad. In the area of stress management 'Art of Living' course was conducted at Headquarters and a paper with questionnaire on Stress Management in Missions abroad has been circulated for benefit of Ministry of External Affairs employees working abroad. The Division has been active in promoting team spirit among Ministry's employees.

Establishment

The charge of the Establishment Division includes fixation of allowances abroad; purchase and maintenance of furniture and equipment; leasing and maintenance of property both in India and abroad; purchase and maintenance of official cars abroad; supply of Objects d'Art items, etc.

With regard to the fixation of allowances abroad, the 8th annual review of the Indexation scheme was carried out by a joint team from the Ministries of External Affairs and Finance from 16-25 October 2005. The team visited New York, Toronto and Brussels, where besides carrying out market surveys, extensive discussions were held with senior officials dealing with allowances at the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) in New York, and the European Commission (EC) in Brussels. The team examined various aspects of the indexation system vis-à-vis systems followed by the ICSC and the EC for making the indexation scheme more effective and responsive to the changing global environment. One of the important suggestions was to examine the possibility of reviewing the basket of goods and services for adapting it to the present day consumption pattern. A special committee headed by Additional Secretary (Admn.) has already been set up for this purpose. The Ministry has also prepared a comprehensive proposal for the rationalization of the system of representational grant taking into account the growing global profile of India as well as the changing cost of living. Once approved, the new system would be more rational and equitable, besides having an in-built system of self-correction based on partial indexation of the scheme. The system of special grants to our Heads of Mission/Post for dealing with special occasions, including

VIP and VVIP visits has also been further streamlined. Another important step is the government's decision to grant hardship allowance to India-based officers working in our Missions/Posts in Afghanistan and Iraq to alleviate the impact of extreme hardship.

Special efforts were made for better maintenance of MEA premises in South Block and Akbar Bhavan. Besides upgrading common facilities, the Ministry is working on a programme to introduce modular sitting arrangement in the various divisions/sections for more efficient space utilization. Steps are also being taken for upgrading and improving the existing fire fighting infrastructure in South Block and Akbar Bhavan.

External Affairs Hostel at K.G. Marg was given a facelift. The entire property was painted and the reception area was upgraded with better flooring and interiors. The old lifts at the New Hostel, Gole Market, are also in the process of being replaced. Steps are being taken for improving the occupancy of the MEA Housing Complex in Dwarka by effectively addressing the problems of security, communications and water supply. Five units have been partially furnished to be converted into transit houses to take care of the initial accommodation requirement of officers returning from abroad.

The first phase of the renovation of C-I Hutments on Dalhousie Road for the Archives & Records Management Division has been completed. Efforts are also under way for improving the entrance at Gate No. 4 and 8 of South Block. The Ministry is also working on a proposal for creating a special Map-cum-Situation room with the state-of-the-art technology.

The committee for selection of art objects for our Missions/Posts abroad met on as many as four occasions during 2005, besides several visits to reputed art galleries/emporia for identifying suitable art objects. The Committee also undertook visits to Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai for establishing direct contacts with regional producers/suppliers of art work. The requirements of a majority of the Missions/Posts were met.

The preparatory work was by and large completed on the project for renovation of Jinnah House, Mumbai, the site for the SAARC Sub-Regional Cultural Centre. Work on the project is expected to start soon.

The Ministry has initiated a proposal for updating the Delegation of Financial Powers of Heads of Mission/Post abroad for bringing them in line with the present situation. Separately, a number of individual proposals have also been initiated for streamlining the procedures, especially with regard to plinth area norms for leasing of property; provision of furniture and equipment at the residences of Heads of Mission/Post; provision of Indian and international TV channels for Head of Missions/Posts abroad; and simplification of procedure for acquisition of official cars.

Projects Division

Projects Division is responsible for purchase of built-up properties and construction of properties in India and abroad for the use of Ministry of External Affairs. Proposals relating to repairs/renovation of Government owned properties in stations abroad are also handled by the Projects Division. As of now, Government owns 77 Chancery buildings, 83 HOM/HOP residences and 610 officers/staff residences abroad. Currently, 37 construction projects including three major renovation/ re-development projects in Geneva, Singapore and Karachi are at different stages of execution.

Construction is in progress on the Foreign Service Institute Complex in New Delhi, the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation's (AALCO) Complex in New Delhi, the ICCR Regional Office in Kolkata and for RPO's buildings at Jaipur, Bangalore and Lucknow. As for construction/re-development projects abroad, work has already been awarded for re-development of PR's residence at Geneva and in three Government owned properties at Karachi. In the FY 2005-2006, approval of Cabinet has been obtained for construction of Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan in New Delhi as headquarters of Ministry of External Affairs and for construction of Chancery and staff residences for the Embassy of India, Kathmandu. Committee of Non-plan expenditure has approved the purchase of a plot of land for construction of Regional Passport Office and residences in Mumbai and for construction of Indian Embassy Complex in Kabul.

Local body's approval is being sought for construction of Chancery in Abuja, for re-development project in Singapore, for Indian Embassy Complex in Beijing, Indian

Embassy Complex in Kathmandu, and Indian Embassy Complex in Warsaw. Construction projects such as the residential complex in Islamabad, Embassy Complex in Brasilia, apartments in London and Embassy Complex in Tashkent are in advance stages of processing and the financial approval of competent authorities is being sought. For the re-development of Government owned properties in Tokyo and for construction of Chancery and residential units in Dhaka, respective consultants have been appointed with the approval of Design Selection Committee of the Ministry. Ministry is in the process of inviting concept designs from shortlisted consultants for holding a design competition for construction of Indian Embassy Complex in Bahrain, Chancery complex in Port Louis, Indian Cultural Centre in Paramaribo and Embassy Residence and Indian Cultural Centre in Bangkok. After receipt of concept designs, consultants would be selected for each of these projects by Ministry's Design Selection Committee.

Based on progress of pre-construction activities, it is expected that a number of projects may reach ground breaking stage in the next financial year. Prominent among these construction projects are Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, Chanakyapuri residential quarters, Indian Embassy Complex in Kathmandu/Muscat/Brasilia/Abuja/Warsaw/Beijing/Islamabad/Kabul/ Tashkent and Bangkok. In addition, re-development project in Singapore and construction of apartments in London may also reach construction stage during 2006-07. AALCO construction project is in final stages of completion and separately partial completion of Foreign Service Institution Complex is being attempted in the current Financial year.

The Ministry has adopted a two pronged approach for construction and acquisition of properties abroad and in

India with a view to bring down Ministry's rental liability. Mindful of higher rentals being paid at some stations abroad and considering favorable conditions for purchase of properties in certain stations, a list of priority stations has been worked out for acquisition of properties in next few years. In the current financial year, Embassy Residence-cum-Chancery in Ulaanbataar has been purchased and financial approval has been obtained for purchase of additional Chancery building in Paris and for a plot for Chancery construction in Georgetown. Acquisition proposals for purchase of properties for Embassy Residences in Tehran, Caracas and Buenos Aires are under active consideration. Ministry is also examining proposals for acquisition of plot of land at Nairobi and Addis Ababa.

The allocation of Rs. 66.41 crore in B.E. 2005-2006 under Capital Outlay stands fully utilized and an additional of Rs. 42 crores has been granted in the 2nd Batch for Supplementary Demands for Grants. Based on realistic assessment of progress in various construction projects and acquisition proposals, a substantial hike in budgetary allocation in Capital Outlay has been sought in Financial Year 2006-2007.

E-Governance & Information Technology

Computerisation of Passport & Visa Wings of High Commission of India, Islamabad, Consulate General of India, New York and Consulate General of Dubai was completed this year. Work at Embassies at Riyadh, Muscat and Abu Dhabi is at an advanced stage of implementation. Computerisation of 20 other Indian Embassies and Consulates providing large volumes of Passport and Visa services is under various stages of implementation. During the year, software support to visa sections of 100 Indian Embassies and Consulates was extended.



The Coordination Division consists of three wings: Parliament Section, Coordination Section and Students Cell.

Parliament Section

Coordination Division is 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 the Houses of Parliament. The Coordination Division also organizes the meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs, and coordinate and look after work relating to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and other Parliamentary Committees with regard to matters handled by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Coordination Section

Coordination Section processes requests for grant of no objection from the political angle to the visits of Governors, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, MPs, MLAs, members of the judiciary, government officials etc. Political clearance is normally accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration several factors. These include guidelines laid down by the Government of India for this purpose; the political and functional justification for the visit; the background and antecedents of the organizers; and the recommendation from our Mission/Post concerned. The recommendations of this Ministry are an essential input before a government official is permitted to proceed abroad.

During the year, Coordination Section also processed a large number of approvals for participation of various Indian sportsmen and sports teams in the international events abroad and foreign sports teams in India.

During the year, Anti-Terrorism Day (21st May), Sadbhavana Diwas (20th August) and Quami Ekta Week/ Diwas (18-25 November) were observed with due solemnity. Pledges were administered, both at Headquarters and in our Missions abroad.

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, were also processed during the year in an expeditious manner. Similarly, diplomatic clearances for non-scheduled flights, visits by foreign naval ships and vessels were processed.

Students Cell

Students Cell, a part of the Coordination Division, deals with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign self-financing students against reserved seats in the MBBS/ BDS, Engineering Degree, B. Pharmacy and Engineering Diploma courses in the Medical and Engineering institutions.

It also deals with political clearance in respect of foreign students seeking admission to the Graduate and Post-Graduate courses in Engineering, Medicine, Management and other technical and professional courses including Elective training in various medical institutions and research courses.

It liaises with the various government Ministries/ Departments and institutions in connection with the issue of political clearance and admission of self-financing foreign students to various technical and professional courses.

During the academic year 2005-06 Education Cell

received and processed 164 and 78 applications for admission to the MBBS/BDS and B.E./B. Pharmacy courses respectively. In addition, during the year, 1150 foreign students were granted no objection from the political angle to study in the above courses.

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The Right to Information Act 2005 required the setting up of a practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority in the country. Amongst other provisions of this Act, every public authority shall maintain all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and the form which facilitates the right to information under this Act and ensure that all records that are appropriate to be computerized are, within a reasonable time and subject to availability of resources, computerized and connected through a network all over the country on different systems so that access to such records is facilitated. In order to give effect to this Act in the Ministry of External Affairs, a new Division called Right to Information Division (RTI) was created with effect from October 2005.

The RTI Division is headed by a Joint Secretary level officer, who is also the Central Public Information Officer.

As per the mandate of the Act, a comprehensive list of information has been put online under the title “Basic Information Related to MEA”. The list covers all aspects of the Ministry, its structure, allocated business, functions, decision making process, cadre management, and details of subsidy programmes with list of beneficiaries. Particulars of facilities available to the citizens for information including names and address of public information officers (as per article 4(1)b)(xvi) of RTI Act 2005) as well as that of the Chief Appellate authority (under Sec 19(1) of RTI Act 2005) for the Ministry, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Indian Council of World Affairs and Central Passport Offices can be accessed on the website of the Ministry. viz. www.mea.gov.in & www.mealib.nic.in.



The External Publicity Division continued to advance India's foreign policy objectives through close interaction with foreign as well as the Indian media and by producing and disseminating up-to-date publicity material to the Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

The Division was actively involved in the media aspects of various foreign policy issues that received priority by the Ministry during the year. These included projection of India's case for the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as well as other aspects of UN reforms, bilateral relations with India's neighbours as well as with major countries in the world. In particular, the Division handled publicity related aspects of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Afghanistan, Bangladesh (SAARC Summit), France, Indonesia (Asian-African Conference), Malaysia (East Asia Summit and 4th India-ASEAN Summit), Russia, UK (G-8 Summit) and US (bilateral and UN General Assembly). The publicity and media related work of important incoming visits such as those of Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud and other world leaders were attended to by the Division.

The XP Division also continued to project India's viewpoint on major global themes of concern to India, such as terrorism, international peace and security, disarmament, democracy, development, and economic and environmental issues. India's contribution to South-South Cooperation, assistance to Afghanistan as well as to African countries were projected in perspective through briefings and publications.

Official Spokesperson's Office: The Official Spokesperson's office maintained close liaison with foreign

and Indian media throughout the year on a daily basis. Media was regularly briefed on major foreign policy related developments, incoming and outgoing high-level visits as well as on day-to-day events involving bilateral relations with other countries. Press Releases and statements and briefing points were regularly issued and circulated by email to about 200 journalists as well as simultaneously placed on Ministry's website. The Official Spokesperson also organised meetings outside Delhi to augment the media outreach activity. As a result, the foreign press based in Mumbai is in regular touch with Spokesperson's office.

Official Spokesperson's office also arranged interviews with Indian and international newspapers as well as TV organisations for Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Ministers of State for External Affairs. Several background briefings by Foreign Secretary were organised with Indian and foreign media.

Website: The Ministry's website <http://meaindia.nic.in> continued to be updated by the Division. The speeches/statements on foreign policy by Prime Minister, Minister(s) and Foreign Secretary, press releases, transcripts of briefings by Official Spokesperson and other senior officials, interviews, op-eds, Parliament Question-Answers, briefs on India's relations with various countries and other relevant documents were uplinked on the official website on almost real-time basis. The Ministry's monthly magazine "India Perspectives" and all other publications and audio-visual material produced and procured by the Division were also placed on the website. Prime Minister's visits and important developments formed separate sub-sections on the website.

Separate web pages for new/special subjects were created including, Right to Information Act, India-US High Technology Cooperation Group, Ministry's Accounts, Haj related matters, and Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Retrieval

of recently updated material on the website was made easier through creation of a separate link "What's New". The weekly compilation of important foreign policy developments in the form of electronic Newswire, brought out by the Division, continued to target India watchers across the globe. The Division also designed the website www.gdi.nic.in for Global Democracy Initiative.

Hyperlinks to the websites of Indian Missions/Posts abroad, various Ministries and prestigious Indian and international organizations were provided for easy access to India-related information.

Press Facilitation: The press facilitation work in terms of extending logistical and liaison support to foreign media delegations accompanying Heads of State/Government (HOS/G) visiting India and Indian media delegations accompanying President, Prime Minister and Vice-President on their visits abroad forms an important part of the work of the Division. During the year, the Division assisted foreign media delegations and Indian media in connection with HOS/G visits from Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Fiji, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, The Netherlands, UK, Uzbekistan and Venezuela through issue of media advisories, press conferences, facilitating access to ceremonial areas, meetings and providing assistance for transport and accommodation. Similar support was also extended for several visits at the level of Foreign Minister/Ministers.

All logistical arrangements, including setting up and operation of media centers fully equipped with facilities for filing of stories by journalists, media briefings and other arrangements, were made enabling Indian media delegations accompanying the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister during their visits abroad to provide timely coverage. These included President's visits to Iceland, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania and Ukraine; Vice-President's visit to Armenia, Belarus and Romania; and Prime Minister's visits to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Russia, UK and US. Similar support was also provided to the media covering the visits of External

Affairs Minister to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia and Sri Lanka. Indian journalists traveling abroad on specific assignments were also extended necessary assistance.

