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The front cover depicts Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan, headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) since 2011. It also features a QR code at the bottom of the page to facilitate instant digital access to the Annual Report for the first time.

The back cover is a collection of logos representing flagship programmes and events hosted by the MEA over the last year.

The insides of the front and back cover pages display a collage of images taken during visits of foreign dignitaries to India and outgoing visits of President, Vice President, Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Ministers of State for External Affairs.

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Introduction and Synopsis

During the period between April 2016 and March 2017, the Government of India continued its active diplomacy focused on enhancing India's security, strengthening our partnerships, building influence in global forums and promoting and facilitating India's economic transformation. The basic underpinnings of the strategy outlined by the government in the first few months in office were pursued with renewed energy and vigour, building upon the gains accomplished in previous years and creating new directions for the growth and expansion of India's foreign policy.

The year saw further consolidation of our relations with friendly countries whether in the neighbourhood or beyond and expansion of our diplomatic footprint and outreach with existing as well as new partners across different regions. Visits by the President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister and Members of the Union Council of Ministers extended to more countries and regions than ever before. In keeping with its growing global profile, India also participated in a number of global conferences including the Nuclear Security Summit, the G-20 Summit and the East Asia Summit. It hosted the 8th BRICS Summit in Goa in October 2016 which also saw an outreach to BIMSTEC and the 6th Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar in December 2016.

The government continued to accord high priority to relations with countries in our immediate neighbourhood in South Asia in accordance with its "Neighbourhood First" policy. Further progress and consolidation was witnessed in each of the relationships with countries in the region. Outgoing visits by Rashtrapati to Nepal and Prime Minister of India to Afghanistan; and incoming visits by Presidents of Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Myanmar; Prime Ministers of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and State Counsellor of Myanmar signified continued momentum in high-level engagement with the neighbourhood. With Bhutan, the year saw the signing of an agreement on trade, commerce and transit. Relations with Sri Lanka were marked by progress on development projects, expansion in commercial ties and greater synergy on issues related to peace and security in the Indian Ocean. Our rapidly growing ties with Bangladesh saw

a new emphasis on defence cooperation emerge following first-ever visit by Raksha Mantri to Bangladesh since 1971. There was also progress in areas of road, rail, water and energy connectivity, including the inauguration of the Petrapole Integrated Check Post in July 2016. EAM visited Myanmar in August to engage with the newly elected National League of Democracy (NLD) government in March 2016 and along with high-level visits from Myanmar provided the occasion to reiterate our commitment to support "a modern, secure, economically prosperous and better connected" Myanmar. Our commitment to development and capacity building in Afghanistan was reflected in the inauguration of the India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam by the Prime Minister in June announcement of an additional US \$ 1 Billion development assistance to Afghanistan, joint co-hosting of the 6th Heart of Asia Conference in December and our active participation in Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October 2016.

In general, India's approach of seeking closer contacts, building stronger connectivity and expanding cooperation saw greater support and acceptance among our partners in the neighbourhood. However, our efforts to normalise relations with Pakistan were undermined by continued cross border terrorism and large scale ceasefire violations from Pakistan. This was combated with renewed resolve and determination by the Government, including through the 29 September 2016 surgical strikes. There was also wider recognition of its negative impact on our efforts to build greater prosperity and development in the region as reflected in a number of South Asian countries joining India in supporting the postponement of SAARC summit in Islamabad scheduled for November 2016 and calling for a conducive environment free of terrorism to be created to move forward in this regard.

An important trajectory of the Government's foreign policy has been simultaneous deepening of India's ties with all the major powers of the world by focusing on areas of greatest promise in each relationship and seeking progress on the basis of mutual synergies and gains. Apart from bilateral summits with USA, Russia, EU, UK and Japan, engagements with global leaders were also held on the sidelines of multilateral

engagements such as the Nuclear Security Summit, the G-20 summit, BRICS Summit, East Asia Summit and the SCO meeting. Apart from advancing key economic objectives, which is an important focus in all of these relationships, there was progress in a number of other areas such as designation of India as a “Major Defence Partner”, and finalization of the road map for implementation of the Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region with the USA; advancing cooperation with Russia in defence, nuclear and hydrocarbon sectors, including the dedication of Units I and II of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants in August and October 2016 respectively; the endorsement of the “EU-India Agenda for Action-2020” setting out a concrete road-map for the EU-India Strategic Partnership for the next five years; and entry into force of the Defence Framework Agreements concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology and on Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information with Japan. The visit of the Prime Minister to USA in June 2016 also saw an address by him to the Joint Session of the US Congress underlining the broad bipartisan support in that country for strengthening relations between India and USA.

A significant element of India’s foreign diplomatic approach has been strengthening its engagements to the regions East, West and South of India. In pursuance of our Act East policy, the Prime Minister attended the 13th ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit (EAS) in Kuala Lumpur in November and the 14th ASEAN-India Summit in September. Several other high level exchanges also took place both with countries in the region as well as within the broader ASEAN and EAS frameworks. Our cooperation remained focused on implementing projects related to connectivity and stronger integration with the region as well as building partnerships with ASEAN and our other East Asian partners on security and defence with a view to address various traditional and non-traditional security threats in the region.

On our western flank, a notable development was Prime Minister’s visit to Iran in May 2016 which focused on advancing our cooperation on energy, infrastructure, banking and other areas. Of particular significance was the signing of the Trilateral Agreement on Chabahar between India, Iran and Afghanistan and the signing of the contract for the development of Chabahar Port in Iran with implications for our connectivity to Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond. This, along with the submission of Instruments of Accession for joining the Ashgabat Agreement and continuing progress

on the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project, open new possibilities for connectivity and integration with the region.

In West Asia and Gulf region, the year also saw visit by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day in 2017 within less than a year of his visit to India in February 2016. Prime Minister also visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar and Prime Minister of Qatar also made a return visit to India in December 2016. Exchanges at Ministerial level also took place with other countries in the region, notably the holding of the 5th India-Arab League Partnership Conference in Muscat in December 2016. Apart from important understandings in the fields of energy cooperation, significant investment commitments for infrastructure development and stronger cooperation on counter terrorism, security and defence issues have been advanced with the countries in the region.

Our outreach to Central Asia also saw further progress through return visits by Presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan following Prime Minister’s landmark Central Asian tour in July 2015. In a significant development, Prime Minister also visited Uzbekistan in June 2016 to attend the summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), during which India and SCO signed the Memorandum of Obligations (MoO) formally starting the process of India’s full membership of the SCO. An Investment Agreement was signed at the 24th Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India (TAPI) Steering Committee meeting held in Ashgabat in April 2016. India and the Eurasian Economic Union also decided to begin talks on a free trade agreement (FTA).

In the Indian Ocean region, the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) articulated by the Prime Minister during his visit to Mauritius in May 2015 as part of his Indian Ocean tour has continued to guide our approach to the region. Like in other regions in our extended neighbourhood, we continued to focus on building synergies between our security and economic interests. India intensified its engagement with member countries of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in preparation of the 1st IORA Summit in Indonesia in March 2017 and has announced a number of initiatives covering a wide range of sectors. India’s development cooperation with countries in the region has also been progressed. Work on building stronger security networks among the Indian Ocean littoral States through collaboration on coastal surveillance, sharing of white shipping information and cooperation in fighting non-traditional threats like

marine piracy, smuggling and organized crime has also been advanced.

The emphasis of the government on making domestic transformation central to India's foreign policy strategy continued. Attracting investments, technologies and best practices from abroad remained an important priority of all our diplomatic engagements. The year saw fast-tracking of international partnerships aimed at promoting and facilitating all of India's flagship development initiatives. Engagements with global leaders and partners remained focused on accumulation of partnerships and synergies aimed at India's economic transformation. This was reflected in advancing projects whether through government arrangements or private commercial deals related to Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, Start Up India as well as those aimed at improving our infrastructure and transportation links and fostering all round sustainable development in urban or energy sectors. Projecting the improved business climate in India to attract investments and technology led to higher levels of FDI and joint partnerships in a number of areas. Notable successes were registered as reflected in conclusion of civil nuclear energy cooperation and progress in the High Speed Rail Project with Japan; advancing of partnerships in the hydrocarbon sector with Russia, Iran, and Gulf countries; moving forward with raising of rupee-denominated bonds for infrastructure development in UK and Singapore; modification of double taxation avoidance agreement with Mauritius; and promotion of cooperation in agricultural sector with our partners in Africa to promote India's food security. Our efforts at building partnerships with key partners on "Make in India" in the defence sector also witnessed significant progress during the year.

In order to impart a new focus to economic diplomacy, the Ministry also reorganised its Divisions to create a new Economic Diplomacy Division during the year to improve coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs, central government ministries/ departments, State governments, Business chambers and our Missions / Posts abroad with the objective of expanding the reach of India's exports, open new business opportunities for Indian enterprises overseas, enhance India's economic engagement in the immediate neighbourhood and beyond, attract greater investments, promote tourism and culture, and make India an attractive business destination.

Even as India sought stronger economic cooperation with developed countries, it also continued its strong commitment to use its growing capabilities to extend development

support to its developing country partners around the world. This was reflected in our growing commitments in the form of concessional credit lines, and grant assistance as well as expanding technical and economic cooperation with our partners from developing countries not just in the neighbourhood but beyond in South-East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The emphasis on expanding India's diplomatic canvas to new countries and regions saw exchange of high-level visits with a number of countries around the world, many of which had not seen such engagements in recent years. This included our partners, in particular, in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean region but extended to other regions as well. An initiative has been unveiled to reach out to countries, which have not seen a visit at least at the Ministerial level since the assumption of office by the government. This has led to an unprecedented coverage in terms of political engagement with bulk of the global community having already witnessed such an outreach. At the level of Heads of State and Government, apart from the visits mentioned earlier, during this year, incoming visits by Presidents of Indonesia, Brazil, Israel, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, and Namibia took place; by Vice Presidents of Hungary and Nigeria; and Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Thailand. Similarly, outgoing visits included those by Rashtrapatiji to Cote d' Ivorie, Ghana, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea; by Vice President to Hungary, Algeria, Nigeria, Mali, Morocco, Venezuela and Mongolia; and by Prime Minister to Mexico, Switzerland, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam and Lao PDR. These visits expanded India's diplomatic footprint and enabled breaking new grounds and developing new partnerships even as it helped build stronger support and understanding for India's position on a number of issues from regional to global ones.

Going beyond into the multilateral arena, the year saw further expansion of India's role and leadership on a number of issues. The hosting of the 8th BRICS summit along with an outreach to BIMSTEC in Goa in October 2016 was a success and saw unequivocal condemnation of terrorism as well as a renewed emphasis on BRICS solidarity and cooperation. During its Chairmanship, India hosted more than 120 meetings and events and initiated several new initiatives to further widen and deepen BRICS agenda and its work. The BIMSTEC outreach on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit also served as an opportunity for its member countries to resolve to rejuvenate the grouping. Apart from underlining the critical importance of the sector of Transport and Communication,

which aim to promote all round multi-modal connectivity, the BIMSTEC leaders also agreed to move forward on the FTA, Coastal Shipping Agreement, Energy Trade cooperation and overall economic, technical and infrastructure cooperation as well as launch an annual exercise on Disaster Management.

India also hosted jointly with Afghanistan the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process in Amritsar in December 2016. India also participated in the 11th G-20 Summit in China, the East Asia Summit in Lao PDR in September 2016 and the Nuclear Security Summit in USA in March 2016. Our constructive approach to global issues, which was reflected in our contribution to finalization of the Paris Climate Change accord in December 2015, was further underlined by our ratification of this agreement in October 2016. The International Solar Alliance launched last year saw further progress when the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance was opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016. India continued to advance its cause for joining Multilateral Export Control Regimes and a beginning was made with India joining the Missile Technology Control Regime during the year. Similarly, India's membership of the SCO was advanced with the signing of the Memorandum of Obligations (MoO) during the year. India also continued its engagement with the UN organizations, including the address by Prime Minister to the 1st Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Delhi in November 2016.

Cultural diplomacy and projecting India's cultural heritage also continued to remain a focus area during the year. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated for the second year running and witnessed greater participation and coverage than the first year. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organized a number of events across the world to showcase India's soft power, including festivals of Indian culture in France and Australia. In 2016, Ministry also organized Regional Hindi Conferences in Paris and Moscow. The Ministry's public diplomacy profile reached a new milestone with its following on social media touching 2 million on Facebook and Twitter even as it continued to work in enhancing its content.

The emphasis of the government on service delivery and citizen-centric governance also reflected in the qualitative and quantitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country. This includes simplification of passport application process, especially those related to police verification, as well as improvement in service delivery times.

The Tourist Visa on Arrival - Electronic Travel Authorisation (TVoA-ETA) Scheme launched in 27 November 2014 and later renamed as e-TOURIST VISA (eTV) in April 2015, has been further liberalized as E-Visa extending its eligibility from tourism to include business and medical purposes, expanding its coverage to 161 countries and increasing the duration of stay permitted under the scheme. The process of consular grievance redressal for Indians living abroad has been further improved by making MADAD or the Consular Services Management System on Mobile Apps. The Ministry has also streamlined consular grievance redressal system through the use of social media by launching a Twitter Sewa.

A major focus of the government over the years has been to reach out to the Indian Diaspora and extend our support and encouragement to them to remain engaged with their country of origin. Apart from organizing the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas on 7-9 January 2017, the Ministry continued to take new steps for connecting and reaching out to the diaspora abroad. To commemorate the evolution and achievements of the Indian Diaspora, a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) has been set-up at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi as a state-of-the-art building and was inaugurated by Prime Minister on 2 October 2016. Support for Indians in distress abroad also continued as reflected in Operation Sankat Mochan in July 2016 to evacuate Indians from South Sudan and supporting and ensuring return of 4600 workers facing difficulties in Saudi Arabia. The tradition of engagement with the Indian diaspora during high level visits abroad also continued during the year.

The above was a summary of major developments along the broad contours of foreign policy strategy pursued by the government during the year 2016-17. The following pages will dwell on them in greater detail and outline various activities and developments in the area of foreign policy during the year. Overall, India continued to carry out path-breaking, proactive and pragmatic diplomacy marked by several achievements and a rise in India's profile abroad.

Neighbourhood

Afghanistan: An active momentum of high level exchanges was maintained between India and Afghanistan through highly successful visits by the Prime Minister to Herat in June 2016 and by Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani to New Delhi and Amritsar in September and December 2016 respectively. Also, noteworthy was the announcement by Prime Minister, in September 2016, of the additional amount of US Dollars One billion towards development assistance

in capacity and capability building for Afghanistan. Main highlights of the engagement included the joint co-hosting by India and Afghanistan of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process in Amritsar on 4 December 2016 and India's active participation at the multilateral fora on Afghanistan including the Brussels conference in October 2016. Considerable progress was also made in cooperation in spheres like skill development, security, health, water management, education and connectivity.

Bangladesh: India-Bangladesh ties have witnessed a high trajectory sustained by high level interaction between the two countries which continued in 2016-17. Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina visited India in October 2016 for the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa. MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar led the Indian delegation for the 9th Summit Meeting of Global Forum on Migration & Development (GFMD) held in Dhaka in December 2016. The year saw signing of an amendment to the Extradition Treaty during the visit of Home Minister of Bangladesh in July 2016. An important development was the visit of Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar to Bangladesh in November-December 2016 which was the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister since 1971. This was in addition to mil-to-mil exchanges which saw intensification during the year. India-Bangladesh bilateral trade has grown steadily over the last few years with total trade in the last five years (from FY 2011-12 to FY 2015-16) growing by more than 17%. Connectivity through Rail, Road, Inland waterways, and Coastal shipping remained a key focus area for the two countries and a number of meetings related to these were held to advance specific projects in these areas. The fourth railway line between the two countries through Radhikapur- Birol is now ready. The year also saw inauguration of the Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) to facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods in July 2016, and Phulbari-Banglabandha immigration check-post in February 2016. The two countries identified 11 projects to be executed under the credit line of US\$ 2 Billion offered in 2015. Training programmes have been expanded to include programmes for Bangladeshi civil servants, police officers, narcotics department officials, border-guarding forces, defence establishments, nuclear scientists, teachers etc apart from regular ITEC courses and ICCR scholarships.

Bhutan: India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and understanding. The year 2016-17 saw sustained progress in all areas of cooperation,

including hydropower, transport, communication, infrastructure, health, education, culture, IT industry, agriculture, defence and security related matters. The momentum of bilateral ties was carried forward by high level visits and official interactions in different areas of cooperation. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju visited Bhutan in July 2016 to attend the International Conference on Tradition and Innovation in Vajrayana Buddhism. Minister of State (IC) Commerce & Industry, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Bhutan in November 2016 to sign the Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan. The Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay visited India thrice in 2016, first to attend the 2nd Bengal Global Business Summit 2016 in Kolkata in January 2016 as Chief Guest, second to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister, West Bengal in May 2016 and third to attend the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa in October 2016. Work on development and hydro-power projects progressed at a steady pace in the year 2016-17. Under the Government of India assistance package of ₹ 4500 crores towards the 11th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2013-18), GoI has committed ₹ 2,800 crore as Project Tied Assistance (PTA), ₹ 850 crore for Programme Grant and ₹ 850 crore for Small Development Projects (SDPs). Further, GoI has committed ₹ 500 crore as Economic Stimulus Package. Apart from these, GoI also provides other subsidies/refunds to RGoB such as against supply of LPG/SKO and Excise Duty Refund to Bhutan and for importing power from Chukha Hydroelectric Project. This is in addition to the overall committed assistance. Fund releases from India are progressing on schedule.

China: Increased interactions and engagements across all levels continued to provide positive momentum to the India-China bilateral relations during 2016. The G-20 Summit in China and the BRICS Summit in India provided opportunities for enhanced interaction at the leadership level and also exchanges at the working level between the two countries across the political, economic, security and cultural sphere.

Expanding interactions at the summit level, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to China in May 2016 and travelled to Guangzhou and Beijing. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Xi Jinping on several occasions on the sidelines of multilateral events (SCO Summit in Tashkent in June 2016, G-20 Summit in Hangzhou in September 2016, and BRICS Summit in Goa in October 2016).

Other important visits during the course of the year included visit of Raksha Mantri in April 2016. Visits from the Chinese side included Foreign Minister Wang Yi in August 2016 and Mr. Meng Jianzhu, Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China in November 2016. Exchanges under a variety of bilateral dialogue mechanisms also continued at a steady pace.

Maldives: The India-Maldives relationship continued to illustrate the 'neighbours first' and 'India first' policies of the two Governments. President Yameen's third visit to India in April 2016 since assuming office, saw the two countries agree on a comprehensive Defence Action Plan and five other Agreements pertaining to Avoidance of Double Taxation of income derived from International Air Transport, Exchange of Information on Taxes, bilateral agreement on Orbit Frequency Coordination of the South Asia Satellite, Conservation and Restoration of ancient mosques and Cooperation in the field of Tourism. Engagement was intensified across sectors, particularly counter-terrorism, hydrography, shipping and ports, petroleum and natural gas, meteorological services and healthcare. Maldives was the first country to join the International Solar Alliance announced this year. India committed to the building of the Maldives Ministry of Defence, the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) and a Coastal Radar Surveillance System.

Mauritius: India and Mauritius relations experienced an intensive engagement keeping with the traditional close political, economic, cultural and diaspora linkages. The relationship was brought into the context of India's neighbourhood. A number of Ministerial level visits further strengthened the traditional linkages. The Protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) was signed, India committed a US\$ 353 million grant package for priority infrastructure projects in Mauritius and discussions began on the conclusion of the CECPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement). The people-to-people emphasis in the relationship was underscored through a highly successful Festival of India in Mauritius.

Myanmar: India and Myanmar share friendly neighboring relations rooted in our shared historical, cultural and ethnic ties. The bilateral relations have been further strengthened by the regular exchanges of visits, including at the highest levels. President U Htin Kyaw visited India from 27-30 August 2016. State Counsellor of Myanmar Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi paid a bilateral visit to India from 17-19 October 2016, after attending the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit on 16 October 2016. From the Indian side, MoS (IC) for Commerce & Industry, Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman visited Yangon leading the first high-level foreign business delegation on 18-20 May 2016. EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August 2016 and held High level discussions. Our security ties were advanced through the visit of NSA as PM's Special Envoy in June 2016 and also through exchanges between home ministries and militaries on both sides. The first meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Group was held on 6-7 January 2016 at Nay Pyi Taw. India is strongly committed to meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through development projects, including training, provision of expertise, LOC and/or grants-in-aid. Our total developmental commitment to Myanmar, including the completed and ongoing infrastructure projects like Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project and Trilateral Highway project, is around US\$ 1.75 billion.

Nepal: India-Nepal friendship and cooperation is characterized by open borders, age-old people-to-people ties and multi-faceted socio-economic interaction. The relationship derives its strength from shared history, common cultural ethos, trade and economic partnership and intense people to people contacts. The Year 2016 witnessed a number of high-level exchanges, which further strengthened bilateral ties in all spheres. Rashtrapatiiji paid a State visit to Nepal in November 2016, after a gap of about 18 years. PM of Nepal paid a State visit to India in September 2016. With the launch of "Operation Maitri", India was at the forefront of international efforts to assist in post earthquake relief and rehabilitation efforts. India has committed US\$ 1 billion in assistance to Nepal for post-earthquake reconstruction, including US\$ 250 million grant-in-aid and US\$ 750 million in Lines of Credit. Out of US\$ 250 million, an amount of US\$ 100 million has been allocated for reconstruction of 50,000 houses in Nepal and US\$ 50 million each has been allocated for reconstruction/repair in health, education and cultural heritage sectors. Developmental partnership is one of the main pillars of India-Nepal bilateral cooperation. A number of economic and connectivity projects are in different phases of implementation. Small Development Projects like roads, bridges, irrigation and energy are benefiting the local communities in Nepal. Under the Lines of Credit amounting to over US\$ 900 million extended by Government of India, a

number of projects are in different phases of implementation. India and Nepal have robust cooperation in the area of capacity building and human resource development. India offers around 3000 scholarships to Nepalese students every year, providing opportunities to study in Nepal and in India. More than 250 scholarships are offered annually for Government and non-Government employees of Nepal for training in technical institutes in India under ITEC programme.

Pakistan: The period under review witnessed efforts by the Government of India to build cooperative relations with Pakistan that were undermined by continued cross-border terrorism launched from Pakistani soil or from territory under Pakistan's control, large scale ceasefire violations by Pakistani Security Forces coupled with unrelenting efforts to infiltrate terrorists into India from across the Line of Control (LoC)/International Border (IB). Stalling by Pakistan of the Pathankot Airbase Terror Attack investigation and the Mumbai Terror Attack trial in Pakistan were major hindrances in normalizing of ties between the two countries. The cross border terrorism emanating from Pakistan affected the wider region and denied a conducive environment for the SAARC Summit to be held as scheduled for November 2016 at Islamabad. Indian diplomacy was successful in highlighting Pakistan's role in supporting terror in Jammu and Kashmir and in combating its efforts to glorify terrorists. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Foreign Affairs Adviser to Pakistan Prime Minister led the Pakistan delegation to the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in Amritsar on 4 December 2016.

Sri Lanka: India-Sri Lanka relations were marked by regular high level exchanges, accelerated progress on projects and a synergy in objectives relating to maintenance of peace and security in the Indian Ocean. The year also saw a number of Ministerial level visits between the countries in furtherance of the direction given at the highest political levels. Sri Lanka continued to be India's largest trading partner in SAARC while India remained Sri Lanka's largest trading partner globally. India is also amongst the top four investors in Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of over US\$ 1 billion since 2003. Concerted focus continued on developmental assistance to Sri Lanka and India's commitments aggregated Rs. 2,300 crore as grant assistance and Rs. 12,900 crore as Lines of Credit. Further synergies were built between the two countries on issues relating to defence and security including maritime safety and security issues in the Indian Ocean. India

now offers more than 700 scholarship slots annually to Sri Lankan students, apart from the 370 slots offered under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme and the Colombo Plan.

IOR: India intensified its engagement with member countries of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in preparation for the 1st IORA Summit on 7 March 2017 in Indonesia and the 20th Anniversary of IORA in 2017. Ahead of the 1st IORA Summit, India announced several initiatives covering diverse sectors including Water, Renewable Energy, Women's Empowerment and Maritime Security.

Seychelles: India-Seychelles relationship continued its focus on development partnership, capacity building programmes, maritime security cooperation and cultural exchanges. Particular emphasis was given to capacity building in fields of Blue Economy, defence, renewable energy, connectivity and health. Seychelles continued utilization of the US\$ 25 million grant extended by India to procure critical stock of medicines, medical equipment, police uniforms, police vehicles, etc. The Seychelles-India Day held in October every year was declared a "national event" by the Government of Seychelles and a commemorative stamp was released to mark the occasion. Defence and security synergies further consolidated with enhanced exchanges and continuing surveillance of Seychelles EEZ by Indian naval ships.

South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific

Australia: India Australia bilateral relations made rapid strides in a broad range of areas including trade and investment, defence and security, education and skills, energy and resources, science and technology, water resource management etc. Prime Ministers of the two countries met on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Hangzhou and discussed ways and means of further strengthening the strategic bilateral relations. Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance visited Australia in March-April, coinciding with the Make in India Conference in Sydney; Shri Piyush Goyal, MoS for Power visited New South Wales and addressed a Roundtable event on Clean Energy. Fifth round of Defence Policy Talks took place in New Delhi. In multilateral fora, Australia continued to lend a strong support to India's bid for membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group. Confluence, a widely acclaimed Festival of India was held in seven cities of Australia from August to November, 2016 which featured more than 70 events showcasing Indian culture, arts, dance, Bollywood and culinary skills. Australia

returned 3 antique artefacts - illegally smuggled from India and inadvertently acquired by National Gallery of Australia - to Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MoS for Culture, who visited Australia for the inauguration of Festival of India.

Brunei Darussalam: The year 2016 witnessed many high-level political engagements that have helped in reinvigorating our relationship and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations. Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India visited Brunei from 1-3 February 2016. From Brunei side Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade along with Minister of Energy and Industry visited India from 09-13 November 2016. The Government of India extended e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) to Brunei Darussalam with effect from 26 February 2016 also the visa requirement for Diplomatic and official passport holders of the two countries was eased for travel up to a period of 14 days in the other country from April 2016. India imports crude oil worth US \$ 500 million approximately from Brunei while our exports are worth about US \$ 25 million approximately mainly of meat and meat products, machinery and equipment, and food items. On the defence side, Deputy Defence Minister, Brunei attended the defence expo in March 2016 and officers of Indian armed forces and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces are regularly attending the courses on each other's Staff College giving the warmth to the relations.

Cambodia: After a gap of 10 years, the Second India-Cambodia Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi in July 2016 which was co-chaired by General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs and Mr. Long Visalo, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia. An MoU was signed between Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Cambodian Senate to encourage parliamentary cooperation between India and Cambodia. Cambodia signed the framework agreement on International Solar Alliance during COP-22 Summit in Marrakech (Morocco) in November 2016. In September 2016, India contributed US\$ 50,000 to the national budget component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Various assistance programmes in de-mining continued during the year. The First Tourism Joint Working Group met in New Delhi on 28 April 2016 and bilateral air services talks were also held in New Delhi in September 2016. A Cambodian delegation participated in the Maritime India Summit 2016 held in Mumbai from 14-16 April 2016. A Cambodia-India Business Meet was also organized in Phnom

Penh on 24 November 2016. India continued its assistance to Cambodia in the field of water resources development, electric transmission, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building. Ten projects under the Quick Impact Project Scheme are being implemented in the areas of health, agriculture, women empowerment, sanitation, environment and skill development.

Indonesia: The State visit of Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia to India from 12-13 December, 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was the important event in the development of bilateral relations between two countries and has provided the necessary momentum to the bilateral relations. The India-Indonesia Eminent Persons Group submitted its report to Ms. Retno Marsuki, Foreign Minister of Indonesia and Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs in December 2016. India Indonesia Defence Cooperation witnessed significant qualitative and quantitative enhancement in the year 2016. Ongoing activities of defence cooperation received further impetus with the visit of Chief of Naval Staff from both side and reciprocal study tours by the National Defence College and LEMHANAS. With a bilateral trade of US\$ 15.9 billion in 2015-16, Indonesia has emerged as the largest trading partner for India in the ASEAN region. Currently India's trade with Indonesia for the period April-September 2016 (latest data available) was US\$ 7.2 billion (imports: US\$ 5.7 billion; exports: US\$ 1.5 billion). The big breakthrough for India in the current year is Indonesia's grant of market access for Indian bovine meat, which was facilitated by the Indonesian Presidential Decree allowing 'zone based' import of bovine meat from India.

Lao PDR: The year saw a continued upward trend in bilateral relations with Lao PDR. Infrastructure projects in areas of irrigation systems, power transmission, capacity building and human resources and cultural cooperation in restoration of heritage monuments and regular high level visits were focus of cooperation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Lao PDR from 7-8 September 2016 to attend 14th ASEAN-India Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR. PM had a constructive meeting with his Lao counterpart Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) paid a visit to Lao PDR from 24-27 July 2016. He attended the ASEAN - India Foreign Ministers meeting, EAS Foreign Ministers meeting as well as the ARF Meeting, Minister of State (I/C)

of Industry and Commerce, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman was in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 4-6 August 2016 to attend the ASEAN-India Economic Ministers meeting and the EAS Economic Ministers meeting. She also met the ASEAN-India Business Council. Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran visited Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 6-8 May 2016 to lead the Indian delegation for the East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM) and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' meeting (MGC SOM).

Malaysia: Bilateral relations with Malaysia, which were imparted a strong impetus and given the status of 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership' during the visit of PM Modi to Malaysia in November, 2015, continued to grow in range and depth over a cross section of areas including but not limited to trade, economy, education, culture, defence cooperation, deradicalisation and counterterrorism. There were exchange of high level visits including that of Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Minister of International Trade & Industry from the Malaysian side; a Goodwill Parliamentary delegation and visit of Secretary (East) from Indian side. 6th Navy to Navy Staff Talks were held in Malaysia and first ever table top exercise between the two navies were held during the visit of INS Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch to Malaysia.

New Zealand: The year 2016 marked an unprecedented level of bilateral contacts with New Zealand leading to enhanced goodwill and identification of new areas for cooperation. Rashtrapatiiji paid a State Visit to New Zealand from 30 April – 02 May, 2016. He had substantive meetings with Governor General Jerry Mateparae, Prime Minister John Key and Leader of Opposition Mr. Andrew Little. During the visit, an Air Services Agreement was signed between India and New Zealand. An MoU between ICCR and Victoria University to extend the Indian Chair in Wellington was also signed. Prime Minister John Key paid a State Visit to India from 25 – 27 October, 2016. Besides delegation level talks led by the two Prime Ministers, PM Key called on Rashtrapatiiji. During the visit, both countries signed agreements on food safety and on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports. The two sides also finalized an amendment to the Treaty on Avoidance of Double Taxation. In addition, it was decided to establish a ministerial dialogue, annual Foreign Ministry consultations and promote cooperation and dialogue on cyber issues. Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan led a Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand from 17-25 September 2016. An Indian Naval Ship INS Sumitra

participated in the International Fleet Review to celebrate 75th Year of New Zealand Navy at Auckland from 16 – 22 November 2016.

Pacific Island Countries: Rastrapatiiji visited Papua New Guinea (PNG) from 28-30 April 2016. Four MoUs were signed during the visit which included the fields of Health Care and Medical Science, Information Technology, Agriculture and Horticulture and a Line of Credit of USD 100 Million for infrastructure development. At the request of the Prime Minister of PNG, India granted Anti Retro Viral HIV/AIDS medicines that are sufficient to treat 20,000 HIV/AIDS patients for one year at a cost of ₹ 18 Crores. The medicines reached PNG in September 2016. Nauru, Tuvalu, Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga were the 5 Pacific Island countries that signed the Draft Framework Agreement for International Solar Alliance on 15 November 2016 at Marrakech, Morocco. The Fiji Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama visited India on a private visit from 18-21 May 2016. He had an informal meeting with Prime Minister in which he thanked India for its support to Fiji following the Category 5 Cyclone Winston that hit Fiji on 20 February 2016. (India had provided an immediate cash relief of US\$ 1 Million as grant and an IAF C-17 Globemaster transported and delivered 45 tonnes of relief material on 26 February 2016). INS Satpura paid a goodwill visit to Marshall Islands and Micronesia in August 2016 and INS Sumitra visited Fiji in October 2016. On 28 October 2016, 5 tonnes of vegetable seeds were handed over to the Fijian Minister of Agriculture as a grant, at a cost of Rs. 2.63 Crores. The seeds were transported on INS Sumitra. Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy, Mines Shri Piyush Goyal visited Solomon Islands from 24-25 October 2016 and Vanuatu from 25-26 October 2016. Following aid was granted to PICs: Cook Islands – USD 690,846 for Community Development Projects; Vanuatu - USD 190,000 for IT equipment for 76 Schools; Niue – USD 910,700 for building a 4G/LTE mobile network; Fiji - The first tranche of Fiji \$ 1 Million (USD 0.44 Million) for the Micro and Small Business Grant Facility was disbursed in July 2016.

Philippines: India-Philippines partnership witnessed continued progression in the period, when Philippines went through their Presidential election on 9 May 2016, with President Rodrigo R. Duterte and his government sworn in on 30 June 2016. Ministerial and official visits continued through the period. Commerce & Industry Minister (I/C)

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Cebu, Philippines for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting from 3-4 November 2016. The defence cooperation continued to strengthen with Indian Naval Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Shakti on a goodwill visit to Philippines from 30 May – 2 June 2016; a 20-member delegation from the National Defence College of India visited Philippines from 23 – 28 May 2016. The 6th edition of India-Philippines Intellex was held in India on 13 July 2016. Bilateral Trade between the two countries continued to maintain steady growth over the years and improved marginally to US \$ 1.9 billion in 2015-16 from US \$ 1.8 billion for 2014-15. The India-Philippines Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi in April 2016, while the Joint Committee on Renewable Energy met in August 2016. Developmental cooperation continued, with Philippines utilizing 36 slots of the 50 slots under ITEC and all 10 slots under Colombo Plan. Twenty students from the Philippines visited India from 20 – 29 November 2016 under the ASEAN-India Students' Exchange Programme.

Singapore: The visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Singapore in 2015 saw the elevation of the bilateral relations to a new level of Strategic Partnership. During the visit of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong from 03-07 October 2016, three MoUs were signed – on cooperation in intellectual property, in skill development and in setting up a skill centre in Assam. DPM Singapore, Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam delivered the inaugural Niti Aayog Lecture series: Transforming India, on 26th August 2016 and met Hon'ble Finance Minister on 30th December to discuss DTAA and a new protocol was signed.

Thailand: India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and strengthened during the current year. Following high-level visits/meetings took place: Thai PM General Prayut Chan-o-cha accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister, visited India from 16-18 June 2016. The two Prime Ministers announced 2017 as 'Sawasdee India Year' and 'Namaste Thailand Year' respectively, to commemorate the 70th Year of India-Thailand Diplomatic relations; PM Narendra Modi visited Bangkok on 10 November 2016 to pay respects to the late King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej; HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was awarded the first ICCR World Sanskrit award for the year 2015 from Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari in Delhi on 21 November 2016. Besides

these visits, various high level visits and meetings took place on a regular basis from both sides.

Timor Leste: The visit of Mr. Hernani Coelho, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on 28 March 2016 and Mr. Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares, Vice Foreign Minister of Timor Leste on 4-6 December 2016 has reinvigorated the relations between the two countries. A fully-equipped Ambulance unit which can serve as a mobile operation theatre was supplied to Timor Leste as Grant-in-Aid to TL in January 2016. The project on conservation of agriculture and sustainable fisheries in Timor Leste under IBSA Fund has advanced to the implementation stage.

Vietnam: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an Official Visit to Vietnam from 2-3 September 2016. The visit has provided a major boost to our bilateral relations. Vietnam and India agreed to elevate the current Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Twelve MoUs/Documents were signed during the visit. PM Modi has announced a new LoC of US\$ 500 million for facilitating deeper defence cooperation. National Assembly Chairperson Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan visited India on December 8-11, 2016. During her visit four MoU/Agreements were signed including Framework Agreement of Civil Nuclear Cooperation. Defence Minister of India, Shri Manohar Parrikar led a defence industry delegation to Vietnam on 5-8 June 2016. Similarly from Vietnam, General Ngo Xuan Lick, Defence Minister of Vietnam visited India from 3-6 December 2016. Vice Foreign Minister Mr. vu Hong Nam visited India for 8th round of Foreign Office Consultations and the 5th Strategic Dialogue on 2 August 2016 in Delhi. Mr. Hoang Van Thang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development visited India on 30 October–7 November 2016 to attend the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016. Bilateral defence cooperation received a boost during this period. A MoU on cooperation in security matters was signed on 3 November 2016 during the visit of Mr. bui Van Thanh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Security to India. Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has seen continuous growth over the past many years. India is now among the top ten trading partners of Vietnam.

ASEAN: Sustaining the incremental momentum that has been the hallmark of the dialogue relationship with ASEAN, India has continued to deepen its political, security, defence and economic ties with ASEAN member states in the course

of the year, including by announcing the enhancement of the ASEAN-India Fund by US\$ 50 million and setting up an ASEAN Studies Center. It has also pro-actively engaged with the various ASEAN centric fora notably the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+) and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), in shaping the regional discourse on Counter Terrorism, Disaster Management and Maritime Cooperation. The activities undertaken in 2016, have laid the foundation for celebrating the 25 years of dialogue relationship, 15 years of summit level relationship and 5 years of strategic partnership in 2017, an event which has been termed by Prime Minister, at the 14th ASEAN India Summit held on 8 September 2016 in Lao PDR, to be a historic milestone in ASEAN India ties.

East Asia

DPRK: India-DPRK relations in 2016 were marked by cordiality. As a gesture of goodwill to Korean people, India extended food aid worth USD One Million to DPRK in 2016.

Japan: Continuing with the process of transformation of relations under the framework of Special Strategic and Global Partnership, India-Japan relations touched a new high in 2016. Prime Minister Modi visited Japan for the Annual Summit meeting in November 2016. Significant outcomes from his visit included signing of the historic Nuclear Agreement between India and Japan and an MoU on skill development which would provide skill development training to 30,000 Indians in ten years. PM Modi and PM Abe stressed that improving connectivity between Asia and Africa, through realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region, is vital to achieving prosperity of the entire region. They decided to seek synergy between India's "Act East" Policy and Japan's "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure." Both Sides acknowledged that India-Japan relationship is one of the key relationships of 21st century, which will play a critical role in ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Republic of Korea: Driven by commonality and convergence of interests, the bilateral relations between India and the Republic of Korea (RoK) have made progress in the recent years to become deep and multifaceted. The bilateral relations, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister to RoK in 2015, gained further

momentum with several follow-up visits and implementation of decisions taken during the Prime Minister's visit.

Expanding high-level interactions between the two countries, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha led a parliamentary delegation to ROK in September-October 2016 and held talks with the Speaker had meeting with President Park and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea. High-level visits from ROK included Minister of Oceans and Fisheries Kim Young-suk in April 2016 and Minister of Trade, Industry & Energy Mr. Joo Hyung-hwan in June 2016.

Deepening engagements on the economic side, the two countries launched 'Korea Plus', a special investment facilitation cell to provide hand holding services to Korean companies on their investment plans in India, and also held the first round of negotiations to upgrade the India-ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Mongolia: PM Modi's visit to Mongolia in May 2015 imparted fresh dynamism and a new direction to India-Mongolia relations. 2016 saw both Sides working closely towards consolidating the understandings reached during PM's historic visit to Mongolia in 2015. Several high level visits were exchanged during the year including incoming visits of Foreign Minister of Mongolia to Delhi in April 2016 and Deputy PM of Mongolia to Delhi in connection with the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2016. Vice President visited Mongolia in July 2016. He led the Indian delegation to the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Speaker, Lok Sabha led a Parliamentary delegation to Mongolia in April 2015.

Eurasia

The year 2016-17 was marked with visits at the Highest, Ministerial and Secretary levels as well as meetings in diverse formats of various institutional mechanism put in place. The bilateral relations with Russia made remarkable progress during the year with intensified consultations on bilateral, regional and international issues between the two countries and an increased exchange of high level visits which reflected the desire of "old friends" to diversify the relations to attain qualitatively newer heights. The year also witnessed India's firm commitment to upgrade and deepen its bilateral relations with other countries of the region.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin regularly interacted including on the margins of regional / multilateral events like SCO Tashkent Summit on 24 June 2016, Hangzhou G20 Summit; Annual Summit on 15 October 2016 in Goa, 8th BRICS & BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summits on 16 October 2016 and also telephonically. Intergovernmental agreements were concluded during the bilateral Summit in several military-technical fields including S-400 and Ka-226. India and Russia agreed during the year to convene the first Military Industrial Conference in India for greater participation of private enterprises in the defence sector and to constitute a 'Science and Technology Commission' for cooperation in the high technology sector, including transfer of technology. Cooperation in the civil nuclear energy continued to witness substantial progress. In August and October 2016 the leaders dedicated Units I & II of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) to the friendship between the two countries. The first concrete pouring for Units-III & IV of KKNPP also took place in October 2016. Special emphasis on energy cooperation beyond civil nuclear cooperation added yet another dimension to our bilateral bonds hitherto marked by strong defence ties. During the year, Indian oil and gas companies invested over US\$ 5.5 billion in the Russian hydrocarbon sector. Rosneft made an announcement to acquire 49% stakes of Essar Oil Limited, which was estimated at US\$ 6.5 billion. The two countries had intensive consultations on regional and international issues throughout the year. Russia reiterated its strong support for India's candidature of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and multilateral regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and regional groupings as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Russia welcomed India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Uri and supported the ensuing surgical strikes. The first ever India-Russia Think Tank Summit was also held in Moscow in September 2016.

PM visited Uzbekistan on 23-24 June 2016 to attend Council of the Head of States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, when India and SCO signed the Memorandum of Understanding on 24 June 2016, formally starting the process of India's full membership of SCO. The MoO envisages, inter alia, accession by India to 35 SCO documents / agreements as per a timeline indicated in the MoO. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar participated in

the SCO Heads of Government's Summit held in Bishkek on 2-3 November 2016. India and Eurasian Economic Union decided to begin free trade agreement (FTA) talks. An Investment Agreement was signed at the 24th Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India (TAPI) Steering Committee Meeting held in Ashgabat on 7 April 2016. India completed all the internal procedures required for the accession to the Ashgabat Agreement and submitted the Instruments of Accession to the Depository State, Turkmenistan in April 2016.

President Emomali Rahmon paid a State visit to India from 14-18 December 2016, and President Almazbek Atambaev, of Kyrgyz Republic paid a State visit to India from 18-21 December 2016. PM Shri Modi met, on the margins of SCO Summit in Tashkent on 23-24 June 2016, with participating leaders including Uzbek President Mr Islam Karimov, Tajik President Mr Emomali Rahmon and President of Belarus Mr. Lukashenko besides with Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin. PM Shri Modi and Kazakh President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev briefly met on the sidelines of 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on 01 April 2016; they also had telephonic conversation on 14 June 2016. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar visited Uzbekistan on 31 October- 1 November 2016, as a special envoy to the Prime Minister to offer condolences on the passing away of revered Uzbek President Islam Karimov. Minister of State for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Shri Pon Radhakrishnan visited Turkmenistan for the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference held in Ashgabat on 26-27 November 2016. Bilateral meeting was also held between Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar on the sidelines of 6th Ministerial Conference on Heart of Asia Istanbul Process in Amritsar. Relations with Armenia and Georgia were re-invigorated with the bilateral visit of Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju from 9-12 November 2016. Shri Anant G. Geete, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises visited Ukraine in November 2016. Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Minister of Emergency Situations of Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held at New Delhi from 2-5 November 2016.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated enthusiastically across all the countries in Eurasia in June 2016. The 4th round of India-Central Asia Dialogue in track

1.5 format was held in New Delhi on 1-2 December 2016 with the participation of officials and experts from both India and all the five Central Asian Republics. A Conference to popularize INSTC (International North South Corridor) was held in Moscow in December 2016. Business meetings, track-II Dialogue, exchange of experts and students, pursuit of higher education, cultural and people to people exchanges including for availing medical services in India supplemented official talks paving way for productive and meaningful bonds. ITEC courses and ICCR scholarships continued to be popular among countries in Eurasia Division.

The Gulf and WANA

India has civilizational links and overarching relationships with the countries in the Gulf region which are in its extended neighbourhood. Our bilateral friendly ties with the GCC countries are deep-rooted in shared history and have been constantly nourished through growing multidimensional cooperation and vibrant people-to-people engagement. The GCC region remains a top priority region for us, being one of the our largest trading partners with bilateral trade over US\$ 97 billion in 2015-16; major source of our crude oil and gas requirements; host to the over 8 million strong and growing Indian expatriate community; and source of about US\$ 35 billion annual remittances.

The period witnessed intense political engagement with the countries in the region. Among the key high-level political interactions were the visits of His Highness Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to India in February 2016 which cemented our strategic partnership. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a highly successful visit to Saudi Arabia on 2-3 April 2016 at the invitation of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This was followed by his visit to Qatar on 4-5 June 2016. Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani paid an official visit to India on 2-3 December 2016.

Iran: Prime Minister's visit to Tehran in May 2016 was the most important event in India-Iran bilateral relations in more than a decade and half. During the visit, both sides decided to upgrade their engagement with particular focus on cooperation in energy, infrastructure, banking as well as other functional areas. India, Iran and Afghanistan also signed the Trilateral Agreement on Establishment of Transport and Transit Corridors through Chabahar. A contract for the

development of the Chabahar Port was also signed between India and Iran on 23 May 2016.

WANA: This year India witnessed deeper engagement with the countries in the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region through renewal of high level contacts after a long gap. Cooperation with these countries include energy security, food security, defence, security, space, culture, capacity building and IT sectors. Our engagement with Palestine was taken to a higher level this year, with holding of a historic first ever Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) to diversify cooperation in several areas. Foundation stone for setting up of US\$ 12 million Palestine-India Techno Park in Ramallah was also laid, aimed at connecting Palestine youth with India and IT sector. The visit of President of Israel took place this year. A road-map for greater cooperation in agriculture, water, defence, S&T, R&D and education was developed during this visit. Consequent to the visit of the Vice President of India, the VVIP visit that took place after a gap of three decades, Algeria emerged as an important partner for our food security along with Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco through cooperation for setting up Joint Ventures in fertilizer sector.

We continued to reaffirm our consistent position on Syria for UN-backed, Syrian-led inclusive political settlement. As part of our commitment to humanitarian assistance, we are in the process of dispatching food and medicines to Syria. India also contributed US\$ 2 million as humanitarian assistance towards rehabilitation of refugees in Jordan. Our intensive engagement with Libyan authorities has been helpful in securing release of Indian nationals in captivity with ISIS and also those stranded in Libya.

The strong relationship with Djibouti is well reflected in the successful evacuation of Indian and foreign nationals from Juba (Operation Sankat Mochan). Djibouti continues to be a pivot in India's anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. India has been actively participating in the capacity building initiatives of Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia in several fields.

East and South Africa

The period marked a very special and a historic year in India-Africa partnership that saw unprecedented interaction at the leadership level. The India Africa political engagement intensified the focus on the strengthening of the business linkages of trade and investment.

Our political interaction is based on the unique south-south cooperation comprising the multifaceted development partnership that includes education and capacity building, cooperation in agriculture, energy, technology, infrastructure, healthcare among others. The partnerships also focused on emerging issues of cooperation in the areas of blue economy, counter-terrorism and maritime security. Long standing Diaspora linkages form an important aspect of India Africa ties. Progress was made in commitments made under the India Africa Forum Summit process, of which 3 summits have been held.

India-Africa relationship was intensified by several high level exchanges. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Namibia from 15-17 June 2016 during which MOUs in IT & capacity building were signed. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Mozambique (7 July 2016), South Africa (7-9 July 2016) Tanzania (9-10 July 2016), Kenya (10-11 July 2016). Several MOUs on preventing trafficking in narcotics, youth affairs, pulses, ICT, Arts and Culture, tourism, water resources management, visa waiver, vocational training, small business development were signed. Grants were given in field of defense, health, development work and S&T. Lines of Credit for \$137 million for water supply, textile sector and small businesses were agreed.

There were several exchanges at Ministerial level including visit of Shri. Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Communications to Kenya from 31 August-3 September 2016. Under extended political outreach initiative, where no Ministerial level visit had taken place for sometime, Ministerial visits took place to Botswana (Shri Jual Oram, Minister of Tribal Affairs: 22-25 August 2016) and Madagascar (Shri Santosh Gangwar, Minister of State for Finance: 2-5 October 2016). Several African Ministers have visited India including Mr. Eric Molale, Botswana's Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration,

Foreign Office consultations to strengthen and deepen bilateral ties were held with Namibia(16 - 18 May 2016), Tanzania (21 June 2016), South Africa (12-13 May 2016), Kenya (22 June 2016) -and Madagascar (5 October 2016). Trade Committee meeting with Namibia JTC was held on 6-7 September 2016.

Important events held include First India-Africa Health Sciences Meet from 1-3 September 2016 at which Six African

Ministers of Health and other officials from around 20 African countries participated.

To underline our role as a leading power in times of disaster, in 2016, grant of US\$ 10million has been given as drought relief to Mozambique, \$1million to Zimbabwe, US\$ 1million to Malawi and US\$ 250,000 was given to Tanzania for Kagera earthquake relief. Additional grants given:- US\$ 1million to University of Nairobi, US\$ 20000 in health sector for Namibia and US\$37530 for equipment to Senate of Madagascar. LOCs to Zimbabwe of US\$ 87.00 million for Renovation/Up-gradation of Bulawayo Thermal Power Plant came into effect on 19 August 2016. Various training programmes under IAFS initiative were approved including first public-private short-term medical training program by Apollo Hospital.

West Africa

India's friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation with the countries in West Africa region continued to grow and diversify during the year. Our President's Visits to Ghana and Ivory Coast in June 2016 highlighted the significance India attaches to her ties with the region. Vice President's visits to Nigeria and Mali in September 2016 helped sharpen India's focus on the region. India hosted, inter alia, the Foreign Ministers of Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Petroleum Minister of Nigeria (twice) during the year. The first ever inter governmental Joint Commission meeting with Ivory Coast was held in New Delhi in October 2016.

Several important agreements, including, visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders were signed with Ghana and Ivory Coast. The new Indian Chancery complex in Abuja was inaugurated in September by the Vice President of India. An important international conference, "India - West Africa Partnership for enhancing security, development and growth" was organised in Accra in January. Its sequel is planned in New Delhi in February 2017.

India's partnership in the socio-economic development of West Africa intensified, manifested by, inter alia, successful completion of such significant projects with India's assistance as the construction of the National Assembly complex in Gambia; multi-million dollar sugar factory in Komenda in Ghana; a 9.3 MW hydel power project in Democratic Republic of Congo and a Vocational Training Centre in Burkina Faso etc. India continued to significantly contribute to capacity

building especially in human resource development through its ITEC and scholarships programmes, which are greatly appreciated.

Europe

Central Europe: India continued to share close and cordial relations with the countries in Central Europe. The bilateral relations continued to strengthen during the year through a constant exchange of visits, business interactions and cultural exchanges. A special focus during the year was on holding seminars and other such fora to disseminate information about government of India's policies and flagship projects particularly Make in India, Digital India, Renewable Energy, Skill India, Mining Technology etc. India and countries in Central Europe continued to extend support to each other in various international fora including for the candidates of the two countries for offices in international organizations. 3rd India-Europe Business Forum was organized in New Delhi on 8-9 December, 2016 jointly by Ministry of External Affairs and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

West Europe: Consolidation of bilateral relations with countries in Western Europe continued during the period. Prime Minister visited Brussels for the 13th India-EU summit and bilateral visit to Belgium on 30 March 2016. UK Prime Minister Theresa May visited India from 6-8 November 2016 on her first overseas bilateral visit outside Europe. Regular high level visits and diversification of bilateral agenda in keeping with Government of India's national priorities remained central to our engagement with Western European countries. Progress was made on collaboration with various countries in Make In India, Smart Cities, Skill India, Clean India and Railways modernization programmes. There was greater cooperation between India and Western European countries on fighting international terrorism.

The Americas

United States: India and the United States continued their intensive engagement, as strategic partners, in a broad range of sectors including defence, security & counter-terrorism, civil nuclear cooperation, trade and investment, science & technology, energy, health, education and people-to-people ties. Summit-level interactions continued to lend momentum to bilateral ties. Prime Minister visited the US in June 2016 during which there were significant and concrete outcomes in

key areas of cooperation such as civil nuclear; clean energy; defence and security; politico-strategic engagement; economy and people-to-people ties. PM's historic address to the Joint Meeting of the US Congress, the first foreign leader to do so in 2016, demonstrated the bipartisan support for India-US relations. Prime Minister and President Barack Obama also met on several occasions on the margins of multilateral summits.

During the year, there were major exchanges at political and functional levels in various sectors including in trade and economy, energy, defence, cyber security, counter-terrorism, climate change and others, which culminated in the second India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) held in New Delhi in August 2016. S&CD is the most comprehensive mechanism for discussion and deliberation on the bilateral agenda of cooperation in different fields. There were also regular exchanges on bilateral, regional and global issues. These included Strategic Security Dialogue, Maritime Security Dialogue, Policy Planning Dialogue, India-US-Afghanistan Trilateral Dialogue and India-US-Japan Trilateral Dialogue.

Defence and Security cooperation was a key component of the bilateral strategic engagement during this period. The signing of Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA); recognition of India as a Major Defence Partner of the US; and the Understanding reached regarding US export control policy towards India in recognition of India as a "Major Defense Partner" of the US were some of the major achievements in the bilateral defence partnership in 2016. Both sides finalized a roadmap for implementation of the Joint Strategic Vision for Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean Region. In the area of counter-terrorism cooperation, an agreement for the exchange of terrorist screening information was signed.

Other notable inter-governmental documents concluded during the year included the Technical Arrangement between the Indian Navy and the United States Navy concerning Unclassified Maritime Information Sharing, an MoU to enable India's entry into the Global Entry Program, the Framework for India-US Cyber Relationship, MoU on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change, MoU on Cooperation in Gas Hydrates and MoU on Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking. Also, several bilateral initiatives in the area of clean energy were announced during the year. Several initiatives were taken to

support people-to-people contacts including an agreement to open new Consulates.

The bilateral economic and commercial relations remained robust during 2016. The United States continued to be a major destination for India's exports of goods and services. However, the growth in India-US goods trade witnessed a marginal decline from US\$ 64.26 billion in 2014-15 to US\$ 62.12 billion in 2015-16 owing to global economic slowdown. FDI from the US increased to US \$ 4.2 billion in 2015-16 from \$1.8 billion in 2014-15, marking an increase of 133% and making the US the 5th largest investor in India.

Following the elections in the US, Prime Minister sent a congratulatory message to President-Elect Donald Trump on his election and also had a telephone conversation with him. There have been other high-level contacts with the members of the new administration. The bipartisan support for the relationship will help maintain the upward trajectory of India-US relations.

Canada: India-Canada bilateral relations have seen a transformation in recent years and are underpinned by shared values of democracy and pluralism; expanding economic engagement; regular high-level interactions and extensive people-to-people ties. The relationship acquired a new momentum with the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in April 2015 and was elevated to the level of strategic partnership. PM had a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in April 2016 at Washington DC on the sidelines of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS). Subsequently, there have been a series of high-level visits and meetings of bilateral mechanisms like Energy Dialogue, Trade Ministerial Dialogue and Joint Committee of Civil Nuclear Cooperation. The second shipment of uranium under the Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Atomic Energy and M/S CAMECO arrived in December 2016. In order to strengthen bilateral relations, agreements were also signed in the sectors of defence, health, science and technology and education.

Bilateral trade between India and Canada witnessed an increase and amounted to USD 4.88 billion in 2016 against USD 4.48 billion in 2015. British Columbia province of Canada became the first foreign government to issue the Indian rupee "masala bond" at the London Stock Exchange and it raised Rs. 5 billion. Canadian Pension Funds have invested around US\$ 8.36 billion in India and are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for long term investments.

Canada is home to over 1.2 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who comprise more than 3% of the country's population. There are more than 48,000 Indian students in Canada who act as a living bridge between the two countries. Air Canada started direct Delhi –Vancouver flight from 20 October 2016.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

Our relations with the Latin America and Caribbean region, both in terms of our political engagement as well as our trade and commercial engagement, has intensified significantly during the year. We continued to share common values of democracy and respect for human rights. India and LAC countries share common membership of many international organisations and work closely together in the UN, G-77, NAM etc.

The visit of the Prime Minister to Brazil in July 2014 and his meeting with South American leaders added a new momentum to this relationship. This further got enhanced in 2016 with PM's visit to Mexico on 8 June 2016 and his meeting with Enrique Pena Nieto, President of Mexico. During the year, PM also met Mr. Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina on the sidelines of G-20 in Hangzhou, China on 5 September 2016 and held bilateral summit meeting with Mr. Michel Temer, President of Brazil on 17 October 2017 when he visited India for the BRICS Summit in Goa.

The Vice President visited Venezuela to attend the XVII NAM Summit. He held bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Venezuela and Cuba. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M. J. Akbar held meetings with Ecuador, Peru and Guyana on the sidelines of UNGA in September in New York.

The scope and potential for further improving trade and cooperation is huge. An awareness about products' market and opportunities which needed to be created to help business communities, was fulfilled with the holding of 7th India-Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Conclave on 28-29 November, 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico by CII and MEA in association with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and the Government of Jalisco, Mexico. The Conclave was inaugurated by General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd) Minister of State for External Affairs. The Conclave was held outside India for the first time and was a huge success with the participation of some 300 delegates from India and the LAC region.

At the initiative of Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, it was decided to reach out to all countries of the region, which have not been visited by any Minister since the taking over of the present government. In this regard Shri Ram Vilas Pawan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Minister of State of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare to Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia and Cuba respectively have been visited so far and some more to take place shortly. This has helped in developing a personal rapport with respective countries, thus giving rise to our trade and people to people contacts.

One of the important achievements and advancements of our relations is the India-CELAC Troika Ministerial Meeting which was held on the sidelines of UNGA on 22nd September 2016 when a Joint Declaration for establishment of political mechanism was adopted.

LAC is a significant trading partner for India, with immense potential. However, the total trade has experienced a decline of 33.53% in the year 2015 as compared with 2014, mainly due to a global downturn and fall in hydrocarbon prices. There has been a sizeable development in the trade and investment sector with preferential trading arrangements (PTAs) with India-Chile PTA being the most significant milestone having been signed. India-MERCOSUR PTA is getting momentum. The Joint Administration Committee met in Brazil in end September wherein the expansion has been put on fast-track and the negotiations are beginning in February 2017. The expansion of PTA will not only grow India's trade with the region, but with individual MERCOSUR countries. There is also a proposal to initiate the process of negotiation with Peru for a Free Trade Agreement.

All countries of the region had for a subsequent year extended their support in celebrating the International Day of Yoga. Solidarity was extended by many countries for the Uri terror attack and condemned terrorism. Sardar Patel and Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversaries were celebrated on a large scale.

Our strategy for the LAC region is to enhance our political, economic and commercial engagement with all the countries of the region. Securing market access for our value added exports, diversification of our export basket, securing investments and the interests of businesses are also important

aspects. One particular focus would be our relations with the countries in the Caribbean.

United Nations and International Organisation and Legal and Treaties Division

India continued its high level of engagements with the United Nations and UN organizations during 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Delhi from 3-5 November 2016. Shri M. J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs attended the high level meeting on large movement of refugees and migrants. Shri Akbar also addressed the 71st Session of Human Rights Council on 22 September 2016 and also attended the high level meeting on Anti Microbial Resistance on 21 September 2016. General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs headed Indian delegation to the 5th Ministerial Meeting of Colombo Process, held at Colombo from 24-25 August 2016. Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri J.P. Nadda led the Indian delegation to attend the high level event on HIV/AIDS held from 8-10 June 2016 in New York. Shri Nadda also inaugurated the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control held on 7 November 2016 in Noida, UP. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State (IC) of AYUSH and Minister of State (Health) led an Indian delegation to 69th World Health Assembly held in Geneva from 23-28 May 2016. Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State for Labor and Employment led the delegation to the 105th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva from 30 May to 10 June 2016. Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs attended the First Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, on 23-24 August 2016. Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change participated in the NFCCC COP-22 at Marrakesh. Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State (I/C), Environment, Forest & Climate Change led the Indian delegation to Kenya from 24 – 27 May 2016 and attended the 2nd Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Textile, attended an exhibition cum workshop on the traditional arts and crafts of India, held at UNESCO on 2 September 2016. Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister led the Indian delegation to participate in the 30th Special Session of the UNGA on 'The World Drug Problem' held from 19-21 April 2016. Shri Upendra Kushwaha,

MOS(HRD) visited UNESCO in connection with the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day at UNESCO.

Disarmament and International Security Affairs

In 2016-17, India continued to play an active role in various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by India's national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with these challenges.

India participated actively in the meetings of the UN First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW).

Multilateral Economic Relations

Being BRICS Chair in 2016, India played host to the 8th BRICS Summit in Goa on 15-16 October 2016. The agenda of the Summit included Global Political Situation and Terrorism, Global Economic Situation, Global Economic Growth, Global Governance, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Consolidation of BRICS Cooperation. The BRICS Leaders were unequivocal in their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasized the importance of further strengthening BRICS solidarity and cooperation. A BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit was also organized on this occasion.

During its Chairmanship, India hosted more than 120 meetings and events, and put in place several new initiatives for greater people-to-people, especially youth, and business-to-business exchanges, leading to qualitative addition to its agenda, including in areas of culture, sports, tourism, trade and urbanization. The BRICS meetings and events were taken to the people and States of India to disseminate BRICS' message across the country, thus, imparting it a strong people's orientation in the process. The successful consolidation of BRICS' year-long schedule of activities imparted it much

vitality and continuity.

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 11th G20 Summit that was hosted by China in Hangzhou on 4-5 September 2016. The agenda of the Summit included policy coordination and growth, more effective and efficient global economic and financial governance, robust international trade and investment, inclusive and interconnected development and other issues affecting world economy. The G20 Leaders issued a Communiqué at the Summit.

Development Cooperation

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India's development programmes abroad have expanded substantially, both in geographical reach and sectoral coverage. These include Lines of Credit, Grant assistance, Technical Consultancy, Disaster relief, Humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses.

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

Major developmental projects identified by the host governments as priority areas are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives in infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health and other sectors. In addition, various projects initiated for development and strengthening cross-border connectivity with India's neighbours are progressing in a satisfactory manner. Beyond the neighbourhood, bilateral projects in archaeological conservation, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Small & Medium enterprises have been undertaken in South East Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A key aspect of India's development assistance in the past few years has been the extension of Lines of Credit (LoC) on concessional terms to other developing countries. Over the years, 241 LoCs aggregating US\$ 18,878.45 million have been allocated to different countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 9,133.14 million has been allocated for African countries and US\$ 9,745.31 million for non-African countries. During

the year under review, 8 LoCs aggregating US\$ 1,418.70 million were extended to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

During 2016-17, 10469 civilian training scholarships were offered to 161 partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, which includes the capacity building courses offered by India under the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan (TCS-CP). These training scholarships also included specially designed courses and training programmes in a variety of disciplines, based on specific requests from partner countries. The ITEC programme also covered deputation of Indian experts abroad to share India's expertise and development experience in the areas requested by partner countries. In addition, about 1900 defence training places were offered to partner countries in premier defence institutions in India. In line with Digital India initiatives, the online-ITEC portal facilitated the continued engagement with ITEC Alumni and provided a comprehensive interface for ITEC activities.

Humanitarian assistance was provided to Ecuador, Malawi, Commonwealth of Dominica, Yemen, Syria, Kenya, Mozambique, Ukraine, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe in 2016-17.

Economic Diplomacy

2016-17 has been an exciting year for India's economic diplomacy. Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) economic engagement worldwide through its Missions / Posts is creating opportunities for the country's investors, entrepreneurs, workers and consumers, while also serving the nation's economic objectives. The Economic Diplomacy (ED) Division, the economic arm of the MEA, provided assistance to Indian Missions / Posts for enhancing their economic outreach; helped resolve trade and investment disputes; facilitated foreign enterprises in identifying business opportunities in India; extended financial assistance to Business Chambers and Think Tanks for organizing seminars and conferences to promote Government of India (GoI) flagship schemes and regional economic cooperation initiatives; supported investment activities of several State governments; commissioned reports and surveys by engaging leading consultancy firms; and worked in close cooperation with other line ministries in the

civil aviation, railways, shipping and road transport, energy resources, urban development, agriculture, health, water and sanitation, finance, trade, tourism, culture and information space.

States Division

The States Divisions activities were focussed on the promotion of cooperative federalism by facilitating outreach activities of States in the areas where the Ministry of External Affairs could provide effective synergy & coordination.

Counter Terrorism

In the wake of various terrorism-related incidents that occurred indifferent parts of the world during the year, the issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings. During all such interactions, India strongly condemned terrorism in all its manifestations and reiterated its commitment to combating the menace at a global level.

Global Cyber Issues

The increasing use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in international affairs has resulted in Ministry of External Affairs's (MEA) involvement in the projection and safeguarding of Government of India's interests in various international fora. The Global Cyber Issues Cell, under the E-Governance and Information Technology (EG&IT) Division of the MEA, which handles all matters relating to the subject, has been engaging in bilateral cyber dialogues with key countries for collaboration on cyber issues and in multilateral forums such as United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to build consensus and support for a transparent, democratic and representative internet governance.

Boundary Cell

Boundary Cell continued to provide cartographic advice and technical support on border related matters to the concerned Territorial Divisions within the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), including for ongoing negotiations with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan and for management of India's external boundaries. It assists in collection and digitization of the available cartographic Strip/Basis Maps concerning international borders. The Boundary

Cell examines all aspects of India's external boundaries and map sheets involving international boundaries of India in close coordination with Survey of India and Military Survey (MOGS-GS) for their publications. The cell also liaises with Survey of India, State Governments on joint boundary survey work and maintenance/repairs/construction and inspection of boundary pillars and on reports of any encroachment into Indian territories and maintenance of database. Boundary Cell renders assistance in the collection and digitization of information pertaining to Maritime Boundary, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also delineation of continental shelf. We scrutinize restricted and secret map sheets in coordination with Ministry of Defence and maintain liaisons with Naval Hydrographic Office and concerned Department and Ministry. Boundary Cell is the repository of all maps/documents/information pertaining to India's International Borders.

Policy Planning & Research

PP&R Division continued to focus on expanding its activity in 2016-17. The work related to writing of research and policy papers on various aspects of foreign policy was further expanded. The year also saw a significant augmentation in budgetary as well as human resources of the Division. The process of conducting institutional Policy Planning Dialogue with our diplomatic partners was also expanded as was its interactions with Indian and foreign think tanks.

With a view to make India a venue for major international conferences and to promote dialogues between think-tanks in India and other countries, a number of initiatives were progressed and many new activities organised. The notable ones include organisation of second Raisina Dialogue in January 2017; Gateway of India dialogue in March 2016 and February 2017; the 1st India-China Think Tank Forum in December 2016; the India Ocean Conference in Singapore in September 2016; and India-Russia Heads of Think Tank meeting in September 2016.

Protocol

Protocol Division comprises a total of seven sections viz. Protocol-1, Protocol-II, Protocol-III, Protocol (Hyderabad House), Protocol Special, Protocol (Hospitality & Accounts) and Government Hospitality Organization (GHO).

Protocol-I Section, under the charge of Deputy Chiefs of Protocol (Ceremonials) is mandated to handle incoming visits

of Heads of State/Heads of Government (HoS/HoG), Vice-Presidents and Foreign Minister, outgoing visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister, entertainment (official lunches, dinners and receptions on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs) and ceremonial functions, airport passes, access to ceremonial and reserve lounge, etc.

Protocol-II and Protocol Special sections, both under the charge of Deputy Chief of Protocol (Privileges) deal with various issues related to privileges and immunity of the diplomatic missions based out of India like issuance of diplomatic/official identity cards in respect of foreign representations in Delhi and in different states of the country; finalising Agreement for gainful employment and subsequently, processing requests of permission of gainful employment for family members of members of diplomatic missions and consular posts in India; permission to foreign diplomats for enrolment in Indian Universities; security arrangement for foreign representations and their residences in India; privileges and immunities to international organisations recognised under Article 3 of UN (P&I) Act, 1947; issues related to tax exemptions on the principle of reciprocity; forwarding of court summons issued by various courts in respect of diplomats/officials and diplomatic missions in India and processing requests of purchase/registration/sale of motor vehicles & custom duty free imports.

Protocol-III and Protocol (Housing) Sections both are under the charge of Deputy Chief of Protocol (Facilities). Protocol-III Section's work domain includes exchange of messages and communications on national days, arrangements for presentation of credentials, appointment of new consuls general in India as well as honorary consuls; preparation of credential papers of Heads of Mission (HOMs) and commission of appointment of consuls general; arrangements for first arrival and final departure of heads of foreign diplomatic missions; permissions for creation of new posts (civil and defence) in foreign diplomatic missions/posts in India; issuance of letters to airport authorities for airport passes to diplomatic missions in India; arrangement for simultaneous interpretation on Independence Day as well as other arrangements viz. invitations to HOMs and other diplomatic officers in addition to the arrangements made during Republic Day and Beating Retreat functions; handle court cases and complaints received from local staff working in foreign diplomatic missions; handle the arrangements for nomination of chief guests for National Days of Diplomatic

Missions in New Delhi and other related Protocol work.

Protocol Housing Section is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Hyderabad House in cooperation with the Horticulture, Civil and Electrical Wings of Central Public Works Department (CPWD). This includes repair & maintenance works of electrical/civil/horticulture. In addition, this section also handles processing of payment to India Tourism Development Cooperation (ITDC) on account of their administrative, management and operational expenditure; matters relating to purchase/sale/allotment of land, built up property, lease etc in respect of all diplomatic missions and international organizations in Delhi which involves communication with state governments for land allotment, signing of perpetual lease deed etc.; disputes/court cases between landlords and diplomatic Missions in Delhi and other states; running and operation of the VVIP Receptorium at Air Force Station, Palam with the help of Military Engineering Service (MES) and CPWD and assisting the diplomatic missions regarding services like New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), etc. Further, for last few years, this section has been coordinating with various stake holders on upcoming second Diplomatic Enclave project in Dwarka, New Delhi.

Consular, Passports and Visas

As on April 2016, there are about 27 million overseas Indians spread over 146 countries across the globe. Out of these, approximately 11.4 million are Indian passport holders. The vast majority of these Indian nationals are temporary migrants, including women workers and 90 per cent of them work in the Gulf region. These Indian workers go abroad to make a better living for themselves and their families back in India. However, once they reach abroad, they face a host of problems since working and living conditions abroad may not be according to their expectations.

The prime concern of the Consular Section in the Consular, Passports and Visas (CPV) Division relates to looking after the welfare of Indian nationals who are living and working abroad. Besides the above, Consular Section also deals with cases of arrest and deaths of foreigners in India, including provision of consular access to prisoners for foreign diplomats in India. The Section also coordinates with the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the welfare of Indian nationals

abroad. Consular Section also provides assistance to the general public in finding out the whereabouts and welfare of missing Indian nationals. Issues relating to adoption of Indian children by Persons of Indian Origin, payment of salary dues and death compensation to the families of deceased Indian workers, liaison with the Ministry of Shipping regarding arrest of Indian crew members and Indian vessels, cases of marriage and divorce of Indian nationals under Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, registration of births and deaths of Indian nationals abroad, etc are also being looked after by the Consular Section.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad advise and guide the Indian community in an impartial manner in a variety of matters affecting the existence of the community as a whole. In order to protect the interests and welfare of Indian nationals abroad, the Government of India has set up various bilateral Joint Working Groups on Consular matters with a number of countries, including Australia, Iran, US, China, Russian Federation and the UAE. Apart from this, the Indian Missions/Posts render consular services viz attestation of various documents, registration of birth and death of Indian nationals, sending of mortal remains of Indian nationals back to India, registration/solemnization of marriage of Indian nationals, consular access for Indian nationals lodged in foreign jails, serving summons of Indian courts to Indian nationals residing abroad, etc.

In recent years, the issuance of passports has emerged as the most noticeable statutory and citizen service rendered by the Ministry of External Affairs. Accordingly, the Ministry has made many quantitative and qualitative improvements in the delivery of passport services in the country. Indian passports [together with other travel documents such as Identity Certificates (IC) for Tibetan refugees, Emergency Certificates (EC) for return to India, Police Clearance Certificates (PCC) and Line of Control (LoC) Travel Permits in Jammu and Kashmir] are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through the CPO and its all-India network of 38 PO, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 77 PSK and 12 Passport Seva Laghu Kendras (PSLK) in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode as extended arms of the PO. Ministry has also decided to establish additional 7 PSLK which are at various stages of their setting up. For Indians living abroad, passports, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards, EC and other miscellaneous consular services, apart from attestation

of consular documents, are being rendered by the 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 3.58 million visas during the period from 1 January 2016 to 30 November 2016. Apart from regular visas, 10,13,871 e-Tourist Visas issued during the above period.

The pilot project for provision of passport related services utilizing the Head Post Offices(HPO) in the various States was inaugurated on 25 January 2017 at the HPO at Dahod in Gujarat and at Mysuru in Karnataka. Once having applied for passport on-line through the passport portal, applicants can now schedule an appointment and visit the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) to complete the formalities necessary prior to the issue of a passport. This is an important outreach activity of the Ministry for delivering passport related services to the citizens of the country. New POPSK in all the HPO will be opened in a phased manner.

Administration, Establishment and Projects

Administration: During the year 2016-17, the Ministry made efforts to simplify rules, regulations and procedures in order to streamline the administrative machinery including through the use of information technology. Ministry has created approximately 500 local posts in Missions/Posts abroad in order to meet the growing manpower needs of the Ministry. Ministry also notified Recruitment Rules of the IFS(B) after a comprehensive review in consultation with DoPT and UPSC. The year under review also witnessed further expansion of India's global diplomatic presence with the Government of India opening a Consulate in Erbil, Iraq.

Establishment: Establishment Division as the nodal Division for 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' and 'Swachh Bharat Pakhwada' took a series of innovative steps to spread the message of Swachhta within the Ministry and its offices in India and abroad. It introduced in all its offices in India and abroad, a special 'Swachh Bharat Time' of fifteen minutes every day (1715-1730 hrs.). Two main courtyards in South Block were re-developed which has contributed immensely in the Swachhta activities in the Ministry.

Global Estate Management: After successful completion of construction and installation of art work, Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 October 2016. Effective steps have been taken to complete the ongoing construction of Chancery/Residences in

Bahrain, Dar-es-Salaam, Dhaka Islamabad and Kathmandu during the first half of 2017. New construction projects have commenced in Addis Ababa, Nicosia, Port Louis, Tashkent and Wellington in FY 2016-17. Substantial progress has been made in the construction projects undertaken at Moscow, Shanghai, Male and Mahe. Following up on its mandate, Global Estate Management (GEM) Division also initiated the process of acquisition of suitable properties in Jeddah, Amman, Cape Town, Seoul and Geneva during the same period. Closer to home, the Division is in the process of redeveloping the MEA residential complex in Gole Market, New Delhi.

RTI and Chief Public Information Office

During the year 2016, the Ministry continued to make efforts towards full implementation of Right to Information Act, 2005. RTI applications/appeals/responses and monthly RTI figures are being uploaded on the Ministry's website regularly. In terms of Section 4(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 the Ministry is suo-moto uploading details of all the foreign visits of President, Vice President, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister along with MOUs/Agreements signed during such visits on this website for benefit of citizens. Information regarding official visits of incoming dignitaries is also being made available on the website. The system of online acceptance and disposal of RTI applications is fully functioned in the Ministry and the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Ministry also conducted workshop on RTI for its officials.

E-Governance and Information Technology

E-Governance and Information Technology (EG&IT) Division is mandated to carry out feasibility studies, design, development, testing, implementation and maintenance of various e-Governance applications in the Ministry, in coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC) as per the standard norms of Government of India. The division is taking steps to implement different components of Digital India Programme in the Ministry and all Missions/Posts abroad. Four Mission Mode Projects of e-Kranti (fourth pillar of the Digital India Programme) namely e-Office, e-Procurement, IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration, Tracking) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP), are currently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. E-Office software has also been implemented in various Divisions of the Ministry.

Parliament and Coordination Division

The Parliament Division is Ministry's interface with the Parliament and nodal point for all Parliament related work of this Ministry. The Division organized meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs and coordinated the work relating to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and Ministry's interaction with other Parliamentary Committees.

The Coordination Division coordinated the interaction between the Ministry and other Government of India Ministries, State Governments/Union Territories, and also autonomous bodies and private institutions, including NGOs. The Division handled political clearances for official/private visits abroad of Ministers, elected representatives, judiciary and Government officials. It also processed clearances for organising Conferences/Seminars/Workshops in India involving foreign participation, sports tournaments in India in which foreign participants were invited and sports tournaments abroad in which Indian participants were invited, landing/overflight clearances of foreign military flights, visit of foreign naval ships etc., conversion of Student visa into Research visa in respect of foreign students studying in India and foreign scholars coming to India for field visits/ training/ inspection etc. in various Institutions. In all 3456 clearances were issued during the period April 2016–November 30, 2016.

The Education Division of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination, and admission of foreign students from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, BE, B. Pharmacy, and diploma courses in various institutions in India under the Self-Financing Foreign Students Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

The Ministry propagates Hindi language by celebrating World Hindi Day and Hindi Diwas in Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad. It provides financial assistance and training material to educational institutions and organizations involved in the teaching and promotion of Hindi. The Ministry also awards 100 scholarships for foreign students to study Hindi in Agra every year. In 2016 it organized Regional Hindi Conferences in Paris and Moscow.

External Publicity and Public Policy

As the key division of the Ministry tasked with communication and public diplomacy, XPD Division showcased a year of

flagship initiatives and events in foreign policy through its various activities. The Division continued to effectively articulate India's position on issues of foreign policy and international affairs in line with its stated mandate. Special attention was given to the facilitation of press coverage of VVIP visits, regular and special briefings for the media, timely issue of press statements and communiqués as well as familiarisation visits for Indian and foreign journalists. The media coverage of the BRICS Summit in Goa, the Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar, and numerous outgoing and incoming visits were a highlight of the year. The Ministry's public diplomacy profile has continued to grow both on digital media, including the commissioning of new films, as well as through traditional offline outreach. Already an acknowledged leader in social media, the Ministry touched 2 million followers on Facebook and Twitter expanding the sheer reach to Indian and foreign audiences while enhancing the quality of content. These efforts have played a critical role in creating awareness of the Ministry and the Government's foreign policy as proactive and effective, leading to tangible outcomes while increasing India's stature in the world

Foreign Services Institute

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

With the above mandate, the Foreign Service Institute reviewed and revised both the content and methodology of training programmes for Officer Trainees (OTs) of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and introduced new levels of mid-career training for MEA officers. Training for Group B of IFS was also revamped and intensified by introducing new elements in the training.

Training capsules incorporated in their content recent directives from the Government and on the whole adopted a participant-centric approach, consulting the target group of trainees and seeking their inputs / feedback to make the training more relevant to their functional requirements.

Nalanda University

The first convocation ceremony of Nalanda University, held on 27 August 2016, was graced by the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee who conferred the degrees on the first batch of students. The Governor of Bihar, Chief Minister of Bihar and members from the Diplomatic corps also attended the event. The President also laid the foundation stone for construction of Nalanda University's permanent campus. The University has a strength of about 130 students at present including 22 students from 12 foreign countries. The Government has recently constituted the first Governing Board of the University in accordance with the Nalanda University Act. The work on University's campus construction project has commenced with the award of the first tender package.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) undertook a wide range of activities to promote better understanding of India and its culture. It organized summer camps, celebrated International Student Day and International Day of Yoga at Regional Offices and Missions abroad. The Council sponsored 124 Indian cultural groups abroad which performed in about 50 countries and brought out journals in Hindi, English, Arabic, French & Spanish for distribution in various countries.