Visit of more than 60 foreign media personnel to Srinagar and Kaman Post (on the LOC) for the inauguration of Srinagar – Muzaffarabad bus service in April 2005 was facilitated by the Division. The Division, in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, also organized the visits of five batches of ten Indian journalists each to ASEAN countries under the India-ASEAN Media Exchange Programme.

Over 300 strong foreign media organizations based in India were provided necessary facilitation to enable them to function smoothly through provision of relevant information on various issues of interest as well as assistance in matters of credentials documents, visas, and residence permits. Visa extensions and/or accreditation facilities were extended to about 340 foreign journalists.

Familiarization Visits: The familiarization visits of foreign journalists to India are one of the key elements of the Division's efforts to bring about a more accurate and contemporary depiction of India in the foreign media as the journalists obtain a unique, first-hand impression of developments in India's foreign policy, economy, culture, industry, and Science & Technology. The Division, in association with and recommendation of the Indian Missions abroad, continued to organize such visits to important institutions and centres of excellence in India. Meetings for visiting journalists were also organized with Ministers, senior officials, intellectuals, academicians, and business representatives. 60 journalists were hosted on such visits during February 2005-January 2006. These included senior journalists and editors from Austria, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey and US.

A group of eight Pakistani journalists, and an Editor were invited for a seven-day visit.

Audio-Visual Publicity: The Division commissions/acquires documentaries aimed at positive projection of



Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh with H.R.H. Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, the Crown Prince of Bhutan inaugurating a Photo Exhibition on India-Bhutan Friendship in New Delhi in December 2005.



Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Anand Sharma with the Foreign Minister of Brazil Mr. Celso Amorim in Brasilia on 3 February 2006.

India's image abroad and sends them to Indian Missions for telecast on foreign TV channels. The procurement and supply of feature films for participation in film festivals and Indian film weeks abroad, organizing cultural publicity and exhibitions, are other audio-visual publicity activities undertaken by the Division.

"Aneka Rasa" - a lyrical film on cultural relations of India-Indonesia; "Integral India" - a series of short films on Jammu & Kashmir (24 capsules); "Patient Stone" - a stand alone film on pan-Indian identity of Jammu & Kashmir; "Green Signals" - on the environment in India; "Revisiting India by Rail"; "Down the Ages"- on India-China Relations; "Winning a Future"; "Peacekeepers" - on India's role in UN Peacekeeping; and "Enduring Friendship" - on India-Nepal Economic Cooperation were completed during April 2005-January 2006. Some of the documentaries acquired/commissioned by the Ministry were telecast on foreign TV channels in Algiers, Bishkek, Cairo, Colombo, Dubai, Georgetown, Ho Chi Minh City, Kabul, Lagos, St. Petersburg, Windhoek, and Zanzibar.

More than 300 proposals for shooting documentaries in India on various themes and subjects by foreign production houses and international TV channels were processed and approved during April-January 2005.

The Division extended all support to the Indian Missions in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Accra (Ghana), Ankara (Turkey), Baku (Azerbaijan), Bogotá (Columbia), Brussels (Belgium), Budapest (Hungary), Harare (Zimbabwe), Kathmandu (Nepal), Lima (Peru), Madrid (Spain), Manila (Philippines), Nairobi (Kenya), Paris (France), Port Louis (Mauritius), Prague (Czech Republic), Rabat (Morocco), Rome (Italy), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Seoul (South Korea), Tel Aviv (Israel), Vienna (Austria), Warsaw (Poland) and Yangon (Myanmar) for organization of Indian Feature Film Festivals/Film Weeks.

7th Osian's Cinefan film festival held in New Delhi from 15-24 July 2005 was supported by the Division. The Division also facilitated dispatch of Indian feature films for KARA film festival held in Karachi from 1-11 December 2005.

The Missions were supplied audio-visual material in the

form of Betacam cassettes, CD-ROMs, audio and video CDs, DVDs and cassettes for library and presentation purposes. Missions' requests to the Ministry for sanction of audio-visual equipment, TVs, VCRs, dish antennas, were also processed by the Division.

The Division procured several photo exhibitions and sent to the Missions. These included: "Life and Times of Mahatma Gandhi" - sent to Indian Missions in Beijing, Dhaka, Havana, Tokyo, Vancouver and Washington; "The Path of Compassion" on Buddhist sites and art and heritage in India - sent to Indian Missions in Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Vientiane; "Velha Goa" about churches of Old Goa - sent to Indian Missions in Dhaka, Havana and Lisbon; and on "Jammu & Kashmir" - sent to Indian missions in Dhaka, Havana and Jeddah.

A photo exhibition titled "India - Bhutan: Along the Friendship Trail" was organised in the first week of December in Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Minister of State for External Affairs and the Crown Prince of Bhutan. A coffee-table book on the same subject was also released on the occasion followed by screening of a film on India-Bhutan relations - "A Bridge so Near".

India Perspectives, the monthly magazine of the Ministry, continued to be published in ten different languages for distribution through Indian Missions and Posts abroad. Besides highlighting India's rich cultural and historical heritage, the magazine also covers a whole range of subjects projecting India's achievements in diverse fields including IT, and S&T. The current as well as previous issues of the magazine are also available in the electronic format to its readers through the Ministry's website.

The following were brought out during the year by the Division: Rebuilding Afghanistan: India at Work (along with CDs; India-Moods and Memories; India Quotient; India and Africa - Partners in Peace and Progress; India - Partner for Development in South; Bandung (on 50th anniversary of Bandung Conference); Report of India - China Joint Study Group on Comprehensive Trade and Economic Cooperation; India - A Dynamic Democracy (Reprint and German version); A Foreign Policy for India (Reprint); Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2005

The publications were sent to Indian Missions and foreign Missions in India and also used during various VVIP visits from India. Besides, the Indian Missions abroad were also supplied books, Indian publications and other publicity material for use in their libraries and for presentation purposes.

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The Foreign Service Institute continued its diplomacy and foreign policy programmes for foreign diplomats apart from training IFS Probationers and other Ministry of External Affairs officials. Three professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) and an Advanced Course on Asia for Foreign Diplomats (ACAFD), the 1st Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Programme for Foreign Diplomats (DFPPFD) and Special Courses for Vietnamese and Sudanese diplomats, were conducted by the Institute during the year. A talk was organized on India's Foreign Policy for members of the Foreign Service Basic Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. Memoranda of Understanding for Cooperation with Foreign Service Institutes of Norway, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Indonesia were signed during the year. The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) also maintained institutional linkages with its counterparts in other countries.

Training for IFS Probationers: One of the primary activities of the Institute is the training of IFS Probationers. The objective of the training programme for IFS Probationers is to prepare the Probationers to handle the wide range of tasks that they would be required to perform during their professional careers, in Missions and Posts abroad as well as in India. The IFS Probationers of the 2004 Batch were accordingly put through a comprehensive training programme, which included modules on international relations and foreign policy, defence and security, economic diplomacy, international law, parliamentary affairs, cultural diplomacy, protocol and consular matters. The programme also included modules on practical skills such as administration and accounts, communication skills, representational skills and relations with the media. The training modules were implemented through lectures, interactive seminars as well as attachments to various leading institutions. In order to provide the participants with a deeper understanding of

the subjects, to enhance their knowledge of India's immediate neighbourhood and to familiarize them with the work of Indian Missions abroad, the training programmes also included two study visits to Bhutan and Afghanistan. The 2004 batch of IFS Probationers completed their training with the Institute in January 2006 and were reverted to the Ministry for training in various Divisions before posting abroad.

After completion of the Foundation Course at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, the 2005 Batch of the IFS Probationers commenced their one-year comprehensive training programme with the Foreign Service Institute on 5 December 2005.

Promotion of links with other training institutes: The Institute maintains regular contacts with other training institutions such as the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, the National Academy of Direct Taxes, The National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics, the Institute of Secretarial Training and Management and the Bureau of Police Training and Research. The Institute is making efforts to develop ties with other training institutes with a view to develop the relationship between the Indian Foreign Service and other Services, an area which has been assigned high priority by the Ministry of External Affairs. With this objective, the Institute has carried out training programmes on Indian Foreign Policy for IAS and IRS officers as well as a course on "Diplomacy and Indian Foreign Policy" for journalists. An identical course is proposed to be arranged in 2006. On the same lines, a one-week intensive programme was conducted on "Main Currents in India's Foreign Policy" for senior IPS officers from 5-10 December 2005. The course was conducted at the request of The Bureau of Police Research and Development. The Bureau has approached the Institute to arrange a similar course in 2006-07.

Training of staff/officials of the Ministry: FSI regularly conducts the “Basic Professional Course” for the staff of Ministry of External Affairs. The training pertains to enhancing skills of staff members in computers and to update them on various aspects of administration, accounts, consular related work, drafting, office procedure and forms of communication. FSI, with the assistance of Information and E-governance Division of Ministry, started training staff of the Ministry on specially designed software packages, which can be used in accounts and in consular work. This training has now become an integral part of the Basic Professional Course. From April, 2005 to March 2006, six Basic Professional Courses have been organized by the Foreign Service Institute.

FSI was also tasked with conducting a special training programme on “Representational Skills and Etiquette” for prospective Heads of Mission/Heads of Post. The first such workshop was organized from 17-19 June 2005.

Special Event: A special event was organized at the Foreign Service Institute on 3 January 2006 for the inauguration of “The J.N. Dixit Collection” in the Library of the Institute and to commemorate the first anniversary of the passing away of Shri J.N. Dixit, former Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser. Shri Dixit had in his will gifted his personal collection of books to the Library of the Institute.

Programmes for Foreign Diplomats: The 38th & 39th Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) were organized from 22 August-30 September 2005, & 9 November-16 December 2005 respectively. The 40th PCFD has commenced on 1 February 2006. Twenty seven diplomats from 22 countries attended the 38th PCFD, twenty four diplomats from 20 countries participated in the 39th PCFD, and twenty eight diplomats from 26

countries and two representatives of the League of Arab States are attending the 40th PCFD.

Twenty diplomats from 19 countries attended the 4th Advanced Course on Asia for Foreign Diplomats (ACAFD), which was held from 18-29 April 2005. The 1st Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Programme for Foreign Diplomats (DFPPFD) was held from 17-27 October 2005. Eleven diplomats participated in this programme. Both these programmes were designed for mid career/senior level diplomats. Special courses for ten Vietnamese diplomats and twenty Sudanese diplomats were held from 13-30 June 2005 and 26 September-4 November 2005, respectively. On 23 September 2005 a talk was organized on India’s Foreign Policy for members of the Foreign Service Basic Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, who were on a study tour to India.

A special course for diplomats from ASEAN countries through FSI was among the proposals announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 4th INDIA-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 13 December 2005. The special course is in the process of being arranged in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat.

In terms of institutional linkages, Agreements/MoUs providing a framework of cooperation between FSI and corresponding institutes of Norway, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Indonesia were signed during the year. Discussions on possibilities of cooperation in HRD, exchange of information and exchange of experts/officials were also held with Mr. Ernest S. Mpofu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Botswana, Ma. De Lourdes Aranda Bezaury, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and Mr. Amanullah Rustaqui, Head of the Center of Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.

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21 Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry of External Affairs is making all efforts towards implementing the Official Language Policy of the Government of India and for the promotion and propagation of Hindi in its offices, including in Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Further, the Ministry plays an important role promoting and propagating Hindi abroad through Indian Missions/Posts.

Documents like Bilateral Treaties, Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Credentials, Speeches of President, PAC paragraphs, Annual Report of the Ministry and Parliament Questions submitted to both the Houses of Parliament are issued bilingually. Hindi forms an integral part of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) training programmes. Intensive training on Government's Official Language policy and its implementation (Rules and Regulations) was given to the fresh trainees in their departmental training programme. The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language inspects Regional Passport Offices from time to time.

For promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) deputed visiting Hindi Professors to the 12 Chairs maintained in various foreign Universities/Institutions abroad. Indian Cultural Centres have been set up in many countries, which work towards promotion and propagation of Hindi. A World Hindi Secretariat is being set-up in Mauritius with the active support of India. Its Governing Council and Executive Board have been formed and its first meeting will be held once a Secretary General is nominated by Mauritius and the Deputy Secretary General by India.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad encourage foreign nationals to learn Hindi, for which local Hindi learning classes are

organized. Local organizations engaged in promotion and teaching of Hindi abroad are supported financially by Missions/Posts abroad as well as through donation of textbooks, dictionaries, audio-visual cassettes, computer software, CD-ROMs, Hindi magazines and children's literature. Special Hindi learning kits have also been provided to Missions/Posts, which are in great demand. Missions/Posts assist in the learning of Hindi through correspondence courses conducted by Central Hindi Directorate as well as encourage foreign nationals to apply for scholarships to learn Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra.

To encourage use of Hindi abroad, on national days, the President's address to the Nation is read out in Hindi by most Missions/Posts abroad. Cultural programmes in Hindi are also organized with the participation of local members of Indian community. Literary events, essay competitions and Kavi Sammelans are organized by Missions/Posts, apart from celebration of Hindi Divas. Some Indian Missions also publish Hindi magazines. From time to time, Hindi Conferences are organized abroad to propagate Hindi abroad. A regional Hindi Conference of Asia Pacific countries was organised at Sydney (Australia) on 4 & 5 February 2006 and ways of promoting the language in the region was discussed. Panels of Hindi interpreters have also been set-up in 32 countries to interpret from the local language to Hindi and vice-versa.

A high level Committee, under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for External Affairs has been reconstituted on the introduction of Hindi as a Language in the United Nations. Efforts are underway to prepare an Advocacy Paper and constructive meetings have been held in this regard by the Committee.



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.

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 & music;

Exchange of exhibitions;

Organization of and participation in international seminars and symposia;

Participation in major cultural festivals abroad;

Organization of “Festivals of India” in important partner countries;

Exchange of groups of performing artistes;

Organization of lecture-demonstrations by performing artistes abroad;

Distinguished Visitors Programme under which eminent personalities from other countries are invited to visit India and experts are sent abroad for delivering lectures on issues of interest;

Establishing and maintaining Chairs for Indian studies abroad;

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, Maulana Azad Essay Competition;

Publications 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;

Digitization of rare manuscripts.

The Council observed the 115th Birth Anniversary of its Founder President Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on 11 November 2005. The 9 Regional Offices of ICCR function in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkatta, Lucknow, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram.

Indian Cultural Centres and Chairs Abroad

To fulfil the primary objective of promoting greater awareness of India’s composite cultural heritage abroad, the Council maintains and administers 18 Indian Cultural Centres and 19 Chairs of Indian Studies abroad.

The 18 Cultural Centres are located in Cairo (Egypt), Berlin (Germany), Port Louis (Mauritius), Paramaribo (Suriname), Georgetown (Guyana), Jakarta (Indonesia), Moscow (Russian Federation), London (U.K.), Almaty, (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Durban and Johannesburg (South Africa), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Suva (Fiji) and Tokyo (Japan) and 2 sub-Centres at Bali (Indonesia) and Lautoka (Fiji). All these Cultural Centres function under the administrative control of the respective Indian Missions abroad. The Music & Dance Academy at Dhaka (Bangladesh) is being funded by the Council. During the year, the Council took a decision to create new centers at Kabul, Kathmandu, Washington and the Middle East.

The Chairs of Indian Studies abroad are administered for the purpose of teaching Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Modern

Indian History and Indian Civilization, in Paramaribo (Suriname) Budapest (Hungary), Moscow (Russia), Seoul (South Korea), Warsaw (Poland), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Ankara (Turkey), Sofia (Bulgaria), Bucharest (Romania), Beijing (China), Madrid (Spain), Bangkok (Thailand), Paris (France), Osh (Kyrgyzstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Brussels (Belgium) and Moka (Mauritius). The Council has initiated Rotating Chairs at the Heidelberg University, Germany, in Mongolia and in Poland on semester basis; short term teaching assignments were also pursued for Sireeice Po, Paris and Lieden, The Netherlands.

The Centres organise talks, lectures, exhibitions of visual arts, essay competition, dance and music performances, theatre, screening of Indian films, publication of news bulletins, and conducting seminars. Some of them conduct teaching classes in Indian music, dance, tabla and yoga. The Centres also maintain libraries, reading rooms and audio-video libraries for visitors. The Centres maintain networks with a cross section of citizens in the countries of their accreditation, particularly students, teachers, academicians, opinion makers and cultural personalities.

Scholarships

One of the important activities of ICCR is the implementation of its scholarship programmes for foreign students. The Council administered scholarships under various scholarship schemes for students in graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes as well as for pursuing professional courses such as, engineering, pharmacy, humanities and accountancy. A total of 1264 scholarships were offered this year to students from 60 different countries under various ICCR Scholarship Schemes and schemes on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance. A total of 732 students pursued various courses under different ICCR Scholarship schemes while 34 students pursued courses under the schemes on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs & Ministry of Finance.

During the year, ICCR undertook the responsibility of implementing 500 new scholarships for Afghan students

Apart from this, Council also looks after the general welfare of international students studying in India under self-finance and on ICCR Scholarship Schemes. Under

this programme, the Council arranged summer camps for foreign students at Simla-Kullu-Manali during May-June 2005. The Council had also organized five Winter Camps at Chennai/Pondicherry/Tanjore/Madurai/Kodaikanal/Kanyakumari; Bikaner/Jaisalmer/Jodhpur/Udaipur/Chittorgarh/Ajmer; Gwalior/Orchha/Khajuraho/Bandavgarh National Park/ Jabalpur/Shivpuri /Gwalior; Bombay/Pune/Aurangabad/ Ajanta/Ellora; Bombay/Goa. All the camps were well received by foreign students who participated in large numbers. As another measure to streamline the disbursement of scholarship dues of the foreign scholars, the Council introduced ATM cards.

The 13th International Students Cultural Festival was organized by the Council on 20 December 2005 at Hamsdhwani Theatre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Exhibition

For permanent installation, the Council commissions 'Bronze Busts' of eminent Indian personalities and send them to Indian Cultural Centres and Missions abroad. The ICCR commissioned and sent eight bronze busts in total - four busts of Mahatma Gandhi, three bust of Rabindranath Tagore and one bust of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru for installation in Almaty (Kazakhstan), Brussels (Belgium), Nicosia (Cyprus), Belgrade (Serbia Montenegro), Berlin (Germany), Budapest (Hungary), Toronto (Canada) and London (UK) during 2005-06.

The ICCR also sent three major exhibitions viz. "Celebrating Women-Amrita Shergil Revisited" to Russia and Tajikistan, the Exhibition of "Contemporary Graphic prints" to Argentina, Brazil & Syria and the Exhibition of "Women by Women" to Durban, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria in South Africa.

The ICCR has also sponsored two other exhibitions, one on Hand Fans (Pankha) by Shri Jatin Das to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Manila (Philippines) and another on Calligraphic Paintings by Mrs. Ameena Ahuja to Karachi, Lahore & Islamabad (Pakistan). The Council provided travel grant to 4 artists to participate in the exhibition "Indian Summer" organized by Ecole Nationale Supérieure Des Beaux-Arts in October 2005. It also provided air passage to artistes to participate in Asia Pacific Week & 500 years of Indo German Trade Relations

organized in Berlin in August 2005. Air Passage was provided to Ms. Eleena Banik, painter in September 2005 in connection with the exhibition of her works at Nehru Centre, London.

The Council organized two exhibitions of foreign artistes from Mozambique (Silverio Salvador Siteo) and Bangladesh (Prof. Mohd. Kibria).

Creative Dialogue

The Council in collaboration with Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi organized a Seminar on “Indo-Thai Historical and Cultural Linkages” on 4&5 September 2005 at New Delhi.

The First Indology Conference was held at Warsaw University, Warsaw in association with Embassy of India, Warsaw, Poland from 15-17 September 2005. 22 Indologists from the region participated in the Conference.

The Council facilitated the visit of a 14-member delegation from Pakistan under “Neemrana Initiative” on 3&4 December 2005.

The Council also hosted the visit of Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu to India.

Outgoing Cultural Delegations

The Council sponsored 72 outgoing cultural delegations to 53 countries in all regions of the world during 2005-06. Special emphasis was given to holding workshops-cum-lecture demonstrations with local artistes, besides cultural performances. A significant number of young artistes and folk groups from various parts of the country were also sponsored for performances abroad.

Some of these cultural groups participated in major events/festivals like April Spring Festival in North Korea, Heritage India Festival in USA, Aichi World Expo in Japan, Houston Festival in USA, Harare International Festival of Zimbabwe and 160th year of Indian Arrival Celebrations in Trinidad & Tobago. Music and dance performances were organized during the visit of President of India to Iceland, the International Film Festival in Zanzibar, the Indian Trade Exhibition in Poland, the Milan Festival of Netherlands, International Festival of Roma Music and Dance in Bulgaria, 50th Anniversary of

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Mongolia, Joint Russian-Indian Musical Composition, Traditional Arts Festival in Durban, South Africa, India Week in Bavaria (Germany), Casa Asia Festival in Spain, International Festival of Dance and Music in Thailand, Imtrat Raising Celebrations Day in Bhutan, 7th Asian Arts Festival in China, World Culture Forum Alliance Global Forum in Jordan, DIG Chair Tour, Germany and Allegro Vivo International Kammermusic Festival in Austria.

Travel grants were provided to artistes such as 9 member Samarthanam group (Disabled) to USA and Mr. Gayatri Sankaran to UK and Canada (visually challenged female artist) and 3 member Dhrupad group led by Shri Fayaz Wasifuddin Dagar to USA and Ms. Sharon Lowen to Pakistan.

Incoming Cultural Delegations

The ICCR organises the visits of foreign performing artistes 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 the Indian Missions abroad and requests received from Foreign Diplomatic Missions and Cultural Centres in India. Under its two series of Indian art forms viz. “Horizon” and “Retrospectives”, the Council continued to present performances by emerging and outstanding artistes respectively, in New Delhi and other cities.

During the period April – December, 2005, the Council hosted the visits of seven foreign cultural groups to India from Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Indonesia, Pakistan and South Africa.

The Council organized a 5-day cultural festival “Building Bridges” from 24 - 28 October 2005, and a 3-day festival “The Spirit of Banaras” from 7-9 November 2005 at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. The foreign groups also performed in various other cities including Jaipur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Gwalior.

The Council, under its “Retrospectives” series, organized performances by upcoming artistes. The Council organized the Sufi Festival from 22-24 June 2005 at Srinagar, 4th Malhar Festival from 6-8 August 2005 and 3rd Thumri Festival from 5-7 September 2005.

Incoming and Outgoing Visitors

The ICCR continued to facilitate, exchanges of scholars, intellectuals, academicians and experts under its Distinguished Visitors Programme. Distinguished Visitors sponsored abroad included: Shri Gopi Krishnan, Kottoor, Artiste, Chennai to Germany and Austria to participate in the “*Seminar on Foreign Poets*” from 15-30 May, 2005; Dr. Girish Nath Jha, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi to Singapore to attend “*Asia Lex Conference*” from 1-3 June 2005; Prof. Satyavrat Shastri, Sanskrit Scholar, New Delhi to USA to participate in the “*2nd International Ramayana Conference*” on 4&5 June 2005; 8 Scholars to Thailand to participate in the “*International Sanskrit Conference*” from 22-27 June 2005; Dr. Roop Kishor Shastri, Head, Department of Veda, Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya Haridwar and Dr. P.K. Srivathsa, Management, Software Consultant and Trainers, Bangalore to Indonesia to participate in the “*International Conference on Vedas*” from 12-19 July 2005; Dr. Amitava Chakraborty, Senior Lecturer Tripura University, Suryamaninagar Tripura West to USA to present a paper at the “*15th Biennial Conference of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric*” from 13-16 July 2005; Dr. Geeti Sen, Chief Editor at the India International Centre Publication Cultural Historian and Critic, Delhi to UK, Hungary, Ireland & Spain to give a lecture on “*The History of the Nation*” Changing Agendas of National Culture from 4-25 September 2005; Dr. C. Rajendran, Professor of Sanskrit, Calicut University, Kerala to Poland to participate in the International Seminar on “*Nature and Love in Kavya Literature*” held in Krakow and “*Textual authority Text Division and Early Classification of Knowledge*” from 22 September-2 October 2005; Prof. Girijesh Pant, Chairperson, Centre for West Asian & African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi to Lebanon to participate in the “*International Conference on the role of Cultural Interaction in Building World Peace*” organised by the Arab Cultural Academy in Beirut from 28-30 September 2005; Shri Thachom Poyil Rajeevan, PRO, University of Calicut to Poland to participate in the “*Warsaw Poetry Festival*” from 6-9 October 2005; Ms. Latika Padgaonkar, Film Critic, New Delhi to Philippines to participate in the “*7th International Film Festival*” in Manila from 14-22 October 2005

The Distinguished Visitors hosted by ICCR during the year include: Prof Guram Chikovani, Honorary President & Founder of the Centre of Indian Language & Culture, Tbilisi, Georgia, Armenia from 18-24 April 2005; Mr. Najib Balala, Hon'ble Minister of State inauguration for National Heritage, Kenya on a good will visit from 3-8 June 2005; Dr. Owen Ben Sichone, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town, South Africa to occupy the Nelson Mandela Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi from 19 August-5 December 2005; Mr. Tanjim_Ahmed, MP, Bangladesh from 2-7 October 2005; First Lady, Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa and 6 accompanists from Zambia from 8-15 October 2005; Mr. Sun Jianfeng, Student of Hindi Department of Peking University and Awardee of Tan Yunshan Award from China from 4-18 December 2005 and Mr. Paul Dujardin, General Manager of the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels and Director General of Bozar Festival from Belgium from 18-22 December 2005.

Publication

The Council has an ambitious publications programme, which has grown over the years. It brings out six journals in five different languages namely, “Indian Horizons” and “Africa Quarterly” in English, “Gagananchal” in Hindi, “Papeles de la India” in Spanish, *Rencontre Avec L'Inde* in French and “Thaqafat-ul-Hind” in Arabic. ICCR's Quarterlies - Indian Horizons (English), Gagananchal (Hindi) and Africa Quarterly(English) were revamped.

The Council published a book titled “At Home in the world”. The then Minister of External Affairs Shri K. Natwar Singh released the book at a special function organized on 6 September 2005 at Hotel Taj Mahal. ICCR also published a “Biography of Jawaharlal Nehru “ in Arabic, “India Wins Freedom” by Maulana Azad in French and “ In the Souls Twilight” edited by Manu Mittal.

The Council developed a Hindi Language Learning Software “ Rishi”.

Presentations

The Council sent books, art-objects, audio-visual material, musical instruments etc. to 36 countries i.e. Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Bhutan, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Iran, Korea,

Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mauritius, Nigeria, Namibia, Nepal, Poland, Panama, Russia, Suriname, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Tripoli, UK, USA, Ukraine, Venezuela for presentation to VVIPs, local dignitaries, libraries and institutions through Indian Missions abroad.

Library

The Council digitized the rare manuscripts and documents available in the collection of Maulana Azad's (Gosha-e-Azad) in ICCR Library. Approximately 100 books were procured by the Council during 2005-06. Library Fellowship was awarded to five scholars during 2005. 2700 officials and scholars visited the Library during the year.

Accounts

The approved Budget Estimates for the year 2005-06 in respect of ICCR for pursuing its general activities are Rs. 5760.00 lakhs. The proposed Revised Estimates for the year 2005-06 are Rs. 6470.00 lakhs. The expected receipt is Rupees 50.00 lakhs.

Website

The Council's revamped website www.iccrindia.org was inaugurated on 11 November 2005.



The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was founded in 1943 with a view to encourage the study of Indian and International affairs. It is an important center for the study of international relations in the country. Through an Act of Parliament, Act No.29 of 2001 and (Amendment Act) No. 5 of 2004, the Indian Council of World Affairs was declared as an institution of national importance. The ICWA has pursued a vigorous programme of activities in pursuance of its mandate. It has sought to provide through seminars, publications, lectures, and a specialized library, information for an insightful understanding of the complexities of the international system.

Sapru House Building

Major civil repairs were undertaken and will soon be completed. Sapru House is being restored to the status appropriate for housing an institution of national importance.

Grant-in-Aid

ICWA's grants-in-aid for the year 2005-06 was projected and approved for Rs.1.80 crores.

Institutional Linkages

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China was signed in New Delhi on 11 April 2005.

Publications

The Indian Council of World Affairs publishes its periodical publications viz. India Quarterly and Foreign Affairs Report.

CSCAP India Secretariat and Africa Centre

The Council for Security and Cooperation in the Asia-

Pacific (CSCAP)-India Secretariat was relocated in the Sapru House. The CSCAP organized panel discussion and release of book on "Bio-Terrorism and Bio-Defence" and panel discussion on "Non-Traditional Threats to Security in Asia Pacific". The Seminar on the topic viz. "Is it necessary to tackle first the root causes of terrorism before eliminating it" was organized at Sapru House under the Chairmanship of Ambassador A.N. Ram. These panel discussions and seminar were attended by distinguished journalists and academicians.

Library

The Sapru House Library, after repairs, renovation, extension of space, is air-conditioned and has been upgraded for use as a reference library for international affairs. During the period, a significant addition of 226 titles, of books and serials were made to its existing valuable collection. The Library has received 381 titles of research journals and important dailies from India and abroad. Out of these, 202 titles of eminent journals were indexed as part of its 'Current Awareness Service' to the research scholars. About 4000 entries of important articles on international relations and world politics were prepared from research journals both Indian and foreign. As part of bibliographical support to the users, Select Lists of Articles on Current Affairs were prepared for publication in the Foreign Affairs Report Vol. 3 and 4 from October 2004 to June 2005 of the ICWA.

Under fully depository scheme of the UNDP, 5512 new documents were received from the United Nation in New York and were added to its collection. Similarly, 1436 European Union and Indian Government publications were received by the Library and made available to the users. Beside, 31000 press clippings were culled from 8 major national dailies and 4 regional newspapers raising the number of its collection to 2.9 million approximately. Complete files of Asian Age, Economic Times, Times of

India, International Herald Tribune and Nation (Karachi) were kept for ready reference.

More than 7900 visitors used the library for their research work and reference. During this period 202 research scholars, subject experts, and journalists were enrolled as members of the Library. Research students from different universities and colleges have made use of library material for their research work, including scholars from universities, such as, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, University of Allahabad, Berhampur University, University of Delhi, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University, Kanpur, Karnataka University, University of Calcutta, University of Mysore, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Lucknow University, Vikram University, Ujjain, Kurukshetra University, University of Jammu, University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi

University, Aligarh Muslim University and University of North Bengal.