Indian Council for World Affairs

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political and economic development in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America, and wider global geo-strategic environments were analyzed. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, which were placed on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued translating its academic outputs in Hindi which have been posted on its website. In addition, since April 2016, the Council has published three books (translated one book in Hindi), one monograph and one Sapru House Paper. Efforts are under way to revamp ICWA website to make it more user friendly. ICWA has also opened its library for general public and membership rules have been eased.

In lines with its mandate ICWA conducted a large number of events, lectures, conferences and outreach activities. The library service was improved and new books were acquired.

Library and Archives

The library houses a number of books along with a large

collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. Books are also procured and supplied to officers through Inter-library loan. The library has recently purchased a collection of e-books on international relations. A catalogue of some selected rare books has already been prepared and printed as per instructions of former Foreign Secretary. These rare books are also kept in a separate rare books library at JNB. The library also provides access to international journals and subscribes to a range of international and national newspapers.

RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specializes in issues relating to international economic development with special focus on trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation (SSC) and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various fora. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to enhance policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

Finance and Budget

The total budget outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for 2016-17 was Rs 14662.66 crores (cr.) which was 2.03% less than the budget allocated for 2015-16 (Rs. 14730.39 cr). A major part of this Budget is committed towards technical and economic cooperation with other countries through both Plan and Non-Plan funds. The Plan component of MEA's Budget caters to several large developmental projects in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectric power projects, agriculture, industry etc., which were undertaken in the neighbouring countries of India like Bhutan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. The principal beneficiaries of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes in the financial year 2016-17 were Bhutan (Rs. 5490 cr), Bangladesh (Rs. 150 cr), Afghanistan (Rs. 520 cr.), Sri Lanka (Rs. 230 cr), Nepal (Rs. 300 cr), Myanmar (Rs. 400 cr) and African countries (Rs. 290 cr). Some other beneficiaries include Maldives, Mongolia, countries from Latin American, Eurasia and other regions.



Afghanistan

The year 2016-17 saw further coordination of the strategic partnership and age old friendship between India and Afghanistan. There were many high level interactions guiding the strengthening of all-round cooperation between the two countries covering a broad spectrum of areas including political and security cooperation, trade and economic partnerships and development of capacity and education, socio-cultural and people to people relations. Both the countries are continued victims of terror and in one voice, showed solidarity and support for each other against all actions to eliminate the threat of terrorism.

High Level Interactions

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Afghanistan on 4 June 2016 where he jointly, with President of Afghanistan Dr. Ashraf Ghani, inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, earlier known as Salma Dam, in the Herat province in Western Afghanistan. The project would not just irrigate the fields of six hundred and forty villages in Afghanistan but would also bring electricity to over two hundred and fifty thousand homes. After the inauguration ceremony, the Prime Minister was conferred with Amir Amanullah Khan Award which is Afghanistan's highest civilian honour.



Prime Minister and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurating the Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam), in Herat, Afghanistan on 4 June 2016.

Afghan President Dr. Ashraf Ghani paid a working visit to India on 14-15 September 2016. He met both our Prime Minister and President. It was agreed that the Strategic Partnership Council headed by the External Affairs Minister of India (EAM) and the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan will meet shortly to review the recommendations of the four Joint Working Groups dealing with diverse areas of cooperation and impart further guidance. The leaders expressed satisfaction over signing of the Extradition Treaty, the agreement on cooperation in civil and commercial matters and the

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during the President's visit. Having completed projects worth over US\$ 2 billion in Afghanistan including projects like construction of Afghan Parliament and Zeranji-Delaram road, India furthered its commitment by pledging an additional US\$ 1 billion for capacity and capability building in spheres such as education, health, agriculture, skill development, empowerment of women, energy, infrastructure and strengthening of democratic institutions.



President of Afghanistan, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani signing the visitor's book in New Delhi, 14 September 2016.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai, Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Manpreet Vohra and U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson, met to exchange views on the situation in Afghanistan and on regional issues of mutual interest on 21 September 2016, in New York City, on the margins of the 71st United Nations General Assembly, for a round of Afghanistan-India-U.S. consultations. The meeting provided a forum for the U.S. Government and the Government of India to explore ways to coordinate and align their assistance with the priorities of the Afghan government.

Brussels Conference on Afghanistan was held on 5 October 2016 under the under the aegis of the European Union where Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar represented India. In addition to renewing India's abiding commitment towards development of Afghanistan, he highlighted the existential challenge of terrorism that the region faced and how Afghanistan as the 'Heart of Asia' offered immense connectivity opportunities across the regional compass to bring comprehensive development and prosperity in the entire Eurasian region.



Shri M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs meets Rasit Meredow, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan on the sidelines of the 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Amritsar, 4 December 2016.

Heart of Asia- Istanbul process Ministerial Conference related

A high-point of India- Afghanistan Partnership was the co-hosting of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process at Amritsar on 3-4 December 2016 on the theme of 'Addressing Challenges, Achieving Prosperity.' Prime Minister of India and President of Afghanistan jointly inaugurated the conference and noted that the choice of Amritsar underscored the value of expeditious realization of seamless two-way connectivity between South Asia and Central Asia. The Conference was co-chaired by Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister of India and Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and attended by delegations from participating countries, supporting countries and international organizations – 45 in all. The Conference

also saw the presence and participation of guest countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Latvia and Uzbekistan. This unique platform brought together the countries and organizations of the region and beyond in their efforts to consolidate Afghanistan as a modern and growing democracy. The Conference adopted the Amritsar Declaration which unanimously declared terrorism as the biggest threat to the regional peace and stability and identified existence and support to groups like Taliban, ISIL/DAISH and its affiliates, the Haqqani Network, Al Qaida, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, East Turkistan Islamic Movement, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, TTP, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Jundullah as a danger in the region and called for common action against them and early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Azerbaijan will host the next Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process as Co-Chair in 2017.

In the run up to Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference, three Senior Officials Meetings were held on 26 April 2016 at New Delhi, 23 September 2016 at New York and 3 December 2016 at Amritsar where senior officials of the member and supporting countries and organizations discussed the important issues related to mutual concerns and opportunities and agreed on others like fighting against terrorism, supporting the peace process in Afghanistan, and strengthening regional relations.

As a lead country for the 'Trade, Commerce and Investment opportunities' Confidence Building Measures, India took steps to showcase Afghanistan's immense investment potential through providing opportunities for Afghanistan and its near and extended neighbours to engage in a sincere dialogue to build confidence and promote economic cooperation at the regional level. "Made in Afghanistan" conference, exhibition and B2Bs in collaboration with Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project (ATAR) of USAID, Afghanistan was organized by FICCI in Delhi on 19-20 July 2016 where a 60 member official-cum-business delegation from Afghanistan led by H. E. Mr. Abdul Qadeer Jawad, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Government of Afghanistan and senior officials, CEOs/ Managing Directors/ Heads of the International Departments of various private and public sector companies came together to share the business opportunities in Afghanistan. A Memorandum of Understanding to help the Afghan women entrepreneurs in entrepreneurship development was also signed by FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) and India Art Investment Company and Afghanistan Women Business Federation (AWBF). The Afghan exhibition at India International Trade Fair (IITF), organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) from 14-27 November 2016 at New Delhi was inaugurated by Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador of Afghanistan to India and Mr. Qurban Ali Haqjo, Head, Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA). A seminar on "Heart of Asia and Connectivity" was also held on 3 December 2016 at Amritsar in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) which saw participation from both academia and government sides of the Heart of Asia countries.

In addition, following events were also organized as a precursor to the sixth ministerial meeting of the 'Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process':

- a) Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised an international seminar on 10-11 November 2016 to deliberate on issues concerning Afghanistan with a view to suggest and undertake constructive measures for security, stability and development of Afghanistan and the region. The International seminar witnessed representation of 18 participants from the Heart of Asia member countries besides 11 Indian participants.
- b) An International Conference was organized by Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) at New Delhi on 23 November 2016 on the topic 'Addressing the Challenge of International Terrorism and Radicalisation'.

Bangladesh

The spate of regular high-level visits and exchanges kept the bilateral relations between the two countries on a high trajectory. Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina visited India in October 2016 for the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa. Home Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan visited India in July during which an amendment to Extradition Treaty was signed. Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar visited Bangladesh on 30 November-1 December 2016 which was the first ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Bangladesh since 1971. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, MoS (IC), Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Bangladesh in April 2016 during which wide-ranging discussions were held in the field of energy sector cooperation.

On the multilateral front, MoS for External Affairs Shri M J Akbar led the Indian delegation for the 9th Summit Meeting of Global Forum on Migration & Development (GFMD) held in Dhaka in December 2016. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh visited Bangladesh in April 2016 to attend the 3rd meeting of SAARC Agriculture Ministers.

From the Bangladesh side, important visits included visits of Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, Minister for Environment and Forests to attend 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation to New Delhi in April 2016; Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Commerce Minister to Imphal, to participate in North Eastern Business Summit in April 2016; Mr. Amir Hossain Amu, Industry Minister to Kolkata in April 2016, to Agartala in June 2016 for Invest Tripura, to Mumbai in August 2016; Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister of Cultural Affairs to Kolkata in June 2016 to participate in Art Festival

and to inaugurate Bangladesh Art Gallery; Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, Minister of Civil Aviation accompanied by Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam State Minister for External Affairs to Shillong in June 2016 to attend Nadi Festival; Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs to New Delhi in June 2016 to attend 7th BIMSTEC Business Forum Meeting; Mr. Md. Mazibul Hoque, Minister of Railways in July 2016 to Agartala for laying of foundation stone of a new rail link connecting Bangladesh with Tripura; Begum Taran Halim, State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications in August 2016; Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, Minister of Information in August 2016 to New Delhi; Mr. Nasrul Hamid, MOS for Power, Energy and Minister Resources in October 2016 to New Delhi; Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya) , Minister for Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief to New Delhi in November 2016 to attend 1st Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and to Kolkata; Home Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan to Kolkata to attend Victory Day celebrations in December 2016. A 7-member Jatiya Party Parliamentary Delegation visited India in July 2016 and called on President and EAM.

Minister of Industry and Ministry of Post and

Telecommunication of Bangladesh are expected to visit India in January 2017. Minister of Public Administration of Bangladesh is visiting India at the end of January 2017.

Institutional Mechanism

There have been regular exchange of visits and meetings of institutional mechanisms on the defence side. From the Indian side, G-O-C, Eastern Command visited Bangladesh in April 2016. From the Bangladesh side, Naval Chief and Air-Chief visited India in September and December 2016 respectively. DG, Coast Guard of Bangladesh also visited India in December 2016. Air Force to Air Force Staff Talks were held in Dhaka in April 2016 while Army to Army Staff Talks were held in New Delhi in October 2016. Exercise 'Sampriti' between the two armies was held in November 2016. Ship visits were made by two Indian Coast Guard vessels in August-September 2016 and by three naval ships in November 2016. Two Bangladesh Coast Guard ships visited India in October 2016. An air-frame of Allouette aircraft, which took part in Liberation War, was presented by Defence Minister to Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The reciprocal visits of war veterans



Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh arrives in Goa to attend BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit, 16 October 2016.

of India and Muktiyodhas from Bangladesh took place in December 2016.

The institutional mechanisms in place for enhancing the bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh were held periodically. Foreign Secretary level talks were held in Dhaka in May. Home Secretary level talks were held in New Delhi in December. DG level talks between border guarding forces (BSF and BGB) were held in May and October 2016 in Dhaka and New Delhi respectively while DG level Talks between nodal narcotics agencies (NCB and DNC) were held in December 2016. Joint Boundary Conference between Mizoram Sector and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka in August 2016. Select member of Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) visited the Muhuri Char area and held meeting in Dhaka in November 2016. 2nd round of DM DC meetings of bordering districts of Tripura and Bangladesh was held in December 2016 – January 2017.

The next DG (BSF-BGB) talks will be held in February 2017 in Dhaka. The 3rd round of DC-DM meeting of neighbouring states of India and Bangladesh is expected to be held by March 2017. The Joint Task Force Meeting on Human Trafficking will be held in India in February 2017.

Economic and Commercial

On Trade and Commerce side, Commerce Secretary Level talks were held in New Delhi in November 2016. Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cooperation in Renewable Energy and JWG on Health met in Dhaka in April 2016; JWG on Trade met in New Delhi in June 2016, JWG on Fisheries met in Dhaka in October 2016 and JWG & JSC on Power Cooperation met in July and December 2016 in Dhaka and New Delhi respectively.

India-Bangladesh bilateral trade has grown steadily over the last few years. India's exports to Bangladesh in 2015-16 (July-June) was US\$ 5452.90 million, and the imports from Bangladesh during the same period were US\$ 689.62 million. In the five years (from FY 2011-12 to FY 2015-16), total trade between the two countries has grown by more than 17%.

This period also saw the first meetings of many newly established bilateral mechanisms. These included the meetings of JWG on conservation of Sundarbans in July 2016 in New Delhi, JWG on Blue Economy in Dhaka in May 2016, Energy Dialogue in June 2016 in New Delhi, JWG on Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in Dhaka in May 2016 and

the first Review meeting of international bus service operators in Shillong in May 2016.

India and Bangladesh share 54 common rivers and have an agreement on the sharing of waters of river Ganga during the lean season. The 64th meeting of Joint Committee on Sharing Waters of Ganga was held in Dhaka in December 2016. The site visit to Farakka will be held in January 2017 and site visit to Hardinge Bridge will be held in March 2017. An Indian technical Team visited the site of proposed Ganges Barrage project site in Bangladesh in October 2016.

Connectivity

On the Connectivity side, Shipping Secretary Level talks and meeting of Standing Committee under Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) were held in Dhaka in December 2016. Inter Government Railway Meeting (IGRM) and Inter Railway Wagon Reconciliation meeting were held in Dhaka in August and November 2016 respectively.

To further boost connectivity, Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh inaugurated export of Internet bandwidth to Tripura from Bangladesh and supply of 100 MW of power from Tripura to Comilla in March 2016. They also inaugurated the Petrapole Integrated Check Post (ICP) to facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods in July 2016, and Phulbari-Banglabandha immigration check-post in February 2016. Trans-shipment of goods to Northeastern States of India through Ashuganj river-port and further through Akhaura-Agartala by road commenced in June 2016 under the PIWTT. The trial run of the Khulna-Kolkata bus service was completed successfully in August 2016.

The trial run of cargo movement on trucks from Kolkata to Agartala via Dhaka and Dhaka to New Delhi via Kolkata and Lucknow under the Bangladesh- Bhutan- Indian- Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN-MVA) was conducted in August 2016 as first steps towards implementation of BBIN-MVA pending ratification.

The fourth railway link, Radhikapur-Birol between India and Bangladesh is ready and will be inaugurated very soon. With the notification of Guidelines of Cross Border Trade of Electricity trade on 5 December 2016, it is expected that there will be greater predictability for both private and public companies wishing to trade in power between India and Bangladesh.

Development Cooperation

The dollar-credit line agreement for the US\$ 2 billion Line of Credit extended to Bangladesh in 2015 was signed in March 2016. Government of India has already conveyed its approval for 11 projects under the second LOC submitted by government of Bangladesh. The LOC Review meeting was held in New Delhi in November 2016 which reviewed the status of different projects sanctioned under both the LoCs.

This period also saw a number of training programmes organized for Bangladeshi civil servants, police officers, narcotics department officials, border-guarding forces, defence establishments, nuclear scientists, teachers etc apart from regular ITEC courses and ICCR scholarships. A 100-member youth delegation from Bangladesh visited India in December 2016.

Various policy as well as process related initiatives were taken to further augment the visa processing capacity of the Mission and to streamline the visa issuing process. Government of India further liberalized the visa regime for Bangladeshi senior citizens above 65 years making them eligible for 5 year multiple entry tourist visas. An Eid visa camp was organized in June 2016 in Dhaka during which around 56000 applications were accepted in two weeks without the requirement of online appointments.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share close and friendly relations characterized by deep mutual trust and understanding. Prime Minister of Bhutan visited India in January 2016 to attend the 2nd Bengal Global Business Summit 2016 in Kolkata in January 2016 as Chief Guest. In May 2016, he visited India to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister, West Bengal in Kolkata and thereafter in October 2016 to attend the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa. From the Indian side, MoS for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju visited Bhutan from 2-4 July 2016 to attend the International Conference on Tradition and Innovation in Vajrayana Buddhism. MoS (IC) for Commerce & Industry, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Bhutan from 11-13 November 2016 to sign the Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan.

Institutional mechanisms, hydro-power cooperation and regional meetings

A Bhutanese delegation led by Home Secretary, Mr. Sonam

Topgay visited New Delhi from 7-8 November 2016 for the 11th round of India Bhutan Secretary Level Talks on Border Management and Security. Minister of Home & Cultural Affairs, Mr. Dawa Gyaltshen, visited India from 3-5 November 2016 to participate in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), during which he had a bilateral meeting with Home Minister of India. The members of the Public Accounts Committee of Bhutan visited India in May 2016. Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Lekey Dorji, visited India in May 2016 for the meeting of Mangdechhu Hydro Power Authority, from 5-7 December 2016 to attend the Petro-Tech 2016 Conference, and on 10-12 January 2017 for participating at the meetings of Punatsangchhu Hydro-Power Authority I and II in New Delhi. The 15th Meeting of the Empowered Joint Group on Hydropower Cooperation was held in Thimphu on 9 December 2016. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the ongoing hydro-electric projects, which are being implemented under the 2006 Agreement on Cooperation in Hydropower and the Protocol to the 2006 Agreement signed in March 2009. In June 2016, a delegation led by Director General of Directorate General of Performance Management, (Customs and Central Excise), Government of India visited Bhutan for verification and quantification of the Excise Duty Refund claim of RGoB for the year 2015. The 2nd India-Bhutan Joint Working Group Customs Meeting was held on 10 January 2017 in Thimphu.

Development cooperation

The 5th Annual India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks or the 5th Plan Talks was held on 8 December 2016 in Thimphu. With Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan (2013-18) entering its fourth year, the two sides reviewed the overall progress of PTA and SDP projects. The India-Bhutan e-Library Project was inaugurated on 5 September 2016, which was announced during PM's visit to Bhutan in June 2014. The main components of the project include provision of basic IT infrastructure to 49 schools and 12 colleges. The Centre of Development of Advance Computing (CDAC), a GoI Undertaking, is the nodal implementing agency of the project.

Every year GoI provides 200 training slots under ITEC programme and a further 60 slots under TCS Colombo Plan in various fields to Bhutanese for upgrading their administrative and technical skills. In the current academic year, the ITEC/TCS slots have been increased from 260 to 360 slots for 2016,



External Affairs Minister calls on Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan in New Delhi, 16 February 2016.

out of which 243 were utilized. Ten officers from Bhutan are trained in premier government training institutions of India under the Colombo Plan every year. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan. The Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarships were awarded to 8 Bhutanese scholars for the year 2016-17, while the stipend for such scholars was doubled in pursuance of the announcement to that effect made by Prime Minister during his visit to Bhutan in June 2014. The Ambassador's Scholarship was awarded to 856 Bhutanese students who are studying in various colleges in India on self financing basis. Twenty three fully funded slots were provided to Bhutanese students by ICCR during 2016.

An MoU was signed between the Department of Engineering Services of the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, RGoB and Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on technical co-operation in the field of capacity building, bench marking & bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering on

23 December 2016 in Thimphu.

On 26 June 2016, the Mission organized a mega Yoga Session to commemorate the 2nd International Day of Yoga at the Royal Institute of Management, Thimphu. The Bhutanese Prime Minister was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

India-Bhutan Commerce Secretary Level Talks was held from 18-19 January 2017 in New Delhi.

China

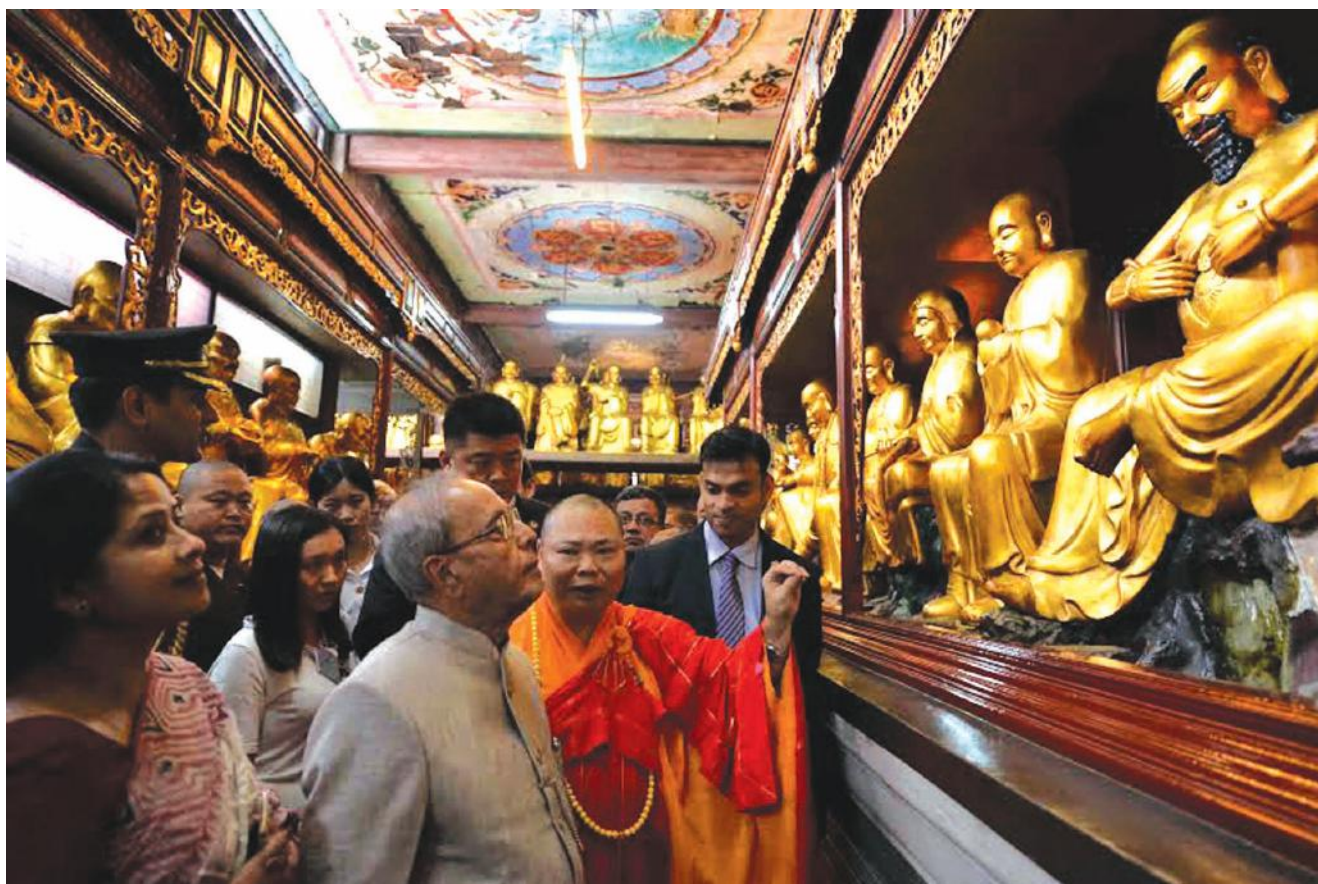
India's relations with China have developed in diverse areas in the recent years. During the visit of President Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, the two sides forged a Closer Developmental Partnership that forms the core of the India-China bilateral relationship. This Partnership was further consolidated during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to China in May 2015. This year was marked by frequent contacts at high level besides functional exchanges

across the political, economic and cultural realm. The G-20 Summit in China and the BRICS Summit in India provided opportunities for interaction at the leadership level and also exchanges at the working level.

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to China (Guangzhou and Beijing) from 24-27 May 2016. In Guangzhou, President addressed the Indian community, addressed an India-China Business Forum and visited the Hua Lin Temple which has ancient linkages with India. President also met the Party Secretary of Guangdong Province Mr. Hu Chunhua. In Beijing, President held talks with President Xi Jinping and met Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress Zhang Dejiang. President also delivered a speech at Peking University and attended a Round Table of Vice Chancellors and Presidents of universities of India and China where he witnessed signing of 10 MoUs between academic institutions.

This year, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also met the Chinese leadership** on several occasions. Prime Minister paid a visit to Hangzhou, China from 3-5 September 2016 for the G-20 Summit. During the visit, Prime Minister met with President Xi Jinping. The two leaders met again when President Xi visited India from 15-17 October 2016 for the BRICS Summit in Goa. Prime Minister Modi and President Xi also had a meeting along the sidelines of the Heads of States Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tashkent in June 2016.

Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar visited China (Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu) from 16-20 April 2016. Defence Minister held talks with Defence Minister of China General Chang Wanquan, met the Vice Chairman of Central Military Commission General Fan Changlong and called on Premier Li Keqiang during the visit. In Chengdu, Raksha Mantri met the Commander of Western Theater Command General Zhao Zongqi.



President visits Hua Lin Temple in Guangzhou during his visit to China, 25 May 2016.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley paid a visit to China in June 2016, where he participated in the First Annual General Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank held at Beijing on 25 June 2016.

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval visited China from 19-21 April 2016 and held the 19th round of Talks of the Special Representatives on the India-China Boundary Question with his counterpart State Councillor Yang Jiechi. During the visit, NSA also met with Mr. Meng Jianzhu, Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of China. NSA and State Councillor Yang Jiechi also met in September 2016 in Delhi when the latter visited India for the meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on Security. NSA again met with State Councillor Yang Jiechi on 4 November 2016 in Hyderabad. The discussions, conducted in a friendly, open and cordial environment, covered a wide agenda spanning bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Chief of Army Staff General Dalbir Singh paid an official visit to China from 20-25 November 2016. He held talks with General Li Zuocheng, Commander PLA Army in which a wide range of issues of mutual interest were discussed. General Dalbir Singh also called on General Xu Qiliang,

Vice Chairman, Central Military Commission. General Dalbir Singh also travelled to Nanjing, where he visited key military installations and interacted with General Liu Yuejun, Commander of the Eastern Theatre Command.

As China was the Chair of the G-20 in 2016, there were several meetings of G-20 member states for which there were visits from the Indian side, including by Minister of Labour and Employment Shri Bandaru Dattatreya and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr. Arvind Panagariya.

The year also witnessed several important visits from China. **China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi** paid an official visit to India from 12-14 August 2016. During his visit, he held talks with EAM and also traveled to Goa.

Mr. Meng Jianzhu, Secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China visited India in November 2016. During the visit, Mr. Meng Jianzhu had a bilateral meeting with Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and also called on Prime Minister. Separately, a Chinese delegation led by the Vice-Minister of Public Security Mr. Fu Zhenghua met the Indian delegation led by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi. Both sides inter



Prime Minister meeting the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of G20 Summit 2016, in Hangzhou, China on 4 September 2016.

alia discussed the setting up of two Joint Working Groups to deal with the Fake Indian Currency Notes and the setting up of a 24x7 hotline to exchange information.

The first meeting of the India-China High Level Dialogue on Counter-terrorism and Security was held in Beijing on 27 September 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. R.N. Ravi, Chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee and Mr. Wang Yongqing, Secretary General of Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of China. The two sides exchanged views on the international and regional security situation and had in-depth discussions on enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism and security and on measures to jointly deal with security threats and reached important consensus in this regard.

In the defence field, **the 8th Round of Annual Defence and Security Dialogue (ADSD)** was held in New Delhi on 8 November 2016. The Indian delegation was headed by Defence Secretary Shri G. Mohan Kumar and the Chinese side was led by Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of Central Military Commission Admiral Sun Jianguo.

The sixth India-China Joint Training Exercise "Hand-in-Hand 2016" was held in Pune from 16-27 November 2016. The aim of the joint exercise was to acquaint both the Armies with each other's operating procedures in the backdrop of counter terrorism environment. The basic objective of the training was enhancing confidence and trust between the two armies which may be called upon to grapple with anti-terrorism operations under the UN mandate. The conduct of Joint Military Exercises is also an important step to uphold the values of peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

Furthering their engagements in the economic filed, India and China held the **8th round of the Financial Dialogue** in Beijing on 19 August 2016. It was led by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance Shri Shaktikanta Das and Vice Minister Shi Yaobin from the Chinese Ministry of Finance.

The **4th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue** was held on 7 October 2016 in New Delhi under the theme "Development, Innovation and Cooperation for Mutual Benefit". The Indian side was led by Shri Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and the Chinese side was led by Mr. Xu Shaoshi, Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)

of China. During the 4th SED, the two sides signed 2 inter-governmental documents for cooperation and 18 documents for cooperation between enterprises.

Pursuant to the MoU signed during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to China in May 2015, **the second Dialogue between NITI Aayog and Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC)** was held on 16-17 November 2016 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Shri Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and the Chinese side was led by Mr. Li Wei, President of the DRC.

Pursuant to the MoU signed between Ministry of External Affairs, India and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to China in May 2015, **the 1st India-China Think-Tanks Forum** was held in New Delhi on 9-10 December 2016. The Forum was jointly organised by the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Indian Council of World Affairs, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Under the theme, "Towards a Closer India-China Developmental Partnership", the Forum carried out in-depth discussion on a variety of issues including bilateral, regional and international affairs. The Forum saw participation from prominent strategic thinkers, economists, academics, and social scientists from both countries.

Under the MoU signed between MEA and the International Department of Communist Party of China, Chief Ministers of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh visited China in 2016 and the Party Secretary of Shanghai visited India. Besides this, Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh also paid visits to China during this period.

India and China have an annual youth exchange programme. During President Xi's visit in September 2014, it was decided that from 2015-2019, there will be an annual exchange of 200-member youth delegation between the two countries. A 200 member youth delegation visited China in June 2016 and a 200-member Chinese youth delegation visited India in November 2016.

During the year 2016, a total of 25 batches comprising of 983 Yatrīs made the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar through the two routes of Lipulekh (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La (Sikkim).

In the cultural domain, the 2nd International Conference of Indologists was successfully held at Shenzhen from 11-13 November 2016. The first edition of the Conference was

held in November 2015 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The Conference, which saw participation of more than 75 Indologists from world over including China, Germany, Thailand, Chile and India, was co-hosted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Embassy of India, Beijing, The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), China-India Friendship Association and Shenzhen University. The Conference provided a platform for study of Indology, promoting academic exchanges and people-to-people dialogue between India and China, and contributed to enhancing greater understanding and friendship.

An exhibition of Gupta Art featuring 56 Indian sculptures from this era gathered from nine museums in India is being organized at the Palace Museum in Beijing under the title "Across the Silk Road: Gupta Sculptures and their Chinese Counterparts, 400-700 CE". The exhibition will continue in Beijing from 28 September to 28 December 2016, and will travel to Fujian Museum from 28 January to 31 April 2017, to Zhejiang Museum from 1 June to 31 August 2017, and Sichuan Museum from 1 October to 31 December 2017.

Chairmanship of the BRICS has passed on to China with effect from 1 January 2017. In the run-up to the Summit in Xiamen in September 2017, it is expected that several BRICS related events will be organized.

Myanmar

India and Myanmar share friendly neighbouring relations rooted in our shared historical, cultural and ethnic ties. The bilateral relations have been further strengthened by the regular exchanges of visits, including at the highest levels. President U Htin Kyaw visited India from 27-30 August 2016. This was his first bilateral visit after the assumption of power of the NLD Government in March 2016. State Counsellor of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid a bilateral visit to India from 17-19 October 2016, after attending the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit on 16 October 2016. From the Indian side, MoS (IC) for Commerce & Industry, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Yangon leading the first high-level foreign business delegation on 18-20 May 2016. NSA visited Myanmar as Special Envoy of Prime Minister on 16 June 2016 and met the Myanmar President and State Counsellor. EAM visited Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August 2016 and had useful interactions with State Counsellor and with Myanmar President.

Institutional mechanisms

Joint Boundary Working Group was constituted and its first meeting was held on 6-7 January 2016 at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The 15th Foreign Office Consultations were held between the two countries on 9-10 August 2016. To discuss



External Affairs Minister meets Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in New Delhi, 13 August 2016.



Prime Minister, President and U Htin Kyaw President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, 29 August 2016.

the issues pertaining to security, 20th National Level Meeting, at Home Secretary Level was held on 25-26 July 2016 and 22nd Sectoral Level Meeting was held between senior officials of Home Ministry in Mandalay from 19-20 December 2016. The biannual Regional Border Committee (RBC) meetings at Army commander level were held on 12-14 April 2016 (8th) at Kalay in Myanmar and 17-21 October 2016 (9th) at Mantripukhri, Myanmar. The quarterly Army Liaison meetings are held regularly between the two sides. The first Air Force to Air Force Staff talks were held from 21-23 July 2015 in New Delhi. The 5th Navy to Navy Staff talks were held from 13-15 October 2016 in New Delhi. First Army to Army Staff Talks were held from 28-30 December 2015.

During the annual, Line of Credit (LOC) review committee

meeting, the GoI projects, being undertaken under the US\$ 500 million LOC which was announced during the visit of Prime Minister to Myanmar in May 2012, were reviewed. These include projects in railways, irrigation, telecommunication and road construction.

Economic and Commercial

India is the 5th largest trade partner of Myanmar with total bilateral trade of US\$ 2.052 billion in 2015-16. In terms of investment, India has moved up to ninth position with an approved investment of US\$ 730.649 million out of total estimated investments of US\$ 58.03 billion from 41 countries by 1001 enterprises as of 29 February 2016. Border trade via Moreh and Zawkhatar has reached to US\$ 71.64 million, with

Indian exports being US\$ 18.62 million and Indian imports being US\$ 53.02 million. In March 2016, State Bank of India was awarded a Commercial Banking License and started its operations from 3 October 2016.

Development Cooperation

India is strongly committed to meeting Myanmar's developmental needs through development projects, including training, provision of expertise, LOC and/or grants-in-aid. A number of projects, including training centres have been completed, and new projects are under implementation. Our total developmental commitment to Myanmar, including the completed and ongoing infrastructure projects like Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project and Trilateral Highway project, is around US\$ 1.75 billion.

India has extended considerable support to build up Myanmar's human resource capacity under the ITEC, TCS and ICCR scholarship schemes. In keeping with the commitment made during Prime Minister's visit to Myanmar in May 2012, Myanmar is being offered 500 ITEC scholarships every year.

Nepal

Besides high-level political exchanges, a number of bilateral mechanisms at the functional level met over the year covering issues such as trade, economic cooperation, agriculture, water resources, power cooperation, defence & security, post-earthquake construction efforts, culture, education and connectivity projects.

High level exchanges

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to Nepal from 2-4 November 2016. This visit, which was the first visit by any head of state to Nepal after it became a republic in 2008, was also the first visit by an Indian President to Nepal after a gap of 18 years. Ms Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, accepted the invitation of President Pranab Mukherjee to visit India at an early date. It was announced that from 2017 onwards, Nepali students will get the opportunity to pursue graduate and post-graduate courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) on a regular basis. For this, IITs will open their entrance examinations



The State Counsellor of Myanmar, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi inspecting the Gourd of Honour, at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, 18 October 2016.

to Nepali students, who will have the option to take these examinations in Kathmandu.

Mr. Bimendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Nepal, visited India from 18-23 August, 2016 as a special envoy of the newly elected (3 August 2016) Government in Nepal led by Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda. At the invitation of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat visited India from 11-13 September 2016.

Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" paid a State Visit to India from 15-18 September 2016. This was his first visit abroad after assuming office as the Prime Minister of Nepal. He was accompanied by Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Ramesh Lekhak, Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Members of Parliament and senior government officials. A New LOC Agreement of US\$ 750 million and First Amendatory Dollar Credit Line Agreement on reappportioning funds, for port-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal were signed during the visit.

Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, former Prime Minister of Nepal and President of Nepali Congress paid a visit to Goa and New Delhi from 4-9 November 2016. He had also visited New Delhi from 18-24 April 2016.

Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Foreign Minister of Nepal visited India for the 2nd edition of the Raisina Dialogue from 16-18 January 2017.

Institutional mechanisms and economic cooperation

To pursue cooperation in the water resources sector, the 5th Meeting of Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) at the level of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Patna and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources of Nepal took place on 26 May 2016 in New Delhi. To review the bilateral cooperation in power sector, the 3rd Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting was held on 27 June 2016 followed by the 3rd Joint Steering Committee (JSC) Meeting at the Secretary level on 28 June 2016. To discuss the administrative and financial matters relating to the Pancheshwar project, the 2nd Meeting of Joint Committee of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) was held on 1-2 July 2016 at Pokhara

while the 4th Meeting of Governing Body of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) was held on 4-5 July 2016 at Pokhara in Nepal. The 5th Meeting of Governing Body (GB) of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) co-chaired by Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources of India and Secretary of Ministry of Energy of Nepal was held on 22 December 2016 in New Delhi. GB meeting was preceded by 3rd Meeting of Joint Committee of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) on financial and administrative matters in New Delhi from 20-21 December 2016.

The 12th Meeting of India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues (BCGIS) was held in New Delhi on 9 June 2016. The 3rd meeting of India-Nepal Boundary Working Group was held in Kathmandu from 23-25 June 2016, led by respective Surveyor Generals.

The Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) headed by Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal, which considers all trade and transit related issues, met in New Delhi from 28-29 June 2016.

A 13-member delegation of Members of Parliament and officials of the Parliamentary Committee for Development, Legislature-Parliament of Nepal was on a study tour to India from 8-16 July 2016. A second Parliamentary delegation from Nepal visited India from 20-31 August 2016.

Home Secretaries of India and Nepal met in New Delhi on 8-9 September 2016 for talks on security issues. The first meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) for India-Nepal relations, which was constituted in February 2016, was held in Kathmandu on 4-5 July 2016, and the second meeting was held in New Delhi on 4-5 October 2016.

Fourth India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi from 26-28 October 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by the MoS for External Affairs, Government of India, Shri M. J. Akbar and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr Prakash Sharan Mahat. The meeting of the Joint Commission was preceded by a preparatory meeting at the Senior Official Level on 26 October 2016. The Joint Commission reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral partnership as well as exchanged views on sub-regional, regional and international issues of mutual interests. Revised Treaty of Trade between Government of India and Government of Nepal was renewed for a period of seven years from 27 October 2016.

The 10th Battalion level Joint Exercise Surya Kiran was conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from 31 October-13 November 2016. General Dalbir Singh, Indian Chief of Army Staff visited Nepal from 10-14 November 2016 to attend Exercise Surya Kiran. The 11th Battalion level Joint Exercise is proposed to be conducted at Pithoragarh, India in March 2017.

A nine-member Needs Assessment Team on disaster management led by Major General Binod Kumar Shrestha, DGMO Nepal Army, visited India from 28 October-2 November 2016. The team visited NDMA, NIDM and NDRF's 8th Battalion. Air Services Talks between India and Nepal were held from 20-21 December 2016 in New Delhi.

The next meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group (JWG) on Power is proposed to be held in Kathmandu in February 2017. Dates are being worked out through diplomatic channels.

Development cooperation

During the State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India in September 2016, it was decided to constitute an Oversight Mechanism to review the ongoing economic and

developmental projects. The first meeting of the Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 29 November 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr Ranjit Rae and Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr Shanker Das Bairagi. Mr Deep Kumar Upadhyay, Ambassador of Nepal to India presented his credentials to the President of India on 30 November 2016. The 7th Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the development of Integrated Check Posts along the India-Nepal border was held in Kathmandu on 15 December 2016.

To enhance fire fighting capacity of municipal administration in different parts of Nepal, Ambassador of India to Nepal, Mr Ranjit Rae handed over 17 fire tenders worth ₹ 70.21 million to Minister for Federal Affairs and Local Development of Nepal, Mr Hitraj Pander in Kathmandu on 24 August 2016.

At the request of Nepal, in order to alleviate power shortages during winters, an additional 220/132kV, 100MVA transformer was installed to supply additional 80 MW of power to Nepal from 1 January 2017 onwards from Muzzafarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line.



Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal calls on the President in Kathmandu Photo Courtesy: RB Photo, 2 November 2016.



Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal being received by the Prime Minister at the Ceremonial Reception, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 16 September 2016.

Regional exchanges

India also engages with Nepal at the sub-regional level within the framework of BBIN (Bhutan-Bangladesh-India-Nepal), BIMSTEC and SAARC. Mr Kamal Thapa, the then Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal presided over the first Convocation ceremony of South Asian University, New Delhi on 10-11 June 2016. Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda” visited India on 15-16 October 2016, to attend the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa. Mr Romi Gauchan Thakali, Minister of Commerce of GoN participated in the inaugural session of the BIMSTEC Business Summit held in New Delhi on 14 October 2016. He was accompanied by Mr Rabi Shankar Sainju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, GoN. Mr Bimlendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Nepal, participated in the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in New Delhi from 1-3 November 2016. Mr Janardhan Sharma, Energy

Minister of Nepal visited India on 5-6 December 2016, to attend PETROTECH 2016 in New Delhi. A three-member delegation led by Mr Arjun Narsingha K.C., Minister for Urban Development of Nepal participated in Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development held in New Delhi from 14-16 December 2016.

Mr. Romi Gauchan Thakali, Minister of Commerce, Government of Nepal attended the 23rd edition of Partnership Summit for Sustainable Growth in the Emerging Global Economic Order from 27-29 January, 2017 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Pakistan

The period 2016-17 was marked by continued and increasing cross border terrorism targeting India. This was despite India’s policy of having a peaceful and stable neighborhood forming the basis for strong economic growth, connectivity and development in the region and a number of high-



Foreign Secretary meets Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Aizaz Chaudhry in New Delhi, 26 April 2016.

level engagements that were initiated last year, focusing on normalizing the relationship between the two countries.

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary and the Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister participated in the Senior Officials Meeting of the Heart of Asia/Istanbul Process at New Delhi in April 2016 and the Ministerial Conference at Amritsar in December 2016 respectively. Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, in the first week of August 2016, attended the SAARC Home Ministers' meeting at Islamabad where, in addition to calling for effective measures in the common fight against terrorism, he emphasized on the vitality of the need for a conducive environment for achieving greater regional prosperity, connectivity and cooperation. At this meeting, the SAARC members were also requested to immediately ratify the SAARC convention on Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters. In the same spirit of regional cooperation, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance traveled to Islamabad in August to participate in the 8th Meeting of the SAARC Finance Secretaries and Ministers. Also, meeting between Directors-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) was held in July 2016 in Islamabad, to discuss the operational matters relating to safeguarding of respective Exclusive Economic Zones and humane treatment and early release of fishermen. Similarly, the bi-annual meeting between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers was held in July 2016 at Lahore.

However, this year, Pakistan's continued attempts to interfere in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, its glorification of internationally recognized terrorists, increased attempts at cross border infiltration, major attacks on army camps at Uri, Poonch and Nagrota and large scale violations of ceasefire, vitiated the atmosphere and derailed the process for dialogue. After the death of Hizbul Mujahideen Commander Burhan Wani in an encounter on 8 July 2016, Pakistan's interference in Kashmir increased significantly and it attempted to destabilise the situation by spreading false and malicious propaganda. Ceasefire violations from the Pakistani side witnessed considerable escalation, both in frequency and intensity, in and after July 2016. Targeted ceasefire violations

led to significant loss of lives of both civilians and security forces personnel. Mutilation of bodies of few of our soldiers was reprehensible. Progress in humanitarian matters related to release and repatriation of civil prisoners and Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody was also stalled after June 2016.

India's numerous demarches to Pakistan on cross border terrorism, did not draw any constructive positive response from the Pakistani side. Pakistan repeatedly made efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue and PM Nawaz Sharif also sent 'special envoys' to major world capitals to canvass support for Pakistan's position on Kashmir issue which met with little traction. Statements by Pakistan's leaders and protests in Pakistan led by Jamaat-ud Dawa/Lashkar-e-Taiba leaders glorifying terrorists reconfirmed Pakistan's continued support to cross- Line of Control (LoC)/International Border (IB) terrorism and infiltration aimed at India. On 25 July 2016, a Pakistani national Bahadur Ali was arrested by Indian authorities in Jammu & Kashmir with weapons (AK-47 rifle, live rounds, grenades, grenade launcher, etc.), sophisticated communication equipment and other material of Pakistani markings. He confessed that after receiving training in Lashkar-e-Taiba camps, he infiltrated into India. The same was brought to the notice of Pakistan's High Commission in New Delhi and his consular access was offered which has not been availed till date. Two Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists posing as guides in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir were also arrested by the Army in September 2016. The individuals revealed their identities as Ahasan Kursheed son of Mohammad Kursheed of Khaliana Kalan and Faisal Hussain Awan son of Gul Akbar of Pottha Jahangir both in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Meanwhile, Pakistan's fake propaganda on detained former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav was exposed when Pakistan Prime Minister's Advisor on Foreign Affairs admitted that evidence against him was insufficient.

On 18 September 2016, the army camp at Uri town of Baramulla district was attacked in a pre-dawn strike by a group of terrorists having roots traceable to Pakistan. Many soldiers laid their lives in repulsing the attack and the matter was raised strongly with Pakistan by the Foreign Secretary. On 29 September 2016, Indian Army carried out a limited and calculated counter terrorism operation based on precise inputs on concentration of militant groups, ready to infiltrate into India from across the LoC from Pakistan occupied territories. The same day, sepoy Chandu Babulal Chavan inadvertently crossed over the LoC and was captured by Pakistan army.

Efforts for his safe return continue to this date.

Pakistan's Prime Minister, in his address to the 71st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session in New York leveled baseless allegations against India on Kashmir and used the platform to glorify internationally-recognized terrorists. In her address on 26 September 2016, EAM strongly refuted Pakistan's stance, raised matter of threat of terrorism emanating from Pakistan's soil and called for Pakistan to shun its policy of separating 'good' and 'bad' terrorists.

Prime Minister took up the issue of state-sponsored terrorism by Pakistan with world leaders which was also reflected in joint statements issued at various international/regional forums, including the BRICS summit, BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach initiative, G-20 Summit, East Asia Summit, ASEAN-India Summit and Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference.

On 27 October 2016 a staff member of the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi, Mehmood Akhtar, was apprehended by Indian authorities while indulging in anti-India activities and was declared *Persona Non Grata (PNG)* the next day. In response and as an afterthought, Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared Assistant Personnel Welfare Officer in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad as PNG without providing any justification, except for the baseless and unsubstantiated allegation that his activities were not in keeping with his diplomatic status.

On 2 November 2016 Pakistani media prominently carried names of eight Indian officials of the High Commission of India, Islamabad, along with their photographs. The litany of baseless charges against them was repeated. The manner in which their names and photographs were prominently published in Pakistani media along with baseless allegations reiterated without any corroboration by Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs is against the Vienna Convention and also violates the norms of established diplomatic practice and courtesies.

India invited Pakistan to discuss the resolution of technical differences on Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects at the Governmental level, without prejudice to its position to address the matter under Permanent Indus Commission or at most through appointment of a Neutral Expert. Talks in this regard were held on 14-15 July 2016 at New Delhi. Pakistan, however, showed no flexibility and did not avail the offer of another round of talks and post-monsoon visit to

the Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project site. Subsequently, on 4 October 2016 India's Indus Commissioner sent a request to the World Bank for appointment of a Neutral Expert, following the procedure specified in the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). On 27 October 2016 Pakistan sent its request to the World Bank for establishment of a Court of Arbitration for adjudicating the technical differences as 'disputes'. The Bank initiated both the processes simultaneously: to appoint a Neutral Expert in consultation with India and Pakistan and to designate authorities to appoint three 'umpires' to the Court of Arbitration sought by Pakistan. However, as a result of further meetings subsequent to World Bank's offer of mediation to resolve the choice of modality to adjudicate the differences regarding the two hydroelectric projects, the World Bank has decided to pause both the processes and hold more consultations.

Matters pertaining to Indian fishermen and civil prisoners in Pakistan's custody continue to be dealt with in a regular manner. Due to Government's efforts, 456 Indian fishermen were released by Pakistan during the year (18 fishermen were released on 6 June 2016; 220 on 26 December 2016; and 218 on 06 January 2017). Further, 1 Indian civil prisoner was released by Pakistan on 1 July 2016.

Indian Ocean Region

Interfaces were intensified with member countries of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in preparation for the 1st IORA Summit on 7 March 2017 in Indonesia and the 20th Anniversary of IORA in 2017. To further enhance collaboration with IORA, an Indian official was deputed to the IORA Secretariat as Director.

At the Council of Ministers Meeting on 25-27 October 2016, India and Australia co-sponsored a Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment. The 2nd Blue Economy Dialogue was held in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) on 04 November 2016 for IORA member countries. An international seminar on "Whither Indian Ocean Maritime Order" was held on 19 November 2016 in New Delhi and with live webcast across IORA member countries. The youth in IORA countries were under focus in the Conference on "*India and the Indian Ocean: Sustainability, Security and Development*" organized at Symbiosis International University in Pune on 18-19 December 2016. India also conducted a workshop towards finalizing an MoU between IORA member

states for cooperation in the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector on 19-20 January 2017 in New Delhi.

During the period, India announced several initiatives ahead of the 1st IORA Summit in March 2017. These include hosting in 2017 a meeting of IORA Renewable Energy Ministers, an International Conference on Water Security and Sustainability in IORA countries, the second meeting of Experts on Maritime Safety and Security, a workshop for Parliamentarians from IORA countries, a workshop on Women's Entrepreneurship and Skill Development, an Innovation Exposition focusing on technology and a visit by media personnel from IORA member countries.

Sri Lanka

India-Sri Lanka relations were marked by regular high level exchanges, accelerated progress on projects and a synergy in objectives relating to maintenance of peace and security in the Indian Ocean. President Maithripala Sirisena visited India thrice, from 13-14 May 2016 (working visit to New Delhi, Ujjain and Sanchi), 15-17 October 2016 (BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit) and 6-7 November 2016 [7th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 7) to World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)]. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe traveled to India from 4-6 October 2016 (bilateral visit; also attended the India Economic Summit), which was followed by further discussions with Foreign Secretary and 15 Indian CEOs in Colombo, and 21-22 December 2016 (private visit).

The year also saw a number of Ministerial level visits between the countries in furtherance of the direction given at the highest political levels. Sri Lankan Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade Malik Samarawickrama visited India from 4-5 July 2016 to hold discussions with EAM, CIM, Minister for PNG, MoS (Railways) and representatives of Indian Industry to further trade and investment relations between the two countries. Speaker of Sri Lankan Parliament Karu Jayasuriya participated in the 5th International Buddhist Conclave in New Delhi on 2 October 2016 as a Guest of Honour. Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. V. K. Singh (Retd.) visited Colombo from 24-26 August 2016 to participate in the fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Colombo Process. Minister of Health & Family Welfare Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda visited Colombo on 4-7 September 2016 to participate in the 69th Session of WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-



Prime Minister with President of Sri Lanka, Maithripala Sirisena, in New Delhi, 13 May 2016.

SEARO). Following the start of negotiations on the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA), Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirjala Sitharaman visited Sri Lanka on 26-27 September 2016. MoS for Home Affairs Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir visited Colombo on 29 October 2016 to participate in the High Level Meeting of Internal Security Ministers of Indian Ocean Region to Counter Drug Trafficking. The second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism was held on June 23, 2016 to further establishment of the Ramayana Trail and Buddhist Circuit between the two countries.

The Fishermen Association talks were held on 2 November 2016 followed by India-Sri Lanka Ministerial level talks between Foreign and Fisheries Ministers of both countries on 5 November 2016. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group set up at Secretary level was held on 31 December 2016 in New Delhi and the 2nd Ministerial meeting was held on 02 January 2017 in Colombo towards a permanent resolution of the fishermen issues. These meetings made substantial progress in agreeing to a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

Ten Sri Lankan Parliamentarians accompanied by five Officials participated in a special programme arranged by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) in end March-early April 2016. A 12 member delegation involved in the

formulation of the RTI Bill of Sri Lanka interacted with CIC on 26 May 2016. A 32 member delegation led by Justice K. S. J. De Abrew of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka attended a special training programme from 20-24 August 2016 at the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal. Election Commission of India provided training to Sri Lankan Election Commission officials from 20-29 September 2016. Minister of Regional Development Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka represented Sri Lanka at the Raisina Dialogue in January 2017.

Sri Lanka continued to be India's largest trading partner in SAARC while India remained Sri Lanka's largest trading partner globally. India is also among the top four investors in Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of over US\$ 1 billion since 2003.

Concerted focus continued on developmental assistance to Sri Lanka and GoI commitments aggregated to ₹ 2300 crores as grant assistance and ₹ 12900 crores as Lines of Credit. The second phase of the Housing Project was completed and the third phase to construct 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva Provinces through an innovative community-driven approach was launched in April 2016. Small development projects in areas of education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training across several districts of Sri Lanka began this year. A MoU was signed on 7 June 2016 to set up a Women's Community Learning Centre

in Ampara. On 15 September 2016, a MoU was signed to support livelihood of the fishing and farming communities in Hambantota district. India and Sri Lanka signed a MoU on 20 September 2016 to establish a training school for Sri Dalada Maligawa at Pallekele, Kandy. On 28 October 2016, the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Library and Resource Centre in Sri Palee College, Horana was inaugurated. It has been renovated by Government of India at a cost of Sri Lankan Rupees 38 million.

On 18 June 2016 Prime Minister, through video conference from New Delhi, and President Sirisena jointly inaugurated the newly renovated Duraiappah Stadium in Jaffna. A mega yoga event with almost 11000 school children performing Surya Namaskar at Duraiappah Stadium launched the week long yoga celebrations in Sri Lanka. An Emergency Ambulance Service project in Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka was launched on 28 July 2016 in Colombo. Prime Minister's video recorded message was delivered on the occasion in the presence of Prime Minister Wickremesinghe. This project was implemented under Government of India's grant assistance of US\$ 7.55 million.

India was the first responder to the Sri Lankan request on 20 May 2016 for assistance and relief following heavy flooding and landslides in 22 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka due to heavy rains, unprecedented in nearly 25 years. An Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying about 50 tonnes of relief material provided by the National Disaster Management Authority arrived in Colombo in the early hours of 21 May 2016 while INS Sutlej and Sunayna arrived in Colombo later the same day carrying relief material.

Further synergies were built between the two countries on issues relating to defence and security including maritime safety and security issues in the Indian Ocean. The Sri Lanka Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Air Chief Marshal Kolitha Gunatilleke visited India from 3-8 April 2016 on an invitation from the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee. A five-member delegation led by Secretary Defence Karunasena Hettiarachchi visited Goa from 9-11 June 2016 to participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the two Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels being built for Sri Lanka Navy at Goa Shipyard Limited. DG Rajender Singh, Director General of Indian Coast Guard visited Sri Lanka from 16-19 August 2016. Lt Gen AWJC de Silva, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army visited India from 22-26 October 2016. Shri Arvind

Gupta, Dy. NSA visited Sri Lanka to participate in the sixth edition of the Colombo Defence Seminar from 1-2 September 2016. Mr. G Mohan Kumar, Defence Secretary visited Sri Lanka from November 3-4, 2016 to co-chair the 4th Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD). Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of Naval Staff visited Sri Lanka on a bilateral visit from 27 November-1 December 2016. He also attended the annual International Maritime Conference-Galle Dialogue 2016.

The sixth Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks were held in New Delhi from 7-9 September 2016. The seventh Air Staff talks were held in New Delhi from 22-24 November 2016. Exercise Mitra Shakti 2016 was held in Sri Lanka from 24 October-6 November 2016. 45 personnel from Indian Army participated in the Infantry platoon based exercise. Two observers from Indian Army participated in the seventh edition of the exercise held in Sri Lanka from 3-25 September 2016. As part of the Trilateral Cooperation between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, Joint Exercise 'Dosti XIII' between the Coast Guards of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives was held in Maldives from 26-28 October 2016. Proposals for training, capacity building and joint surveys were discussed in the area of Hydrography during the visit of the Rear Adm Vinay Badhwar, Chief Hydrographer, to Sri Lanka from 10-12 October 2016. Five Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) officers participated in the training and the Search and Rescue Exercise 2016 held off Mumbai from 24 April-3 May 2016.

India now offers more than 700 scholarship slots annually to Sri Lankan students, at the "A" level, undergraduate, postgraduate and at research levels. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme and the Colombo Plan, India offers 370 slots annually to Sri Lankan nationals.

Maldives

The India-Maldives relationship continued to illustrate the 'neighbours first' and 'India first' policies of the two Governments. President Yameen's third visit to India in April 2016 since assuming office, saw the two countries agree on a comprehensive Defence Action Plan and five other Agreements pertaining to Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income Derived from International Air Transport, Exchange of Information on Taxes, Bilateral Agreement on Orbit Frequency Coordination of the South Asia Satellite, Conservation and Restoration of Ancient Mosques and Cooperation in the Field of Tourism. Engagement was

intensified across sectors, particularly counter-terrorism, hydrography, shipping and ports, petroleum and natural gas, meteorological services and healthcare. Maldives was the first country to join the International Solar Alliance announced this year. India committed to the building of the Maldives Ministry of Defence, the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) and a Coastal Radar Surveillance System. The Defence Cooperation Dialogue at the level of Defence Secretary was begun on 18 July 2016. The mid-term review of the 5th Joint Commission Meeting was held on 19 July 2016 in Malé.

Maldives Foreign Minister Dr. Mohamed Asim made his first overseas visit as Foreign Minister to India from 15-17 August 2016. Bilateral visits also included those of Maldives Chief of Defence Forces from 18-23 September 2016; Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Hydrographic delegation from 28-30 September 2016; Chief Justice of Maldives from 21-23 October 2016; Minister for Economic Development Mohamed Saeed from 8-9 November 2016; Minister of Defence and National Security from 3-8 November 2016; Vice President of Maldives for the inauguration of the Maldives Investment Forum from 21-22 November 2016. Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture Dr Mohamed Shainee and Foreign Secretary Dr Ali Naseer Mohamed represented Maldives at the Raisina Dialogue in January 2017.

Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Counter-terrorism Shri Asif Ibrahim's visit on 15 July 2016 was in the context of enhancing collaboration on counter-terrorism and counter-radicalization. 50 Maldivian youths visited India from 10-16 May 2016 while 15 Indian youth visited Maldives from 22-29 April 2016 under the 2015 MoU in the field of Youth and Sports.

DOSTI-XIII, the joint exercise of Coast guards of Sri Lanka, Maldives and India was held off Malé from 25-29 October 2016. The India-Maldives Joint Army Training Exercise Ekuverin-VII was held from 15-28 December 2016.

Mauritius

There was intensive engagement this year between India and Mauritius in keeping with the traditional close political, economic, cultural and Diaspora linkages. The relationship was brought into the context of India's neighbourhood. The Protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) was signed, India committed a US\$

353 million grant package for priority infrastructure projects in Mauritius and discussions began on the conclusion of the CECPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement). An MoU was signed in the field of rural development to further diversify collaboration in the sector. On 4 January 2017, India and Mauritius signed an 'Arrangement on Gainful Employment for Family Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post'. Bilateral defence and security cooperation intensified further during the period with the induction of equipment, specialized training, joint surveillance and patrolling in the EEZ of Mauritius and hydrographic surveys.

Ministerial level visits included those of Health Minister of Mauritius in March 2016 followed by MoS (AYUSH) Shri S Yesso Naik from 12-15 April 2016 for co-chairing the International (Regional) AYUSH Conference; Mauritius Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Island Mr. P Koonjoo from 11-18 April 2016 for the India Maritime Summit 2016; Minister for Financial Services and Good Governance Mr. Sudarshan Bhadain from 11-13 April 2016; Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar in May 2016 as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister; Mauritius Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. Pravind Jugnauth from 12-18 September 2016 and Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parikkar from 10-11 December 2016. PM Anerood Jugnauth visited Lucknow, Varanasi, Mumbai and Goa on a private programme (10-21 November 2016). Vice President and President of Mauritius also visited India in October and November 2016 respectively on invitation from cultural and academic organisations. Minister of Arts & Culture of Mauritius, Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun visited India from 04-15 January 2017 to participate in the Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas in Lucknow and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017 (PBD 2017) in Bengaluru, besides visiting various cultural institutions in Delhi and Mumbai. Minister of Business, Enterprise & Cooperatives of Mauritius, Mr S. Bholah visited India from 15-22 January 2017 for discussing bilateral cooperation in the field of cooperatives, focusing on agriculture, dairy, fisheries, food processing and handicrafts sectors. During the visit India and Mauritius signed an MoU in the field of Cooperatives and Related Areas. Other notable visits from Mauritius during the period included visit of President Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim for an academic conference at Amity University, Noida in February 2017; visit of Commerce & Industry Minister, Mr AK

Gungah for the Partnership Summit at Vishakhapatnam from 27-29 January 2017.

The people-to-people emphasis in the relationship was underscored through the numerous cultural performances sponsored by ICCR, the closing ceremony of Festival of India on 13 May 2016 in the presence of the Mauritius Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Housing and Land Mr. Showkutally Soodhun and the special commemorative publication “India in Mauritius 2015-16”. Mauritius continued to utilize 234 ITEC slots and 97 other scholarships in 2015-16.

On 19 June 2016, the High Commission of India in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and Ministry of Youth and Sports held a mass yoga session at the Germain Comarmond Stadium in Mauritius in the presence of high dignitaries. 1300 yoga enthusiasts attended the event which was covered live by the national broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation. On 21 June 2016, the High Commission of India organised the celebration of the 2nd International Day of Yoga. The President of Mauritius, Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was the Chief Guest.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award was conferred on Mauritius Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, at PBD 2017. On the occasion, Prime Minister of India announced a special dispensation for Mauritius enabling all Mauritians of Indian origin to apply for the OCI card subject to production of requisite documentation from concerned Mauritian authorities.

Seychelles

Development partnership, capacity building programmes, maritime security cooperation and cultural exchanges continued to remain under focus in the India-Seychelles relationship. Particular emphasis was given to capacity building in fields of Blue economy, defence, renewable energy, connectivity and health. Seychelles continued utilization of the US\$ 25 million grant extended by India to procure critical stock of medicines, medical equipment, police uniforms, police vehicles, etc. 76 young professionals from Seychelles received training in India under the ITEC programme. A mass Yoga Session at an indoor stadium was organized on 19 June 2016 with over thousand people participating. To commemorate the 246th anniversary of the landing of the first Indian settlers in Seychelles in 1770, a special event was

organized on 17 August 2016 by the Indian Association in Seychelles. Air Seychelles expanded its code-sharing agreement with Jet Airways in September 2016 to operate flights from Mumbai to Singapore and Hong Kong. The 4th edition of Seychelles-India Day on 14-16 October 2016 was declared a “National event” by the Government of Seychelles and a commemorative stamp was released to mark the occasion.

Bilateral visits included those of MoS for Defence Shri Rao Inderjit Singh in March 2016 for the inauguration and commissioning of the Coastal Surveillance Radar System (CSRS), Seychelles Tourism and Culture Minister Alain St Ange to Chennai and Bengaluru in June 2016, CEO of Seychelles Port Authority Col. Andre Ciseau and Director of Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration Capt Joachim Valmont’s visit in April 2016 for the Maritime India Summit 2016, Seychelles Ministry of Health representatives at the India-Africa Health Forum 2016 in April 2016 in Noida and the visit of scientists and healthcare professionals to the Workshop on “*Building Regional Capacity to Tackle Challenges of Emerging Infections and Global Health Safety*” organized by the India National Science Academy (INSA) and the National Academy of Sciences of United States (US-NAS) in May 2016 in Seychelles. The first meeting of the India-Seychelles Joint Committee on Hydrography is expected to be held in February 2017 in New Delhi.

At the invitation of the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles Hon. Patrick Pillay is expected to lead a delegation of Parliamentarians to India in March 2017.

Defence and security synergies continued in relationship, with the participation of the Seychelles Coast Guard Patrol Ship PS Topaz, gifted by India in 2006, in the International Fleet Review 2016 at Vishakhapatnam in February 2016. The patrol ship underwent a medium refit in Vishakhapatnam under a US\$ 25 million Indian grant.

Indian ships participated in the joint exercise in August 2016 under the SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) mission. Indian ships also assisted Seychelles with EEZ surveillance. Seychelles Coast Guard participated in the 7th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise and Workshop-2016 (SAREX-2016) in May 2016.



Australia

India Australia bilateral relations have made important strides in diverse areas including trade and investment, defence and security, education and skills, energy and resources, science and technology and water resource management. Australia has been a staunch supporter for India's bid for membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group. With its vast uranium resources, it is a significant potential partner in realising India's goals of increasing production of nuclear energy.

Prime Minister held bilateral talks with Australian Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Hangzhou on 4 September 2016. The two leaders discussed various aspects of India-Australia relations and ways and means to strengthen them through increased cooperation in trade, investment, defence, security, higher education and sports. Discussions also included Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations, investment by Australian Pension funds in India, joint research and transfer of technology relating to clean coal, clean water and nanotechnology, international terrorism and enhancement of state to state visits and partnerships.

A high powered delegation led by Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs and Information and Broadcasting visited Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne during 29 March-2 April 2016 to promote trade and investment. He was accompanied by CEOs of top business groups and houses in India, representatives of RBI, FICCI, CII, public sector banks and enterprises. Shri Jaitley called on Australian PM. He also attended a 'Make in India Conference' in Sydney, 'Invest in India' Roundtable in Melbourne, inauguration of Union Bank of India branch in Sydney and delivered Dr. K. R. Narayanan Oration at Australian National University.

Smt Riti Pathak, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and delegates from State CPA branches of Haryana and Meghalaya visited Australia to attend the 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in Brisbane during 5-11 June 2016.

Shri V. K. Singh, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs met Australian Foreign Minister Ms. Julie Bishop on the sidelines of ASEAN-India Ministerial meeting in Vientiane, Laos on 26 July 2016 and discussed various bilateral and multilateral issues.



Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) meets Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister of Australia on the sidelines of ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting in Vientiane, 26 July 2016.

A delegation led by Shri Shashi Shekhar, Secretary, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation visited Australia during 19-25 June 2016 for bilateral cooperation on water resources management, including sharing Australia's water reform and water management experiences and discussion on Ganga Rejuvenation.

Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Chief Election Commissioner of India, visited Australia during 30 June-4 July 2016 to participate in the Election Visitor Programme organised by Australian Electoral Commission during the election to Australian Parliament.

Shri R.S. Sharma, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, visited Sydney on 4-5 September 2016 for discussion on latest development in digital technologies and interactions with CEOs and Executives of Australian Communications and Media Authority, Telstra, International Institute of Communications, Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and National Broadband Network of Australia.

A delegation led by Shri Sanjay Mitra, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways visited Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne from 4-9 September 2016 for participation in the Australasian Road Safety Conference 2016. The delegation also visited Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia, Monash University Accident Research Centre and VicRoads International and Transport Management Centre.

A delegation led by Shri Piyush Goyal, MoS for Power, Coal and NRE visited Brisbane on 23 October 2016 and held bilateral discussions with Mr. Matthew Canavan, Minister for Resources & Northern Australia and met with CEOs of Australian Mining & Investment firms and also attended the meeting of the Australia India Business Council. The delegation also visited Bulga Open Cut Coalmine in New South Wales and addressed the Roundtable event on Clean Energy renewable and LNG in Sydney.

A delegation headed by Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania, visited New Delhi, Mumbai and Trivandrum on 3-8 September 2016 with the objective to strengthen bilateral economic ties and increase collaboration in education, skill development, tourism, sports, energy, food and beverages. The delegation met Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Shri Vijay Goel, MoS for Youth Affairs & Sports.

Mr. Ric Wells, Deputy Secretary, DFAT, visited India and met Foreign Secretary and Secretary (East) on 7 October 2016 for bilateral and multilateral discussions.

A delegation led by Shri Amandeep Singh Gill, JS (D&ISA), MEA, along with representatives from Ministries of Defence, Shipping and Earth Sciences, visited Canberra during 13-14 October 2016 for Non-Proliferation / Disarmament talks and 2nd India-Australia Maritime Affairs Dialogue. The delegation also met Ms. Frances Adamson, Secretary, DFAT.

Shri Rajiv Yadav, Secretary (Sports), visited Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney from 7-11 October 2016 for study and discussion with Australian Institute of Sports, Canberra University, Victoria University and explored the possibility of signing of a MoU with Australian Sports University for setting up National Sports University in India.

Shri R.S. Sharma, Chairman, TRAI visited Sydney on 4-5 September 2016 for discussion on latest development in digital technologies and interaction with CEOs and Executives of Australian Communications and Media Authority.

A three member delegation led by Dr. S. Christopher, Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development Organisation visited Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide on 17-21 April 2016 for exploring collaboration in defence science and technology. A delegation led by Major General Richard Burr, Deputy Chief of Australian Army visited India for the 4th Army to Army Talks in New Delhi during 1-3 May 2016. 5th Australia India Defence Policy talks were held in India on 28 June 2016. The talks were co-Chaired by Shri Ravikant, Additional Secretary from the Indian side and by Mr. Peter Baxter, Deputy Secretary (Strategic, Political and Intelligence) from the Australian side. The talks covered a wide range of issues pertaining to cooperation in defence and security matters between the two countries.

General Dalbir Singh, Chief of Army Staff visited Australia during 11-14 July 2016 for talks on India-Australia defence cooperation. He held discussions with Australian Chiefs of Defence forces, Army and Navy and other senior defence officials. He also visited various defence establishments, including newly commissioned RAN Ship HMAS Adelaide and naval establishment HMAS Kuttabul. Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Michael Noonan led an Australian delegation for Navy to Navy Staff Talks in New Delhi on 10-12 August 2016.

A delegation led by Ambassador Jayant Prasad, Director General, IDSA, visited Australia for the third India-Australia Track 1.5 Dialogue held in Perth on 1 August 2016, which brought together leading academics and defence officials from both countries.

Three Indian Air Force (IAF) officers participated as Observers in the multi-national exercise 'Pitch Black' organised by Royal Australian Air Force at Darwin during 13-19 August 2016. A range of subjects pertaining to defence, security challenges, regional terrorism, freedom of navigation, etc were discussed. Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Michael Noonan led the Australian delegation for 10th Royal Australian Navy-India Navy Staff Talks in New Delhi from 10-12 August 2016.

Indian Naval Offshore Patrol vessel 'Sumitra' visited Sydney from 4-7 November 2016 with the aim of strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing maritime security cooperation. Commodore Srinivas Ganapathi of Indian Navy visited Perth during 19-22 September 2016 to attend the 16th Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference at Fremantle. Two officers from Indian Navy participated as Observers in the biennial naval Exercise 'KAKADU 2016' hosted by the Royal Australian Navy at Darwin from 12-24 September 2016.

Shri Arvind Mehta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, led a 22 member delegation for the 12th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership meeting held in Perth during 22-29 April 2016. India strongly pushed its interests in investments and services as part of the RCEP negotiations.

Mr. Andrew Robb, Special Envoy for Trade of Australia visited India on 3-6 April 2016 for negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. He met Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley; MoS for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirjala Sitharaman and MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy for progress in education and training cooperation between the two countries.

South Australia's Minister for Investment & Trade and Minister for Defence Industries, Mr. Martin Hamilton-Smith led a large delegation, representing more than 61 industry and education related companies, to India during 7-12 August 2016 to strengthen relationship and develop trade agreements with specific focus on education, tourism, wine & food, defence, health and water sectors.

The Australia-India Business Council organised an event titled "Expanding Territory-ACT Harnessing Economic Opportunities" in Canberra on 23 August 2016 highlighting vast economic opportunities to expand business into the Indian subcontinent with the launch of new direct air services linking Canberra with Wellington and Singapore.

Shri Mahesh Sharma, MoS for Culture and Tourism, visited Sydney and Canberra on 18-19 September 2016 for inauguration of Confluence – Festival of India, which featured more than 70 events spread over 7 cities in Australia. The hugely successful festival was organised by High Commission of India in Canberra in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and ICCR. Government of Australia also supported the event which drew audience from all walks of life and gave wide publicity to brand India.

Australia returned 3 antique artefacts during the visit. These artefacts, including a 900 year old stone sculpture of 'Goddess Pratyangira' and a third century rock carving of 'worshippers of the Buddha', were illegally smuggled out of India and were inadvertently acquired by National Gallery of Australia.

The 2nd International Day of Yoga was celebrated at Old Parliament House in Canberra on 19 June 2016 with great enthusiasm and active participation from different walks of life.

Brunei Darussalam

Bilateral relations between India and Brunei continued to be very close and friendly in 2016. Relations in political, economic, military and cultural spheres made steady progress.

Notes on visa-free travel between India and Brunei Darussalam for holders of diplomatic and official passport holders were exchanged on 4 April 2016. Diplomatic and official passport holders of the two countries do not need visa for travel up to a period of 14 days in the other country.

The Government of India extended e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) to Brunei Darussalam with effect from 26 February 2016.

Several high-level visits were exchanged between the two countries. His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkuah, President of National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam attended the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Extraordinary Congress on 27 September 2016 in Goa. Pehin Dato Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Home Affairs attended

the First Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at New Delhi from 3-5 November 2016.

A high-level delegation comprising Pehin Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II and Minister at the PMO, Pehin (Dr) Hj Mohammad Yasmin, Minister of Energy and Industry at the PMO and Dato Amin Liew Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Finance visited Mumbai and New Delhi from 9-12 November 2016. The visiting delegation met MoS for External Affairs Gen (Retd) Shri V.K. Singh and discussed matters of bilateral, regional and multilateral interest and possible cooperation in the energy sector with MoS for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Shri Piyush Goel.

Defexpo India 2016: Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz attended the Defexpo India 2016 held at Goa from 28-31 March 2016. Six personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) participated in the Joint Field Training Exercise in Pune from 2-8 March 2016. Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Airavat* participated in the ADMM Plus Exercises on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism (Ex MS & CT) held in Brunei from 1-5 May 2016. Sq Ldr Jagvendra Singh from Indian Air Force attended the Command and Staff course in Brunei from January 2016-October 2016.

A delegation from 6 Indian pharmaceutical companies *viz.* Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma, Biocon, Torrent Pharmaceutical Ltd, Cadilla Pharma and Dr. Lal Path Labs Ltd visited Brunei in July-August 2016 to explore the possibility of supplying pharmaceutical products.

India Investrade in Brunei: 23 Indian companies participated in a multi-sector exhibition and Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata from 15-17 September 2016.

India imports crude oil worth US\$ 500 million approximately from Brunei while our exports are worth about US\$ 25 million approximately mainly of meat and meat products, machinery and equipment, and food items.

Exhibition of Monuments of India and Islamic Monuments of India: An exhibition of two collections- Monuments of India and Islamic Monuments from 1-14 December 2016 was held at the Malay Technology Museum in Brunei with the support of Brunei Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. It was inaugurated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports on 1 December 2016.

Visit of official delegation from Ministry of Finance: A two-member official delegation from the Ministry of Finance visited Brunei on 10-11 January 2017 for discussions on Tax Information Exchange Agreement between India and Brunei.

Visit of Kathak Dance group: A 10-member Kathak dance group led by Pt. Jai Kishan Maharaj participated in the Republic Day Celebrations on 26 January 2017. They also made a public performance on 27 January 2017 at the Jerudong International School Auditorium.

Aero India 2017: Deputy Defence Minister, Brunei attended the Aero India 2017 in Bengaluru from 14-18 February 2017.

Friendly Exhibition Match by the Indian Army Polo Team: Indian Army Polo Team from the 61st Cavalry played a friendly Exhibition Match with His Majesty the Sultan's Polo team between 7-14 March 2017.

Cambodia

India and Cambodia enjoy very warm and cordial relations. After a gap of 10 years, the Second India-Cambodia Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi in July 2016 which was co-chaired by MoS Shri V.K. Singh and Mr. Long Visalo, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia. The Joint Commission reviewed entire gamut of our bilateral relations and laid down the path for future cooperation. A MoU was signed between Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Cambodian Senate to encourage parliamentary cooperation between India and Cambodia. Cambodia signed the framework agreement on International Solar Alliance during COP-22 Summit in Marrakech (Morocco) in November 2016. In September 2016, India contributed US\$ 50000 to the national budget component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, which is mandated to prosecute former leaders of Khmer Rouge regime.

A four-member demining team conducted de-mining training from 9-23 October 2016 at National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and ERW Clearance. This was followed by a goodwill visit of Indian Coastguard Ship Samrat in November 2016. Indian side gifted 15 mine sniffer dogs to Royal Government of Cambodia and conducted a specialized training course for 15 dog handlers of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

First Tourism Joint Working Group met in New Delhi on



MoS for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) with his counterpart in 2nd India- Cambodia Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi, 8 July 2016.

28 April 2016 and two sides signed a work plan on tourism cooperation. A bilateral air services talks also held in New Delhi in September 2016. Both sides have agreed that designated respective airlines may operate with 3rd, 4th and 5th freedom traffic rights on scheduled routes. A Tourism Seminar was organized on 12 September 2016 along with Cambodia Association of Travel Agents and Cambodia Airports. The religious heads of two Buddhist Nikayas led a delegation from Cambodia for attending 5th International Buddhist Conclave in India in October 2016.

Bilateral trade continued to grow during the period. An India Education Fair was organized in April 2016 in which 16 Universities from India participated. An Indian cinema cum tourism promotion week was organized in June 2016. Apollo Hospitals in partnership with Pluton Life Sciences launched its Telemedicine Center in Phnom Penh in August 2016. A Cambodian delegation participated in the Maritime India Summit 2016 held in Mumbai from 14-16 April 2016. Several Cambodian delegations participated in various trade seminars/events such as Source India at Surat in August 2016, Indio-Afro-Asia Pharma Business Meet at Hyderabad in September 2016, SWITCH Global Expo at Vadodara in October 2016 and International Travel Mart at Imphal in November 2016. A Cambodia-India Business Meet was also

organized in Phnom Penh on 24 November 2016.

India continued its assistance to Cambodia in the field of water resources development, electric transmission line, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building. 10(ten) Quick Impact Project Scheme projects being implemented in the areas of health, agriculture, women empowerment, sanitation, environment and skill development. The work on 3rd phase of restoration project of Ta Prohm temple with a cost of US\$ 4.5 million has commenced in November 2016. India, as Co-chair of prestigious International Coordination Committee of Preah Vihear, has conveyed its willingness to carry out restoration and conservation work at Preah Vihear, the oldest Shiva Temple.

India-Cambodia cultural relations continued to flourish during this period. The Second International Yoga day was successfully conducted in June 2016 in three cities. During the visit of President ICCR, Dr. Lokesh Chandra, the MoU on the establishment of ICCR's chair in Buddhist and Sanskrit Studies at PSRB University, Phnom Penh was extended for another period of three years till 2018-2019. A Bharatnatyam Teacher has been deputed to Cambodia who is conducting dance classes at Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh and the Embassy.

Indonesia

The State visit of Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia to India from 12-13 December 2016 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was an important event in the development of bilateral relations between two countries. President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Shri Modi held talks and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Three agreements were signed during the visit: MoU on Youth Affairs and Sports Cooperation; MoU on Standardization Cooperation; and Joint Communiqué on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and To Promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance. The two sides also issued a Joint Statement; A Statement on Maritime Cooperation; and agreed to annual meetings of the leaders. The two sides agreed to commence Strategic Dialogue, Security Dialogue and to negotiate a new Comprehensive Defence Cooperation Agreement. India and Indonesia also agreed that the following mechanisms will meet within the first six months of 2017: Joint Ministerial Commission; Defence Ministers Dialogue and Joint Defence Cooperation Committee; Biennial Trade Ministers Forum and Energy Forum at Ministerial level.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri J. P. Nadda visited Bali from 25-27 January 2016 to attend International Conference on Family Planning organized jointly by the Gates Foundation and the Government of Indonesia. Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS for Home Affairs, participated in the International Meeting on Counter Terrorism held in Bali on 10 August 2016. During his bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr Wiranto, Coordinating Minister of Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Republic of Indonesia. Gen. (Retd) V.K. Singh, MoS for External Affairs visited Bali on 27 October 2016 to attend the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers' Meeting.