To promote the study of African nations, the library has added valuable reading material in Africa Centre exclusively created in the library.

The automation work of the library is in progress. A separate multi-media section has been created for this purpose.

Seminars/Symposia/Conferences

The ICWA conducted a number of seminars, symposia and conferences during 2005-06. Special Lectures were delivered by Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Leader of the Opposition, Sri Lanka, Shri I.K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India and Ms. Lourdes Aranda Bezaury, Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations of Mexico. A complete list is at **Appendix-XIX**.



Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

RIS is a New Delhi based think-tank, specializing in international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS is an autonomous body of the Ministry of External Affairs. Its mandate is 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 among think tanks of developing countries on international economic issues.

RIS conducted research studies to assist the policy formulation and preparations for major Summit Meetings and other negotiations held in the year. Some of these inputs include the followings:

■ East Asia Summit and ASEAN-India Summit:

RIS has been supporting India-ASEAN partnership and assisting the government in preparations for the East Asia Summit (EAS). A Note on India and the East Asian Summit was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 19 April 2005. Another Note on East Asian Summit and the Asian Economic Community: A Note for Discussion was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 5 May 2005 and was discussed at an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Secretary (East) on 9 May 2005. A Concept Paper on “Towards an Asian Economic Community” was prepared and was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 17 May 2005 for the India-ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting. RIS also prepared and provided Notes on India’s Look East Policy and Northeast India (on 8 June 2005) and on Regional Trading Arrangements (RTAs) in the World and Asia: Options for India (on 11 June 2005) to the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Subsequently, Notes on “India’s Economic

Integration with East Asia: A win-win for Asia” and on “FTAs/RTAs existing in the EAS region” sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 25 November 2005 as inputs for the East Asia Summit. RIS also prepared a Booklet on *Towards an Asian Economic Community: An Agenda for the East Asia Summit* which was circulated among the delegations participating in the first EAS in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005 by India. RIS also issued another volume India-ASEAN Economic Relations: Meeting the Challenges of Globalization on the occasion.

■ SAARC Summit and SAFTA Negotiations:

RIS has been providing regularly inputs for the SAARC process. Two Notes on “Operationalizing SAFTA: Some Issues” and “SAFTA and Beyond: Exploiting the Potential of Regional Economic Integration for South Asian Development” were sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 27 January 2005. A Note on Towards A South Asian Economic Union: Role for India-Sri Lanka Partnership was prepared for and sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on 29 August 2005. Note on SAFTA and Beyond: An Agenda for SAARC Economic Cooperation was sent to PMO on 28 January 2005. In addition, Notes on “Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management in South India” and “SAFTA and Beyond: An Agenda for SAARC” as inputs for preparation for the SAARC Summit were made available to the PMO on 3 November 2005.

■ India-Japan Joint Study Group

Note on India-Japan Economic Cooperation as a building bloc of Broader Regional Economic Integration in Asia was sent as input for India-Japan Joint Study Group to the Department of Economic Affairs on 13 July 2005. Draft Chapter 1 on “The

Context of Indian Japan Economic Cooperation” and an Annotated Outline of Chapter 4 (Investment) were provided as inputs for the India-Japan Joint Study Group were provided to the Ministry of External Affairs on 29 September 2005. Subsequently, RIS also was requested to prepare a draft of Chapter 2: on trade in goods and Chapter 6: other areas of cooperation and Chapter 8: on CECA/EPA.

■ India-Korea Joint Study Group

RIS has been represented in the India-Korea JSG and participated in its meetings. Draft Chapter on Trade in Services of the JSG Report was prepared by RIS, among other inputs.

■ Hong Kong Ministerial Conference

RIS prepared and issued a set of 3 policy briefs on the agenda of the WTO Ministerial, viz. *Doha Round's Development Impacts: Shrinking Gains and Real Costs*, *Making Doha a Really Development Round*, and *Trade Facilitation: Need to Strike a Balance between Pragmatism and Caution*.

■ Foreign Trade Policy

A Preliminary Report of the study on “Towards an Employment-Oriented Export Strategy” was prepared as inputs in preparation of the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 8 April 2005. Subsequently, a final report was submitted in June 2005.

■ India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Commission

RIS has been assisting the IBSA dialogue. A Note on India-Brazil- South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: Towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership, sent to Ministry of External Affairs, on 25 July 2005. Subsequently, another Note was submitted on India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Economic Cooperation: The Way Forward on 13 September 2005. RIS also provided key inputs for the Meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Investment held in New Delhi on 27-28 January 2006 and participated in it as a member of Indian delegation.

The major research ongoing studies at RIS during this period include: WTO and Developing Countries: Towards

Hong Kong Ministerial; India-Republic of Korea (ROK) Economic Cooperation; Trade Facilitation in WTO Context; Towards an Employment-Oriented Export Strategy; International Food Safety Regulation and Processed Food Exports from Developing Countries; National Biosafety Guidelines and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement; Third Round of Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP); World Trade and Development Report 2006; Market Access for Non-Agricultural Products in WTO Development Round Negotiations; Rules of Origin under ASEAN-India FTA; Consistent Interpretation of the Precautionary Principle/ Approach in Application to Different Agreements; and India-Pakistan Trade and Economic Relations: Prospects and Challenges; etc.

Policy Dialogue, Conferences and Symposia

During 2005/06 RIS organized a number of policy dialogues, conferences and symposia to fulfill its mandate of fostering intellectual dialogue among developing countries. The select major events organized in the period include the following:

■ The Fourth High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Community, New Delhi, 18-19 November 2005.

RIS organized the Fourth High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Integration: Towards an Asian Economic Community on 18-19 November 2005 in New Delhi in collaboration with Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. The Conference was supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan and UNDP Regional Centre, Colombo. Ambassador K. Kesavpany, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; and Prof. Akinori Seki, President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo addressed the inaugural session. The Conference discussed the major themes of: Asian Century: Relevance of Asian Economic Integration; Regional Trade and Investment Liberalization: Trends and Potential; Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Asia; Prospects for Regional Cooperation for Asian Energy Security;

and Asian Identity and Strategic Issues. The Conference also had a roundtable discussion on the Agenda for the East Asia Summit.

■ **RIS Conference on Asian Economic Community, Taiyuan, P.R. of China, 15-16 September 2005**

RIS and Shanxi University of Finance and Economic, China organized the Third High-Level Conference on Building a New Asia: Towards an Asian Economic Community on 15-16 September 2005 in Taiyuan, P.R. China. The Conference discussed major themes of Relevance of an Asian Economic Community, China and India: Co-drivers of Asian Growth and Prosperity; Building Blocs of Asian Regional Integration; Monetary and Financial Integration in Asia: An Asian Currency Unit; and Strategic Relevance of Asian Economic Integration. The Conference was addressed by a number of eminent leaders and experts.

■ **Regional Conference on the Agenda for WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: Challenges for South Asia, New Delhi, 11-12 August 2005**

RIS organized the Regional Conference on the Agenda for WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: Challenges for South Asia jointly with Global Biodiversity Forum, IUCN, Asia, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 11-12 August 2005 in New Delhi. The Conference began with a Panel Discussion on WTO, Trade and Development. The other Sessions were: WTO and Agriculture; Issues in Non-Agriculture Market Access; WTO and Environment: Ensuring Better links; SPS Measures and Developing Country Market Access: Implementation Issue; Regional Focus: Environment, Biodiversity and WTO; and WTO, SAFTA and Environment: Regional Concerns. It also had a Plenary session on Taking Stock: Way forward for Hong Kong. It was addressed by a number of eminent leaders and experts.

■ **Workshop on International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand, New Delhi, 17 August 2005**

RIS organized an International Workshop on

International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand in collaboration with Australian National University, University of Melbourne and Thammasat University and funded by Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) in New Delhi on 13 August 2005.

■ **National Consultation on South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship, New Delhi, 1 September 2005**

RIS and CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economic & Environment organized a National Consultation on South-South Economic Cooperation: Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship in New Delhi on 1 September 2005. The Conference discussed major themes of Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Trade, Investment, and Finance; Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Infrastructure and Energy; Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship – Other Areas of Cooperation: and Agriculture, S&T and HRD, SMEs, Health & Pharma, Tourism, etc. It was addressed by a number of eminent leaders and experts.

■ **National Consultations on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Issues before MoP-2, New Delhi, 24 May 2005**

RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), organized National Consultations on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Issues before MoP-2 on May 24, 2005 in New Delhi. The Conference discussed major themes of Precautionary Principle and Compliance Mechanism: Exploring the Policy Spaces; Liability and Redress: International Trends and Domestic Policy Options; Incorporating Socio-Economic Concerns: Challenges and Policy Options; and International Commitments and Harmonizing Domestic Acts and Guidelines. It was addressed by a number of eminent leaders and experts.

■ **“Development” in the WTO’s Doha Round, Hong Kong, 12 December 2005**

On the sidelines of the Hong Kong Ministerial

Conference of WTO, RIS organized a Symposium on “Development” in the Doha Round on December 12, 2005 at NGO Centre in Hong Kong. It was addressed by a number of eminent leaders and experts.

■ **Seminar on Competitiveness of India, China and ASEAN and their role in the emerging Asian Economic Community, New Delhi, 25 January 2006**

RIS organized a Seminar on Competitiveness of India, China and ASEAN and their role in the emerging Asian Economic Community on 25 January 2006. At this Seminar Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore; and Dr. Tan Khee Giap, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISEAS and Head, ASEAN Economies Monitoring Unit, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, presented an empirical study examining a comprehensive assessment of competitiveness indicators for 35 Indian States and Union Territories, 31 Chinese Provinces, and 10 ASEAN economies to draw some policy lessons. This analytical and empirical assessment of relative competitiveness of major Asian economies provided a backdrop for rich discussions on the nature and direction of policy reforms for strengthening our competitiveness, growth and regional cooperation.

■ **Eminent Persons Lecture on Asian Century: The Dynamics of North East Asian, ASEAN and India, New Delhi, 27 January 2006**

RIS organized an Eminent Persons Lecture by Professor Chung Duck-Koo, Member of Parliament (National Assembly) and former Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy on 27 January 2006.

Outreach, Global Presence and Networking

RIS continued to increase international visibility and outreach through participation in major international events relevant to the work of RIS. RIS participated in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of WTO held during 12-16 December 2005 and organized 3 Seminars,

panel discussions on the sidelines of the Ministerials. RIS Policy Briefs on the agenda of the Ministerials were presented and discussed.

Institutional networking was strengthened through joint organization of seminars with partner institutions. Relationship with the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Singapore and Shanxi University of Finance and Economic, China were strengthened by jointly organizing the High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Community in China and India. Two joint publications were also brought in collaboration with ISEAS, Singapore.

The New Asia Forum continues to function as a major hub of activities to promote regional economic integration in Asia. This network has its own website www.newasiaforum.org and a quarterly journal *New Asia Monitor*.

RIS continues to be a member of the Institutional Advisory Board (IAB) for its Asia-Research Network on Trade (ARTNET) of UNESCAP representing India and participates in its meetings. IUCN-Asia Region, based in Colombo, collaborated with RIS in organizing the regional conference on WTO. The Commonwealth Secretariat, London has also commissioned a study at RIS.

As earlier, RIS continues to represent India on the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global Financial and Economic Issues as the National Focal Point and participates in its work programme. RIS brings out the *South Asia Economic Journal* jointly with IPS, Sri Lanka on behalf of the SAARC Network.

Capacity Building and Training Programmes

■ ***Training Programme for IFS Probationers on International Economic Issues***

On behalf of the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs RIS organized a Training Programme for IFS Probationers from 16-22 July 2005 on various aspects of International Economic Issues.

■ ***Training Workshop for Senior Indian Economic Service (IES) Officers***

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, RIS organized

a Training Workshop for Senior Indian Economic Service (IES) Officers on Regionalism in the World and Asia: Challenges and Options before India at RIS on 29 August-2 September 2005.

■ ***Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy***

As a response to the growing popularity and positive feedback for the RIS programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy will now be offered to larger number of officials and experts from other developing countries in a compact format of 4 weeks from 2005-06. The Programme began on 20 February 2006 for 4 weeks. It is conducted in conjunction with the ITEC Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.

■ ***Lecture Programme on Development of the WTO Regime***

On behalf of the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, RIS organized a special programme of lectures on Development of the WTO Regime for the 24 foreign diplomats, in RIS on 24 November 2005.

RIS Publications

During 2005-06 RIS published four books, issued eight Policy Briefs and 17 Discussion Papers. Two issues of the *South Asia Economic Journal* and four issues of the *Biotechnology and Development Review* and four issues of *New Asia Monitor* were brought out in addition to four issues of *RIS Diary*. (see **Appendix-XX**) RIS publications can be downloaded from its website <http://www.ris.org.in>.

Budget

RIS received a budgetary support of Rs. 137 lakhs during 2005-06 from the Ministry of External Affairs.

■ ■

The Ministry's Library has over one hundred thousand books, rich resource material and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support research. The Library subscribes/receives and maintains about 500 Periodicals, Journals and Newspaper titles. It has an in-house computer system consisting of a Server, and 12 PCs. The system supports data entry and retrieval in Hindi as well. The Library has CD-ROM database 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 Images), a microfilm/fiche reader printer, plain paper photocopiers and a HP Office-jet pro laser printer with Desk Top Publishing (DTP) software.

All Documentation/Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and services have been computerized, using an integrated library software package LIBSYS covering all the features of Library. LIBSYS follows MARC as well as non-MARC format. LIBSYS supports word-based free text searching using Boolean operators. LIBSYS 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, publications received in the Library since 1986 [and also pre-1986 publications in active use] are available on-line through intranet in all PCs of MEA Library. Library's information databases can also be accessed through Internet on MEA Library's website: <http://mealib.nic.in>

All new documents received in the Library – 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 Databases, the Library provides Current Awareness Service and Bibliographical and Reference Services. In addition, the Library regularly issues:

- Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin – a list of selected articles on International Relations & related subjects.
- Recent Additions – an annotated list of Books / Publications added to MEA Library.

Recently, Library has also initiated steps towards establishment of virtual library.

An Article Alert Service has been slated to provide abstracts of important articles from journals subscribed by MEA library available on net through E-Mail to foreign service officers and Heads of Division.

CD-ROM Publication(s)

Ministry of External Affairs Library in cooperation with NIC has brought out a full text CD-ROM version of Annuals Reports of MEA [from 1948 to 1998-99] and Foreign Affairs Record [from 1955 to 1999 (August)]. The information on the CD can be retrieved via combination of searches including 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.

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). Photocopying and Computer Print-out facilities are also available to all Library users.

A committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coordination) for library reforms. The objective is to expand & establish a modern virtual/digital library of World-Class standard, in a phased manner.

MEA Library is also coordinating a project to publish volumes of India's Bilateral Treaties and Agreements (IBTA) for the period 1981-1990 and the periods thereafter.



Appendices

Appendix I

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad during 2005-2006 (including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce & those held in abeyance/ex-cadred)

S. No	Cadre/Post	Posts at Headquarters	Posts at Mission	Total
1	Grade I	4	22	26
2	Grade II	5	29	34
3	Grade III	46	129	175
4	Grade IV	29	114	143
5	Jr. Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	44	140	184
6	(I) Junior Scale	1	29	30
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	35	..	35
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15	..	15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19	..	19
	(v) Training Reserve	7	..	7
	Sub Total	205	463	668
IFS(B)				
7	(I) Grade I	82	122	204
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6	..	6
8	(i) Grade II/III	146	229	375
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30	..	30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16	..	16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25	..	25
9	(I) Grade IV	195	428	623
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	..	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	55	..	55
10	(I) Grade V/VI	317	96	413
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60	..	60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14	..	14
11	(I) Grade II of Cypher Cadre (Cypher Assistant)	44	148	192
	(ii) Leave Reserve	24	..	24
12	(I) Stenographers' Cadre	182	485	667
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47	..	47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10	..	10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12	..	12
13	Interpreters' Cadre	6	27	33
14	L&T Cadre	14	1	15
	Sub Total	1345	1536	2881
	Grand Total	1550	1999	3549

Appendix II

Recruitment made in various groups in the Ministry of External Affairs and reserved vacancies filled by Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Classes(OBC) categories from April to November 2005

Group	Total No.of Posts	Number of Posts			Unreserved
		Reserved			
		SC	ST	OBC	
Group-A	44	5	2	5	32
Group-B	66	11	4	1	50
Group-C	16	4	1	-	11
Group-D	-	-	-	-	-
Ex-Cadre	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix III

**Language-wise Statement of Officers (Grade - I to Junior Scale of IFS)
as on 30 November 2005**

Language	Number of Officers	Language	Number of Officers
Arabic	90	Malay Bhasa	1
Burmese	1	Mandarin	1
Bhasa Indonesia	12	Nepalese	3
Chinese	57	Persian	21
Dutch	1	Portuguese	19
French	72	Russian	80
German	32	Swedish	1
Gorkhali	1	Spanish	60
Hebrew	3	Serbo- Croatian	3
Hungarian (Magyar)	1	Sinhalese	2
Italian	5	Thai	2
Japanese	25	Tibetan	2
Kazakh	1	Turkish	6
Kiswahili	7	Ukrainian	1
Korean	1	Vietnamese	1

Appendix IV

Statement showing the number of applications received and passports issued including under Tatkaal Scheme, miscellaneous applications received and services rendered as well as Revenue(including revenue under Tatkaal Scheme) and Expenditure figures of the Passport Offices from 1st January, 2005 to 31st December, 2005.

(Revenue in Rupees)

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	Total Revenue	Total expenditure (in Rupees)
Ahmedabad	219068	208198	22122	22026	4834	7150000	227097172	26257360
Bangalore	190481	186602	37798	37434	13991	22552500	220581803	25086191
Bareilly	51903	48129	3945	3926	1884	2902000	55357755	8799369
Bhopal	60667	58287	6436	6392	3664	5207900	65875934	5753705
Bhubaneswar	28861	27176	2348	2003	1459	1952500	31632745	3519332
Chandigarh	223949	212086	32222	32375	7786	12108000	259629583	20938927
Chennai	237561	212143	33162	24543	27924	41969000	287415422	25940780
Cochin	185852	178824	40798	41634	17273	24394900	216698136	25307025
Delhi	207497	233118	33884	33375	22910	57748900	256794786	35762440
Ghaziabad	55157	51885	7850	7716	3197	4751400	59641277	5840199
Guwahati	22983	21287	2027	730	3168	4674500	29388700	3889750
Hyderabad	307678	270703	36121	35744	29573	56079150	368094288	30621758
Jaipur	117138	134747	11286	8097	7214	10757500	130823151	18221812
Jalandhar	174175	164219	22057	21644	743	1290600	201622243	21045181
Jammu	12371	11928	933	859	297	419500	14041132	1570588
Kolkata	137081	122917	15423	14999	4791	6908500	145927312	13992870
Kozhikode	237367	244799	28444	28158	28005	40590500	290979994	25495585
Lucknow	171833	152671	12300	11939	2383	2977000	182997811	27909206
Mumbai	239863	223436	33045	32996	9012	17063000	256044615	49234447
Nagpur	31735	28517	2525	2280	3235	4147500	35850158	2527834
Panaji	24381	23914	7582	7516	2021	2856500	30789962	3879998
Patna	75850	77770	4972	4777	541	758000	73212425	8950558
Pune	76036	68044	11124	10735	6028	8182000	84895980	7007497
Ranchi	22127	22815	1837	1706	1351	1925500	22151100	2274562
Srinagar	8921	5512	1029	925	278	378900	9710315	11711242
Surat*	71398	75449	6667	6438	2746	3393200	74419900	
Thane**	98041	87635	9469	9256	5170	7598100	105001425	
Trichy	225403	220429	22194	21063	14525	21298500	300256226	22163691
Trivandrum	122135	131833	25449	24361	16172	22963000	158505030	14645798
Vishakhapatnam	71936	65657	8743	8475	2341	3460100	80850661	6522593
Total	3709448	3570730	483792	464122	244516	398458650	4276287041	454870298

* expenditure included in RPO Ahmedabad's as LOC combined with RPO Ahmedabad.

** expenditure included in RPO Mumbai's as LOC combined with RPO Mumbai.

Appendix V

Finances of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2005-2006

The Budget Allocation of the Ministry of External Affairs in the Budget Estimates (BE) 2005-2006 is Rs. 3928.00 crores which is an enhancement over BE 2004-2005 by Rs. 287.31 crores i.e. by 7.89%. There is an increase in the Revised Estimates for 2005-2006 by Rs. 254.00 crores i.e. by 6.47% over BE 2005-2006 allocation.

MEA Expenditure and Budget (2001-02-2005-06)

Years	Actuals (in Rs Crores)	%age variation
2001-2002	2624.55	Nil
2002-2003	3253.79	23.98
2003-2004	3344.53	2.79
2004-2005	3756.15	12.31
2005-2006 (BE)	3928.00	4.58
2005-2006 (RE)	4182.00	6.47

Appendix VI

The Major Sectoral Allocations in the 2005-2006 Budget

Sectors	Allocation (in Rs Crores)
MEA Secretariat	128.22
Embassies and Missions	893.00
Passport and Emigration	158.74
Special Diplomatic Expenditure	781.01
Technical & Economic Cooperation	1594.72
Contributions to International Organisations	122.62
Grant to Indian Council for Cultural Relations	60.50
Loans and Advances to Foreign Governments	278.40
Others	164.79

Appendix VII

Principal Destinations of India's Aid Programmes

The principal beneficiaries of India's Aid & Loan Programmes in the Current Financial Year 2005-06 are as under :

Aid & Loan to Countries	(In Rupees Crores)
Bhutan	1131.11
Bangladesh	52.00
Nepal	66.01
Sri Lanka	25.00
Maldives	13.20
Myanmar	22.00
African Countries	60.98
Others	503.83

- 3.1 Aid to Bhutan accounts for 60% of India's total aid and loan budget. Other destinations for Indian aid programs include African countries – 3%, Nepal – 4%, Bangladesh – 3%, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar – 1% each and Others including Afghanistan – 27%.
- 3.2 The Government of India has extended loans to the Governments of Bangladesh and Bhutan to assist in the implementation of developmental projects. During 2005-2006, the loans extended to the Governments of Bangladesh and Bhutan amount to Rs. 1.00 crores and Rs. 278.40 crores respectively.
- 4 The Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs is essentially a Non-Plan Budget. However, from 1996-97, a Plan head has been established with the approval of the Cabinet. This primarily caters to certain large developmental projects undertaken in Bhutan, as part of project assistance requested by Government of Bhutan in the Government of India's "Aid to Bhutan" Programme. The Tala-Hydroelectric Project currently under implementation in Bhutan is a prestigious and important project. The other projects in Bhutan being funded from the Plan head are the Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Project and the Dungsum Cement Plant Project.
- 5 The estimated expenditure on the Headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs during the current financial year is Rs. 128.22 crores which forms about 3% of the total estimated revenue budget of the Ministry. Estimated expenditure on Indian Missions and Posts abroad is expected to be of the order of Rs. 893.00 crores which is about 24% of the total revenue expenditure of the Ministry.
- 6 The Ministry of External Affairs' revenue from Passport and Visa fees and other receipts are likely to be of the order of Rs. 1275.25 crores. It is estimated that Passport fees would account for Rs. 580.00 crores, Visa fees for Rs. 670.00 crores and other receipts for Rs. 25.25 crores.

Appendix VIII

C & AG Report of Ministry of External Affairs

Avoidable expenditure on creation of the Office of the Ambassador-at-large: The Ministry created the post of Ambassador-at-large at New York without assigning any mandate. The office was subsequently wound up in October 2004 after incurring an expenditure of Rs. 15.95 crore.

(Report No. 2 of 2005)

Irregular expenditure: While the order of Government of India permit providing of items of furniture/electrical appliance costing Rs. 2.50 lakh at the residence of a Union Cabinet Minister only, the Ministry of External Affairs incurred irregular expenditure of Rs. 40.92 lakh on furniture, furnishings and air conditioners etc. for the residence of Foreign Secretary during 2000-2003.

(Report No. 2 of 2005)

Loss of Government money : Failure to follow the procedure laid down in the Consular Manual, inefficient monitoring system and lack of internal control resulted in loss of Government money amounting to Rs. 11.58 lakh in High Commission of India, London.

(Report No. 2 of 2005)

Appendix IX

Treaties/Conventions/Agreements Concluded or Renewed by India with other Countries

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 108 Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention		17.01.2005 (R)	16.01.2006
2	Convention on Nuclear Safety	20.09.1994	31.03.2005 (R)	29.06.2005
3	International Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters		01.04.2005 (A)	29.06.2005
4	Rotterdam Convention on PIC		24.05.2005 (A)	22.08.2005
5	Amendment to Article I of 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, 1980		18.05.2005 (A)	
6	Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)		18.05.2005 (A)	
7	Additional Protocol to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism	06.01.2004	26.07.2005 (R)	
8	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; and	15.11.2004	30.11.2005 (R)	
9	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.	15.11.2004	16.08.2005 (R)	15.09.2005
10	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	03.11.2005	12.08.2005 (R)	
11	Charter of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)	07.07.2005	04.10.2005 (R)	
12	UN Convention Against Corruption	09.12.2005		
13	Agreement for Establishment of SAARC Arbitration Council	13.11.2005		
14	SAARC Limited Multilateral Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters	13.11.2005		01.01.2006
15	SAARC Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters	13.11.2005		
16	Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network	27.04.2004		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
17	Agreement establishing the Global Development Network	28.10.2005		
18	Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.		14.11.2005 (A)	
19	Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority.		14.11.2005 (A)	
20	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	14.05.2002	09.01.2006	
B. BILATERAL				
Australia				
1	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Australia concerning cooperation in Information and Communications Technology.	21.10.2005		21.10.2005
Austria				
2	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Austria on Infrastructure Cooperation in Health Sector.	17.02.2005		01.05.2005
3	MoU on Development of Collaboration between the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and the Medical University, Innsbruck.	17.02.2005		17.02.2005
Bahamas				
3	Memorandum of Understanding on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Republic of Public Services of the Common Wealth of the Bahamas	08.09.2005		08.09.2005
Bahrain				
4	Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain	13.01.2004	08.04.2005	

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
6	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters for the Service of Summons, Judicial Documents, Commissions, Execution of Judgments and Arbitral Awards	13.01.2004	16.07.2005	16.07.2005
7	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Bahrain on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	13.01.2004		23.02.2005
Bangladesh				
8	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh regarding Utilization of Funds for Flood Relief Assistance	11.02.2005		11.02.2005
9	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Years 2005-2008	06.08.2005		
Bhutan				
10	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.	25.01.2005		25.01.2005
11	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan regarding the Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for Punatsangchhu (Stage II) and Mangdechhu Hydro-Electric Projects in Bhutan	25.01.2005		25.01.2005
12	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan for the Establishment of Railway Links between the Bordering Towns in India and Bhutan.	25.01.2005		25.01.2005
Botswana				
13	Technical Agreement between the Government of Botswana and the Government of the Republic of India concerning Exercise "Airborne Africa".	14.05.2005		14.05.2005

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
Bulgaria				
14	Treaty on Extradition between the Republic of India and the Republic of Bulgaria	03.10.2003	13.05.2005	
15	Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology (2005-2008) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.	05.12.2005		
Cambodia				
16	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking	16.12.2005		
Canada				
17	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Canada on Climate Change Initiatives, including Clean Development Mechanism Projects.	08.12.2005		08.12.2005
Chile				
18	Framework Agreement to Promote Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Chile.	20.01.2005		
19	MoU on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues Related to Bilateral Trade in Plant and Plant Materials and Animal Products between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Chile.	20.01.2005		20.01.2005
20	MoU between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and the Instituto De Investigaciones Agropecuarias Santiago, Chile for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education	20.01.2005		20.01.2005
China				
21	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question.	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
22	Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas.	11.04.2005		11.04.2005

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
23	Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance and Cooperation in Customs Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China	11.04.2005		
24	Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Aviation between India and China	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
25	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirement for the Export of Grape from Indian to China between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
26	Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Bitter Gourd from India to China between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
27	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Indian Council of World Affairs, the Republic of India and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
28	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Launch of the India-China Financial Dialogue.	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
29	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China Upon Provision of Hydrological Information of the Sutlej/Langqen Zangbo River in Flood Season by China to India.	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
30	Protocol of India-China Film Cooperation Commission	11.04.2005		11.04.2005
31	Memorandum of Construction of and Indian Style Buddhist Temple on the Western Side of the White Horse Temple in Luoyang, China	11.04.2005		
32	Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China	08.09.2005	08.09.2005	

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
Colombia				
33	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on Cooperation in Science and Technology	11.06.2005		26.08.2005
El Salvador				
34	Memorandum of Understanding on Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of El Salvador	02.02.2004		
Fiji				
35	MoU between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Commerce, Business Development & Investment of the Republic of Fiji on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services.	10.10.2005		10.10.2005
36	MoU between the Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji on Cooperation in the field of Tourism.	10.10.2005		10.10.2005
37	MoU between the Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji on Establishment of Trade Committee.	10.10.2005		10.10.2005
38	MoU between the Republic of India and the Republic of Fiji on cooperation in the field of Health.	10.10.2005		10.10.2005
France				
39	Extradition Agreement between the Republic of India and the French Republic	24.01.2003	15.04.2004	01.08.2005
40	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the French Republic relating to Air Services	21.02.2005		
Guatemala				
41	Memorandum of Understanding on Consultation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Guatemala	04.05.2005		04.05.2005
Hungary				
42	Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Hungary	23.06.2005		23.06.2005

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
Iceland				
43	Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Iceland	19.10.2005		
44	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Iceland on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.	19.01.2005		
45	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Iceland on Foreign Office Consultations.	31.05.2005		31.05.2005
Indonesia				
46	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia on Marine and Fisheries Cooperation.	23.11.2005		23.11.2005
47	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on the Establishment of a Joint Study Group to examine the feasibility of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.	23.11.2005		23.11.2005
48	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on Training Cooperation.	23.11.2005		23.11.2005
Israel				
49	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances	09.09.2003	25.06.2005	
Italy				
50	Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Italy	12.07.2004	20.01.2005	
51	Memorandum of Understanding on Fishery and Aquaculture Products between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic	14.02.2005		14.02.2005