A delegation led by Mr. Jonan Ignasius, Minister of Transportation visited India from 12-16 February 2016 at the invitation of Smt Nirmala Seetharaman, Minister for Commerce & Industry to attend 'Make in India' event in Mumbai and met CIM, Minister of Civil Aviation and MoS (Ministry of Railways). Mr. Sofyan Djalil, Minister of National Development Planning of Indonesia visited New Delhi from 17-19 February 2016 to participate in Delhi Dialogue VIII. During the State visit of the President of Indonesia the Minister of Trade and Minister of Industry of Republic of



President of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo signing the visitor's book, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on 12 December 2016. Prime Minister is also seen.



President of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo meeting the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 12 December 2016.

Indonesia had a meeting with Smt Nirmala Seetharaman, Minister for Commerce & Industry on 12 December 2016.

The Parliamentary exchanges between the two countries continued during this year. An Indian Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation led by Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Member of Parliament, visited Indonesia from 14-18 April 2016. A delegation of MPs from Great Indonesia Movement (Gerindra) Party led by Mr. Ahmad Muzani visited India from 28 August-2 September 2016.

The India Indonesia Eminent Persons Group (II-EPG) was established to review India- Indonesia Relations and explore ways to widen and deepen the existing cooperation towards a sustainable long-term strategic partnership between India and Indonesia. The three meetings of II-EPG were co-chaired by Ambassador (Retd.) Mr. Biren Nanda from the Indian side and Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, Former Vice Foreign Minister from the Indonesian side. The II-EPG report and a Vision 2025 document were released on the occasion of the visit of President Joko Widodo to India by Ms Retno Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Shri M. J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs.

With a bilateral trade of US\$ 15.9 billion in 2015-16, Indonesia has emerged as the largest direct trading partner for India in the ASEAN region. India also has cumulative investments of US\$15 billion in Indonesia.

During the State Visit of President of Indonesia Joko Widodo to India on 11-13 December 2016, a 25-member high-powered business delegation accompanied the President. Boosting of economic engagement with special focus on pharmaceuticals and IT was the main business agenda of the visit. On the sidelines of the visit, the meeting of India-Indonesia CEOs' Forum was held in New Delhi on 12 December 2016. The forum discussed and arrived at constructive suggestions to further enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation. It was agreed by both sides to set up sectoral core groups to suggest specific recommendations to institute strategies for expanding the cooperation in identified sectors and to take up any impediments to trade and investment with both governments. Additionally, a select group of twenty Indian CEOs met President Joko Widodo on 13 December 2016 during which the President invited the Indian companies to invest in Indonesia and assured them that the Indonesian government will address issues if any on priority basis.

A 13-member CII CEOs delegation led by Dr. Naushad Forbes, President of CII, visited Jakarta in July 2016. The delegation called on the Ministers of Industry, Transportation and Trade; Vice Foreign Minister; Deputy Chairman of Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board; and attended a business meet organized by the Mission in association with KADIN, APINDO and Jakarta Government Office.

India- Indonesia Defence Cooperation witnessed significant enhancements in 2016. The year started with the visit of Adm Ade Supandi, Chief of Indonesian Navy, and Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Imam Bonjol to Vishakhapatnam for participation in the International Fleet Review. Ongoing activities of defence cooperation received further impetus with the visit in August 2016 of Adm Sunil Lanba, Chief of Naval Staff to Indonesia. Discussions during the 5th Army to Army Staff Talks were very constructive and both sides agreed upon specific areas for greater engagement. Two editions of the IND-INDO CORPAT were undertaken with the 2nd bilateral exercise between the two navies being conducted adjunct to the IND-INDO CORPAT in October 2016. The Director General Coast Guard visited Indonesia in October 2016 for participating in the HACGAM at Jakarta. During the same period, Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samrat participated in the first tri-lateral exercise was held between the coast guard ships of India, Indonesia and Japan held at Jakarta. The year also saw port calls by INS Sumitra to Surabaya and Jakarta in October and December 2016 respectively.

During the year, there were reciprocal study tours by the National Defence College and LEMHANAS to Indonesia and India respectively, as well as a study tour by officers of the Army Higher Command Course to Indonesia. Officers and Cadets from Indonesia enthusiastically participated in seminars and competitions held in India such as the Maritime Security Symposium and Admiral's Cup. Indonesia continues to avail the vacancies offered under the ITEC scheme. Major Indian defence companies including Brahmos, Tata Motors, and Larsen and Tubro participated in the Defence Expo at held at Jakarta from 3-5 November 2016.

Embassy of India, Jakarta hosted visits from India of various cultural troupes including a Lavani group from ICCR in November 2015; a 7-member Jazz band group called 'Joe Alvares and the Indian All Stars', who also participated in the Java Jazz Festival; and a 12-member Manipuri dance group

from ICCR led by Shri Premjit Singh Keisham. The Embassy also organized an event for book launch of Mrs. Hema Devare's book "Ganga to Mekong: A Cultural Voyage through Textiles" in association with Museum of Fine Arts in June 2016 and a Foreign Policy Lecture by Ambassador Sudhir T. Devare on the theme "Optimizing India's Act East Policy to promote Indonesia-India bilateral relations" in June 2016 in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. The Mission in association with Ministry of Culture of Republic of Indonesia also organized book reading function where Mr. Amitav Ghosh, author, explained characters and historical time-period of his novel "The Glass Palace". The Embassy made arrangements for visit of students, media and local populace in the Indian Navy ships which paid port of call on Indonesian ports. The Embassy also organized India Tourism Road Show to promote Indian tourism destinations and sent six journalists to India on familiarization program under ASEAN India Media Exchange Program organized by Ministry of External Affairs and for events like 5th International Buddhist Conclave and International Tourism Mart at Imphal organized by Ministry of Tourism. Flights between Jakarta and Mumbai were launched on 12 December 2016 by Garuda Indonesia to coincide with the State visit of the President of Indonesia to India.

Upcoming developments include:

- The Mission organized Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9 January 2017. Indian expatriate associations and members of Indian diaspora will participate in the event. The Mission will use the occasion to inform about latest initiatives of the Government of India to engage with Indian diaspora and involve them in development of India.
- Two Indian fashion designers representing popular brands - Akaaro and Mrinalini - will participate in the Indonesia Fashion Week was held in Jakarta on 1-5 February 2017.
- PMO has desired that the Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers of India will lead a high level pharma delegation to Jakarta to explore the possibility of cooperation in health and pharma sector. We are awaiting for suitable dates for the visit during the 3rd week of February 2017.
- The Embassy will organize a 2-day business event for the

15-member delegation from the Federation of Gujarat Industries in Jakarta on 22-23 February 2017. The event will include buyer-seller meet and meetings with relevant industry associations.

- The Mission has planned for a buyer-seller meet of the business delegates from the Plastics Export Promotion Council in Jakarta on 27 February 2017.
- Indonesia will host first Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) summit on 7 March 2017. President of Indonesia has extended invitation to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his State visit of India from 12-13 December 2016. A high-level participation is expected.
- The Mission is working on setting up the Ministerial-level meetings of Biennial Trade Ministers Forum and Energy Forum in Jakarta. This is subject to arriving at mutually agreeable dates.

Lao PDR

The upward trajectory with our bilateral relations with Lao PDR continued during the reporting period. The year saw a continued upward trend in bilateral relations with Lao PDR. Infrastructure projects in areas of irrigation systems, power transmission, capacity building and human resources and cultural cooperation in restoration of heritage monuments and regular high level visits were focus of cooperation. Added to this were 100-150 scholarships given to Lao students and technical personnel for undergoing training programmes and regular courses of study in India under various schemes.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Lao PDR from 7-8 September 2016 to attend 14th ASEAN-India Summit and the 11th East Asia Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR. PM had constructive meeting with his Lao counterpart Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith. Issues of mutual bilateral interest as well as regional cooperation under the ASEAN and MGC framework were discussed.



Prime Minister meeting the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, at Vientiane, Lao PDR on 8 September 2016.

MoS for External Affairs Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd.) paid a visit to Lao PDR from 24-27 July 2016. He attended the ASEAN – India Foreign Ministers meeting, EAS Foreign Ministers meeting as well as the ARF Meeting. MoS (IC) of Industry & Commerce, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman was in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 4-6 August 2016 to attend the ASEAN-India Economic Ministers meeting and the EAS Economic Ministers meeting. She also met the ASEAN-India Business Council. Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran visited Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 6-8 May 2016 to lead the Indian delegation for the East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM) and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' meeting (MGC SOM).

Bilateral trade continued to grow during the period. A five member delegation from North-East Federation of International Trade (NEFIT), Shillong visited Lao PDR from 27 November to 1 December 2016 they were hosted by the Lao chapter of ASEAN-India Business Council.

Malaysia

Bilateral relations with Malaysia, which received strong impetus and 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership' status with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Malaysia in November 2015, continued to grow both in range and depth in a wide variety of areas including economic, defence, infrastructure, education, culture and counter-terrorism cooperation.

Dr. Ahmad Zahid Bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Malaysia visited India from 17-20 July 2016. During his visit he called on Prime Minister and had meetings with Home Minister and NSA for advancing cooperation on counter-terrorism and transnational crime. Both India and Malaysia explored the cooperation in the area of de-radicalisation to counter the growing menace of terrorism.

An Indian Goodwill Parliamentary delegation led by Shri



Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Najib Razak witnessing the signing of India Malaysia bilateral agreements, in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 23 November 2015.

Ravi Prakash Varma, MP visited Malaysia from 18-20 April 2016 and met the Speaker of Malaysian Parliament. They had fruitful discussions with the Malaysian parliamentarians.

Former NSA Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon visited Kuala Lumpur on 30 May-1 June 2016 to attend the 30th Asia Pacific Round Table organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia.

Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Mustapha Mohamed led a 44 member trade and investment mission to India from 1-6 May 2016. He held talks with Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. He also addressed a special session on 'Business Opportunities in Malaysia' organized by FICCI jointly with Malaysia High Commission and Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia.

6th Navy to Navy Staff Talks were held in Malaysia from 5-7 April 2016. Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch visited Malaysia from 15-19 July 2016. The first ever table top

exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy was held during this period.

A delegation from Ministry of Finance led by Mr. Hasmukh Adhia, Secretary, Department of Revenue and Mr. Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser visited Malaysia on 6-7 September 2016 to study Malaysia's experience of GST implementation. They were given a comprehensive presentation on the subject by Malaysian Customs and Tax Division. The delegation also called on Tan Sri Dr. Mohd. Irwan Serigar Abdullah, Secretary General of Treasury of Malaysia.

Secretary (East) Ms. Preeti Saran visited Kuala Lumpur on 22 August 2016 and held bilateral meetings with Dato Seri S.K.Devamany, Deputy Minister in the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office and Dato Muhammad Shahrullkram Yaakob, Deputy Secretary General (Bilateral Affairs) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and discussed issues of bilateral interest. A delegation led by Ms. Leena Nair, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development visited Kuala Lumpur on



Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Malaysia calls on Prime Minister in New Delhi, 19 July 2016.

7-9 November 2016 to participate in the 3rd Asia Pacific High Level Meeting on Child Rights.

Fourteenth Global Indian Festival 2016 was organised in Kuala Lumpur from 1-5 June 2016. It is considered the largest exhibition of its kind in Asia Pacific Region. A bronze statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was unveiled by veterans of Indian National Army in Malaysia on 19 June 2016. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC) collaborated with the prestigious Kuala Lumpur International Arts Festival- also known as Diverse City- to host a Rajasthani Miniature painting exhibition titled 'Meraki' in September 2016.

Dato' Zaitun Binti Ab Samad, Director General in the National Disaster Management Agency, led a 17 member Malaysian delegation to India to attend the ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from 3-5 November 2016.

New Zealand

The year 2016 marked an unprecedented level of bilateral contacts with New Zealand leading to enhanced goodwill and identification of new areas for cooperation.

The President paid a State visit to New Zealand from 30 April-2 May 2016. He had substantive meetings with Governor General Jerry Mateparae, Prime Minister John Key and Leader of Opposition Mr. Andrew Little. During the visit, an Air Services Agreement was signed between India and New Zealand. the President also addressed Business leaders, gave a lecture at Auckland University of Technology and interacted with the Indian students. A MoU between ICCR and Victoria University to extend the Indian Chair in Wellington was also signed.

Prime Minister John Key paid a State Visit to India from 25-27 October 2016. He was accompanied by a large business delegation. Besides delegation level talks led by the two Prime



President meeting with Lieutenant General, the Rt. Hon'ble Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO, Governor General of New Zealand at Government House in New Zealand.

Ministers, the visiting Prime Minister called on the President. Both countries signed agreements on food safety and on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports. The two sides also finalized an amendment to the Treaty on Avoidance of Double Taxation. In addition, it was decided to establish a ministerial dialogue, annual Foreign Ministry consultations and promote cooperation and dialogue on cyber issues.

Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Sumitra Mahajan led a Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand from 17-25 September 2016. Besides her meetings with Speaker David Carder and interaction with New Zealand Parliamentarians, she also met the Acting Prime Minister Bill English.

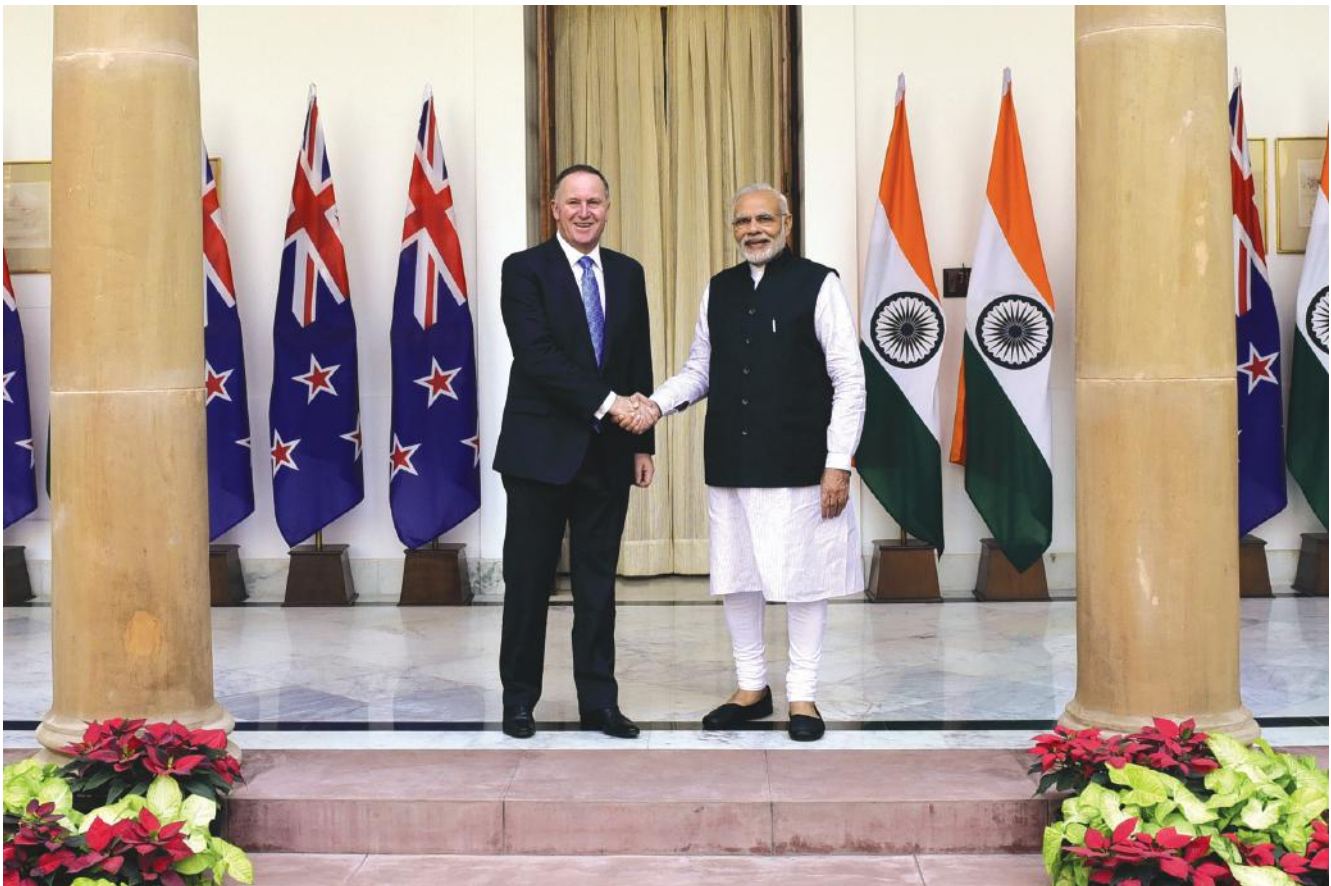
An Indian Naval Ship INS *Sumitra* participated in the International Fleet Review to celebrate 75th Year of New Zealand Navy at Auckland from 16-22 November 2016.

The Philippines

India-Philippines partnership witnessed continued progress in the period, when Philippines went through their Presidential election on 9 May 2016, with President Rodrigo R. Duterte and his government sworn in on 30 June 2016.

Ministerial and official visits continued through the period. MoS for Commerce & Industry Smt Nirjala Sitharaman visited Cebu, Philippines for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting from 3-4 November 2016; Justice Swatanter Kumar, Chairperson, National Green Tribunal & Justice Hima Kohli, Judge, Delhi High Court participated at the Third Asian Judges Symposium on Environment from 26-27 September 2016.

The defence cooperation continued to strengthen with Indian



Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. John Key, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on 26 October 2016.

Naval Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Shakti on a goodwill visit to Philippines from 30 May-2 June 2016; a 20-member delegation from the National Defence College of India visited Philippines from 23-28 May 2016. The 6th edition of Intellex was held in India on 13 July 2016 for which the Philippine delegation was led by Cmde Ernesto C Enriquez.

Bilateral Trade between the two countries continued to maintain steady growth over the years and improved marginally to US\$ 1.9 billion in 2015-16 from US\$ 1.8 billion for 2014-15.

The first meeting of the India-Philippines Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 29 April 2016, while the Joint Committee on Renewable Energy met on 9 August 2016.

Developmental cooperation continued, with Philippines utilizing 36 slots of the 50 slots under ITEC and all 10 slots under Colombo Plan. Twenty students from the Philippines

visited India from 20-29 November 2016 under the ASEAN-India Students' Exchange Programme.

Singapore

Within a year of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore on 23-24 November 2015, when bilateral relations were elevated to a Strategic Partnership, Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong paid an Official Visit to India from 3-7 October 2016. PM Lee was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Ho Ching, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) S Iswaran, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Senior Minister of State for Defence Ong Ye Kung, Senior Minister of State (Defence & Foreign Affairs) Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman and Members of Parliament Ms. Dennise Phua and Mr. Vikram Nair. Prime Minister Lee called on President, and had a meeting with Prime Minister who hosted a banquet in his honour. EAM called on PM Lee.

Wide ranging discussions were held on bilateral, regional



President meeting with Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore in New Delhi on 5 October 2016.

and multilateral issues in a warm and friendly atmosphere reflecting the excellent state of bilateral relations. A Joint Statement was issued which outlined areas of cooperation and mutual interest. Three bilateral documents were signed during the visit – (i) MoU in the field of Industrial Property Cooperation between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and Intellectual Property Office of Singapore; (ii) MoU on collaboration in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training between the National Skill Development Corporation and ITE Education Services, Singapore; and (iii) MoU on collaboration in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training between the Government of Assam and ITE Education Services, Singapore. Prime Minister Lee also visited Udaipur from 5-6 October 2016. He held discussions with Chief Minister of Rajasthan, who had visited Singapore in October 2014, and launched the Centre of Excellence for Tourism Training (CETT) in Udaipur, which is a collaboration between the Government of Rajasthan and ITE Education Services, Singapore.

Defence Minister visited Singapore from 3-5 June 2016 for the inaugural Defence Ministers' Bilateral Dialogue, which was an outcome of the revised Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) signed in November 2015. A Joint Statement was issued after the meeting. Defence Minister also attended the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue and spoke at the Second Plenary Session on "*Managing Military Cooperation in Asia*". Defence cooperation between India and Singapore continued at various levels through regular meetings under the bilateral architecture, including the inaugural meeting of the Defence Industry Working Group, which was an outcome of the revised DCA. Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Defence & Foreign Affairs Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman visited India from 27-30 November 2016 to observe the 10th edition of the Bilateral Artillery Exercise, "Exercise Agni Warrior" between the armies of India and Singapore, which was held from 13 November- 3 December 2016 in Devlali (Maharashtra).

Maritime security cooperation between India and Singapore continued to strengthen with exchange of information taking place under the Technical Agreement on sharing of White Shipping Information between the Navies, visits by Indian ships - INS *Airavat* in May 2016 and INS *Satpura* in September 2016, to Singapore, and India's continued participation in the cooperation fora related to the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). Security cooperation between India and

Singapore also continued in other areas such as narcotics and cyber security. The 3rd Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Intelligence Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime, which was revived pursuant to the Joint Statement issued during Prime Minister's visit to Singapore in November 2015, was held in New Delhi on 30 November 2016.

Close economic cooperation continued to be a pillar of the bilateral relationship. In 2016-17 (up to September 2016), bilateral trade stood at US\$ 7.3 billion. Exports to Singapore in the period amounted to US\$ 4 billion recording a growth of 16 per cent, while imports were US\$ 3.2 billion showing a decline of 15.2 per cent. Singapore remained the second largest source of Foreign Direct Investment amounting to US\$ 50.6 billion (from April 2000 to September 2016), constituting 16 per cent of total FDI inflow into India. Singapore is the second largest investor in India in the year 2016-17 (April - September 2016) with FDI totalling US\$ 4.7 billion. Singapore continues to be among the favourite destinations for Indian investments, with outward FDI to Singapore amounting to US\$ 46.2 billion (April 2004-October 2016). In 2016-2017, outward Indian FDI to Singapore amounted to US\$ 4.1 billion (April-October 2016). The incentive provided to Singaporean investors in the form of Capital Gains Tax exemption under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is being discontinued following the cessation of similar incentive for Mauritius. Discussions are being held between Finance Minister and Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister to explore further ways to expand investments between the two countries.

Close people-to-people ties and strong links between businesses of the two countries were further strengthened by the launch of flights from Singapore to Jaipur and Amritsar, taking the number of cities in India linked to Singapore to 15. Several States of India, such as Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, are working with the Government of Singapore and its various agencies in areas of capacity development and training, waste management, water supply and urban solutions, and in planning and developing urban centres. Singapore is the Partner Country at the Vibrant Gujarat 2017. NITI Aayog and the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) are working with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) in capacity development of urban administrators and officials in India. The inaugural NITI Aayog Lecture on Transforming

India was delivered by Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam in New Delhi on 26 August 2016.

India mourned the loss of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardee former President of Singapore S R Nathan who passed away on 22 August 2016 in Singapore. India was touched by the touching gesture of Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan who visited Chennai in December 2016 to pay his last respects to former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms Jayalaithaa.

Thailand

India's relationship with Thailand continued to deepen and strengthened during the current year with the exchange of high-level visits and enhanced interactions at all levels. High level visits and meetings have taken place on a regular basis from both sides. In 2016, Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Industry Minister, Agriculture Minister and Culture Minister paid a state visit to India from 16-18 June 2016.

The PM met Indian businessmen from the Federation of

Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and gave a keynote address on 17 June at a joint business event. The two Prime Ministers announced that the 'Festival of India' in Thailand and the 'Festival of Thailand' in India, which are named 'Sawasdee India Year' and 'Namaste Thailand Year' respectively, will be held simultaneously in 2017 to commemorate the 70th Year of India-Thailand Diplomatic relations. During the visit the Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange (Extension of CEP) for 2016-2019 and MOU between Universities of Nagaland and Chiang Mai were signed.

PM Shri Narendra Modi visited Bangkok on 10 November 2016 to pay respects to the late King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej, laid a wreath at the Grand Palace and wrote a condolence message.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn received the first Indian Council for Cultural Relations World Sanskrit award for the year 2015 from Vice President M Hamid Ansari in Delhi on 21 November 2016. In her speech she conveyed the



Prime Minister meeting with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Prayut Chan-o-cha, during the Ceremonial Reception in New Delhi, 17 June 2016.

importance of cultural exchange between countries through further opening up of the borders. This was her 16th visit to India.

Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs visited Bangkok on 23-24 August 2016 to attend the First Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI) Thailand with the support of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). He called on the Minister of Interior of Thailand, General Anupong Paochinda on 25 August and invited the Minister to attend the AMCDRR.

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management (AMCDRR 2016) - jointly organised by Ministry of Home Affairs and UNISDR - was held in New Delhi on 2-5 November 2016. Vice Minister of Interior, Pol. Lt. Gen. Nadhapit Snidvongs participated in the Conference with a 23-member Thai delegation.

Minister of State for Planning, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh visited Thailand from 26-30 November 2016 to attend Executive Board Meeting of Asian Paralympic Committee in his capacity as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India.

India-Myanmar-Thailand Car Rally commenced from New Delhi on 13 November 2016, reached Thailand after covering 5722 km in 20 days with 20 cars and 55 participants, including 6 Thai nationals. The rally culminated in Bangkok on 2 December 2016.

A business seminar and welcome dinner was held on 3 December 2016. Business seminar was attended by Transport Minister of Thailand and welcome dinner was attended by the Tourism Minister of Thailand. Earlier, another India-Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Car Rally -2016 was held in May-June 2016 from Itanagar to Bangkok.

The National Security Guard (NSG), India and Center for Counter Terrorist Operations (CTOC) of Thailand conducted the first annual Joint Training Exercise "Chakra 2016" in India from 24 October-5 November 2016.

Central Bureau of India organized training for Thai officers in cyber crime investigation and computer forensics at CBI Academy, Ghaziabad from 29 September-11 October 2016.

An AYUSH Chair on Ayurveda was established at the Rangsit University of Thailand. The Chair commenced from October 2016.

19 students from Silpakorn University and 11 students from Chiang Mai University of Thailand attended a month-long Hindi study programme at Mahatma Gandhi Antarashtriy Hindi Vishwavidhyalaya, Wardha.

The 2nd International Day of Yoga was held on 26 June 2016 in Bangkok with more than 6000 participants.

As part of Make-in-India campaign two seminars were organized in Surat Thani and Chiang Mai provinces of Thailand. A business delegation from West Bengal led by Mr. Amit Mitra, Minister of Finance, of the state visited Thailand from 27-30 November 2016. A business to business seminar was also organised.

5th round of High level Defence Dialogue was held on 15-16 December 2016 in New Delhi.

Naval exchanges inter alia included: 22nd & 23rd Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercises in April & November 2016 respectively; ship visits by 4 ships of the first training squadron (INS Tir, Sujata, Sudarshini & ICGS Varuna) in April and October.

Exercise Maitree- 2016 between Royal Thai Army & Indian Army was held in Thailand from 15-29 July 2016. The initial planning conference of Exercise Cobra Gold-17 was held at Bangkok from 1-5 August 2016.

The 7th Air Staff Talks between the Air Forces of two countries were held in India from 6-8 September 2016. India Air Force Fighter Aircrew/Controller delegation visited Thailand from 2-4 August 2016; Thai Air Force Fight Controller / SAGW delegation visited India from 11-13 July 2016, Indian Air Force Mid Junior delegation visited Thailand from 30 August-5 September 2016.

Representatives of Royal Thai Armed Forces participated in National Defence College, Defence Services Staff College, Indian Technical and Exchange programme of India. Similarly representatives of Indian Armed Forces participated in Command & Staff College Course, NDC Course, Command & General Staff College Course, and Air Command & Staff College Courses of Thailand.

Timor Leste

The Mission will host a Reception on the occasion of the 68th Republic of Day of India in Dili. This will be the first National Day Reception to be hosted by the Indian Mission in Timor Leste.

Vietnam

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an Official Visit to Vietnam from 2-3 September 2016. The visit has provided a major boost to our bilateral relations. Vietnam and India agreed to elevate the current Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Twelve MoUs/ Documents were signed during the visit. Some important agreements signed are: (i) Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes; (ii) Program of Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Matters; (iii) MOU on Health Cooperation; (iv) MOU on Cooperation in Information Technology; and (viii) MOU on cooperation in Cyber Security. Prime Minister had announced a new LoC of US\$ 500 million for facilitating deeper defence cooperation. He also announced a grant of US\$ 5 million for the construction of an Army Software Park at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang. Special annual scholarships for Vietnamese students for advanced Buddhist studies at Masters/Doctoral level courses and study of Sanskrit in India for the members of the Buddhist Sangha in Vietnam were also offered.

National Assembly Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan visited India on 8-11 December 2016. During her visit four MoU/ Agreements were signed including Framework Agreement of Civil Nuclear Cooperation. Defence Minister of India, Shri Manohar Parrikar led a defence industry delegation to Vietnam on 5-8 June 2016. Similarly from Vietnam, General Ngo Xuan Lick, Defence Minister of Vietnam visited India from 3-6 December 2016. Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Vu Hong Nam visited India for 8th round of Foreign Office Consultations and the 5th Strategic Dialogue on 2 August 2016 in Delhi. Mr. Hoang Van Thang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development visited India between 30 October-7 November 2016 to attend the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016.

Defence and Security Cooperation emerged as a significant pillar of our strategic partnership with Vietnam. For the first time, a Vietnamese Ship participated in the International Fleet Review at Vishakhapatnam, India, in February 2016. Two Indian Naval Ships INS Satpura and INS Kirch with 481 crew headed by Rear Admiral SV Bhokare, made a port call to Cam Ranh from 30 May-3 June 2016. Indian Coast Guard



Prime Minister and Vietnamese Prime Minister Phuc feed fish in Uncle Ho's pond in the Presidential Compound in Hanoi, 3 September 2016.

Ship ICGS SAMRAT headed by DIG DS Saini and 126 crew made a port call to Danang port from 23-27 October 2016. GoI offered US\$ 100 million LOC for defence procurement is being used for procuring high speed patrol vessels from Larsen & Toubro of India. A MoU on cooperation in security matters was signed on 3 November 2016 during the visit of Mr. Bui Van Thanh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Security to India.

Bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has seen continuous growth over the past many years. India is now among the top ten trading partners of Vietnam with bilateral trade of US\$ 7830.62 million in 2015-16. CAPEXCIL led an 11 member business delegation participated in a trade fair on April 26-28, 2016. Council for Leather Exports (CLE) led a business delegation to Vietnam on July 13-16, 2016. A high-powered CEO delegation led by President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Vietnam during 1-3 November 2016. Embassy of India in Hanoi organized a catalogue show for Indian pharmaceutical companies on 11-14 May 2016. A 3-member delegation from Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) visited Vietnam from 9-10 November 2016 to explore market for LED lighting and energy conservation. Indian companies also participated in Food Ingredients Vietnam Exhibition from 18-20 May 2016 at Ho Chi Minh City, 'Denim and Jean Show' from 16-17 June 2016 in Ho Chi Minh City, International Shoes and Leather Exhibition Vietnam at SECC, HCM City from 13-15 July 2016, METALEX 2016 exhibition at HCM City in October 2016, and International Vietnam Garment and Textile Fair in November 2016. Delegations from Soybean Processors Association of India and Electronics and Software Export Promotion Council of India also visited Vietnam in September 2016 and October 2016 respectively.

Vietnam has been a large recipient of training programmes under ITEC programme. Presently, 150 ITEC slots offered to Vietnam every year along with 16 scholarships under the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme, 14 scholarships under the Educational Exchange Programme and 10 scholarships under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation Scholarship Scheme. Embassy of India in Hanoi, in collaboration with the University of Social Sciences and Humanities of Vietnam, organized a Photo Exhibition to mark the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Hanoi on 14-15 April 2016. The 2nd International day of Yoga was successfully celebrated in Hanoi

and six other cities on 26 June 2016. Centre for Indian Studies, Ho Chi Minh Academy of Politics organized an International Conference on "Vietnam-India: New Context, New Vision" in Hanoi on 25 August 2016.

Indian Culture Centre in Hanoi started functioning with one yoga teacher and one classical dance/music teacher in September 2016. A 16-member delegation consists of Buddhist monks and journalists from Vietnam participated in the International Buddhist Conclave-2016 in Sarnath on 4-6 October 2016. ICCR sponsored rock band UDX toured Vietnam from 20-22 October 2016 and performed in Hanoi and a neighboring province. India was one of the partner countries in the November 2016 Hanoi International Film Festival (1-5 November). A roundtable on Indian Cinema was organized during the film festival. Several Indian films were screened during the Festival.

Pacific Islands Countries

India's interaction with Pacific Island Countries (PIC) has increased many folds over the past 2 years, especially after the 1st Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit that was held in Suva in November 2014 and the 2nd FIPIC Summit that was held in Jaipur in August 2015.

Nauru, Tuvalu, Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga were the 5 Pacific Island countries that signed the Draft Framework Agreement for International Solar Alliance on 15 November 2016 at Marrakech, Morocco. Seven other PICs have agreed to sign the Draft Framework.

Fiji

During the period 1 April-30 November 2016, India-Fiji bilateral relations grew substantially with cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, Defence, solar energy, micro and small business facilities. Bilateral interaction was more extensive and diversified.

The Fiji Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama visited India on a private visit from 18-21 May 2016. He had an meeting with the Prime Minister in which he thanked India for its support to Fiji following the Category 5 Cyclone Winston that hit Fiji on 20 February 2016. India had provided an immediate cash relief of US\$ 1 million as grant and an IAF C-17 Globemaster transported and delivered 45 tonnes of relief material on 26 February 2016.

Permanent Secretary for Public Enterprise Mr. David Kolitagane attended the Maritime India Summit held in Mumbai from 14-16 April 2016.

A 4-member National Security and Defence Review team led by Mr Esala Teleni, Chairman of National Security Strategy (NSS) visited India from 24-27 October 2016. They met with Dy NSA on 25 October 2016, they also had meetings with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Institute of for Defence Study and Analysis (IDSA) and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Study (IPCS) on 26 October 2016.

Minister of Agriculture attended the First Asian Ministerial Disaster Risk Reduction Conference held in New Delhi from 2-5 November 2016.

A two member delegation led by Shri Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharati visited Fiji to attend the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Pacific Media Partnership Conference from 21-21 May 2016.

Indian Naval Ship INS *Sumitra* paid a Goodwill visit to Suva from 26-29 October 2016. Senior Officials of INS *Sumitra* had meeting with Fijian Defence Minister; Minister of Agriculture; and Commander of Fiji Military Forces. On board visits by local populace were organised. The doctor's team on INS *Sumitra* along with Fijian doctors organized medical camp on 27-28 October 2016, hundreds of Fijians took benefit of the camp.

On 28 October 2016, 5 tonnes of vegetable seeds were handed over to the Fijian Minister of Agriculture as a grant, at a cost of ₹ 2.63 crores. The seeds were transported on INS *Sumitra*.

India signed an MoU with Fiji on establishing a Micro and Small Business Grant Facility. India is to contribute US\$ 2.2 million. The first tranche of Fiji \$ 1 million (US\$ 0.44 Million) was disbursed in July 2016.

One expert in Agriculture was deputed to Fiji under ITEC programme.

An assistance of ₹ 26 Lakhs was provided to University of South Pacific, Suva in November 2016, for continuation of Hindi courses.

Under the General Scholarship Scheme of ICCR, 33 scholarships have been offered to Fiji for 2016-17.

International Day for Yoga was celebrated by the High Commission in Fiji in Lautuka, Labasa and Suva in June

2016. A seven-member ICCR-sponsored musical group led by Shri Arun Govil performed a Ramayan concerts in Suva on 23 September 2016 and in Nadi on 25 September 2016. ICCR sponsored a 15-member Ramlila group of Ayodhya Shodh Sansthan that performed in Suva, Nausouri, Labasa, Nadi and Ba from 15-20 October 2016.

Papua New Guinea

President visited Papua New Guinea (PNG) from 28-30 April 2016. On 28 April 2016, Rashtrapatiiji met with Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio, Governor General of PNG after which he laid a Wreath at the Bomana War Cemetery. Later the Prime Minister of PNG Peter O'Neill called on the President. This was followed by calls on by Leader of Opposition, Don Polye, MP and Governor of West New Britain, Sasindran Muthuvel. The day ended with a State Dinner held at the National Parliament House. On 29 April 2016, President and Prime Minister of PNG Peter O'Neill presided over the signing of MoUs ceremony. Four MoUs were signed which included (i) Cooperation in the field of Health Care and Medical Science; (ii) Establishing a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology; (iii) Cooperation in Agriculture and Horticulture between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and PNG University of Technology; and (iv) Line of Credit of USD 100 Million for infrastructure development. The President visited the University of Papua New Guinea and addressed a gathering of 500 plus students and faculty members. He also met with the members of PNG Business Council.

At the request of the Prime Minister of PNG, India granted Anti Retro Viral HIV/AIDS medicines that are sufficient to treat 20000 HIV/AIDS patients for one year. The cost of the medicines was approximately ₹ 18 crores The medicines were delivered to PNG by September 2016.

Cook Islands

An amount of US\$ 690,846 was granted to Cook Islands for 16 Community Development Projects to be undertaken by various communities/villages in Cook Islands. The second International Yoga Day was celebrated in Cook Islands on 18 October 2016.

Nauru

The second International Yoga Day was celebrated in Nauru on 24 June 2016. An ICCR sponsored 10-member Bollywood cultural troupe led by Ms. Shipra Goyal performed in Nauru



President and Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Peter O'Neill witnessing various signing of MOUs between India and Papua New Guinea at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea, 28 April 2016.

in August 2016.

Kiribati

The second International Yoga Day was celebrated in Kiribati on 18 June 2016.

Palau

MoS (Science & Technology) Shri Y.S. Chowdhary visited Palau from 18-20 January 2017 at the inauguration ceremony of Mr. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., on his re-election as President of Palau.

Tonga

One expert on Coconut and Agriculture was deputed to Tonga under ITEC programme.

Vanuatu

Under Annual Grant-in-Aid an amount of US\$ 190000 was

granted for procurement of computer equipment to be used in 76 schools to diversify teaching techniques.

MoS (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy, Mines Shri Piyush Goyal visited Vanuatu from 25-26 October 2016. A MoU on establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology was signed during the meeting. The cheque of US\$ 190000 was handed over to Vanuatu authorities. He met with Mr. Charlot Salwai Tabimasma, Prime Minister of Vanuatu and Mr. Bruno Leingkone Tau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu. He also addressed the India-Vanuatu Business interaction along with Mr. Joe Natuman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

Niue

An amount of US\$ 910700 was granted to Niue to build a 4G/LTE mobile network that will cover the entire Islands and significant portions of its Exclusive Economic Zone. It

is the endeavour of the Government of Niue to attract Niue citizens who have migrated to return to their homeland once this project is completed.

Solomon Islands

MoS (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy, Mines Shri Piyush Goyal visited Solomon Islands from 24-25 October 2016. He met with Mr. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands and Mr. David Day Pacha, Minister of Mines, Energy & Rural Electrification and discussed ways in which bilateral relationship can be surged by cooperation in solar energy, Information Technology and renewable energy.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, co-chaired the 14th ASEAN-India Summit at Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 8 September 2016. At the Summit, Prime Minister reiterated ASEAN's centrality to India's 'Act East' Policy and called for enhancing the scope of our cooperation in cyber security, de-radicalisation, counter terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercises (HADR), as well as in capacity building for disaster management personnel. Underlining India's commitment to the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, Prime Minister proposed the establishment of a Joint Task Force on Connectivity to carry forward the exploratory work on the extension of India-Myanmar-

Thailand Trilateral Highway to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam; promotion of seamless digital connectivity between India and South East Asia by setting up of a regional high-capacity fibre-optic network, supplemented by a national rural broadband network and digital villages in remote areas which would utilise the US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN. Prime Minister welcomed the concept of Inclusive Innovation Platform for utilisation of the enhanced S&T Development Fund. He also proposed a Flagship ASEAN-India Programme for Combating Malaria and commissioning of a project for mapping of Indian inscriptions along the Mekong river.

MoS for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh, participated in the 14th ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 25 July 2016.

India continued to provide project-based financial assistance and capacity building to ASEAN countries, especially to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam, contributing to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration by narrowing the intra-ASEAN development gap. A Framework Agreement between India and Vietnam was signed for establishment of the Tracking, Data Reception and Data Processing Facility in Vietnam for the ASEAN, which is the largest project under ASEAN-India Cooperation.



Prime Minister at the Group Photograph at 14th ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 8 September 2016.

An ASEAN Studies Centre was set up at North Eastern Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Social Science Research at the North Eastern Hill University in Shillong on 8 August 2016. As a follow up to the 1st ASEAN-India Conference on Cultural Linkages held in New Delhi on 23 July 2015, the 2nd edition was held from 17-19 January 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The 5th Roundtable on ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks is proposed to be held in March 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. People-to-people exchange programmes were also undertaken, notable being the visit of 175 students from ASEAN member countries to India in November 2016. Foreign Service Institute also organised the 10th Special Course for 19 ASEAN Diplomats from 21 September to 21 October 2016 in New Delhi.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the 11th East Asia Summit on 8 September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Acknowledging the East Asia Summit as the prime forum for the Leaders to shape an agenda for regional cooperation, Prime Minister identified terrorism as the most serious challenge to international peace and security. He mentioned that the competitive advantage of one country in India's neighbourhood rests solely in producing and exporting terrorism and called for isolating and sanctioning this Global Exporter of Terror. Prime Minister also shared India's perspectives on issues such as maritime cooperation, human trafficking, etc. with his counterparts. This was preceded by the MoS for External Affairs, Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh, attending the 6th EAS Foreign Ministers Meeting on 26 July 2016 at Vientiane, Lao PDR.

India continued to participate actively in EAS activities in 2016 by hosting the EAS Conference on Disaster Risk Management and Regional Cooperation on 2 November 2016 in New Delhi and the 2nd EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation on 4-5 November 2016 in Goa. In March 2017, India proposes to organise an EAS Symposium on Blue Economy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Vice President, Shri Hamid Ansari, attended the 11th ASEM Summit, on 15-16 July 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Vice President was the lead speaker for the Plenary Session on Promoting ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity. His address focused on Connectivity in all its dimensions—

institutional, digital, physical, economic and socio-cultural and its importance not only as an enabler for development, but a powerful tool that must be utilised for encouraging greater people-to-people exchanges, facilitating trade and investment, building energy and academic networks, and connecting the hearts and minds of the people.

India actively participated and contributed in ASEM events in the course of the year. As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of ASEM, India hosted a Youth Dialogue on 26 March 2016 in New Delhi and the second edition of Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats from 13-17 June 2016. In February 2017, MEA successfully hosted an ASEM Symposium on Non-Invasive Diagnostic Technologies for Diabetes and Treatment of Diabetes as a Lifestyle Disease on 4 February 2017. An ASEM workshop on Conservation Techniques & Instruments was hosted along with Intach in 6-7 February 2017 in New Delhi, drawing excellent participation.

Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Sumitra Mahajan, participated in the 9th Asia Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 21-23 April 2016. India also sent representatives to the 12th ASEM Finance Ministers' Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 09-10 June 2016; the ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons held from 15-16 June 2016 at Seoul, Republic of Korea; 7th ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in Gwangju, Republic of Korea from 22-24 June 2016; and ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting in Ulaanbaatar from 12-13 May 2016.

Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

India co-chaired along with Lao PDR, the 7th MGC Ministerial Meeting held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 24 July 2016. Indian side was led by Gen. (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh, MoS for External Affairs. The Ministers welcomed the completion of construction by India of the MGC Textiles Museum in Cambodia and appreciated the documentary film on the Museum made by India. The Meeting adopted the Plan of Action to Implement Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (2016-18), which contains the future direction of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation. The Ministerial meeting was preceded by the 7th MGC Senior Officials' Meeting held on 6 May 2016 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.

The MGC Asian Traditional Textile Museum has since commenced functioning and has set up an operational conservation laboratory for organic materials.



Vice President in a family photo at the 11th ASEM Summit, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 16 July 2016.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

At the 11th East Asia Summit, Prime Minister outlined India's commitment for supporting the realisation of an equitable, inclusive and balanced Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in a way that does equal justice to manufacturing, services and investment sectors. Prime Minister also witnessed the adoption of a Joint Leaders' Statement on the Regional

Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) at the sidelines of the 11th East Asia Summit.

Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge), attended the 4th RCEP Ministerial Meeting on 5 August 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and the 2nd Inter-sessional RCEP Meeting on 3-4 November 2016 in Cebu, Philippines.



Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

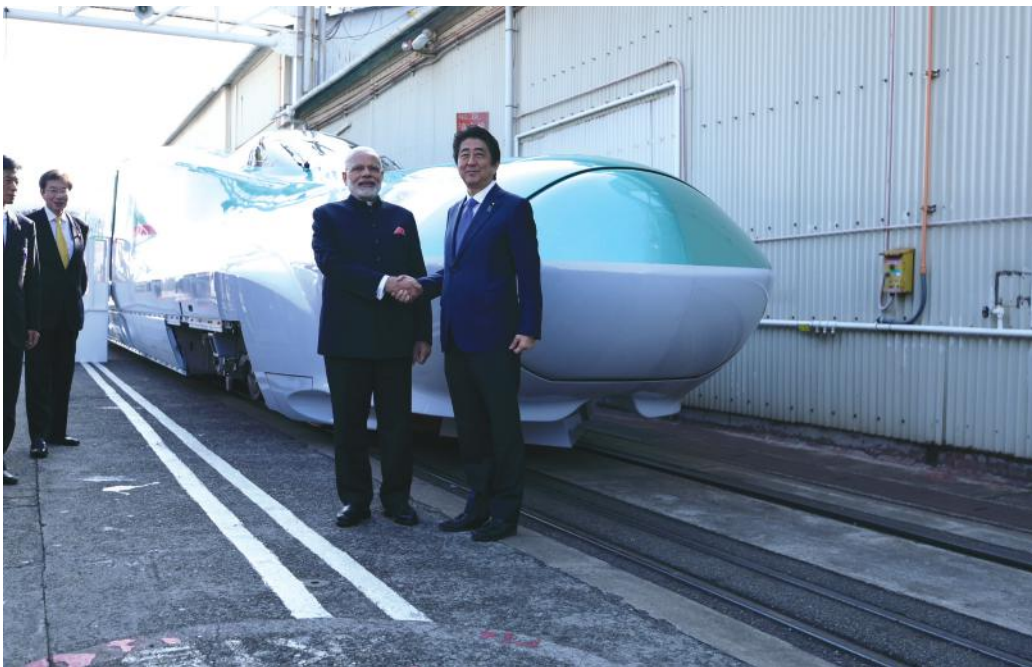
Bilateral relations between India and DPRK are cordial. Foreign Office Consultation was held in New Delhi on 26 April 2016 with Mr. Ri Gil Song, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs leading the DPRK side. The Indian side was led by Secretary (East). Mr. Kang Il Sop, Chairman (equivalent to Minister) of the State Commission for Emergency & Disaster Management of DPRK attended the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2-5 November 2016) in New Delhi.

India provided food assistance to DPRK worth US\$ 1 million in the form of soybeans through World Food Programme (WFP) in 2016. Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)

between India and DPRK for the years 2017-2020 is in the final draft stage.

Japan

The year 2016 witnessed intense bilateral engagement between India and Japan. This is visible in the large number of high level visits which culminated with the visit of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for the 11th Annual Summit (held since 2006) between the two countries, on 11 November 2016 in Tokyo. Ahead of the Annual Summit (which was the eighth meeting between the two Prime Ministers since 2014) the Prime Ministers had also met twice earlier this year on the sidelines of international fora, which convey the strong commitment between the two countries at the leadership level.



Prime Minister and Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan visits Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI) Plant in Kobe, 12 November 2016.

The mechanism of 'Annual Summits', which began in 2006, has provided a qualitative shift in India-Japan relations. The partnership has, over time, gained significant form and substance, both in breadth and depth, with political, defence and security cooperation; comprehensive economic partnership; science and technology; people to people contacts; and cooperation on multi-lateral and regional issues forming the pillars of a strong relationship between the two countries.

In terms of Ministerial visits, MoS (I/C) Power, Coal, NRE, Mines Shri Piyush Goyal visited Japan in January 2016 for 8th Energy Dialogue. The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda visited Japan in April 2016 to attend the Asian Health Ministers' Meeting on Anti-Microbial Resistance; Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan Mr. Hiroshi Hase visited India in May 2016; Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited Japan in May-June 2016; Defense Minister Gen Nakatani also visited India for the Annual Defense Ministers Dialogue in July 2016 and; Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Mr. Hiroshige Seko took part in Vibrant Gujrat in January 2017.

Further, the Chief Justice of India visited Japan in May 2016. National Security Advisor level consultations were held in Tokyo in July 2016 and in New Delhi in November 2016. A parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, President, Japan-India Parliamentarians' Friendship League (JIPFL), visited India in September 2016. Bilateral consultations between Foreign Secretary and Vice Foreign Minister were held in October 2016.

On the defence front, the two countries now have institutionalised wide ranging dialogue mechanism in place covering all three services. Japan is now a regular participant in the MALABAR Exercise (began originally as an Indo-US exercise). The latest edition of the Malabar Exercise was successfully held off-Sasebo, Japan in June 2016. The Second Joint Working Group Meeting on Defence Equipment & Technology Cooperation was held in August 2016 to explore two-way collaboration and technology cooperation, co-development and co-production, to identify specific items of co-operation.

The Joint Committee Meetings on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railways were held in February, May and October 2016. The Eighth Japan-India Strategic Dialogue

on Economic Issues was held in July 2016 and the Third India-Japan Financial Dialogue was held in September 2016. The Fifth India-Japan Dialogue on Africa to explore co-operation as well as synergy in the bilateral approaches such as the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) as well as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was held in Tokyo in November 2016. The First India-Japan Tourism Council Meeting was jointly organized by the Ministry of Tourism of India and Japan Tourism Agency in October 2016.

During the 11th Annual Summit the Prime Minister began the visit with a customary audience with the Emperor of Japan, followed by a meeting with prominent industrialists and members of the India-Japan Business Leaders Forum and an address at a business luncheon organized by Nippon Keidanren. The Prime Minister also received calls from the former Prime Minister Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Mr. Hiroshige Seko.

Prime Minister Shri Modi and Prime Minister Abe held wide ranging discussion on 11 November 2016. Following their meeting, the two Prime Ministers issued a Joint Statement and a Fact Sheet. A total of eleven documents covering the wide gamut of areas such as cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, manufacturing skill transfer programme, outer space, marine, earth and atmospheric science and technology, agriculture and food related industry, transport and urban development, textiles, cultural exchange and sports were concluded during the visit.

At the Annual Summit meeting, the two Prime Ministers undertook a comprehensive review of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership, as outlined in the "India and Japan Vision 2025" set forth on 12 December 2015. The conclusion of the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between India and Japan, during the visit of the Prime Minister, reflects the high degree of mutual trust and confidence between the two countries. The agreement enables Japan's participation in India's civil nuclear programme as well as help foster cooperation in basic and applied research regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear safety.

In December 2015, India and Japan signed the MoC on High Speed Railways (HSR) under which the Japanese Shinkansen

(bullet train) will be introduced in India for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. The two sides pledged to work together to commence the construction of the HSR segment by the end of 2018, and to operationalise the service in 2023. The two sides also agreed to work on the important area of human resource development in HSR technology, operation and maintenance in a planned manner, including the establishment of HSR Institute. As a symbol of the co-operation in HSR, at the recent visit, Prime Minister Shri Modi, accompanied by Prime Minister Abe, travelled from Tokyo to Kobe, on the Shinkansen, where they visited the Kawasaki Rolling Stock factory that hosts manufacturing facilities for the Shinkansen.

The two countries also stepped up co-operation on the human resource development in the manufacturing sector in India through “Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme”. This programme will enhance the manufacturing base of India and contribute to “Make in India” and “Skill India,” through training 30000 persons over the next 10 years in Japanese style manufacturing skills and practices through the establishment of the Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIM) and the Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in select engineering colleges in India. The first three JIMs under the Programme would start in 2017 in the States of Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

In order to further strengthen the opportunities for tourism, youth exchange and educational collaboration between the two countries, it was decided to mark the year 2017 as the Year of India-Japan Friendly Exchanges. The two countries also held their first bilateral High-Level Policy Dialogue on Education in July 2016. Considering the growing interest of Yoga in Japan, the first-ever Yoga Certification examination outside of India was conducted by the Quality Council of India in Tokyo in April 2016.

During the visit of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister to Japan in April 2016, a Letter of Intent was signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), Japan on Antimicrobial Resistance Research.

The following agreements were signed during the visit of Prime Minister to Japan:

- (i) Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy
 - (ii) MoC between the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship of India and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on the Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Program
 - (iii) MoU between ISRO and JAXA concerning Cooperation in the Field of Outer Space
 - (iv) MoU between Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and The Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) on Mutual Collaboration in Marine and Earth Science and Technology
 - (v) MoC between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of India and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan in the Field of Agriculture and Food Related Industry
 - (vi) MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited and Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development
 - (vii) MoU between Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, GoI and Japan Textiles Products Quality and Technology Centre (QTEC) in the Field of Textiles
 - (viii) MoC in the Field of Cultural Exchange between the Ministry of Culture of India and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
 - (ix) MoC on Cooperation in Sports between Ministry of Youth affairs & Sports of India and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
 - (x) MOU between the State Government of Gujarat and Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan
- Additionally,
- (xi) MoU between Central Silk Board of India and the Institute of Aerobiological Sciences, National Agriculture and Food Research Organisation, Japan for Collaborative Research in the Field of Silkworm and Silk Industries
 - (xii) MoU among New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan; Department of Economic Affairs of India; Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare of India; and All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) concerning the demonstration project for ICT based green hospital at AIIMS in Delhi were also signed in November 2016.

Mongolia

During the year, India's relations with Mongolia progressed steadily. A number of bilateral and multilateral visits have been exchanged at various levels and these visits had addressed mutual interests in a range of spheres. These visits, meetings and activities in political, economic, defence, border patrolling, cultural, developmental assistance and educational and other related spheres of mutual interest have further contributed to the enhancement of bilateral cooperation.

Smt Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha led the Indian delegation of Parliamentarians to Ulaanbaatar from 18-22 April 2016 for the participation in the 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership. During the visit, Speaker Smt. Mahajan took part in the commissioning ceremony of the Bhabhatron II cancer therapy equipment to the National

Cancer Center of Mongolia by the Government of India.

Shri Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India led the Indian delegation to the 11th ASEM Summit from 14-16 July 2016. During the visit, Shri Ansari held bilateral meetings with Mr. Ts.Elbgdorj, President of Mongolia, Speaker of Mongolian State Great Khural Mr. M. Enkhbold and Prime Minister of Mongolia Mr. J.Erdenebat.

Mr. L. Purevsuren, Foreign Minister visited India from 27-29 April 2016 for participation in the 5th Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee for Cooperation and held talks with MOS Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd).

Mr. U. Khurelsukh, Deputy Prime Minister, led the Mongolian delegation to the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi held from 2-5 November 2016. During the visit, he held bilateral meeting with Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister.

Mr. G. Munkhbayar, Minister of Construction & Urban Development of Mongolia participated in the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development



The Prime Minister of Mongolia calling on the Vice President on the sidelines of the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15 July 2016.

(APMCHUD) in New Delhi from 14-16 December 2016.

Mr. G.Nandinjargal, State Secretary in the Ministry of Mining & Heavy Industry, led a Mongolian delegation to “Petrotech 2016” in New Delhi from 5-7 December 2016.

Eighth Joint Working Group meeting for Defense Cooperation was held in Delhi on 14 December 2016. India-Mongolia Joint Training Exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant’ was successfully held in May 2016 in Mongolia. India also participated in the multilateral military exercises ‘Khan Quest’ in Mongolia (May-June 2016). 4 out of 14 ITEC slots have been so far utilized in the field of defense.

First meeting of Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for Border Guarding, Policing and Surveillance issues was held in Ulaanbaatar (21-23 December 2016). The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (BM), MHA and State Secretary in the Ministry of Justice & Interior Affairs of Mongolia. Prior to this meeting, fresh round of training of Border Security Forces (BSF) and General Authority of Border Patrolling of Mongolia (GABP) was held in Mongolia in which two groups of BSF officers participated in training, joint patrolling and surveillance (8-21 August 2016).

Second Foreign Office Consultations were held in Ulaanbaatar on 23 December 2016 at the level of Joint Secretary.

International Cooperation

Mongolia has consistently supported India’s candidatures during the year. It includes public support to our permanent membership of UNSC and mutual support to next candidature for non-permanent membership.

Development & Project Assistance

A general Agreement between EXIM Bank and Ministry of Finance of Mongolia was signed on 28 April 2016 in New Delhi on utilisation of US\$1 billion soft credit (LOC) announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his historic visit to Mongolia in May 2015.

Six facilities for vocational training have been successfully upgraded in two phases in 2015-16 with a total cost of US\$ 2.84 million in Rajiv Gandhi Polytechnic College for Production and Art (RGPCPA) in Ulaanbaatar.

WAPCOS has been chosen as consultant for the construction of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Center for Excellence in ICT and

Outsourcing in Ulaanbaatar against the soft loan of US\$ 20 million offered by Government of India.

For the year 2016-17, out of the 200 ITEC slots allotted to Mongolia, 92 slots have so far utilized. Mongolia has been offered 40 slots (20 slots each under Aid to Mongolia and General Cultural Scholarship Scheme). 13 candidates got acceptances from various universities in India.

Trade & Economic Cooperation

Business delegations from Mongolia participated in over 6 business events in different cities of India. Some of them included INDIASOFT (10-11 March 2016) in Mumbai; Advantage Healthcare India (3-5 October 2016) in Noida; FICCI Higher Education Summit (10-12 November 2016).

Cultural Cooperation

The Second International Day of Yoga was successfully organized by the Mission. More than 200 yoga enthusiasts participated in the event on 21 June 2016.

The ICCR has sponsored the organization of an International Conference in Ulaanbaatar (27-28 September 2016) jointly with Mongolian Foreign Ministry on “Chinggis Khaan, His Legacy and Indian Culture”. A 20 member Indian delegation of scholars on Mongolian studies led by President of ICCR participated in the event which was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia.

ICCR has donated 12 sets of Kanjurs (Urga & Narthang) to over 13 Mongolian academic institutions and Buddhist Monasteries.

A Mongolian group of handicrafts makers and performing arts participated in the Suraj Kund International Fair in February 2017.

Republic of Korea (ROK)

The bilateral relations, elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership in 2015 during the visit of Prime Minister to ROK, gained further momentum with several follow up visits and implementation of decisions taken during the Prime Minister’s visit.

To leverage ROK’s institutional and technological advancements in shipbuilding sector and maritime logistics, ROK was invited as the partner country for the first Maritime India Summit held in Mumbai on 14-16 April 2016. Minister

of Oceans and Fisheries Kim Young-suk led the Korean delegation, as Special Envoy of President Park Geun-hye, to the Summit. The 150 plus strong Korean delegation included representatives from over 50 companies, associations and institutions dealing with ship building, maritime logistics and others.

Shri T.S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India visited ROK during 15-18 May 2016 accompanied by two Supreme Court judges and Attorney General of India for the 2016 Incheon Trade Law Forum organized by UNCITRAL Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific. During the visit, the Chief Justice also had a meeting with Yang Sung-tae, Chief Justice of Korea and discussed cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries.

Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited ROK on 16-17 May 2016 and had meetings with Yun Byung-se, Foreign Minister; Lim Sung-nam, Vice Foreign Minister and Choi Jung-moon, Deputy Foreign Minister. Foreign Secretary and the Korean Foreign Minister undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and status of implementation of various decisions taken during the summit meeting between Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Park.

As mandated by the leadership, the Joint Committee meeting to review the India-ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was held in New Delhi on 18 June 2016. It was co-chaired by India's MoS for Commerce & Industry (I/C) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Mr. Joo Hyung-hwan, Minister of Trade, Industry & Energy from ROK. The two ministers also launched 'Korea Plus', a special investment facilitation cell to provide hand holding services to Korean companies on their investment plans in India. As a follow up measure, a similar launch event for 'Korea Plus' was organised in Seoul on 9 November 2016 to introduce the investment facilitation team to Korean businessmen, which was attended by over 200 business representatives from 150 companies. Joint Secretary (ITP), MEA, Director General of Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy of ROK, President & CEO of Hyundai Motor Company and CEO of Invest India also participated at the event. Separately, 50 business meetings were also organised for interested Korean companies to explore market opportunities in India with the visiting 'Korea Plus' team.

In addition, the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) held a Road show in Seoul on 10 June

2016 to showcase trade potential in gems & jewellery sector and invited Korean importers to participate in the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) in August 2016 in Mumbai. Over 50 Korean businessmen related to gems & jewellery sectors and importers attended the IIJS.

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker, Lok Sabha led a parliamentary delegation to South Korea from 29 September-2 October 2016. During the visit, the Speaker had meeting with Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea and Park Geun Hye, President of Korea and discussed various aspects of bilateral issues between the two countries. Acknowledging the historical connection between the two countries, the Speaker visited Gimhae to pay tribute at the tombs of King Kim Suro and Queen Heo Hwang-ok, who came to Korea in AD 48 from Ayodhya as Princess Suriratna and married King Suro. The Speaker also paid tribute at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Hongbeopsa Temple in Busan on the day of Gandhi Jayanti.

Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary (D&ISA), MEA visited Busan, South Korea on 17-19 October 2016 to participate in the 30th MTCR Plenary meeting. This was the first time India participated at the MTCR plenary meeting since formally joining the organisation as a member in June 2016.

A roadshow on Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017 was organised in South Korea on 20 October 2016, which showcased investment opportunities for Korean businessmen in the state of Gujarat. Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supply & Consumer Affairs of State Government of Gujarat led the Indian delegation for the event.

The two countries also held the first round of negotiations to upgrade the India-ROK CEPA on 27-28 October 2016 in Seoul. The two sides discussed and adopted a work plan, which includes three working groups: goods and market access, services and investment, and SPS/TBT issues, to carry forward the negotiations. It was also agreed to hold the next round of negotiations in the first quarter of 2017 in New Delhi.

On the academic side, both countries organised the 15th India-Korea Dialogue, a track 1.5 dialogue mechanism, on 18-19 November 2016 in Seoul. The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs (SFIA) organised the event under the theme "The Korea-India Special Strategic

Partnership: Responding to Emerging Global and Regional Challenges”. The one and half day Dialogue session brought together leading policy makers, academics, defense and security analysts, as well as private organisations from both countries and deliberated on various challenges and opportunities for the two countries. The participants outlined potential areas for cooperation and also suggested policy recommendations and measures for further enhancing strategic partnership between the two countries.

The defence and security relationship between the two countries was further strengthened in 2016 with visits and exchanges, including study tours from National Defence College in May 2016 and Higher Defence Management Course from the College of Defence Management in October 2016. Another notable achievement was enhanced cooperation between Centre for UN Peace Keeping Operation (CUNPKO), New Delhi and Korea International Peace Operations Centre (KIPOCENT) through exchange of delegations i.e. to ROK in July 2016 and a return visit to India in January 2017.

On the cultural side, the second edition of annual Festival of India in ROK – ‘Sarang’ was organised from 1 September-9 October 2016 in various parts of ROK. The festival showcased diverse Indian art forms such as music, dance (both classical & contemporary), visual arts, films, cuisine and yoga. The

festival attracted high participation across age groups and contributed to cultural promotion between the two countries.

A delegation from the state of Telangana led by Minister of IT, Industries and Urban Administration Mr. K.T. Rama Rao is scheduled to visit ROK from 18-21 January 2017. During the visit, the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea will host an investment promotion seminar with several key companies and businesses for the visiting delegation, in addition to arranging meetings with businesses to explore investment opportunities.

Former Vice Minister for Defence and congressmen Baek Seong-Joo and his wife are expected to visit India under the Distinguished Visitors Programme of the Ministry from 29 January 2017-4 February 2017. During the visit, Mr. Baek is expected to have wide ranging discussions with government officials, think-tanks, public sector units, and private organisations.

Minister of Defence Acquisition Program Administration of Korea Mr. Chang Myoung-jin is expected to visit India in mid-February 2017 to review ongoing defence industry cooperation between the two countries.

■■

Russian Federation

On the sidelines of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) Annual Summit in Goa on 15 October 2016, Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Putin discussed a wide range of issues related to bilateral, regional and international developments. They witnessed the conclusion of 19 documents reflecting the wide range of cooperation in sectors such as defence, space, information security, foreign policy, trade & investment, hydrocarbons, shipbuilding, railways, and science and technology. A Joint Statement “Partnership for Global Peace and Stability” and a Road Map to commemorate 70 years of India-Russia diplomatic relations too were adopted.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj participated in the 14th Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Moscow and also exchanged views with her Russian and Chinese counterparts Mr. Sergey Lavrov and Mr. Wang Yi on regional and international issues.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Dmitry Rogozin visited India in August, September and October 2016. In September, he co-chaired the 22nd session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation in New Delhi with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Taking into account the role of banks in enhancing commercial activities, the Sub-Group on Banking and Financial Matters was elevated into the Working Group, and its scope was broadened to include additional issues such as cooperation in the insurance sphere.

During his visits to India, Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin also held consultations with National Security Advisor (NSA) Mr. Ajit Doval. Secretary of the Russian Security Council, Mr. Nikolai Patrushev visited India in September 2016 and met NSA.

The 16th India-Russia Inter- Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) was held in New Delhi in October 2016, which was co-chaired by



Prime Minister meeting the President of Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin ahead of the restricted talks, in Goa on 15 October 2016.

Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar and the Russian Defence Minister Mr. Sergei Shoigu. They underlined the need to expand training, joint exercises and institutionalized interactions between the Armed Forces of both countries. The Indian Air Force Chief visited Russia from 24-29 October 2016. Earlier, the militaries of the two countries held their 8th joint military exercises 'INDRA 2016' in Russia's Far East. The 9th Edition of the India-Russia annual bilateral naval exercise 'INDRA-Navy' took place in Vishakhapatnam on 14-21 December 2016. An Indian contingent including observers participated in the Tank Biathlon (International Army Games) in Russia. Delegations from Higher Command, National Defence College (May-June 2016), and NCC also visited Russia. Minister of State for Defence participated in the 5th Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS) in April 2016.

Foreign Secretary Dr. S Jaishankar received his counterpart the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Titov in New Delhi on 7 October 2016 and held annual Foreign Office Consultations.

Business to business interactions witnessed enhanced exchanges between business representatives of the two countries, including the CEO level interaction at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum [SPIEF] (16-18 June 2016) which saw participation by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Eastern Economic Forum (2-3 September 2016). As the partner country at the International Industrial Exhibition INNOPROM (11-14 July 2016), India was represented by a very high level delegation led by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry along with Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. This was followed by a return visit by the Russian Minister for Trade and Industry Mr. Denis Manturov, who led a comprehensive business delegation to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and New Delhi from 11-14 October 2016. For smooth facilitation of goods through real-time pre-arrival exchange of information based on customs export declarations, India and Russia signed the technical specification document to realise the 'Green Corridor' project, the implementation of which would enhance the bilateral trade.

On Space Cooperation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during the Annual Summit in October 2016 for setting up of ground stations in each other's territories to enhance the usefulness of the respective navigation satellite

constellations of GLONASS and NavIC. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India and the Federal Agency for Scientific Organization (FASO) concluded an MoU on further development of bilateral interaction in scientific and technical sphere and in the field of innovations. The Russian Academia actively participated in the programme of academic mobility launched by the Government of India the Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN). Similarly, the cooperation under the Network of Russian and Indian Universities (RIN) also progressed satisfactorily, where the RIN members from the Russian side availed project funding from DST.

A 36 member Russian delegation visited various places in India from 17-26 November 2016 under the aegis of the Youth Exchange Programme 2016-2018. An MoU was signed on 18 November 2016 in this regard. Film Festivals were held in Moscow and Mumbai in 2016, and it was agreed to cooperate in the field of joint cinema production. Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Putin agreed to celebrate 2018 as 'Year of Tourism between India and Russia'. They called for grand celebrations in 2017 to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia and to mark the 50th anniversary of establishment of Sister-City relationship between Mumbai and St. Petersburg, with year-long celebrations in 2017.

A Russian delegation led by Russian President's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Mr. Zamir Kabulov participated in the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in Amritsar on 4 December 2016.

Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin visited India on 9-11 January 2017 to attend the 'Vibrant Gujarat' Summit. He led a delegation of more than 100, including senior functionaries from the government, and businesses.

Minister of State for Railways, Shri Rajen Gohain visited Russia on 20-25 January 2017. National Security Adviser, Mr. Ajit Doval visited Russia on 30-31 January 2017. Foreign Office Consultations between Indian and Russia on Countering Terrorism (JWG on Counter-Terrorism) took place in January 2017 in Delhi. Consultations on Issues Concerning Diplomatic Property is expected to take place in Moscow in February 2017. The Russia-India-China Trilateral Ministerial Meeting is expected to take place in India in March 2017. The India-Russia Conference on Military-Technical Issues is expected to take place in India in March 2017. Russia is participating as a partner country in International Engineering Sourcing Show to be held in India in March 2017.

Armenia

Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju visited Yerevan on 12 November 2016 when he met Foreign Minister Nalbandian.

The Seventh Session of India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC) and Eight India-Armenia Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), were held in Yerevan on 1 April 2016. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) and Mr. Robert Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia co-Chaired the meetings.

A protocol of S&T cooperation was signed between Ministry of Science and Technology of India and Ministry of Education & Science of Armenia.

A four member delegation led by Secretary, Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, visited Yerevan from 13-15 October 2016 to participate in the first India-Armenia Joint Working Group Meeting on cooperation in the field of Agriculture.

A 14-member delegation of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Chennai chapter, paid a three-day visit to Armenia from 28-30 September 2016.

Azerbaijan

Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Minister of Emergency Situations of Republic of Azerbaijan led an official delegation to participate in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held at New Delhi from 2-5 November 2016.

Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) visited Baku on 28 July 2016 to hold the Foreign Office Consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov.

The 4th Meeting of the India- Azerbaijan Inter-governmental Commission was held in Baku on 25-26 October 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary (FT-CIS), Department of Commerce.

India Tourism Office, Frankfurt participated in the 15th Azerbaijan International Tourism and Travel Fair held in Baku Expo Centre on 7-9 April 2016. India Tourism Office Frankfurt also participated in the 7th LUXE & MICE Travel Show was held in Baku on 16 September 2016.

The first meeting of India-Azerbaijan Joint Working Group (JWG) on cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) was held on 8 November 2016 through video conferencing.

Indian companies participated in the 22nd Azerbaijan International Food Industry Exhibition & 10th Azerbaijan International Agriculture Exhibition, World Food Azerbaijan 2016 which was held at the Baku Expo Centre from 19-21 May 2016. ANM Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd., a premier organisation from India, organized the Indian Exhibition from 2-25 September 2016 at Amay Shopping Centre, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Belarus

The first interaction between Prime Minister Shri Modi and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko took place on 24 June 2016 on the sidelines of the 15th SCO Summit of Heads of State in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Prime Minister in a bilateral meeting with the President of Belarus, Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 24 June 2016.

Mr. Mikhail Myasnikovich, Chairman, Council (Upper House) of the National Assembly and responsible for overseeing India-Belarus bilateral relations, visited India in May 2016.

Deputy Health Minister Mr. Valery Shevchuk, visited Mumbai to attend IPHEX 2016 from 22-24 April 2016. He held meetings with prominent Indian pharmaceutical companies in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

Ms Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), visited Minsk from 21-23 Nov 2016 to co-chair the 5th Meeting of India-Belarus Foreign Office Consultations (FoC). An India-Belarus Business Forum was also organised in Minsk on the sidelines of the FoC.

The first meeting of India-Belarus Joint Working Group on Textile was held in New Delhi on 11 May 2016. The 8th Session of the India-Belarus Joint Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 23-24 May 2016. The 8th meeting of India-Belarus Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation was held in Hyderabad in April 2016. Belarus participated as a focus country in IITF 2016 in New Delhi. The 10th meeting of India-Belarus Joint Business Council was held on 15 Nov 2016 in New Delhi.

A Pharmexil delegation consisting of 32 representatives of Indian pharmaceutical companies visited Minsk during 28 February-1 March 2016. The program in Minsk included business-to-business meetings with Belarusian pharmaceutical companies attended by over 60 representatives of over 40 Belarusian companies. With the support of Ministry of Commerce, ASSOCHAM participated as a focus country at XXIII Belarus Medica 2016 in Minsk (22-25 March 2016) with 48 Indian companies representing pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and diagnostics, and healthcare sectors.

An ICCR sponsored 8-member 'Kalbelia' Folkdance Group from Rajasthan visited Belarus and gave performances to packed halls in Minsk and Molodechno on 30-31 August 2016 respectively.

Georgia

Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju paid a three day bilateral visit to Georgia on 9-11 November 2016. A bilateral memorandum of intent to enhance cooperation in Civil Aviation was signed during the visit.

The Second Session of India-Georgia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC) and Fourth India-Georgia Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), were held in Tbilisi on 25-26 July 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) and the Georgian side by Mr. David Jalagania, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A five member delegation from Election Commission from India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) visited Election Commission of Georgia in June 2016 for conducting a training programme. A two member delegation, including Deputy Election Commissioner, from Election Commission of India visited Tbilisi to observe the Parliamentary Elections held on 8 October 2016.

Gandhi Foundation, Georgia organized a conference on Peace and Non-violence in Tbilisi from 25-26 July 2016.

Kazakhstan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev briefly met on the sidelines of 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on 1 April 2016 and later again on the margins of SCO Summit in Tashkent on 24 June 2016. They also had telephonic conversation on 14 June 2016.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visited Kazakhstan on 9-10 July 2016 when he met Mayor of Astana Mr. Asset Issekeshveto and forged cooperation links between Astana and Amaravati.

Mr. Yuriy Viktorovich Ilin, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan attended the AMCDRR Conference held in New Delhi from 2-5 November 2016. Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Akylbek Kamaldinov attended the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Ministerial Conference at Amritsar on 4 December 2016.

The first India-Kazakhstan counter terrorism Joint Exercise "Prabal Dostyk" was held in September 2016. Indian mobile training teams conducted training for Kazakh Armed Forces in mountain warfare in September 2016 and UN Peacekeeping Operations in December 2016. An Indian contingent participated in the international army games held in Kazakhstan in August 2016.

India supported Kazakhstan's successful bid for non-permanent membership of United Nation Security Council for 2017-18 at election held in June 2016. India signed the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on 14 September 2016. Ambassador Gong Jianwei, Executive Director, CICA participated in the Sixth Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference at Amritsar.

The first consignment of 1000 tons of natural uranium reached India in April 2016 under the new five year contract signed in July 2015.

The 5th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held on 22-23 December 2016 in New Delhi and the first Institutional Meeting of India-Kazakhstan Joint Business Council was held on 19 May 2016 in Astana. A wide range of business delegations led by ASSOCHAM, FICCI, CII, Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council, Tea Board of India and PHARMEXCIL visited Kazakhstan.

India Tourism Office participated in the 16th Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair from 20-22 April 2016 in Almaty and "Astana Leisure 2016" from 29 September-1 October 2016.

In a first of its kind, an 18-member Indian Cinema team visited Kazakhstan from 18-26 May 2016 to shoot parts of a Telegu film. This was followed by a visit by Khushi Motion Pictures, Mumbai from 29 October-11 November 2016 to shoot for a Bollywood movie at select locations in Kazakhstan.

Nine major Kazakh Pharma companies participated in the International Exhibition for Pharma and Healthcare 'IPHEX 2016' in Mumbai from 27-29 April 2016, three Kazakh companies participated in the 'Source India-2016' Buyer-Seller Meet on Man-Made Fibres organized by the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) in Surat on 13-14 August 2016, and three representatives from top universities in Kazakhstan participated in the 12th FICCI Higher Education Summit from 10-12 November 2016.

Kyrgyz Republic

The spotlight of the India-Kyrgyz bilateral relations was the first State visit of the President Mr. Almazbek Atambaev of Kyrgyz Republic to India from 18-21 December 2016. During the visit, a Joint Statement was issued and MoUs were signed on cooperation in agriculture, tourism, broadcasting, diplomatic training, youth development and exchanges between our NCC and the Military Lyceum of Kyrgyzstan. President Atambaev also participated in the India-Kyrgyz Republic Business Forum.



*Prime Minister and Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev,
President of Kyrgyz Republic at the Joint Press Interaction in New Delhi, 20 December 2016.*

MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar visited Kyrgyzstan to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) Meeting held in Bishkek on 2-3 November 2016. He also called on the Prime Minister and met with the Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev visited India on 2-5 December 2016 to participate in the 6th Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference held in Amritsar on 4 December 2016. He also had a bilateral Meeting with MoS Shri M.J. Akbar on 2 December 2016 in New Delhi.

Foreign Office Consultations with the Kyrgyz Republic were held in Bishkek on 28 April 2016. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), led the Indian delegation. Mr. Azamat Usenov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic headed the Kyrgyz side at the consultations.

Eighth session of Intergovernmental Joint Commission was held in Bishkek on 28 November 2016. The Indian side was led by Ms. Rita Teotia, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Kyrgyz side was led by Deputy Minister for Health Mr. Amangeldy Murzaliev.

Two IT centers have been established during the year at the Kyrgyz Military Institutions. The “Khanjar” series of India-Kyrgyzstan military exercises became an annual event. “Khanjar III” was held in March-April 2016 in Gwalior, India. The “Khanjar-IV” exercises are scheduled to be held in

Kyrgyzstan in February-March 2017. The third Joint India-Kyrgyz Army Mountaineering Expedition was conducted in August-September 2016. A joint team comprising 19 officers and soldiers climbed JOGIN-III peak at a height of 6113 metres above sea level in the Central Himalayas in India. Second Phase Laboratory at the Suck High Pass was successfully constructed and tests were conducted in November and December this year.

Dr. S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, MD, National Horticulture Board visited Kyrgyzstan on 11-13 November 2016 to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture.

Festival of India in Bishkek was held in October 2016. Earlier, the Indian epic Mahabharat was staged by the Kyrgyz Drama Theatre in Kyrgyz language.

Tajikistan

Bilateral relations were marked by the State visit of President Emomali Rahmon to India from 14-18 December 2016 and, earlier, the meeting between him and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 24 June 2016 in Tashkent on the sidelines of SCO Summit. Shri M.J Akbar, MoS for External Affairs called on Prime Minister of Tajikistan Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda on the sidelines of the SCO HOGs Summit in Bishkek in November 2016.



President and the Prime Minister with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rahmon at the ceremonial welcome, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on 17 December 2016.

During the State Visit of President Rahmon in December 2016, a joint statement was issued and three documents covering cooperation in broadcasting, financial intelligence and double taxation were signed.

Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), visited Tajikistan from 15-18 November 2016 for holding Foreign Office Consultations with First Deputy Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi.

Vice-Chief of Air Staff Air Marshall B.S Dhanoa visited Tajikistan from 1-4 November 2016 for meeting of Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation. Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of Tajikistan attended Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi from 2-5 November 2016. First Deputy Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi visited India for participating in 6th Heart of Asia Istanbul Process Conference in Amritsar from 3-4 December 2016. As part of development cooperation, India set up computer labs in 37 schools of Tajikistan during the year.

Turkmenistan

Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan visited Amritsar on 4 December 2016 to attend the 6th Ministerial Conference on “Heart of Asia-

Istanbul Process”. On the sidelines of the Conference he had a bilateral meeting with Shri M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Vepa Hajiyev led a delegation to New Delhi from 17-18 March 2016 for the Foreign Office Consultations with Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West).