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
52	Memorandum of Understanding between the M/o Environment and Forests, Government of India and M/o Environment and Territory of the Republic of Italy on cooperation in the Area of Climate Change and Implementation of Projects under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol..	07.12.2005		07.12.2005
	Japan			
53	Joint Statement between Minister of Communications and Information Technology of India and Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan.	24.08.2005		24.08.2005
	Kuwait			
54	Agreement between the Republic of India and the State of Kuwait on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters.	16.08.2005		
	Malta			
55	Protocol on Foreign Service Consultations between the Government of India and the Government of Malta	07.03.2005		07.03.2005
	Mauritius			
56	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	24.10.2005	01.12.2005	
57	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on the Transfer of Prisoners	24.10.2005	21.12.2005	
	Mexico			
58	Agreement on Academic Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States.	21.10.2005		21.10.2005
	Mongolia			
59	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Mongolia.	15.09.2005		15.09.2005
	Morocco			
60	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Relating to Air Services.	07.12.2004	23.02.2005	
	Mongolia			
61	Protocol on Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty between the Republic of India and Mongolia on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil and Commercial Matters.	15.01.2004		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
62	Treaty between the Republic of India and Mongolia on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations concerning Civil and Commercial Matters.	03.01.2001	15.01.2004	14.02.2004
63	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Mongolia.	15.09.2005	15.09.2005	
Norway				
64	MoU between the Foreign Service Training Institute of India and the Foreign Service Institute of Norway	17.06.2005		17.06.2005
Oman				
65	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Sultanate of Oman	26.12.2004	13.05.2005	14.10.2005
Pakistan				
66	Agreement between Government of India and the Government of Pakistan on exchange of Information on Missile Testing	04.10.2005		
67	Agreement between Government of India and the Government of Pakistan on Cooperation in Coast Guard Activities	04.10.2005		
Peru				
68	Arrangement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post	20.06.2005		20.06.2005
Poland				
69	Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of India and the Government of Poland for 2005-2007	17.06.2005		17.06.2005
Romania				
70	MoU between the Government of India and the Government of Romania on Cooperation in the field of Oil and Gas Sector.			
71	MoU on R&D between the Oil and Gas University of Romania and K.D. Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehradun.			
72	Cooperation Agreement to Promote Institutional and Academic Cooperation between the Oil and Gas University of Romania and University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun.			

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
Serbia and Montenegro				
73	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro	28.10.2004	10.06.2005	
Singapore				
74	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	27.06.2005	26.07.2005	
75	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	29.06.2005		
76	Protocol amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income signed on 24 January 1994.	29.06.2005		
South Africa				
77	Treaty on Extradition between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of South Africa	16.10.2003	08.04.2005	
Sri Lanka				
78	Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the field of Education.	10.06.2005		10.06.2005
79	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Developmental Projects through Local Bodies Non-Governmental Organisations Charitable Trusts and Education and Vocational Institutions.	10.06.2005		10.06.2005
Sweden				
80	Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Sweden on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.	09.12.2005		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
	Syria			
81	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications & IT, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Higher Education of the Syrian Arab Republic on cooperation in Communications & IT.	15.11.2003		15.11.2003
	Tajikistan			
82	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Tajikistan	14.11.2003	10.06.2005	
	Thailand			
83	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Thailand on cooperation in the field of Education.	10.10.2005		
	Tunisia			
84	Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia	04.04.2000		
85	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications & IT Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Communications, Technologies & Transportation, Government of the Republic of Tunisia on cooperation in the field of Communications & IT.	09.02.2004		09.02.2004
	Ukraine			
86	Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Peaceful Use of Outer space	02.06.2005		
87	Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Standardization, Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Quality between Bureau of Indian Standards and the State Committee of Ukraine for Technical Regulation and Consumer Policy.	02.06.2005		
	United Kingdom			
88	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.	18.02.2005	19.09.2005	
89	Agreement between India and the United Kingdom for establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee	13.01.2005		
	United States			
90	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	17.10.2001	01.07.2005	04.10.2005

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/Accession/Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
91	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.	17.10.2005		
92	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation in the field of Civilian Nuclear Energy.	18.07.2005		
93	Declaration for the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Cooperation and Dialogue between the Republic of India and the States of the Central American Integration System	02.02.2004		
Uzbekistan				
94	Agreement between Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in Military and Military-technical areas.	05.04.2005		05.04.2005
95	Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the field of Education	05.04.2005		05.04.2005
96	Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2005-2007	05.04.2005		05.04.2005
97	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the sphere of Support of Small and Private Entrepreneurship.	05.04.2005		05.04.2005
Venezuela				
98	Agreement on Visa Exemption on Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.	31.08.2005		31.08.2005
99	Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a High Level Joint Commission between the Republic of India and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	05.03.2005		05.03.2005
100	Agreement on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector between the Republic of India and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	05.03.2005		

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S. No	Title of Convention/Treaty/ Agreement etc.	Date of Signature	Date of Deposit Ratification/ Accession/ Acceptance	Date of Entry into force
101	MoU in the Area of Biotechnology between the Department of Biotechnology (Ministry of Science and Technology) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.	05.03.2005		05.03.2005
102	MoU between the Department of Space (DOS) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on Cooperation in Space Science and Technology.	05.03.2005		05.03.2005
103	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Jointly Develop Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Projects in Venezuela.	05.03.2005		05.03.2005

Appendix X

Instruments of Full Powers Issued during the period 1st January 2005 - December 2005

S. No	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
1	In favour of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas for signing the Agreement on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector between the Republic of India and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.	04.03.2005
2	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge), for signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on Cooperation in Science and Technology.	06.06.2005
3	In favour of Shri H. R. Bhardwaj, Minister for Law and Justice for signing the Agreement between the Republic of India and the State of Kuwait on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters.	02.08.2005
4	In favour of Shri S. Banerjee, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, for signing the Agreement between the Government of Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India on Transfer to Republic of India of License and Technical Documentation for Production of Aero-engine AL-551 and Rendering Technical Assistance in Setting up of its Production.	08.08.2005
5	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge), for signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology.	06.08.2005
6.	In favour of Shri D. P. Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Libya, for signing the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.	09.09.2005
7	In favour of Shri Ashok Jha, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, for signing the Agreement establishing the Global Development Network.	19.09.2005
8	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge) for signing of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America.	04.10.2005
9	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge) for signing of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America.	17.10.2005
10	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge) for signing the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Iceland.	19.10.2005
11	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge) for signing of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Canada.	07.11.2005

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S. No	Convention/Treaty	Date of Full Powers
12	In favour of Shri Shri Nirupam Sen, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations for signing of the Convention against Corruption.	09.12.2005
13	In favour of Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development (Independent Charge) for signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden in the fields of Science and Technology.	08.12.2005
14	In favour of Shri K. M. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Italian Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income signed at New Delhi on 19 th February, 1993.	09.01.2006

Appendix XI

Instruments of Ratification/Accession Issued during the Period 1st January 2005 to December 2005

S. No	Instrument of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification/
1	C 108 Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention.	10.01.2005
2	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco regarding Merchant Shipping and Related Maritime Matters.	20.01.2005
3	Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Italy	20.01.2005
4	Agreement between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Bahrain on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	23.02.2005
5	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco Relating to Air Services.	23.02.2005
6	Convention on Nuclear Safety.	21.03.2005
7	Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.	08.04.2005
8	Treaty on Extradition between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.	08.04.2005
9	Rotterdam Convention on PIC.	15.04.2005
10	Amendment to Article I of 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, 1980 and Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) to the said Convention.	15.04.2005
11	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Sultanate of Oman.	13.05.2005
12	Treaty on Extradition between the Republic of India and the Republic of Bulgaria.	13.05.2005
13	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.	04.06.2005
14	Additional Protocol to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism.	06.06.2005
15	Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro.	10.06.2005
16	Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Tajikistan.	10.06.2005
17	Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United States of America on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	01.07.2005
18	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.	25.07.2005
19	Additional Protocol to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism.	26.07.2005

Appendix XI

S. No	Instrument of Ratification/Accession	Date of Issue of Ratification/
20	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.	02.08.2005
21	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.	02.08.2005
22	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.	12.08.2005
23	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	09.12.2005
24	Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network	19.12.2005
25	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on the Transfer of Prisoners	21.12.2005
26	Agreement establishing the Global Development Network	21.12.2005
27	The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on Cooperation in Science and Technology.	26.08.2005
28	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	16.09.2005
29	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners	16.09.2005
30	Charter of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)	04.10.2005
31	Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures and its Appendices I and II.	18.10.2005
32	Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.	28.10.2005
33	Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority.	28.10.2005
34	Treaty between the Republic of India and the Republic of Belarus on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	09.01.2006
35	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	09.01.2006

Appendix XII

Conferences/Seminars/ Study projects organized/undertaken by Institutions/ NGOs, which were partly funded by Policy Planning & Research Division.

A. Proposals partly funded during the year 2005-06

Sl.No.	Event	Institution/Beneficiary
1	Research project entitled "China & South Asia: Bangladesh - China relations" by Dr. Shyamali Ghosh	The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi
2	Seminar on "Comprehensive Security II : Economic & Internal Security" on 03 March 2005.	Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies (CASS), Pune
3	Seminar on "New Global Challenges & Sino India Relations" on 1 & 2 March 2005	Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), New Delhi
4.	A Study project to review the security situation in South Asia in current emergent circumstances: (Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Pakistan) on 3 September 2005	The Asia Centre, Bangalore
5	A Study on "India's Economic strategy in Africa"	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi
6	A project for writing a book on Zimbabwe under President Robert Mugabe by Sh. Uma Shnker Jha	The Association of Indian Africanists, New Delhi
7	Participation in the 14 th Biennial Conf. of Japanese studies Association of Australia to present a paper on "Expanding Indo-Japanese Relations: Implication for the Asia-Pacific Region" held at the University of Adelaide, 3-6 July 2005.	School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
8	Fellowship programmes in India for foreign students of Indian origin to carry out research projects in India.	American Institute of Indian Studies, New Delhi
9	An International seminar on "War, Peace & World Hegemony in the 21 st Century".	Book Review Literary Trust, New Delhi
10	Publication of proceedings of the V th Intl. Conf. on "Hispanism & Luso-Brazilian Studies: Flashback from the Present".	Centre for Spanish Studies, JNU, New Delhi
11	A quarterly Journal on Indian Foreign Policy.	Association of Indian Diplomats, New Delhi
12	Second round of Track-II India-Sri Lanka dialogue	India International Centre, New Delhi
13	Holding of 2 nd dialogue with a visiting delegation from the Ship and Ocean Foundation, Tokyo, 4 -9 April 2004.	Society for Indian Ocean Studies, New Delhi
14	Participation of Sh. H.N. Ansari in the Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED), 21&22 June 2005 in Singapore.	Fomer Ambassador to UN Shri H.N. Ansari

Appendix XII

Sl.No.	Event	Institution/Beneficiary
15	The 24 th round of track-II dialogue with Pakistan, 27-30 May 2005.	India Pakistan Neemrana Initiative(IPNI), New Delhi
16	Conducting 25 th round of track-II dialogue with Pakistan - 1 st week of November 2005	-do-
17	Participation in the 33 rd annual session of Intl. Law Enforcement - New Tendencies, at Thessaloniki, Greece, by Sh. Leeladhara Bhandary M., Research Assistant. of ISIL, New Delhi (Delhi-Thessaloniki-Delhi) 5-23 September 2005	Indian Society of International Law (ISIL), New Delhi
18	The 5 th India-Korea dialogue	ICRIER, New Delhi
19	Research Project titled "India's External Relations: Role of Education Section" by Dr. Kavita Sharma	Centre for Policy Research(CPR), New Delhi
20	Study tour: Dr. Adesh Pal to Australia & Fiji.	Hemchandra Acharya North Gujarat University, Patan.
21	Research project entitled "India's Nuclear Diplomacy after Pokharan-II: Its Government's Public face"	ORF Institute of Security Studies, New Delhi
22	Publication of Journal, " Hispanic Horizon"	Centre of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian & Latin American Studies (CSPILA), School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, JNU, New Delhi
23	A Seminar on "India-Eurasia Relations: the Way Ahead" on Nov.05	Centre for Caucasian Study, CCRID (Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development), Chandigarh
24	A Seminar on "The Challenges to India's Foreign Policy in the New Era"	H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttaranchal
25	Conference for conferring honorary Doctorate on Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmed Badawi, December, 2004	Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi
26	Trilateral Academic Conference in Beijing, 1-19 June 2005	Centre for the study of Developing Societies, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi
27	Fourth round of India-China Joint Study Group Meeting held in New Delhi from 21-23 rd March 2005	East Asia Division, MEA
28	Publication of New volume entitled "Across the Himalayan Group-II: A Chinese Quest for understanding India"	East Asia Division, MEA
29	A Seminar on "Look East Policy"	Department of International Relations(DIR) of the Jadavpur University, Kolkatta

Appendix XII

B. Proposals under process

Sl.No.	Event	Institution/Beneficiary
1	A Seminar on “Indo-African Relations held in New Delhi 7 & 8 April,2005	Society for Indian Ocean Studies, New Delhi
2	Setting up of an India-Indonesia Eminent Persons Group (IIEPG)	Southern Division, MEA
3	Track-2,Fourth India-Australia Security Roundtable held in Canberra 11&12 April,2005	Sh. Manoj Joshi, Convener of Indian side
4.	Research project on Identifying Cultural similarities between Tajikistan & Kashmir.	Centre of Central Asian Studies University of Kashmir, Jammu & Kashmir
5	An International Conference on “India - Africa Relations: challenges of Bilateralism & Multilateralism” held 15-17 December 2005 in Mumbai.	The Centre for African Studies (CAS), University of Mumbai
6	Research project on Indo-US relations	Centre for the Advanced study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania
7	Donation for purchase of books & periodical.	ISIL, New Delhi
8	A conference on “Indo-Latin American Cooperation; Retrospect & prospects”, held in Goa on 22 & 23 September 2005.	Centre for Latin American Studies (CLAS), Goa University, Goa
10	Research project entitled “A fresh look at India’s look East Policy: Strategic Dimension” by Dr.Baladas Ghoshal	Centre for South, Central & South East Asia & South-West Pacific, JNU, N.Delhi
11	A Seminar on “Towards a creative conceptualization of the southern ASIAN Region as a Catalyst for promotion of multilateral cooperation”, to be held on 10 & 11 March 2006.	Indian Council for South Asian Cooperation, (ACSAC), Delhi
12	The 8 th Asian Regional seminar on “Peaceful uses of Atomic Energy” held in New Delhi 13-15 December 2005.	United Services Institute (USI), New Delhi
13	A Seminar on “India-China Relation: An Agenda for Asian Century” held in January 2006	Vidya Prakash Mandal’s (VPM) Centre for International Studies, Mumbai
14	Seminar on “Economic Diplomacy; Strategies for the Future” to be held in March 2006	Association of Indian Diplomats (AID), Delhi