Defence Minister Colonel General Yaylym Berdiev visited New Delhi from 16-17 February 2016. Col. Yusup Muhammetgulyyev, Deputy Minister of Defence of Turkmenistan participated in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) which took place on 3-5 November 2016 in New Delhi. Chief of Air Force of Turkmenistan visited India in July 2016. Two member naval delegation of Turkmenistan, headed by Deputy Chief of Naval forces participated in the International Fleet Review 2016 event from 3-9 February 2016 at Vishakhapatnam. A two member Turkmen delegation attended the DefExpo at Goa from 27-30 March 2016. A tailor made course on Counter Terrorism for 20 personnel of Turkmenistan Land Forces is planned in January 2017.

Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, Minister of State for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways led a three member delegation for the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Ashgabat on 26-27 November 2016.



M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs meets Rasit Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan on the sidelines of the 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Amritsar, 4 December 2016.

Corporate hospitals like Apollo, Max, Medanta and several Pharma companies participated in the Annual International Exhibition on Health in July 2016. Indian companies also participated at the International Turkmen Horse Exhibition. In connection with the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, a delegation from Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Home Affairs visited Ashgabat in May 2016 to explore opportunities to participate in the conduct of Games.

Ukraine

The bilateral visit of Shri Anant G. Geete, Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises to Ukraine from 9-12 November 2016 at the invitation of Mr. Stepan Kubiv, First Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine focused on further strengthening the existing cooperation in different areas, including pharmaceutical, agriculture, infrastructure, energy, machinery, chemical industry and strategic enterprises. Shri Geete also visited Antanov Plant in Kyiv and Zorya plant in Nikolayev.

The first ever round table conference on India was organised in the Parliament of Ukraine on 16 September 2016.

Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) visited Kyiv on 15-16 June 2016 for bilateral consultations.

The third meeting of the Ukraine-India working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation under the aegis of Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) was held in Kyiv on 5-6 May 2016. A senior Advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture of Government of India came to participate in the First International Conference “Pulses: Focusing at Maximum Efficiency” held in Kyiv on 17 November 2016.

The 16th Edition of All Ukrainian Dance Festival of Indian dances was organised on 1-2 October 2016 in Kyiv in which nearly 350 artistes from all over Ukraine participated. A renowned Kathak dancer, Ms. Richa Jain, came with ICCR’s sponsorship as the main judge for the competition held in this dance festival.

Uzbekistan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Uzbekistan on 23-24 June 2016 to attend SCO Heads of State Summit when he also had bilateral meeting with President Mr. Islam Karimov.



Prime Minister being received by Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan on his arrival in Tashkent, 23 June 2016.

Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS, visited Uzbekistan from 30 October-1 November 2016 as special envoy of the Prime Minister to offer condolences on passing away of Uzbek President Islam Karimov. He also held bilateral meeting with Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), visited Tashkent for Foreign Office Consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Gayrat Fazilov on 26 April 2016.

The Meeting of the JWG on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 10 August 2016.

Government of India Tourist Office, Frankfurt, participated in the Tashkent International Tourism Fair held at Tashkent during 5-7 October 2016. A number of Indian business delegations from ASSOCHAM, Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI), Council of Leather Exports, ITPO, FIEO etc. visited Uzbekistan during 2016 either for exploring business opportunities or to participate in various exhibitions/fairs.



Gulf

India has civilisational links and overarching relationships with the countries in the Gulf region which are in its extended neighborhood. Our bilateral friendly ties with the GCC countries are deep-rooted in a shared history and have been constantly nourished through growing multidimensional cooperation and vibrant people-to-people engagement. The GCC region remains a top priority region for us, being one of the our largest trading partners with bilateral trade over US\$ 97 billion in 2015-16; major source of our crude oil and gas requirements; host to the over 8.5 million strong and growing Indian expatriate community; and source of about US\$ 35 billion annual remittances.

The period witnessed intense political engagement with the countries in the region. Among the key high-level political interactions was the visit of His Highness Crown Prince of

Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to India in February 2016 which cemented our strategic partnership. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a highly successful visit to Saudi Arabia on 2-3 April 2016 at the invitation of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This was followed by his visit to Qatar on 4-5 June 2016. Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani paid an official visit to India on 2-3 December 2016.

Bahrain

The expanding bilateral ties between India and Bahrain were further cemented by a number of bilateral visits and meetings during the year. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Bahrain on 23-24 January 2016 to co-chair the First India Arab League Ministerial meeting. An Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed between India and Bahrain.



External Affairs Minister with King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain during her visit to Bahrain, 23 January 2016.

Bahrain Industry, Commerce & Tourism Minister Mr. Zayed Rashid Al Zayani visited India from 25-26 May 2016 to attend the IISS Bahrain-India Forum.

At the invitation of Bahraini Interior Minister Lt. General Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh paid an official visit to Bahrain on 23-25 October 2016. During the visit the two sides agreed to effectively implement the agreement signed during the visit of Interior Minister of Bahrain to India in December 2015 on cooperation in combating terrorism, and in this regard established a Joint Steering Committee which held its first meeting on the sidelines of the visit.

The fourth round of India-Bahrain Foreign Office Consultations was held on 14 November 2016 in Bahrain.

The second round of Institutional Dialogue at Deputy National Security Advisor level between India and Bahrain took place on 20 October 2016 in New Delhi. Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Karambir Singh and Joint Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs participated in the annual regional security conference “Manama Dialogue” held in Manama from 9-11 December 2016. For the first time, indigenously produced light combat aircraft Tejas flew outside Indian airspace at the Bahrain International Air show held at the Sakhir airbase, Manama from 21-23 January 2016.

Gen (Retd) Dr V. K. Singh, MoS for External Affairs paid

an official visit to Bahrain on 13-14 January 2017 to discuss issues related to welfare of Indian community in Bahrain.

Iran

The year 2016-17 witnessed enhanced bilateral exchanges at all levels between India and Iran, strengthening the bilateral relations which are rooted in history and are based on our close cultural affinities. The most important among them was the visit of Prime Minister to Iran where deliberations between the two sides guided preparation of a roadmap for expanding and strengthening bilateral cooperation and cementing our close civilisational ties in the contemporary context on the basis of shared interest. Prior to that on 16-17 April 2016, EAM had called on President Dr. Hassan Rouhani, held delegation level talks with her counterpart Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif and met Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, Senior Advisor to the Supreme Leader on International Affairs. Earlier on 8-10 April 2016, Minister of State (MoS) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, accompanied by representatives of Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC), Indian Oil Company Limited (IOCL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), visited Iran. During the visit Minister Pradhan met his counterpart Mr. Bijan Zanganeh, Iranian Minister for Petroleum, Valiollah Seif, Governor of Central Bank of Iran and Mr. Akbar Torkan, Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Zones of Iran.



Prime Minister and President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani at the Ceremonial Reception in Tehran, 23 May 2016.

At the invitation of the Iranian President, the Prime Minister paid a state visit to Iran from 22-23 May 2016 which was the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Iran in 15 years. This was also the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Iran after lifting of international sanctions against Iran in January 2016. The Prime Minister called on the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and held discussions with President Hassan Rouhani under both restricted and expanded formats. The discussions focused mainly on connectivity and infrastructure, energy partnership, boosting bilateral trade, promoting regular consultations on peace and stability particularly in our region and extended neighbourhood, and encouraging people-to-people contacts and relations between the two countries. After the talks, PM and President Rouhani witnessed the signing of twelve cooperation documents covering the spheres of cooperation in development of Chabahar Port, cultural relations, cooperation in Science & Technology, investments as well as exchanges between the foreign offices in policy dialogue. A Joint Statement titled, “India-Iran Joint Statement – Civilizational Connect, Contemporary Context” was also issued.

A major highlight of the visit was the signing of the Trilateral Agreement on Transit and Transport between India, Iran and Afghanistan in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Modi, President Rouhani and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. The route will significantly enhance prospects for India’s connectivity with Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond through synergies with other initiatives touching the region such as North-South transport corridor. The Agreement has now been ratified by the Indian Government.

The Iranian side welcomed the intention of the of Indian side in setting up plants in sectors such as fertilisers, petrochemicals and metallurgy in Chabahar Free Trade Zone (FTZ) on terms mutually beneficial to the concerned parties. It was decided to establish a Bilateral Ministerial Task Force to guide the process to utilize mutual complementarities between India and Iran in the context of connectivity and Chabahar FTZ. The Task Force could also examine enhancement of Iranian investments in India.

The Chabahar contract was signed during the visit of PM to Iran on 23 May 2016 in Tehran between India Ports Global Pvt. Ltd. (IPGPL) and Arya Banader. Out of the US\$ 90 million, US\$ 15.1 million have been released to IPGPL.

During the visit of the Prime Minister to Japan in November

2016, India and Japan welcomed the prospects of cooperation between the two countries for promoting peace and prosperity in South Asia and neighboring region, such as Iran and Afghanistan, through both bilateral and trilateral cooperation, inter-alia, in the development of infrastructure and connectivity for Chabahar.

On 10-12 September 2016, MoS for External Affairs Shri M J Akbar visited Tehran and had meetings with the Foreign Minister Dr Javed Zarif, Minister for Roads and Urban Development Dr. Abbas Ahmad Akhouni, and Senior Advisor to Supreme Leader Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati. The Minister also paid respects at the Imam Khomeini Shrine.

From the Iranian side, Dr. Abbas Akhouni, Minister of Roads and Urban Development visited India from 27-30 September 2016 and met his counterpart Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari and Afghan Transport and Civil Aviation Minister Mr. Mohammadullah Batash. Earlier, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of Supreme National Security Council had visited India on 26-27 August 2016. During the visit, Admiral Shamkhani called on Prime Minister Shri Modi and met his counterpart NSA Mr. Ajit Doval.

To showcase the potential of Chabahar for regional connectivity an event took place in February 2017 with participation of Governments, industry and experts from Afghanistan, India, Iran and few other countries.

As per the discussions held among the Transport Ministers of India, Iran and Afghanistan in September 2016, it was decided to organize an event at Chabahar, Iran. This event was held in the first week of February. The next round of Trilateral Meeting of Experts to discuss the further steps towards implementation of the Agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor among India, Iran and Afghanistan signed during PM’s visit to Iran in May 2016, is also likely to take place in the first quarter of this year.

Iraq

India’s historic, close and multifaceted relations with Iraq were provided further impetus during the year. Continuing to be the second-largest supplier of crude oil for us, Iraq remains a reliable partner in our quest for energy security. India continued to support Iraq in its war against terror.

Despite the volatile security situation in Iraq after occupation of large areas of its territories by the ISIS in June 2014, India

not only continues to maintain its Mission in Baghdad to engage closely with the Government of Iraq, diplomatic engagement with Iraq was furthered strengthened by establishing a Consulate General office in Erbil on 14 August 2016.

Shri M. J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs visited Iraq from 21-23 August 2016 at the invitation of Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr. Ibrahim al-Jaafari. He also paid a visit to the Holy city of Karbala and met with the members of the Indian Community.

In terms of capacity-building, India provided 120 slots to Iraq under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation; 25 slots under the 'General Cultural Scholarship Scheme' organized by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. India remains a preferred destination for Iraqis to undergo medical treatment and pursue higher studies in India.

A business delegation of 34 Indian companies participated in Najaf-India Trade Show held in Najaf from 2-3 September 2016.

Mr. Hamid Younis Salih Addai al-Zubai, Deputy Oil Minister lead Iraqi delegation for participating in Petrotech Summit 2016 held in New Delhi from 5-7 December 2016.

Israel

There was an overall deepening of bilateral relations in political, commercial, cultural and other spheres during the period under review. The highlight during the period was the first Presidential visit from Israel to India in 20 years. President Reuven Rivlin visited India on a state visit from 14-21 November 2016. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Water Resources Management, and a Declaration of Intent for Cooperation in Agriculture between the two governments were signed during the visit. In addition, 21 MoUs were also signed between different academic institutions on both sides. The Israeli President also visited Agra, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Karnal for various business, agriculture and community-related events during the visit.

At the Ministerial level, Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh visited Israel from 18-20 September 2016. Human Resources Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar represented India at the funeral of former Israeli President Shimon Peres held in Jerusalem on 30 September 2016. From the Israeli side, Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel visited India from 4-8 April 2016 to participate in India Water Week, in which Israel was the partner country.



Reuven Rivlin, President of Israel at the Ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, 15 November 2016.

Israeli Space, Science and Technology Minister Mr. Ofir Akunis, visited India from 5-8 December 2016. During the visit, both countries agreed on deepening collaboration in areas such as joint research in analytics in the healthcare sector, cyber security etc and Space. Israeli Agriculture Minister Mr. Uri Ariel visited India in January 2017 to participate in Vibrant Gujarat Summit.

Air Staff Talks were held from 4-6 December 2016. A bilateral consular dialogue was held in New Delhi on 20 December 2016 to discuss all pending issues on the visa and consular front.

During the final quarter of the year, apart from the continuing exchange of political and economic delegations, we expect to hold some cultural events to commemorate 2017, which marks 25 years since the establishment of full diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

Jordan

Mr. Akel Beltaji, Mayor of Amman was the Chief Guest on the 2nd International Day of Yoga celebrated in Amman on 21 June 2016.

First Security Dialogue between India and Jordan took place in Amman on 25 July 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Deputy NSA Dr. Arvind Gupta and the Jordanian delegation was led by their Director of General Intelligence Department Gen Faisal Shoubaki.

Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) participated in the 9th InterBuild-2016 in Amman on 22 August 2016, in which 13 Indian companies participated.

Indian Technical and Economic Corporation (ITEC) Day was celebrated by the Mission on 22 September 2016 with Chief of Investment Commission of Jordan Mr. Thabet Elwir presided over as the Chief Guest.

A Seminar on Indo-Arab Culture and Heritage was organized at the Jordan University in collaboration with the Jordan-India Friendship Society on 25 September 2016.

The Second Session of India-Jordan Foreign Office Consultations took place in New Delhi on 1 November 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER) and the Jordanian side was led by Ambassador Naif Al Zaidan, Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

A high level Jordanian delegation led by the Minister of Interior Mr. Salameh Hammad visited India from 1-5 November 2016 and participated in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Risk Management (AMCDRR 2016) in Delhi, organized jointly by MHA and MEA.

MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar paid an official visit to Jordan from 09-10 November 2016. During the visit, Shri Akbar held bilateral discussions with Chief of Royal Court Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nasser Judeh, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mrs. Lina Annab and other dignitaries. He also interacted with Minister of Interior Mr. Salameh Hammad, Mayor of Amman, Mr. Aqel Biltaji, other high ranking dignitaries from Jordan and prominent members of Indian community.

Business Promotion Seminar as part of its Market Expansion Activities in the month of February/March 2017 in collaboration with local chambers of Commerce and Industry, State Promotion Seminar/Event are planned. Visit of Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, Chief of Royal Court to India has been proposed in March 2017. The Arab League Summit will be hosted by Jordan on 29 March 2017 in Amman.

Kuwait

The close, multifaceted and friendly relations between India and Kuwait were further cemented during the year. Gen (Retd) Dr V K Singh, MoS for External Affairs visited Kuwait from 6-7 September 2016 to discuss labour welfare issues with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Dr. Bader Hamad Al-Essa, Minister of Education and Higher Education, Kuwait participated in the UNESCO International Conference on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education which was co-organized by Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development in New Delhi from 19-20 September 2016.

The Third Round of the Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 16 November 2016. The Fifth Round of Joint Working Group on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development was held in New Delhi from 14-15 December 2016.

Three Indian Naval ships INS Delhi, INS Deepak and INS Tarkash made a goodwill visit to Kuwait from 12-15 May 2016.

Lebanon

Lebanon has elected a President after a hiatus of two years. While the Prime Minister of Lebanon has been designated, there is delay in the formation of the Cabinet. After formation of the Cabinet and Prime Minister taking over the Government, the issues such as drafting a new electoral law; holding parliamentary elections; and decision on oil and gas exploration tenders may be resolved. The economy continued to slow down while the pressure of the Syrian refugees on infrastructure and civil society continued unabated. In North Lebanon, the army has so far been successful in arresting inroads by the Islamic State in Syria and *Ashsham* (ISIS) and other jihadi forces into Lebanese territory, and security forces have managed to curb incidents of terrorism in the country to quite some extent. Bilaterally, Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs visited Lebanon from 17-18 August 2016 to expand cooperation into several areas that include cooperation in energy, security besides trade & commerce.

Oman

India and Oman are linked by geography, history and culture. Both countries enjoy friendly relations, which can be ascribed to historical maritime trade linkages, closeness of the royal family with India and the seminal role of the Indian expatriate community in building of Oman. Cooperation in security and defence areas continued to remain key pillars of India-Oman Strategic Partnership.

Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar visited Oman from 20-22 May 2016 accompanied by a high level defence delegation. During the visit, four MoU's/Protocols were signed including MoU on Defence cooperation; MoU on

maritime issues; MoU on cooperation between Coast Guards of the two countries to prevent of marine crime; and Protocol on exchange of information on Flight Safety.

Major General Ahmed Salman Khushoob, Secretary General National Security Council, Oman visited India for the Fourth round of the Security Dialogue with Deputy National Security Adviser during 2-3 November 2016.

In July 2016, INS Tabar entered Duqm, a strategic port in Oman and became the third Indian Navy ship to enter Duqm. Commander of Royal Army of Oman visited India from 2-6 October 2016. He met the Defence Minister and the Chief of Army Staff.

India-Oman Air Force Staff Talks were held on 2-3 August 2016 at Muscat. India Oman bilateral Exercises Eastern Bridge-IV is scheduled to be conducted at Air Force Station Jamnagar in January 2017. The second edition of the bilateral Army exercise Al Najah' is scheduled in India in March 2017.

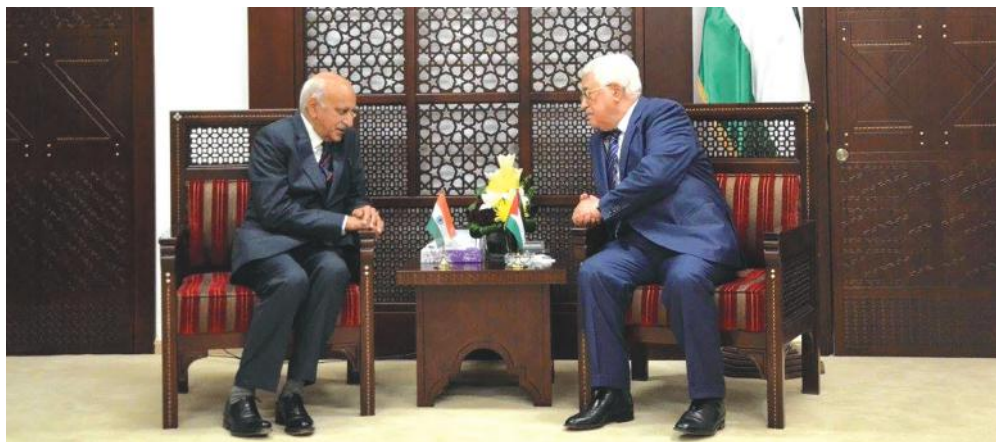
MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J Akbar participated in the fifth India-Arab League Partnership Conference in Muscat from 14-15 December 2016.

The 5th meeting of Joint Working Group on Manpower was held on 26 July 2016 in New Delhi.

The 8th Joint Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held on 27-28 March 2017 in Muscat, Oman. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS (IC) for Commerce and Industry will lead the Indian delegation.

Palestine

Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs led a 6-member



MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar meets Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas



Prime Minister receiving the Guard of Honour at the ceremonial welcome, at Emiri Diwan, in Doha, Qatar on 5 June 2016.

delegation to Palestine from 7-9 November 2016 to hold first ever Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between the two countries. During the Meeting, MoU on establishment of JCM was signed. Both sides discussed a range of issues including security, ICT, education, culture, sports and youth affairs. MOS also laid the foundation stone for 'Palestine-India Techno Park' funded by the Government of India.

India has enhanced its annual contribution to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) from US\$ 1 million to US\$ 1.25 million from this year.

India and Palestine would shortly sign and MoU to set up the Institute of Diplomacy of Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Surda, Ramallah. This institute would be built with an assistance of US\$ 4.5 million from the Government of India.

Qatar

The multi-faceted and mutually beneficial ties between India and Qatar further intensified during the year with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Qatar from 4-5 June 2016 at the invitation of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. During the visit, seven agreements/MoUs were signed to broaden and deepen India's bilateral relations with Qatar including MoU between India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and Qatar Investment Authority; Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance

in Customs Matters; MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit – India and the Qatar Financial Information Unit concerning cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism-financing and related crimes; MoU between the Indian Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and National Qualifications Authority/Supreme Education Council of Qatar for Cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications; MoU on cooperation in Tourism; MoU for Cooperation in the field of Health; and First Executive Programme for MoU in the field of Youth and Sports. In a special gesture to mark the visit, 23 Indian prisoners were released by Qatar.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar paid a return visit to India on 2-3 December 2016 on his first official visit. Five agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit including an agreement on mutual exemption of entry visas for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports; a protocol for technical co-operation in cyberspace and fight against cybercrime; a Letter of Intent for e-visas for tourists and businessmen between Qatar and India; an MoU between Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and the Confederation of Indian Industry; and an MoU between Qatar Ports Management Company (Mwani) and Indian Ports Global.

Father Emir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani paid a private visit to India from 20-25 November 2016.

Gen. (Dr.) V K Singh (Retd.), MoS for External Affairs visited Qatar on 5 September 2016 and met Sheikh Mohamed Abdulrahman al-Thani, Foreign Minister of Qatar to hand over a message from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Emir of Qatar.

Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Shri Shaktikanta Das led an Inter-Ministerial delegation to Qatar on 22-23 May 2016 for the composite dialogue talks.

A Qatari delegation Civil Aviation Ministry, which included CEO Qatar Airways, visited India to discuss the civil aviation issues on 18 November 2016. The 4th Round of Joint Working Group on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development was held in New Delhi on 24-25 November 2016. Mohammed Saleh Abdulla Al Sada, the Minister of Energy and Industry of Qatar participated in the 5th Petrotech Summit held in New Delhi from 5-7 December 2016.

Saudi Arabia

India enjoys close and friendly relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reflected in centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties. Saudi Arabia hosts over 2.9 million Indian

expatriates, the largest Indian passport holding community outside India. Steady progress has been made in political, economic, defence and security cooperation in 2016-2017 with regular exchange of high level visits.

At the invitation of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid his first official visit to Saudi Arabia from 2-3 April 2016. In a special gesture, the “Sash of King Abdulaziz”, the highest civilian decoration awarded to Heads of Foreign Governments was presented to Prime Minister by the Saudi King. Several agreements/MoUs were signed during the visit, including an Agreement on Labour Co-operation for Recruitment of General Category Workers; Technical Cooperation Programme between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization; Executive Program for Cooperation in the Field of Handicrafts between the Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (and Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage; MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit - India and the Financial Intelligence Unit-Saudi Arabia concerning Cooperation in the Exchange of Intelligence related to Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and Related Crimes and Framework for Investment



Prime Minister being received at the Official Welcome ceremony at the Royal Court, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 3 April 2016.

Promotion Cooperation between Invest India and the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority.

Saudi Foreign Minister Mr Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir paid his first official visit to India on 7-8 March 2016 at the invitation of EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj.

MoS (Independent Charge), Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, accompanied by a delegation including officials of the Ministry and CEOs of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Company Limited and Bharat Petroleum Company Limited, paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia on 14 April 2016.

Gen (Retd) Dr V. K. Singh, MoS for External Affairs visited Jeddah on 10 March 2016 to sign the Annual Haj agreement 2016. He also paid three visits to Saudi Arabia on 2-5 August, 17-18 August and 20-21 October 2016 to review and supervise the repatriation of Indian workers affected by closure of local companies.

In September 2016, a total of 1,35,904 Indian pilgrims performed Haj out of which 99,904 Hajjis went through Haj Committee of India and 36,000 through Private Tour Operators.

A two-member delegation led by Mr. Shaktikanta Das, Secretary (Economic Affairs), visited Riyadh in August 2016 and held discussions on participation of Saudi investment authorities in Indian National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and changes in the bilateral Investment Protection Agreement.

Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas visited Riyadh on 13-14 December, 2016 to attend International Energy Forum Executive Board meeting.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi led a high level delegation to Saudi Arabia on 11th January, 2017 for signing of the Annual Haj Agreement 2017 and to discuss requirement and arrangements for Haj 2017.

Syria

In the ongoing crisis in Syria, India continues to maintain its consistent position of peaceful resolution of conflicts. India has called upon all sides to the Syrian conflict to abjure violence so that conducive conditions can be created for an inclusive political dialogue leading to a comprehensive political



MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar with Syrian President Bashar Al Assad



Prime Minister meeting with Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi in New Delhi 11 February 2016.

solution, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. India has maintained that there can be no military solution to this conflict and any external military intervention in Syria's affairs should be excluded. Country-wide cease-fire brokered by Russia and Turkey across Syria has been put in place on 30 December 2016. UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2336 unanimously on 31 December 2016, endorsing cease-fire and talks in future between the Syrian Government and the opposition. As part of her policy to maintain regular contacts, Syrian Deputy Prime Minister visited India on 12 January 2016 and Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs visited Syria on 19-20 August 2016. India supports the global efforts to resolve the ongoing Syrian crisis through political solution. One of the two projects financed under Line of Credit, modernization of steel plant at Hama in Syria has resumed its operation after the conflict. Efforts are on to get the other project under Line of Credit, 2x200 Tishreen Power Project for resumption of its operations. As part of the humanitarian assistance to Syria, efforts are on to provide relief material and medicines to Syria during this year. India's cooperation with Syria under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and ICCR Scholarships continued during the year.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The traditionally close and friendly relations between India

and UAE elevated to Strategic Partnership during the visit of our Prime Minister to UAE in August 2015, were provided further impetus during the year by the visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India from 10-13 February 2016. During the visit, the two sides signed nine MOUs and Agreements for cooperation in areas ranging from economic and investment to energy, space and security. These include MOU on Technical Cooperation in Cyber Space and Combating Cyber Crime; MOU on Establishing a Framework for Facilitating the Participation of UAE institutional investors in Infrastructure Investment in India; MOU between ISRO and United Arab Space Agency on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes; MOU between Dubai Economic Council and EXIM Bank; MOU between Insurance Regulatory Authority of India and the Insurance Authority of UAE; MOU between Reserve Bank of India and Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates for bilateral currency swap arrangement; General Framework Agreement on Renewable Energy Cooperation; Executive Programme for bilateral Cultural Cooperation during 2016-2018; Letter of Intent for skill development and recognition of qualification by the two respective Ministries of Skill Development; MOU for cooperation in skill development and recognition of qualification by the two respective Ministries of Skill Development.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi would be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day 2017 celebrations.

Several other high-level visits were exchanged during the year between India and UAE. From India, MoS for Information & Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore visited Dubai from 8-10 February 2016 for participating in the 4th edition of the World Government Summit. Minister of Food Processing Industries, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal visited Dubai for participation in Gulf Food 2016 from 21-25 February 2016. MoS for External Affairs, Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh, visited UAE on 11 March 2016 to meet the Ruler of Ras al Khaimah and discussed with him matters of bilateral interest. Minister of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises, Shri Kalraj Mishra visited UAE to attend second IORA Economic & Business Conference in Dubai from 11-13 April 2016. MOS(IC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited UAE on 11-12 April 2016 on invitation of Minister of Energy of UAE.

Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar visited UAE from 22-23 May 2016 on the invitation of the Foreign Minister of UAE. National Security Adviser visited UAE in June, September and November 2016. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Amar Sinha visited UAE on 22 September 2016 as a special envoy to hand over the invitation letter from the Prime Minister to the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

Road Transport & Highways, and Shipping, Shri Nitin Gadkari visited UAE from 19-20 October, 2016 as the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at the 2nd India-UAE Economic Forum held in Dubai. MOS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar visited UAE from 18-20 October, 2016 to deliver his keynote address at the India-UAE Economic Forum and for bilateral meetings, and later participated in the Sir Bani Yas Forum meeting held in UAE from 18-20 November 2016.

From UAE side, Minister of State in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Anwar Mohamed Gargash visited India on 19 January 2016. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, MD ADIA and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court visited India for preparation of the visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and for the 4th HLTFI meeting in New Delhi on 3 February 2016. Crown Prince of Fujairah attended the World Culture Festival in New Delhi in March 2016. Assistant

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Economic and Trade Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Sharaf visited India from 24-25 October 2016 for bilateral meetings and on 4 December 2016 for participating in the Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar.

The eighth meeting of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee was held in Abu Dhabi from 19-20 December 2016. The second round of Joint Committee for Consular Affairs was held in Abu Dhabi on 14 December 2016.

A delegation from the UAE led by Dr. Rashid Ahmad bin Fahad, Minister of State in the Cabinet participated in Vibrant Gujarat 10-13 January 2017.

The First India-UAE Strategic Dialogue between the two Foreign offices was held in New Delhi on 20 January 2017.

Yemen

India and Yemen enjoy a long history of close and historical people-to-people contacts. Due to the deterioration of political and security situation in Yemen, the Embassy of India to Yemen has been temporarily relocated to Djibouti since 14 April 2015. The Embassy has been continuing its assistance to Indian nationals in Yemen.

Arab League

There was new momentum in India's engagement with the Arab world following the first India-Arab Ministerial meeting in January 2016 and adoption of Manama declaration and Executive Program of Arab-Indian cooperation forum for the year 2016-17. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit was endorsed as the new Arab League Secretary General in March 2016.

Fifth India-Arab Partnership Conference was held in Muscat on 14-15 December 2016. Shri M. J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs led the Indian delegation to the Conference and discussed B-B links and sectoral co-operation.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj chaired the 10th Annual India – Gulf Cooperation Council political dialogue on the sidelines of 71st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2016.



Africa

Algeria

Three Algerian satellites (ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B and ALSAT-1N) were successfully launched by Indian launch vehicle PSLV C-35 from Sriharikota on 26 September 2016.

13 member CAPEXIL (Chemical and Allied Products exports promotion council) delegation from India comprising of Indian businessmen from Ceramics, granite, printed books, glass beads, rubber conveyer belt companies visited Algeria from 27-31 August 2016 to participate in a Buyer-Seller Meet.

Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India visited Algeria from 17-19 October 2016. During the visit, VP called on President Bouteflika and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues. He also held talks with the President of People's National Assembly (Lower House) Larbi Ould

Khelifa, the President of Council of Nation (Upper House of Parliament) Abdelkader Bensalah and the Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal on strengthening bilateral relations between India and Algeria.

A Buyer-Seller Meeting (BSM) was organised by Plastics Exports Promotion Council (Plexcouncil) of India on 7 November 2016 in Algeria. The event was attended by 13 Indian companies producing plastic products used in construction, medical, food sectors, plastic products for safety like gloves, helmets as well as stationery items.

A team from Department of Fertilizers visited Algeria from 18-22 December 2016 to explore possibilities of collaboration in rock phosphate, setting up of phosphoric acid and urea plant. A Memorandum of Understanding between India and Algeria for collaboration in the field of fertilizer may be signed soon.



Vice President with the Prime Minister of Algeria, Mr. Abdelmalek Sellal during the delegation level talks, in Algiers, Algeria on 19 October 2016.

Visit of a delegation from India's Ministry of Rural Development and NIRD to Algeria for a feasibility study on establishment of Center for Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development, visit of delegation to India to finalize the Agreements on cooperation in mutual Agreements in Judicial, civil and criminal matters and bilateral extradition treaty, visit of delegation from Department of Atomic Energy to discuss agreement of peaceful uses of nuclear energy are expected.

Angola

India and Angola have long standing, close and friendly relations. India is the third largest trading partner of Angola with cooperation in the energy sector forming the bedrock of the relationship. Angola has consistently supported India's candidates to various international bodies. Bilateral ties continued to be strengthened with several ministerial delegations to India. Minister for Former Combatants and Veterans of the Homeland General Cândido Pereira dos Santos Van-Dúnem visited India from 3-7 May 2016. He led an inter-ministerial delegation comprising representatives from departments of health and agriculture. During the visit, he had meetings with Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister for Food Processing and Secretary (EWS) in the Ministry of Defence. Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Pedro Canga visited India from 24-29 May 2016. In his meeting with Minister of Agriculture Shri Radha Mohan Singh, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in agriculture. He visited the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, agriculture cooperative units as well as many private agricultural entities. Projects under the Lines of Credit extended through EXIM Bank for US\$ 30 million for the Lucala Industrial Park Project and US\$ 15 million for the Malanje Textile (Cotton Ginning & Spinning) Project continue to make progress. Even though the Angolan economy is facing a downturn due to fall in oil prices, private investment in Angola by Indian and Indian-origin entities continues to rise. India's assistance in training and capacity building is being well utilised.

The visit of the Angolan Higher Education Minister to India is likely to take place in March 2017.

Botswana

India and Botswana share friendly relations. During the year under review the relations made progress in positive direction.

Shri Jual Oram, Minister of Tribal Affairs led a 3-member delegation to Botswana during 22-25 August 2016, to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of Botswana's Independence (BOT-50) celebrations. During the visit he called on Botswana Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Local Government and Rural Development; and Education and Skills Development. Apart from these Ministerial meetings, he also met the Mayor of Gaborone; Belete Tribal Chief at Ramotswa, near Gaborone. During the second-leg of his visit, Shri Oram visited Maun in the northern part of Botswana and met with Indian community and local tribal leaders. On 25 August 2016, Shri Oram had a brief meeting with Botswana's Vice President Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi who was on a visit to Maun.

Mr. Eric Molale, Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration led a 13-member delegation comprising of Secretary of the Independence Electoral Commission (IEC) of Botswana to Chennai and Bangalore from 15-20 May 2016 to witness the use of electronic voting machines in the Assembly elections.

The main item of trade between the two countries has been exports of rough diamonds from Botswana. However, due to global diamond market slump in 2015, the bilateral trade dropped to US\$ 594.23 million during 2015-16.

As regards business delegations, a four-member delegation from Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) visited Gaborone on 25 -28 July 2016 for demonstration of Electronic Voting Machines.

A two-Member delegation from RITES, consisting of Director (Projects) and Director (Finance) visited Botswana 12-13 May 2016 and met with CEO of Botswana Railways and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

A ten-member delegation from the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council of India visited Gaborone on 9-10 November 2016 and had business-to-business interactive meetings with stakeholders/ ICT companies in Botswana.

Cooperation in capacity building has been a major element in the bilateral relations. During the year 2016-17, GOI has offered 90 ITEC training slots and 20 ICCR Scholarships. Other slots for specialised courses announced as part of IAFS-III packages are in the pipeline. The utilisation of these slots has been positive.

Coinciding with the celebration of 50th anniversary of Botswana's Independence (BOT 50), various events were organised including:

- Launching of ITEC Alumni Website in March 2016.
- Ambedkar Jayanti in April 2016.
- International Yoga Day was celebrated by the Mission in three towns in Botswana – Gaborone, Francistown and Kasane in June 2016.
- Indian Film Festival showcasing Indian feature films, from 9 September 2016.
- Indian Art Exhibition titled “March of Millennium Years” from 12-15 September 2016, at the prestigious Thapong Visual Arts Centre.
- A road show and cultural event with community participation on 11 September 2016.
- Hindi Divas on 18 September 2016.
- Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated on 2 October 2016 and Webcast of inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in Delhi by Prime Minister was screened to Indian community.
- ICCR-sponsored, 6-member Indian Light Classical Music troupe led by Shaila Hattangadi gave two performances, on 25 October 2016 in Gaborone and on 26 October 2016 at Francistown.
- Rashtriya Ekta Divas on 31 October 2016, celebrating the 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with screening of a documentary on Sardar Patel and mounting a photo exhibition.

The Constitution Day was celebrated on 26 November 2016 in Gaborone by organising a seminar. Keynote address was delivered by Justice Mr. Lakhwinder Walia, the second senior most Judge in the High Court of Botswana.

Burkina Faso

India and Burkina Faso continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. Burkina Faso was among the first 24 countries to sign the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance when it was opened for signature on 15 November 2016 at the COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco. Bilateral trade with Burkina Faso amounted to US\$ 346.9 million in 2015-16, an increase of 31% as compared to trade turnover in 2014-15. The exports from India to Burkina

Faso amounted to US\$ 108.79 million and imports from Burkina Faso to US\$ 238.11 million. An official and business delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad participated in the 11th CII – EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi from 14-15 March 2016. The Vocational Training Centre/Incubation Center (VTC/IC) in Burkina Faso under IAFS was successfully completed and handed over by NSIC (India) to the Government of Burkina Faso on 3 November 2016. A team led by the Minister for Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change visited India for signing a revised MoU with the Barefoot College Tilonia for establishment of a Barefoot College in Burkina Faso under India-Africa Forum Summit. The 2nd International Day of Yoga was successfully organized on 21 June 2016 in Ouagadougou.

Burundi

Burundi availed 6 ICCR slots for 2016. 28 ITEC slots have so far been utilized by it in 2016. One Burundian candidate of Indian origin travelled to India in October 2016 to take part in the 36th Know India Programme.

A Vocational Training cum Incubation Centre was inaugurated by HE. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of Burundi on 13 December 2016. VTC has been established under decision taken during the India-Africa Forum Summit-I.

Cameroon

Relations with Cameroon continued on an even keel during the year. A delegation from India's Department of Post, Ministry of Communications & IT, led by a Deputy Director General visited Cameroon to attend the 9th ordinary session of the Plenipotentiary Conference of PAPU (Pan African Postal Union) held in Yaoundé from 22-23 July 2016. A 8-member Cameroonian delegation comprising officials of Ministry of Public Health, Doctors and Pharmacists visited India to attend a conference on health care organised by FICCI in Noida, UP from 3-5 October 2016.

Cape Verde

India and Cape Verde have warm and cordial relations. Cape Verde is supportive of India at the international fora. Cape Verde has been demonstrating economic promise due to its political stability, strategic location and investment-friendly rules and institutions. It graduated from LDC to HIPC, which mandates higher rate of interest on financial assistance.

Hence, Indian lines of credit projects have not been pursued by the host government. A sum of US\$ 50,000 was provided by the GOI to the Cape Verde Government as grant fund for combating dengue fever. For the year 2016-17, 2 slots for training in India under India Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) have been allotted to Cape Verde, wherein 5 slots have been utilized. 9 Scholarship slots are provided under ICCR for the year 2016-17 out of which 4 have been utilised. Bilateral trade for the year 2015-16 stood at US\$ 4.20 million with exports from India of US\$ 1.43 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 2.77 million.

Central African Republic (CAR)

GoI had extended a Line of Credit [LoC] project of US\$ 24 million for construction and commissioning of a 400 MT/day cement plant and US\$ 20 million for Limestone mining for the Cement plant in Bangui. The plant was nearing completion when all the Indian workers had to be evacuated in early 2014 due to security situation in CAR. Team of Jaguar Overseas Ltd. and Exim Bank visited CAR in August 2016 to assess the damage to the plant by rebels and to explore ways and means of re-starting the work. LoC for US\$ 39.69 million for two hydroelectric projects has been signed with Government of CAR. The LoCs have been on hold due to non-payment of dues to Exim Bank for the previous LoCs. Government of CAR has requested for restructuring of the loans due to precarious economic conditions because of long political instability. This is under consideration by GOI. Earlier in the year, President Faustin-Archange Touadera was elected on 30 March 2016 in Presidential elections after which peace and stability has been slowly returning to CAR after a long period of instability.

Chad

A 3-member Exim Bank delegation, accompanied by an official from the Indian Mission in Abuja, visited Chad from 7-10 November 2016 to monitor projects financed under GoI-supported Lines of Credit to Chad. Training programmes under IAFS and Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme for Chad as LDC country were also reviewed during the visit.

The Chadian Minister of Petrol, Energy & Promotion of Renewable Energy accompanied by 3-member official delegation, visited India from 5-7 December 2016 to attend the 12th edition of Petrotech 2016. During the visit, he met MoS (IC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas and held discussions

on issues of mutual interest.

Comoros

Progress was made in the US\$ 41.66 million Line of Credit 18MW Heavy Fuel Power Plant Project funded by Exim bank/GoI. In consultation with the new Government headed by Azali Assoumani a new site was identified for the power plant.

The 2nd Edition of the International Day of Yoga was held on 26 June 2016. Comoros has utilized 10 slots under ITEC Programme and 3 slots under ICCR Scholarship. Under PAN Africa e-Network project, 8 students have registered themselves for distance education.

Cote d'Ivoire (CI)

2016 was a transformational year for India's bilateral relations with Côte d'Ivoire. Indian President, accompanied by a high-level official delegation and important business delegation visited Côte d'Ivoire from 14-15 June 2016 as part of a three nation tour to Africa. This visit constituted the first ever bilateral visit at the level of Head of State. During the visit, President held detailed discussions with his counterpart, the Ivorian President who hosted a State Banquet in his honour. Other important engagements included a business forum event and an Indian community reception. The visit provided a new thrust to India's over all engagement with Côte d'Ivoire particularly in trade and investment. The first India-Côte d'Ivoire Joint Commission meeting was held in New Delhi on 20-21 October 2016 co-chaired by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M. J. Akbar and the visiting Côte d'Ivoire Foreign Minister Dr. Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mbari. An agreement exempting visas for diplomatic and official passport holders was signed during the occasion. Bilateral trade with Côte d'Ivoire has shown impressive growth in the last 5 years post internal disturbance period marking return of peace and political stability since mid-2011. During 2015-16, the total bilateral trade was US\$ 969.52 million, an increase of 15% over the previous year. Indian exports amounted to US\$ 397.03 million and imports stood at US\$ 572.48. Côte d'Ivoire was witness to an historic referendum on 30 October 2016 on new draft constitution adopted by Parliament on 5 October. Around 93% of the votes cast were in favour of the new constitution. Parliamentary elections would take place on 18 December 2016.



President inspecting the Guard of Honour on his Departure from the Abidjan International Airport Cote d'Ivoire on 15 June 2016.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Work on GoI supported LoC project for US\$ 42 million for 9.3 MW Kakobola Hydro-Electric Power Project, Bandundu Province has been completed and project is due for handing over to DRC government. Change of contractor for the GoI supported LoC project of US\$ 250 million for 64 MW Hydro-Electric Power Project in Katende, Kasai Occidental Province is under process. Due to political uncertainty over the delay in holding Presidential elections which were due in 2016, the investment and economic scenario has not been very upbeat since last year. Bilateral trade between India and DRC has increased to US\$415.39 million in 2015-2016 from 380.61 million in 2014-2015. India continues to provide capacity enhancement support to the country notably under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and ITEC capacity building programmes. For 2016-17, DRC has been allotted 75 ITEC training slots (of which 66 have already been utilized till November 2016) compared to 32 during the previous year and 8 ICCR scholarships. DRC Foreign Minister, Mr. Raymond Tshibanda NTunga mulongo visited India in August 2016 and held detailed discussions with MoS Shri M. J. Akbar. While DRC Minister of Trade Ms. Nefertiti Ngudianza Bayokisa Kisula visited India in March 2016 in

connection with the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi, Minister of Energy and Water Resources Mr. Jeannot Maradi Nenga visited in April 2016 and Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Boyamba Okombo Antoine in June 2016 to meet the Congolese diaspora.

Djibouti

Djibouti continued to be a pivot in India's anti-piracy naval operations in the Gulf of Aden. India enhanced its developmental assistance to Djibouti by providing a grant of US\$ 5 million for development of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector in the country.

Egypt

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of Egypt visited India from 1-3 September 2016. A Joint Statement highlighting cooperation in the three pillars of bilateral cooperation i.e. political-security cooperation, economic and scientific collaboration and cultural & people to people exchanges - was issued during the visit. An Agreement on Maritime Transportation was signed. The Agreement would develop cooperation in the field of maritime transport between the two countries with a view to contributing to the development



President, Prime Minister and President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi during Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, 2 September 2016.

of international shipping on the basis of the principles of the freedom of navigation. The Agreement would facilitate both the parties to exchange information; to provide technical assistance; to develop training programme on maritime activities.

The India-Egypt Business Council met for the fourth time during the State Visit of President Abdel Sisi in New Delhi in September 2016.

In August 2016, India had supplied 20000 metric tonnes of rice to Egypt at friendship price.

Dr. Kodela Siva Prasada Rao, Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly visited Egypt from 18-19 December and met Dr. Ali Abdel Aal, Speaker of Egyptian House of Representatives. First India-Egypt Cyber Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 20 December 2016 as a follow up to NSA level discussions in December 2015. Both countries agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the area of cyber security. Track-II discussions continued with the 3rd round of ICWA-ECFA Dialogue held from 4-6 January 2017 at New Delhi.

A two-member delegation from Indian Army visited Egyptian

Commando School from 19-22 December to learn and discuss aspect of mutual interests. Vice Chief of Egyptian Air force is scheduled to visit India for Aero-India 2017 expo from 14-18 February 2017.

PBD 2017 was celebrated in Cairo on 9 January 2017. Two Indian prisoners were transferred to India in January 2017, under the newly concluded Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement.

First meeting of the Joint Working Group on Health and Pharmaceuticals between India and Egypt was held through videoconferencing on 12 January 2017. CII delegation is scheduled to visit Egypt from 8-9 February 2017. In the final quarter, NASSCOM is expected to hold an IT seminar in Cairo and Association of Egyptian Investors is scheduled to visit India.

In the final quarter of 2016-17, apart from political-security and economic exchanges, cultural events commemorating 70 years of independence, including India by the Nile festival and the release of 500th edition of Embassy's flagship magazine Sawtul Hind are scheduled to be held.

Equatorial Guinea

India and Equatorial Guinea share excellent relations. The leadership is well disposed towards India and holds a favourable view of India's role in Africa. Equatorial Guinea is one of the top suppliers of natural gas to India.

The Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea is likely to visit India in March 2017 to co-chair the Joint Commission Meeting.

Eritrea

India and Eritrea enjoy warm and friendly relations. India has offered capacity building assistance in several fields to Eritrea including in agriculture, medicine and education. Indian diaspora in Eritrea is around 1200.

During her visit to Eritrea from 1-4 August 2016, Ambassador Ms. Suchitra Durai called on Eritrean Ministers of Education, National Development, Mines and Energy, Finance and Political Advisor to the President. A range of issues of bilateral interest were discussed during the meetings. A consular camp was also organized during the visit.

High Commission of India in association with Indian Community School, Asmara celebrated the Second International Day of Yoga in Asmara on 26 June 2016. An Eritrean Diplomat participated in the 61st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats organised by the Foreign Service Institute of India in April-May 2016.

In October 2016, the Ministry of External Affairs decided to concurrently accredit the Ambassador of India to Sudan as the Ambassador to the State of Eritrea, with residence in Khartoum.

Ethiopia

The 2nd International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 23 June 2016 in Djibouti and on 25 June 2016 in Addis Ababa with the participation of a large number of local and foreign Yoga enthusiasts/experts.

A multi-sectoral business delegation of the Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) of India visited Ethiopia from 2-3 August 2016. The CHEMEXCIL delegation led by Mr. Suhas G. Bharadi, Executive Director, CHEMEXCIL had a fruitful visit. The multi-product trade delegation of 28 Indian

companies held a Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) on 3 August 2016 at Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa. Mr. Kuma Dhaba, Team Leader and Investment Expert from the Oromia Investment commission and Dr. Temesgen, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia addressed the gathering of Ethiopian and Indian companies. Shri Bharadi and Shri Ashok Kumar, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy also spoke on the occasion. More than a hundred representatives of various Ethiopian companies and organizations/agencies from relevant sectors participated in the BSM. The delegation members had meaningful discussions with Ethiopian companies and expect that these discussions will lead to generating business and investment in Ethiopia in future.

Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 26 September 2016. It was attended by more than 60 guests from Indian and Ethiopian Community.

ASSOCHAM led a delegation of 16 Indian companies to participate in the 9th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair held at Addis Ababa Exhibition Grounds from 10-14 November 2016. The delegation represented diverse sectors such as textiles, industrial boilers, specialized pumps, automobile components, educational technology oriented aids, agricultural implements, industrial weighing machines, sugar plant machineries, etc.

ITEC Day was celebrated in the Embassy on 27 October 2016. Chief Guest on this occasion was Ms. Demitu Hambisa, Minister of Public Enterprise, Government of Ethiopia. Around 150 ITEC alumni from Ethiopia, UNECA and AU and five former Members of Parliament and other dignitaries attended the event.

141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated on 4 November 2016. Various speakers shared their views on the life of Sardar Patel. It was attended by around 60 guests from Indian community.

Hindi films (Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, Son of Sardar and Bhag Milka Bhag, Koi Mil Gaya and Taare Zameen Par) with Amharic subtitles were screened at the 11th Ethiopian International Film Festival (ETHIOIFF) between 15-17 November 2016.

Gabon

Oil India Ltd. [OIL], in partnership with Indian Oil Ltd., is conducting oil exploration in Shakti Block, Lamberele,

Gabon. First phase of the project is expected to be completed by January 2017. President Ali Bongo Ondimba was re-elected for second 7-year term in the 27 August 2016 presidential elections.

The Gambia

Bilateral relations between India and Gambia have always remained good with cooperation in multilateral fora. Gambia had in October 2013 withdrawn from the Commonwealth. It voted in favour of India at the United Nations Human Rights Council elections for the term 2015-2017. The Gambia is the only Anglophone nation in the West Africa and has a good Indian presence. The Gambia is a member of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and will be holding the 14th OIC conference in 2019. India has over US \$ 200 million worth developmental projects in The Gambia. GoI had financed a LoC for US\$ 27 million to build the National Assembly Complex which was completed. In view of the high utilization of our training and capacity building opportunities by the Gambian people, for the year 2016-17, 50 slots have been allotted to Gambia under ITEC wherein 26 slots have been utilized. 30 Scholarship slots have been provided under ICCR for the year 2016-17 which have been fully utilized. Indian company, Shapoorji Pallonji Mideast was awarded the contract for construction of the University

of The Gambia (UTG) Faraba campus in Banjul at a cost of US\$ 53.46 million. The 2nd International Day of Yoga was successfully organized in Banjul on 18 June 2016. The event was attended by more than 100 persons including members of the Indian diaspora, dignitaries, Government officials, celebrities, diplomats and local people. India-Gambia Business Forum with the theme 'Doing Business with India' was organised in Banjul 14 October 2016 in collaboration with the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The establishment of India-Gambia Business Council to further trade relations was proposed. Bilateral trade for the year 2015-16 stood at US\$ 90.89 million with exports from India of US\$ 59.54 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 31.35 million.

Ghana

The warm and cordial bilateral relationship between India and Ghana was further strengthened by the first ever State visit by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Ghana from 12-14 June 2016 at the invitation of Ghanaian President Mr. John Dramani Mahama. During the visit, the President had one-to-one talks with President Mahama followed by delegation level talks on issues of bilateral, regional and global importance. The President planted a sapling in the at the Presidential complex (built by Indian assistance), unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the University of Ghana campus, delivered an



President being bid farewell by the President of the Republic of Ghana, Mr. John Dramani Mahama on his departure from Kotoka International Airport, in Accra, Ghana on 14 June 2016.

address to students and faculty at the University of Ghana; interacted with a group of students at the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT (set up with a grant from India); delivered an address at the India-Ghana Business Forum; and attended a reception for the Indian community. The President was received at the airport by Vice President Mr. Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur and seen off by President Mahama, who also hosted a banquet in honour of the President. An agreement on exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic and official passports, a MoU on establishment of Joint Commission and a MoU on cooperation between Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Cooperation of Ghana were signed during the visit. An additional grant of US\$ 1 million to the India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT, doubling of ICCR scholarships from 20 to 40 and increase in ITEC training slots from 250 to 300 were announced during the visit. Vice President of Ghana Mr. Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur visited India to participate as a Guest of Honour in the 11th CII – EXIM Bank Conclave held in New Delhi from 14-15 March 2016. He was accompanied by a large Ministerial and business delegation including Minister for Trade and Industry, Deputy Minister for Education, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Deputy Minister for Water, Works and Housing. The Komenda Sugar Factory, built with a GoI Line of Credit of US\$ 35 million was commissioned by President Mahama on 30 May 2016. A Line of Credit agreement of US\$ 24.54 million for sugarcane cultivation and irrigation development and a Buyers' Credit agreement for US\$ 398.33 for the Tema-Akosombo railway line project were signed between EXIM Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance, Government of Ghana on 22 November 2016. A team from National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), New Delhi and Ministry of External Affairs visited Ghana in July 2016 to review the progress of the US\$ 2.1 million grant assistance Tomato Pilot Research Project. NRDC also signed a MoU with CSIR, Ghana for collaboration on the setting up of start-ups and incubators for entrepreneurship development. Bilateral trade between India and Ghana amounted to US\$ 3.6 billion in 2015-16, registering a growth of 86% over the figures for 2014-15. India's exports to Ghana were valued at US\$ 623.73 million and imports from Ghana at US\$ 2981.27 million. Federation of Indian Exporters Organizations (FIEO) facilitated participation of 40 Indian companies to set up the India Pavilion at the International power and electrical expo Powerlec Ghana

2016 held in Accra from 1 -3 September 2016. 300 ITEC training slots offered to Ghana in 2016-17 were fully utilized. Six Ghanaian students were selected under ICCR scholarship programmes for pursuing graduate courses in India in 2016-17. The total alumni strength of ITEC trainees and ICCR scholars in respect of Ghana has approximately crossed 2500. ICWA organized a conference on West Africa from 18-20 January 2017 in Accra. The Conference themed "India-West Africa Partnership for Enhancing Security, Development and Growth" had experts drawn from 14 West African countries as panelists and speakers and was attended by a cross section of senior government officials, academia, diplomats and members of the business community. An Indian Film Festival was organized by the Indian High Commission in Accra from 2-4 April 2016. The International Day of Yoga was successfully celebrated in 25 June 2016 with large participation of the host government representatives, diplomatic corps, Indian community, students etc. Ambedkar Jayanti (14 April), 146th Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel (Ekta Diwas, 31 October), and Constitution Day (26 November) were also celebrated apart from Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations.

Guinea

India's political relations remained cordial with Guinea. However, there were no high-level engagement/visits during 2016. The last bilateral visit was the visit of President Alpha Conde to India to participate in the IAFS-III in October 2015. Guinea signed the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance at COP22 meeting in Marrakech, Morocco on 16 November 2016.

Guinea Bissau

India and Guinea Bissau, for decades, have maintained warm and friendly relations. There is considerable goodwill for India both amongst the Government and the general public of Guinea Bissau. During the year, Guinea Bissau went through the electoral process and the dominant African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) won both Legislative and Presidential Elections. Jose Mario Vaz (PAIGC candidate) was elected the President. However, there has been continued instability in the legislative governance with the removal of successive Prime Ministers and the last Prime Minister was sworn in on 18 November 2016. Political stability, after the elections, has been elusive. Bilateral trade



Prime Minister hands over keys of 30 field ambulances gifted to Kenya on 20 July 2016.

for the year 2015-16 stood at US\$ 212.64 million with exports from India of US\$ 14.47 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 198.17 million. Guinea Bissau is a source of approximately US\$ 200 million worth raw cashew for processing, thus supporting the cashew processing industry in India. As Guinea is going through a financial crisis, it requested for deferring interest payments for the quarters - June 2016 to March 2017 and this would be paid in the next 5 years commencing from April 2017. The proposal is under consideration of India. For the year 2016-17, 10 ITEC slots and 5 ICCR Scholarship slots were provided. President of Guinea Bissau requested for assistance in agriculture and cashew processing sectors to increase job opportunities for the youth. Another request for buses to be used by the Ministry of External Relations, has also been received. The 2nd International Day of Yoga was successfully organized on 25 June 2016. The event was attended by more than 100 persons including members of Indian diaspora, dignitaries, Government officials, celebrities, diplomats and local people.

Guinea Bissau was one of the founder signatories of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in Marrakesh on 15 November 2016. It also sent one candidate to National Institute of Solar Alliance (NISE), India to attend

the advanced training programme in January 2017.

Kenya

India's relationship with Kenya continued to deepen and strengthen during the year with exchange of high level visits and enhanced interactions at all levels.

The visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Kenya on 10-11 July 2016 gave a new impetus to bilateral partnership. PM Shri Narendra Modi and President Uhuru Kenyatta discussed a wide range of bilateral issues during the restricted meeting as well as during delegation level talks. Both leaders witnessed signing of seven Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and Agreements in the fields of defence, trade and developmental assistance.

The Prime Minister handed over 30 field ambulances for the use of the Kenya Defence Forces. PM and President Kenyatta addressed an India-Kenya Business Forum. Five business to business MoUs were signed on the side-lines of the business event. Both leaders visited 'India Innovation Pavilion' and released a booklet on 'Doing Business in Kenya'. PM addressed a gathering of over 20,000 Indian community members in Nairobi. Significantly, President Kenyatta joined him during

the diaspora interaction. PM delivered a special lecture to a large gathering of students at the University of Nairobi and visited United Nations Office at Nairobi. India announced gifting of a state-of-the-art made in India cancer therapy machine – Bhabhatron II- to Kenyatta National Hospital.

President of Kenya H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta paid a State Visit to India from 10-12 January 2017 at the invitation of Prime Minister. The two leaders held official talks on 11 January 2017 in New Delhi. This was the First State visit from Kenya to India, since 1981. Earlier, President Kenyatta attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017 on 10 January 2017. President Kenyatta was accompanied by several Ministers, senior officials and a high level business delegation. President Kenyatta held meetings with the President and Vice President. He attended a business forum in Delhi on 12 January 2017.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State (I/C), Environment, Forest & Climate Change led the Indian delegation to Kenya from 24-27 May 2016 to attend the 2nd Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). He met his Kenyan counterpart and the Head of the Kenya Wildlife Services called on the Minister. On the margins of UNEA, Minister hosted a luncheon for the the Ministers of Environment of BRICS countries and also held bilateral meetings with Norway, Afghanistan and Uganda.

Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Communications (I/C) visited Nairobi from 30 August-3 September 2016 for the 2nd Indo-Africa ICT Expo organized by Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) of India in association with NASSCOM and ICT authority of Kenya. The Minister discussed bilateral issues with his Kenyan counterpart Mr. Joe Mucheru.

Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (Economic Relations) and Ambassador Tom Amolo, Political and Diplomatic Secretary in the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-chaired the first India-Kenya Foreign Office Consultations on 22 June 2016 in Nairobi. The consultations reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Secretary (ER) called on Ms. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) for Defence and discussed bilateral defence cooperation.

Smt. Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation for the 14th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Nairobi from 17-22 July 2016.

India is one of Kenya's largest trading partners, and the second largest investor. Bilateral trade for the year 2015-16 was US\$ 3.15 billion. Seventy two Indian companies participated in the 34th INDEE (India Engineering Exhibition) in Kenya from 9-11 November 2016. The State Government of Gujarat organized a Roadshow on 15 September 2016 in Nairobi to promote the 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017'.

Buyer-Seller Meetings for visiting delegations of APEDA; EdCIL; CHEMEXIL and FIEO were held. Indian business delegations participated in exhibitions such as Agritec Africa, Kenya Plast, ACMA show. CEOs Forum of Indian companies based in Kenya was revived and three meetings of the India Business Forum were held.

India offers development assistance to Kenya in the form of lines of credit. During the visit of PM, India extend a LoC of US\$ 29.95 million to the Government of Kenya for upgradation of Rift Valley Textiles Factory (RIVATEX East Africa Limited) and a LOC of US\$ 15 million (as first tranche out of US\$ 30 million) to IDB Capital Limited, Kenya for development of various SMEs.

Indian Naval Ships INS Kolkata and INS Aditya under Western Fleet paid a goodwill visit at the Mombasa Port from 10-13 September 2016. First-ever PASSEX (Passage Exercise) between Indian Navy and Kenyan Naval Ship Jasiri took place during the visit. An 18 member delegation from the National Defence College of Kenya visited India from 9-15 April 2016.

The Mission in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of India and the Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts of Kenya organised the first-ever Festival of India in Kenya named "Urafiki Utsav" from 10 October-28 November 2016. Six cultural troupes from different parts of India performed in five cities of Kenya. As part of the Festival, a food festival of India with special focus on cuisine of Kerala was also organised.

The High Commissioner and Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi signed an MoU for renovation of the Mahatma Gandhi Graduate Library at the University of Nairobi on 3 October 2016. A cheque of US\$ 1 million was handed over to the Chancellor of the University during the celebration of the 10th International Day of Non-Violence in Nairobi.

Kathak group led by Ms. Anurag Verma and Bollywood group led by Shri Sukhvinder Singh visited Kenya in April 2016

and August 2016 to conduct preparatory workshops for the Kenyan National Music Festival and to also judge the finalists of the Festival respectively. Shri Kartik Radhakrishnan of Kenya won the Silver Medal in the PIO category at the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz held in New Delhi.

Events were organised to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar; the Second International Day of Yoga at which around 7000 persons participated; the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day; the International Day of Non-Violence; the 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

It is estimated that around 80,000 persons of Indian origin are in Kenya which includes 20,000 Indian citizens. In 2015, around 50,000 Indian tourists visited Kenya. India offered over 180 scholarships to Kenyan nationals in 2015-16, which include professional training in various fields under the ITEC programme and related schemes and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships.

Lesotho

Total trade with Lesotho for 2015-16 was US\$ 35 million (as of March 2016). Indian exports to Lesotho were US\$ 30.06 and imports from Lesotho were US\$ 4.94 million.

Under ITEC for the year 2016-17, a total of 60 ITEC slots have been allocated and so far 20 slots have been utilized. ICCR allocated 18 slots for the year 2016-17, however, 20 slots were approved and utilized.

Liberia

India's political relations remained cordial with Liberia. However, there were no high-level engagement/visits during 2016. The last bilateral visit was the visit of President Sirleaf to India to participate in the IAFS-III in October 2015.

Libya

With the US bombing, which began on 1 August, 2016 in Sirte, the stronghold of Islamic State of Iraq and As-Sham (ISIS), the Libyan forces were able to push out ISIS of Sirte. The UN-supported Government of National Accord (GNA) has not been able to get the vote of the House of Representatives (HoR) as required under Libya Political Agreement (LPA), but it has Ministries under its control and continues to function in Tripoli despite the presence of rivals General National Congress (GNC) challenging GNA and trying to form the Government with HoR.

As a result of the clashes that broke out in Zawia, a total of 29 Indians, including 16 from Kerala, were evacuated from Libya. Those from Kerala, including nine families, returned to India on 12 May, 2016. Two Indian nationals, who were in ISIS captivity since 29 July 2015 in Sirte, Libya were rescued by the Misrata forces fighting the ISIS in Sirte. Both returned to India at Government cost on 23 September, 2016. The third Indian national under the captivity of ISIS has also been released in December, 2016 and his return to India is being arranged by our Mission in Tripoli. Another Indian, IT engineer from Kerala, taken in by Libyan intelligence authorities, after sustained efforts, was secured on 5 July 2016. Three Indians, who were stranded in Nafoura, 900 Kms. from Tripoli, since 28 April 2016, were released and repatriated at Government cost on 7 September 2016.

The Mission continued to operate from Djerba in Tunisia while maintaining skeletal presence in Tripoli and deputing India-based officials on rotation basis to look after the interests of around 1500 Indian nationals who continue to stay in Libya despite Ministry's repeated advisories urging them to leave the country. There is a ban on travel by Indian nationals to India since 26 April, 2016.

Madagascar

Second Edition of International Day of Yoga on 18 June 2016 in Madagascar. The Static Soil Testing Laboratory under US\$ 25 million GoI LoC was jointly inaugurated on 31 July 2016 in Mahajunga by Ambassador and the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. During the Port Call of INS Trikand under the command of Captain Arjun Dev Nair, 2 tons relief material was handed over to the bush fire victims of Ambilobe region. Four unlettered Malagasy women aged 35-50 left for solar training at Barefoot college in India and four trained Malagasy solar grandmothers returned in September 2016.

Member of the National Assembly of Madagascar Mr. Abel Zafimahatraitra participated in the India Africa Health Ministers Meet, 1-3 September 2016 and Secretary General for Energy Mr. Norbert Razanakoto participated in the Switch Global 2016, Gujarat.

Minister of State for Finance Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar led a three member delegation to Madagascar on 2-5 October 2016 as part of PM's outreach programme to African countries and held meetings with Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFA),

Economy, Industry, Health and Agriculture. The first ever Foreign Office Consultations between India and Madagascar were held on 5 October 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary (East and Southern Africa Division) and the Malagasy delegation led by Mr. R. Tahiry, DG, International Cooperation, MFA.

2nd Edition of Make in India Trade Promotion Event was held on 23 October 2016 which attracted more than 5000 visitors. The stalls of Mahindra and Atul Auto rickshaw were the major attractions.

Madagascar has utilized 24 out of 85 slots under ITEC programme, five slots under IAFS, 17 slots under ICCR General Scholarships. 46 Malagasy students enrolled themselves for DBM Course with AMITY University, under PAN Africa e-Network Project (PANeN). Two Tele-medicine consultancies were held in 2016-17.

A 6-member CII delegation led by Shri Arvind Sagar, Executive Vice President, Afcons Infrastructure Limited visited Madagascar on 12-14 December 2016. The business delegation represented core sectors, namely, infrastructure, energy (both renewable and non-renewable energy sources), agribusiness and footwear. The delegation called on President Mr. Hery Rajaonarimampianina and Ministers of Mines and Oil, Industry, Trade and Consumption. The delegation was received by the Malagasy leadership at the highest level and other key Ministers. A Business Conference followed by a B2B meeting was held on 13 December attended by over 75 companies and representatives of various Malagasy Business Chambers. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CII and the Malagasy Federation of Chamber of Industry and Commerce (FCCIM) was signed. The visit was well covered by print and audio visual media.

President Hery while briefing the delegates regarding government's priorities said that the visit of CII delegation was timely and it signified the trust that the GoI had in the Malagasy leadership. PM Mahafaly said that his country was ready for partnership with India in general and solar energy in particular considering India's advancement in this area. A Business Conference-cum- business -to-business Meeting was held on 13 December 2016.

The first Joint Agriculture Working Group is proposed to take place in February 2017. The work related to setting up

of CGARD (Centre for Geoinformatics Application for Rural Development) in Antananarivo is in progress and the Centre is expected to be operational by March 2017.

Malawi

Malawi Development partnership includes scholarships, lines of credit (irrigation, grain storage, tobacco processing, cotton processing, fuel storage and sugar processing) and grants to supply essential medicines and medical equipment. The Salima Sugar Factory built with LoC from India was inaugurated on 15 August 2016 and the High Commissioner attended it. The Cotton TAP also held a valedictory function to award certificates to Malawi trainees on 15 September 2016 attended by High Commissioner. The Indian origin community in Malawi totals around 8,000.

IAFS-III: In decisions taken under IAFS-III in October 2015, GoI has extended various additional scholarships to African countries which are being availed of by Malawi.

Grants-in-Aid: An MoU with Malawi Ministry of Industry, Trade & Tourism was signed on 16 September 2016 on establishment of Business Incubation Centre in Malawi with US\$ 1 Million grant from India.

GoI also sanctioned grant of US\$ 1 Million in response to GoM's call declaring State of Disaster in Malawi for 2016.

A consignment of tent ridges and medical bricks worth US\$ 100,000 (approx.) was given by Government of India to Department of Disaster Management in Malawi on 29/09/2016. This was in response to state of disaster declared by President of Malawi in 2016.

India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD), a pan-African institute to be built with ₹ 92 crores grant from India under IAFS-II is in the process of identifying a place to start temporary training classes as the actual construction of the institute would take quite some time.

LOC: The LOC agreement between Exim Bank and GoM was also signed on 5th August for the new water supply system from Likhubula River in Mulanje to Blantyre. The President of Malawi performed the ground breaking ceremony on 7th November. Prospective bidders have been invited to execute the project and the Expression of Interest has been released in the public domain by Exim Bank on 15 December, 2016.

Mali

The first ever high-level visit from India to Mali took place during 2016. At the invitation of the Malian Prime Minister, Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Mali from 29-30 September 2016. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, three Members of Parliament and senior officials. During the visit, Vice President called on the Malian President and had restricted and delegation level talks with the Malian Prime Minister. He addressed the National Assembly and assured Mali of India's continued support in the reconstruction efforts of the Malian Government. The two sides agreed to reactivate the Joint Commission and convene it at an early date. New areas of cooperation on agro, meat and cotton processing, healthcare, ICT, renewable energy particularly under International Solar Alliance and mining have been identified. MoUs on Standards and Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) were signed during the visit. The Vice President announced a cash assistance of US\$ 500,000 towards revival of the world heritage site of Timbuktu. India also announced the gifting of vehicles and IT/media equipment to the Malian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambulances for the general public. Bilateral trade

with Mali has almost trebled during last five years, amounting to about US\$ 350.72 million in 2015-16. ITEC slots offered to Mali has been increased from the earlier 30 to 40 for 2016-2017. Under the ICCR scholarship, currently, 6 Malians are pursuing Master's Degree in Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Mauritania

Bilateral relations with Mauritania continued to progress during the current year although no high level/official visits took place. Slots under ITEC programme has been increased from the earlier 10 to 15 for 2016-2017. Bilateral trade for 2015-2016 stood at US\$ 76.94 million.

Morocco

Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari visited Morocco from 30 May-2 June 2016 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Morocco. During the visit, he held delegation-level talks with PM Abdelilah Benkirane. The two Chairmen of both the Houses of Parliament of Morocco also called on the VP. He was also conferred with Doctorate Honoris Causa by the Mohammed V University of Rabat on 1 June 2016. During the visit, two MoUs i.e. Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Morocco for the year



Vice President laying wreath at the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, in Rabat, Morocco, on 31 May 2016.

2016-2019; and Agreement between Foreign Service Institute and Moroccan Academy for Diplomatic Studies were signed. India Morocco Chamber of Commerce & Industry was also launched jointly by the Vice President and Prime Minister of Morocco on 31 May 2016.

A number of Indian companies participated in the 11th edition of International Agricultural Fair of Morocco (SIAM) 2016 in Meknes on 26-27 April 2016, which is considered one of the biggest Agricultural Fairs in Africa. A FICCI business delegation consisted of 15 businessmen visited Morocco from 24-26 July 2016. A CAPEXIL business delegation visited Casablanca in August 2016 and held business meetings with Moroccan counterparts.

India was the guest of honour country at the 22nd edition of the Fes Festival of Sacred Music in May 2016, where more than 25 Indian musicians/performers/artists performed and their performances were well-appreciated.

The Second International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2016 was celebrated in Morocco with enthusiasm and strong participation. Hundreds of people turned out in Marrakech, Casablanca, Tangier and Meknes on 19 June 2016 and in

Agadir on 21 June 2016 to participate in the second IDY.

The first-ever Festival of India (FOI) was organized in five cities of Morocco i.e. Rabat, Casablanca, El Jadida, Fes and Marrakech from 23 July-07 August 2016. Several dance/singing groups performed during this FOI.

Mozambique

Relations with Mozambique saw a major upswing during the year with the landmark visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 7 July 2016. Mozambique was the first country in mainland Africa visited by the Prime Minister, and his visit came 34 years after the last visit to Mozambique by an Indian Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's visit served to emphasise the strength of India's relationship with Mozambique, a country in which Indian companies have invested heavily in coal and natural gas extraction. It also provided an opportunity for the PM to interact with representatives of the 20,000 strong Indian diaspora in Mozambique. Prime Minister also visited an Information Technology Incubation and Training Centre outside Maputo which had been constructed through



Prime Minister inspects Guard of Honour at Presidential Palace in Maputo during his visit to Mozambique, 7 July 2016.

concessional credit provided by India, and interacted with Mozambican students there. Three bilateral agreements were signed (i) agreement for promoting greater exchanges among youths and sportspersons, (ii) agreement for preventing use and smuggling of narcotic substances, and (iii) agreement aimed at promoting greater cultivation of Pigeon Peas (Toor daal) in Mozambique and its exports to the Indian market. The agreement was negotiated during the visit to Mozambique of a delegation led by Secretary (Consumer Affairs) from 21-23 June 2016. For implementation of the agreement, a team of Indian agricultural scientists visited Mozambique from 13-18 November 2016 and interacted with officials of the Mozambican Ministry of Agriculture in Maputo, and also visited the province of Nampula, where the Mozambique Government intends to set up a Pigeon Peas Seed Production, Development and Training Centre with Indian assistance.

Prior to PM's visit, the bilateral Joint Working Group on Defence had held its third meeting on 24 June 2016, in Maputo. On the Indian side, the Indian delegation at the JWG meeting was led by Joint Secretary (PIC) in Ministry of Defence. The meeting helped identify several areas of defence cooperation between Mozambique and India such as Indian assistance for upgradation of military medical facilities in Mozambique, for assistance in military training, supplies of equipment, hydrographic surveying, protection of Mozambican Exclusive Economic Zone, and exchange of White Shipping Information. These issues were further followed up on during Prime Minister's visit in July 2016.

Indian Naval Ship 'Trikanth' made a friendly port-call at Maputo from 17-19 September 2016. A reception was hosted on board the ship on 18 September, which was attended, among others, by the Mozambican Deputy Minister for Trade & Industry. The visit of the ship served to further underline the potential for maritime cooperation between the two countries.

A team from NSIC visited Mozambique from 14 to 20 August 2016, in connection with a project to set up a vocational training centre in Mozambique, with Indian assistance. The team visited the capital of Manica province in Mozambique, which has been identified by the Mozambique Government for locating the vocational training centre, and planned out the physical layout of the proposed facility.

Health Minister of Mozambique, Dr. (Mrs.) Nazira Vali

Abdula, visited India to take part in the India-Africa Health Science Meeting organised by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 1-3 September 2016. She also had a meeting with Minister for Health & Family Welfare on 1 September 2016, in which all existing and potential areas of health cooperation between India and Mozambique were discussed.

On 21 November 2016, the Indian High Commissioner presented a cheque of US\$ 10 million to the Mozambican Minister for Trade & Industry, Mr. Max Tonela. This donation was provided in response to a request from the Government of Mozambique, and was intended to allow the Mozambican authorities to purchase wheat from the world market, to address shortage of food in the country following two successive years of drought. The Mozambique Government expressed appreciation and thanks for the solidarity shown by India.

Mozambique was allocated 15 ITEC slots and 34 ICCR scholarship slots in 2016-17. All the ITEC slots and 30 ICCR slots have been utilized. A few more Mozambican scholarship beneficiaries also traveled to India under special scholarship schemes introduced during the third India-Africa Forum Summit 2016. High Commission of India in Maputo celebrated ITEC Day on 15 September 2016, with the participation of about 60 ITEC alumni.

A light-classical troupe led by Mrs. Shaila Hattangadi visited Mozambique from 30 October to 2 November 2016, on the sponsorship of ICCR. The troupe's performances at Maputo and Xai-Xai saw large participation of members of the Indian diaspora and were widely appreciated.

Namibia

President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to Namibia from 15-17 June 2016 at the invitation of Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia. The last high level visit from India to Namibia took place in 1995, twenty one years ago.

President Mukherjee held a tete-a-tete meeting with President Geingob, followed by official discussions between the two leaders on 16 June 2016, during which they exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. President Mukherjee addressed the Joint Session of Namibian Parliament on 16 June 2016, which was preceded

by a brief meeting with Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia Professor Peter H. Katjavivi and Chairperson of the National Council Margareth Mensah-Williams. Founding President of Namibia Dr. Sam Nujoma and Former President Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba also paid courtesy calls on the President of India.

President Mukherjee addressed the students and faculty members of Namibia University of Science and Technology on 17 June 2016. President's programme included visits to the Heroes' Acre, where he laid a wreath in honour of Namibia's Heroes, and to the Independence Memorial Museum. President Mukherjee also addressed the Indian community at a reception organized in his honour by the High Commissioner.

Two MoUs were signed during the visit: (i) MoU on establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Namibia; and (ii) MoU between Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

President Mukherjee announced India's decision to offer 100 tonnes of medicines as grant-in-aid over the next three years with a view to assisting the Namibian side implement the health goals envisaged under their 'Harambee Prosperity Plan'. Expressing solidarity with Namibia on the ongoing drought situation, the Indian side conveyed an assistance of 1000 tonnes of rice. The Indian side also conveyed their decision to further enhance the number of ITEC slots for Namibia to 200, and to provide a grant of US\$ 20,000 to the Indira Gandhi Maternity Clinic in Okahao to meet some of its immediate equipment needs. The Namibian side conveyed their sincere appreciation for these gestures. President Mukherjee invited President Geingob to visit India, which was accepted with pleasure.

Prime Minister of Namibia Ms. Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila attended the Indian classical dance performance on 21 October 2016 organised as part of 'India Week' celebrations from 17-24 October 2016. A six member Kathak dance troupe led by Ms. Pratima Roy Chaudhury was sponsored by the ICCR for this occasion, which also performed in Swakopmund apart from Windhoek. Other events organized as part of 'India Week' celebrations included Yoga/meditation sessions, Indian cuisine & henna classes and screening of Indian movies.

The third round of Diplomatic and Political Consultations between India and Namibia was held from 16-18 May 2016

in Windhoek. The two delegations were led by Dr. Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary (E&SA), MEA and Dr. Panduleni-Kaino Shingenge, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia respectively. Apart from exchanging views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest, the two sides also utilised the opportunity to assess and review the preparations for the forthcoming State Visit of the President of India to Namibia.

The third session of India-Namibia Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi on 7 September 2016. The two delegations were led by Smt Nirmala Sitharam, MoS (IC) for Commerce and Industry and Mr. Piet Van Der Walt, Deputy Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development of Namibia respectively. The JTC reviewed the developments in bilateral trade, inter alia, noting that during 2015 India was the seventh largest country from which Namibia sourced its imports. The two sides also reviewed bilateral cooperation in specific sectors such as mining, sourcing of precious gems/stones, renewable energy, MSMEs, Tourism, Water Resources, Investment, etc.

Minister of Health and Social Services of Namibia Dr. Bernard Haufiku visited India to attend India-Africa Health Sciences Meet, jointly organized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Ministry of External Affairs from 1-3 September 2016. Dr. Haufiku also held discussions with the Health Minister of India, Mr. J.P. Nadda. The areas of discussions included capacity building and education of health professionals, research, manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, regulatory framework for health and pharmaceutical sectors.

A Namibian delegation led by Sylvia Makgone, Deputy Minister of Rural and Urban Development and Priscilla Beukes, Deputy Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare visited India from 1-12 September 2016 for studying India's experiences with poverty eradication and rural development. The delegation visited Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Delhi among other cities, and saw several sites and rural development programmes being organized by the Govt of India. The delegation also held meeting with Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Rural Development and Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Minister of State for Rural Development on 12 September 2016.

Namibian Air Force Chief AVM M. Pinehas visited India

from 30 October-6 November 2016. Apart from Delhi, he also visited Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad, where he visited Indian Air Force facilities and held discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation.

A delegation from the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) of India visited Namibia from 6-8 November 2016 for exploring the possibilities of business cooperation with Namibian companies. In cooperation with the India-Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a buyer-seller meeting was organized by the High Commission of India on 7 November 2016, which was attended by several dozen Namibian business persons. The meeting was inaugurated by Simataa Mutumba Stanley, Deputy Minister of Information & Communication Technology of Namibia.

The 2nd International Day of Yoga 2016 was celebrated in Windhoek on 25 June 2016 at the Parliament Gardens, the bustling city centre housing major landmarks of the city. The Mayor of Windhoek, M. Kazapua led the Yoga Day event and practiced Yoga at the Parliament gardens along with hundreds of enthusiastic participants from the city. A series of other Curtain Raiser Events were also held leading up to the main event.

The S.R.C.High School, Dobra in Namibia organized an event titled “Turning Challenges into Opportunities –The Journey Continues” on 9 September 2016 during which the students were briefed about the life and contributions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Meritorious students from disadvantaged backgrounds were gifted academic books.

ITEC Day was celebrated on 14 October 2016 which was attended by more than 200 ITEC alumni as well as the Indian ITEC experts deputed to Namibia.

The Mission, in collaboration with the International University of Management (IUM), organised a seminar on India's Constitution Day (26 November 2016) on 6 December 2016. Dignitaries attending the event included Mr. Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and former Prime Minister of Namibia, Mr. Nahas Angula.