Appendix XIII

Expenditure Statement for the period April 2005-January 2006 (ITEC & SCAAP Programmes)

Major/Minor Heads of Accounts	Total No. of Slots Allotted in 2005-2006	Total No. of Trainees as on 19.01.2006	Expenditure Incurred up to 31.12.2005 (in Rupees)	Budget Grant 2005-2006 (in Rupees)
Major Head-3605, 17-ITEC Programme, 17.00.32-Contribution	2862 (Civilian) + 319 (Defence)= 3181	1633	26.89 crores	BE 45 crores RE 49 crores
Major Head-3605, 19-SCAAP Programme, 19.00.32-Contribution	698	381	3.96 crores	BE 5.5 crores RE 6.5 crores
	3879	2014	30.85 crores	BE 50.50 crores RE 55.50 crores

Appendix XIV

List of ITEC Training Institutes in India

S. No	Name of Institute	City
1	Administrative Staff College of India	Hyderabad
2	Aptech Limited.	New Delhi
3	Bureau of Indian Standards	New Delhi
4	Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training	New Delhi
5	Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute	Faridabad, Haryana
6	Central Food Technological Research Institute	Mysore, Karnataka
7	Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages	Hyderabad
8	Central Institute of Tool Design	Hyderabad
9	Central Institute for Rural Electrification	Hyderabad
10	Central Poultry Training Institute	Bangalore, Karnataka
11	Central Scientific Instruments Organisation	New Delhi
12	Centre For Development of Advanced Computing	Mohali (Chandigarh)
13	CMC Ltd.	New Delhi
14	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	New Delhi
15	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India	Bhat, Gujarat
16	Fluid Control Reseach Institiute	Palghat, Kerala
17	Human Settlement Management Institute	New Delhi
18	Indian Institute of Mass Communication	New Delhi
19	Indian Institute of Production Management	Rourkela, Orissa
20	Indian Institute of Remote Sensing	Dehradun
21	Indian Institute of Technology	Roorkee
22	Institute of Applied Manpower Research	New Delhi
23	Institute of Government Accounts Finance	New Delhi
24	Institute of Secretariat Training & Management	New Delhi
25	International Management Institute	New Delhi
26	International Statistical Education Centre	Kolkata
27	JIS College of Engineering	Kolkata
28	Narula Instittute of Technology	Kolkata
29	National Crime Records Bureau	New Delhi
30	National Institute of Bank Management	Pune
31	National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration	New Delhi
32	National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development	Noida, UP

Appendix XIV

S. No	Name of Institute	City
33	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research	Mohali,Punjab
34	National Institute of Rural Development	Hyderabad
35	National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training	Hyderabad
36	NIIT Limited	New Delhi
37	Postal Training Centre	Mysore, Karnataka
38	Research & Information System for the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries	New Delhi
39	UTES	Gurgaon, Haryana
40	SIBIT	New Delhi
41	South India Textile Research Association	Coimbatore
42	TATA Infotech Ltd.	New Delhi
43	Technical Teachers' Training Institute	Chennai
44	Telecommunications Consultant Indian Ltd. (TCIL)	New Delhi
45	V.V. Giri National Labour Institute	Noida, UP

Appendix XV

Civilian Training Slots (Alloted/Utilized) under ITEC Training Programme

Country	Slots	Sanctions	Joined* as Issued on 19.1.06	Country	Slots	Sanctions	Joined* as Issued on 19.1.06
ITEC				Burundi	3	3	0
Afghanistan	100	102	80	Cambodia	75 (40+10 (ASEAN)+ 25)	78	53
Afghanistan	200 (100 +100)	213	98	Cape Verde Island	2	0	0
Albania	2	0	0	Cayman Island	2	0	0
Algeria	9	9	2	Central African Republic	2	0	0
Angola	15	3	0	Chad	2	0	0
Anguilla	2	2	0	Chile	3 (G-15)	2	1
Antigua and Barbuda	5	12	1	Colombia	20 (15+5)	18	11
Argentina	3 (G-15)	1	0	Commonwealth of Dominica	2 (SFTC)	4	2
Armenia	60 (50+10)	68	53	Comoros	2	3	0
Azerbaijan	10	16	1	Congo	2	1	0
Bahamas	02 (SFTC)	2	2	Costa Rica	10 (5+5)	12	8
Bahrain	03	0	0	Croatia	3	2	1
Bangladesh	125 (50+50 (BIMST- EC) +25)	114	38	Cuba	35	45	24
Barbados	5	2	1	Czech Republic	5	1	1
Belarus	10	4	3	Djibouti	5	1	0
Belize	6	6	5	Dominican Republic	5 (SFTC)	1	1
Benin	5	4	0	East Timor	10	4	0
Bhutan	80 (50+30 BIMSTEC)	49	42	Ecuador	10 (5+5)	5	3
Bolivia	3	4	0	Egypt	10 (7+3(G-15))	11	9
Bosnia - Herzegovina	2	0	0	El-Salvador	7 (2+5(SFTC))	11	4
Brazil	3 (SFTC)	0	0	Equatorial Guinea	2	0	0
Brunei				Eritrea	10	11	5
Darussalam	10 (ASEAN)	0	0	Estonia	30 (20+10)	32	20
Bulgaria	10	16	6	Ethopia	30	28	15
Burkina Faso	10 (5+5)	8	1	Fiji	30 (25+5(SFTC))	16	6

Appendix XV

Country	Slots	Sanctions	Joined* as Issued on 19.1.06	Country	Slots	Sanctions	Joined* as Issued on 19.1.06
Gabon	5	0	0	Maldives	20	43	25
Georgia	40 (30+10)	44	24	Mali	3	0	0
Grenada	7 (5(SFTC)+2)	10	7	Marshall Islands	2	1	1
Guatemala	2	7	6	Mauritania	2	1	0
Guinea	5	0	0	Mexico	13	12	3
Guinea Bissau	2	2	1	Micronesia	5	3	1
Guyana	35 (30+5(SFTC))	44	24	Moldova	2	1	1
Haiti	2	2	2	Mongolia	50 (40+10)	58	35
Honduras	5	3	3	Montserrat	2	0	0
Hungary	2	1	1	Morocco	5	7	5
Indonesia	88 (50+3 (G-15)+10 (ASEAN)+25)	70	55	Myanmar	100 [40+50 (BIMST-EC)+ 10(ASEAN)]	120	60
Iran	15	20	10	Nauru	2	0	0
Iraq	100	117	54	Nepal	80 (50+30)	47	29
Ivory Coast	35	46	29	Nicaragua	5	7	2
Jamaica	13 (5+8)	8	7	Niger	2	1	0
Jordan	15 (5+10)	16	4	Oman	45	24	20
Kazakhstan	40	46	26	Palau	2	2	2
Kiribati	2	0	0	Palestine	30	68	30
Korea(DPRK)	10	16	10	Panama	10	13	5
Kyrgyzstan	50	67	44	Papua New Guinea	15 [10+5]	40	14
Laos	60 (40+10 (ASEAN)+10)	63	49	Paraguay	2	1	0
Latvia	4	2	1	Peru	10 [6+4]	12	6
Lebanon	15 (2+13)	28	11	Philippines	25 [15+10 (ASEAN)]	31	20
Liberia	5	5	2	Poland	3	3	3
Libya	20	11	0	Qatar	2	0	0
Lithuania	10	8	6	Republic Of Sao Tome	2	5	5
Macedonia	2	1	0	Romania	10	10	9
Madagascar	10	24	15	Russia	80	154	72
Malaysia	20 (7+3 (G-15)+10 (ASEAN))	9	5	Rwanda	5	1	0

Appendix XV

Country	Slots	Sanctions	Joined* as Issued on 19.1.06	Country	Slots	Sanctions	Joined* as Issued on 19.1.06
Samoa	3 (SFTC)	0	0	Venezuela	10	13	6
Senegal	20 [17+3(G-15)]	8	4	Vietnam	100 [40+10 (ASEAN)+ 20(S&T)+30]	91	57
Singapore	10 (ASEAN)	0	0	Yemen	50	56	37
Slovak Republic	10	15	4	Zaire	3	0	0
Solomon Island	8 [2+6]	8	4	Total	2862	3036	1633
Sri Lanka	100 [50+50 (BIMST-EC)]	99	51	SCAAP			
St. Christopher & Nevis	2	1	1	Botswana	20	25	18
St. Lucia	2	0	0	Cameroon	5	4	4
St. Vincent & Grenadines	2	1	1	Gambia	10	11	4
Sudan	100 [60+40]	159	59	Ghana	70 [50+20]	78	52
Suriname	30 [20+10]	35	21	Kenya	53 [50+3(G-15)]	33	11
Syria	30	43	25	Lesotho	20	28	11
Tajikistan	75	43	20	Malawi	10 [5+5]	17	6
Thailand	60 [10+50 (BIMST-EC)]	76	38	Mauritius	75 [30+45]	59	36
Togo	5 [2+3]	7	0	Mozambique	20	18	14
Tonga	5	6	5	Namibia	55 [40+15]	58	36
Trinidad & Tabago	20	16	10	Nigeria	50	51	30
Tunisia	10	1	1	Seychelles	20	15	7
Turkey	50 [40+10]	54	25	Sierra Leone	10	13	9
Turkmenistan	30	32	26	South Africa	75	39	23
Turks & Caicos Island	2	0	0	Swaziland	5	3	0
Tuvalu	2	1	1	Tanzania	75 [60+15]	111	56
Ukraine	15 [10+5]	15	9	Uganda	30	20	13
Uruguay	5	6	4	Zambia	50 [35+15]	66	36
Uzbekistan	90	84	61	Zimbabwe	45	40	15
Vanuatu	8 [2(SFTC)+6]	9	2	Total	698	689	381

* The figures are on the basis of the Joining Reports received by TC Division from the Institutions along with the Bills. The actual figures might be more.

Appendix XVI

Defence Training slots allotted to various Countries during 2005-06 under ITEC/SCAAP Programme

S.No	Country	Army	Navy	Air Force	DSSC	NDC	Total
1	Afghanistan	4	-	-	-	-	4
2	Bangladesh	7	8	7	-	1	23
3	Bhutan	-	-	-	1	1	2
4	Botswana	8	-	7	-	-	15
5	Cambodia	5	3	5	-	-	13
6	Eritrea	4	3	-	-	-	7
7	Egypt	-	-	-	-	1	1
8	Ghana	2	5	14	1	-	22
9	Indonesia	3	3	4	1	1	12
10	Kazakhstan	4	2	-	1	-	7
11	Kyrgyzstan	2	-	-	-	-	2
12	Laos PDR	2	-	3	-	-	5
13	Lebanon	3	-	-	-	-	3
14	Lesotho	4	-	-	-	-	4
15	Malaysia	2	6	5	-	-	13
16	Maldives	-	-	-	1	1	2
17	Mauritius	18	12	9	-	-	39
18	Mongolia	4	-	-	1	-	5
19	Myanmar	34	4	5	1	1	45
20	Nepal	-	-	-	1	1	2
21	Nigeria	3	9	6	-	-	18
22	Seychelles	7	19	-	-	-	26
23	Sri Lanka	-	-	-	1	2	3
24	Syria	2	-	-	1	1	4
25	Tajikistan	4	-	-	1	-	5
26	Tanzania	3	1	-	1	-	5
27	Thailand	2	-	-	-	1	3
28	Uganda	2	-	-	1	-	3
29	Uzbekistan	6	-	-	-	-	6
30	Vietnam	6	7	-	1	1	15
31	Zambia	5	-	5	1	-	11
32	Zanzibar	-	3	-	-	-	3
	Total	146	85	70	15	12	328

Appendix XVII

Indian Experts on deputation abroad during 2005-06 under ITEC Programme

S.No.	Country	Name of Expert	Field	From	To
1	Guyana	Dr. A. Murugan	Milk Marketing	Jul 03	Jul 06
2	Guyana	Sh. Mukul Gupta	Town Planner	Aug 03	Aug 05
3	Guyana	Sh. P.K. Malhotra	Legal Officer	Jan 04	Jan 06
4.	Laos	Lt. Col. Vivek Sharma	Teaching English & Army tactics	Mar 03	Mar 06
5.	Laos	Major S.S. Maini	Teaching English & Army tactics	Mar 03	Mar 06
6.	Laos	Major Amit Khabtiyal	Teaching English & Army tactics	Dec 04	Dec 07
7.	Laos	Major Murty	Teaching English & Army tactics	Dec 04	Dec 07
8	Namibia	Sh. R.K. Dubey	Professor of Mathematics	Feb 03	Feb 07
9	Lesotho	CHM Simon K John	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 03	Sep 05
10	Lesotho	CHM Bidhan Singh	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 03	Sep 05
11	Lesotho	CHMK Laxma Reddy	Indian Army Training Team	Nov 03	Nov 05
12	Lesotho	CHM B. Devraj	Indian Army Training Team	Nov 03	Nov 05
13	Lesotho	CHM A.K. Bharti	Indian Army Training Team	Nov 03	Nov 05
14	Zambia	Col.U.K. Gurung	Military Advisory Team (IMAT)	Jan 04	Jan 06
15	Zambia	Lt. Col. Raghu Srinivasan	Military Advisory Team (IMAT)	Jan 04	Jan 06
16	Zambia	Lt. Col. R.K. Mathur	Military Advisory Team (IMAT)	Jan 04	Jan 06
17	Zambia	Wg.Cdr. V.R. Choudhary	Military Advisory Team (IMAT)	Jan 04	Jan 06
18	Uganda	Dr. D.C. Shewade	Professor of Pharmacology	Feb 04	Feb 06
19	Mauritius	Dr. A. Laxminarayana	Fisheries Expert	May 04	May 06
20	Mauritius	Shri Parvin Dixit	Consultant, Training of Civil Servants	Dec 04	Dec 05
21	Mauritius	Shri R.P. Dinaraj	Audit Consultant	Dec 04	Dec 07
22	Mauritius	Shri I.D.S. Dhariwal	Audit Consultant	Dec 04	Dec 07
23	Mauritius	Shri A.K. Rastogi	Civil Engineer	Sep 04	Sep 06
24	Lesotho	Col. V.G. Khandare	Chief Instructor, IATT	Jul 05	Jul 07
25	Lesotho	Major S. Thukral	Indian Army Training Team	Aug 05	Aug 07
26	Lesotho	Major R. Minhas	Indian Army Training Team	Aug 05	Aug 07
27	Lesotho	Major Lalit Sharma	Indian Army Training Team	Aug 05	Aug 07

Appendix XVII

S.No.	Country	Name of Expert	Field	From	To
28	Lesotho	Major P. Vats	Indian Army Training Team	Aug 05	Aug 07
29	Seychelles	Cdr. Naveen Kundra	Naval Advisor	Sep 05	Sep 07
30	Lesotho	Major Rahul Sareen	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 05	Sep 07
31	Lesotho	Major Amit Obroi	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 05	Sep 07
32	Lesotho	Major Sandeep Ratra	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 05	Sep 07
33	Lesotho	Major B.P.S. Thakur	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 05	Sep 07
34	Lesotho	Major S.K. Sengupta	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 05	Sep 07
35	Lesotho	Major I.V. Nagesh	Indian Army Training Team	Sep 05	Sep 07
36	Grenada	Shri Anurag Sinha	IT Expert	Oct 05	Oct 06
37	Lesotho	Brig.Ranvir Yadav	Indian Army Training Team	Oct 05	Oct 07
38	Trinidad & Tobago	Shri K.S. Guliani	Telecommunications Expert	Nov 05	Nov 06
39	Seychelles	Lt. Col. Anil Chandel	Military Advisor	Nov 05	Nov 07
40	Grenada	Dr. Anil P. Singh	Agricultural Advisor	Nov.05	Nov 06