Niger

Dean (FSI) and GoI Special Envoy visited Niamey from 31 August-2 September 2016 and called on Nigerien

President Issoufou Mahamadou, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad Ibrahim Yacoubou and Minister of Planning Madam Aichatou Boulama Kane. He also met with Secretary General of Foreign Affairs. During his interaction with the Nigerien leadership, issues of mutual interest were discussed and ongoing cooperation in human resource development and capacity building was reviewed. Government of Niger and Exim Bank of India signed, in the first half of financial year 2016-17, a LoC Agreement of US\$ 30 million relating to Solid Waste Treatment cum Landfill Project in Niamey. In May 2016, GoI approved, in principle, a LoC of US\$ 72 million for Social Housing Project.

Nigeria

Bilateral relations with Nigeria continued to flourish during the current year.

Visits from Nigeria

Nigerian MoS for Power visited India from 27-30 August 2016 to attend the commissioning of 500 MVA/765KV EHV Power Transformer plant set up in Bhiwadi (Unit No.5), Rajasthan by M/s. Skipper, an Indian company. He was accompanied by Governors of four states namely Cross River State, Katsina State, Kano State and Taraba State. Nigerian Minister of State for Health, accompanied by a 5-member delegation, visited India from 1-3 September 2016 to attend the India-Africa Health Science Meet in New Delhi. During the visit, he met with the Minister of Health & Family Welfare and discussed possibilities for cooperation in the field of health and allied sectors. The Nigerian MoS for Petroleum Resources, accompanied by 3-member official delegation, visited India from 16-18 October 2016 and met MoS(IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas and discussed ways and means of increasing cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector between the two countries.

The Nigerian MOS for Petroleum Resources accompanied by a 12-member official delegation including three Senators, visited India from 4-7 December 2016 to take part in the 12th Edition of Petrotech 2016 held in New Delhi. During the visit, he met MoS (IC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas and held discussions on deepening hydrocarbon cooperation between the two countries. A four-member delegation led by a Captain from the Nigerian Navy visited Indian Navy Design Bureau, New Delhi and ADE, Bengaluru (DRDO) from



Vice President introducing the Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal to the President of Nigeria, Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, at the State House, in Abuja, Nigeria on 27 September 2016.



Vice President inaugurating the New Building of the High Commission of India in Abuja, Nigeria on 26 September 2016.

01-09 December 2016. A six-member Nigerian Navy team participated in the International Sailing Regatta (Admiral's Cup 2016) held at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala from 05-11 December 2016. There is likely to be a high-level participation from Nigeria at the 12th edition of CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India- Africa Project Partnership from 9-10 March 2017 in New Delhi. A Ministry of Defence delegation will attend the 4th Joint Defence Coordination Committee meeting which is likely to be held in Abuja in February/March 2017. A delegation from NDA, Khadakwasla is likely visit NDA (Kaduna), Nigeria in February/March 2017.

Defence delegations

A 5-member delegation from National Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria led by a Brigadier, visited National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, India on a reciprocal visit from 5-9 April 2016. A 3 Member team from M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru led by an Additional General Manager visited Abuja, Nigeria from 22-25 August 2016 based on an invite received from the Nigerian Air Force.

High-level visits from India

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari, accompanied by a 13-member high-level delegation including MoS for Finance and Corporate Affairs and three Members of Parliament, visited Nigeria from 26-29 September 2016. He inaugurated the new Chancery complex of the Indian High Commission and addressed the Indian community after inaugurating a photo exhibition entitled 'India-Nigeria relations: From Evolution to Strategic Partnership'. He called on the Nigerian President and had detailed discussions with his counterpart, the Nigerian Vice President. He delivered a speech at the National Defence College, Abuja. During his visit, a MoU on cooperation between the Bureau of Indian Standards and Standards Organisation of Nigeria was signed. An important and high-level business delegation also accompanied the Vice President. Vice President also visited the University of Lagos and attended an Indian community reception hosted by the Indian Mission. **Picture 8**

International Yoga Day

The Indian High Commission in Abuja celebrated the 2nd International Day of Yoga on 19 June 2016. Around 250 people including members of the Indian community and some prominent Nigerians participated in the celebrations. Nigerian Minister of State of Civil Aviation and Chief Judge

of Federal High Court were among the distinguished guests at the event. High Commission of India office in Lagos also celebrated the International Yoga day on the same attended by about 300 people.

Launch of Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM

Nigerian Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment, Indian High Commissioner, Shri B.N.Reddy and President of ASSOCHAM jointly launched the Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM in Abuja on 28 June 2016 with a view to further increasing business activities between the two countries.

Auto Show

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) in association with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI and the High Commission of India organized ACMA Auto Show and Buyer-Seller meet in Lagos from 18-19 July 2016 to showcase the growing capabilities and products of the Indian Auto Component Industry.

Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

The Indian Mission celebrated the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at its premises on 14 April 2016. About 60-70 people, including from Indian community, attended the function. HCI, Lagos Office also organised a similar function in association with Indian Lagos School at the school premises on the same day.

Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti and web-cast of inauguration of PBK

On the occasion of the Gandhi Jayanti and also to mark the occasion of inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi dedicated to the Indian Diaspora by the Prime Minister, the Indian High Commission organised a get-together with the Indian community in the Chancery on 2 October 2016.

Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Indian High Commission celebrated the 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31 October 2016 at its premises. Around 50 Indian community members attended the function.

Republic of Congo (ROC)

Bilateral relations continued to progress on an even keel during

the current year. The RoC Government was completing formalities to start LoC projects (US\$ 89.9 million) for the Development of Transportation System in capital Brazzaville and Pointe Noire and LoC for US\$ 55 million for a Greenfield 600 tons/d rotary kiln based Cement Plant Project. RoC President Mr. Denis Sassou N'guesso was re-elected for a 7-year term in the March 2016 presidential elections.

Rwanda

President of Rwanda His Excellency Paul Kagame paid a working visit to India from 9-11 January 2017 at the invitation of Prime Minister. President Kagame was accompanied by senior officials and a business delegation. This was President Kagame's first official visit to India.

PM Modi and President Kagame discussed a wide range of issues covering bilateral relations, and India's increasing engagements as a development partner for Africa. Bilateral trade between India and Rwanda has doubled in the past 5 years. India offers LOCs and grants for Rwanda's development assistance. During the visit the following documents were issued/exchanged:-

1. Declaration of Strategic Partnership between India and Rwanda
2. Joint Statement
3. Signing of Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance by Republic of Rwanda
4. Memorandum of Understanding between Rwanda Police and Gujarat Forensic Sciences University

The following announcements were made:-

1. Grant of US\$ 2 million of medicines and cash grant of US\$ 1 million for purchase of medical equipment
2. GoI assistance for Line of Credit of US\$ 81 million for a road project
3. Commencement of direct flights between Kigali and Mumbai by RwandAir

Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (I/C), led an Indian delegation to participate in the 28th meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol for climate change held in October 2016 in Kigali. Contribution of India at the negotiations were very crucial and efforts of the MoS were held in high esteem by majority of the delegations.

13 ICCR scholarship slots were issued to Rwanda for the year 2016, out of which it has been able to utilize 7 ICCR slots. Rwanda has also availed 3 ITEC slots. 4 IAFS training slots have so far been utilized by Rwanda. One Rwandan Army officer will be travelling shortly to India to avail a training slot offered under ITEC-I to Rwanda in the 'SODE (part-II) 107' course at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow.

Pan-African e-Network Project continues to run successfully in Rwanda.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Kigali on 21 June 2016. The event was attended by over 100 persons including eminent Indians and Rwandans.

Sao Tome & Principe

India and Sao Tome & Principe enjoy warm and cordial relations. Sao Tome supported India's candidatures in various multilateral fora. India continues to assist Sao Tome in training and capacity development.

Senegal

India has excellent bilateral relations with Senegal which flows from historical relationship between both the countries. There is a developmental assistance exposure of US\$ 300 million in different sectors impacting the population. Both the countries have bilateral mechanisms like Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Commissions etc., already established. Senegal has been supporting India in multilateral fora and voted in favour of India at the United Nations Human Rights Council elections for the term 2015-2017. Senegal has also been playing an important moderating role in the Organisation of Islamic Conference meets. President of Senegal has invited India to join 'Africa Global Partnership Platform (AGPP) of NEPAD as a Sherpa. India has interests in Industries Chimique du Senegal (ICS) which is the flagship company in Senegal (manufactures phosphoric acid from the rock phosphate, available in plenty in Senegal. Phosphoric Acid, being an important ingredient for fertilizer, is contributing to the Indian food security). On 19 June 2016, the Indian Embassy organized a grand event at the Renaissance Monument in Dakar to celebrate the 2nd International Day of Yoga. The event was attended by about 1000 people including members of Indian diaspora, dignitaries, Government officials, celebrities, diplomats and local people. A Business event entitled 'Business Opportunities in Food and Energy Sector' was organized in St. Louis on 20

October 2016 in collaboration with the Senegalese Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. The event was attended by more than 150 economic partners and entrepreneurs. India continues to provide capacity building training opportunities to Senegal and for the financial year 2016-17, 30 ITEC slots and 10 ICCR Scholarship slots were offered to Senegal. There has been an improved participation in the current year as compared to previous years. Bilateral trade for the year 2015-16 stood at US\$ 809.79 million with exports from India of US\$ 544.84 million and imports to India amounting to US\$ 263.95 million.

The first Festival of India in Senegal was celebrated for a month in January 2017 with the participation of a number of well-known Indian dance and music artists to showcase Indian culture. A Gandhi Exhibition is also planned to be organized for one month starting on 30 January 2017 as an important component of the Festival. Senegal was one of the founder signatories of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in Marrakesh on 15 November 2016. As a part of solar cooperation, it sent two candidates to the National Institute of Solar Alliance (NISE) to attend the advanced training programme starting in January 2017. Senegal was also one of the 23 members other than India which signed the Declaration of Yoga as a “Human Treasure” in Addis Ababa in November 2016. In October 2016, Senegal voted in favour of the Indian candidature of Shri Aniruddha Rajput in International Law Commission for the term 2017-21.

Sierra Leone

India and Sierra Leone continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. The bilateral trade between India and Sierra Leone amounted to US\$ 107.73 million in 2015-16, a slight increase from US\$ 103.99 million in 2014-15. The trade figures were affected in the previous two years due to the Ebola virus crisis in Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leone government, through its Ministry of Finance, signed a Line of Credit agreement of US\$ 78 million for establishment of transmission lines and substations with EXIM Bank of India at Freetown on 11 August 2016. Sierra Leone fully utilized the ITEC training slots in 2016-17 (all 20 slots utilized). The Indian Honorary Consul in Freetown, with support from the Indian High Commission in Accra, successfully organized the 2nd International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2016.

Somalia

India's political relations with Somalia continue to be cordial as the country attempts to stabilize after more than two decades of Civil War and ensuing anarchy. India remains committed to the international anti-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia, and has been participating in various international Conferences on piracy such as plenary sessions of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). No incidence of piracy has been reported from the Somali waters for the last three years.

India has always remained one of the preferred destinations for Somali students. Current Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is an alumni of Bhopal University, and the Somali Ambassador in New Delhi has also studied at Pune. Apart from education through private funding for Somali students, India also offers 30 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training scholarships to Somalia. Somalia is also among the partner countries of Pan African e-Network project, which will help in tele-education and tele-medicine fields by digitally bringing Indian expertise to Somalia.

South Africa

South Africa-India enjoy strong historic, cultural and economic linkages. The excellent bilateral relation was further strengthened by the landmark bilateral visit of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to South Africa after a gap of 10 years. The visit also further strengthened the strategic partnership between the two countries. As a member of BRICS, India cherishes and values partnership with South Africa. During the year, engagements between the two countries deepened both at the bilateral level as well as within IBSA and BRICS contexts.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to South Africa from 7-9 July 2016. It was his first bilateral visit to South Africa. The visit started with a ceremonial welcome and guard of honour at the Presidential Palace (The Union Buildings) and meeting with the President of South Africa Mr. Jacob Zuma with whom he held bilateral delegation level talks. Deputy President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa called on the Prime Minister. Prime Minister spoke at India-South Africa Business Forum in Pretoria and addressed the Indian community in Johannesburg. Prime Minister paid a visit to



Prime Minister visiting the Constitutional Hill, in Johannesburg, South Africa on 8 July 2016.

Nelson Mandela Foundation and held interaction with some South African struggle heroes. While in Johannesburg, he inaugurated a permanent Mandela-Gandhi digital exhibition at the Constitution Hill, where both the great leaders had been prisoned at different periods in history. In KwaZulu Natal Province, the Prime Minister was honoured by a Civic Reception in Durban hosted by Mayor of Durban and the High Commissioner of India. He took a symbolic train ride to Pietermaritzburg and paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Pietermaritzburg where he also inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi permanent exhibition. In Durban, the Prime Minister held interaction with the ITEC alumni. During his visit to Phoenix settlement in Durban Prime Minister planted a tree. During the visit MOUs on ICT, Programme of Cooperation in Arts & Culture, Tourism and Grass Roots Innovation in S&T were signed. A Joint Statement was issued during the visit.

In connection with the 8th BRICS Summit hosted by India in Goa on 15-16 October 2016, Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, visited India, and held fruitful discussions with the leaders. President Zuma was accompanied by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; Minister of Trade and Industry,

Dr Rob Davies; Minister of Science and Technology, Ms. Naledi Pandor; Minister of State Security, Mr. David Mahlobo; and Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu.

A number of BRICS Ministerial meetings were hosted in India ahead of the Summit. South Africa participated in these meetings enthusiastically. Deputy Minister in the Presidency Mr. Buti Maamela attended BRICS Youth Summit in Guwahati on 2-3 July 2016; Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Ms Thandi Modise attended BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum in Jaipur on 20-21 August 2016; Mr. Des Van Rooyen, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs attended the meeting of BRICS Ministers for Disaster Management on 22-23 August 2016 in Udaipur; Mr. Derek Andre Hanekom, Minister of Tourism attended the BRICS Convention on Tourism on 1-2 September 2016 in Khajuraho; Mr. Andries Nel, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and Deputy Minister of Human Settlements Ms. Kota-Fredericks participated in the 3rd meeting of BRICS Urbanization Forum on 14-16 September 2016 in Visakhapatnam; Mr. Mbangiseni David Mahlobo, Minister of State Security attended the meeting of BRICS NSA on 15-16

September 2016 in New Delhi; Ms Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, attended the Meeting of BRICS Environment Ministers and Meeting of BRICS Working Group on Environment in Goa on 15-16 September 2016; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr. S Zokwana attended BRICS Agriculture Ministers meetings in New Delhi on 23 September 2016; Deputy Minister for Higher Education and Training Mduzuzi Manana attended the 4th BRICS Education Ministers' meeting on 30 September 2016; Minister of Science and Technology, Ms. N. Pandor attended BRICS S&T Meeting in Jaipur on 8 October 2016; Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Rob Davies attended the BRICS Trade Fair on 14 October 2016 in New Delhi; the Minister of Communications, Dr Siyabonga Cwele led a delegation of senior officials and business leaders to participate in the BRICS Ministers of Telecommunications Meeting in Bengaluru from 10-11 November 2016. A BRICS Film festival was hosted in New Delhi from 2-6 September 2016. Under 17- BRICS football match was organised in which South African team participated.

The 8th Foreign Office Consultations between India and South Africa was held on 12-13 May 2016 in Pretoria and the 3rd Meeting of India-South Africa Joint Agriculture Working Group (JAWG) held on 30 June 2016 in New Delhi.

In terms of commercial and economic relations a significant number of Indian companies have registered in SA in various sectors. In 2015-16, India exported US\$ 3588.74 million and imported US\$ 5948.42 million totaling US\$ 9537.15 million (upto March 2016). Eight MoUs were signed between Indian and South African companies in 2016 on the margins of the third India-South Africa CEOs forum held in Pretoria during the visit of Prime Minister of India to South Africa on 8 July 2016.

A 16-member delegation led by Special Secretary, Ministry of Mines visited Cape Town in August-September, 2016 to participate in the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC). Mr. J.S. Deepak, Secretary, Telecom & Chairman TEPC led an Indian delegation to AFRICACOM in Cape Town from 15-17 November 2016.

In the area of bilateral defence cooperation, the 7th Joint Defence Committee meeting was conducted in June 2016, led by Mr. G Mohan Kumar, Defence Secretary.

As part of a goodwill tour in September 2016, a task group

from the Indian Navy consisting of INS Kolkata, INS Aditya and INS Trikand under the command of the Rear Admiral Ravneet Singh, Flag Officer Western Fleet visited Durban. In conjunction with the ships' port call, Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief Western Naval Command visited South Africa. In September 2016, an Indian delegation from Ministry of Defence participated in the African Aerospace Exhibition held at Pretoria. The two delegations consisted of Air Marshal Ajit Bhonsle, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff and Mr Deepak Anurag Joint Secretary (AM & LS). The Indian Pavilion showcased products of DRDO, BEL, OFB, MDL, GRSE and HAL. On the side-lines of the exhibition, the Indian delegation had fruitful interactions with the Minister of Defence, Chief of South African National Defence Force, Chief of Air Force and the Armaments Corporation of South Africa.

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Mhadei, with all women crew of six made a port call at Cape Town on 23 December 2016. It took the voyage from Goa to Cape Town in about 44 days sailing approximately 5000 nautical miles through heavy weather. The six Naval lady officers on board Mhadei have been hand-picked by the Indian Navy and are being groomed to attempt circumnavigation of globe in second half of 2017. The voyage from Goa to Cape Town forms an important milestone towards this goal. INSV Mhadei, after brief stay at Cape Town sailed out on 1 January 2017 with different crew of six (2 women from above six) participating in the Cape2Rio 2017 Ocean Sailing Race. The race is expected to finish by 25 January 2017 at Port Rio de Janeiro.

South Africa has utilised 16 ITEC slots for 2016-17 and all the 52 slots of ICCR scholarship have been utilised.

Sudan

Joint Secretary (WANA) led the Indian delegation to the 7th Round of India-Sudan Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) held in Khartoum, 21-22 December 2016. The discussions were held on a wide range of topics of mutual interest which covered bilateral, regional and global issues.

South Sudan

The political security situation continues to remain fragile on account of the ongoing political and ethnic war in the country between the forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and erstwhile Vice President Dr Riek Machar.

Hostilities broke out between two warring factions in South Sudan's capital Juba on 7 July 2016, resulting in fatalities and disruption of normal services of public utilities and movement. The Government of India, in order to alleviate the difficulties faced by our nationals in South Sudan, launched Operation Sankat Mochan under which 153 Indians and 2 citizens of Nepal were evacuated.

More than 2,300 Indian troops remain deployed with UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Despite loss of seven Indian soldiers in 2013, India remains committed to its mandate. The internal conflict in the country has led to the complete shutdown of oil production in areas under the operation of Indian company OVL and its consortium partners in South Sudan.

Swaziland

High Commissioner, Mr. R. Gaurav Shresth, presented his credentials to the King of Swaziland.

Tanzania

Prime Minister visited Tanzania on 9-10 July 2016 and met Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli. Other visits included those by Secretary (ER) for Foreign Office Consultations (June 2016), Secretary (Health) for WHO

related meeting on Family Planning 2020 (November 2016), Joint Secretary (DPA-I) for review of water projects in Dar es Salaam (June 2016) and a delegation from Ministry of Electronics and IT (October 2016). During PM's visit, 5 agreements were signed. They are:

- MoU on Cooperation in the field of water resource management and development;
- MoU on Visa waiver agreement for Diplomatic/Official passport holders;
- Agreement on Joint Action Plan between National Small Industries Corporation of India and Small Industries Development Organization Tanzania
- MoU between the Government of Tanzania and the Government of India for Establishment of Vocational Training Centre at Zanzibar
- LOC of US\$ 92 million for rehabilitation and improvement of water supply system in Zanzibar. Picture 9

Tanzania was one of the signatories of the International Solar Alliance at Marrakech (November 2016). Commander of Tanzanian Navy visited India (August 2016). INS Trikand paid a goodwill visit to Tanzania (September 2016) and INS Darshak conducted the hydrographic survey of Tanga harbor (November 2016).



Prime Minister being greeted, during the ceremonial welcome, at the State House, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 10 July 2016. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. John Magufuli is also seen.

Coinciding with the Prime Ministers visit, a 50-member FICCI delegation visited Tanzania for the India Tanzania Business Council meeting (July 2016). Other visits of business delegations included those by FIEO delegation for the 12th Tanzania Trade Show (November 2016), Kerala Cashew Corporation (October 2016), Air India delegation (August 2016), Solvent Extractors Association (July 2016), CHEMEXCIL with a delegation of 46 Indian companies (July 2016) and GAIL delegation (June 2016). Canara Bank's branch office was inaugurated in Dar es Salaam (May 2016). The High Commission organized a business roundtable and exhibition at Tanga (November 2016).

The 2nd IDY was celebrated at Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Arusha, Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma and Mbeya. Namaste Tanzania, Habari Tanzania cultural festival was held in 8 cities in Tanzania (October-November 2016). 6 cultural groups from India performed during the festival. Hindi Divas was celebrated with the participation of Mr. Ashok Chakradhar (September 2016). Tanzanian under 17 national football team participated in a football tournament in Goa (May 2016) and the Tanzanian Kabaddi team participated at the World Kabaddi Tournament which was held in Punjab (November 2016). Their participations were funded by the Indian side.

India has a longstanding and healthy development partnership with Tanzania based on mutual understanding and respect, and sense of genuine partnership drawing on the principle of South-South cooperation. The water supply project from Upper Ruvu River to Dar es Salaam under GoI's Line of Credit was completed (August 2016). India gifted US\$ 250000 for Kagera earthquake relief (September 2016). Under GOI's grant, India-Tanzania ICT Resource Centre at NM-AIST, Arusha was inaugurated (July 2016). India gifted Babhatron-II Cancer therapy machine to Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza (July 2016). The High Commission donated Indian secondary school textbooks for Math and Science to five secondary schools in Dar es Salaam (April 2016).

The visa waiver agreement for Diplomatic/Official passport holders came into effect on 26 December 2017.

About 25 Indian companies organized by APEDA visited Tanzania for promotion of Indian food products (12-13 December 2016).

About 200 PIOs attended the Convention on Indian Diaspora which was organized at the High Commission (Jan 2017).

World Hindi Day was celebrated at the Indian Cultural Centre (10 Jan 2017).

Togo

India and Togo continued to enjoy warm and cordial bilateral relations. Minister of State for Defence, accompanied by a five member delegation, participated in the African Union Summit on Maritime Security held in Lomé from 14-15 October 2016. During the visit, MoS (Defence) met with the President of Togo, Prime Minister and senior security officials and discussed issues of bilateral interest and of maritime safety and security. India extended a US\$ 100,000 grant assistance to the Government of Togo for the successful organization of the African Union Maritime Security Summit. Total bilateral trade between India and Togo for 2015-16 was US\$ 757.28 million. Exports from India to Togo was worth US\$ 532.19 million and imports from Togo US\$ 225.09 million. The 2nd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Lomé with the active involvement of the Indian Honorary Consul and the Indian Association. A yoga demonstration by an expert from India was the highlight of the event.

Tunisia

Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President, accompanied by his wife visited Tunisia on 2-3 June 2016. The Vice President held bilateral discussions with President of Tunisia, Prime Minister, President of the House of Representatives of People and President of Ennahda Party. H.E. Mr. Otthmane Battikh, Mufti of Tunisia called on VP. Two agreements, i.e. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Handicrafts and Agreement on Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) were signed during the visit. He delivered a keynote address "India and the World" organised by the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies.

India participated as a Guest of Honour at the 33rd edition of the handicrafts exhibition organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts in Tunis from 22 April-1 May 2016.

A 12-member multi-sectoral FICCI trade delegation visited Tunisia from 27-30 July 2016. Four rounds of business-to-business meetings with all three apex chambers of commerce and industry in Tunis – (i) Union Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Artisans of Tunisia (UTICA), (ii) Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tunis (CCIT), (iii) Confederation of Tunisian Citizen Enterprises (CONNECT) were held. The delegation met three serving Cabinet Ministers – (i) Minister of Industry Zakaria Hamad; (ii) Minister of Energy and Mines Mongi Marzouk; and (iii) Minister of Trade and Commerce Mohsen Hassan.

A 9-member business delegation launched by the Plastics



Vice President being received by the Prime Minister of Tunisia, Mr. Habib Essid on his arrival, in Tunisia on 2 June 2016.

Export Promotion Council visited Tunis from 9-11 November 2016.

A 7-member ICCR sponsored instrumental music group participated in the Jendouba Theatre Festival from 14-17 April 2016. The group staged three performances in the Governorate of Jendouba.

Seven Yoga events in and outside Tunis were held to celebrate the 2nd International Day of Yoga (IDY 2016). More than 400 Tunisians took part in the gala event on 21 June 2016 at the main sports stadium in Tunis.

'Hindi Diwas' was celebrated on 14 September 2016. Hindi poetry recitation, essay writing, painting and drawing competitions and Hindi classes were organised. A large number of Tunisian Hindi enthusiasts and Indian community members participated in Hindi Diwas activities. This was the first time Hindi promotion activities were conducted for the Tunisian nationals.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, Mahatma Gandhi's statue was unveiled by the Governor of Manouba Governorate at the campus of Manouba University in Tunis on 4 October 2016. This was the first-ever statue of any Indian personality to have been installed in Tunisia. Coinciding with

the unveiling ceremony, a Gandhi Memorial lecture entitled "Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi today and say no to violence" was delivered by an ICCR-sponsored eminent Gandhian scholar, Shobhana Radhakrishna. A photo exhibition of Mahatma Gandhi was also inaugurated at the university.

At the invitation of the Tunisian Ministry of Culture, the ICCR sponsored 6-member Kathak group visited Tunisia from 26 October-6 November 2016 and participated in the Carthage International Film Festival. The group also performed at nine places in and outside Tunis.

ITEC day was celebrated on 21 September 2016. Senior officials from Ministry of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Investment and International Cooperation, ICT, Trade and Industry, Public Works and 60 alumni attended the event.

The Mission participated in the International trade exhibition from 2-4 December 2016 in collaboration with an apex chamber of commerce, Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts (UTICA), Bizert (75 kms north of Tunis), by setting up a catalogue show of Indian companies covering various sectors. A similar catalogue show-was organised in the second largest city, Sfax on 20 - 21 December 2016.

As part of India@70 celebrations, a photo exhibition of

Mahatma Gandhi in-collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Cultural Affairs was organised in four different cities from 08 December 2016 to 20 January 2017. Vishwa Hindi Diwas was celebrated in Tunis by organising Hindi classes for Tunisian nationals and several Hindi related competitions were conducted to spread the learning of Hindi language in Tunisia. Under the cultural cooperation between India and Tunisia, a ten-member Rajasthani classical dance and music troupe sponsored by ICCR is scheduled to visit Tunisia from 24-29 January 2017 on the occasion of the Republic Day of India.

The 6th Meeting of the India-Tunisia Joint Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals was held in Tunis from 11-13 January 2017 in Tunis.

To mark the Martyr's Day on 30 January, a Gandhian expert to be sponsored by ICCR is likely to visit Tunisia to deliver Gandhi Memorial lectures. A two-member team of Indian chefs sponsored by Ministry of Tourism is likely to visit Tunisia for the Indian Food Festival in Tunisia.

Uganda

India's Eicher brand of trucks and buses were launched in Uganda in a gala event hosted in Kampala in April 2016.

India deputed an IT expert as an advisor to the Ugandan Minister of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) since 1 August 2016.

Uganda was offered 30 under-graduate, post-graduate, and Ph.D ICCR scholarships, out of which Uganda availed 22 slots. Under the ITEC initiative, Uganda has been offered 120 training slots. Of this, 78 slots have been utilized. As part of the decisions of the IAFS – III, Uganda has been offered many short-term capacity building programmes. 8 Ugandans have travelled so far to India to avail these IAFS training programmes in various fields. One Ugandan candidate travelled to India in September 2016 to avail the Sir C V Raman fellowship. One Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) officer travelled to India to avail a training slot offered under ITEC-I to Uganda in the 'DSSC – 72' course, at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Pan-African e-Network Project continues to run successfully in Uganda.

The 27000+ strong Indian Community/PIOs contribute over 60 % of the Uganda's direct taxes. A prominent Indian and a PIO are members of the Presidential Investors Round Table (PIRT). This indicates the recognition granted by the Ugandan Government to the Indian contributions to the local economy.

New Vision, the largest circulated daily in Uganda brought out an 8-page special supplement on Yoga on 10 June 2016. Visit of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Isha Foundation to Uganda in June was in connection with celebrations of IDY, and included an Introductory Talk/ Curtain Raiser held at India House on 12 June 2016. This event was followed by interactive session on Yoga moderated by BBC presenter Alan Kasujja, and a 3-day 'Inner Engineering' programme by Sadhguru. On 21 June 2016, students of Delhi Public School International, Kampala performed various Yoga Asanas to mark celebrations of the Second IDY. In other events, International School of Business and Technology (ISBAT) students and UNICEF Uganda hosted programmes and performed different Yoga Asanas.

On 2 October 2016, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, a gathering of Indian community and Ugandan nationals was organised in Jinja at the Source of the River Nile to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. The place has a Gandhi Bust and has historical importance as some of the Gandhi's ashes were immersed in the River Nile there. The event drew good crowd and was followed by a peace walk through the town of Jinja which ended at Mama Jane Orphanage. At the orphanage, some clothing, stationery and food items were handed over with the contribution of Indian Association Jinja and Bank of Baroda. The event also saw participation from Busoga Kingdom, including its Tourism Minister, Hellen Namutamba.

Constitution Day celebrations were organized in Kampala on 25 November 2016. The Preamble of the Constitution was read in Hindi and English by all officers and Indian staff of the Mission at Chancery premises. An article on the Constitution was posted on the Mission's Facebook page. Mission also arranged reading of the Preamble in Delhi Public School International Kampala, coupled with speeches on the Constitution and Preamble, a quiz competition was also held.

Zambia

India-Zambia bilateral relations continued to develop and show all round growth. Bilateral trade increased by 19% over the preceding year and 2015-16 exceeded US\$ 770 million. Zambia remained an attractive destination for Indian private investment which now stand in the range of US\$ 4 billion. Indian investments range from pharmaceutical manufacturing to copper cables and mining. India is a close development partner of Zambia, supporting and extending concessional funding to projects in health care, agriculture and energy. A recent development of note has been recognition of high level

of competence of India's infrastructure companies. India's M/s Shapoorji Pallonji group bagged the prestigious US\$ 245 million Lusaka De-congestion Project. The project will be financed by EXIM Bank India.

At the government to government level, engagement remains robust. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conveyed warm felicitations on President Edgar C. Lungu's re-election as Zambia's sixth President. Bilateral engagement is growing and is becoming multidimensional. This was evident from the exchange of visits by various Indian and Zambian delegations. Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, participated in the Annual Meetings of the Africa Development Bank [AfDB] in Lusaka from 23-27 May 2016. On the margins of the AfDB meetings, an EXIM Bank delegation led Mr. Yaduvendra Mathur, Chairman and Managing Director and a 22-member multi-sectoral FICCI business delegation were also in Lusaka. On 25th May, EXIM Bank and FICCI jointly organized a "India-Africa Partnership Day" with focus on health sector. In October, a three-member delegation led by Mr. Shashi Kant Sharma, Comptroller and Auditor General of India paid an official visit to Zambia (from 6-8 October 2016). A six-member ICCR-sponsored 'Light Classical Vocal cultural troupe' led by Ms. Shaila Hattangadi performed a fully sold out show in Lusaka on 4 November 2016. The event was well received particularly by members of the Indian diaspora at whose request our High Commission had requested ICCR to sponsor such a show.

Visits from Zambia to India included a six-member team drawn from the Zambian Army who attended a joint India-USA sponsored UN Peace Keeping Course for African Partners. The programme was held in New Delhi from 25 July-12 August 2016. As in previous years, Zambia availed of training programmes at the prestigious Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. Ms. Choogwa Mulenga, an official of the Zambian Foreign Office attended the FSI's training programme for African Diplomats held in July-August 2016. In the health sector, Zambia continued to evince keen interest in forging closer ties and availing of India's vast expertise in the health sector. To this end, a six-member Zambian Health Ministry delegation attended the "Advantage Healthcare India 2016" held in Greater Noida, NCR, from 3-5 October 2016.

In line with the Zambian Government's desire to seek assistance from its cooperating partners in skill development and capacity building programmes, Zambia enthusiastically utilised India Technical and Economic Cooperation programmes, ICCR-sponsored educational scholarships and specialised IAFS programmes. In the preceding decade, over 2500 Zambian nationals availed of ITEC/ICCR training

programmes.

COMESA: India continued to engage and work with member states of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and to explore closer cooperating ties and arrangements. India also welcomes developments taking place in COMESA and is keen to assist COMESA in its various endeavors. Our Ambassador in Madagascar, Mr. C. B. Thapliyal, represented India at the 36th COMESA Policy Organs Meeting held from 10-19 October 2016. The Summit announced that Indian Rupees will be included in COMESA's regional Payment and Settlement System operated by the COMESA Clearing House. In June 2016, Zambia became the 17th country to sign the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Agreement [TFTA]. Zambia also ratified the WTO Trade Agreement in October 2016 and signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in September 2016.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Aldrin Mussiwa, Deputy Minister of Health & Child Care attended the India-Africa Health Science Meet held in New Delhi from 1-3 September 2016.

India extended a grant of US\$ 1 million and announced an aid of 500 tons of rice to the Govt. of Zimbabwe on 4 August 2016 in response to the international appeal made by Zimbabwe in the wake of national drought disaster.

Second IDY was celebrated in Harare (19 June 2016) and in Bulawayo and Victoria Falls (23 June 2016).

The first edition of the 10 day festival under the banner of "India in Sunshine City" was organised in September 2016. The festival showcased bouquet of India's rich heritage which included Bollywood, music, dance, theatre, yoga and food. Several workshops including local artists were also conducted. The festival was supported by XP division, ICCR and Ministry of Ayush.

On 9 October 2016, Gandhi Run for Peace and Harmony was organised for the first time in Harare in collaboration with the Ministry of Sport and Recreation, Sport Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) and Harare Athletic Club. Mr. Makhosini Hlongwane, Minister of Sport and Recreation of Zimbabwe, was the Guest of Honour and flagged off the Run.

Around 72 students of Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) who were pursuing M.TEC Programme from seven Universities in India returned to Harare in 2016. An interactive session with the students in HIT.



Albania

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways visited Albania on 24-25 October 2016 and held bilateral talks/meeting with President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Economy and other representatives in Albanian Government.

Austria

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways visited Vienna on 5 July 2016 and discussed India-Austria cooperation with the CEOs of Austrian companies in the Railways sector at an event organized by the Chamber of Commerce, (WKO) in Vienna.

A delegation from the Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Educational Research, Pune visited Austria from 4-7 July 2016 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Montan University in Leoban near Graz for cooperation in the field of mining and tunneling.

A delegation led by Shri Durga Prasad Yadav, Minister of Forest, Government of Uttar Pradesh visited Vienna on 28-29 July 2016 to meet the authorities at the Schonbrunn Zoo and discussed the possibilities of collaborating with the Lucknow zoo and the Etawah Lion Safari.

A MoU between the University of Vienna (Institute of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) regarding setting up a Chair at the Institute was signed on 21 June 2016.

Dr. Sunil Kothari, former Professor and Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi visited Vienna as an ICCR scholar and spoke about the Pioneers of Indian Dance at the University of Vienna and at Natya Mandir on 16-17 June 2016.

Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways, Visited Bosnia and Herzegovina as special envoy of Prime Minister of India on 6-8 July 2016. During the visit he met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign trade and Economic Relations, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; he also met Prime Minister of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and held bilateral discussions.

Mr. Mato Franjicevic, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Economical Relations of BiH, Mr Admir Softic, Assistant for Energies in the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economical Relations of BiH & Mrs Samira Sulejmanovic, Head of the Division for Bilateral Trade Relations in the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economical Relations of BiH attended the meeting of the Co-chairs of the Joint Commission held on 9 December 2016 in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi.

Croatia

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) visited Croatia from 13-15 April, 2016 and held bilateral discussions with the Foreign Minister, Deputy Foreign Minister, Speaker of Parliament, Defence Minister and Minister of Economy.

A delegation from the State of Uttar Pradesh led by the Minister of Sports and comprising of Principal Secretary, Department of Sports, Youth Affairs & Labour and Director (Sports) visited Croatia from 18-22 April 2016.

Cyprus

Mr. Yiorgios Lakkotrypis, Minister of Energy, Trade, Industry & Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus led the Cyprus delegation at the Petrotech 2016 and the 3rd India-Europe 29 Business Forum held in New Delhi on 4-5 and 8-9 December

2016 respectively. Cyprus was the partner country for this year in the Forum.

The revised Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion between India and Cyprus was signed in Nicosia on 18 November 2016.

Czech Republic

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways, visited the Czech Republic from 20-23 October 2016 and held bilateral meetings with Mr. Jan Mladek, Minister of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic, and Mr. Ladislav Nemecek, Deputy Minister of Transport of Czech Republic. He also met Mr. Pavel Krtek, Director General of Czech Railways.

Chief of the Army Staff of India Gen. Dalbir Singh paid an official visit to the Czech Republic from 12-15 September 2016. He met the Deputy Minister and Head of Defence Policy and Strategy Division, Mr Jakub Landovsky, and the Czech Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr Jan Mladek.

The 4th meeting of the India-Czech Joint Working Group on Heavy Engineering took place in Brno on 3 October 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Eduard Muricky on the Czech side while Secretary, Heavy Industry, Mr. Girish Shankar led the Indian delegation. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the International Engineering Fair in Brno. EEPIC put up an Indian Pavilion which was inaugurated by Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Jan Mladek. A B2B Round Table bringing together Indian and Czech engineering companies was also organized.

The second round of Consular Consultations between India and the Czech Republic was held on 13 January 2016 in New Delhi.

Mr. Ivo Smarek, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security and Multilateral Affairs visited India on 30 June 2016 and held bilateral security and multilateral consultations with Secretary (West).

A Czech parliamentary delegation led by Mr Karel Schwarzenberg, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs of Committee of the Czech Parliament, visited India from 24-30 April 2016.

Mr Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic led by an 8-member official delegation visited Delhi from 18-20 December 2016 and held bilateral talks with Shri M. J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs. The

delegation was joined by Ambassador of Poland and Deputy Chief of Mission of Poland based in Delhi. Minister Zaoralek, accompanied by a high level business delegation representing various trade, industrial and financial sectors also met MoS (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and MoS for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Babul Supriyo.

Denmark

Danish Minister for higher education and science Mr. Søren Pind visited New Delhi on 8-9 December 2016 to participate in 3rd India-Europe 29 Business Forum.

Danish Minister for Energy, Utility and Climate Mr. Lars Christian Lilleholt led a business delegation that included top representatives of leading Danish companies. They all participated in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in Gujarat between 10-13 January 2017. Denmark was a partner country in the Summit.

Estonia

Ms. Annely Kolk, Under Secretary for Legal and Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia visited India for bilateral discussions in July 2016.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) were held on 26 August 2016 between India and Estonia with Secretary (West), Ms. Sujata Mehta heading the Indian delegation and Ms. Kyllike Sillaste-Elling heading the Estonian side.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology visited Estonia from 11-13 September 2016.

An Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons was signed between India and Estonia on 15 November 2016 in New Delhi.

Finland

A large delegation from the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and companies in Indian public and private sector participated in the ICANN-56 Conference in Helsinki in June 2016. More than 500 Indian Gynaecologists participated in ESHRE-2016 Conference in July 2016. Several MoUs on Education were signed between Indian and Finnish Universities during the year. Education Ministers from Chhattisgarh and National Capital Territory of Delhi

visited Finland for collaboration in school and vocational education.

FOCs were held in New Delhi on 6 October 2016 with Secretary of State of Finland, Mr. Peter Stenlund as the Head of the Finnish Delegation and Secretary (West), Ms. Sujata Mehta heading the Indian side.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines visited Finland from 3-5 November 2016.

Greece

Greek Secretary General for Political Affairs Mr. Dimitrios Paraskevopoulos led the Greek delegation for 11th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and Greece on 26 October 2016 in New Delhi.

Seventh Session of India-Greece Joint Economic Commission was held in New Delhi on 23 November 2016. The leader of Greek delegation Mr. George Katrougalos, Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs called on Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar, MoS (Civil Aviation) Shri Jayant Sinha and MoS (Chemicals and Fertilizers) Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya and discussed measures to enhance trade and investment in

pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, culture, education and infrastructure.

In September 2016, India and Greece signed a MoU on Civil Aviation to start direct flights between Delhi and Athens.

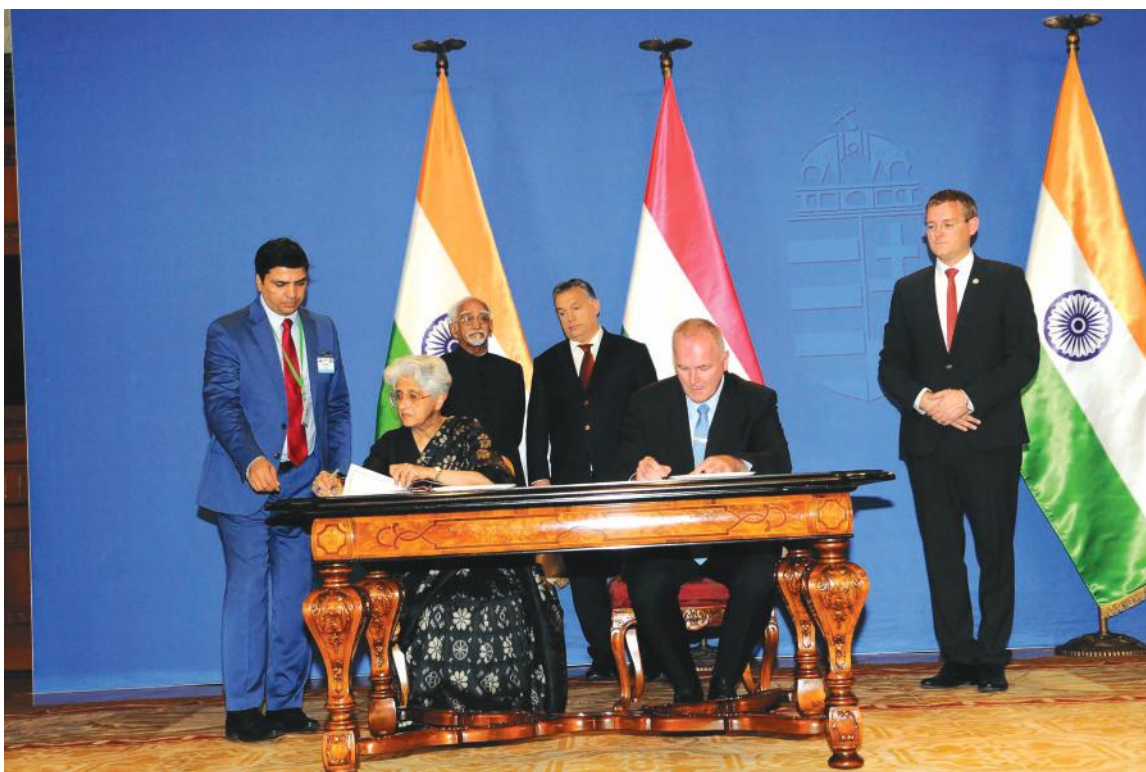
Speaker of Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Mr. Hiphei and Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Mr. Mata Prasad Pandey, accompanied by his Principal Secretary, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Dubey visited Athens on a study tour from 9-11 December 2016 before attending 62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in London from 14-16 December 2016.

Holy See

Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa in a mass at the Vatican on 4 September 2016. External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj led the 11-member official Indian delegation for the Canonization Ceremony. Three state level delegations from West Bengal & Delhi led by Chief Ministers Smt. Mamata Banerjee and Shri Arvind Kejriwal and a Ministerial delegation from Kerala and a delegation from the Indian National Congress Party also attended the event. Hundreds of Missionaries of Charity sisters attended the event, along with 13 heads of state and government. EAM called on HH Pope Francis and discussed various facets of bilateral ties and means to strengthen them.



External Affairs Minister meeting with Pope Francis in the Vatican, 5 September 2016.



Vice President and Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Viktor Orbán, at a signing ceremony in Budapest, Hungary on 16 October 2016.

Hungary

Vice President visited Hungary from 15-17 October 2016, and met with President Janos Ader, Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Speaker of the National Assembly Laszlo Kover. MoUs for cooperation in the field of Water Management, and of cooperation between the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary were signed during the visit.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MoS for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, visited Hungary to inaugurate Ganga-Danube Cultural Festival and International Day of Yoga in 10 cities of Hungary from 17-19 June 2016. Over 5000 people actively participated at the events.

Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India from 4-6 July 2016. He called on the Vice President and met with EAM, Minister of Earth Science, Science and Technology, as also Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. Mr. Istvan Ijgyarto, Minister of State for Cultural and Science Diplomacy from the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and Trade, visited India in May 2016 in connection with establishment of a Hungarian room at Tagore House in Kolkata, which is in the form of an Exhibition Gallery commemorating Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Hungary in 1926.

The fourth session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) took place in Budapest on 2-3 June 2016.

The 9th session of the Indian-Hungarian Joint Committee for Science & Technology, held its meeting in Budapest on 20 July 2016.

Iceland

Foreign Minister Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson visited India in April 2016. During the visit, the two sides issued a joint communiqué identifying major areas of cooperation. During the visit, Iceland's Minister met EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry and Shri Piyush Goel, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy.



External Affairs Minister meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland, Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson in New Delhi, 5 April 2016.

Latvia

MoS for Health and AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, visited Riga from 15-18 May 2016.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology visited Latvia from 13-16 September 2016.

A MoU was signed in New Delhi on 19 August 2016 between the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) and the University of Latvia on establishment of an academic Chair in Ayurveda.

Liechtenstein

In a first ever Ministerial visit, MoS for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), visited Liechtenstein on 18-19 April 2016. He met Mr. Thomas Zwiefelhofer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, Justice and Economic Affairs of Liechtenstein and Ms. Aurelia Frick, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Cultural Affairs. He paid a Courtesy call on His Serene Highness Hereditary Prince Alois of the Principality of Liechtenstein.



Minister of State Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) with H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, 19 April 2016

Lithuania

An MoU on Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sector was signed on 19 July 2016 by the visiting Vice Minister of Agriculture of Lithuania, Mr. Saulius Jakimavicius and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between Lithuania and India were held in New Delhi on 15 November 2016, led by Joint Secretary (Central Europe), Shri S. Bhattacharjee from the Indian side and the Director-General of Asia and Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Mr. Eduardas Borisovas heading the Lithuanian delegation.

Malta

Shri Barun Mitra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Shipping visited Malta on 14-15 December 2016 to attend the 13th Board Meeting of India LNG Transport Company Limited No.2 and 8th Board Meeting of India LNG Transport Company Limited No. 3.

Moldova

Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation (S&PI) of India visited to Moldova on 2-5 November 2016, during the visit he held bilateral meetings/talks met with President, Prime Minister of Moldova; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Minister for IT and Communications; and Minister for Regional Development and Construction and other representatives in Moldova Government.

Montenegro

An MoU of cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi and the Diplomatic Academy of Montenegro was signed on 20 May 2016.

Norway

Indo-Norwegian Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Science & Technology was held in Oslo on 15 September 2016.

The JWG on Education and Science & Technology was held on September 15-16 2016 in Oslo.

MoS (I/C) for Commerce and Industries Smt Nirmala Sitharaman attended World Trade Organization (WTO) mini

Ministerial Conference in Oslo on 21-22 October 2016 at the invitation of the Norwegian Government.

Shri Anurag Thakur and Shri Milind Deora, Members of Parliament visited Norway from 1-6 November 2016 on a study tour of Norway for young Indian politicians, organized by the Government of Norway.

FOCs between India and Norway, co-chaired by Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), MEA and Mr. Wegger Strømmen, Secretary General, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held in Oslo on 24 November 2016. During her visit, Secretary (West) also called on Ms. Dilek Ayhan, State Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industries and Fisheries.

On 6 December 2016, Embassy of India, Oslo in collaboration with Norway-India Chamber of Commerce and Industries (NICCI) and Schjodt Norway, organized a Business Seminar titled 'Invest in India' on at Schjodt Conference Centre, Oslo. About 60 persons attended the Seminar. Ambassador delivered a lecture on 'Economic Liberalization and Investment Opportunities in India'.

On 9 December 2016, Foreign Minister Mr. Borge Brende and Minister of Health Mr. Bent Hoie launched a joint Norwegian-Indian Research Programme at the Oslo University Hospital on how to combat the rise of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR). The programme will be jointly implemented by Research Council of Norway and Indian Council of Medical Research.

Poland

FOCs were held in Warsaw on 24 August 2016 between Secretary (West), Ms. Sujata Mehta, and the then Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Katarzyna Kacperczyk.

Secretary (Coal), Shri Anil Swarup, led a four-member delegation, including Shri S. Bhattacharya, Chairman, Coal India Limited, to Poland on 6-9 June 2016. It also visited several Polish coal mines and training institutes for mining technology. In follow-up, a delegation of Polish deep mining experts visited India in July 2016.

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Shri S. Pattanayak, visited Poland on 29-31 August 2016 and held comprehensive discussions with the Polish Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Ms. Ewa Lech. Earlier, Ms. Ewa Lech, Polish Deputy Minister

of Agriculture attended the food fair AAHAAR in India on 15-19 March 2016.

The State Minister of Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development of Karnataka, Shri R.V. Deshpande, signed a 'Letter of Intent' with the Polish region of Weilkopolska on 11 October 2016 at Poznan.

M/s. Solaris Bus & Coach from Poland and JBM Auto signed a joint venture MOU in July 2016, with Polish investment of ₹ 300 crores over the next 3 years, to engineer, design and develop full electric and hybrid buses in India.

Prof Poitr Glinski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and National Heritage led a delegation comprising officials and businessmen for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017. Poland was a partner country in the Summit and represented by a big business community. He was accompanied by the Chief Minister of the provinces of Mazowieckie and Podkarpackie region of Poland. During the summit, two Memorandum of Understanding were signed between the Government of State of Gujarat and the provinces of Mazowieckie and Podkarpackie region separately on economic cooperation.

Romania

MoS for Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt Krishna Raj paid a goodwill visit to Romania from 12-16 November 2016.

Serbia

MoS in Prime Minister's Office Dr. Jitendra Singh visited Serbia from 12-16 October 2016 and met Serbian Prime Minister, Speaker, First DPM & FM, DPM and Minister of Trade, Tourism & Telecommunications, and Minister of Agriculture & Environmental Protection. During the visit an MoU on cooperation in the field of IT and Electronics was signed between India and Serbia.

Mr Sava Savic, Assistant Minister for ICT Sector, Ministry of Trade, Tourism & Telecommunications and Ms Nevena Subasic, Head of Group for Africa, Middle East, South Asia & Latin America, Ministry of Trade, Tourism & Telecommunications of Serbia participated in India Europe-29 Business Forum on 8-9 December 2016 in New Delhi.

A delegation led by Serbian PM Mr. Aleksandar Vucic visited Vibrant Gujarat Summit-2017 from 9-12 January 2017. He

called on our PM, Chief Ministers of Gujarat and Maharashtra and a group of CEOs in CII in Mumbai during the visit.

Slovak Republic

MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) visited Bratislava from 15-17 April 2016, to participate in GLOBSEC Security Forum 2016 as well as for bilateral discussions with Slovak authorities and held meeting with Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak followed by meeting with State Secretary Lukas Parizek in the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs.

Slovenia

A business delegation from Kolkata visited Slovenia from 25-30 April 2016. A round table conference on "Doing Business with India" on 4 May 2016 and a Business to Business (B2B) event on 16 October 2016 were organized by the Embassy of India.

Sweden

Minister of State for Power, Coal, Mines, and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Piyush Goyal, visited Sweden from 1-3 November 2016.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice and Communication & Information Technology visited Sweden from 15-18 May 2016.

Chief of Air Staff and the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha paid a goodwill visit to Sweden from 7-11 June 2016.

A delegation led by Ms. Anita Araya, Member, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) visited Stockholm from 25-29 May 2016 for a study tour on Smart City concept.

A delegation of Government of Uttar Pradesh, led by Shri Yasar Shah, Minister of State for Transport, visited Sweden from 24-26 August 2016.

A delegation, led by Shri Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation, and Shri Tikender Singh Panwar, Deputy Mayor, Municipal Corporation of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, visited Stockholm for the World Water Week on 30 August 2016.

An MoU was signed between Dr. Vijayraghavan, Secretary in the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India

and Dr. Lars Heikensten, Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation on 1 September 2016.

A four member delegation led by Shri Sunil Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare visited Sweden from 5-8 October 2016 under the Joint Working Group on Health.

Swedish Justice and Migration Minister Mr. Morgan Johansson visited India from 12-14 May 2016. Swedish Policy Coordination and Energy Minister Ibrahim Baylan along with a business delegation visited India from 4-8 October 2016. Minister of Enterprise and Innovation Michael Damberg visited India on 9-10 November 2016 leading a high-level business delegation for India-Sweden Business Leaders' Round Table.

Ms Eva Walder, Director General for Trade, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden visited India on 1 April 2016. She met with Commerce Secretary and Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

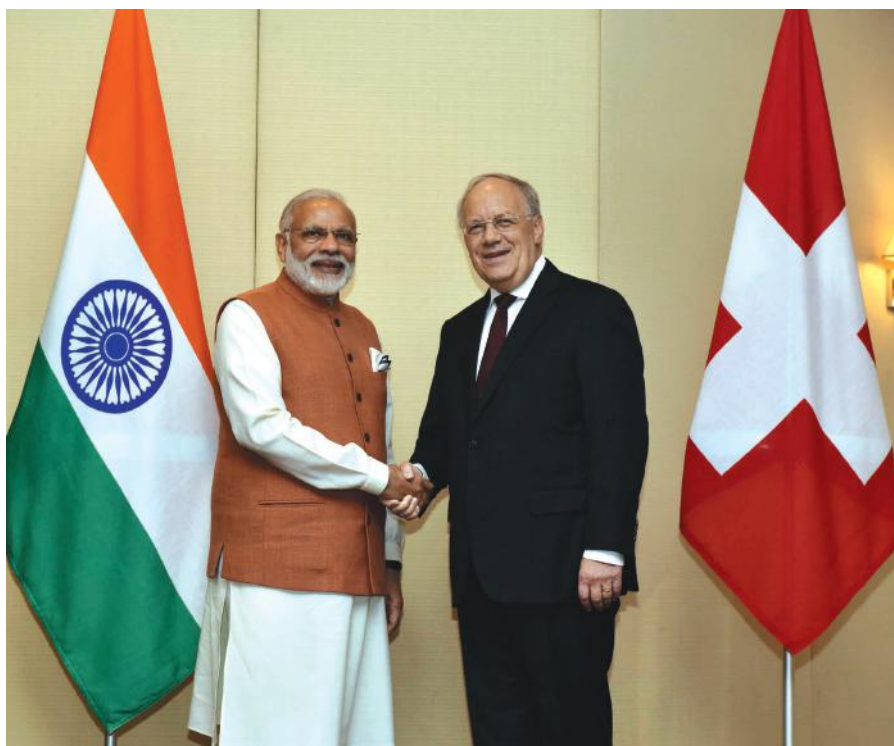
A Swedish delegation led by Dr. Anna-Carin Svensson, Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Justice including members from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Prime Minister's Office visited India from 26-29 May 2016 to follow-up on exchange visits by Special Envoys after the revival of bilateral Strategic Dialogue during the visit of President of India to Sweden in 2015. The delegation had meetings with Additional Secretary (Counter Terrorism), MEA, and Deputy National Security Advisor, National Security Council Secretariat, and Special Envoy Asif Ibrahim.

Swedish Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training Ms. Anna Ekstrom led a delegation that includes top representatives of leading Swedish companies. They all participated in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in Gujarat from 10-13 January 2017. Sweden was a partner country in the Summit.

Switzerland

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Geneva, Switzerland on 5-6 June 2016, a historic visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Switzerland in the last several decades. The Prime Minister met the President of the Swiss Confederation Mr. Johann N. Schneider-Ammann. He also had a Business Round Table with Switzerland's top companies and a meeting with Indian research scholars based at European Council for Nuclear Research (CERN).



Prime Minister meets Johann Schneider-Ammann, President of the Swiss Confederation in Geneva on 6 June 2016.

Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri. Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited Switzerland to attend 2nd International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) held in Winterthur from 20-22 June 2016. An MoU was signed on 22 June 2016 to institutionalise cooperation in the areas of skills development, vocational and professional education and training.

The Swiss State Secretary for International Financial Matters, Mr. Jacques de Watteville, visited India on 15 June 2016 and met Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia, and the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Shaktikanta Das in the context of the third round of financial dialogue between India and Switzerland.

India and Switzerland signed a Joint Declaration on the reciprocal introduction of Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) on Tax matter on 22 November 2016.

The Swiss Federal Counsellor of Justice and Police, Mrs. Simonetta Sommaruga, led an official delegation to India on 5-6 October 2016 and met the Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. Three agreements viz (i) Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passports, (ii) Technical Arrangement on the Identification and Return of Illegal Migrants and (iii) Arrangement on Authorization for Dependent Person of Diplomatic, Consular, technical and Administrative Staff of Diplomatic and Consular Mission to Perform Gainful Employment were signed during the visit.

A delegation led by the Swiss State Secretary, Ms. Marie Gabriel Ineichen Fleisch visited Delhi on 10 June 2016, for a stocktaking meeting between the Chief Negotiators of India and EFTA on TEPA. The 14th round of negotiations was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 26-28 October 2016.

The 15th session of the Indo-Swiss Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was held in Bern on 25 October 2016.

A Protocol was signed on 9 June 2016 between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and University of Lausanne (UNIL).

Vice Chairman of NITI Ayog, Mr. Arvind Panagariya, attended World Economic Forum 2017 at Davos, Switzerland from 17-20 January 2017.

A delegation from M/o Commerce and Industry, led by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS(I/C) for Commerce and Industry, is also scheduled to attend the WEF 2017 apart from attending the informal WTO Ministerial meeting.

A high level Andhra Pradesh delegation led by Chief Minister, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu is also scheduled to attend the event.

Turkey

Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East) visited Ankara on 26 May 2016 as Special Envoy of the Minister of External Affairs and called on Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to India on 18-19 August 2016 and held talks with Minister of External Affairs. The Turkish Foreign Minister also called on the Vice President.



External Affairs Minister meets Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Turkey in New Delhi 19 August 2016.

Mr. Lutfi Elvan, Minister of Development led the Turkish delegation to the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016 (AMCDRR 2016) held in New Delhi on 2-5 November 2016. Mr. Lutfi Elvan called on Minister of Home Affairs during the visit.

Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Process on Afghanistan in Amritsar on 4 December 2016.

The Sixth India-Turkey Forum (Track II) was held in New Delhi on 4 April 2016.

Bollywood cinema was chosen as the theme for the 4th International Kayseri Golden Sycamore Film Festival. Eleven Indian films were screened during the film festival held at Kayseri in May 2016.

Mr. Serdar Cam, President of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency participated in the Gateway of India Dialogue.

West Europe

Consolidation of bilateral relations with countries in Western Europe continued during the period. Prime Minister visited Brussels for the 13th India-EU summit and bilateral visit to Belgium on 30 March 2016. UK Prime Minister Theresa May visited India on 6-8 November 2016 on her first overseas bilateral visit outside Europe. Regular high level

visits and diversification of bilateral agenda in keeping with Government of India's national priorities remained central to our engagement with Western European countries. Progress was made on collaboration with various countries in Make In India, Smart Cities, Skill India, Clean India and Railways modernization programmes. There was greater cooperation between India and Western European countries on fighting international terrorism.

Principality of Andorra

The relations between India and the Principality of Andorra remained warm and cordial. India and Andorra is currently in the process of negotiating a draft Tax Information Exchange Agreement.

Belgium

Bilateral relations between India and Belgium strengthened significantly with the official visit of Prime Minister to Brussels on 30 March 2016. The visit of Prime Minister a week after a deadly terrorist attack in Brussels conveyed a strong message that India stands firmly with Belgium in its tough times, as also qualitatively raised the profile of the bilateral relations beyond trade and commerce which dominates the bilateral relationship. The two Prime Ministers issued a Joint Statement and also participated in technical inauguration of the AMOS-ARIES telescope in Nainital during the visit.



Prime Minister at the community reception, in Brussels, Belgium on 30 March 2016.

Mr. Geert Bourgeois, the Minister President of the Belgian Federal Region of Flanders led a Trade Mission to India in April 2016 to explore the possibilities of economic collaborations with India in the fields of Smart Cities, Clean Energy and Infrastructure. He visited Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru.

India is Belgium's second largest export destination and fourth largest trade partner outside the EU. In the current financial year, during January-August 2016, total bilateral trade amounted to € 8.51 billion (US\$ 9.45 billion) compared to € 8.21 billion (US\$ 9.11 billion) in the previous year. Bilateral trade was dominated by the Gems & Jewellery sector.

The mid-term review of Joint Commission Meeting between India and BLEU (Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union) was held on 23 August 2016 through a DVC to take stock of the progress made on the agreed points. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for Cooperation in the field of Biotechnology and a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed on Shipping Cooperation for the period of 2016-18 between India and the Belgian Region of Flanders in May 2016.

India and Belgium have an ongoing collaboration to commemorate the centenary of the First World War for the period 2014-18. The annual commemoration ceremony for the Indian Soldiers, who participated in the First World War, took place on 12 November 2016 at the Indian Memorial in Ypres, Belgium.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated in various cities of Belgium in June 2016. A consolidated Yoga session along with all prominent Yoga Institutions and Federations across Belgium including in Antwerp, the University town of Leuven Ardennes (Radhadesh), Gembloux, Liege and Enghien under a single umbrella was held in Brussels.

The Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Mata Prasad Pandey visited Belgium on 12-13 December 2016. During his visit, he called on the President of the Belgian Senate, Ms. Christine Defraigne and the Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Representatives (Lower House) of the Belgian Parliament, Mr. Dirk Vander Maelen.

France

The momentum in India-France Strategic Partnership generated by President Hollande's State visit to India in January 2016 as the Guest of Honour for our Republic Day celebration and our Prime Minister's visit to France in April 2015 and November 2015 continued to guide and strengthen bilateral ties in 2016. France continued to support India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council and multilateral export control regimes including the Nuclear Suppliers Group.



President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic during At Home Reception by President at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, 26 January 2016.

India and France strengthened bilateral cooperation in fighting terrorism. Following the Bastille Day terrorist attack in Nice on 14 July 2016, President sent a letter of condolence to the President of France. After the terrorist attacks in Pathankot and Uri, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued official statements strongly condemning the attacks.

Important Ministerial level visits to France during this period include the visit by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Railways from 11-12 April 2016 to discuss possible areas of cooperation between India and France in the Railway sector. He met Minister of State for Railways Mr. Alain Vidalies and called on Mr. Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council of France. Minister invited French national railway agency SNCF and the French private sector to invest in the railways sector of India. French investment in five key areas in the Railways sector include-semi-high speed trains, modernization of the network, high speed rail projects, modernisation of 400 stations to international standards on PPP basis, signaling system projects and electrification of 10,000 route kilometers. Two joint studies by Indian Railways and SNCF on the modernization of Ambala and Ludhiana railway station are being undertaken.

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries visited Paris from 18-20 October 2016, during the SIAL Food Fair in Paris. She met French Minister of Agriculture, Food & Forest, Mr. Stephane Le Foll and discussed ways for improving bilateral cooperation in the food processing sector. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textiles visited Paris from 1-5 September 2016 during 'Who's Next Premiere Class' Textile & Garments Exhibition. Dr. Subash Bhamre, Minister of State (Defence Production) visited Paris from 17-20 October 2016 for the Euronaval Defence Exhibition. During his visit, he also called on French Defence Minister, Mr. Jean Yves Le Drian.

Major incoming visits from France include the visit of French Defence Minister Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian on 23 September 2016. During the visit he signed the agreement on the purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft. Mr. Christophe Sirugue, Minister of State for Industry visited India from 25-27 October 2016 to explore economic cooperation and investment opportunities. During this visit, he called on Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development and Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs.

The latest round of Annual Foreign Office Consultations at

the level of Foreign Secretaries was held in New Delhi between Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar and Mr. Christian Masset, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France on 14 November 2016.

The latest round of Track 1.5 India-France dialogue was held in Paris from 28-30 June 2016, during which an India-France Nuclear Dialogue was also held, with the participation of the Observer Research Foundation, India and the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI, Science Po – Paris).

France and India have instituted annual Strategic Dialogue. The next round of Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 16 January 2017 between National Security Advisor and the Diplomatic Advisor to French President. Following the first round of the dialogue on Maritime Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region held between India and France in Paris in January last year, there has been good progress on maritime cooperation. This year the Maritime dialogue was held on 19 January 2017 in New Delhi and the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held on 12 January 2017 in Paris.

Under the framework of the 2008 Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between India and France exchanges relating to technical information and cooperation in the field of Nuclear Safety continued during this period. Negotiations for the implementation of the MoUs signed between L&T and Areva and Pre-Engineering Agreement between NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.) and Areva in 2015 and the Roadmap for Implementation of Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project agreed during the visit of French President in January 2016 and the EDF-NPCIL MOU signed between NPCIL and EDF in March 2016 continued in this period for early commencement of the Jaitapur project in 2017.

India and France have a long history of space cooperation. Implementation of joint projects under the six agreements signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and French National Space Agency (CNES) during the last two years continued. A Heads of Space Agency reception on 'Space and Climate' was jointly organized by CNES and ISRO at New Delhi on 3 April 2016. A 'New Delhi declaration' on Space and Climate Change was adopted at this meeting. India was invited as the special guest at the Toulouse Space Show-2016 in June 2016. France became a partner country at the Bengaluru Space Expo-2016 held during September,

2016. India's advanced communication satellite GSAT-18 was launched successfully from Arianespace, Kourou on 5 October 2016. Shri. A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, ISRO met Mr Jean Yves Le-Gall, President, CNES at CNES headquarters, Paris on 6 October 2016 and a letter for extension of Megha-Tropiques MOU was signed and exchanged.

Defence relations between India and France are strong and have been growing within the framework of structured talks under the Indo-French Defence Cooperation Agreement. Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr. Subhash Bhamre, visited Euronaval 2016 at Paris from 17-21 October 2016 had a meeting with French Defence Minister.

Bilateral trade between India and France stood at € 6.50 billion during the first nine months of 2016 registering a growth of 0.48% over last year's figures. India's exports to France which stood at € 3.66 billion were down by 11.02% over the corresponding period last year. France is the 9th largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of € 4.74 billion from April 2000 to September 2016. French FDI from April-September 2016 was to the tune of € 163 million.

The bilateral educational and S&T cooperation between India and France has grown over the last few years. In recent years, more than 400 MoUs have been signed between educational institutions of both the countries which include student exchanges, faculty exchanges and research cooperation. There are approximately 5000 Indian students studying in France. The VIE internship programme agreed between the two countries to facilitate professional experience for their students in both countries after the completion of their courses in April last year is progressing well.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Paris on 18 June at popular cultural space La Villette, on 19 June 2016 in the back drop of the iconic Eiffel Tower and on 21 June 2016 on the river Seine onboard the famous Bateaux Mouches boat sailing from the Eiffel Tower to the Notre Dame Cathedral. Apart from Paris, the International Day of Yoga was celebrated in several cities of France including Strasbourg, Nice, Avignon, Angers, Gretz, Samoens, Toulouse, Nantes, Gouvieux and in French overseas territories like Guadeloupe, Martinique and the Reunion Islands.

'Namaste France' – The Indian Cultural Festival in France

was organized in several cities of France including Paris, Strasbourg, Nice, Marseilles, Lyon, Nantes, Aix-en-Provence and Bordeaux from 15 September-30 November 2016. Several internationally renowned Indian artists and French artists trained by ICCR performed in this cultural extravaganza. The festival included 83 different events with participation of more than 60 cultural groups. This cultural extravaganza received a live audience of 36000 people, not counting the people following the festival on social media. Namasté France festival heralded a new chapter in Indo-France cultural relations and successfully evoked a great public interest towards Indian dance and music.

Government of India organised a Regional Hindi Conference on 14-16 September 2016 in Paris in association with INALCO (L'Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales) for promotion of Hindi.

French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault visited India from 8-11 January 2017. He called on the Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and had meeting with MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar. He visited ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bangalore. A letter of Intent on 'sharing of practices and information on launch vehicle engineering' was exchanged between ISRO and CNES during the visit. He led the French delegation at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Ahmedabad on 10 January 2017.

This year the India-France CEOs' Forum, the high level platform for deliberations amongst industry leaders whose recommendations aid policy-makers was held in Paris on 13 January 2017.

Germany

The Strategic Partnership between India and Germany entered into a more intensive phase during the year. The momentum of exchanges between India and Germany was maintained through closer dialogue and cooperation in many areas such as enhanced trade and investment, terrorism and security issues, partnerships in manufacturing, skilling, clean energy, infrastructure, innovation and education. The bilateral relationship has intensified with various Ministerial visits and timely implementation of various decisions taken during the 3rd Inter Governmental Consultations held in October 2015.

In a statement on 19 September German Foreign Minister Steinmeier while condemning the terrorist attack on the Army base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir, stated that Germany stood resolutely at India's side in the fight against terrorism. The statement also said that every state has the obligation to effectively combat terrorism emanating from its territory. India strongly condemned the terror attack on German Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Railways visited Munich on 5 April 2016 during which he visited waste water and rain water treatment plant and 'Water Protection system of Isar River' operated by the State of Bavaria.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Railways visited Germany from 13-15 April 2016. He met with German Federal Minister for Transportation and Digital Infrastructure and discussed cooperation between Germany and India in the field of rail sector, particularly in the areas of High Speed Rail, increasing speed of existing routes, station development, multi modal logistics terminal and automobile logistics. Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance visited Frankfurt on 4 May 2016 to attend the 49th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank. He also met Mr. Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Minister of Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation visited Berlin to participate in Conference on India's Smart City Mission held on 1 June 2016. He had a meeting with Mrs Barbara Hendricks, German Federal Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building & Nuclear Safety (BMUB) on the roadmap for developing Bhubaneswar, Kochi and Coimbatore as Smart Cities with German assistance.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change visited Berlin on 3-4 July 2016 to attend the Petersberg Climate Dialogue VII. He had a meeting with Dr. Barbara Hendricks, Federal Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, Buildings and Nuclear Safety on ways to further intensify bilateral cooperation in the field of environment. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences visited Germany on 12-15 September 2016. During the visit, he inaugurated the Indian synchrotron beam line at DESY, Hamburg and met Dr. Johanna Wanka, German Minister for Education & Research.

Mr. Alexander Dobrindt, German Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure visited India on 12-15 October 2016 to further the cooperation in Railways. Minister Dobrindt held talks with Minister of Railways to strengthen ties in the field of railways and high-speed trains. During the visit, he also met Ministers of Civil Aviation, Road Transport, Highways & Shipping as well as of Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises

Shri Shripad Y. Naik, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH visited Germany on October 18-20, 2016 and met with Ms. Ingrid Fischbach, Parliamentary State Secretary at Federal Ministry of Health. They discussed ways to promote cooperation in Ayurveda and Traditional Systems of Indian Medicines with Germany. Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers visited Germany on 20 October 2016 for inauguration of the India Pavilion at K Messe Dusseldorf 2016.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary visited Berlin on 29-30 November 2016 for the Foreign Office Consultations and Co-Chaired the 3rd Meeting of the High Technology Partnership Group. Government-to-Government Export Control Dialogue was also held between the two sides on 30 November 2016.

German Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Mr. Uwe Beckmeyer visited India 4-5 December 2016 along with a business delegation.

The 8th meeting of India-Germany High Defence Committee (HDC) took place in Berlin on 14 June 2016. The Indian side was led by Defence Secretary Shri G. Mohan Kumar and German side by State Secretary for Defence Dr. Katrin Suder. Defence Secretary also had a meeting with Mr. Stephan Steinlein, State Secretary in the German Foreign Office. The 7th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in Berlin on 4 October 2016 and the 3rd India-Germany Cyber Dialogue took place in New Delhi on 24 November 2016.

Germany continues to be India's largest trading partner in Europe. Germany was the 6th largest trading partner in FY 2015-16 and the 7th largest foreign direct investor in India since January 2000. German FDI in India in 2015 was to the tune of US\$ 1.14 billion. Germany's total FDI in India from January 2000 until March 2016 has amounted to US\$ 8.64 billion. Germany has enhanced its assistance to India by committing total funds of over € 1.1 billion for 2016 for

major projects such as Green Energy Corridor project, Solar Promotion projects, Energy Efficiency in Energy Intensive Sectors, SME support programmes, Environment friendly Urban Development, Climate Friendly Urban Mobility, skill development etc.

Embassy of India, Berlin's investment facilitation programme: "Make in India Mittelstand!" (MIIM) successfully completed one year and has established itself over the year as an integrated market entry facilitation platform for German Mittelstand companies. With over 60 companies already being mobilised and supported in the first year, the programme has mobilised an investment of about Euro 450 million in India and is helping create job opportunity for about 3500.

In August 2016 an 'Implementation Agreement' was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and German International Cooperation (GIZ), to initiate a new project focused on adapting elements of the German dual system in select industrial clusters in India. This project will run for three years (starting August 2016) with a budget of € 3 million made available by the German Government and aims to foster conditions which will help create and improve cooperative workplace-based vocational training in India's industrial clusters.

There have been 31 short-term rotating chairs in various German Universities till date. In the Summer term 2016, ICCR set up one Short-term Chair at the University of Tuebingen. Two short-term chairs have been operationalized in Autumn-winter term 2016-17 at the Law Faculty of Leibniz University of Hannover and Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media respectively.

Dr. Uwe Beckmeyer, Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy led a business delegation of defence manufacturing companies to India from 5-7 December 2016.

In the aftermath of terrorist attack on Berlin Christmas Market on 19 December 2016, President of India sent a condolence message to the President of Germany expressing our solidarity with Germany.

Minister President of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mr. Winfried Kretschmann visited India in January 2017.

Shri Radhamohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare led a delegation to the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture and International Green Week which was held in Berlin from 19-22 January 2017.

Germany-India Economic Dialogue between the representatives of CII and the Economic Council of the ruling party CDU (Wirtschaftsrat) would be held at the Indian Embassy in Berlin on 23 January 2017. Mr. Alexander Dobrindt, German Federal Minister for Transport and Digital Infrastructure is expected to participate at the event and an MoU is likely to be signed between CII and the Economic Council of CDU.

G-20 Foreign Minister's Meeting is scheduled to be held from February 16-17, 2017 in Bonn. An Indian delegation would participate in the meeting.

Secretary of Department of Electronics and IT (DeitY) is expected to participate in the CeBIT (Centre for Business IT) Hanover fair in March 2017. Secretary of Ministry of Tourism is expected to participate in the ITB-Berlin (International Tourism Fair) in March 2017. The Indian Embassy would be hosting a mega promotional event for MIIM (Make in India Mittelstand) at the ITB fair.

Ireland

India has close historical links with Ireland. A delegation led by Secretary (West) from the Ministry visited Ireland in June 2016 and held discussions with the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the issue of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

The Indian Embassy in Dublin organised a panel discussion on 14 April 2016 to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar with the support of University College Dublin (UCD) at Sutherland School of Law.

A 4-member delegation from the State of Telangana visited Ireland from 21-23 April 2016 to get first hand exposure of the best in class waste management solutions and CETP facilities in Ireland.

The second International Yoga Day was celebrated at the Irish President's House (Áras an Uachtaráin), at Dartmouth Square Park, Dublin and at Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford on 21 June 2016. About one thousand people from all walks of life participated at these events.

A delegation led by Chairman, Coffee Board visited Ireland from 23-25 June 2016 to participate in the SCAE World of Coffee 2016 at Dublin. Coffee Board organised the finals of Flavour of India – Fine Cup Award Cupping Competition 2016 in Dublin and a Buyer Seller meet.

The first ever Hindi Divas was celebrated on 18 September in Dublin. The participation at the event included the academics, Indian organisations/Associations, prominent PIOs etc.

A delegation from Bar Council of India [BCI] visited the University College Dublin in October 2016 in response to its request for BCI accreditation for the undergraduate Law Programme.

Minister of State for Employment and Small Business, Mr. Pat Breen visited India in November 2016 for the Irish Universities Education Fair in India. Ireland is becoming an important destination for Indian students.

A team led by Principal Secretary, Kerala Tourism visited Ireland in November 2016 and hosted the Kerala Tourism

road show and B2B interaction in Dublin. A delegation led by Shri Ram Bilas Sharma, Tourism Minister, Haryana visited Ireland in November 2016 and hosted the Haryana Tourism road show.

Italy

Bilateral relations between India and Italy witnessed gradual revival. The Supreme Court of India allowed both the Italian Marines to return to Italy pending the decision of the International Tribunal. The Marines, however, continue to be under the authority of the Supreme Court.

EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Rome from 2-5 September 2016 to attend the canonization ceremony of Mother Teresa at Vatican on 4 September 2016. On the sidelines, EAM met with the Foreign Minister of Italy, Mr. Paolo Gentiloni in Rome. The two Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations; discussed the future roadmap of cooperation and also agreed to expand cooperation in multilateral fora.



External Affairs Minister at Community Reception in Rome during her visit to Italy, 3 September 2016.

Minister of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal paid an official visit to Italy and met Mr. Benedetti Della Vedova, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on 29 September 2016. The meeting aimed at re-launching of economic, trade and industrial cooperation between the two Countries. She also met with representatives of leading Italian associations and corporations in the food processing sector. She also invited Italian companies to take part in the Food Processing Exhibition in India from 5-7 March 2017.

The India-Italy Joint Committee for cooperation in Science & Technology was held in Rome on 19 October 2016. The Indian delegation was led by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary (DST) and the Italian delegation was led by Mr. Vincenzo De Luca, Director General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation (DGSP) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. 'Declaration of Intent for cooperation in Science & Technology' between Governments of Italy and India was signed during the meeting and two beam lines at Elettra Synchrotron in Trieste, Italy which was co-funded by Government of India (DST) was inaugurated on 20 October 2016. The two new energy beam lines will be used for research on new materials, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

The first meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group on Terrorism was held in Rome on 10 November 2016 and both sides exchanged views on bilateral efforts and cooperation in the field of terrorism and agreed upon a roadmap for regular exchange of information on terror/security situation.

India-Italy economic relationship continued in the areas of mutual interest during this year with focus on promotion of bilateral trade and investments. Italy is India's fifth largest trading partner in the EU. The bilateral trade between India and Italy during 2015-16 is of US\$ 8.3 billion and the balance being in favour of India. Italy ranks 12th in terms of cumulative FDI inflows to India. The total cumulative FDI Inflows from Italy from April 2000 to March 2016 is US\$ 1.66 billion. Percentage share of total FDI inflows is 0.67%.

During the year the Embassy of India in Rome organised various events to promote tourism. 'India-Italy Tourism Forum' was held in Venice. The Embassy also organized commercial events with focus on textile sector in Bergamo, Milan and in Prato. A Handloom Exhibition was organized in

Anzio in collaboration with the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) Chennai.

A business delegation from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) visited Italy and participated in commercial events. An event on the theme of 'India meets Tuscany' was organized by the Embassy in collaboration with Confindustria Firenze with the participation of members of WB delegation, representatives of ITAMMA, AIAI and IICCI from the sectors of footwear, life science, textile, fashion and more than 40 Italian companies.

The Indian Embassy in Rome organised 'India Business Forum' in Rome in collaboration with Italian National Association for Commerce (Confindustria). The Embassy also held a business event on the theme of 'India meets Veneto' in the industrial city of Verona in collaboration with Confindustria. Another business event was organized in Naples in collaboration with Confindustria Napoli.

The Embassy of India also organised a number of events in the field of culture, performing arts, academics and Yoga to create awareness and interest for Indian culture and spiritual heritage among Italian people as well as to increase the outreach toward the local Indian Diaspora.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2016 in collaboration with local institutions and associations and local Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Around 600-700 people participated in the final event organized in Rome at the hanging gardens of prestigious "Auditorium Parco della Musica".

A Festival of India was organised in Italy from 3-8 August 2016 in which three cultural groups (Indian Revival Group, Kalbelia Group and Kathak Group led by Shovana Narayan) visited Italy and gave in total 11 performances in seven Italian towns (Rome, Anzio, Lavinio, Sulmona, Cori, Anagni and Assisi). Performances of all the groups were very well appreciated by Italian public.

The Indian Embassy would organize an India Tourism Promotion and Investment Event in Rome and Verona city of Italy on 28 February-1 March 2017.

Luxembourg

India's close and friendly relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg received a significant fillip with high level

political, business and cultural exchanges during this period.

Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley held bilateral meeting in April 2016 with Mr. Pierre Gramegna, Minister of Finance of Luxembourg on the side lines of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Washington D.C. Shri. Chaudhary Birender Singh, Minister for Steel visited Luxembourg from 28-29 August 2016. He visited the Headquarters of the Luxembourg based Steel companies Paul Wurth and Arcelor Mittal and discussed engagement of these companies with India, including production of high quality steel. The Minister also held wide range of discussion on economic issues with Deputy PM and Minister of Economy of Luxembourg, Mr. Etienne Schneider.

The bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg stood at € 28.78 million (US\$ 31.95 million) during January-August 2016, as against € 31.88 million (US\$ 35.38 million) during the same period in 2015. FDI flows from Luxembourg to India between April 2000 and September 2016 were about US\$ 2,104 million, making it the 14th most important investor in India. Cargolux, Luxembourg based leading all-cargo airline, commenced its operations from Mumbai from May 2016, besides its ongoing operations from Chennai since 2015.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the capital city of Luxembourg in June 2016. The Indian Association Luxembourg celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 26 October 2016. The event was graced by Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr. Xavier Bettel as the Chief Guest.

Monaco

Monaco one of the world's most prosperous States and the second smallest State after Vatican is a constitutional monarchy ruled by Prince Albert II of House of Grimaldi. India and Monaco enjoy cordial relations and Monaco is keen to extend its bilateral ties with India particularly in the field of trade & tourism. The other areas of interest are sports, education and environment.

Princess Charlene of Monaco (spouse of Prince Albert II) visited New Delhi from 8-10 December 2016 to attend Leaders and Laureates Summit for Children organised by Kailash Satyarthi Charity for Children at Rashtrapati Bhavan. She also visited Tamil Nadu.

Netherlands

Bilateral relations between India and the Netherlands marked by strong economic and commercial ties continued to expand.

Trade and investment cooperation remained a key component of India-Netherlands bilateral relationship with bilateral trade of US\$ 6.6 billion in 2015-16. During the current financial year, 2016-17 (during April-August 2016) bilateral trade stood at US\$ 2.773 billion, making the Netherlands India's 26th largest trading partner globally and the 6th largest in the EU. During the financial year 2015-16, the Netherlands was the fourth largest investor in India with FDI of US\$ 2.6 billion with investments in sectors such as water management, upgrading of ports and airports, dredging, agro-processing, telecommunication, energy, oil refining, chemicals, and financial services.

Jet Airways had started daily non-stop flights between New Delhi and Amsterdam as well as Mumbai and Amsterdam with effect from 27 March 2016.

A delegation from NASSCOM-Data Security Council of India (DSCI) on Cyber Security led by the National Cyber Security Coordinator of India including participants from various stake-holder groups visited the Netherlands from 10-13 April 2016 to explore potential areas of collaboration and common interests of the two countries concerning cyber security including the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace.

A Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Agriculture was held between India and the Netherlands during the visit of a delegation from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to Netherlands from 18-20 May 2016.

Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce & Trade (NICCT) held its flagship event on 31 May 2016 in the Hague with 'Age of Co-Creation' as its theme.

Secretary (West) Ms. Sujata Mehta and Ms. Renee Jones-Bos, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands held the India-Netherlands Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on 1 June 2016 in New Delhi.

The Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 18 June 2016 at the Atrium City Hall of the Hague. The event had enthusiastic participation of over 650 people including members of the diplomatic corps, Dutch, Surinami-Hindustani and Indian communities.

The Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Uttar Pradesh on 14 July 2016, to set up a Skill Development Centre.

Indian Business Chamber (IBC) of the Netherlands hosted its first Business Seminar on 31 August 2016 in Amsterdam with the objective of promoting business and economic relations between India and the Netherlands.

A delegation led by Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Gujarat visited the Netherlands from 11-13 September 2016 with the objective of promoting the 'Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017' and to hold discussions with the Dutch Government regarding the Netherlands being a Partner Country at the Summit.

Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Non Violence, was marked by various events organized in the Netherlands at Utrecht, The Hague and Amsterdam. In Utrecht, a function was organized by India-Netherlands-Suriname (INS) Foundation, on 2 October 2016, when a statue of Mahatma Gandhi was also unveiled.

A meeting of the Joint Working Group under the MoU between the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment was held from 25-27 October 2016 in New Delhi.

A delegation comprising of officials of the City of the Hague and business companies from the region of The Hague led by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Karsten Klein visited Bangalore from 28-30 November 2016. Their focus was on cooperation with India in the area of IT, Cyber Security and healthcare innovation for which an MoU was signed between the government of Karnataka and the Municipality of the Hague.

Indian Embassy in The Hague is likely to hold its annual Seminar on Doing Business with India on 15 February 2017.

The Indian Embassy would be organizing Festival of India in Netherlands which started in January and will go on till March 2017.

Portugal

India and Portugal share a relationship spanning over half a millennium characterised by robust people-to-people contacts. Portugal has consistently supported India at multilateral fora, including India's aspiration to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Portugal extended

its support on reciprocal or on unconditional basis to India's candidature in various international institutes/organisations during 2016 such as India's membership of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016, India's membership in the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation. Portugal also supported Indian candidate in the International Law Commission (ILC) membership election which was held on 3 November 2016 at the UNGA in New York.

The Embassy of India, Lisbon in association with Conrad Algarve and Art Catto Galary organized Spirit of India Festival from 31 March-8 April 2016 where artists (painters) and folk dancers from India participated. The Centre for Indian Studies in the University of Lisbon was inaugurated on 22 April 2016 by Dr. Augusto Santos Silva, Foreign Minister of Portugal. It is the first such centre dedicated to the study of India in Portugal. It also has a Hindi Language programme. Embassy of India, Lisbon organised Hindi Divas at Centre of Indian Study in University of Lisbon on 24 October 2016.

The Government of Portugal has created a favourable environment for the promotion and practice of Yoga in Portugal. The Embassy of India Lisbon in association with the Portuguese Yoga Confederation (*Jagatguru Amrta Suryananda Maha Raja, President of the Portuguese Yoga Confederation, was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015*) commemorated the Second International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2016 with zeal and enthusiasm.

Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) visited Portugal to attend the India-Horasis Business Meeting on 3- 4 July 2016 which was jointly organised by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Horasis Global in association with the Portuguese Government, and the City of Cascais.

A 12-member Parliamentary Goodwill delegation led by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Minister of Chemical & Fertilizers Shri Ananth Kumar visited Portugal from 16-19 October 2016. They held meetings with the Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs, the Secretary of State for European Affairs and the President of the National Assembly.

Secretary of State Dra Teresa Ribiero visited India on 24-25 November 2016, met with MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J.

Akbar and discussed the roadmap for the Portuguese Prime Minister's visit to India, which took place in January 2017. She also met Defence Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to discuss the bilateral matters related to agriculture and defence cooperation. Deputy Director General (DDG) in Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dra Virginia Pina had a bilateral meeting with Joint Secretary (FT-Europe) to enhance trade and investment relations.

Portugal organised the Web Summit in Lisbon from 7-10 November 2016 in which about 700 Indian delegates participated. Embassy of India organised a Roundtable discussion with Portuguese and visiting Indian Start-Ups CEOs for possible collaboration in Start-Ups and IT sector. 15-Indian companies of sports goods and toys manufacturers visited Lisbon 14-15 November 2016 under the aegis of Sport Good Export Promotion Council (SGEPC) and held B2B meeting with their Portuguese counterparts and potential buyers of their goods.

Mr. Antonio Costa, the Portuguese Prime Minister paid a State visit to India from 7-12 January 2017. He was accompanied by 6 Ministers and a business delegation. During the visit, he met Prime Minister Shri Modi in Delhi and held delegation level talks. He also called on the President and Vice President of India. He was the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas ceremony held in Bengaluru from 8-9 January 2017. Thereafter, he attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He also visited Goa on 11-12 January 2017 where he met the Chief Minister of Goa and participated in a community event. He also visited National Institute of Oceanography and places of cultural importance in Goa.

The Indian Embassy will be organizing an Invest India Seminar in February 2017 to promote foreign investment in Indian states.

A meeting of the Joint Science and Technology Committee will be held from 13-14 March 2017 wherein proposals for joint funding of research in cutting edge areas will be approved and announced.

The Festival of India will be organized in Lisbon from 24 - 26 March 2017. The festival is called 'New Light From India' and showcases Indian culture on a grand scale.

San Marino

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister for Food Processing

Industries visited San Marino from 30 September-1 October 2016. On the second day, she attended the ceremony where the new Captain Regents Mr. Fabio Berardi and Mr. Marino Riccardi, were appointed for a six months period beginning 1 October 2016. During the visit, the Minister visited food packaging industry (ASA) in San Marino along with State Secretary for Industry Mr. Marco Arzelli. She also met State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of San Marino. The Minister encouraged bilateral cooperation in agro-processing industries. She briefed about the projects of Food Parks which the Ministry of Food Processing is managing and also acquainted them of the 'World Food 2017' to be held in Delhi in March 2017 and encouraged companies from San Marino to participate in the event.

Spain

The year 2016 marked completion of 60 years of warm and cordial relations between India and Spain. The level of engagement between the two countries increased significantly in 2015 but owing to the political situation in Spain that saw two general elections in six months (December 2015 and June 2016) without clear majority for any political party, bilateral political exchanges in 2016 remained low-key.

Engagement on the commercial side continued with the first informal meeting of the India – Spain CEOs Forum with top industry leaders in key focus sectors like renewable energy, waster water management, water desalination, high speed railways, smart cities etc. Successful trials of Spanish company Talgo's coaches in the Indian railway sectors hold promise for future cooperation in this area.

The launch of direct flight services by Air India between New Delhi and Madrid from December 2016 is expected to provide a fillip to tourism and business exchanges. The Global Business Forum, organized on the sidelines of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards & Weekend held in June 2016, brought together businesses from both countries. India participated with high-level delegations in international trade fairs and conferences in key sectors held in Spain viz. FITUR (Tourism), Mobile World Congress (Telecom), CPhI Worldwide (Pharmaceuticals) and Smart City Expo World Congress (Smart Cities).

Bilateral trade during the first half of the Financial Year 2016-17 was around US\$ 2.63 billion, with nearly three-quarters being exports from India.

The calendar of the cultural activities remained full throughout the year with performances by numerous troupes and renowned artists such as Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Vikku Vinayakram and Aman & Ayaan Ali Khan.

United Kingdom

Following the successful visit by Prime Minister to United Kingdom (UK) in November 2015, the year 2016 saw continued high-level political engagement and intensified cooperation across all sectors of bilateral ties.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May visited India from 6-8 November 2016 on her first bilateral visit outside Europe. UK Secretary of State for International Trade Dr. Liam Fox, UK MoS for Trade and Investments Greg Hands and UK National Security Adviser Mark Lyall-Grant accompanied the PM. There was a strong business delegation accompanying the Prime Minister comprising over 30 British business delegates. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Strategic Partnership between India and the UK as the UK prepared to leave the EU.

During the visit, the two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the India-UK Tech Summit in New Delhi that showcased the excellent bilateral cooperation in S&T and brought together industry experts, technology innovators, businesses and governments. The Summit was agreed to be held during the Prime Minister's visit to the UK in November 2015. India-UK joint collaborative projects in S&T now receive funding

of over 200 million Pounds. The Tech Summit demonstrated the immense potential of bilateral collaboration in cutting edge sectors and the joint ability to find innovative solutions to global challenges in areas such as sustainable agriculture, bio fuels, clean energy, anti microbial resistance etc.

The robust and growing economic engagement between India and the UK continued to flourish. Bilateral trade in goods for the year ending March 2016 was US\$ 14.02 billion. To strengthen the trading partnership between the two countries, especially in the context of the UK preparing to leave the EU, a Joint Working Group on Trade has been set up. The 11th JETCO (Joint Economic and Trade Committee) Meeting led by the two Commerce Ministers was held on the sidelines of the UK Prime Minister's visit to India.

Bilateral investment partnership remained strong with India continuing to be the third largest investor in the UK and the UK the largest G-20 investor with a cumulative investment of US\$ 24.06 billion for the period April 2000-Sept 2016, accounting for 8% of all FDI in India for this period. The CEO Forum that was renewed during Prime Minister's visit to UK last year also met in November 2016 on the side-lines of UK Prime Minister's visit to India. It was agreed that the two governments, together with the CEO Forum, would review how the forum can better support an enhanced economic and commercial relationship. To further boost cooperation in this area, two MoUs in the areas of Ease of Doing Business and Intellectual Property Rights were signed during the UK PM's visit.



Prime Minister and Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Theresa May at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on 7 November 2016.

The year 2016 has also witnessed a further deepening of the India-UK financial partnership. Following the announcements made during PM's visit to the UK in November 2015, over US\$ 1.1 billion of rupee-denominated bonds have been issued in London since July 2016, that includes bond issuances by HDFC (₹ 3000 crores) and NTPC (₹ 2000 crore). Several other Indian companies have also announced their intention to issue rupee-denominated bonds. The India-UK Partnership Fund set up under the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has benefited from the announcement of anchor investments of up to 120 million pounds each by the two governments.

Defence cooperation between the Armies, Air Forces and the Navies of the two countries continues to be extensive. The engagements include joint exercise, exchange of subject matter experts, various long and short duration courses of training and visits by delegations. The 17th Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting co-chaired by Defence Secretary and UK Permanent Under Secretary was held in November 2016. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre, Raksha Rajya Mantri, visited the UK in September 2016 to participate in the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial meeting. From the UK side, General Sir Nicholas Carter, Chief of General Staff, British Army visited India from 13-17 November 2016 on an official visit. India and UK established a Defence and International Security Partnership (DISP) during PM Shri Modi's visit to the UK and during the recent UK PM visit, it was agreed to further deepen cooperation in this area.

Cooperation in the field of Education flourished in the year 2016 which was declared as the UK-India Year of Education, Research and Innovation. The UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI), a multi-stakeholder partnership programme supported by both Governments on the core principle of mutuality of benefit, entered its third phase in April 2016.

Counter-terrorism is another area where strong bilateral cooperation continued this year. The annual official dialogue on counter-terrorism led by AS (CT), MEA, was held in August 2016 in New Delhi. During UK PM Theresa May's visit to India in November 2016, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their strong commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and stressed that there can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever-agreeing that there should be zero tolerance of terrorism. They

agreed that there should be no glorification of terrorists or efforts to make distinction between good and bad terrorists.

Bilateral cooperation in cyber security also progressed well. An MoU between CERT-In and CERT-UK was signed in March 2016. The 3rd India-UK bilateral consultations on cyber issues were held in September 2016 in London. During UK Prime Minister's visit to India in November 2016, both the sides agreed to enter in a Framework Agreement on Cyber Security.

During the UK PM's visit to India, the two Prime Ministers agreed to intensify cooperation in this area and that that fugitives and criminals should not be allowed to escape the law and expressed strong commitment to facilitate outstanding extradition requests from both sides.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed the importance of easier bilateral mobility for enhanced engagement between the two countries. UK PM announced a Registered Traveller Scheme for Indian business travellers that will enable expedited clearance at the UK border. UK has also invited the Government of India to nominate senior business executives to UK's Great Club, a bespoke visa and immigration services.

2017 has been announced as the India-UK year of Culture to mark the 70th anniversary of Indian independence. Many activities and programmes are being planned under this including an exhibition of Indian science in the Science Museum in London, and highlighting 400 years of Shakespeare in India.

The annual Indian Navy – UK Royal Navy bilateral exercise Konkan 2016 was held in Mumbai and Goa from 11-16 December 2016.

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker of Lok Sabha attended the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth Parliaments held in London from 10-13 January 2017.

Boris Johnson, UK Foreign Secretary participated in the Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi from 17-19 January 2017.

The Ninth Round of the Economic and Financial Dialogue is expected to be co-chaired by Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and UK Chancellor Philip Hammond in New Delhi in February/March 2017. Cooperation in energy-related issues is expected to be boosted by holding of the 1st India-UK Energy Summit in March 2017.

The India-UK Year of Culture in the UK will be launched by the Queen on 27 February 2017 in London.

MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar is expected to participate in the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meeting in March 2017.

European Union (EU)

India and the European Union Strategic Partnership was invigorated with the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Brussels for the 13th India-EU Summit on 30 March 2016. The EU was represented at the Summit by Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council and Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. President of the European Parliament Mr. Martin Schulz attended the Summit meeting. EU High Representative Ms. Federica Mogherini, and President of the European Investment Bank, Mr. Werner Hoyer were also present at the Summit. The Summit saw the adoption of seven outcome documents including a Joint Statement and an ambitious Agenda for Action 2020 that laid down the roadmap of our bilateral collaboration for the next five years.

The Summit, coming in the backdrop of the heinous attacks in Brussels that claimed the lives of 32 people, including an Indian, focused heavily on counter terrorism issues. An India-EU Joint Declaration on the fight against terrorism was adopted at the Summit.

A step forward in facilitating legal migration between India and EU was also attained with the endorsement of India-EU Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility at the Summit.

Both sides adopted a Joint declaration on Water Partnership that provides a platform to cooperate on the Clean Ganga Initiative. India and the EU also adopted a program for collaboration on India's solar mission, smart grids, wind energy, International Solar Alliance etc through the Joint Declaration on Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. The first tranche of € 200 million of the total € 450 million loan from EIB for the Lucknow Metro project was also signed during the Summit.

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella visited India in October 2016 and signed an MoU between India and the EU on Water Partnership including EU's collaborations for our Clean

Ganga initiative. The objective of the MoU is to strengthen the technological scientific and management capabilities of India and the EU in the field of water management on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

MoS for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar, visited Brussels in October 2016 leading an Indian delegation at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan. During the visit he also had bilateral interaction with the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Federica Mogherini. The visit, taking place in the immediate aftermath of the dastardly terror attacks at our Uri military camp, was used to share our concerns on State sponsored terrorism and the threat posed by such actors to global peace and security.

The Vice President of the European Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Mr. Jyrki Katainen, visited India in November 2016 and met the Finance Minister and Commerce Minister. Mr. Katainen also shared EU's perspectives at the Prabhodhan Leaders Conclave while interacting with leading lights of Indian business.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, led the EU at the Heart of Asia Conference on Afghanistan in Delhi on 4 December 2016. Slovakia currently holds the 6-month rotating Presidency of the EU.

The last meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel was held in New Delhi on 25 October 2016. India and the EU had useful discussions on cooperation in clean energy and climate action under the bilateral Energy Panel that also deliberated upon the action points contained in the bilateral Joint Declaration on Cooperation in Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. The 1st meeting of the India-EU Energy Security was also held along with the 8th meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel.

The EU as a bloc of 28 countries continued to be India's largest regional trading partner while India was the EU's 9th largest trading partner in 2015. India's overall bilateral trade (in both goods and services) with the EU28 during 2015 (Jan-Dec) was € 105.2 billion (bilateral trade in good € 77.5 billion and bilateral trade in services € 27.7 billion). India's export of goods to the EU in 2015 stood at € 39.4 billion while India's imports from the EU were valued at € 38.1 billion.

India's bilateral trade with the EU28 during the first seven months of 2016 (Jan-July 2015) stood at € 45.2 billion with India's exports valued at € 23.3 billion and India's imports from the EU at € 21.9 billion. The EU continued to be one

of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India with FDI inflows from the EU to India valued at € 5.2 billion in 2014. Indian investments in the EU28 were € 1.1 billion in 2014.

On 21 June 2016, on the occasion of the second International Day of Yoga, the European Parliament organized a yoga session inaugurated by the Founder of the Art of Living Sri Sri Ravishankar. More than 300 people from the European Union institutions participated in the session including several Members of the European Parliament. The European

Commission's Yoga club also organized the celebrations of the 2nd International Day of Yoga through a Yoga session conducted by European Commission's Director General for Culture and Yoga enthusiast Ms. Martine Reicherts. European Commission Vice President Ms. Kristalina Georgieva actively participated in the session.

Pandit Bhajan Sopori presented a brilliant exposition of Santoor Music at the European Parliament on 10 November 2016.



Canada

India-Canada bilateral ties are underpinned by shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement, regular high level interactions and long-standing people-to-people ties. There are strong complementarities between the two countries in critical areas like energy, trade and investment, agriculture, education and science & technology. The bilateral relationship received a momentum with the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in April 2015. Canada has over

1.2 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), comprising more than 3% of Canada's population.

High Level Engagements

On 1 April 2016, Prime Minister had a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Washington on the sidelines of Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) during which bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest were discussed. Prime Minister invited PM Trudeau to visit India.



Prime Minister meets Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada in Washington DC on the sidelines of Nuclear Security Summit 2016

Visits from India:

Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visited Toronto, Canada for Trade Ministerial Dialogue from 28-30 September 2016.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley visited Toronto, Canada from 2-5 October 2016.

Smt Krishna Raj, MP (LS) and Smt. Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu, MLA, Mizoram visited Ottawa for the 13th Canadian Parliamentary Seminar from 29 May- 4 June 2016.

Visits from Canada:

Mr. Jim Carr, Minister of Natural Resources of Canada visited India from 6-9 September 2016 for the 3rd India Canada Energy Dialogue.

Mr. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development visited India (Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai) from 5-10 November 2016.

Mr. John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada visited India (Delhi and Chandigarh) from 4-11 November 2017.

Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Mr. Amarjeet S Sohi led the Canadian delegation for Vibrant Gujarat from 10-13 January 2017.

3 MPs (Ms. Yasmin Ratansi, Mr. Ramesh Sangha and Ms. Irene Mathyssen) and 2 Senators (Joan Fraser and Salma Atallahjan) of Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visited India from 10-18 September 2016.

Energy

Energy has been a primary area of our focus, considering that Canada is an 'energy superpower' with one of the world's largest resources of uranium, natural gas, oil, coal, minerals and advanced technologies in hydropower, mining, renewable energy and nuclear energy.

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan co-chaired the 3rd India-Canada Energy Dialogue with Mr James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources of Canada on 8 September 2016 in New Delhi. Minister Carr was accompanied by a 20-member business delegation comprising representatives from Canada's oil and gas, renewable energy and academic sectors. Both sides

discussed regulatory best practices in the hydrocarbon sector, collaboration in the field of technology, including R&D, Shale gas and gas hydrates technology and clean fuel technology.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., has a participating interest of 10% in Pacific North West LNG Project in British Columbia along with Petronas of Malaysia and other partners. Indian Oil is expected to off-take 1.34 MMT of LNG once the project is operational.

Civil Nuclear cooperation

Pursuant to an agreement signed between Department of Atomic Energy and M/S CAMECO Inc., Canada during Prime Minister's visit in April 2015 for supply of 3000 metric tonnes of uranium ore concentrate to India, the second shipment of uranium arrived on 28 December 2016.

The Administrative Arrangement (AA) for the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) operationalised in September 2013, established the Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) to facilitate discussions and information sharing in a number of areas. The 4th JCM was held in Ottawa on 1-2 November 2016. Both sides discussed ways of deepening cooperation, especially among scientific establishments.

Finance, Trade and Industry

Bilateral trade amounted to US\$ 6.46 billion in 2015 with Indian exports at US\$ 3.08 billion and Indian imports at US\$ 3.37 billion.. Bilateral trade from January-October 2016 stood at US \$ 4.88 billion.

Canadian Pension Funds have invested around US\$ 8.36 billion in India. Investments by Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and Caisse de dépôt et placement du Quebec (CDPQ) stands at US \$2 billion and US\$ 2.3 billion, respectively.

On 1 September 2016, British Columbia province of Canada became the first foreign government to issue the Indian rupee "masala bond" at the London Stock Exchange and it raised ₹ 5 billion. Bond proceeds were immediately reinvested in a masala bonds issued to the province by the Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC).

To spur bilateral trade, India and Canada are negotiating Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA). The two sides met on 22 April 2016 in New Delhi

to understand each other's positions on CEPA and BIPPA.

Minister of State (I/C) for Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Toronto, Canada on 28-29 September 2016 for Annual Trade Ministerial Dialogue. The Canadian side was led by Minister of International Trade, Ms. Chrystia Freeland. The issues discussed included expansion of bilateral trade and investment and constitution of CEO Forum. Both sides expressed their strong commitment for early conclusion of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) negotiations.

Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley visited Toronto, Canada from 2-5 November 2016 and met Canada's Finance Minister Mr. Bill Morneau. Shri Jaitley also interacted with CEOs of Canadian Pension Funds and addressed students of Rotman School of Management in University of Toronto.

A high level delegation led by Minister for Infrastructure and Communities Mr. Amarjeet Sohi participated in Vibrant Gujarat (10-13 January 2017)

Mr. Michael de Jong, Finance Minister of British Columbia visited India (Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai) from 21-29 October 2016.

Consulate General of India, Vancouver, Canada-India Business Council and British Columbia Ministry of International Trade organised the inaugural British Columbia-India Partnership Summit on 15 September 2015 to discuss trade and investment opportunities in infrastructure and clean technology and cooperate in Smart Cities Initiative.

On 22 October 2016, Ministry of External Affairs in association with Indo Canadian Business Council organized a seminar on "Opportunities in India for Canadian Businesses".

Defence

A Memorandum of Understanding between Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) for development of military and defence related technology, infrastructure, training and services was signed on 5 October 2016.

Defence Minister met Canada's Defence Minister Mr. Harjit S. Sajjan on the sidelines on Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on 3 June 2016.

On 9 April 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH and College of Homeopaths, Ontario, Canada in the field of cooperation and research in the field of homeopathic medicine.

Science and Technology

At the invitation of Minister of Law and Justice, Electronics and IT Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Canada's Minister of Science, Innovation and Economic Development Navdeep Bains visited India from 5-10 November 2016. The Ministers discussed digital governance, Start-up India and ideas of social innovation. Minister Bains also met Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley.

Space

India and Canada are pursuing successful cooperative and commercial relations in the field of Space. On 28 September 2016 India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-30 launched NLS014 (Ev9) a nanosatellite made by University of Toronto and on 22 June 2016, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-34 launched two Canadian satellites- M3M (Maritime Monitoring and Messaging Micro-Satellite) and GHGSat-D.

Education

On 15 June 2016, India and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a Chair in the field of Humanities & Social Sciences focused on India related studies at the Canada-India Centre for Excellence (CICE) at Carleton University, Ottawa.

On 15 July 2016, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India and the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute (SICI) renewed the Memorandum of Understanding for bilateral cooperation. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, Government of India will allocate ₹ 33.176 crores for a period of five years from 2015-16 to 2019-2020.

Agriculture

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Ontario Mr. Jeff Leal and Minister of International Trade, Ontario Mr. Michael Chan visited India (Delhi, Chandigarh and Mumbai) from 14-20 November 2016. The Ministers called on Minister for Food Processing industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

The first meeting of the India Canada Plant Health Technical Working Group was held in New Delhi on 27-28 April 2016.

Associate Deputy Minister for Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada, Mr. Chris Forbes led a delegation to India from 2-8 October 2016. The delegation met Shri S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary (Agriculture Cooperation & Farmer's Welfare) and discussed issues related to trading of pulses between Canada and India.

People-to-People Ties

Canada India Parliamentary Friendship Group (CIPFG) was formed in Ottawa on 11 May 2016. Chandra Arya (Liberal MP from Ottawa) is the Chair.

Air Canada started direct Delhi –Vancouver flight from 20 October 2016.

On 15 November 2016, High Commission of India, Ottawa organized an interactive session with Shri Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Secretary (CPV & OIA), MEA, for the leaders and representatives of prominent Indian associations based in Ottawa.

International Yoga Day

The High Commission of India celebrated the International Yoga Day (IDY), in partnership with Indian community

organisations on 26 June 2016 in Ottawa. Mayor of Ottawa Mr. Jim Watson delivered the closing remarks.

United States

India and the United States have a robust Strategic Partnership, based on shared values, convergent strategic perspectives and economic and systemic complementarities. Summit-level interactions and high-level visits continued to lend momentum to bilateral ties. 2016 saw intense engagement in the entire spectrum of India-US bilateral cooperation covering areas such as defence and security, trade and investment, education, science and technology, energy, civil nuclear cooperation, education, health and people-to-people ties.

Visit of Prime Minister to the US

Prime Minister visited the US from 6-8 June 2016 at the invitation of the US President Barack Obama. In addition to the official talks with the US President, Prime Minister addressed a Joint Meeting of the US Congress. He also had interactions with business representatives and think-tanks. Prime Minister's other engagements included visit to Arlington Cemetery; call on Prime Minister by US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and handling over of Indian antiquities to PM by the US Attorney General Loretta Lynch.



Prime Minister meeting the President of United States of America (USA), Mr. Barack Obama in Oval Office, at White House, in Washington DC, USA on 7 June 2016.

The visit was aimed at consolidation of progress made in various areas in the last two years under the leadership of Prime Minister and the US President and to intensify cooperation for the future. There were significant and concrete outcomes in key areas of cooperation such as civil nuclear; clean energy; defence and security; politico-strategic engagement; economy and people-to-people ties. A number of documents were also signed/finalized in the run up to the visit.

Prime Minister's historic address to the Joint Meeting of the US Congress, the first foreign leader to do so in 2016, demonstrated the bipartisan support for India-US relations. Speaker Paul Ryan hosted Prime Minister for a lunch with Congressional leadership. The leaders of the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committee together with House and Senate India Caucus hosted a joint Reception in the Prime Minister's honour. The US Congress has been a source of strength for India-US strategic partnership and the exceptionally warm reception accorded to Prime Minister in

the Congress was reflective of this sentiment.

The main outcomes from the visit were as follows:

- Announcement of the commencement of preparatory work on site for the 6600 MW Westinghouse nuclear power project in Andhra Pradesh and intention to finalise the contractual arrangements by June 2017 to further strengthen bilateral civil nuclear cooperation.
- Announcement of finalisation of a roadmap for Joint Strategic Vision for Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region.
- Recognition of India as a Major Defence Partner of the US.
- Recognition of US support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council and India's membership of multilateral export control regimes.



The members of US Congress give a standing ovation to the Prime Minister after his address to the Joint Session of U.S. Congress, in Washington DC, USA on 8 June 2016.

- Signing of the White Shipping Agreement for sharing of unclassified maritime information as well as finalisation of the text of Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
- Signing of an arrangement to facilitate the sharing of terrorist screening information for deepening of collaboration against terrorism.
- Announcement of clean energy initiatives to support projects in India and to enable enhanced participation of US companies in such projects.
- Announcement that India will co-host with the US the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in 2017 to further promote innovation and growth.
- Agreement to open a new Indian Consulate in Seattle.

The US will also open a new Consulate in India at a mutually-agreed location.

- Announcement that the US and India will be Travel and Tourism Partner Countries for 2017.
- Signing of an MoU to enable India's entry into the Global Entry Program which allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival in the United States.

The Prime Minister also addressed the business community at the 41st AGM of the US-India Business Council (USIBC), attended a round table of US and Indian CEOs; and met the leaders of major US think-tanks. At the business round table, a number of US companies announced their plans for fresh investments in India. The US-India Business Council has estimated that their members would be investing additional US\$ 45 billion over the next 2-3 years.



Prime Minister in a group photograph with the business leaders during the USIBC Round-table, in Washington DC, USA on 7 June 2016.

Other Summit-Level Bilateral Interactions

The Prime Minister took part in the 4th and final Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington DC on 31 March-1 April 2016.

The Prime Minister and President Barack Obama met on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit on 8 September 2016 in Vientiane.

Strategic and Commercial Dialogue

The Second India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) was held in New Delhi on 30 August 2016. S&CD is the most comprehensive mechanism for discussion and deliberation on the bilateral agenda of cooperation in different fields. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry Smt Nirmala Sitharaman co-chaired the dialogue with US Secretary of State John Kerry and US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker.

Both sides reviewed the progress made in the implementation of decisions taken during Prime Minister's visit to the US and identified further steps to strengthen cooperation across the entire spectrum of the relationship. Prior to the S&CD, the India-US CEO Forum also held its meeting.

Key outcomes of S&CD were as follows:

- Signing of Framework of India-US Cyber Relationship to further cyber-security cooperation.
- Strong condemnation of terrorism and reaffirmation of commitment to dismantle safe havens for terrorist and criminal networks such as Da'esh/ISIL, Al-Qa'ida, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, D Company and its affiliates and the Haqqani Network.
- Reiteration of US support for India's membership of NSG, and permanent membership of the UN Security Council.
- Decision to scale up funding of India-US S&T Forum including through external funding such as CSR.
- Commitment to creation of a platform for sharing of best practices and technology for SMEs.
- Addition of Travel and Tourism as a new work stream under Commercial track.

- Decision to launch an India-US State Spotlight Webinar Series to highlight business opportunities and key economic reforms in select US and Indian States for private sector stakeholders.

Other Major Exchanges in 2016

There have been several high-level visits in both directions in 2016. The Ministerial visits from India to the US included:

- MoS (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar (to sign the Paris Agreement and attend Major Economies Forum from 21-25 April 2016)
- MoS (Independent Charge) of Power, Coal and New Renewable Energy Shri Piyush Goyal (to attend meetings relating to International Solar Alliance from 21 & 22 April 2016)
- Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley (to attend Spring meetings of IMF and World Bank from 13-21 April 2016 during which he also co-chaired India-US Economic and Financial Partnership meeting with Secretary of Treasury Jacob Lew; and to attend Annual meetings of IMF and World Bank from 6-11 October 2016)
- Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan (to attend Mission Innovation and Clean energy Ministerial Meeting at San Francisco from 31 May-3 June 2016; and to attend Indo-US Joint Science and Technology Commission and Arctic Science Ministerial meetings in Washington DC from 29 & 30 September 2016)
- Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda (from 8-10 June 2016 to attend the United Nations General Assembly High level meeting on Ending AIDS)
- Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation Shri Venkaiah Naidu (for discussions with urban development experts in the US from 30 June-4 July 2016)
- Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari (to meet his counterpart Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and strengthen India-US transportation partnership from 10-17 July 2016)

- MoS (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan (to participate in Road Shows to attract foreign investors in monetising of Small and Marginal Fields of ONGC & OIL through competitive bidding from 14-18 July 2016)
- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar (at the invitation of his counterpart, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter from 29-31 August 2016)
- EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj (for the UN General Assembly and related meetings from 23-28 September 2016)

Following were the Ministerial visits from the US:

- Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker (from 29 August- 2 September 2016 to co-chair S&CD)
- Secretary of Defense Dr. Ashton Carter to India (to have bilateral discussions with Defence Minister from 10-13 April 2016; and from 7-9 December 2016)
- Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman to India (from 19-21 October 2016 to co-chair bilateral Ministerial Trade Policy Forum)

Following were the US Congressional members who visited India:

- Senator Benjamin Cardin, (Democrat-Maryland), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) in May-June 2016
- Congresswoman Martha McSally (Republican- Arizona) in May 2016
- Congressman Jim McDermott (Democrat-Washington) in October 2016.

Visit of Chief Ministers to the US

- Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh – 29-31 August, 2016: The visit was aimed at inviting investment opportunities in the state of Madhya Pradesh and for encouraging participation at the “Invest Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit” to be held in October.
- Shri Raghubar Das, Chief Minister of Jharkhand – 28-30 September, 2016: The visit was a part of the effort

to attract investors and companies to participate in the Global Investors Meet in Ranchi in February 2017.

- Shri. Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh - 27 November-1 December 2016: The visit was part of the effort to boost the ‘Make in India’ initiative and also to partner with potential investors.

Strategic Consultations

There have been regular contacts at political and official levels on bilateral, regional and global issues. Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar visited the United States four times in 2016 [from 27-28 April 2016; 15-19 July 2016; 17-18 November 2016 and 11-12 December 2016] during which he held extensive consultations with various US interlocutors on emerging bilateral, regional and global issues of topical interest. High-level Consultations between Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar and the US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken were held in Washington D.C. on 28 April-18 July 2016.

Foreign Secretary had discussions with the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon in New Delhi on 29 June 2016.

Second meeting of the Policy Planning Dialogue at the DG level was held in Washington DC on 9 May 2016.

Strategic Security Dialogue co-chaired by Foreign Secretary and Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs Rose Gottemoeller was held in New Delhi on 14 May 2016.

During Secretary Carter’s visit to India in April 2016, it was agreed to set up a new Maritime Security Dialogue at DG level and the first meeting was held on 16 May 2016.

India-US-Japan Trilateral dialogue at DG-level was held in Tokyo on 21 June 2016.

The DG-level India-US-Afghanistan Trilateral Dialogue mechanism was revived in 2016. The three sides met on 21 September 2016 in New York on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. A tripartite agreement was concluded in early 2016 to support the second phase of the Afghan Women economic empowerment programme.

Bilateral Technical level Experts meeting on Peacekeeping Capacity Building in Third Country was held in New Delhi

on 19 April 2016. Both sides agreed inter alia to jointly support training of upto 45 African peacekeepers in India and the 1st United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP-1) was held in July-August 2016.

In 2016, both sides launched the second phase of the Feed the Future India Triangular Training that brings specialised agriculture training to 1,500 agricultural professionals from 17 countries across Africa and Asia.

Defence

Defence and Security cooperation is a key component of the bilateral strategic partnership between India and the United States, and has evolved to become a vital pillar of engagement between the two countries. The year 2016 saw intense activity in India-US defence cooperation with numerous engagements including a visit of Defence Minister to US and two visits of US Defence Secretary to India. The increased frequency of such high-level interaction in the field of defence reflects the upswing in bilateral defence cooperation.

All bilateral defence mechanisms meetings [Defence Policy Group (DPG), Defense Procurement and Production Group (DPPG), Senior Technology Security Group (STSG), Joint Technical Group (JTG), Military Cooperation Group (MCG) and the Executive Steering Groups (ESGs)] also held their 2016.

Key outcomes in defence sector were as follows:

- Signing of Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) on 29 August 2016 during the visit of Defence Minister to Washington DC. LEMOA is a facilitating agreement that establishes basic terms, conditions, and procedures for reciprocal provision of Logistic Support, Supplies, and Services between the armed forces of India and the United States. Reciprocal logistic support would be used exclusively during authorised port visits, joint exercises, joint training, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. The Agreement will systematise mutual logistic support for ongoing cooperation activities.
- Recognition of India as a Major Defence Partner of the US. This is a status unique to India and institutionalises the progress made to facilitate defense trade and technology sharing with India to a level at par with that of the United States' closest allies and partners. Subsequently, during

the visit of US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter to India in December 2016, an Understanding was reached between India and the US regarding US export control policy towards India in recognition of India as a "Major Defense Partner" of the US

- A Technical Agreement on information sharing on White Shipping between the Indian Navy and US Navy, which provides a framework for mutually beneficial maritime information sharing, was signed in May 2016.
- Discussions progressed under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) framework which was set up to explore co-production and co-development possibilities in defence sector. DTTI Working Group meeting was held in Delhi on 27 July 2016. Five new Joint Working Groups were launched. Discussions continued on significant projects including Aircraft Carrier Technology and Jet Engine Technology.

Exercises and Mil-to-Mil Cooperation: Military-to-military exchanges increased considerably between India and the US. Army Exercise Yudh Abhyas was held in India from 14-27 September 2016 at Chaubattia, Ranikhet. The MALABAR Naval exercise was held off the coast of Okinawa from 10-17 June 2016 with the participation of the Naval forces of India, US and Japan. India also took part in Maritime Exercise RIMPAC held in Hawaii from 30 June-4 August 2016. India participated in Air Exercise Red Flag held in Alaska from 28 April-13 May 2016. The bilateral Combined Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar will be conducted in Jodhpur in February-March 2016.

From the Indian side, Chief of Army Staff Gen Dalbir Singh made his maiden visit to US and met top military leadership from 5-8 April 2016. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba visited the US from 20-23 September 2016 to participate in the International Seapower Symposium.

US Secretary of Air Force Deborah Lee James visited India from 25-27 August 2016. US Secretary of Navy Ray Mabus visited India from 23-25 August 2016.

Humanitarian Missions: The US has expressed deep appreciation for the Government of India's support in facilitating the US Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) humanitarian missions for recovering the remains of US soldiers killed in World War II.

During his visit to India in April 2016, Secretary Carter took part in a ceremony in New Delhi repatriating the possible remains of U.S service members recovered by the DPAA from Arunachal Pradesh. A DPAA follow-up mission took place in Arunachal Pradesh from 1 November-14 December 2016.

Counter-Terrorism and Internal Security

Cooperation in counter-terrorism saw considerable progress in 2016. A bilateral arrangement for the exchange of terrorist screening information was signed in New Delhi in June 2016. India-US Counter Terrorism Joint Working Group meeting was held in Washington DC on 28-29 July 2016, which discussed the full range of Counter Terrorism issues including expeditious exchange of terrorist screening information, enhance coordination on proposed UN designations of terrorist entities, and expedite mutual legal assistance requests. The second bilateral Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Finance of Terrorism (AML/CFT) dialogue was held in New Delhi on 5 April 2016.

Cooperation on cyber issues is a key component of the bilateral relationship between India and the United States. India and United States held the bilateral Cyber Dialogue in New Delhi on 28 September 2016. The dialogue focused on the mechanisms to deepen cooperation for implementing the Framework for India-US Cyber Relationship signed on 30 August 2016

Functional discussions on Homeland Security cooperation continued with momentum.

Economic and Commercial Relations

Bilateral economic and commercial relations remained robust with substantial engagement in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship; smart cities cooperation; transportation partnership; standards cooperation and travel and tourism.

The United States continued to be a major destination for India's exports of goods and services in 2016. In the backdrop of global economic slowdown, the growth in India-US goods trade witnessed a marginal downward trend. The total trade fell in goods from US\$ 64.26 billion in 2014-15 to US\$ 62.12 billion in 2015-16.

During 2015-16, Indian goods exports to the US amounted to US\$ 40.34 (against US\$ 42.45 in 2014-15) which accounted for 15.38 % of India's global exports. Indian imports amounted to US\$ 21.78 billion in 2015-16 (against

US\$ 21.81 billion in 2014-15) which accounted for 5.72 % of India's total imports over the same period. The trade surplus of US\$ 18.55 billion is in favour of India (against US\$ 20.63 billion in 2014-15). The US is India's second largest trading partner in goods. [Source: Department of Commerce].

During the year 2015 (the latest year for which complete data on services trade is available), bilateral trade in services stood at \$42.8 billion (against US\$ 37.54 billion in 2014), of which India's exports of services to the US were valued at \$24.69 billion (against US\$ 22.36 billion in 2014) and US exports of services to India amounted to US\$ 18.11 billion (against US\$ 15.18 billion in 2014). [Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, US].

FDI from the US has increased to US\$ 4.2 billion in 2015-16 from \$1.8 billion in 2014-15 marking an increase of 133% making the US 5th largest investor in India. [Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion]

Finance Minister of India Shri Arun Jaitley co-chaired the sixth annual Economic and Financial Partnership (EFP) dialogue held on 14 April 2016 in Washington DC with US Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew. Both sides noted the progress in resolving bilateral tax disputes and in sharing of financial information between the two countries. They also noted the progress under India-US Investment Initiative.

The 6th Round of Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) negotiations between India and US were held during 10-12 May 2016 in New Delhi. This was the first face-to-face meeting between the two sides, after the approval of the Model BIT Text. During this round, both sides discussed the broad contours of their respective Model BITs and agreed to work together to find common ground to arrive at mutually acceptable BIT framework between India and the US.

The 10th round of the India-US Trade Policy Forum met on 20 October 2016 in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Independent Charge) Nirmala Sitharaman along with US Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Michael Froman. The two sides exchanged views on a range of trade and investment issues, in particular, (i) Agriculture, (ii) Trade in Services and Trade in Goods, (iii) Promoting Investment in Manufacturing, and (iv) Intellectual Property.

The India-US CEO Forum met on 30 August 2016 on the sidelines of S&CD, acknowledging the importance of

integrating the Forum with Commercial track of S&CD. The status on the action taken on the recommendations submitted by the Forum in its two meetings held in 2015 was reviewed. New recommendations for further expanding trade and investment between both the countries were also made. A private-sector led Innovation Forum was also held on 29 August 2016 on the margins of S&CD.

The bilateral Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Working Group meeting was held on 27 September 2016 in New Delhi. The Working Group focused on initiatives to strengthen collaboration between the governments and private sector of the two countries in the field of ICT.

India continued to engage with the US on visa issues, and emphasized the need to facilitate the movement of professionals. India also continued its efforts to conclude a bilateral Totalisation Agreement with the US.

Energy & Environment

Bilateral cooperation on issues of energy and environment further strengthened in 2016. An MOU was signed to enhance cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change on 2 June 2016 in New Delhi in the run up to PM's visit to the US. An MOU on cooperation in Gas Hydrates was also signed on 6 June 2016 in Washington DC.

The following bilateral clean energy initiatives were announced during Prime Minister's visit to the US in June 2016:

- (i) The creation of a US\$ 20 million US- India Clean Energy Finance (USICEF) initiative, equally supported by India and the US
- (ii) A commitment to establish the US-India Clean Energy Hub as the coordinating mechanism to focus United States Government clean energy efforts in partnership with leading Indian financial institutions
- (iii) US\$ 40 million U.S.-India Catalytic Solar Finance Program, equally supported by India and the US, which would provide needed liquidity to smaller-scale renewable energy investments
- (iv) US\$ 30 million public-private research effort in smart grid and grid storage to strengthen clean energy research and development (R&D) investment

Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences

Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the inaugural Mission Innovation (MI) Ministerial Meeting hosted by the United States in San Francisco on 1-2 June 2016 with an objective to accelerate global clean energy innovation. India announced launching of a new Research Track on Smart Energy Grids and Energy Storage under Indo-US PACE-R (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy- Research)

India-US JWG on Climate Change was held in New Delhi on 31 August 2016 wherein the entire gamut of climate change issues was discussed.

A bilateral MoU to enhance co-operation on Wildlife Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking was signed on 2 June 2016. The areas of interest included wildlife forensics and conservation genetics; natural world heritage conservation and nature interpretation; and conservation awareness etc.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

During PM's visit to the US, both the leaders had welcomed the start of preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse and noted the intention of India and the US Export-Import Bank to work together toward a competitive financing package for the project. Once completed, the project would be among the largest of its kind, fulfilling the promise of the U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement. Following up on the announcements made during the visit, a meeting of the bilateral Empowered Contact Group on civil nuclear cooperation was held in November 2016, in Washington DC to discuss technical and financing aspect of Kovvada Nuclear Power Plant. The meeting identified work streams and nodal points.

The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group (CNEWG) meeting was held on 24-27 July 2016 at Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, Illinois.

India-US Joint Working Group meeting on the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) was held in Chicago from 27-29 July 2016.

Science and Technology

The 4th bilateral Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Science & Technology was held in Washington DC on 30 September 2016. The JCM, was co-chaired by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of S&T and Earth Sciences and Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the US President for Science and Technology

and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Commission agreed to add new areas of S&T collaboration like agriculture science, ocean wave modeling and advance manufacturing.

Governing Board Meetings of the Indo-US S&T Forum and Indo-US S&T Endowment Fund were conducted in Washington DC on 12 April 2016 and 15 April 2016 respectively to review the programs and roadmap for future programs.

Indian S&T agencies attended the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2016 for promoting economic growth, inclusion and opportunities for entrepreneurs from across the world, from 22-24 June 2016 in Stanford University, California. It was announced that the next GES 2017 will be held in India.

Education

Indian students in the US form the second largest group at over 1.3 lakh students. There has been nearly 30% increase in 2016.

Ministry of Human Resource Development launched a Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN) on 30 November 2015 under which short-term teaching and research programmes would be undertaken by visiting academics from other countries in Indian universities. The US is one of the partner countries. Faculty from USA is also actively participating in the GIAN program. As of April 2016, the total of 213 U.S. faculty have been approved and 428 faculty are under consideration.

Under Nehru- Fulbright programme, administered by United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF), India and US continued to exchange scholars, professionals and students. India and USA make equal financial contributions of US\$ 3.35 million to the USIEF annually for Fulbright Nehru Scholarship Programme.

As part of the Teacher Exchange Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State, a number of Indian secondary school teachers are selected and benefited every year for providing professional development training to outstanding teachers. In 2016, 9 Indian teachers participated in programmes in American Universities under the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) and Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA).

Health & AYUSH

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Secretary, Department of Health Research & DG ICMR visited Washington DC on 13-14 April 2016. She met Ambassador Catherine Russell, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State on 28 September 2016 and discussed how to accelerate cooperation on providing women and girls with access to increased opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) fields.

Dr. Edward Trimble, Director, US National Cancer Institute (NCI) visited New Delhi in June 2016 for the Cancer Screening Committee Meeting and also met Director General, ICMR. Dr. Trimble also attended the first regional planning meeting of International Cancer Screening Network, hosted by Govt. of Tripura in cooperation with National Institute of Cancer Prevention & Research (ICMR) in Agartala from 3-10 September 2016.

People-to-people ties

In 2015, India received 1.2 million tourists from the US, more than any other country. More than 1 million Indians travelled to the US. To further strengthen people-to-people ties, Travel and Tourism has been added as a new work stream under the Commercial Track of Strategic and Commercial Dialogue.

There has been notable progress towards India's inclusion in the US Global Entry Programme, under which expedited clearance would be given for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. After joint scrutiny and clearance by both countries, the approved Indian travelers will be extended the facility of expedited entry into the United States through automatic kiosks at select airports. The Framework MoU was signed during Prime Minister's visit in June 2016 and an enabling implementation agreement called Interconnectivity Security Agreement (ISA) and an Addendum have also been concluded in December 2016.

The fifth round of India-US Consular Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 22 August 2016.

New Administration

President sent a congratulatory message to President-elect Donald Trump. Prime Minister sent a congratulatory message to the US President- and also had a telephonic conversation with him on 9 November 2016. He also sent a congratulatory message to Vice-President Elect Mike Pence.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries

Mr. Ashwin Adhin, Vice President of Suriname is a special guest for Pravasi Bharitya Divas, 2017.

All Missions celebrated Yoga Day, Constitution Day, ITEC Day and plan to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Vishwa Hindi Divas. Various cultural events have also been organized by Indian missions in LAC countries.

Argentina

India and Argentina share warm and cordial relations and have continued to grow in a planned manner. The present Argentina Government treats its relationship with India as strategic in nature.

The Prime Minister met the President of Argentina, Mr. Mauricio Macri on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit Meeting in Hangzhou, China on 5 September 2016. During the meeting, the leaders discussed cooperation in nuclear energy, shale gas, mining and agriculture, trade and commerce, Make in India and Digital India campaigns, International Solar Alliance, bilateral investment and poverty alleviation. President Mr. Macri expressed intent to deepen the relations between the two countries. Prime Minister extended an invitation to President Macri to visit India.

The Argentina Business & Investment Forum (ABIF) was held in Buenos Aires from 12 -14 September 2016, where Indian companies attended the event. The Export Promotion Councils Capexil and Chemexchil organized B2B exhibitions in Buenos Aires to promote exports to Argentina with the support of the Embassy. Capexil held its first exhibition in Buenos Aires with the sponsorship of Cámaradel Asia (Chamber of Asia). Chemexil held its second exhibition in Argentina from 19-20 October 2016. Thirty Five Indian companies representing various chemicals, pharmaceutical and cosmetics supplies participated in the event.

An agribusiness delegation headed by Under Secretary, Agro-Industries, Argentina, Mr. Jesús Silveyra, visited India to participate in the Globoil Conference 2016 in Goa.

Shri Ashok Das, Joint Secretary (LAC) visited Argentina in December during which he had meeting with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Foradori and Head of Bilateral Relations Division Ambassador Daniel Polsky and discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest.

A Parliamentary delegation from Argentina has proposed to visit India from 13-17 February 2017 which is under process.

Two Memoranda of Understanding were signed between (i) Ministry of Ayush and *Fundacion de Salud Ayurveda Prema* on establishment of an Ayush Chair in the Fundacion de Salud Ayurveda Prema and (ii) Central Council for Research and Homeopathy, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Ayush and Universidad Maimonides, Buenos Aires on cooperation in the field of research and education in the field of homeopathic medicine.

Bolivia

The exchange of visits from both sides in 2016 enhanced the existing India-Bolivia bilateral relations. Mr. Rene Orellana, Minister of Development Planning and Mr. Reymi Ferreira, Minister of Defence visited India in March. Joint Secretary (LAC) Mr. Ashok Das visited Bolivia in June and held bilateral meeting at the highest level with President Evo Morales and several Bolivian Ministers. Government of India is collaborating with the Ministry of Culture of Bolivia for the solar lighting of the Tiwanaku Archaeological Complex, a very important historical and spiritual landmark of Bolivia, under a Grant-in-Aid project. India has also agreed to establish a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in the city of Cochabamba as a Grant-in-Aid project which will be located at the prestigious National Institute of Civil Aviation.

India's exports was US\$ 118.893 million in FY 2015 while imports amounted to US\$ 196.356 million in the same year.

The Mission for the first time, participated at the popular trade fair EXPOCRUZ in Santa Cruz, Bolivia held from 16-27 September 2016 mobilizing participation of some companies from India and Peru in the 'India Pavilion'.

Brazil

The year 2016 was marked by political upheavals which led to the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff and swearing in of Vice President Michel Temer as the new President of Brazil in August. The Brazilian economy contracted in 2015.

India and Brazil have been strategic partners since 2006. This partnership got further strengthened with bilateral Summit Meeting held between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Michel Temer on 17 October 2016 who visited India to attend the VIII BRICS Summit in Goa.

He was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs, José Serra, Minister of Agriculture Mr. Blairo Maggi, Minister of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Marcos Pereira and large official and business delegations. They discussed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation. During the visit, three Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on (i) Genetic Resources, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Natural Resources and Fisheries, (ii) Pharmaceutical Products Regulation, and (iii) Cattle Genomics and Assisted Reproductive Technologies were exchanged and the text of Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty was finalised and initialed.

A Joint Statement was issued wherein the two sides agreed to impart a new impulse to the decade long bilateral strategic partnership based on a common global vision, shared democratic values and intensify existing areas of complementarities. The importance of a roadmap for cooperation in agriculture was emphasized while specific reference was made to production of pulses in Brazil, food processing, and cold chain infrastructure.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution visited Brazil in August and held

successful discussions with Brazilian Agriculture Minister Blairo Maggi on food security with focus on mass cultivation of pulses.

Brazil is the main trading partner of India in Latin America. While the bilateral trade increased substantially in the last two decades with around US\$ 11.4 billion in 2014 and US\$ 7.9 billion in 2015, trade in 2016 is expected to decline further with turnover at US\$ 4.5 billion for the first ten months. This is in line with overall declining trade trends of Brazil.

In September 2016, the 4th Meeting of the Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM) was held in Brasilia, where issues relating to commercial and trade relations was deliberated upon with a view towards facilitating ease of doing business and consolidating economic ties. On the sidelines of the 4th TMM Meeting, the meeting of the Joint Administrative Committee (JAC) of the India-MERCOSUR PTA was also held wherein the expansion of the tariff lines from 500 to 2500 has been put on fast-track with negotiations beginning February 2017.

India and Brazil continued to enjoy a multifaceted partnership in various regional groupings such as BRICS, IBSA and



Prime Minister formally welcomes the President of Brazil, Mr. Michel Temer to the BRICS Summit venue in Goa on 16 October 2016.

plurilateral groupings such as G4, G20, BASIC, International Solar Alliance in larger multilateral bodies such as the UN, WTO, UNESCO and WIPO.

Dr. L. Subramaniam, the internationally renowned Indian violin maestro and his 7-member troupe performed in Brasilia and Sao Paulo on 3-4 December 2016 respectively.

Institute of Biomedical Sciences of University of Sao Paulo organised a workshop titled 'Science Communication and Diffusion Course' at USP from 19-21 December 2016 to improve the Brazil-India Building Knowledge Networks.

While the total trade between India and Brazil was US\$ 4.49 billion, -32.32% less than the total trade (USD 6.635 billions) recorded in the same period last year, India stood at 13th position in the ranking for the largest trading partners of Brazil.

A discourse on Indian philosophy by Swamy Nitya Chaitanya at CGI, Sao Paulo is scheduled on 17 February 2017

CGI Sao Paulo in partnership with the Brazil India Chamber of Commerce, Sao Paulo and the State Government of Sao Paulo / Invest Sao Paulo is planning to organise an event on Make in India in the month of March 2017. Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, India in coordination with CGI Sao Paulo is proposing to conduct a 2-day Buyer Seller Meet in Sao Paulo in the third week of March 2017.

Columbia

Our relations with Colombia continued to be warm and friendly. The two countries signed an agreement on gainful employment of dependent family members of the personnel of their respective diplomatic missions during the visit of Shri Ashok Das, Joint Secretary of LAC division for bilateral consultations in June. Director of Asia, Pacific and Oceania, Mr. Alfredo Ramos also visited India in August 2016 and had meetings with his counterpart as well as officials from the Ministry of Commerce.

MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar met Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin on the sidelines of UNGA in New York in September 2016.

The bilateral trade between two countries stood at US\$ 941.9 million for the period January to September 2016. India's export to Colombia was US\$ 710.9 million while Colombia exports goods worth US\$ 231 million in that period. There

was a 45% decrease in Colombia's exports to India as export of crude oil declined.

The second edition of International Day of Yoga was organized in 8 cities across Colombia. Approximately 7,500 people participated in the event organised across four days (18-21 June 2016). In collaboration with Externado University two 120 hour diploma courses on Yoga was also organised. The ICCR sponsored Yoga teacher also conducted several short term yoga courses, workshops and presentations on Yoga.

Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated in Bogota and Medellin. The Gandhi foundation in Medellin observed a week of non-violence from 3-7 October 2016.

A 36 member delegation from TEXPROCIL participated in the annual textile fair INEXMODA in Medellin from 24-26 January 2017. Indian Tourism office New York would be participating in the ANATO Tourism Fair and EPCH is scheduled to organize a buyer seller meet in Bogota, Colombia. ICCR sponsored cultural events, comprising of music and dance troupes are lined up for January and March end.

Peru

Bilateral relations between the two countries have been cordial. Economic and commercial interaction increased and has been the mainstay of the relationship. Speaker of the Peruvian Parliament, Ms. Luz Salgado, attended the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations held at Mariscal Castilla Park in Lima where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi is located. The Agreement on Defence Cooperation between India and Peru came into effect on 15 July 2016 after the ratification process was completed on both sides. For the first time, a cooperation project has been initiated in Peru involving afforestation of a Lima neighbourhood where a Park named after Gandhiji is located.

India's exports were US\$ 883.261 million in FY 2015 while imports amounted to US\$ 676.289 million in the same year. A Commerce Ministry team lead by Joint Secretary (FT-LAC) visited Lima on 27 September 2016 to finalize the Joint Study Group Report on the trade agreement. An MoU on bilateral exchanges was signed between ESAN University, Lima and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore in April 2016.

An Indian Cultural Centre has become functional in the Embassy offering a large number of courses in Indian culture for Peruvians such as Hindi, Bharatanatyam, Rangoli, music

etc. Documentaries and Bollywood movies are being screened regularly. Quechua language class is also being held in the Centre. Both Yoga and Ayurveda are being promoted actively in Lima. With the support of Ministry of AYUSH.

As of 31 December 2016, out of 40 ITEC slots, 30 have been utilized and at least 20 more applications are in process.

The Indian Cultural Centre celebrated its first anniversary on 15 December 2016 with the participation of the teachers, instructors of various activities, their students, patrons, well wishers and the Indian community.

Uruguay

India and Uruguay enjoy cordial relations. The second International Day of Yoga was organized in the capital city of Montevideo with the help of the local Government.

Venezuela

India and Venezuela have been maintaining cordial relations. Venezuela has emerged as India's 4th largest supplier of crude oil. India imported oil worth US\$ 12 billion in 2014-15. Bilateral trade touched US\$ 12.3 billion in 2014-15, before falling to US\$ 5.8 billion in 2015-16 on account of drop in oil prices. There has been significant increase in the footprints of Indian pharmaceutical companies in Venezuelan market due to increased import of pharmaceuticals from India but the economic downturn in Venezuela impacted this sector also. There is a growing interest in deepening ties in other potential areas of mutual interest such as industry, auto parts, IT & telecommunications, science & technology, agriculture, dairy and animal husbandry. There is a similarity of views on major international, political and economic issues.

Foreign Minister Dr. Delcy Rodriguez led a 14-member delegation including Venezuelan Oil Minister Mr. Eulogiodel Pino and Vice Minister Mr. Felix Plasencia to India on 17-18 August 2016. The delegation had meetings with EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. The two sides agreed to move ahead for an early finalisation of a number of agreements in different areas and early holding of next Joint Commission meeting.

The 17th NAM Summit was held in Margarita Island in Venezuela during 17-18 September 2016. Vice President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari led the Indian delegation to the Summit, including MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar. Bilateral meetings were held with President Maduro, Iranian

President, Cuban President and Vice President of Nepal.

An Indian Music Festival was celebrated and a workshop was organized in December 2016. An ICCR sponsored 3 member *Violin* group would be visiting *Barinas* to give performances in January 2017. A *photo exhibition* on North Eastern States of India would be on display at University of Central Venezuela, during March 11-15, 2017. An *Ayush Cell* (based on the traditional medical practices followed in India) is planned to be opened at Maracay in March.

Central America

Belize

India's relations with the Belize continued to deepen. Belize extended support to Indian candidatures for International organizations. Under Grant in Aid for LAC, the Ministry of External Affairs sanctioned a grant of US\$ 50,000 for upgrading the computer centre at the Orange Walk Institute for Technical and Vocational Education and Training and another grant of US\$ 303,370 for purchase of a Fire Fighting Truck for use by local authorities. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated at three places in the country.

Costa Rica

India and Costa Rica have continued to maintain friendly relations. A Center of Excellence in Information and Technology was set up by the Government of India at the National Technical University (UTN) in Costa Rica during the year. A three member team of APTECH is imparting training to the Costa Ricans at the center.

Chile

Bilateral relations with Chile continued to be cordial and strong. The exchange of bilateral trade delegations further strengthen the bilateral relations. India and Chile have been in discussions for establishment of a high level Joint Commission between the two countries. On 6 September 2016, an Agreement on Expansion of the India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed in New Delhi. The "Expo India 2016" was inaugurated on 2 March 2016, in Chile. A special theme area projecting 'Make in India' and major tourist destinations in India was the centre of attraction of the event.

For the first time Festival of India was held in Chile, Seminar on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: On 15 April 2016, the Embassy, in collaboration with the Diego Portales University of Chile.

The second International Day of Yoga was celebrated by the Embassy in Santiago on 24 June 2016. Apart from Santiago, the IDY was celebrated in other cities of Chile. The Embassy in association with CamIndia (India-Chile Chamber of Commerce) and Pontifica Catholic University of Valparaiso organised a “Know India” seminar at the University. The Embassy celebrated the 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 4 November 2016.

A square dedicated to India - “Plaza de la India” - hosting the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Mother Teresa, was inaugurated on 2 December 2016, in Punta Arenas, the southern-most city of Chile.

The ITPO and the Embassy will be organising an “India Sourcing Fair - Expo India 2017” in Santiago from 4-11 March 2017.

El Salvador

India and El Salvador have friendly relations. Bilateral trade registered at approximately US\$ 75 million marginal increased during his period. Second International Day of Yoga was celebrated in San Salvador on 25th June 2016. The event was attended by around 300 persons.

Ecuador

Bilateral relations with Ecuador continued to be cordial and friendly. Government of India donated 15 tons of medicine to Ecuador in the aftermath of Earthquake on 16 April 2016. The medicines were handed over to the Ecuadorean authorities in a symbolic ceremony on 5 September 2016.

MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar met Foreign Minister Guillermo Long on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Summit in Venezuela. Both sides discussed the bilateral relations. A delegation led by Secretary Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) participated in the UN HABITAT III conference in Quito, which was held from 17-20 October 2016.

Grenada

The relations between India and Grenada are cordial and friendly. The first ever “International Conference on Indian Diaspora in Grenada and Wider Caribbean” was organised in collaboration with the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre from 29 April-1 May 2016 coinciding with the Indian Arrival Day in Grenada. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr.

Keith Mitchell, who also made an announcement officially recognising 1st May 2016 as Indian Arrival Day. An Indian Food Festival was also organised on the sidelines of the Conference.

Two infrastructure development projects i) Belle Vue Road (US\$291,723); and ii) Union Community Complex (US\$ 610,074) are under implementation under our Aid Programme to LAC countries.

Guatemala

India-Guatemala enjoy close and friendly relations. Bilateral trade registered at US\$ 268 million with significant increase by 9%. Capacity building is a major pillar of our relations. India provided financial assistance of US\$ 82,000 to upgrade the existing facilities in the IT Centre of Excellence set up by India in Guatemala. A solar energy supply project to households was implemented at Chajul village in Quiche Municipality. The project is being executed by indigenous women trained under ITEC programme by the Barefoot College in Rajasthan.

Make In India event organised in association with the Chamber of Industry and Banco Credito Hipotecario Nacional (CHN) on 8th September 2016, Chamber of Commerce and the Guatemalan export agency, AGEXPORT, supported the event.

Guyana

Bilateral relations between India and Guyana remained friendly, warm and cordial during the year.

First Vice President and Prime Minister Moses Verasammy Nagamootoo paid two private visits to India on 1-9 October 2016 and on 11-14 November 2016, to participate in the World Tamils Economic Conference in Chennai and the International Conference of Chief Justices of the World, organised by City Montessori School, Lucknow respectively. During his visit, PM Nagamootoo had held luncheon meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) on 6 October 2016.

Guyanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carl Greenidge and MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar had met in September 2016 on the sidelines of UNGA to discuss bilateral relations. India continued to assist Guyana in capacity building with training of Guyanese nationals in India under ITEC program and educational scholarships for Guyanese students in India.

Many development assistance projects have seen varying degrees of progress; having signed LoC Agreement for US\$ 50 million for link road project in March 2016, US\$ 10 million LoC and a grant of US\$8 million for the acquisition of an Ocean Ferry in October, signed an MoU to set-up US\$ 1 million worth Centre for Excellence in Information Technology in April. The International Day of Yoga was observed on 19 June 2016, in Georgetown, Guyana with Prime minister of Guyana, Moses Nagamootoo as its Chief Guest.

India and Guyana signed Open Skies Agreement in December 2016 during the International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN) Conference in Nassau, The Bahamas.

An MoU has been signed to set-up US\$ 1 million worth Centre for Excellence in Information Technology in April 2016 at University of Guyana and C-DAC has been appointed as the implementing agency; Guyana's request for US\$4 million for acquiring pumps under LoC has been approved in December 2016.

Our High Commission in Guyana has sent 8 Guyanese for visiting India under the Know India programme (KIP). A Bhojpuri Cultural troupe fully sponsored by the ICCR performed at Georgetown and Mahaica in celebration of 50th Anniversary of Independence of Guyana in July 2016.

Honduras

The relations between India and Honduras have been friendly. Bilateral trade progressed well touching US\$ 177 million in 2016. The scholarship scheme including capacity building is a major pillar of our relations. India donated US\$ 83,905 to the National University of Honduras for up-gradation of existing Centre of Information Technology.

The execution of Irrigation project at Jamastran Valley, Honduras, financed under Line of Credit for US\$ 26.5 million, extended by the Government of India, started in September. The project is being carried out by Apollo International.

Nicaragua

India and Nicaragua continued to have friendly relations. Our bilateral trade has shown a rapid growth in the last few years.

Panama

India and Panama continued to have cordial and friendly

relations. Our focus during the year has been on promoting Indian conglomerates to enter into sectors, such as port development, port-related services, infrastructure-building and modernisation, mega-engineering projects, energy projects, and IT & ITES.

Ms. Maria Luisa Navarro, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Multilateral Cooperation Affairs led the Panamanian delegation to participate in the Women's Economic Forum held in New Delhi from 16-21 May 2016. During the visit, Ms. Navarro met MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) and held discussions on the various aspects of our bilateral relations. Though the visit was mainly to participate in the World Women's Forum, it lent an impetus to the enhancement of bilateral engagement.

As part of their Latin American tour, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) led a business delegation of about 35 Indian manufactures and exporters of Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare products to Panama during 28-31 August 2016.

Shri Ashok Das, Joint Secretary (LAC) visited Panama in December during which he had meeting with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Luis Miguel Hincapie and discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest.

First Lady of Panama Mrs. Lorena Castillo de Varela, who is UNAIDS Special Ambassador for AIDS in Latin America, visited India to participate in the "Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit" in December 2016, at the invitation of Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation.

50-60 Indian companies are expected to participate in EXPOCOMER, Panama City, which is one of the largest annual commercial expositions in Central America, organized by the Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in March 2017.

Paraguay

India and Paraguay enjoy cordial relations with no outstanding issues. The second International Day of Yoga was organized in the capital city of Asuncion with the help of the local Government.

Caribbean Countries

Antigua and Barbuda

Bilateral relations between India and Antigua and Barbuda remained friendly, warm and cordial during the year. Indian

developmental assistance to Antigua and Barbuda continued with training of its nationals in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program.

Cuba

Our relations with Cuba have further strengthened with the meeting between our Vice President and the Cuban President on the sidelines of the 17th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Porlamar, Venezuela in September. In their meeting, both leaders emphasized the need for joint efforts to defend the founding principles of NAM. Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari proposed the establishment of a mechanism to fight terrorism effectively and also spoke on the reform of the UN Security Council.

Under the outreach programme of the Government of India, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State (MoS) for

Health & Family Welfare visited Cuba from 23-26 October, as the leader of a three-member delegation. Besides holding meetings with high dignitaries including Minister of Public Health, delegation visited primary and tertiary healthcare facilities in major cities, Center of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB), Cuban Regulatory Agency (CECMED) and Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM). As a mark of friendship between India and Cuba, MOS announced support of the Government of India by way of donation of medicines and medical equipment worth US\$ one million to Cuba.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation visited Cuba from 30 November-2 December 2016 to explore business opportunities in Cuba.

On the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a seminar was organised on 21 April 2016 at the



Vice President calls on Raúl Castro, President of Cuba on the sidelines of the 17th NAM Summit in Margarita on 18 September 2016.

University of Havana in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy and History.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister visited Cuba from 29-30 November 2016 along with 7-member all party Parliamentary delegation to pay last respects to the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz who passed away on 25 November 2016. The delegation was received by Cuban Minister of Justice on arrival. The delegation signed the Condolence Book at Cuban Foreign Office on 30 November 2016. The delegation met Acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Marcelino Medina and Ms. Gladys Bejerano, Vice President who was accompanied by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister, Rogelio Sierra. In the meeting, the Home Minister assured of India's continuous support to the Cuban Government and its people.

Dominican Republic (DR)

Shri Ashok Das, Joint Secretary (LAC) visited Dominican Republic from 28 June-1 July 2016, during which he had meeting with Dr. Alejandra Liriano, Vice Minister for External Affairs Policy and National coordinator for pro-tempore presidency of CELAC. Aside from reviewing the bilateral relations between the two countries, India's engagement with CELAC was also discussed. An Agreement between the two countries on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of Diplomatic Missions has been signed.

Haiti

The Government of India approved US\$ 250,000 as an emergency financial assistance to the Government of Republic of Haiti as relief for the destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew which hit the south-western peninsula of Haiti on 4 October 2016.

The United Nation Security Council renewed the mandate of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), without major changes in its objectives, for six months, until 15 April 2017. There are 3 Indian contingents of Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force and Assam Rifles as part of Minustah.

Jamaica

India and Jamaica continued to enjoy cordial and friendly relationship. Parliamentary elections were held in Jamaica in February 2016 and a new Government was formed in March,

headed by Prime Minister Mr. Andrew Holness.

A seminar was organised on the eve of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary celebration on 24 April 2016, in Kingston attended by new Prime Minister of Jamaica. The second International Day of Yoga was organised in Kingston with a good attendance. Senator Aubyn Hill was appointed as the Special Envoy for India in April. As a follow-up, Senator Hill made first official visit to India from 15-27 November 2016 and met Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, high officials in MEA, UIDAI and in other Ministries in Government of India dealing with IT, water resources, agriculture and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Bilateral trade between the two countries witnessed steady growth with the figures reaching US\$ 42 million with a surplus of US\$ 38.39 million in favour of India. The period also witnessed rapid growth of our export in pharmaceutical sector to Jamaica. ITEC Day was celebrated on 28 October 2016, where Under Secretary from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Government of Jamaica was the Guest of Honour.

The Air Services Agreement was signed between India and Jamaica on 5 December 2016.

Mexico

The successful bilateral visit of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Mexico, which took place after 30 years, was highlight of the year. India's 'Privileged Partnership' with Mexico received a major boost from his visit to Mexico City on 8 June 2016. After his meeting with President Enrique Pena Nieto, Mexico announced its full support to India's application for membership of NSG, in a complete shift of its earlier stand. The two countries also agreed to work towards establishing a 'Strategic Partnership' and identifying new, specialised areas of cooperation.

As a follow up of the Priem Minister's visit, the 6th Meeting of Indo-Mexican Joint Committee on S&T was held in Mexico City in July during which the bilateral Programme of Cooperation for 2017-19 was finalised. Under the MoU between ISRO and the Mexican Space Agency, a workshop on "Best Practices in the use of Space Technology for Disaster Management" was held in Mexico City in July with participation of three senior ISRO scientists.

Growth in bilateral trade has been noticeable in recent years.



Prime Minister in Restricted Meeting with the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peaa Nieto, at the official residence of Los Pinos, in Mexico on 8 June 2016.

For the year 2015, in Mexico's total global exports, India ranked 13th. India was also Mexico's 13th largest trade partner in the global market. The total bilateral trade in 2015 was recorded at US\$ 5.9 billion. India's total exports to Mexico were US\$ 4.06 billion in 2015 as compared to US\$ 3.72 billion in 2014 and India's imports from Mexico were US\$ 1.8 billion in 2015 as compared to US\$ 2.7 billion in 2014. The balance of trade of US\$ 2.26 billion, is now in India's favour largely due to decrease in the value of Mexico's crude oil exports to India.

The meeting of the High Level Group (HLG) on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation was held at Commerce Secretary level on 13-14 July 2016. The entire gamut of bilateral trade and economic relations between India and Mexico were reviewed. Both the countries decided to sign MoUs for Investment promotion and SMEs. The group decided on more information sharing on innovation issues and recognized the need for regular data exchange and sharing of best practices between the two countries. Both countries also agreed to strengthen existing bilateral trade and meet

frequently under the mechanism of HLG.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with MEA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and the Government of Jalisco, Mexico organized the 7th edition of the India-Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) Conclave on 28-29 November 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Conference, which was inaugurated by MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) and held for the first time outside India was a huge success with the participation of some 300 delegates from India and the LAC region. The event comprised of Plenary Sessions, Business-to-Business Meetings, Networking Lunches, Road shows on tourism and cultural evenings. Major themes and topics of discussions were Latin America as a business destination, opportunities and challenges for collaboration between India and LAC, Exploring key issues like energy security and food security and Business synergies in pharmaceuticals, technology, agriculture and renewable energy.

International Yoga Day was celebrated in the cities of Guadalajara, San Miguel de Allende and Durango City in addition to Mexico City in the month of June. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in Cancun in the same month. An Indian fusion band 'Naad Brahma' visited Mexico City to participate in Cervantino Festival and gave performances in eight different cities in October. The Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre held regular classes in 10 disciplines covering Indian languages, music, dances, yoga and cooking.

The Embassy helped various Trade Promotion Councils such as ESC, APEDA, EEPC, TEPC, FICCI, Pharmexcil, SRTEPC and CII in mounting India pavilions in popular trade faires/ business exhibitions, organizing BSMs and finding business partners for the visiting business delegations from India.

A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by Ambassador in the city of Cancun in June 2016. An Indian fusion band 'Naad Brahma' visited Mexico to participate in Cervantino Festival and gave performances in eight different cities in October 2016.

Suriname

India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Suriname which have been reinforced by cultural and people to people contact over a period of 143 years. Several high level Ministerial visits have been exchanged between the two countries.

Vice President of Suriname Mr. Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin, during his private visit to India in March, called on the Prime Minister on 11 March 2016, and discussed bilateral issues including issues of mutual interests. He also delivered an invitation letter from the President of the Republic of Suriname to the Prime Minister for a State visit.

At the 5th meeting of the Joint Commission, India announced US\$ 50 million as line of credit to Suriname. So far India has provided four Credit lines worth US\$ 57 million to Suriname to set up water pumps, power transmission lines, 3 Chetak helicopters, Crash Fire Tenders and coastal equipment.

Suriname introduced visa liberalization policy for Indians and "visa on arrival" facility extended to Indian Nationals with effect from 1 March 2016.

India provided a grant of US\$ 29500 for promotion of Hindi in Suriname in the year 2016 as approximately 80 voluntary Hindi schools are functioning in different district of Suriname.

Noted academician and historian from Suriname Prof Mauris S. Hassankhan attended the PBD panel discussion on the topic "Documenting History of migration and achievements of Diaspora in Giritiaya countries" held on 23 August 2016, in New Delhi. Mr. Dew Sharman, MP participated in the PBD Panel discussion on "Role of Indian diaspora community organization" in New Delhi on 12 November 2016.

Vice President Ashwin Adhin has accepted the invitation to be the Special Guest at the Youth PBD 2017 which is scheduled to be held at Bangalore on 7-9 January 2017.

An agricultural expert (Rice Breeder) continued to be on deputation to the Rice Institute ADRON in Nickeriers under ITEC programme.

Visit of Ashwin Adhin, Vice President of Suriname to attend Pravasi Bharitya Divas, 2017 as a special guest from 5-13 January 2017 in Bangaluru, will further intensify our bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of setting up of Ayurveda Chair, multi-disciplinary cooperation in Ayurveda, contract farming in the field of agriculture and manufacturing projects in Suriname with Indian technological assistance.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Bilateral relations between India and St. Kitts and Nevis remained cordial and friendly during the year. Indian development assistance to St. Kitts and Nevis continued with training of its nationals in India under the ITEC program. The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 26 June 2016 at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park at *Basseterre*, the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Trinidad & Tobago

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution paid an official visit to Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) from 25-28 October 2016. During the visit, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed with four Cabinet Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Culture, Agriculture and Trade & Industry. Shri Paswan also visited the Indo-Caribbean Museum, Nelson Island and Divali Nagar where he addressed the gathering of over 800 T&T nationals including Indian Diaspora on the occasion of Diwali celebrations organised by the National Council for Indian Culture and also met with the prominent Indian Diaspora and Indian personalities.

During the year several scholars from Trinidad and Tobago visited India under various programmes including six under ITEC; 10 under Know India Programme (KIP); 2 under Hindi; and 3 under ICCR.

A 12 member Bhangra Group sponsored by ICCR and led by Avinash Sharma visited T&T from 28 November-4 December 2016 and gave a number of performances across the country which were well appreciated by the audience.

The High Commission would organise a function on 30 January 2016 at Mahatma Gandhi's Statue installed at Gandhi Square, Port of Spain to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his Martyrdom Day where ministers, politicians, scholars, Diaspora and NRI community members are expected to participate.

A "Business Meet" is being organized in February 2017 by the High Commission to enhance trade & commerce as well as investment opportunities on both sides and to create an awareness about India's trade and economic potential, knowhow in science & technology etc.