Appendix XVIII

Gender-Related Statistics

Cadre	Total in position	No. of lady officers	As % of the total strength
IFS	621	84	14%
IFS-B	2433	332	14%
L&T	12	2	17%
Interpreters	19	6	32%
Library	11	2	18%

Appendix XIX

Seminars/Conferences/Round Tables, Talks Organised by ICWA

No.	Date	Topic	Participants
1.	13 April 2005	Discussion on : “Outcome of the visit of Mr. Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of China”	Prof. Mira Sinha Bhattacharjea, ICS, Shri P.R. Chari, I.P.C.S., Dr. Arvinder Singh, ICS, Prof. Manoranjan, ICS, Dr. Alka Acharya, JNU, Prof. G.P. Deshpande, ICS.
2.	29 April 2005	Discussion on: “To assess the visit of General Musharraf, President of Pakistan”	Shri Nihal Singh, Former Editor, The Statesman, Amb. G. Parthasarathy, Lt. Gen.(Retd.) Dr. B.S. Malik, Dr. Vivek Bharati, FICCI, Prof. Kalim Bahadur, JNU.
3.	4 May 2005	Seminar on: “The Recent Anti-Secession Law and its Implications”	Amb. Ranjit Gupta, Amb. Vinod C. Khanna.
4.	5 May 2005	Discussion on: “Bio-Terrorism and Bio-Defence”.	Prof. P.R. Chari, Rear Admiral Raja Menon, Amb. Arundhati Ghose, Dr. K. Santhanam, Amb.A.N. Ram.
5.	18 July 2005	Seminar on: “ Is it necessary to tackle first the root causes of terrorism before eliminating it”	Maj. Gen.(Retd.) Afsir Karim,(AVSM), Editor, Aakrosh, Dr. Manoj Joshi, Editor (views), The Hindustan Times, Shri Siddharth Varadarajan, Dy. Editor, The Hindu, Dr. Ajai Sahni, I.C.M., Ms. Swati Parashar, O.R.F., Amb.A.N. Ram.
6.	27 July 2005	Discussion on: “IBSA Forum: Potential and Promise”.	Dr. Nagesh Kumar, DG, R.I.S.D.C., Prof. Abdul Nafey, JNU, Prof. Ajay Dubey, JNU, Dr. Suresh Kumar, DU, Amb. Shashank, Former Foreign Secretary.
7.	17 August 2005	8 th Dinesh Singh Memorial Lecture on: Peace Process in Sri Lanka”	Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka, Shri I.K. Gujral, Former Prime Minister of India,Amb. I.P. Khosla.
8.	9 September 2005	Lecture on: “EU-India Relations & Future Cooperation”.	Mr. Herve Jouanjean, Brussels, Amb. C. Dasgupta.
9.	19 October 2005	Lecture on: Mexican Foreign Policy Priorities in the 21 st Century: Towards a Closer Partnership with India”.	H.E. Ms. Lourdes Aranda Bezaury, Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations of Mexico, Prof. R. Narayanan, I.C.S.S.R.
10.	16 November, 2005	Panel Discussion on: “Non-Traditional Threats to Security in Asia Pacific”	Shri Dhirender Singh, former Union Home Secretary, Shri P.R. Chari, Prof. Maroof Raza, Prof. T.Sreedhar, Dr. Vijay Sakhuja.
11.	25 November, 2005	Lecture On: “Building of New Institution based on Modernity and Secular Traditions in Morocco” and ; “ To mark the 50 th anniversary of the return of His Majesty the late King Mohammed V of Morocco from the Exile”.	Mr. Larbi Moukharik, Amb. Of the Kingdom of Morocco. Shri Romesh Bhandari, former Governor of U.P.and former Foreign Secretary.
12.	29 November, 2005	“To commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”	Mr. Abdal Mahmood Abdalhalleem Mohammad, Amb. of the Republic of Sudan. Dr. Kheir Eldin A. Latif, Amb. Of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Mr. Osama Musa, Amb. Of the State of Palestine. Ms. Shalini Dewan, Director, U.N. Information Centre. Prof. Gulshan Dietl, JNU, Prof. Achin Vanaik, D.U. and Amb. C.R. Gharekhan.

Appendix XIX

No.	Date	Topic	Participants
13.	9 December 2005	Round Table Discussion on "2005 Presidential Elections in Kazakhstan: Future Dimensions in Security, Energy Cooperation and Foreign Relations"	H.E. Mr. Kairat Umarov, Amb. of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Prof. Shri Prakash, JMI. Shri Indranil Banerjee, SAPRA Indian Foundation. Dr. Ramakant Dwivedi, IDSA. Prof. Nirmala Joshi, Director, India-Central Asia Foundation.
14.	13 December 2005	The 4th Alfred NZO Memorial Lecture on: "India-South Africa: Strategic Perspective on Africa and the World"	H.E. Mr. Aziz Pahad, Dy. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa. Prof. Ajay Dubey, JNU.
15.	18 January 2006	Lecture on: "Global Implications of EU Enlargement" A Czech Perspective.	H.E. Mr. Jiri Paroubek, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. Hon'ble Shri I.K. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India.
16.	25 January 2006	Seminar on: The Emerging Trends in Indo-Nepal Relations with Special Reference to Democratic Experience"	Dr. C. Raja Mohan, The Indian Express. Prof. Lok Raj Baral, Nepal. Prof. Prayag Raj Sharma, Nepal. Mr. Til Bikram Nembang, Nepal. Mr. Tara Nath Baral, Nepal. Mrs. Pushpa Bhusal, Nepal. Mr. Prem Raj Goutam, Nepal. Mr. Ganesh Datta Bhatta, Nepal.
17.	8 February 2006	Lecture on: "Current Situation and Foreign Policy Situation in East Europe, in General and Slovakia, in particular"	Dr. Grigorij Meseznikov, President of the Institute of Public Affairs of Slovakia. Amb. B.R. Muthu Kumar.

Appendix XX

Seminars Organised by RIS

■ Seminar on WTO Negotiations: Towards Hong Kong Ministerial, 11 February 2005.	#17 <i>Regional Trading Arrangements (RTAs) in the World and Asia: Options for India</i> , August 2005
■ Seminar on Emerging East Asian Regionalism: Options for India, 10 February 2005.	#18 <i>Biosafety Protocol, Precautionary Approach and Trade: Identifying Plausible Policy Options</i> , September 2005
■ Seminar on the Potential of Economic Cooperation in IBSA, 24 March 2005.	#19 <i>Doha Round's Development Impacts: Shrinking Gains and Real Costs</i> , November 2005
■ India-US Dialogue on Trade Issues 10 May 2005.	#20. <i>Making Doha a Really Development Round</i> , December 2005
■ Seminar on an Asian Economic Community in Washington, D.C., 16 June 2005.	#21 <i>Trade Facilitation: Need to Strike a Balance between Pragmatism and Caution</i> , December 2005
■ With a view to concretize the understanding on different options of Rules of Origin and to provide timely inputs to the Government of India on this important issue RIS organized a meeting on 25 November 2005.	Discussion Papers
■ A Seminar on: Taking Stock of Monetary and Financial Cooperation in East Asia: Implication for India" on 23 December 2005.	#106 <i>Japan and an Asian Economic Community</i> by Masanori Kondo, 2006.
	#105 India-Vietnam Trade: Current Relations and Prospects by Rajesh Mehta, 2005.
	#104 <i>Trade in IBSA Economic Cooperation: The Role of Communication Services</i> by Prabir De, 2005
RIS Publications	#103 <i>Trade and Environment in the WTO: Negotiating Options for Developing Countries</i> by Sanjay Kumar and Nupur Chowdhury, 2005
Books	#102 <i>Prospects for Environmental Trade under the Regional Process in South Asia: Evidence from SAPTA and Proposals for SAFTA</i> by S. K. Mohanty and Sachin Chaturvedi, 2005
■ <i>Towards an Asian Economic Community: An Agenda for the East Asia Summit</i> Published with ISEAS, Singapore, 2006.	#101 <i>Emergence of China and India in the new Millennium: Will it facilitate Market Access for LDCs and Developing Countries?</i> by S. K. Mohanty and Sachin Chaturvedi, 2005
■ <i>India-ASEAN Economic Relations: Meeting the Challenges of Globalization</i> by Nagesh Kumar, Rahul Sen, and Mukul Asher (eds.). Published with ISEAS, Singapore, 2005.	#100 <i>Towards a Broader Asian Community: Agenda for the East Asia Summit</i> by Nagesh Kumar, 2005
■ <i>Towards an Employment-Oriented Export Strategy</i> , 2006.	#99 <i>Biosafety Protocol, International Trade and Agricultural Biotechnology: Policy Inferences for India</i> by Sachin Chaturvedi and Lian Chawii, 2005
■ <i>Environmental Requirements and Market Access in South Asia</i> , 2006	#98 <i>The WTO Negotiations on Industrial Tariffs: What is at Stake for Developing Countries?</i> by Yilmaz Akyüz, 2005
Policy Briefs	#97 <i>Non-tariff Barriers Affecting India's Exports</i> by Rajesh Mehta, 2005
#14 <i>Oil Shock and Cyclical Upturn in US Interest Rates: Implications for Asia</i> , September 2004	
#15 <i>Regional Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in Asia</i> , July 2005	
#16 <i>High Risks of Global Imbalances: Role of Infrastructure Investments in Asia</i> , August 2005	

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| #96 | <i>Advancing the ASEAN-India Partnership in the New Millennium</i> by Ong Keng Yong, 2005 | | <i>South Asia Economic Journal</i> (Vol. 6 No. 2) July-December 2005. |
| #95 | <i>The Search for Regional Architecture: The Role of ASEAN as Strange Attractor</i> by Djisman S. Simanjuntak, 2005 | 2. | <i>Asian Biotechnology and Development Review</i> , Vol. 7(1), November 2004. |
| #94 | <i>India-Central Asia Economic Relations: A Report of RIS/CII Seminar</i> , 2005 | | <i>Asian Biotechnology and Development Review</i> , Vol. 7(2), March 2005. |
| #93 | <i>Asian Energy Outlook to 2020: Trends, Patterns and Imperatives of Regional Cooperation</i> by Kokichi Ito, Li Zhidong and Ryoichi Komiyama, 2005 | | <i>Asian Biotechnology and Development Review</i> , Vol. 7(2), July 2005. |
| #92 | <i>Regional Trade and Investment Architecture in Asia-Pacific: Emerging Trends and Imperatives</i> by Tiziana Bonapace, 2005 | 3. | <i>Asian Biotechnology and Development Review</i> , Vol. 8(1), November 2005. |
| #91 | <i>India-East Asia Integration: A Win-Win for Asia</i> by Mukul G. Asher and Rahul Sen, 2005 | | <i>New Asia Monitor</i> , Vol. 2 No. 2, April 2005 |
| #90 | <i>Strategic Relevance of Asian Economic Integration</i> by Eric Teo Chu Cheow, 2005 | | <i>New Asia Monitor</i> , Vol. 2 No. 3, July 2005. |
| #89 | <i>China's Role in the Asian Economic Unification Process</i> by Yao Chao Cheng, 2005 | | <i>New Asia Monitor</i> , Vol. 2 No. 4, October 2005. |
| #88 | <i>Strategic Approach to Strengthening the International Competitiveness in Knowledge Based Industries: Electronics Industry</i> by K. J. Joseph, 2005 | | <i>New Asia Monitor</i> , Vol. 3 No. 1, January 2006 |
| #87 | <i>Regional Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in South Asia</i> by Sachin Chaturvedi, 2004 | | |

Newsletter

- RIS Diary*, Vol. 3 No. 2, April 2005.
- RIS Diary*, Vol. 3 No. 3, July 2005.
- RIS Diary*, Vol. 3 No. 4, October 2005.
- RIS Diary*, Vol. 4 No. 1, January 2006.

Journals

1. *South Asia Economic Journal* (Vol. 6 No. 1) January-June 2005.

Abbreviations

ACAFD	Advanced Course on Asia for Foreign Diplomats	CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention
ACD	Asian Cooperation Dialogue	DPC	District Passport Cell
AGPL	Actual Ground Position Line	DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	EU	European Union
ASI	Archeological Survey of India	FICCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
BDR	Bangladesh Rifles	FIEO	Federation of Indian Export Organisations
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical And Economic Cooperation.	FOC	Foreign Office Consultations
BSF	Border Security Force	FSI	Foreign Service Institute
CAN	Community of ANDEAN Nations	FTA	Free Trade Agreement
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
CBM	Confidence Building Measures	GCIM	Global Commission on International Migration
CD	Conference on Disarmament	GOI	Government of India
CECA	Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement	GSLV	Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle
CEL	Central Electronics Limited	HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
CEP	Cultural Exchange Programme	HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
CFY	Current Financial Year	HOM	Head of Mission
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	HOP	Head of Post
CICA	Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia	HTCG	High Technology Cooperation Group
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry	IBSA	India, Brazil and South Africa
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	ICCR	Indian Council for Cultural Relations
CLMV	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam	ICWA	Indian Council of World Affairs
COMESA	Community of Eastern and Southern Africa	IFS	Indian Foreign Service
CPIF	Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs	IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
CSCAP	Council for Security and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific	ILO	International Labour Organisation
CUNPK	Center for UN Peacekeeping	IMO	International Maritime Organisation
		IRIGC	Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission
		ITEC	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation

Abbreviations

ITPO	Indian Trade Promotion Organisation	MITES	Rail India Technical Economic Services
JCE	Joint Committee of Experts	ROK	Republic of Korea
JEC	Joint Economic Commission	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
JSG	Joint Study Group	SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Area
JTG	Joint Technical Group	SCAAP	Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Plan
JWG	Joint Working Group	SCPD	Special Course for Palestinian Diplomats
LAC	Latin American Countries	SICA	System of Central American Integration
LCDS	Least Developed Contracting States	SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
LOC	Line of Control	TCIL	Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam	TEAM-9	Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement
MERC-OSUR	Market of Southern Cone Countries	UGC	University Grants Commission
MNA	Myanmar News Agency	UMFCCI	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	UNCO-PUOS	UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
NAM	Non Aligned Movement	UNDC	United Nations Disarmament Commission
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	UNGA	UN General Assembly
NDC	National Defence College	UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugee
NIDM	National Institute of Disaster Management	UNMEE	UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
NRI	Non Resident Indian	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
NSCS	National Security Council Secretariat	UPA	United Progressive Alliance
NSSP	Next Steps in Strategic Partnership	WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	WTO	World Trade Organisation
PCFD	Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats		
PIO	People of Indian Origin		
PIS	Personnel Information System		
PLA	People's Liberation Army		
PTA	Preferential Trade Agreement		