With an aim to highlight the contribution of Indian diaspora community in the progress and development of T&T since

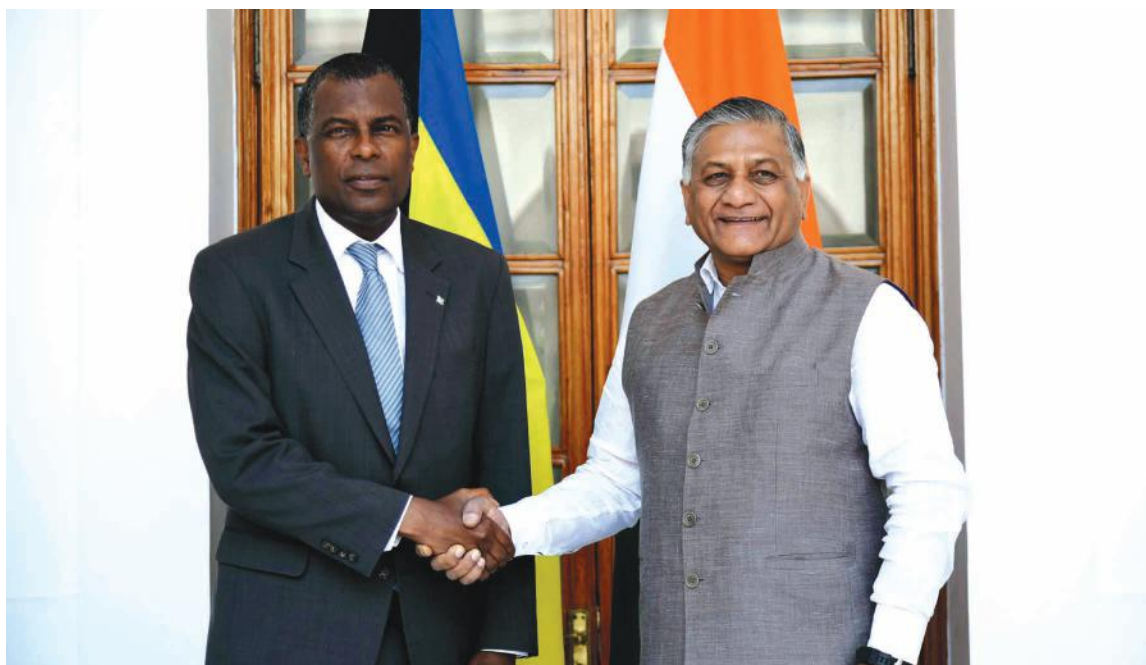
their arrival, and preservation of their roots and social/cultural identity in the country, High Commission would be organising a seminar with collaboration with prominent Indian Diaspora during March 2017.

Mission also plans to organise one Consular camp each in the months of February and March 2017, to facilitate services to the Indian Diaspora and NRI community in the concurrently accredited countries like Grenada and Commonwealth of Dominica.

The Bahamas

India and the Bahamas continued to strengthen the bilateral relationship during 2016-17. Bahamian Trade delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frederic A. Mitchell visited India from 23-27 April 2016. He met MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, regional and multilateral issues.

Bilateral, trade, economic and commercial activities between the two countries are satisfactory. The bilateral trade has also continued its growth and during 2015-16 it reached US\$ 89.19 million.



Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) calls on Fredrick A Mitchell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas in New Delhi, 25 April 2016.



United Nations and International Organisations and Legal and Treaties Division

India in United Nations

71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

The 71st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), on the theme '*The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world*', commenced in September 2016 in New York. Minister for External Affairs (EAM) Smt. Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation during the High Level segment of the 71st UNGA session in New York from 24-27 September 2016. Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS) Shri M.J. Akbar accompanied EAM to the 71st session of UNGA from the 19-26 September 2016.

MoS Shri M.J Akbar participated in the High Level meetings on Refugees and Migrants (19 September 2016), Anti-Microbial Resistance (21 September 2016), and the Right to

Development (22 September 2016). He also led the Indian delegation in the multilateral/regional meetings including the BRICS Ministerial Meeting (20 September 2016), G-4 Ministerial meeting on UNSC Reform (21 September 2016), Meeting of the Group of Friends on the Reform of the UN Security Council (21 September 2016), SAARC Ministerial Luncheon (21 September 2016), India-CELAC Ministerial (22 September 2016), and Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Minister Meeting (22 September 2016), held on the margins of the UNGA. MoS called on the President of Sri Lanka and the Vice President of Guyana and held bilateral discussions with his counterparts from 10 countries including Bulgaria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Iraq, Ireland, Peru, Portugal, Romania and Serbia.

A multi-party Parliamentary delegation that included five Members of Parliament (*Mrs. Rajani Patil, Dr. (Mrs.) Ratna De Nag, Mr. P.G. Nagarajan, Mr. Chirag Paswan and*



External Affairs Minister delivers Speech at 71st UNGA at New York 26 September 2016.



Foreign Ministers of BRICS countries on the sideline of 71st UN General Assembly at the United Nations in New York 20 September 2016.

Mr Gajendera Singh Paswan) visited New York as part of India's non-official delegation to the 71st Session of the UNGA from 7-12 November 2016. During the visit, the Parliamentarians attended relevant UN meetings/sessions in the General Assembly and its Committees on issues, including Security Council working methods and reforms, economic and social matters, international law, and sustainable development.

Reform of the UN Security Council

Efforts to move the process of UNSC reform forward continued through our active engagement with reform oriented groupings like the G-4 and L 69. EAM, at the General Debate of the 71st Session of the UNGA on 26 September 2016, stressed that “we need a less outdated Security Council that continues to reflect the world order of an earlier era. The vast majority of nations share the belief that the UN should not remain frozen in 1945, just to serve the interests of a few. Whether it is institutions or issues, we must come to terms with present day realities and the challenges that confront us. An expansion in the Permanent and non-Permanent membership of the Council to reflect contemporary realities is therefore, an urgent necessity.”

The G-4 Foreign Ministers (*consisting of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan*) held their annual meeting in New York on 21 September 2016 on the sidelines of the 71st UNGA session to review progress being achieved in the efforts towards UNSC reform. In a joint press statement released at the end of the meeting G-4 ministers underscored their respective countries unwavering commitment to a comprehensive reform of the Security Council that would include expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership to better reflect the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. The Ministers welcomed the adoption by consensus of the UNGA Decision 70/559 to continue to use the text presented by the President of the 69th General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015 as the basis for negotiations within the Inter-governmental negotiation (IGN) process in the General Assembly. They also welcomed the expressions of flexibility made by numerous delegations during the past IGN session, which resulted in the identification of areas of convergence in Member States' positions on all five clusters as identified by GA resolution 62/557 on Security Council reform.

India as part of the G-4 also participated in the first meeting of the “*Group of Friends on Security Council Reform*” held on 21

September 2016 in New York which brought together high-level representatives of Member States from diverse regions and groupings who share the common goal of moving forward the Security Council reform agenda at the UN.

Peacekeeping

India continued its active participation in UN peacekeeping operations and engagement with peacekeeping related issues at the UN. India continued to be the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, having provided around 180,000 troops since 1950s. As of 31 August 2016, India is the third largest military contributor [TCC] with 7471 personnel deployed in 13 UN Peacekeeping Missions. The Democratic Republic of Congo (3659), South Sudan (2,327), Lebanon (897), Haiti (440), Liberia (127), and Golan Heights on Syria-Israel Border (189) are the leading UN Peacekeeping missions with substantial Indian contributions. The first-ever UN Female Formed Police Unit that was provided by India (*and served in Liberia*) completed its tenure in February 2016. Their contribution was greatly appreciated and they have become gender role models. Maj Gen. J. S. Menon was appointed as the Force Commander of the UNDOF (UN Disengagement Observer Force) in April 2016.

In the deliberations at the UN, India has continued to stress that the troop and police contributing countries should be fully involved in mandate development by the Security Council and in all aspects of mission planning including the decision-making process given today's multidimensional complex peacekeeping operations; that there is the need for adequate resources to match peacekeeping mandates; that appropriate caution on the issue of 'robust mandates'; should be exercised and legal safeguards ensured for troops in robust offensive operations. India continues to highlight the fundamental need for investing in sustained political solutions to conflicts and adequate attention and resources for wider development-linked peacebuilding efforts as highlighted by the recent UN High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) and the UN Secretary General's final report on the review of the UN Peace operations. India remains engaged with the relevant offices at the United Nations towards seeking a positive implementation of the Peacekeeping review process recommendations.

Significant progress was also achieved in implementing the commitments announced by the Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping held in September 2015.

As a fulfilment of India's major commitment from the Peacekeeping Summit, the Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK), India in association with the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), United States of America organised successfully a UN peacekeeping training course for Africa at New Delhi in July-August 2016. The participation comprised of 45 military officers from 10 African countries, including the African Union. Further, CUNPK continues to organise pilot workshops/training programmes on peacekeeping related thematic issues as per the guidelines/manuals certified by the United Nations.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr. Subhash Bhambre led the Indian delegation at the Ministerial Meeting on UN Peacekeeping hosted in London in early September 2016. India also participated at the first ever UN Chiefs of Police Summit (June 2016). India became the first country to contribute (US\$ 100,000) to the Trust Fund to help the victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Peacekeepers, set up by the UN Secretary General.

2016 marked the completion of a decade since the creation of the UN Peacebuilding architecture created after the landmark 2005 World Summit that acknowledged that the international community must not only prevent conflict in the short term, but also create a system that will help 'sustain peace' over the long run in conflict areas. The 70th session saw identical resolutions being adopted on 27 April 2016 by the UNGA and the Security Council on the review of the UN Peacebuilding architecture. The resolutions emphasize the importance of sustainable development, economic growth and enlarged and sustained funding in promoting peace building efforts. India continues to stress the need to focus on development dimension to achieve lasting peace and security, sustained funding for peacebuilding, the need for optimum coordination with other UN organs, especially the Security Council and most of all the need for genuine political will among those who can contribute in this regard. As part of its strong commitment to the peacebuilding efforts by the UN, India announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million to the Peacebuilding Fund at the Pledging Conference for Peacebuilding Fund held on 21 September 2016 in New York.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

Five Indian nationals, four peacekeepers and one civilian, were posthumously awarded the Dag Hammarskjold Peacekeeping Medal for their courage and bravery on the occasion of the

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (21 May) in a ceremony held on 19 May 2016 at the UN. India organized a special event to honour the fallen peacekeepers on the same day. The United Nations Under Secretaries General for Department of Field Support and Department of Peacekeeping Operations Dr. Atul Khare and Mr. Hervey Ladsous were among those who participated.

Terrorism

In EAM's intervention in the General Debate of the 71st Session of UNGA on 26 September 2016, it was pointed out that the phenomena of terrorism had gone way beyond affecting individuals or nations and today posed one of the gravest threat to international peace and security. It was also one of the biggest violators of human rights and should therefore be treated as nothing less than a crime against humanity. It was highlighted that despite 15 years having passed since the 9/11 terror attacks in New York and the comprehensive global effort launched to combat it in the wake of these attacks, the growing number of terror attacks taking place around the world should remind us that the scourge of terrorism was far from being defeated. EAM noted that it was high time for the international community to ask themselves the questions - who are the people behind terrorist attacks?-who benefits from terror attacks?-terrorists do not own banks or weapons factories, so where do they get their finances weapons and sanctuaries?-who provides sanctuaries?.

India also continued to push for greater priority to be given within the United Nations system to the global counter-terrorism effort. It was repeatedly highlighted that the international community needed to strengthen the international legal framework that supports international counter-terrorism cooperation in particular working towards the early adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), ensure greater transparency and effectiveness of existing UN counter terrorism structures including the various Sanctions Committees set up by the Security Council, and to work towards greater institutional coherence within the United Nations to deal with counter-terrorism related issues in an integrated manner.

India also continued to work closely with the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee including the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and also with the Al-Qaida and Taliban Monitoring Team in order to ensure strict compliance by member states of the sanctions regime,

India participated in the biennial review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy held in June-July 2016. The process led to the adoption of the resolution A/70/291 on the Global Strategy in Countering Terrorism by the UNGA. India continued to work closely with all UN's counter terrorism bodies including the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) whose Executive Director undertook a visit to India from 10-11 November, 2016.

International Day of Non-Violence

The United Nations observed the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2016 at a Special Event organized by the Permanent Mission of India at Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chamber of the UN Headquarters in New York. The President of the General Assembly Mr. Peter Thomson, Deputy Secretary General Mr. Jan Eliasson, Finance Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith, and Prof. Barry L. Gan, Director of Center for Non-Violence, St. Bonaventure University, New York addressed the gathering.

Ms. Sudha Raghunathan, a renowned Indian Classical singer in the Carnatic Music tradition, recited songs emphasizing virtues of Peace and Non-Violence during the commemoration. Also on the occasion, India submitted its certificate of Instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement to the UN Secretariat as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's focus on preserving the environment. The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) released a UN postage stamp commemorating the birth anniversary and 50th anniversary of performance by Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi at the United Nations on 2 October 2016.

In partnership with the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO MGIEP), a special event to commemorate the International Day of Non Violence was held on 6 October 2016. Three times Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Scilla Elworthy spoke to the theme: *War or Peace*, the cost of war, the building of peace, and the tools with which to do this. Our Representative to the Board Dr. Karan Singh made several insightful and thought provoking points engaging in an interactive conversation both with the keynote speaker and the audience.

International Day of Non Violence was organized in United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on 4 October 2016 as 2 October was closed holiday. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary-General of

UN and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP delivered opening remarks and readout the message of Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ambassador Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi delivered the remarks thereafter.

The High Commission of India in Nairobi in association with the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON); the University of Nairobi (UoN) and Kenya-India Friendship Association (KIFA) organized an event to celebrate the 10th International Day of Non-Violence on 3 October 2016. The event was organized outside the UN premises for the first time. Director General of UNON Ms. Sahle Work-Zewde attended the event.

The Commonwealth

India is the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth budget and the fifth largest contributor to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. The annual Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting was held at Washington DC on 6 October 2016. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley chaired the meeting.

Non – Aligned Movement (NAM)

Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari led the Indian delegation to the 17th NAM Summit in Margarita, Venezuela from 17-18 September 2016. MoS for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar led the delegation during the Ministerial segment of the meeting (15-16 September). The 17th NAM Summit deliberated on issues of contemporary relevance and concerns such as terrorism, UN reform, the situation in West Asia, threats to peace and security, UN peacekeeping operations, climate change, sustainable development, economic governance, south-south cooperation, refugees and migrants, and nuclear disarmament. The *'Isle of Margarita Declaration of the XVII NAM Summit'* and the *'Final Document'* were the two main Summit Outcome documents issued at the conclusion. On the sidelines of the Summit, India also participated in the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine.

High level participation from India in the summit was a reflection of the continued relevance and importance that India as one of the founder members of NAM attaches to this movement. The Non-Aligned Movement provides a valuable



Group Photograph at the 17th NAM Summit in Margarita, Venezuela 18 September 2016.

forum for developing countries to articulate their views on a range of political and economic issues in a collective manner.

Democracy Initiatives

India continued its support for the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) launched on 14 September 2005. India is the second largest contributor to the UNDEF, having contributed an amount of US\$ 100,000 in 2016-17 to take its total contribution to US\$ 31.86 million till November 2016. Community of Democracies (CoD) is a global intergovernmental coalition of States to bring together governments, civil society and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world. India has been an active member of the CoD and is also a member of its Governing Council. Meetings of the Governing Council are held on a quarterly basis, including on the sidelines of the UNGA Session in September in New York.

Elections

India's candidate for the UN International Law Commission (ILC) Shri Aniruddh Rajput, was elected as one of the members of the ILC for the term 2017-2021.

Ambassador A. Gopinathan is to be re-appointed to the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations by the General Assembly for the term 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 following his nomination by India, and endorsement as the candidate of the Asia Pacific Group.

India's candidate for the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Mr. Mahesh Kumar was elected as member of the term 2017-2020 by acclamation.

India was re-elected as a member of the International Seabed Authority for the term 2017-2020; as member of Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization for the term 2017-2021; as a member of the Council of Administration of the Universal Postal Union for the term 2017-2020; as a member of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD) for a four-year term from 2020-2021 (56th -59th sessions); and as a member of Commission on Population Development for a four-year term from 2017-2021 (51st -54th sessions).

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

2016 marks a decade since the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council replaced the Commission on Human Rights. The 71st session had a High Level discussion on the Right to Development (2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development). MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar addressed the event on 22 September 2016.

India continues to emphasize that discussions on Human Rights at the UN should be held with a constructive approach. The focus of the Human Rights Council, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Special Rapporteurs and the entire Treaty body mechanisms must be to strengthen the capabilities of national governments in their efforts towards promotion and protection of human rights.

India's second consecutive three-year term as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC) started in January 2015 and will run through December 2017. Exercising a balanced approach, India played an active role in the work and proceedings of the two Regular Sessions of the Council held in between April 2016 and November 2016.

The second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) ended in November 2016 with the 26th Session of the UPR. India participated constructively in the UPR process of the HRC.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Minister of State (IC) of AYUSH and Minister of State (Health), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, led the Indian delegation to 69th World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva from 23 - 28 May 2016. Major outcomes of the 69th WHA included the finalization of the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, the first WHO Global Plan of Action on addressing violence against women, ending inappropriate promotion of infant foods and Health in 2030 agenda. As the BRICS Chair, India hosted a BRICS health ministers' meeting on the margins of the 69th WHA and also organized an official BRICS side event on access to medicines which saw participation from all the BRICS health ministers as well as the Director General of WHO.

On 13 May 2016, India and WHO signed a Project Collaboration Agreement titled "Cooperation on promoting the quality, safety and effectiveness of service provision in

traditional and complementary medicine between WHO and AYUSH, India, 2016-2020” at a special event organized at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Minister of State (IC) of AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik and the Director-General, WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan witnessed the signing of this landmark agreement that will contribute to the global promotion of traditional Indian Systems of Medicine.

India is also part of WHO Member State Mechanism on Substandard, Spurious, Falsely-labeled, Falsified and Counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products, which at its 5th meeting in November 2016 reached a consensus on the contentious issue of ‘definitions’ and agreed to delete the term ‘counterfeit’ to describe such products. This was a major breakthrough as the word counterfeit, which refers to violation of IP rights, was often misused by vested interests to conflate genuine generic medicines with substandard and falsified medicines.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

The 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was held on 7 November 2016 in Greater Noida, U.P. The conference of parties was inaugurated by Shri J. P. Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The Chief Guest on the occasion was the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena. The Conference ended with the Delhi Declaration which called for strengthening the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriately outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), under the framework of the Agenda 2030.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Minister of State (MoS) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, led the government delegation to the 105th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), which was held in Geneva from 30 May – 10 June 2016. Prominent Employer and Worker Groups representatives from India also attended ILC. India was part of deliberations of various technical committees including the Committee of Application of Standards, Decent work in Global Supply Chains and evaluation of the ILO Social Justice Declaration. India hosted the BRICS Labour Ministers’ meeting and the ILO Asia-Pacific Labour Ministers’ meeting on the margins of the 105th ILC in its capacity as the current chair of BRICS

and the regional coordinator of ASPAG respectively. India participated in the 328th Session of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO held in November 2016 and coordinated common BRICS positions on the challenging issues of labour provisions in trade agreements and decent work in global supply chains. India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO including those related to the International Labour Conference, the review of ILO Supervisory Mechanisms and the Standard Review Mechanism.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

For long India has been spearheading support in favour of global South which hosts over 85% of refugees. In this regard, the High Commissioner for Refugees in his Report during the 67th Executive Committee Meeting held from 3-7 October 2016 reflected India’s suggestions in UNHCR’s Programme, mainly on greater allocation of resources towards strengthening capacity of refugee hosting countries; new concessional lending instruments to support these countries; further deepening of engagement with International Organization for Migration (IOM), other international, regional and local organizations to enhance efficiency and efficacy in project implementations. India’s suggestion for scaling up of cash based interventions; harmonizing and simplifying of reporting requirements; reducing procurement and logistics costs; simplification of procedures and processes, and adoption of modern management tools has also been accepted by UNHCR.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

India has been part of the meetings organized by Switzerland and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for strengthening respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and protecting the persons deprived of their liberty, as a follow-up of the 32nd International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2015.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

India was part of Programme Coordination Board (PCB) meetings of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) focusing on the effective implementation of the new UNAIDS Fast-Track Strategy 2016-2021. The PCB accepted India’s suggestions on updating the Unified Budget Accountability Framework (UBRAF) 2016-2021 in view of the new targets on HIV-TB and HIV-Hepatitis co-infections

contained at the 2016 UN High Level Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

India actively participated in the working group constituted for examining IOM-UN relations which culminated in grant of 'Related Organization status of UN' to IOM on 19 September 2016. This has ensured IOM's participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies (the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management (including the Inter-Agency Security Management Network), and the United Nations Development Group and its regional and country teams); the Inter-Agency Standing Committee; the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs; the Global Migration Group; Country-level security management teams etc.

In order to mainstream migration in the global developmental agenda as envisaged in Sustainable Development Goals, India continued its support for giving lead role for IOM to work towards creating awareness.

UN Summit for Migration and Refugees

MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J.Akbar participated in UN Summit for Migration and Refugees that was held in New York on 21st September. India pointed out that Refugee problem is as old as war itself and prevention is the best cure. India emphasized its cooperation with UNHCR and its partnership with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the Palestine Refugees in the Near East. We expressed hope for engaging with all partners beginning next year in developing a global compact on ensuring a safe, orderly and regular migration in the interest of all, which will be separate from the refugee compact.

Regional Consultative Processes on Migration

India continued to take part in Colombo Process and other Regional Consultative Processes on Migration and advocated for utilizing the skilled manpower resources particularly from South Asia for sustained economic development at global level. Enhanced protection measures for migrants in the country of destination, transit and country of origin were also emphasized. MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) headed Indian delegation to the 5th Ministerial

Meeting of Colombo Process, held at Colombo from 24-25 August 2016.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

India hosted the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), post adoption of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30 at New Delhi from 3-5 November 2016. It adopted a political declaration entitled 'New Delhi Declaration' and agreed to 'Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework'.

Prime Minister's speech highlighted importance of leadership role for women in disaster risk management; use of latest technology, mobile based technology and social media to address disaster risks; build on local capacity and initiatives; learn lessons from every disaster and apply it; bring greater cohesion in international response to global disasters, among others. India also made a contribution of US\$1 million for effective implementation and monitoring of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

India participated in the 3rd and final Session of the Open Ended Inter-governmental Working Group on Terminology and Indicators relating to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30, held from 14-18 November 2016 at Geneva. Through consensus, a set of terminology and indicators for seven targets were agreed.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

India participated in the UNCTAD XIV Conference which took place from 17- 22 July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The UNCTAD Quadrennial Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body of UNCTAD. It sets UNCTAD's mandate and work priorities and, a dialogue on the world's key and emerging issues affecting the global economy. During the Conference, the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, the World Investment Forum, Global Commodities Forum, and several other side-events were also organized. The Nairobi Azimio (Resolution in Swahili) – a political declaration by the host country Kenya - a generic expression of the social and economic state of the world and the Nairobi Maafikiano (Consensus in Swahili) – an outcome document setting UNCTAD's mandate & the work programme for the

next four years, were adopted.

India participated in the 63rd session of the Trade and Development Board meeting held in December 2016 where it participated in the discussion on - Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective and the issue of Investment for development.

Ms. Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation for the 14th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Nairobi from 17-22 July 2016.

United Nations Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UN-CSTD)

As a member of the UN-CSTD, India actively participated in its 19th session held in Geneva in May 2016 in the discussion on two priority themes namely, 'Smart cities and Infrastructure' and 'Foresight for Digital Development'. The 19th session also reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

India was also elected by consensus as the member of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation being one of the four countries from the Asia-Pacific Group. The UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/125 in its paragraph 4.1 on Enhanced Cooperation gave a clear assessment of the process towards enhanced cooperation and instructed the Chair of the CSTD about the establishment of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC). The resolution explicitly mentioned about the goal of the exercise, the expected results, the reporting mechanism and time line.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

The 72nd Annual Commission Session of UNESCAP was held in Bangkok on 15-19 May 2016. Joint Secretary & FA from Department of Electronics & Information Technology led the Indian delegation at SOM.

India got re-elected on the Governing Council (GC) of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

12 Resolutions on diverse issues, including a Resolution

on the "Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology" sponsored by India, and a Resolution on "Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific" sponsored by South Korea and co-sponsored by India, China, Russia and Pakistan were adopted during the annual session.

The 72nd annual Commission Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) was held in Bangkok on 15-19 May 2016. India got re-elected on the Governing Council (GC) of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

2030 Agenda & SDGs

India continues to emphasize the need to focus on inclusive and sustainable growth and poverty eradication and the imperative for the global partnership to help achieve the implementation of SDGs. The 70th session saw the commencement of the process of member states presenting voluntary national reviews of their implementation of the SDGs under the Follow Up and Process of the High Level Political Forum (July 2016). The Indian delegation was led by Vice Chairperson, Niti Aayog Dr. Arvind Panagariya. India announced that it was ready to present its voluntary national report next year during the 71st session.

Financing for Development

The inaugural ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development was held in April 2016 under the theme 'Financing for Sustainable Development: follow up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda'. Finance Minister led the Indian delegation at the event. The 5th biennial high level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum was held in July 2016. During the 71st session, discussions are taking place at the ECOSOC on Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) through which the General Assembly assesses the work of UN Development System every four years.

Climate Change

The adoption in December 2015 of the post 2020 agreement on Climate Change under the UNFCCC, commonly known as the Paris Agreement, was a landmark development. In April 2016, the UNSG convened a high profile event for the signature ceremony of the Paris Agreement (Minister of State for Environment, Forests & Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar signed on India's behalf). On 2 October 2016,

during the ceremony to mark the International Day of Non Violence, India formally submitted its certificate of Instrument of Ratification of the Paris Agreement to the United Nations. India's initiative on building an International Solar Alliance (ISA), in cooperation with France and US, has been widely welcomed. A high level event on this initiative was organized on the sidelines of the signature ceremony in New York in April 2016 (Minister for Power and Renewable Energy Shri Piyush Goyal and French Minister for Environment Segolene Royale co-hosted the event). Another high profile event was held during the UNFCCC COP 22 held in Marakkesh in November 2016. India has also continued to highlight its very ambitious national actions on combating climate change (push for solar and wind energy, cess on coal, reforestation etc.). The Paris Agreement came into force on 4 November 2016. Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Anil Madhav Dave participated in the UNFCCC COP-22 at Marrakesh.

The 28th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 28) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held in Kigali from 10-14 October 2016. One of the major outcomes of MOP 28 was to amend the Montreal Protocol to include HFC's in its ambit. India played a constructive role in ensuring that a fair solution was reached during the meeting.

Social and Cultural issues (UNESCO)

International Conference on the Zero: An International Conference on the Zero was held at UNESCO House on 4-5 April 2016. Human Resources Minister (HRM) Smt Smriti Zubin Irani was at UNESCO on this occasion, in the margins also holding a bilateral with Director-General (DG) UNESCO Irina Bokova, Aryabhata's bust was unveiled by HRM and DG Bokova, which now adorns the principal entrance of UNESCO.

World Heritage Inscriptions: Nalanda Mahavihara, Kangchendzonga National Park and Chandigarh's Capitol Complex was inscribed at Istanbul Session of the World Heritage Committee held in July 2016 as far as India was concerned.

Skills Development Event: In collaboration with UNESCO and the Europe India Foundation for Excellence (EIFE), a non profit organisation, a special event on Skills Development at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris was held on 23 May 2016. The overall objective of the event was to create awareness about the skills development scenario in India, a UNESCO founder member, looking at specific sectors and assessing requirements



Second International Day of Yoga celebrated at Wuxi Hollywood Studios in Jiangsu 19 June 2016.



Second International Day of Yoga celebrated in Montevideo, Uruguay 19 June 2016.

Global Convention on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications: The first meeting of the 24 member UNESCO Drafting Committee working towards a Global Convention on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications was held in May 2016.

Promoting Spiritual Heritage of India at UNESCO: A special event was held at UNESCO on 17 May 2016, with a focus on the message and legacy of Swami Chinmayananda. The event generated positive momentum for Brand India within the multicultural setting of UNESCO. On this occasion, there was the screening of the film “On a Quest”, which sets out the remarkable journey of Swami Chinmayananda, the message of hope and peace, through his transformation from a journalist, freedom fighter, seeker to a Spiritual Master.

Exhibition on Arts & Crafts: An exhibition cum workshop on the traditional arts and crafts of India was held at UNESCO on 2 September 2016. The event was marked by the presence of the Minister of Textiles Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and a delegation from India inclusive of representatives from the Export Promotion Councils on Handicrafts and Handlooms. Four master craftsmen of India brought further value- add, through a live demonstration of their skills in diverse crafts

such as embroidery work , filigree , Madhubani painting and loom weaving. The exhibition had as its objective a generation of awareness as well as a showcasing of the diverse handloom and handicraft products of India.

Visit of Hon’ble Shri Upendra Kushwaha, MOS Human Resources Development (HRD) to UNESCO, 7-9 September, 2016: Shri Upendra Kushwaha, MOS (HRD) visited UNESCO in connection with the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day at UNESCO. The UNESCO Confucius Award for Literacy for 2016 was given to India on 8 September 2016. On behalf of India and together with the Chair of the Jan Shikshan Sansthan Malappuram, MOS received the award.

UNESCO recognition of Yoga: At its 11th session in Addis Ababa on 1 December 2016, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed Yoga on UNESCO’s Representative List as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This Declaration of Yoga as a “Human Treasure” enjoyed the full support of the 24 member Intergovernmental Committee.

Food and Agricultural Organisation Conference (FAO)

This Year, FAO organized many events and regular sessions from month of March 2016 onwards like Committee on Constitutional & Legal matters (CCLM), Committee on Phyto-sanitary measures, Intergovernmental Technical Workshop on Forest Genetic Resources ((ITWG), Finance Committee, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Programme Committee, Global Soil Partnerships, FAO Council, Codex alimentarius Commission, Intergovernmental Technical Workshop on Animal Genetic Resources, Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Committee on Forestry (COFO), Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Joint FAO meeting on pesticides, Permitted organic pollutants review conference, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee on ASIA, Ministerial meeting on commodity price trends, Committee on commodity problems (CCP), committee on Food Security (CFS), Programme committee, Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives, FAO Council (154th & 155th Session). Ms. Vrinda Swarup, Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution attended the 43rd session of Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2016.

India is a member of the FAO council and an elected member of Programme Committee of FAO, WFP Executive Board and IFAD Executive Board. As an active member, India participates in most of the deliberations held at all the three important UN agencies and intervenes on behalf of Government of India as needed.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UN Special Session on World Drug Problem

Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, led the Indian delegation to participate in the 30th Special Session of the UNGA on 'The World Drug Problem' held from 19-21 April 2016. The second Special Session on World Drug Problem was held after eighteen years (last held in 1998), adopted the third political declaration recommended by the UNODC on the world drug problem.

A delegation consisting of Mr. Manoj Kaushik, Additional Director FIU, and Mr. Mukesh Singh, DIG, National Investigation Agency visited Vienna to participate in the FATF/UNODC/EAG Joint Experts meeting on Typologies

from 9- 11 May, 2016. A delegation led consisting of Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mr. Ramkrishna Mitra, both Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India visited Vienna to participate in the 25th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) from 23-27 May. A three member delegation led by Mr. Rajiv, Vigilance Commissioner, CVC, Ms. Kavitha V Padmanabhan, Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and Mr. M Nageshwar Rao, CBI visited Vienna to attend the 7th Session of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Implementation Review Group (7th IRG) in Vienna from 20-24 June 2016. UNODC office in Vienna held meetings on 10th Session of the Working Group on Asset recovery and 7th session of the working Group on the Prevention of Corruption. A delegation led by Shri Jishnu Barua, JS, DOPT attending the both meetings. Mr. Jaideep Govind, Additional Secretary, MHA and Mr. K Moses Chalai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development to participate in 8th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNTOC from 17-21 October 2016.

Legal and Treaties Division

United Nations And International Law

Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly

The Sixth Committee which is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly provides an opportunity for the UN member States to deliberate and recommend on the issues relating to international law.

Terrorism and related issues dominated the discussions before the Sixth Committee at the 71st Session of the UNGA, held during October and November 2016. In the general debate, besides strongly condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Member States stressed for combating every act of terrorism.

As there is a need to have a global normative document to curb the menace of terrorism, Measures to eliminate international terrorism continues to be on the agenda of the Sixth Committee (Item 108). In this regard, progress was made as the 71st Session adopted the draft resolution on "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" with the call to the UN Member States for considering effective measures to deal with the menace of terrorism including the early conclusion of

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Other subjects/topics considered by the Sixth Committee at the Seventy First Session of the UNGA include - Rule of Law at the National and International Levels; Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and Experts on Mission; Responsibility of States for internationally Wrongful Acts; Diplomatic Protection; Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts; Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives; Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-ninth session; International Court of Justice; Ocean and the Law of the Sea; Universal Jurisdiction; United Nations Programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of International Law; Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening of the Role of the Organization; Administration of justice at the United Nations; Consideration of prevention of trans boundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm; The law of trans boundary aquifers.

The Sixth Committee also considered and debated the Report of the International Law Commission, which includes the following topics - Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties; Most-Favoured-Nation clause; Provisional application of treaties; Identification of customary international law; Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts; Protection of the atmosphere; Crimes against humanity; and *Jus cogens*.

During the main session of the Sixth Committee of the UNGA, India made about ten statements including on measures to eliminate international terrorism, rule of law at the national and international levels, criminal accountability of UN officials and experts on missions; the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, and on reports of the International Law Commission (ILC), UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) - at the GA Plenary.

International Law Week

This year, India was the chief coordinator for the meeting of Legal Advisors of Foreign Ministries of the UN Member

States during the International Law Week, held from 24 – 25 October 2016. Dr. V.D. Sharma, Joint Secretary & Legal Advisor of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was the chief coordinator for this purpose who delivered the statement of India while opening the meeting, introduced four themes for deliberation of legal advisors, highlighting the main thrust of the subject matter of the themes and their importance in the contemporary era. These themes were:

- (i) “Reforming Investor-State Dispute Settlement system: The Way Forward”;
- (ii) “Strengthening the legal regime to counter terrorism”;
- (iii) “Legal dimensions of the concept of climate justice”;
- (iv) “Cyberspace and International Law”. In addition to the legal advisers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UN Member States, the Sixth Committee experts, international law academicians and the UN officials participated in these deliberations. The UN office for Legal Affairs assisted and collaborated with India in organizing this event.

India being the Chair of the BRICS this year, a working lunch was hosted by the Indian Legal Advisor, Dr. V. D. Sharma for the legal advisers of the BRICS countries, during the International Law Week on 26 October 2016.

Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Law of the sea is remained the major areas of focus during the year 2016. Issues relating to oceans and the law of the sea were discussed at various international forums. Following are the major developments:

- India participated in the 26th Meeting of States Parties to the The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) held at UNHQ on 20 - 24 June 2016; and also in the Resumed session of the 25th Meeting of States Parties to the UNCLOS held at the UNHQ on 15 January 2016 which elected an ITLOS member from Brazil;
- India participated in the 22nd Session of the International Seabed Authority held at Kingston, Jamaica from 4 - 22 July 2016 in which extensions of the first set of exploration contracts, new applications for approval of plans of work for exploration and the development of draft regulations for exploitation of polymetallic nodules in the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction were discussed.

- At the first & second sessions of the Preparatory Committee on Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) established by the UNGA (Res 69/292) for preparation of elements on an international legally-binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, held from 28 March - 8 April 2016 & 29 August - 12 September 2016;
- The other meetings relating to the Oceans and the Law of the Sea participated by the representatives of the Legal & Treaties Division at the UN HQ are:
 - The 17th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, held at the 13-17 June 2016;
 - The 7th Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects held from 3-9 August, 2016;

India actively participated in the deliberations on matters relating to fisheries which include: Resumed Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks held on 23 - 27 May 2016. Implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions on impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks held on 1-2 August 2016.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The 49th Annual Session of the UNCITRAL held at the UNHQ, New York during 27 June - 15 July 2016. Besides, Meeting of the UNCITRAL six Working Groups viz.,+ Arbitration and Conciliation (1-5 February 2016 & 12 - 23 September 2016); Security Interests (8 - 12 February 2016 and 5-9 December 2016); Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (4- 8 April 2016 and 3 - 7 October 2016); Insolvency Law (2 - 6 May 2016); and Electronic Commerce (9 - 13 May 2016 and 31 October - 4 November 2016) were

held in New York and Vienna respectively. The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the meetings of the UNCITRAL, and its Working Groups mentioned above.

The Working Group I -Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) held at New York and Vienna continued to deliberate on the need to evolve a model law governing the MSMEs to facilitate their incorporation, governance, financing and winding up process. The Working Group II -Dispute Settlement, pursuant to the decision of the Commission at its 48th session, the Working Group-II commenced work at its 63rd session on the topic of “enforcement of settlement agreements to identify relevant issues and develop possible solutions, including the possible preparation of a convention, model provisions or guidance texts”. Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce) of the UNCITRAL, at its 54th Session held in Vienna, considered and finalized the draft Model Law on electronic transferable records. The draft Model Law will be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration in the next Annual Session. The Working Group also initiated the discussions on the topic to identity management and trust services. At its 49th Session, Working Group VI finalized the model law on Secure Transactions and the same was adopted by the GA with a recommendation to all States and stakeholders to provide favourable condition to the codification of law while revising and adopting their laws on secure transactions. The GA also adopted the following two items:

- (1) Notes on organizing arbitral proceedings and;
- (2) Technical note on online dispute resolution. It was recommended to all States and Stakeholders to use the Notes as appropriately in their arbitral proceedings and commercial transactions.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

The 55th Session of AALCO was held in New Delhi from 17 - 20 May 2016. The Session was inaugurated by Ms. Sujatha Mehta, Secretary (West). As the Session was held in India, it holds the Presidency of the Organization. Dr. V.D. Sharma, Joint Secretary and Legal Advisor of MEA was accordingly elected as the President for the Session.

This year's Annual Session of AALCO was significant on two counts: First, it is the 60th year of the Asian Legal Consultative Committee, which preceded this Organization in its present

incarnation. Second, AALCO got a new Secretary-General. H.E. Professor Dr. Kennedy Gastorn, of the United Republic of Tanzania who was elected as the new Secretary General for the next four years.

The AALCO Session witnessed deliberations on several issues of critical importance to the Member States. These include: Law of the Sea, WTO, Violent Extremism and Terrorism, the issue of Palestine, International Law in Cyberspace, selected items on the Agenda of the International Law Commission and other Organizational issues including the financial matters of the Organization. In addition, the 55th Session also witnessed the First Meeting of the Working Group on International Law in Cyberspace which was held on 19 May 2016.

To mark the special occasion of AALCO's 60th Anniversary, the Member States adopted the New Delhi Declaration on the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of AALCO. In this, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the Bandung Spirit and expressed their desire to continue to use AALCO as a forum to further the progress and development of international law taking into consideration their own legal needs and legitimate interests. India made statements on all the agenda items and topics discussed during the Session.

AALCO celebrated its Constitution day on 9 December 2016 wherein Dr. V.D. Sharma, Joint Secretary and Legal Advisor of MEA in his capacity as the President of AALCO delivered key note address on the occasion, throwing light on the objectives of the organization, its work and its contribution to international law deliberations since its inception, while pointing out need for future endeavours to fulfil the wishes and aspirations of the founding fathers of the Organization.

Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hcch)

The Meeting of the Council on General Affairs and Policy of the Conference took place from 15- 17 March 2016 in The Hague wherein 219 participants representing 69 Members, including the representative from the Legal & Treaties Division, attended the meeting. The Council confirmed the Hague Conference's pursuit of universalities as a central tenet of the Organization's operational strategies. The Council welcomed the entry into force of the 2005 "Choice of Court Convention" and expressed its support for the promotion of the Convention and encouraged more states to join the Convention; and recognized accomplishments of the

Permanent Bureau in the areas of education, training and technical assistance in relation to the Hague Conventions

Meeting of the Experts Group on Parentage/Surrogacy was held from 15- 18 February 2016 in The Hague. The mandate of the group was to explore the feasibility of advancing work on the issues surrounding the status of children including issues arising from International Surrogacy Arrangements (ISA). Owing to the complexity of the subject and the diversity of the approaches by states to these matters, it was recommended to the Council to allow the Group to continue with its mandate and to have further discussions on the feasibility of unifying the rules taking into account public policy concerns including those stipulated under domestic laws.

Working Group on preventing and addressing illicit practices in Inter-country Adoption met at the Permanent Bureau in The Hague from 13-15 October 2016 to consider the development of more effective and practical forms of cooperation between States to prevent and address specific instances of abuse in the matter of Inter-country adoption. India primarily being a sending state made its position emphatically clear in the working group that the experts need to look into the safeguards of children placed in inter-country adoption and develop protocols and standards to further strengthen child protection mechanism prior to adoption placement. The group recommended to the Hague Conference's Council on General Affairs and Policy that the groups mandate be continued for future deliberations on practical aspects concerning the inter country adoption and improvements therein.

The meetings of the Special Commission on the Judgments and Special Commission on the practical operation of the Apostille Convention were held from 1-9 June 2016 and 2- 4 November 2016 respectively, which were attended by the representative from the Legal and Treaties Division.

International Dispute Adjudication Involving India

On 30 and 31 March 2016, the Arbitral Tribunal established under the auspices of Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), in Enrica Lexie incident – case between Italy and India heard the oral arguments of the Parties. (It may be noted that, on 26 June 2015, Italy notified its claim instituting proceedings against India before an arbitral tribunal to be constituted under Annex VII of the UNCLOS. It relates to Enrica Lexie

incident happened on 15 February 2012, 20.5 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala in India involving the *MV Enrica Lexie*, an oil tanker flying the Italian flag resulting in the death of two Indian fishermen when the Italian naval personnel on board, Massimiliano Lattore and Salvatore Girone suspected of having shot the fishermen, were detained by the Indian law enforcement authorities and the case is pending before the Indian Court).

Subsequently, on 29 April 2016 the Arbitral Tribunal pronounced its Order wherein it prescribed the provisional measures seeking Italy and India to cooperate achieving relaxation of the bail conditions of Sergeant Girone, while remaining under the authority of the Supreme Court of India and also confirmed Italy's obligation to return Sergeant Girone in case the Arbitral Tribunal finds that India has jurisdiction over him in respect of the *Enrica Lexie* incident.

Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. India): In its judgment delivered on 5 October 2016, the ICJ rejected the case instituted by Marshall Islands against India and concerning India's alleged failure to fulfill its obligations under customary international law with respect to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and nuclear disarmament. The ICJ by a majority decision (9:7), upheld the preliminary objection raised by India with regard to non-existence of any dispute between the parties while holding that the Court does not have jurisdiction under Article 36, paragraph 2, of its Statute. Consequently, the Court by a majority decision (10:6), held that it cannot proceed to the merits of the case.

Representative of MEA (Legal & Treaties Division) attended the 15th Session of the Assembly of State to the International Criminal Court (ICC) (in the capacity as India being an Observer to the ICC), held in The Hague from 16-24 November 2016. Issues of universality, cooperation, budget, the crime of aggression, accountability options for Syria, and recent withdrawals by some African States namely, South Africa, Burundi and Gambia, were some of the issues widely discussed.

Treaty Negotiations

The Division participated in the pre-COP inter-sessional First Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Paris Agreement (APA-I) and the 44th session of the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Bodies - Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), held in Bonn, Germany, from 18-26 May 2016. Some of legal aspects covered during these meetings among others included -Modalities and Procedures for the Effective Operation of the Committee to Facilitate Implementation and Promote Compliance; and further matters related to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PA).

The Legal and Treaties Division was represented at the First Meeting of the Compliance Committee to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (forthcoming), 6-8 April 2016, in Montreal. Dr. Luther Rangreji, Director (L&T) is one of the members in this Committee from the Asia- Pacific region.

The Legal and Treaties Division participated at the Resumed 38th Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances, Kigali, Rwanda, 6-14 October 2016. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol was adopted that agreed to different base periods of phase out of HFCs, which constitute 19 gases in 'hydrofluorocarbon family' used extensively in air-conditioning and refrigerant industry. As is known, HFCs are not ozone-depleting, but are thousands of times more dangerous than carbon dioxide because of their global warming potential.

The Legal and Treaties Division represented at well known Signing Ceremony of the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on the sidelines of COP 22, during 13- 16 November 2016, held in Marrakech, Morocco. 24 countries signed the Framework Agreement.

The Division was represented in the Indian delegation to Bangladesh from 6-7 December 2016, to negotiate atomic energy agreements and the India-Bangladesh talks on baseline drawn up by Bangladesh which has concluded the EEZ awarded to India as per the Bangladesh-India Maritime Award of 2014.

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in negotiations of Free Trade Agreements/PTA with Chile, Australia and Thailand. The Division involved in the negotiations relating to Bilateral Investment Agreements with US, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Australia, Thailand, European Union and Qatar.

A number of Arrangements on Gainful Occupation/

Employment of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts were discussed and are in the process of finalization/concluded with Germany, Malaysia, Spain, Ireland, France, Finland, Mauritius and Poland.

The Legal & Treaties Division participated in the 5th India-US Consular dialogues held at New Delhi wherein the issues relating to Visa, Citizen Services, Consular Privileges and Immunities Agreement, etc., were discussed.

The Division participated in the 55th Session of the Legal Sub-Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna held in April 2016.

Social Security Agreements were negotiated with Japan, Netherlands, Sri Lanka and some other countries, Human and Drug Trafficking Agreements were negotiated with Bangladesh, UAE, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand; Security Agreements were negotiated with USA, Canada, Australia, Spain and Korea. The Legal & Treaties Division had also participated in negotiations of Audio Visual Co-Production through video conference with China, South Africa, Russia, South Korea and Bangladesh.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in the negotiation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between India and Ethiopia during the visit of the Ethiopian delegation to India. It participated in various bilateral negotiations for concluding Extradition Treaties, Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters and Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh was amended for the purpose of removing the difficulties in implementing the same as per the provisions of Chapter III of the Extradition Act, 1962. Negotiations on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with Brazil were held through video conferencing.

During the year 2016, the Legal & Treaties Division examined a number of extradition requests including some of the very sensitive cases including that of Kim Davy from Denmark and other request relating to criminal and civil matters from domestic and foreign jurisdictions.

Online Treaty Database

The Legal & Treaties Division has launched a dedicated web module on the MEA website under the link [Indian Treaties](#)

[Database](#) during 2014 and the Treaties/Agreements/MoUs and other important matters entered into by the Government of the Republic of India with Foreign countries are made available in the public domain (in this web link: <http://www.mea.gov.in/Treaty.htm>) for the period covering from 1950 till 2016. Legal & Treaties Division is continuously working on updating this database on regular basis. This year witnessed a phenomenal increase in the number of Treaties updated into the database. This Division has added over 600 Treaties into the MEA database during the year 2016.

Examination/Vetting of Treaties

Legal & Treaties Division has examined a number of international law issues related to international treaties/agreements and rendered legal opinion. It, inter alia vetted treaties, agreements, MoUs in the areas including defence co-operation, Railways, SAARC, Health, bio-technology, outer space issues, science and technology, BRICS (conglomeration of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), agreements relating to international terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking/narcotics; also agreements on confidentiality; sharing of hydrological data; gas and energy; bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation, audio visual, road transport, trade and investment, projects, education, tourism, climate change, protection of natural resources; water resources; bio-diversity; solar alliance; Ozone depleting substances; hydrography, twinning/sister city agreements and customs cooperation agreements, and so on.

India has signed/ratified many multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries and International Organizations during the year 2016. A comprehensive list is placed at Annex-I. The list of Instruments of Full Powers issued during the year 2016 is at Annex-II and the list of Instruments of Ratification processed during the year 2016 is at Annex-III. It can be seen that India has signed over 200 Treaties and the Legal & Treaties Division ratified more than 60 Treaties and processed more than 25 Instrument of Full Powers during the year 2016.



Disarmament and International Security Affairs

10

In 2016-17, India continued to play an active role in various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security affairs in pursuance of its commitment to the goal of universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by India's national security interests and its tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with these challenges.

India participated actively in the meetings of the UN First Committee, UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW).

United Nations General Assembly

India highlighted its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament at the 2016 UN General Assembly.

As a Member of the Non-Aligned Movement, India supported the Group's resolution "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament" at the 2016 First Committee. The resolution inter alia called for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a Nuclear Weapons Convention, welcomed the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and recalled its decision to convene a high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament by the UN no later than 2018.

During the general debate and thematic debate on nuclear weapons at the 2016 First Committee, India's Permanent

Representative to the Conference on Disarmament also underlined India's commitment to nuclear disarmament and reiterated a number of measures proposed by India to this end. Notwithstanding the priority attached to nuclear disarmament India also reaffirmed its support for the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests.

India's resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", which was first introduced in 2002, was again adopted by consensus. The resolution was co-sponsored in 2016 by 95 countries, which was four more than 2015. The resolution called upon UN Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and to support international efforts in this regard. The strong support for the resolution highlighted the continued unanimity in the international community on this issue.

India's resolution on "Convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons" reiterated the call to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on an international Convention for prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The resolution has acquired even more pertinence in the context of the current discussions in the international community on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The resolution reflected the belief that a multilateral, universal and legally binding instrument prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons would create a favourable climate for negotiations on an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons in the Conference on Disarmament. The resolution was adopted by a majority vote by the First Committee, and was co-sponsored by 31 countries and was adopted by First Committee by 128 votes in

favour, 50 against and 8 abstentions. India's third resolution "Reducing nuclear danger" highlighted the need for a review of nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risk of intentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through their de-alerting and de-targeting. This resolution was also adopted by a majority vote, which was co-sponsored by 23 countries. The First Committee also adopted a decision proposed by India on "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)

The UN Disarmament Commission held its substantive session for 2016 from 4-22 April 2016. In accordance with the agenda adopted by the Commission for its 2015-17 cycle, the Commission deliberated on its two agenda items related to nuclear disarmament and CBMs in the field of conventional weapons. India took an active part in the deliberations of the Commission with a view to achieve consensus recommendations in 2016. India stressed the high importance attached by it to the work of the UNDC as the specialised deliberative leg of the UN Disarmament machinery in taking forward multilateral disarmament agenda, especially underlining the universal nature of UNDC.

Conference on Disarmament

In the various discussions held in the Conference during the year, India continued to stress the need for commencement of substantive work in the CD by the adoption of a Programme of Work. India also shared its perspective on all issues on the CD's agenda including the four core issues of Nuclear Disarmament, Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) and Negative Security Assurances (NSAs). India also actively participated in the structured informal meeting. India reaffirmed the value attached by India to the Conference as the world community's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It highlighted that nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority for the international community. India also conveyed its support for negotiations in the Conference of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) which meets India's national security interests. India underlined that there is an agreed mandate for FMCT negotiations and India does not favour reopening that mandate. India also expressed its conviction that the Conference has the membership, the

credibility and the Rules of Procedure to discharge its mandate.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

In 2016, India actively coordinated with the various UNSC bodies pertaining to non-proliferation and counter terrorism. In this context, India has been coordinating with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to UNSC resolution 1540 (2004) which obliges States, inter alia, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

India continued to attach importance to the CCW which aims to strike a balance between addressing humanitarian concerns arising from the use of certain conventional weapons and the military necessity of such weapons. India continued to believe in the salience of CCW in progressively strengthening the rules and principles of international humanitarian law.

India participated actively and constructively in the annual meetings of the CCW and its Amended Protocol II (AP-II) and Protocol V as well as the Meetings of Experts. It also actively participated in the Meeting of Experts on the issue of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems held in Geneva from 11- 15 April 2016. India was actively engaged in these meetings and outlined its support to the CCW as an important instrument of international humanitarian law within the UN framework that brings together all the main users and producers of certain conventional weapons. India expressed its support for the approach enshrined in AP-II and its commitment for the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. India also supported continuing work on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) under AP-II. At the 10th Annual Conference of Protocol V held on 29 August 2016, India contributed to discussion on all issues including generic preventive measures, recording and transmission of information on explosive remnants of war, cooperation and assistance and victim assistance. India also participated actively in the Meetings of Experts of both Protocol V and AP-II held in April 2016.

Fifth Review Conference of High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to CCW was held from 12- 16 December 2016. The

Preparatory Committee for the Fifth Review Conference was held on 31 August- 2 September 2016.

India also attended the 15th Meeting of States Parties of the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (Ottawa Convention) held in Santiago, Chile from 28 November- 2 December 2016 as an Observer.

India participated in the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) held from 12- 16 December 2016. The Conference took a number of decisions, the most notable being the establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Lethal Weapons Systems (LAWS) which will meet for two weeks in 2017. Following a unanimous recommendation by NAM, the Conference decided that the GGE on LAWS would be chaired by India. Other decisions included discussion on Mines other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM), Science & Technology (S&T), use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA), Protocol III and Financial Issues as separate agenda items of the next meeting of HCPs in 2017. India announced a contribution of US\$ 10,000/- towards the Sponsorship Programme of the CCW for the year 2016.

Biological Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

India made substantial contributions to the Eighth Review Conference held in Geneva during 7- 25 November 2016 and was actively involved during the Preparatory Meetings of the Eighth Review Conference held in 26- 27 April and 8- 12 August 2016. India's joint Working Papers with France (on Article VII assistance) and with the US (on export controls) gained support from a number of delegations. India also joined the Non-Aligned Movement in emphasizing the importance of the international cooperation and assistance as envisaged under Art X of the Convention. At India's suggestion, the final declaration of the Review Conference includes a focus on the growing threat of terrorist access to biological weapons and the need to redouble international efforts to combat this threat. India reiterated the high importance attached by it to the BTWC as the first multilateral, non-discriminatory treaty banning an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. India expressed support for improving the effectiveness of the Convention, strengthening its implementation, and efforts for its universalization.

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

As a member of the Executive Council (EC) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), India contributed significantly to the issues related to chemical weapons destruction, industry inspections, national implementation and international cooperation and assistance. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with the States Parties during the sessions of EC namely the 82nd (12- 15 July 2016), 83rd (11- 14 October 2016) and at the 21st Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP) held during 28 October- 2 November 2016 in The Hague, Netherlands. India has been enrolled as a mentor to offer its assistance and support under the 'Mentorship/Partnership' Program of the OPCW.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA) adopted in July 2001 provides for a comprehensive set of national, regional and global measures to achieve its goal. In June 2016, India participated in Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) held in New York which adopted a substantive document for implementation of UNPOA and the International Tracing Instrument.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

India participated in the 60th session of the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 26- 30 September 2016. Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) also organized an exhibition titled "Application of Nuclear and Radiation technologies" during the week of the IAEA General Conference.

Civil Nuclear cooperation

During the bilateral visit of the Prime Minister to the US (7 June 2016), the two leaders welcomed the start of preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse and noted the intention of India and the U.S. Export-Import Bank to work together toward a competitive financing package for the project. Both sides also welcomed the announcement by the Nuclear Power Corporation of

India Ltd, and Westinghouse that engineering and site design work will begin immediately and the two sides will work toward finalizing the contractual arrangements by June 2017.

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed on 11 November 2016 during the visit of Prime Minister to Japan.

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Vietnam for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed during the Visit of Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Chairperson of the National Assembly of Vietnam to India from 8- 11 December 2016.

Nuclear Security

At the invitation of the US President, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the Nuclear Security Summit 2016 in Washington D.C. from 31 March - 1 April 2016. India's National Progress Report released at the Summit highlights the measures India has taken domestically for strengthening nuclear security governance and architecture as also its contributions at the global level.

India participated in the International Conference on 'Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions' in Vienna, Austria, during 5-9 December 2016. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M. J. Akbar led the Indian delegation to the Ministerial segment of the conference.

SOMS

India has been an active member of Co-operative Mechanism set up in 2007 on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) under the IMO's "Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes" initiative. Building on the earlier contributions, India hosted an Aids to Navigation Workshop for the littoral states (under the joint aegis of MEA and Ministry of Shipping) during 22-25 February 2016 in Kandla. Further, the Shipping Corporation of India's ship participated in a dynamic under-keel clearance survey project in the Singapore and Malacca Straits as the first volunteer ship.

CGPCS

India participated at the 19th Plenary Session of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held in Victoria, Seychelles from May 31 - 03 June 2016.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

India participated at the 5th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Beijing, China on 28 April 2016. The theme for the meeting was "Promoting Security through Dialogue" and issues like mutual reinforcement of security and development, enhancement of international cooperation on combating terrorism and implementation of confidence building measures in various areas within CICA framework were deliberated. India ratified the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of the CICA on 2 December 2016.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Related Fora

The 23rd ARF Ministerial Meeting, the apex annual interaction under ARF, was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26 July 2016. The 23rd ARF was chaired by Lao PDR and attended by all the 27 ARF members. A list of 23 Track I activities for the Inter-Sessional year 2016-2017 were endorsed at the ARF. Earlier, India also hosted the sole ISG meeting during 11-12 April 2016 in New Delhi.

Maritime Affairs

The African Union Summit on Maritime Security, Safety and Development was held in Lomé on 15 October 2016. At the Lomé Conference, Heads of State and Government of the 54 countries in the African Union met with experts and leaders from the business world in order to establish a roadmap on Maritime Security in Africa, including an African strategy for protecting its oceans and seas that provides peace, security and stability. Raksha Rajya Mantri led the Indian delegation to the AU Summit.

India undertook Maritime Security Dialogue with Australia, China, France Japan and US this year. The dialogue covered issues of mutual interest, including exchange of perspectives on maritime security development in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region as well as prospects for further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

India signed White Shipping Agreement with Australia, France, Singapore and US in order to enhance co-operation in Maritime Domain Awareness.



Foreign Secretary receives membership papers of Missile Technology Control Regime in New Delhi, 27 June 2016.

Export Control

India joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on 27 June 2016. The MTCR membership will enable India to gain access to high-end missile technology and will greatly enhance its potential to export missiles, giving a boost to the indigenous defence sector. India's entry into the regime as its thirty-fifth member would be mutually beneficial in the furtherance of international non-proliferation objectives. For the first time, India participated as a full member at the 30th Plenary Session of MTCR held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 17 - 21 October 2016.

India made its application for membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) on 12 May 2016. India's participation in the NSG will further strengthen nuclear non-proliferation and make global nuclear commerce more secure.

India is engaged with the NSG, Australia Group (AG) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) as well as the individual members of these three regimes with a view to forward the issue of our membership to these regimes. Membership of the regimes is, inter-alia, expected to ease India's access to dual-use and high technology items as well as strengthen global non-proliferation efforts.

India-Germany Technology Partnership Group (HTPG)

As part of the 4th Meeting of the India-Germany Technology Partnership Group (HTPG), India participated in the India-Germany Export Control Dialogue held in Berlin on 30 November 2016. Both sides shared recent developments in their export control systems. Group agreed to further deepen bilateral relationship in export and trade in high-technology between the two countries.

Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation HCoC

India joined the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) on 2 June 2016. The HCoC is a voluntary, legally non-binding international confidence building and transparency measure that seeks to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles that are capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. India's joining the Code signals our readiness to further strengthen global non-proliferation objectives.

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Multilateral Economic Relations

8th BRICS Summit

India held the BRICS Chairmanship from 15 February- 31 December 2016.

The 8th BRICS Summit was hosted by India on 15-16 October 2016 in Goa. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presided over the Summit proceedings. President Michel Temer of Brazil, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Xi Jinping of China and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa led their respective delegations to the Summit.

The agenda of the Summit included Global Political Situation and Terrorism, Global Economic Situation, Global Economic Growth, Global Governance, BRICS and the Emerging Market

Economies, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Consolidation of BRICS Cooperation. The theme of the BRICS Leaders' Working Luncheon was "BRICS – Promoting People-to-People Exchanges." The BRICS Leaders' Plenary Session was on "BRICS Agenda for Cooperation: The Way Forward."

The outcomes of the Summit included the Goa Declaration in which strong sentiments were expressed by BRICS Leaders on Terrorism. Other elements in the Goa Declaration were (i) BRICS Economic Cooperation, including New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA); (ii) BRICS Cooperation in Customs, Taxation, Anti-Corruption, Anti-Drug, Telecommunication, Information



Prime Minister and other BRICS leaders in group photo with the captains of U-17 football teams from the BRICS nations, in Goa on 15 October 2016.

and Communication Technology, Energy, Health, Labour and Employment, Education, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Disaster Management, Environment and Climate Change, Tourism, Railways, Sports, etc.; (iii) Setting up of BRICS Rating Agency; (iv) Global Economic Situation and Growth Prospects; (v) International Monetary Fund (IMF) Reforms; (vi) World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the need to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha Development Agenda (DDA); (vii) BRICS cooperation within G20; (viii) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (ix) Comprehensive Reforms of the United Nations, including the Security Council; Peacekeeping; (x) Situation in the Middle East and North Africa; (xi) Security Challenges in Afghanistan; and (xii) Peaceful Exploration of Space and ensuring the long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

In addition, the MoU for Establishing of BRICS Agriculture Research Platform, the MoU on Mutual Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies and Regulations on the Customs Cooperation Committee were signed during the Summit.

India had invited BIMSTEC Leaders as special invitees to the 8th BRICS Summit and for the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit. Potential areas for cooperation which were highlighted at the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit included Counter-Terrorism, Trade, Energy, Investment and Capital Flows, Environment, Technology, Infrastructure and Human Development.

In line with the theme for India's BRICS Chairmanship, Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions, special emphasis were laid on encouraging people-to-people contacts, youth engagement, and business-to-business contacts. More than 120 meetings/events in the Goa Action Plan were held during India's BRICS Chairmanship; including two meetings of Parliamentarians, 15 Ministerial meetings, NSAs meeting, 50 Working Group/Senior Officials meetings, Business Council meetings, 30 Workshops/Conferences, Academic Forum, Think Tank Council meeting, Civil Forum, etc.

BRICS meetings and events were organized across the cities and States of India in order to enhance people-to-people engagement.

Another interesting feature during India's Chairmanship was to put in place several new initiatives for greater B2B and P2P linkages among BRICS countries. These included BRICS

Women Parliamentarians' Forum, BRICS Under-17 Football Tournament, BRICS Trade Fair, BRICS Film Festival, BRICS Convention on Tourism, BRICS Digital Conclave, BRICS Wellness Forum, BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave, BRICS Smart Cities Workshop, BRICS Urbanisation Forum, BRICS Local Bodies Conference, BRICS Handicraft Artisans' Exchange Programme, BRICS Young Scientist Conclave, BRICS Innovative Idea Prize for Young Scientists, and BRICS Economic Research Award.

BRICS Leaders Meeting on the margins of G20 Summit

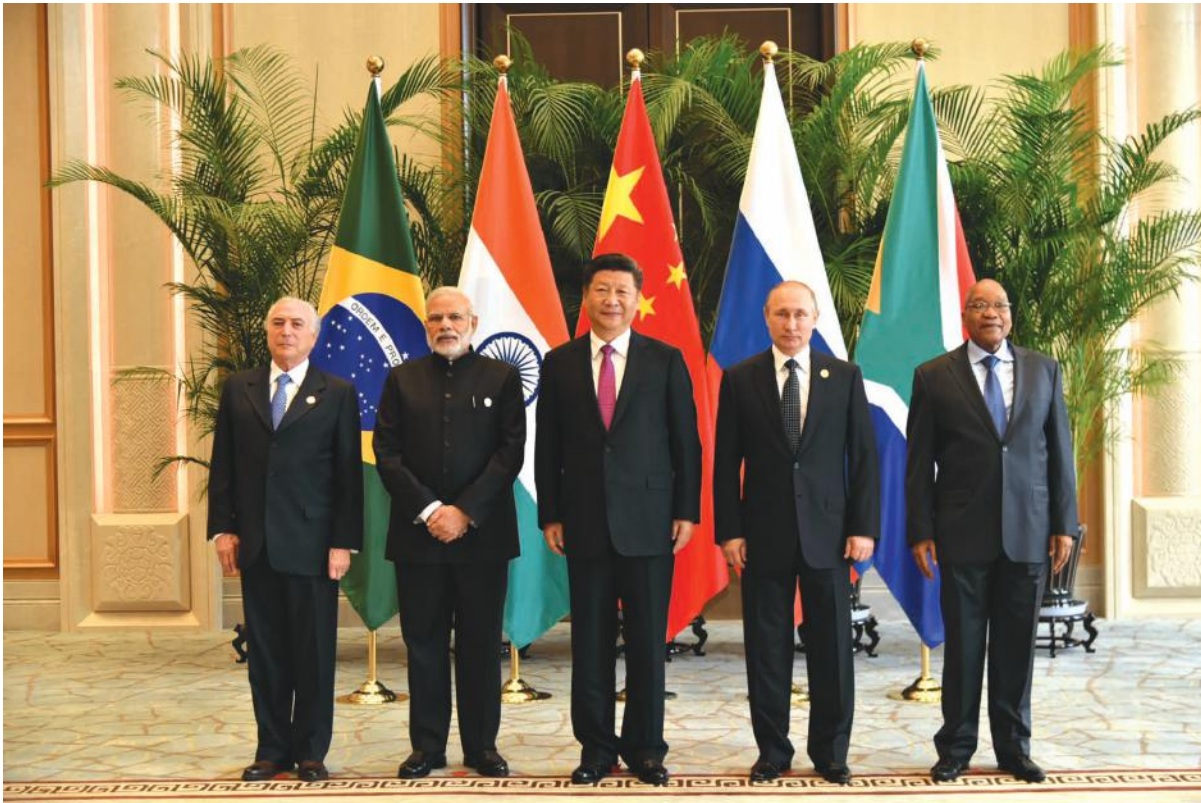
An Informal Meeting of BRICS Leaders was held on 4 September 2016 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister. The Leaders held wide-ranging discussions on the G20 Summit Agenda and agreed to pursue issues of global and mutual interest to the BRICS countries at the G20. Besides, the agenda of the meeting comprised exchange of views on a wide range of global political, security, economic and global governance issues of importance and mutual concern. The Leaders reiterated their wholehearted commitment to the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with the United Nations playing a central role.

BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar attended the meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers on 20 September 2016 in New York on the margins of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly. Besides intra-BRICS cooperation and 8th BRICS Summit, the Ministers discussed global political and economic situation and key issues of the 71st UN General Assembly, i.e., Terrorism, West Asia, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).

The 11th G20 Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to the 11th G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China on 4-5 September 2016. The theme of the Summit was "Towards an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy". The agenda of the Summit included policy coordination and breaking new path for growth, more effective and efficient global economic and financial governance, robust international trade and investment, inclusive and interconnected development and other issues affecting world



Prime Minister with other BRICS leaders in a family photograph, in Hangzhou, China at 'Special BRICS Meeting' on 4 September 2016.

economy. The G20 Leaders issued a Communiqué at the Summit.

PM made lead intervention on 'Strengthening Policy Coordination and Breaking New Path for Growth' at the Summit. He put forward several new ideas at the Summit. In his intervention on terrorism, PM stated that "A terrorist is a terrorist". He expressed grave concern over increasing spread of terror and urged the international community to stand and act in unison and respond against terrorism. He appreciated the G20 initiatives on combating the financing of terrorism and called upon G20 to Isolate and sanction supporters of terrorism.

PM made a strong pitch for fighting corruption, black money and tax evasion as it is essential to effective financial governance. He stated that G20's efforts should be for zero tolerance for corruption & black money; zero administrative policy & treaty loopholes; zero barriers & full commitment to action.

PM stated that Global trading regime must respond to needs & priorities of developing nations and that Global value chains

must provide them level playing field. He urged countries to fully implement the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial decisions. He stressed that Knowledge and innovation driven economy requires free mobility. He indicated that India's priority is to work towards Trade Facilitation Agreement for Services. He called upon G20 to act to stimulate investment flows stating that Global investment principles shouldn't be prescriptive and that countries need policy space depending on national circumstances & development focus.

PM stated that G20 needed an action oriented agenda of collective, coordinated and targeted action. He remarked that challenges and opportunities were common for all G20 nations. He further added that to benefit all, G20 would need to act decisively and this will also require strong network of partnerships.

In his intervention on energy, PM mentioned that energy is vital to support development and a balanced mix of nuclear, renewable energy and fossil fuels is the core of our policy. On climate change, PM stated that Paris Agreement has showed way forward and the focus shouldn't just be on early



Prime Minister with other world leaders in a family photograph, at G20 Summit 2016, in Hangzhou, China on 4 September 2016.

ratification, but full success of the Agreement. PM stressed for safeguarding climate justice that requires affordable financing & environmentally sound technology for developing countries. PM called for upholding the principles of equity and CBDR and lifestyles in harmony with nature by curbing reckless consumption.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

India continued its engagement in UNCTAD meetings. Indian delegation comprising officers from Department of Commerce, MEA and PMI, Geneva participated in the Quadrennial UNCTAD XIV Conference held from 17-22 July 2016 in Nairobi (Kenya), wherein two documents viz. The Nairobi Azimio (Resolution in Swahili) and Nairobi

Maafikiano (Consensus in Swahili) were adopted. While Nairobi Azimio was a political declaration, Nairobi Maafikiano was an outcome document setting UNCTAD's mandate and the work programme for the next four years. India's core interests were safeguarded in the outcome document. An Investment award was won by 'Invest India' on the sidelines of the Meeting, which was received by the Commerce Secretary, as the leader of the delegation.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

India continued to engage with OECD under its stated policy of "Limited Sectoral Engagement". India received visits of senior functionaries of OECD thrice during the year.

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South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) & The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

As a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and as part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, deepening engagement with the countries of South Asia is a main priority for India. India has made significant contributions to SAARC institutions for socio-economic development. In SAARC, the central themes of trade, connectivity and people-to-people contact are of special salience.

A number of regional cooperation activities and capacity building programmes were hosted by India. These included:

- i. 4th Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) in New Delhi on 11 May 2016, preceded by Technical Consultations on 9-10 May 2016.
- ii. The 8th Meeting of the Heads of SAARC Statistical Organizations (SAARCSTAT) in New Delhi from 29-31 August 2016.
- iii. Technical Meeting of Senior Officials on Education in New Delhi from 15 – 16 September 2016.
- iv. 2nd Meeting of the High Level Group of Eminent Experts to strengthen SAARC Anti-terrorism Mechanism in New Delhi on 22 – 23 September 2016.
- v. Expert Group Meeting (EGM) of SAARC Member States to finalize the blue print of the new SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) in New Delhi from 28 – 29 September 2016.
- vi. SAARC Training on Landslide Risk Mitigation and

Management in South Asia in New Delhi from 29 August – 2 September 2016.

- vii. SAARC Training Programme on Flood Risk Management in New Delhi from 26- 30 September 2016)
- viii. SAARC Training Programme on Coastal Zone Management for Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi from 21 - 25 November 2016
- ix. 4th Special Training Program in Election Management for SAARC Election Officials at International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIDEM) in New Delhi from 5-15 December 2016

India also actively participated in the SAARC events such as the 7th Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home preceded by 7th Meeting of Secretaries of Interior/Home (3 – 4 August 2016, Islamabad), wherein India offered to conduct the various training courses for SAARC Member States on International Drug Conventions and Drug Law Enforcement, Diversion and Trafficking of Precursor Chemical and Control Mechanism, Intelligence Collection Techniques (Creation, Management & Handing of source), Financial Investigation and Prevention of Money Laundering and Training through Computer Based Training (CBT) Module. It also called for strongest possible action against terrorism and those who support it. India also attended the 8th Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers/Secretaries (25-26 August 2016, Islamabad).

The South Asian University, established in India exclusively for students from SAARC Member States, held its first

convocation on 11 June 2016. Degrees were awarded in seven disciplines to 652 students belonging to courses from 2010 onwards from across the region. India is committed to meet the full capital cost of the University and construction of its new campus is in full swing.

Towards implementation of the unilateral initiatives announced for the region by the Prime Minister at the 18th SAARC Summit (Kathmandu, November 2014), first batch of India Business Traveler Cards for providing immigration facilitation on arrival were provided to eligible business persons in the region. For the South Asia Satellite, configuration of the satellite has been finalized and fabrication is in advanced stage. The Satellite is expected to be launched in the first half of 2017

Under 'India Endowment for Climate Change' for SAARC Countries, installation of 70,000 Improved Cook Stoves in Bangladesh have been expeditiously completed. India provided financial assistance of Rs. 5 crores for implementation of the project.

For promoting regional handicrafts traditions, participation of artisans from SAARC Member States in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela is to be held on 1 -15 February 2017 in Faridabad, Haryana is supported by Ministry of External Affairs.

The SAARC Festival of Literature is being organized by Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) from 24-26 February 2017 in Delhi.

Government of India conveyed to Nepal, the current Chair of SAARC, its inability to participate in the 19th SAARC Summit scheduled to be held in Islamabad from 9 – 10 November 2016 due to increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in the region and growing interference in the internal affairs of Member States by one country. Communications from Afghanistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh conveyed similar concern.

India remains steadfast in its commitment to regional cooperation, connectivity and contacts and continues its proactive stance in SAARC as part of its new approach to the countries in the neighbourhood, but believes that these can only go forward in an atmosphere free of terror.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

India continued to play a pivotal role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in the year under review, with the objective of enabling BIMSTEC to become a more effective and result-oriented organisation that can meet the expectations of the Member States in the Bay of Bengal region. India continued to discharge its responsibilities and assume commitments to deepen and intensify regional cooperation.

In the period under review, BIMSTEC has served as a useful vehicle for India to intensify its close bilateral ties with the Member Countries, using a multilateral platform, to accelerate the transformation of the BIMSTEC sub-region, through proposals and initiatives for sub-regional cooperation in areas such as Counter Terrorism and combating Transnational Crime, Transport and Communication, Energy, Trade, People-to-People contact, Public Health, Technology etc.

Events between January 2016 to December 2016

During the period January - December 2016, India focussed on themes of common interest to all Member States of BIMSTEC, namely Transportation & Communication, Trade and Investment, Technology, Energy, Agriculture, Public Health, Counter- Terrorism and Transnational Crime and Climate Change.

In the year under review, the Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-group on Combating the Financing of the Terrorism (SG-CFT) was held during 16-17 March 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was decided during the Meeting that till such time the BIMSTEC Secretariat takes over, the management of BIMSTEC SG-CFT Webpage would remain with Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO), Thailand, as the Lead country. The Meeting agreed that human resources development and capacity building is an essential element for combating the financing of terrorism. With this view, the BIMSTEC Secretariat shall be developing an annual calendar of capacity building programmes based on the requirements and offers of the Member States.



Prime Minister in a group photograph with the BIMSTEC leaders, in Goa on 16 October 2016.

Regular BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG) Meetings at Ambassadorial- level were held during the year in which our High Commission in Dhaka represented Government of India.

Progress has also been achieved in finalising the text of the BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and the same is ready for signature in the next BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting.

The 7th BIMSTEC Business Forum Meeting was organized in New Delhi on 21 July 2016 in which representatives from BIMSTEC countries' Chambers of Commerce had participated.

The 1st Inception Meeting of the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG) took place in Bangkok with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in which representatives from the concerned Line Ministries viz., Ministries of Road Transport & Highways, Civil Aviation, Railways, Shipping and from Shipping

Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai participated. The Meeting finalized the draft Terms of Reference for the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group. It reviewed the key agreements reached at the final BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure Logistics Study (BTILS) Workshop, covering updated and enhanced policies/strategies, priority projects, monitoring frameworks, action plan, theme and institutional arrangements. The Meeting agreed to update the list for the Work Plan 2014-20 based on latest project status and to include new projects not earlier included in the BTILS Report. The Meeting deliberated on the list of priority projects/initiatives for deepening cooperation among the Member States and considered a proposed monitoring framework for the BTCWG Work Plan. It also agreed on the framework to monitor the progress of the projects.

The 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals was held on 12 September 2016 in Myanmar. The Meeting discussed on the capacity building and

technical support among the Member Countries and Member Countries were asked to provide list of training needs.

The 8th BRICS Summit was held in Goa on 15-16 October 2016. Leaders of BIMSTEC Countries were special invitees at the Summit under its customary Outreach Initiative. Prior to the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit which was held on 16 October 2016, BIMSTEC Leaders met informally in a Retreat format and agreed upon an action agenda to rejuvenate BIMSTEC. An Outcome Document of the Leaders' Retreat was released after the Summit, which sets out the common and collective will and desire of member states to move ahead in designated areas of cooperation. BIMSTEC Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and resolved to fight this menace resolutely, underlining that those supporting terrorism should be identified and held accountable for their actions.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) hosted Regional Consultations on BIMSTEC-BRICS Engagement: The Way Forward on 27 September 2016 in

the run up to the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit. The Meeting included Sessions on (i) Trade, Investment and Regional Value Chains; (ii) Connectivity and People-to-People Contact; and (iii) BIMSTEC, BRICS and Global Governance.

The BIMSTEC Business Summit 'Connecting South and South East Asia' was held on 14 October 2016 in New Delhi jointly by the MEA and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The theme of Business event included BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement: What new can it offer?, Physical Connectivity: Connecting the Dots, Powering BIMSTEC Countries: Connecting the Grids; and Building MSMEs and Fostering Entrepreneurship, collectively. It was inaugurated by Smt. Nirjala Sitaraman, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in the presence of Mr. Romi Gauchan Thakali, Minister of Commerce, Government of Nepal, and attended by senior government and industry representatives from BIMSTEC Member Countries.



Development Cooperation

Development partnership is a key instrument in India's foreign policy. The scope and reach of India's development assistance has seen considerable expansion in the past few years. India's abiding geo-political, strategic and economic interests and the need to effectively deliver India's assistance programme has prompted greater engagement with developing countries, particularly on the development assistance front. In recognition of this, the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was created in the Ministry of External Affairs in January 2012 to effectively handle India's development aid projects through the stages of conception, launch, execution and completion. The DPA functions in close coordination with the concerned Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, which continues to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries in identifying their developmental priorities. The DPA is progressively developing the expertise required to handle projects in varied sectors and regions through the stages of project appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

India's development partnership is based on the needs of the partner countries and is geared towards accommodating as many of the requests received from these countries as technically and financially feasible. The main instruments of India's development assistance include Lines of Credit (LOC), Grant assistance, Small Development Projects (SDP), Technical Consultancy, Disaster Relief and Humanitarian aid, as well as capacity-building programmes for civilian and military training under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). In the last two-and-a-half years, there has been a significant expansion in India's commitment to providing aid in a multi-faceted manner to a growing number of developing countries. The main focus of development assistance has been the countries in our neighbourhood, South East Asia and Africa. However, India is also expanding its development assistance reach to distant areas such as the Caribbean, Latin America, Mongolia, Pacific Island Countries, etc.

DPA comprises of three Divisions. DPA-I looks after the Lines of Credit (LoC) Projects under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) of Ministry of Finance, Government of India. DPA-I also handles the LoC modalities relating to Bangladesh, Nepal & Bhutan which are within the purview of Ministry of External Affairs under the Allocation of Business Rules. DPA-II deals with the training of Defence and Civilian personnel under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative and Economic Social Development in Asia and Pacific. In addition, special courses in capacity building in a variety of disciplines are also conducted based on the request from partner countries. Besides this, DPA-II also looks after Grant assistance projects in West Asia, Gulf, Eurasia (ERS), Southern and Latin America, Establishment of Information Technology (IT) and Vocational Training centres and Humanitarian Assistance to countries in need. DPA-III deals with implementation of grant assistance projects in Afghanistan, Nepal, Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka and works in close coordination with various Government of India Ministries/Departments and other agencies to ensure speedy and efficient implementation of the assistance programmes.

Lines of Credit

Lines of Credit (LOC) on concessional terms have emerged as one of the main instruments of India's development assistance to least developed and developing countries in recent years. Lines of Credit continue to be an important component of India's development cooperation policy in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Aimed primarily at promoting bilateral cooperation, the LOCs enable borrowing countries to import goods and services from India and undertake projects for infrastructure development and capacity building as per their developmental priorities. In the process, it helps Indian companies and business enterprises to tap new markets and promotes export of Indian goods and services.

The guidelines on Lines of Credit (LoCs) extended by Government of India to different countries under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) have been revised in December 2015 and will remain applicable till 2019-20. The revised guidelines offer more attractive terms of credit to least developed and developing countries and lays down strict implementation and monitoring procedure for ensuing effective and efficient utilization of the LoCs.

Over the years, 241 LoCs aggregating US\$ 18,878.45 million have been extended to different countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 9,133.14 million has been allocated for African countries and US\$ 9,745.31 million for non-African countries. During the year under review, 8 LoCs totalling US\$ 1,418.70 million were extended to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A Line of Credit of US\$ 1 billion was extended to Bangladesh in 2010, of which US\$ 200 million was converted into a grant in 2012 for utilization as prioritized by Government of Bangladesh. The balance US\$ 800 million was further enhanced to US\$ 862 million to cover 15 projects, including supplies as well as infrastructural projects. The supply projects have been completed. The longer gestation infrastructural projects viz. construction of rail bridges, new rail lines and upgradation of existing rail lines etc. are in various stages of implementation. The 2nd Bhairab and Titas rail bridges are due for completion in first half of 2017. A second Line of Credit of US\$ 2 billion was extended to Bangladesh in June 2015 for financing 15 projects in power transmission, road transportation, railways, information and communication technology, shipping, health and technical education sectors. Approvals for projects totalling US\$ 1.69 billion have been accorded. The implementation of the supply projects under this LoC has begun. The progress of the LoC projects is monitored closely through periodic Review meetings with the Government of Bangladesh and other stakeholders.

A Line of Credit of US\$ 1000 million was extended to Nepal in 2014 for financing hydropower, irrigation and road projects. Of this, an allocation of US\$ 450 million and an additional LoC of US\$ 300 million, aggregating to US\$ 750 million have been committed to Nepal for post-earthquake reconstruction work. This is in addition to the two LoCs of US\$ 100 million and US\$ 250 million extended in 2007 & 2010 respectively. The LoC of US\$ 100 million has been fully utilized for upgradation of roads, power transmission and

hydro power projects. The US\$ 250 million LoC covering power transmission and road projects is progressing well.

As part of the monitoring of on-going LoC projects, bilateral reviews were conducted with Nepal and Bangladesh. Status Reports on the progress of ongoing projects in South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America were also received from Indian Missions and Exim Bank of India.

Development Projects with grant assistance in neighbouring countries:

The development projects being undertaken with Government of India (GoI) grant assistance cover a range of sectors from infrastructure development, including construction, roads & bridges, waterways and transmission lines as also power generation, agriculture, capacity building, education, health, rural development, etc. India has been a steadfast partner of Afghanistan in its reconstruction and development efforts. The new Parliament Building in Kabul was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India jointly with the President of Afghanistan on 25 December 2015. The new structure, which symbolises the common commitment of India and Afghanistan to pluralism and democracy, was handed over to Afghan side in March 2016. Another major project that was completed in 2016 is the Afghan India Friendship Dam (AIFD) [earlier known as Salma Dam], which was inaugurated by PM Shri Narendra Modi and the President of Afghanistan on 4 June 2016. The Dam is now generating power and releasing water for irrigation of thousands of hectares of land in Western Afghanistan. Similarly, the historic Stor Palace in Kabul was restored and inaugurated in August 2016. The Diagnostic Centre at the Polyclinic of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health in Kabul was operationalised following installation of requisite medical equipment with Government of India's assistance. The Special Scholarship Scheme for 1000 Afghan students per annum (administered through the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)) has been successfully undertaken during the admission years from 2012-13 to 2016-17. The Scheme has been extended for another five year period from 2017-18 to 2021-22. The power sub-stations at Doshi and Charikar have been commissioned. Several community based Small Development Projects (SDPs) continue to be implemented through local participation in areas of Agriculture, Education, Labour, Rural Development and Public Health. India has been extending active support to the Afghanistan National Agriculture Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU)

established in Kabul through mutual partnership.

A number of cross-border projects aimed at enhancing connectivity to raise economic growth and accelerate development are at various stages of planning and implementation in Myanmar. These include the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project (which will provide connectivity between ports on India's eastern sea board and Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and thereafter to the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram); the Trilateral Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand wherein India is undertaking construction of bridges in the Tamu - Kyigone - Kalewa section and upgradation of 120 km road in the Kalewa-Yargi section. Another road project for which the Detailed Project Report is getting finalised is a 100 km Rih-Tedim road in the Chin State of Myanmar adjacent to the Indian State of Mizoram. With the aim of enhancing agricultural yield and quality, an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) and a Rice Bio-Park are being set up in Nay Pyi Taw. The establishment of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), a world class IT institute, being set up with India's partnership in Mandalay, has commenced the Post Graduate Diploma in Software Development (PGDSD) and five-year computer engineering programmes. The supply and commissioning of state-of-the-art medical equipment to Yangon Children Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital has made substantial progress. Projects that were completed in the recent past include Computerisation of Land Records Department, Language Labs and E-resource Centre in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw and upgradation of the Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills.

The projects to construct Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) on the India-Nepal border and cross-border railway links are at various stages of implementation to enhance connectivity between India and Nepal. Steps for implementing the remaining three rail links Nautanwa-Bhairahawa; Rupaiddiha-Nepalgunj and New Jalpaiguri-Kakarbhitta as the second phase of the India-Nepal Rail connectivity project have been initiated. The supply of balance medical equipment to the 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre in Kathmandu, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2014, has been completed. Roads under the first package of Phase I of Terai road project were completed in November 2015 and opened to traffic. Fire Tenders were supplied to thirteen Municipalities of Nepal in August 2016. The India-Nepal cross border Transmission Lines (Raxaul to Parwanipur

and Kataiya to Kushaha) project is nearing completion. India is also undertaking preparation of Detailed Engineering Reports (DERs) for ICPs at Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa on India-Nepal border. Two other projects under implementation include the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala and the Nepal Bharat Maitri Polytechnic at Hetauda.

India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on a consultative approach, factoring in the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka. The district hospital building at Dickoya was constructed and handed over to the Sri Lankan Government in December 2014. High value medical equipment has been supplied and procurement of remaining medical equipment locally is underway. The restoration of Thiruketheeswaram temple at Mannar is nearing completion, while the construction of a modern state-of-art cultural centre, Jaffna has commenced in September 2016.

The ongoing housing project involving construction of 50,000 houses for resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka has progressed well. The pilot project of construction of 1000 houses was completed in 2012. The construction and repair of 45,000 houses under an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces is nearly accomplished with the completion of 44,384 houses, the remaining being mostly cases of default by beneficiaries. The owner driven model has the direct involvement of beneficiaries in the construction of their houses; the funds are released into their bank accounts in four instalments linked to the completion of the defined four stages of construction.

The construction of 4,000 houses in the Central/Uva provinces for the Indian Origin Tamils employed in the plantation sector has also commenced following the completion of the process of identification of land for 1134 houses by the Sri Lankan Government. These houses are also being built under an Owner driven model. The construction of the remaining 2866 houses will be taken up on allocation of land for these houses by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Development projects in Maldives are at different stages of implementation. The Composite Training Centre was successfully built at Mafillaafushi Island in Maldives. While the renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, which was built with GoI's assistance in 1990s, is nearing completion, the work on the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) [formerly National Police Academy(NPA)] has commenced and the construction of

Ministry of Defence (MOD) building in Male is expected to start early 2017.

Metro Express project, New Supreme Court Building, Education-Tablets, Special Housing for Poor and New ENT Hospital projects are being implemented by Government of Mauritius with the special economic package from India and its own resources. The Government of Mauritius would implement the projects with Indian consultants and contractors under the supervision of Joint Project Monitoring Committees.

Development Projects in Africa

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is focussed on addressing the priorities and needs of the African countries. The engagement with African countries through various development partnership initiatives has witnessed a marked increase in the last decade. The three India-Africa Forum Summits [IAFS I, II & III] in 2008, 2011 and 2015 have further reinforced the development partnership with the continent. The Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III), in particular, placed development cooperation at the heart of India-Africa partnership, unveiling US\$10 billion in Lines of Credit for a host of development projects over the next five years and a grant assistance of US\$ 600 million. DPA played an active role during the Summit. The projects identified under IAFS-II e.g. setting up of Centers on Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD) and establishment of Rural Technology Parks are under implementation.

The notable support extended to countries in Africa under Grant assistance include supply of medicines to Seychelles, supply of IT equipment for Hospitals in Namibia, establishment of Business Incubation Centre in Tanzania, a pilot research project on Tomato production & processing in Ghana, supply of field ambulances to Kenya, mini buses to Somalia and Medical equipment & CT Scan Machines to Liberia.

Capacity Building through Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC, SCAAP and TCS-CP)

Capacity building continued to be an important strand of India's development partnership programme in 2016-17.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, which also includes the capacity building offered by India under the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) and the Technical Cooperation Scheme under Colombo Plan (TCS-CP) continued to strengthen in scope and outreach, with the inclusion of new partner institutions and courses in emerging areas.

During 2016-17, 10469 civilian training slots were offered under ITEC Programme to 161 partner countries (List of partner countries is given in **Appendix-IV**) for various short-term and medium-term courses in institutions spread all over India (**Appendix V**). This includes the 500 training slots offered by India under the TCS-CP. The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India with more than 50 premier institutions running courses, conducted around 280 courses for working professionals in a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines such as IT and telecommunication, finance & accounts, audit, banking, education, planning & administration, parliamentary affairs, crime records, textiles, rural development, renewable energy, tool design, Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship development etc. Special courses are also conducted to meet the specific requirements of our partner countries. Such courses conducted in year 2016-17 included courses for Yoga trainers, an English language training programme for Mongolian interpreters (ahead of ASEM Summit) and for Bangladeshi and Mongolian teachers, courses on Archaeology & National Archives for Nepali officials, a special course for Palestinian Customs & Taxes Police, a Conservation course for Cambodian nationals and an Internship course for Afghan Parliament officials, etc. Besides, following the India-Africa Forum Summit-III, there has been a special focus on offering capacity building to African countries, for which key thrust areas have been identified on the basis of a consultative mechanism. Approximately 10 special courses were planned during 2016-17 exclusively for African nationals.

The list of the courses and institutions are available on the ITEC Portal.

As in previous years, the programme drew large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions in India, both in Government and in the private sectors, under the civilian and defence training programmes. The online processes of ITEC portal facilitated the needs of ITEC participants, Missions/Posts and the participating institutions,

in terms of making it easier for them to access details relating to institutions and approved courses etc. Engagement with Alumni networks has continued to strengthen through the ITEC portal and other social networking tools, and through the annual 'ITEC Day' functions organized at Missions abroad and institutions running ITEC courses in India. ITEC has acquired a strong brand name in the field of development partnership.

Defence Training Programme

During 2016-17, 1898 defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialised nature which included security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counter insurgency and jungle warfare, and also foundation courses for young officers in the three services. Courses at premier institutions like the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi and the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, continued to be immensely popular and also attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

Deputation of Experts

Deputation of experts under ITEC programme has served as a very important tool for sharing Indian expertise with the developing world. Up to October 2016, 41 experts in various fields were on deputation to partner countries in areas of Forensic Sciences, Ayurveda, Rice Production and as Advisers to Government and as State Counsels. Defence training teams have also been deputed to partner countries. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan and also providing Indian faculty on secondment to Colombo Plan Staff College

(CPSC), Manila.

Projects

In other Development Projects, India is extending its assistance and experience through Archaeological Survey of India for restoration and conservation of ancient cultural heritage monuments and temples in the South East Asian region at Ta Prohm in Cambodia, My Son in Vietnam and Wat Phou in Lao PDR. India's strength in the field of Information Technology is being shared with the partner countries in the form of establishment of various Centres of Excellence in Information Technology, imparting training to the partner countries, including Peru, Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Palestine, Commonwealth of Dominica, Egypt, Morocco, Tanzania, South Africa and Pacific Island countries. Technical and financial assistance is being extended to Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat for upgrading their existing IT infrastructure. During the year, Phase-II of upgradation and modernisation of a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Mongolia and establishment of VTCs at Yatta and Hebron in Palestine were completed, while establishment of VTC at Zanzibar and Business Incubator Centre at Malawi are under way.

Disaster Relief

Humanitarian assistance was rendered by India to countries affected by natural disasters. Medical assistance has been provided to Ecuador, Malawi, Commonwealth of Dominica, Yemen, Syria, Kenya, Mozambique and Ukraine. Donations of food grains to Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe are under way.

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The Economic Diplomacy (ED) Division as part of its efforts to give a focused direction to the economic diplomacy dimension of the country's foreign policy undertook a number of initiatives during financial year 2016-17. Our efforts were to ensure greater coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), central government ministries / departments, State governments, Business chambers and our Missions / Posts abroad with the objective of expanding the reach of India's exports, open new business opportunities for Indian enterprises overseas, enhance India's economic engagement in the immediate neighborhood and beyond, attract greater investments, promote tourism and culture, and make India an attractive business destination.

Through its active outreach and financial support to Indian Missions / Posts, business chambers, and think tank institutions, and close interaction with state industrial development corporations, Indian business houses, and foreign diplomatic missions in India, the ED Division was able to take forward the developmental agenda of the government and ensure that the economic reform agenda of the government and the objectives of the nation's foreign policy was communicated in a sustained and coordinated manner to ensure the best possible economic outcomes for the country.

To increase the effectiveness and reach of the ED Division, the Division has been reorganized in the form of a matrix structure. Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) have been created for facilitating interaction between the Foreign Investors and the Indian Stakeholders. The SPOCs have been assigned countries, Indian States and independent sectors for easy facilitation. The matrix structure is already effectively dealing with issues of co-ordination between foreign investors and the government agencies both at the Central and the State level.

To enable the 184 Missions / Posts to intensify their economic

engagement with the countries of their accreditation, ED Division under its "Market Expansion Activities" budget has extended funding to the tune of ₹15 crores. The funding has been utilized to help promote Indian exports through catalogue shows and buyer-seller meets, engage consultants to prepare market studies, organize business seminars to attract foreign investments, and undertake advocacy work to promote interests of Indian enterprises seeking business opportunities overseas. In addition, the Division has also processed proposals to the tune of ₹ 2 crores to support specific trade and investment promotion activities in India by apex business chambers in India.

Financial Services

On the *Financial Services front*, ED Division through its membership in the *Inter Departmental Committee (IDC)* of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has contributed significantly to decisions relating to the opening of the following *Representative Offices* of foreign banks:

- Canada's Bank of Montreal in Mumbai
- South Korea's NongHyup Bank in Gurugram
- South Korea's Busan Bank in Mumbai

Approvals to open *Branch Offices* were granted to the following foreign banks:

- Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation in Mumbai
- Qatar's National Bank in Mumbai
- South Korea's Shinhan Bank in Ahmedabad and Ranga Reddy districts
- South Korea's Woori Bank in Gurugram and Mumbai
- UAE's Emirates NBD in Mumbai
- UAE's First Gulf Bank in Mumbai

On the **Insurance** side, GIC-Re was granted approval to open representative offices in China and Bangladesh and United India Insurance to open offices in Dubai and Sri Lanka. UCO Bank was granted approval to open a representative office in Tehran.

In order to ensure speedy decision making, the IDC took a decision that henceforth all applications from India's private banks for opening of representative / branch / wholly owned subsidiaries abroad will be processed and approved by the Reserve Bank of India without referring those cases to the IDC. The below mentioned applications by India's private banks will now be considered and approved by RBI directly.

- Axis Bank for opening of a Representative Office in Sharjah, UAE
- Axis Bank for opening of a branch at Bahrain
- Kotak Mahindra Bank for opening of a Branch at Dubai
- Federal Bank for opening of a Representative Office at Manama, Bahrain
- Federal Bank for opening of a branch at Dubai
- South Indian Bank for opening of a Representative Office at Dubai.

ED and the Department of Economic Affairs continued to coordinate efforts to attract greater investments from Pension and Sovereign Wealth Funds. On 1 September 2016 the Province of British Columbia successfully issued an Indian Rupee denominated bond (with a 3-year term and a yield of 6.62% yield semi-annual) on the London Stock Exchange. This also makes BC the **first sovereign** to issue **Masala Bonds** in the Indian offshore market. The bond proceeds were immediately reinvested in Masala Bonds issued to BC by India's HDFC Bank. The entire process for issuing necessary approvals for the bond issue was coordinated by ED Division with the Department of Economic Affairs and Reserve Bank of India.

ED Division is working closely with the Department of Economic Affairs on the issue of **Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT)**. Earlier during the year, termination notices were issued to 73 countries with a request to renegotiate the BITs based on a new model text approved by the Indian Cabinet in December 2015. On 27 July 2016, Cambodia became the first country with which India signed the BIT based on the new model text. The agreed text for a BIT between India and Brazil was

initialed on 15 October 2016 during the BRICS Leaders' Summit in Goa. India and Bangladesh have also decided to sign a new BIT based on the model text. Negotiations with Qatar are in the final phase. First stage of negotiations with Croatia, Finland, Tajikistan and Switzerland have already been initiated.

On the **Double Taxation** front, the protocol for amendment of the convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains between India and Mauritius was signed by both countries on 10 May 2016 in Port Louis, Mauritius. Capital gains arising from sale of shares of an Indian resident company acquired after 1 April 2017 will be taxed by India. Existing investors, who acquired shares before 1 April 2017 will not be taxed by Indian authorities and also a two-year transitional phase has been provided when capital gains will be taxed at a concessional tax rate. This amendment is in line with the announcement made in the budget for 2016-17 to implement General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) from 1 April 2017. GAAR rules are intended to check tax avoidance for investments by entities based mainly in overseas tax havens. On 29 June 2016, India and Cyprus successfully completed negotiations on the bilateral tax treaty which provides for source-based taxation of capital gains on share sale. The amended DTAA with Cyprus was approved by the Cabinet on 24 August 2016. A grandfathering clause was however included for investments made prior to 1 April 2017, in respect of which capital gains would be taxed in the country of which taxpayer is a resident. Negotiations with Singapore have also been commenced.

The Division is closely involved in the various **Inter-Ministerial Meetings for handling International Arbitration cases**. Some of the prominent cases that were considered at the inter-ministerial meetings included: Cairn and Vedanta; Thakur Family Trust (TFT); Astro All Asia Network Ltd.; Astro Holdings Sdn Bhd; South Asia Entertainment Holdings Ltd.; Sistema Joint Stock Financial Corporation; and Nissan.

Economic Outreach

On the **Trade Promotion** front, ED Division along with the Department of Commerce and Industry worked on new strategies for promoting Indian exports to countries in South America and the Caribbean. ED organized the 8th LAC Conclave in Guadalajara, Mexico from 28-29 November 2016

along with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the United Nation—Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC). The Indian delegation for the Conclave was led by Minister of State Gen (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd). The Division in order to enhance economic engagement in Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) took part in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (16-18 June 2016) and INNOPROM in Ekaterinburg (10-13 July 2016). The Division also sponsored a roundtable organized by our Mission in Moscow on the theme, “**Building Connectivity Through the North South Corridor**” on 7 December 2016. In the CIS region, the ED Division also led business delegations to Minsk, Belarus on 22 November 2016 and to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 7-9 December 2016.

The Division as part of its **Focus-Africa** events supported the “**India-Africa Health Services Meet**” from 1-3 September 2016 in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Commerce. The meet saw extensive participation from policymakers, medical specialists, researchers, and industry leaders from African countries. Discussions held during the meet included advancing co-operation in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors between India and Africa; key opportunities of mutual interest in this sector; regulatory harmonization etc. Prior to this event, the Division organized an Inter-Ministerial Meeting on “**Opportunities in the African Pharmaceutical and Healthcare sector**” on 5 May 2016 under the Chairmanship of Secretary Economic Relations (ER) Amar Sinha. Representatives from Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Commerce, Exim Bank, business chambers, etc. attended the meeting. Issues relating to challenges faced by the India pharmaceutical companies in Africa including regulatory practices, fake drugs etc. were discussed in the meeting.

On the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Mozambique and Kenya in July 2016, the Division brought out **Guidebooks on Doing Business in Mozambique and Kenya**. The publications, targeted at assisting Indian enterprises, were released by the Prime Minister in Maputo and Nairobi. The Division also supported the publication of the book “**India and South Africa: Trade and Investment Partners**”, brought out by our Consulate in Johannesburg. The publication covered the success stories of Indian companies

in South Africa. ED Division also sponsored the 8th edition of the “**I for Afrika**” conference and exhibition organized by the Indo-Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IACCI) in Mumbai at the Bombay Exhibition Center from 27-30 September 2016. The 3-day conference with the theme, “**Africa: The Next Frontier for Entrepreneurs**” was inaugurated by the Governor of Maharashtra C. Vidyasagar Rao in the presence of the entire Diplomatic Corps of African nations. A total of 28 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed during the Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings. The Division also organized business events during the visit of President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Ivory Coast (15 June 2016) and Ghana (14 June 2016).

The Division is also engaged with the Commerce Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India in exploring a payment mechanism that would enable Indian exporters to Venezuela to recover payments through purchases of crude oil. The Division along with the Department of Commerce worked towards identifying markets for importing pulses into the country. To mitigate the shortfall in availability of pulses and supplement the existing efforts at meeting the requirements, a decision to enter into long term Government to Government (G2G) arrangements with other countries has been taken by the Cabinet. The first such MoU on Pulses was signed with Mozambique. The MoU aims at promoting the production of Pigeon Peas/Tur and other pulses in Mozambique by encouraging progressive increase in the trading of these pulses. The Division has also made proactive interventions to resolve trade disputes between foreign entities and Indian businesses by breaking long-standing stalemates and facilitating win-win outcomes. Division’s positive intervention on the twin issues of *non-registration* of renewable energy companies by Maharashtra Energy Development Agency for projects of up to 32 MW energy generation and the *non-execution* of Power Purchase Agreements with another set of renewable energy companies (generating 24 MW of power) by the *Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.*, has resulted in a favorable outcome for all affected parties.

ED Division along with the Department of Revenue, Department of Economic Affairs, and Department of Commerce has been drafted as a member of the Working Group constituted by the Chief Economic Advisor to study the effectiveness of all the Free Trading Agreements concluded by India over the last several years. On 5 August 2016, representatives of the ED Division along with officials of

Department of Commerce responded to queries made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs under Shri Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, on the subject of “**Status of India’s Free Trade Agreements**”. In the meeting, the Standing Committee was apprised of the status of free trade agreements concluded by India; on-going Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations and other pending Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). The Committee also deliberated on the relevance of FTAs/Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and the role of diplomacy in taking in forging economic partnerships.

ED Division through its membership on the **Committee of Directions (COD)** which considers proposals submitted by **Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC)** has approved 15 overseas contracts worth **8,114.40 crore** (till November 2016) secured by Indian companies. The COD provides credit and insurance support for big ticket overseas contracts secured by Indian companies. Major overseas contracts that received support include the Border Infrastructure Project in Oman executed by M/s Engineering Projects India Ltd. (2,468.7 crore) and another to decongest Lusaka city in Zambia executed by M/s Afons Infrastructures Limited, Mumbai (1,650.88 crore).

On the **Investment front**, ED Division through its membership in the Board of Invest India closely coordinated its activities with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. ED Division is also offering hand-holding services to visiting investors and facilitating their interaction with ministries at the Centre and in the States. Over 60 foreign investment delegations from Austria (*Defence, Aviation and Finance*), Canada (*Pension Funds, Bond Market*), China (*Real Estate, Private Equity, Heavy Industry, Automobile*), Germany (*Manufacturing – Electrical*), South Korea (*Urban development, Print & Broadcasting, Railways*), Spain (*Railways*), Taiwan (*Manufacturing – Electronics*), Japan (*Infrastructure*), Russia (*Railways*) and the U.S. (*Banking, Agriculture, Medical Electronics, Oil & Natural Gas, Bio-technology*) have been assisted during the period April to January 2016. After the opening of 100% FDI under government route for trading including e-commerce in respect of food products manufactured / produced in India, the Division in association with the Ministry of Food Processing and Industries organized an interaction for Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing and Industries with the Diplomatic Corps in Delhi.

ED participated in the “**British Columbia-India Partnership Summit**” in Vancouver on 14-15 September 2016; fully funded and participated in the launch of the “**Korea Plus**” event in Seoul on 8 November 2016; organized a **business interaction with Indian CEOs** on the occasion of the visit of **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Republic of the Union of Myanmar to India on 18 October 2016; organized a 25-member “**CEO delegation to Sri Lanka**” from 20-24 October 2016; organized **Business Roundtables** with U.S., Japanese, Chinese, South Korean, and Canadian investors; arranged meetings for investors with relevant state governments; and also followed up on all investment commitments made. ED Division worked closely with a number of State Governments in organizing **State-specific investment summits**. ED supported State Governments of Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand in organizing road shows in India and select overseas destinations.

The Division in co-ordination with the Ministry of Urban Development led a delegation on to Jakarta, Indonesia from 27-28 September, 2016 for a **Smart Cities Workshop**. The delegation comprised of representatives from CEOs of select Smart Cities of New Delhi, Bhopal and Udaipur, representatives of construction and engineering company M/s Shapoorji Pallonji, and consultancy firms. The team participated in a number of panel discussions on various aspects of Smart Cities; undertook a field visit to the Smart City Command Centre in Jakarta and discussed experiences/ best practices/challenges with representatives of Smart Cities in Indonesia.

Industry Outreach

On the **Industry front**, ED Division financed, co-organized or supported the following events:

- 14-16 April 2016: “**Maritime India Summit**” in Mumbai.
- 21-23 April 2016: “**Global Exhibition on Services**” in Noida.
- 12-13 August 2016: “**9th International FAD (Food Processing, Agribusiness & Dairy) Summit**” in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- 1-3 September 2016: “**India-Africa Health Sciences Meet**” in New Delhi.

- 21-23 September 2016: “*Incredible India Tourism Investors’ Summit*” Summit in New Delhi.
- 22-23 September 2016: “*2nd Global Investors’ India Forum 2016*” with ASSOCHAM in New Delhi.
- 24-27 September 2016: “*2nd INDYWOOD Film Carnival*” with All Lights Film Society (ALFS) and Government of Telangana in Hyderabad.
- 27-30 September 2016: 8th edition of the “*I for Afrika*” with Indo-Africa Chamber of Commerce in Mumbai.
- 6-10 October 2016: “*SWITCH Global Expo 2016*” in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- October 22, 2016: “*India-China Business Convention*” with Indo-Canadian Business Chamber in New Delhi.
- 9-11 November 2016: “*Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet*” in Jaipur
- 10-12 November 2016: “*Higher Education Summit*” in New Delhi
- 15-17 November 2016: “*Impact Investment Conclave*” with Impact Investors Council (IIC) in New Delhi.
- 28-29 November 2016: “*Latin America and Caribbean Conclave*” with CII and UN-ECLAC in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- 5-7 December 2015: “*PetroTech 2016*” with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in New Delhi.
- 6-7 December 2016: “*MEA-Carnegie India: Global Technology Summit*” in Bengaluru.

Social Security Agreements (SSA)

ED Division as the competent authority in the MEA to initiate and conclude negotiations on bilateral SSAs with other countries has signed and operationalized “comprehensive” Social Security Agreements (SSAs) with **16 countries**. These include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, and Switzerland. India has a comprehensive SSA with Portugal, which is in the process of getting operationalized. A limited SSA is in place with Germany. **Highlights of ED Division’s SSA work in**

2016 is listed below:

- Comprehensive SSA with Japan was operationalized on 01 October 2016.
- A series of Video Conferences have been organized with representatives of the U.S. Social Security Administration to reach consensus on all outstanding issues relating to SSA. Formal negotiations with U.S. are yet to commence.
- To take forward the commitment of entering into SSAs with BRICS nations as reflected in the BRICS Goa Declaration, ED Division has already reached out to the concerned Ministries in all BRICS countries. First round of negotiations with Brazil will take place in March 2017. China has also expressed interest in commencing negotiations with India and a technical meeting has been scheduled in February/March 2017.
- The 2nd round of negotiations on the India-Sri Lanka SSA took place in Colombo on 17-18 November 2016. Both sides finalized the text of Social Security Agreement.
- The formalities for the operationalization of SSA with Quebec (a province of Canada) have been completed. The SSA would come into force beginning 1 April 2017.
- Consensus has been arrived with the Netherlands, which would settle the long-standing request by the Netherlands to amend the existing India-Netherlands SSA in line with the domestic law in the Netherlands incorporating the principle of the “Country of Residence”.
- Consensus has been arrived with Germany to bring into force the amended SSA signed in 2011.
- Draft SSA texts have been forwarded to Greece and Lithuania.
- The non-contribution period in the India-South Korea SSA has been extended from the current 5 years to a total of 8 years.

Energy

ED Division along with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy worked towards the finalization of the Draft Framework Agreement of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. The ISA, which is conceived as a coalition of solar resource rich countries to address their special energy needs and provide

a platform to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps through a common, agreed approach will be a Treaty-based organization headquartered in Gurugram, India. Apart from successfully help organizing the International Steering Committee meetings of the ISA in New York (22 April 2016) and New Delhi (5 October 2016), the ED Division undertook a massive outreach effort to secure the support of prospective member countries (*a total of 121 countries falling between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn*) to sign the Framework Agreement of the ISA. A total of **24 countries** (*India, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Republic of Guinea, Mali, Nauru, Niger, Tanzania, Tuvalu, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Guinea Bissau, Fiji, Vanuatu, Liberia, Senegal, Seychelles, France, Sudan, and Tonga*) signed the Framework Agreement on 15 November 2016 (within 41 days of finalizing the text of the agreement) the sidelines of the COP22 negotiations which took place in Marrakech, Morocco. Rwanda signed the Framework Agreement on 9 January 2017, taking the total to 25 countries. ED Division is now working towards ensuring that the signatory countries complete the ratification process at the earliest. The ISA as a legal entity will come into existence once 15 countries ratify and deposit the agreement.

The Division led the Indian delegation to Shenzhen, China for participating in the **2nd G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group Meeting** from 12-14 April 2016 and also participated in the 2016 UNESCAP Policy Dialogue on “**Energy and Sustainable development in the Asia and Pacific**” held from 25-27 April 2016 in Bangkok. Various issues like emerging opportunities in enhancing energy security; regional energy Connectivity; persistent issues on energy security and sustainable development were discussed in the meeting. The Division participated in the **G20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan and Energy Generation Workshop** on facilitating high-efficiency, low emission (HELE) technologies in Tokyo on 7-8 June 2016 and the “**Seminar on Supporting Sustainable Development Goal – 7, Target 7.1**” organized by UNESCAP in cooperation with UN-Energy and Sustainable Energy For All (SE4All) in Bangkok from 21-23 June 2016.

On 8 September 2016, the Division participated in the “**3rd India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue**”. During the **Singapore Energy Week**, co-organized by UNESCAP and Energy Market Authority of Singapore, a representative of ED Division participated in the panel on “**Alliances in**

collaborations on Energy: Unlocking opportunities”. Various initiatives taken by the Government of India for universal energy access and the launch of International Solar Alliance were discussed. The Division also hosted the **1st India-Europe Joint Working Group on Energy Security**, on 17 October 2016, under the aegis of the 8th session of the India-EU Energy Panel. Discussions encompassed the scenarios on energy consumption, energy mix, domestic production and energy imports in the EU and India and the Energy Security policy of the two sides. Necessary guidance and assistance was provided to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) for organizing **Courses on Energy Efficiency** in May and June 2016 as a part of the Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

Civil Aviation

On the *Civil Aviation front*, ED Division worked closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation on bilateral air services negotiations. At the 9th International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2016) held in Nassau, Bahamas from 5-9 December 2016, India held negotiations with 17 countries including *Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guyana, Hong Kong, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Sri Lanka*. As per the new National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016, India offers point to point (3rd/4th freedom) open sky arrangement (*unlimited flight frequencies are offered to 6 major airports namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, over and above the existing traffic rights*) on a bilateral basis to select SAARC countries and countries which fall beyond 5,000 Km range of New Delhi. Czech Republic, Finland, Guyana, Jamaica, Spain and Sri Lanka have accepted India's Open Skies offer, while Ghana, Japan, Mauritius, and Portugal are examining it.

On the **Air Services Agreements (ASA)** front, a new ASA was signed with *New Zealand* (1 May 2016), and *Greece* (6-7 September 2016). Text of the ASA was finalized and initialed with *Nigeria* (17 August 2016), *Cambodia* (15 September 2016) and *Serbia* (27 October 2016). At **International Commission for Air Navigation (ICAN) 2016**, India offered to modify its bilateral ASAs (*as per the new model ASA text*) with *Portugal, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guyana, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman and Portugal*. *Jamaica* and *Guyana* have agreed to amend their bilateral ASAs with India and finalized the agreed text to be signed by

their competent authorities. Some of the new articles that find mention in the model ASA text, such as the article on “*Co-operative Marketing Arrangements*” - enabling domestic and third country codeshare operations between airlines of India and these countries, was agreed to by Czech Republic, Ghana, Mauritius, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Sri Lanka. The article on “**Multiple Designation**” was agreed to by Ghana and Portugal. India has offered **Fifth freedom in Air Cargo services** to all countries. Ghana, Guyana and Saudi Arabia have accepted the offer. Enhancement in bilateral traffic rights for Ethiopia and Ghana will be favorably considered as part of India’s push for greater air connectivity with Africa. India has also agreed to increase bilateral traffic rights with respect to Oman (additional 6,500 seats per week) and Saudi Arabia (8,000 seats, subject to 80% utilization of Indian traffic rights by Indian carriers by International Air Transport Association (IATA) Summer 2017). The implementation of **India-EU Horizontal agreement** is ongoing as all EU countries are required to amend bilateral ASA with India which includes articles on *Cooperative Marketing Arrangements, Inter-modal Services, Routing Flexibility, and Cargo Open Sky Policy*. Negotiations for India-EU Horizontal Agreement is likely to be completed by 2017.

Diaspora Outreach

The ED Division coordinated the 6th Panel Discussion (of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas-PBD) titled “**Role of Diaspora in Transferring Knowledge and Encouraging Innovation (Science and Technology, Education, Start-up India)**” on 30 July 2016 in New Delhi. 25 domain experts from the diaspora, and policy makers discussed the strategy for developing India’s technological prowess, harness diaspora collective energy and knowledge-base for India’s development. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj chaired the panel. The ED Division as part of its efforts to give Indian **Start-Ups** a platform to showcase their innovations to the Diaspora community at the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in Bengaluru from 7-9 January 2016 organized a “**National Contest to Identify India’s Top 20 Social Innovations**”. The contest, which was announced on 18 November 2016 and came to a close on 7 December 2016, was conducted with the support of Atal

Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog. The objective of the contest was to identify a pool of social impact innovators (*in the fields of Clean tech, Education, Health, Housing, Public Transport, Skill development and Livelihood, Waste management, Water and Sanitation and Women empowerment*) that have developed or are developing commercially feasible solutions to the socio-economic problems of India and to connect them with the Indian diaspora, particularly those who represent the Private Equity and Angel Investing communities. The 20 innovators displayed their innovations in a custom-built pavilion at the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) convention in Bengaluru. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the pavilion, interacted with the innovators and also released a coffee-table publication titled, “20 Mission Driven Social Impact Innovations”, produced by ED Division. Each of the innovators were given ₹ 1 lakh as a one-time fund support, a Certificate of Recognition and a Memento. At the PBD convention, the Division also coordinated two Plenary Sessions - “**Start-ups with a Social Impact in India**” on 7 January 2016 and “**Leveraging Diaspora Expertise for Knowledge and Innovation Ecosystem**” on 9 January 2016.

Knowledge Support

ED Division as part of its efforts to provide knowledge support to Indian Missions /Posts has prepared presentations and reports on all of Government of India (GOIs) flagship programs for effective dissemination worldwide. The Division continued to dispatch analytical reports on the state of the Indian economy to Indian Missions abroad and also supports the outreach activities of Indian Missions / Posts by providing weekly and monthly economic newsletters. ED is in the process of revamping its website – *indiaainbusiness.nic.in* to better assist our Missions / Posts as a one-stop source of business-related information on India. The Division also works with a number of national and international consultancy firms to bring out surveys on the business climate in India, as well as sector-specific publications. In October 2016, ED Division brought out the publication “*India Surging Ahead*”, which is now being used by all our Missions/Posts in their business outreach efforts.



Facilitating of signing of Sister-City / Sister-State and other Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between State / Union Territory Governments and foreign entities

States Division (SD) did the groundwork and facilitated the signing of 'Agreement on the Establishment of Sister State/ Province Relations between State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Republic of India and Provincial Government of Sichuan, People's Republic of China on 8 April 2016. The division also did the groundwork for signing of a Sister-State twinning agreement between Jharkhand state of India and Shanxi province of China. SD also did the groundwork and paved the way for the signing of MoU between Government of the Sverdlovsk region (the Russian Federation) and Maharashtra.

SD facilitated the signing of MoUs, between three Municipal Corporations in Delhi with Canada's capital city Ottawa on 20 April 2016 to boost tourism and facilitate exchange of technical expertise.

The Division also facilitated signing of an MoU on Mutual Cooperation between Government of Gujarat and the Hyogo Prefectural Government in Kobe (Japan) on 12 November 2016 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in the presence of Prime Minister of Japan.

Facilitating Interaction of State Governments with Foreign Missions

The States Division represented the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at the event hosted by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) on 6 April 2016 which was a curtain raiser including screening of film on the 'Simhastha Kumbh Mahaparva', at Ujjain as well as to promote the 'Global Investors Summit (GIS 2016)' organized by Government of M.P. on 22 and 23 October 2016 in Indore, aimed at making M.P. a global investment hub.

The Division also facilitated the hosting of a 3 day International Conference from 12-14 May 2016 at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh during the '*Simhasth Kumbh Mela*'. SD was declared as the nodal division for coordinating international participation in the event and represented the MEA at the event.

Under its programme – Familiarization with the States – the States Division organized a meeting on 3 June 2016 with Resident Commissioners of States. The meeting's main purpose was to inform the state governments of the new e-political clearance system and further preparations for the BRICS Summit. It was presided over by Secretary (East) and attended by Joint Secretary(JS)(States), JS(Multi-Lateral Economic Relations), JS(E-Governance and Information Technology) and the Resident Commissioners of 27 states and 1 Union Territory.

The States Division represented the MEA at Agartala from 20-23 September 2016 at the "North East Connectivity Summit", being organized by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of Tripura and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to promote trade and investment in the North East through enhanced connectivity. The division represented the MEA at SWITCH Global Expo 2016, which was held in Vadodara (Gujarat) from 6-10 October 2016, and at the 'Global Investors Summit-Madhya Pradesh' which was held in Indore from 22-23 October 2016. It also represented the MEA at 'Manipur International Sangai Festival 2016' which was organised in Imphal (Manipur) from 21-30 November 2016 and the 'Make in Odisha Conclave' which was organised in Odisha from 30 November - 02 December 2016.

SD arranged the interaction of a delegation of Government of Odisha headed by Chief Minister of Odisha with Heads of Missions of foreign countries to showcase the investment

opportunities in Odisha on 20 October 2016 in New Delhi. Representatives of 33 countries attended the event.

SD facilitated the hosting of an interaction by the Government of Karnataka to showcase investment opportunities on “Making Karnataka a global manufacturing hub” at Taj Palace, New Delhi on 15 November 2016 by liaising with all the resident foreign missions in New Delhi and representing the MEA at the event.

Facilitating Return of Distressed Indian Workers from Saudi Arabia

States Division, in close co-ordination with the Embassy of India, Riyadh and the Consul General of India, Jeddah, Resident Commissions of various States/Union Territories, facilitated the return of distressed Indian workers from, Saudi Arabia, commencing from 11 August 2016. State authorities were regularly intimated about the return of distressed workers to arrange for their onward travel. This involved intensive logistics and coordination. Till 1 December 2016, a total number of 1924 distressed Indian workers were reported to have arrived in India.

Coordination Work in Juba Evacuation

MEA, in coordination with Indian Air Force, facilitated operation of a special flight which landed at Thiruvananthapuram Airport and at Technical Area, Palam Airport, New Delhi on 15 July 2016. Gen (Dr)V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State (External Affairs) accompanied the distressed Indians from Juba to New Delhi. SD co-ordinated with the Resident Commissioners of States/Union Territories, Embassy of India, Juba, Indian Railways authorities and Air India to facilitate evacuation of distressed Indians from Juba; and to facilitate their onward journey to their native places.

Assistance to Foreigners in Distress

Taking cognizance of the law and order issues pertaining to the welfare and security of foreign nationals in India which may have adverse bearing on India’s bilateral relations, SD coordinated with Delhi Police when a Belgian national, a Congolese national, an Uzbek national, a Kenyan national, a Chilean national and again a Kenyan national were allegedly assaulted. Police reports were immediately obtained with the urging for swift actions and put up to higher authorities. Similar action was coordinated with the state authorities of Himachal Pradesh concerning a German national; with state

authorities of Uttar Pradesh concerning a Nigerian national; state authorities of Punjab concerning a Lesotho national; state authorities of Karnataka concerning a South African national and state authorities of Kerala concerning a Japanese national.

SD liaised on many occasions with Missions/Posts abroad and state governments in bringing back the mortal remains of Indians who unfortunately died abroad; forwarded the requisite documents to Indian embassy abroad for availing of the death compensation of the deceased and also helped in rescue and repatriation of distressed Indians abroad.

Facilitation of Visits of Foreign Dignitaries to Various States/Union Territories

SD did the groundwork and facilitated the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge from 10 to 17 April 2016 to Mumbai, Tezpur (Kaziranga), Guwahati and Agra. SD facilitated the visit of a 9-member Czech delegation headed by Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg, Chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee which visited Punjab and Sri Nagar from 24-30 April 2016.

Officials of SD visited Patna and Bodh Gaya to oversee the arrangements and facilitate the visit of General Prayut Chan-o-Cha, Prime Minister of Thailand on 16 June 2016.

Apart from this, SD coordinated numerous visits of various Ambassadors of countries based in New Delhi and foreign dignitaries to a number of states in India.

Other Activities Undertaken by States Division

- (a) SD did the groundwork in liaising with State Governments by requesting them to arrange calls on Governors, Chief Ministers and other key Ministers of the State for Indian Head of Missions (HoMs) who visited the state capitals at the end of the HoM’s Conference in May 2016.
- (b) SD played a critical role in the inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK), and also facilitated acquisition of artefacts from states representing the cultural & artistic heritage of Indian states.
- (c) In its endeavour to create synergy between the MEA & the Ministry of Railways, programmes were

discussed on ‘*Various ongoing schemes of Indian Railways for investment, modernization and tourism promotion*’ across states of India. In addition, in order to promote tourism in states various flagship trains & tourist circuits of Indian Railways & their programmes were sought to be incorporated into tourism promotion programmes for the Diplomatic Community in India across various states of India.

- (d) SD liaised with Resident Commissioners of various states to ensure the return of 12 distressed sailors who were acquitted by an Italian court after being kept for two years in jail.
- (e) Under the “Assistance for repatriation of mortal remains of Indians who unfortunately died abroad”, SD assiduously liaised with various Missions / Resident Commissioners on many occasions during this period.
- (f) SD co-ordinated with the Gulf Division, state Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and Embassy of India, Riyadh to facilitate the DNA collection of the relatives of the six Indian nationals who unfortunately died in a fire accident at Al-Ahsa, Riyadh on 11 March

2016. The DNA Sample was collected at Uttar Pradesh Bhawan on 29 July 2016.

- (g) In December 2016, the Division sanctioned state facilitation funds to 179 Missions / Posts abroad to undertake promotional activities for States / UTs such as branding or publicity events, business matchmaking, catalogue shows / exhibitions, market analysis and business intelligence, visit of delegation from states, advocacy work for states etc. The Division also sanctioned funds to 5 Branch Secretariats, 11 Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) and 22 Passport Offices for carrying out activities such as seminars, conferences, liaising with the state government authorities and businesses in the state, facilitating foreign diplomats and foreign ambassadors visiting the state for official purposes.
- (h) In the month of January 2017, States Division participated in 2017 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Bengaluru held from 7-9 January 2016. The Division also supported and participated in the 8th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit from 10-13 January 2017 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



Counter Terrorism

16

India continued to hold structured consultations through Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) with various partner countries. During the period April to November 2016, India held meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism (CT) with Philippines, USA, UK, Uzbekistan, BRICS, Germany, Italy and Singapore.

As a founding member of Global Counter Terrorism Forum

(GCTF), which was established in 2011, India regularly participates in the GCTF meetings. Ministry of External Affairs participated at a senior level in the GCTF Coordination Committee Meeting and Ministerial Meeting convened in New York in September 2016 and also in the Coordination Committee Meeting held in Netherlands in April 2016.

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Global Cyber Issues

India has been actively participating in and contributing to cyber conferences and conventions to voice its views and shape global cyber policies with a view to strengthen our cyber security. In keeping with its commitment to a multi-stakeholder model of governance, India has been engaging actively with the private sector, civil society and academia to shape and strategise cyber policy. In this connection, it has held Track 1.5 dialogue with USBG and participated in the Joint Working Group Meetings conducted by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) with the private sector.

In recognition of the claim staked by India for a bigger role in internet governance, Hyderabad was chosen as a venue for hosting the historic post-Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Transition Session of Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 57 which was also significant on account of a large number of participants from India. India also became a member of 5th UNGGE on cyber where the Indian expert from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) joined experts from 24 other countries to study issues related to responsible behaviour of states and applicability of International Law to the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) with a view to promoting common understanding and exploring possible cooperative measures to address these issues.

The increasing clout and contribution of India is also reflected in its presence as a co-chair of Global Conference on Cyberspace and hosting of the Global Conference on Cyberspace in November 2017 and nomination as a member for next Working Group for Enhanced Cooperation under United Nation Committee on Science and Technology under World Summit for Information Society.

Apart from international cooperation in the field of ICT, India held bilateral cyber dialogues with USA, UK, Germany and

Russia in 2016. A high point in Cyber Strategic relationships was reached with the signing of the Framework for India-US Cyber Relationship for enhanced cooperation in the field of ICT and Cyber Security on one hand and the signing of an Inter Government Agreement on cooperation in the field of security in the use of ICT with Russia on the other. Cyber security was strengthened with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) - UK and CERT-India, as well as between India and Vietnam for cooperation the field of ICT. An MoU between CERT-In and US-CERT was signed on 11 January 2017.

The first dialogue between the Governments of India and Egypt on cyber issues was held in New Delhi on 20 December 2016. It was held as the follow up to the High Level meeting between the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of India and Egypt, held in December 2015 in New Delhi, in which both the countries agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the area of cyber security. Discussion covered a wide range of issues, including a broad overview of the cyber threat scenario, cyber security structure and policies, exchange on views in various multilateral fora and on capacity building, including practical training in operational handling of cyber incidents. It was also agreed that both sides would explore the possibility of working together to train cyber professionals as part of South-South Cooperation.

Upcoming events for the Global Cyber Issues Cell include:

1. 2nd India- Japan cyber dialogue in New Delhi proposed in first week of March 2017.
2. India- Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) cyber dialogue proposed in to be held in March 2017.



Boundary Cell

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Boundary Cell actively participated in various International/Inter-Ministerial meetings on International Land & Maritime Boundary of India with the following countries:

| Sl. No. | Name of Country | Date | Venue |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Nepal | 23-25 June 2016 | Kathmandu |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 22-23 August 2016 | Dhaka |
| 3. | Myanmar | 6- 7 September 2016 | DehraDun, India |

Boundary cell also supervised the ground demarcation and erection of boundary pillars along India-Bangladesh International Boundary (IB) in West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura Sectors in ratification of Protocol 2011

to Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) 1974, and resolving outstanding issues of erstwhile un-demarcated segments, Adverse Possession Land Areas and Enclaves.



Policy Planning and Research

The Policy Planning and Research Division continued to diversify its activities and strengthen its human resources during the year 2016-17.

Preparation of Research Papers and Policy Briefs

The Division continued to focus on preparing research papers and policy briefs on specific aspects of the foreign policy. Particular attention was given to issues which were cross-cutting and required greater coordination to assist with the formulation of a more coherent foreign policy. This

was in addition to examining various emergent issues and challenges as well as areas of foreign policy that may require reassessment and recalibration. During the year, a number of policy briefs, issue briefs and situation papers were produced and disseminated to officers within the Ministry as well as to those deployed in our Missions. The purpose was to enable our personnel working in the Ministry and the Mission to develop a wider perspective on a broader range of issues.

In order to broaden the range of inputs for preparation of research and policy papers, a number of steps have been taken as indicated below:



External Affairs Minister with dignitaries at the first Raisina Dialogue, New Delhi, 1-3 March 2016



Minister of State for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) addressing the Gateway of India Dialogue at Mumbai, 13 June 2016

- Organising discussions with subject matter specialists from think tanks in areas of research being undertaken by the Division.
- Ensuring attendance of a representative from PP&R division in various seminars / discussions held by think tanks in New Delhi. A report of such discussions is prepared as inputs into the work of this Division and also disseminated to officials within the Ministry and those posted in our Missions abroad.
- A new initiative has been taken to organize presentations on specific topics by our Ambassadors abroad while on a visit to India and by subject matter specialists of repute visiting India from different foreign countries.
- Regular meetings with leading think tankers from India as well as those visiting from abroad are also held to obtain important inputs from them on subjects of

interest to us as well as to disseminate India's perspectives on important foreign policy matters.

Organisation of Policy Planning Dialogues

The Division continued to organize Policy Planning Dialogues with our key diplomatic partners for exchange of views on our respective strategies with regard to policy planning and share assessments on strategic perspectives and priorities from the policy planning angle. During this year, formal and structured dialogue was held with official counterparts from China (24 February 2016), South Korea (31 March 2016), USA (8 June 2016), Australia (15 June 2016) and UK (2 November 2016). In addition, informal interactions were held with France, Israel, Denmark, Indonesia, Poland and EU.

Following the first BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue, India hosted the second BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue at

Patna from 25-26 July 2016. The dialogue was attended by counterparts from all the BRICS countries and has emerged as a useful mechanism for exchange of views and perspectives on foreign policy strategies and approaches.

Participation in major International Conferences

The Division continues to organize Indian participation in international conferences of high repute. The delegation to the Shangri La Dialogue in Singapore held from 3-5 June 2016 was led by Raksha Mantri and included senior officials from MOD and MEA. Indian officials were also deputed to participate in Manama Dialogue held in Bahrain from 7-9 December 2016, IISS-NESA South Asia Security Conference in Oman from 21-23 October 2016 and International Security Forum from 18-20 November 2016 in Halifax, Canada. Indian participation to the Annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission in April 2016 at Milan, Italy was also

arranged by the PP&R Division. The Division also supported the hosting of the first ever Regional meeting of the Trilateral Commission in New Delhi on 26-27 November 2016.

Organisation of Conferences, meetings and dialogues

During the year, the Division continued to work with Indian think tanks to organize international conferences and meetings at various places in India.

Beginning with the first Raisina Dialogue which is our flagship geo-political and geo-strategic conference in March 2016, the second Raisina Dialogue was held on 17-19 January 2017 in partnership with Observer Research Foundation. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India and saw participation of a number of Foreign Ministers, other Ministers, Deputy Foreign Ministers, National Security Advisors and senior Generals of Armed Forces, apart from



*Prime Minister at the Opening Session of the Second Raisina Dialogue, in New Delhi on January 17, 2017.
The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar is also seen.*

former Heads of State or government from different countries. The overall international participation expanded in the second edition from about 40 to 65 countries and the total number of foreign participants increased from about 120 to 250. The theme of the Dialogue was “New Normal: Multilateralism with Multipolarity” around which a number of keynote addresses as well as panel discussions were held.

The Division also organized the first Gateway of India Dialogue in partnership with Gateway House, Mumbai from 13-14 June 2016 in Mumbai. The dialogue was held on the theme – “Where Geopolitics meets Business” and emerged as our flagship geo-economic dialogue. The Inaugural Session on 13 June 2016 witnessed key note addresses by Foreign Secretary, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Dy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Harsha de Silva. The Valedictory address of the Dialogue on 14 June 2016 was made by Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd). The Dialogue was attended by about 100 international participants from around 20 countries. The Ministry of External Affairs also supported a T-20 Dialogue in association with Gateway House on 13 June 2016 on the sidelines of the Gateway of India Dialogue with participation from G-20 countries.

Following the successful organization of the first Gateway of India Dialogue, the second edition is scheduled to be held in Mumbai from 13-14 February 2017. It is also being organized in association with Gateway House Mumbai and is expected to attract participation from a large number of countries.

The Ministry of External Affairs also organized the First India-China Think Tanks Forum in New Delhi on 9-10 December 2016. The Forum was organized in association with the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The Forum is a bilateral platform established by a memorandum of understanding concluded between the Ministry of External Affairs, India and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences during the visit of the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to China in May 2015. It was organized under the theme: “Towards a Closer India-China Developmental Partnership” and was marked by in-depth discussion on various issues, including major country relations between India and China, strengthening India-China Strategic communication, promoting economic ties, deepening people-to-people cooperation and regional economic and security

architecture. The forum saw participation from prominent strategic thinkers, economists, academics and social scientists from the two countries.

On the initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Council of World Affairs led a delegation comprising 8 Indian think tanks to Moscow for the first round of India-Russia Heads of Think Tank meeting from 20-23 September 2016. The meeting was hosted by the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and saw participation of strategic experts, government officials and academics on both side. The interactions addressed points of concerns and opportunities for the future to strengthen the existing bilateral relations between India and Russia in all its dimensions.

The Inaugural Indian Ocean Conference 2016 was organized in association with India Foundation, New Delhi at the Shangri La Hotel, Singapore on 1-2 September 2016. For the organization of the event, India Foundation partnered with S. Raja Ratnam School of International Studies, Singapore as the Co-host. The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies and the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka were also associated with this event. The theme of the Conference was “Comity, Commerce and Culture” in the Indian Ocean and Asia Pacific Region. From India the Conference saw address by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar, and Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj addressed the Conference via a video link.

In addition to the above major conferences, the Ministry of External Affairs participated in several bilateral track 1.5 dialogues, including with USA, Japan, France and South Korea. The Ministry also participated in trilateral dialogues such as USA-China-India and India-Japan-South Korea organized in association with Indian think tanks. A list of Major Conferences/Seminars funded partially or wholly by PP & R Division is at **Appendix VI**.

A roundtable core group meeting between National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, Ministry of External Affairs and officials of Indian Space Research Organisation on “Space in India’s Foreign Policy” was also organized in Bengaluru in February 2017.

The Seventh Foreign Policy Dialogue between International

Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) and the Ministry of External Affairs was held in New Delhi on 9 February 2016. The Foreign Secretary gave a key note address to the gathering which included a number of senior strategic experts from India and IISS, London.

Augmenting human and financial resources

The financial year 2016-17 saw a significant increase in the financial outlay for organizing seminars and conferences

enabling the PP&R division to expand its activities as indicated earlier.

The work pertaining to attracting more subject matter specialists continued to be pursued during the year. Efforts to induct deputationists from other Ministries led to an officer from the Indian Army joining the Division during the year. As against two specialists on International relations recruited as Consultants at the end of last year, the Division has been successful in expanding the number of consultants to 6 during this year.



In 2016, Protocol handled 142 incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister. Besides, Protocol Division handled BRICS & BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit from 15-16 October 2016 in Goa and coordinated the Heart of Asia Conference from 3-4 December 2016 in Amritsar. The Section also coordinated protocol arrangements for the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from 3-5

November 2016 in New Delhi.

In addition, Protocol handled 424 entertainment functions in year 2016 and facilitated an average of 150 requests per week for airport passes, lounges (ceremonial and reserved) and exemption from frisking.

List of Trade offices/ Consulate Generals/Honorary Consulates opened during the period 1 April 2016 to 30 November 2016:

Trade Offices:

Netherlands Bengaluru (Relocated from Chennai)

Consulate Generals:

Japan Bengaluru (Upgradation from Consulate)

Honorary Consulates General/ Honorary Consulates:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mexico | Chennai |
| 2. Germany | Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram |
| 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina | Mumbai, Kolkata |
| 4. Guinea Bissau | New Delhi |
| 5. Republic of Korea | Chandigarh |
| 6. Sweden | Chennai (Redefining Jurisdiction) |
| 7. Timor Leste | New Delhi |
| 8. Kiribati | New Delhi |
| 9. Latvia | Mumbai |
| 10. Spain | Kolkata |
| 11. Peru | Chennai |
| 12. Belgium | Ahmedabad |
| 13. Estonia | Chennai |
| 14. Slovak | Bengaluru |
| 15. Kazakhstan | Chennai |
| 16. Macedonia | Kolkata |
| 17. Central African Republic | New Delhi |

146 posts were newly created in foreign diplomatic missions in India during 1 April to 30 November 2016.

| VISIT HEAD | NUMBER |
|---|------------|
| State Visits by Head of State/Head of Government | 13 |
| Official/Working Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and equivalent | 18 |
| Private/Transit Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and equivalent | 59 |
| Official Visits by Foreign Ministers and equivalent | 33 |
| Outgoing Visits Of President, Vice President and Prime Minister | 18 |
| Home Minister and Parliamentarians to Cuba by AI Special Aircraft | 01 |
| TOTAL | 142 |

CALENDAR OF VISITS

STATE VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE/HEAD OF GOVERNMENT/VICE PRESIDENT AND EQUIVALENT

| S N | Dignitary | Dates |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | President of France | January 24-26, 2016 |
| 2 | Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, UAE | February 10-13, 2016 |
| 3 | Prime Minister of Nepal | February 19-24, 2016 |
| 4 | Prime Minister of Thailand | June 16-18, 2016 |
| 5 | President of Myanmar | August 27-30, 2016 |
| 6 | President of Egypt | September 1-3, 2016 |
| 7 | Prime Minister of Nepal | September 15-18, 2016 |
| 8 | State Counsellor, Myanmar | October 17-19, 2016 |
| 9 | Prime Minister of New Zealand | October 24-27, 2016 |
| 10 | President of Israel | November 15, 2016 |
| 11 | President of Indonesia | December 11-13, 2016 |
| 12 | President of Tajikistan | December 14-18, 2016 |
| 13 | President of Kyrgyzstan | December 18-21, 2016 |

**OFFICIAL/WORKING VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE/HEAD OF GOVERNMENT/
VICE PRESIDENT AND EQUIVALENT**

| S N | Dignitary | Dates |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | CEO of Afghanistan | January 31 to February 4, 2016 |
| 2 | Prime Minister of Finland | February 12-15, 2016 |
| 3 | First Deputy Prime Minister of Poland | February 12-16, 2016 |
| 4 | Prime Minister of Sweden | February 13-14, 2016 |
| 5 | President of Maldives | April 10-11, 2016 |
| 6 | President of Sri Lanka | May 13-14, 2016 |
| 8 | President of Afghanistan | September 14-15, 2016 |
| 9 | Prime Minister of Singapore | October 3-7, 2016 |
| 10 | Prime Minister of Sri Lanka | October 5, 2016 |
| 11 | President of Russia | October 13-14, 2016 |
| 12 | BRICS SUMMIT (<i>Brazil, Russia, India, China South Africa</i>) BRICS-BIMSTEC OUTREACH SUMMIT (Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar) | October 15-16, 2016 |
| 13 | President of Brazil | October 17, 2016 |
| 14 | President of Sri Lanka | November 6-7, 2016 |
| 15 | Prime Minister of United Kingdom | November 6-8, 2016 |
| 16 | Visit of Princess Mahachakri of Thailand | November 20-25, 2016 |
| 17 | Prime Minister of Qatar | December 2-3, 2016 |
| 18 | President of Afghanistan for Heart of Asia | December 3-4, 2016 |

OFFICIAL VISITS BY FOREIGN MINISTERS AND EQUIVALENT

| S N | Dignitary | Dates |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria | January 11-14, 2016 |
| 2 | Deputy PM of Poland | February 12-16, 2016 |
| 3 | Federal Minister for European Union Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria | February 16-19, 2016 |
| 4 | Foreign Minister of Bangladesh | March 1-3, 2016 |
| 5 | Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia | March 7-8, 2016 |
| 6 | Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico | March 11-13, 2016 |
| 7 | State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria | March 22-24, 2016 |
| 8 | Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor Leste | March 26-29, 2016 |
| 9 | Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland | April 3-10, 2016 |
| 10 | Duke and Duchess Cambridge, UK | April 10-17, 2016 |
| 11 | Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Bahamas | April 23-27, 2016 |
| 12 | Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia | April 27-29, 2016 |
| 13 | Secretary General of CPC Shanghai | May 5-9, 2016 |
| 14 | Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal | June 10-14, 2016 |
| 15 | Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary | July 4-6, 2016 |
| 16 | Foreign Minister of Congo | August 10-12, 2016 |
| 17 | Foreign Minister of China | August 12-14, 2016 |
| 18 | Foreign Minister of Maldives | August 15-16, 2016 |
| 19 | Foreign Minister of Venezuela | August 17-19, 2016 |
| 20 | Foreign Minister of Turkey | August 18-19, 2016 |
| 21 | Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore | August 24-28, 2016 |
| 22 | President-elect of 71 st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) | August 28-30, 2016 |
| 23 | US Secretary of State | August 29-31, 2016 |
| 24 | Foreign Minister of Nepal | September 11-13, 2016 |
| 25 | Foreign Minister of Cote d' Ivoire | October 21, 2016 |
| 26 | State Counsellor of China | November 3-5, 2016 |
| 27 | Foreign Minister of Iran (For Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia) | December 3-5, 2016 |
| 28 | Foreign Minister of Turkey (For Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia) | December 3-5, 2016 |
| 29 | Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic (For Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia) | December 3-5, 2016 |
| 30 | Foreign Minister of Slovakia (For Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia) | December 3-5, 2016 |
| 31 | Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan (For Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia) | December 3-5, 2016 |
| 32 | Foreign Policy Advisor to the PM of Pakistan (For Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia) | December 3-5, 2016 |
| 33 | Foreign Minister of Czech Republic | December 18-20, 2016 |

OUTGOING VISITS OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER

| S N | Dignitary | Dates |
|-----|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | Vice President to Brunei Darussalam and Thailand | February 1-5, 2016 |
| 2 | Prime Minister to Belgium, United States of America and Saudi Arabia | March 30 to April 3, 2016 |
| 3 | President to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand | April 27 to May 2, 2016 |
| 4 | Prime Minister to Iran | May 22-23, 2016 |
| 5 | President to China | May 24-27, 2016 |
| 6 | Vice President to Morocco and Tunisia | May 30 to June 4, 2016 |
| 7 | Prime Minister to Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, United States of America and Mexico | June 4-9, 2016 |
| 8 | President to Ghana, Cote D' Ivoire and Namibia | June 12-18, 2016 |
| 9 | Prime Minister to Uzbekistan | June 23-24, 2016 |
| 10 | Prime Minister to Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya | July 7-11, 2016 |
| 11 | Vice President to Mongolia | July 14-16, 2016 |
| 12 | Prime Minister to Vietnam and China (G-20) | September 2-5, 2016 |
| 13 | Prime Minister to Lao PDR (ASEAN – India Summit) | September 7-8, 2016 |
| 14 | Vice President to Venezuela (NAM Summit) | September 17-18, 2016 |
| 15 | Vice President to Nigeria and Mali | September 26-30, 2016 |
| 16 | Vice President to Hungary and Algeria | October 15-19, 2016 |
| 17 | President to Nepal | November 2-4, 2016 |
| 18 | Prime Minister to Thailand and Japan | November 11-13, 2016 |

**DETAILS OF FOREIGN TOURS UNDERTAKEN BY EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS MINISTER IN 2016**

| S N | Country Visited | Period | Purpose |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Israel and Palestine | 16-19 January 2016 | Bilateral meetings |
| 2. | Bahrain | 23-24 January | Bilateral meetings & First India-Arab League FMs' Meeting |
| 3. | Colombo | 5-6 February | Joint Commission Meeting |
| 4. | Kathmandu | 9 February | Death of ex-PM of Nepal Shri Sushil Koirala |
| 5. | Pokhara, Nepal | 16-18 March | SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting |
| 6. | Tehran and Moscow | 16-19 April 2016 | Bilateral meetings |
| 7. | Myanmar | 22 August 2016 | Bilateral meetings |
| 8. | Vatican, Holy See and Rome, Italy | 2-6 Sept 2016 | Canonization ceremony of Mother Teresa & Bilateral Meetings |
| 9. | New York | 23-28 Sept 2016 | UNGA |
| 1 | Home Minister-led Parliamentary delegation to represent India for the funeral of Fidel Castro in Havana, Cuba | November 29 – December 1, 2016 | |

Consular Matters

Extradition and Legal Assistance

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been actively pursuing negotiations with various countries for bilateral extradition treaties to provide a legal and institutional framework to combat crime inter alia international terrorism, financial frauds, drug trafficking and other transnational organized crimes. It is the policy of the Government to conclude Extradition treaties with as many countries as possible so as to ensure that fugitive criminals do not escape justice.

The Ministry of External Affairs also facilitates negotiations for agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial Matters and Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

The Extradition Treaty between India and Afghanistan was signed on 14 September 2016 during the visit of the Afghan President to New Delhi. Subsequently, the Instruments of Ratification for the India-Afghanistan Extradition Treaty was signed by the Honourable President on 21 November 2016. India and Bangladesh also signed an agreement amending Article 10(3) of the Bilateral Extradition Treaty between the two countries on 28 July 2016. The Extradition Treaty between India and Bangladesh was notified later in the Gazette of India on 7 September 2016. Similarly, India-Philippines Extradition Treaty was notified in the Gazette on 23 August 2016.

During this period, India received 13 extradition requests (USA 1; UK 2; Russia 1; Poland 1; Bangladesh 1; Bhutan 1; Oman 2; Egypt 1; Philippines 1; Uganda 1; Republic of Korea 1). In addition, India received 33 requests from the UAE and 5 requests from Saudi Arabia for local prosecution.

India sent 43 extradition requests to the foreign countries concerned (UAE 11; Canada 8; USA 5; UK 4; Singapore 3; Portugal 1; Denmark 2; Australia 1; France 1; Italy 1; Nepal 1; Bangladesh 2; Saudi Arabia 1; Thailand 1; Venezuela 1).

In the year 2016, a total of 6 fugitives were extradited/deported to India from other countries (Saudi Arabia 2; UK 1; Singapore 1; Bangladesh 1; UAE 1). India extradited 3 fugitives to the USA during this period.

Extradition dialogues between India and Singapore was held in Singapore on 5 July 2016 in which policy and implementation issues were discussed along with a review of outstanding cases. During the 2nd meeting of India-UAE Joint Committee on Consular Affairs held in Abu Dhabi on 14 December 2016, it was agreed to have a meeting of experts on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) matters every six months alternatively in India and UAE.

Consular Issues

As on April 2016, there are about 27 million overseas Indians spread over 146 countries across the globe. Out of these, approx. 11.4 million are Indian passport holders. The vast majority of these Indian nationals are temporary migrants, including women workers and 90% of them work in the Gulf region. These Indian workers go abroad to make a better living for themselves and their families back in India. However, once they reach abroad, they face a host of problems since working and living conditions abroad may not be according to their expectations.

The prime concern of the Consular Section in the CPV Division relates to looking after the welfare of Indian nationals who are living and working abroad. Besides the above, Consular Section also deals with cases of arrest and deaths of foreigners in India, including provision of consular access to prisoners for foreign diplomats in India. The Section

also coordinates with the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the welfare of Indian nationals abroad. Consular Section also provides assistance to the general public in finding out the whereabouts and welfare of missing Indian nationals. Issues relating to adoption of Indian children by Persons of Indian Origin, payment of salary dues and death compensation to the families of deceased Indian workers, liaison with the Ministry of Shipping regarding arrest of Indian crew members and Indian vessels, cases of marriage and divorce of Indian nationals under Foreign Marriage Act, 1969, registration of births and deaths of Indian nationals abroad, etc are also being looked after by the Consular Section.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad advise and guide the Indian community in an impartial manner in a variety of matters affecting the existence of the community as a whole. In order to protect the interests and welfare of Indian nationals abroad, the Government of India has set up various bilateral Joint Working Groups on Consular matters with a number of countries, including Australia, Iran, US, China, Russian Federation and UAE. Apart from this, the Indian Missions/Posts render consular services viz attestation of various documents, registration of birth and death of Indian nationals, sending of mortal remains of Indian nationals back to India, registration/solemnization of marriage of Indian nationals, consular access for Indian nationals lodged in foreign jails, serving summons of Indian courts to Indian nationals residing abroad, etc.

MADAD- Consular Services Management System

In pursuance of 'Good Governance' initiatives, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had in February 2015 launched a web portal (online Consular Services Management System) named MADAD to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. All Indian Missions and Posts abroad as well as the MEA's Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata, are associated with this portal for consular grievance tracking and follow-up. The MADAD online portal has led to qualitative improvement in handling of consular grievances, through online forwarding, tracking and escalation until their eventual resolution. It allows direct registration of the grievances by the members of the public and effective tracking of the entire grievance handling process thereafter. As on 31 December 2016, 59,864 persons

are registered on the MADAD Portal, 16,570 grievances have been registered out of which 10,257 grievances have been resolved.

In coherence with these measures, Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in Gurugram, Haryana and Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) in Dubai, Sharjah in the UAE, Riyadh, Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia have also been authorized to assist the grievants to lodge their grievances using this portal.

In 2016, a Mobile App for MADAD has been launched on iOS, Android and Windows platforms. Further the following new modules have been included in the MADAD Portal to enhance its utility and reach:-

Prisoner Module: This module has been incorporated in the MADAD Portal to register the details of prisoners, separately. It is of much assistance as it helps in searching the details of, Indian citizens imprisoned abroad. The prisoner module specifically highlights the nature of the offence for which an individual has been accused/ convicted of along with other relevant details.

Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) Module: The ICWF module as is suggestive from its name is the module dedicated to the maintenance, entry and approval of the ICWF budget and related activities of the Indian Missions.

Consular, Passports, Visas (CPV) Returns Module: The CPV Returns module is exclusively meant for tracking quarterly returns that are filed on the portal by the country's various missions and posts abroad.

Student's Module: The student module is for the specific purpose of registration of Indian students in foreign countries. As on 27 December 2016, 8188 students have registered themselves.

OSP Module: The Outsourced Service Providers (OSP) module is a step meant for enhancing the portal so that a summarized as well as a detailed performance report of these service providers that have been contracted by Indian Missions/Posts can be maintained and accessed.

Nationality Status Verification Module

The Nationality Status Verification Portal (NSV Portal) has been created to streamline the verification of nationality of

persons referred to us for repatriation from foreign countries. NSV portal seeks to consolidate and streamline the process by bringing it online end-to-end, thereby allowing effective monitoring, follow up and archiving of verified cases. The Verification & Validation task are performed jointly by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), State/District Home Departments.

Bilateral Consular Dialogues

During this period, Bilateral Consular Dialogues were held with Czech Republic (13 January 2016), Israel (20 December 2016), Switzerland (10 June 2016), UAE (14 December 2016), UK (2 November 2016) and USA (22 August 2016) to discuss the entire gamut of consular, passport and visa related issues. A dialogue on migration issues was held with Australia (2 June 2016) and European Union (16 February 2016).

Passport Services

Central Passport Organization

The Central Passport Organization was created in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the Ministry of External Affairs and is headed by Joint Secretary and Chief Passport Officer, who also acts as the Appellate Authority under the Passports Act 1967 and Head of Department under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules 1978. The total sanctioned strength of the CPO Cadre is 2697. In addition, 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project.

The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by re-structuring and expanding the CPO cadre to ensure that vacant posts available to them are filled by promotion. The Ministry implements a Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme (PLIS) to financially incentivize individual performance measured against pre-set and mutually agreed upon norms. This is a unique scheme for the Government of India employees. With a view to recognize meritorious services rendered by the CPO employees and thus contribute to improving governance in the country, Passport Seva Puraskars are awarded annually to the selected employees of the Passport Offices.

In the year 2016, regular meetings of the Department Promotion Committee (DPC) were held for the promotion of officials. 35 Senior Superintendents were promoted to

Assistant Passport Officer on 14 March 2016, 1 Superintendent was promoted to Senior Superintendent on 3 August 2016, 62 Assistant Superintendents were promoted to the post of Superintendent on 20 July 2016, 8 Junior Passport Assistants were promoted to the post of Senior Passport Assistant on 17 October 2016, 1 Senior Passport Assistant was promoted as Assistant Superintendent on 17 November 2016 and 80 Office Assistants were promoted to the post of Junior Passport Assistants on 5 December 2016. 17 officials have been granted MACP (Stenographer, UDC, LDC & Office Assistant) by the DPC held on 5 February 2016. 112 Officials in various grades have also been confirmed in service by the DPC held 3 February 2016.

During the year 2016, 420 Junior Passport Assistants (JPAs) and 71 Assistant Superintendents have joined the CPO, out of which 66 JPAs and 7 Assistant Superintendents have since resigned.

In a new initiative, Induction Training Programmes were organized for the directly recruited Assistant Superintendents and Junior Passport Assistants. A total number of 73 Assistant Superintendents of the Selection Year 2012 and 2014 were trained at the Foreign Service Institute from 8-12 August 2016.

Training for 388 directly recruited Junior Passport Assistants of selection year 2014 is being organized over six batches. Training for two batches were held from 21-25 November 2016 and from 19-23 December 2016 in which 112 participated. The remaining would be trained in four batches before 31 March 2017.

Physical Infrastructure

Out of 38 PO, 18 are operating out of MEA-owned buildings, 4 are functioning from Government of India (GoI)-owned buildings and the remaining 16 are working in rented buildings. In line with the policy of the Ministry to shift all POs to Government of India owned buildings, all out efforts are being made to acquire plots of land to construct buildings to house the POs. The Ministry has so far acquired plots of land at 10 places for the construction of PO viz. Srinagar, Amritsar, Dehradun, Mumbai, Pune, Bhopal, Guwahati, Jalandhar, Kolkata and Ranchi. Out of these 10 places, the construction of PO buildings at Mumbai, Jalandhar and Amritsar are in progress.

Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), formally inaugurated the Passport Seva Laghu Kendra (PSLK) at Bheemavaram in Andhra Pradesh on 22 June 2016, in the gracious presence of Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and other dignitaries. This was the third PSLK to be set up in Andhra Pradesh and is working under the administrative and operational control of PO, Visakhapatnam.

Minister of State for External Affairs, General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), along with Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, formally inaugurated the PSLK at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh on 21 September 2016 in the august presence of several dignitaries. It is working under the administrative and operational control of PO, Guwahati. PSLK Itanagar is the seventh to be set up in the North East, the other six being at Aizawl, Imphal, Gangtok, Shillong, Dimapur and Agartala apart from PO, Guwahati. With the formal inauguration of PSLK at Itanagar, the Ministry fulfilled its commitment to set up Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in all the states of the North-East.

Passport Seva Project

The Passport Seva Project (PSP), an ambitious Mission Mode Project, is being successfully run in PPP mode as part of the National e-Governance Plan since 12 June 2012. M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the Service Provider. At

present, 77 PSKs and 12 PSLKs with best-in-class amenities are operating across the country as extended arms of the 38 POs, thus providing better reach to the passport applicants.

An online portal passportindia.gov.in has been created to offer passport services, giving comprehensive and latest information on passport services, appointment procedure, documentation, status enquiry and other related issues, thus enabling anytime-anywhere access. This portal is regularly monitored and upgraded to make it more user-friendly and simpler. The portal is bilingual with information displayed in Hindi. It is kept updated with Public Notices, Advisories and Press Releases related to passport services developments from time to time.

A 24 x 7 National Call Centre has been set up which provides real-time status and up-to-date information in 17 languages using a toll free number (1800-258-1800). The Call Centre receives over 20,000 calls per day.

The Project is integrated with the States/Union Territories' Police system for verification of applicants' personal particulars, with India Post for postal delivery and with India Security Press (ISP), Nashik, for supply of passport booklets. The system has also been integrated across the country with the Aadhar database since August 2015. The Project also provides real time up-to-date information to 184 Missions and Posts abroad as well as the Immigration authorities. An SMS/email alert is sent to applicant as soon as passport is despatched.



MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) inaugurating Passport Seva Laghu Kendra at Bhimavaram, 22 June 2016.

Passport services rendered

Over the years, there has been expansion in the volume of passport related services. 38 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 98,61,737 passport service related applications including Police Clearance Certificates, against which 1,01,48,653 passports and related documents were issued (inclusive of 2522 Diplomatic passports, 26933 Official passports, 4498 Surrender Certificates (SC), 3807 Identity Certificate(IC) and 3147 Line of Control (LoC) applications, as on 30 November 2016). The 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued approximately 13.66 lakh passports, Emigration Checks (ECs) and other passport related miscellaneous services. Thus, the Government of India, in total, rendered 1.15 crore passport and other related services in a year (excluding 20 Missions/Posts and figure of some services till 30 November 2016).

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees has registered steep growth since 2011-12. The total revenue generated from all passport services till November 2016 is ₹ 1467.75 crore. An amount of ₹ 947.71 crores has been allocated to Central Passport Organization in the financial year 2016-17.

As on 31 December 2016 over 4.26 crore passport service related applications have been processed and over 4.17 crore services have been rendered through the PSP system. The daily footfall across all the PSKs is about 40,000 citizens.

Improvements in passport service delivery

There has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country with the implementation of the Passport Seva Project and continuous efforts being made by the Ministry.

Securing online appointments for submission of passport applications at PSKs has become easier and convenient. As on 2 January 2017, appointments were available the next day at 28 PSKs and 6 PSLKs, within 2 to 7 days at 41 PSKs and 2 PSLKs, between 8 and 14 days at 9 PSKs and 2 PSLKs, between 15 and 21 days at 1 PSK

The time taken for issue of passports has been progressively reduced in recent years. The delay, if any, is attributable to

the delay in receipt of Police Verification Reports or receipt of Incomplete Police Reports. The Ministry has taken various measures to reduce the time taken in completion of Police Verification Report (PVR) for expeditious issuance of Passports which has been elaborated under 'Police Verification' head. Countrywide, on the basis of 2016 figures, 51% of normal passports were issued within 3 days, 86 % within 7 days; 93 % within 14 days, 94% within 21 days and 95% within 30 days (excluding the time taken for police verification). In case of issuance of Passport under Tatkaal category, 38% were issued on the same day; 69% within 2 days and 85% within 3 days. If the police verification time is included in the end-to-end delivery process, 79% of normal passports were issued within a month.

Volume of Applications

Top 5 States in terms of number of passport applications received were Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab, accounting for more than 51% of total applications.

Top 5 PO in terms of number of applications received are Lucknow, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kolkata.

Top 5 districts in terms of number of applications received (excluding metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai) are Mallapuram, Pune, Ahmedabad, Rangareddy and Thane.

Passport Seva Camps and Melas

With an objective of catering to the demand for passports and in order to reach out to the people located far away from PSKs, Passport Seva Camps are organized at various locations by the POs. 80 Passport Seva Camps have been organized in 2016 at various locations across the country, in which 34,111 applications were processed. It is yet another citizen-centric measure in taking IT- driven public services closer home.

With the view to address difficulties faced by citizens in obtaining appointments and to meet increased demand for passport services, weekend/holidays passport melas were organized from time to time by POs. 138 Melas were organized in 2016 by various POs during which 76,514 passport applications were processed.

Common Services Centres

The Common Services Centres (CSCs) are internet-enabled access points for delivery of various citizen centric eServices. CSC e-Governance Services India Limited being the CSC Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) enables delivery of various eServices by integrating different service access portals at National level, including Passport Seva.

With a view to address the challenge of digital divide, especially in the rural hinterland, the Ministry of External Affairs in association with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. has facilitated online filing of passport applications, through the vast network of 2,53,160 Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the country out of which 1,54,651 are located at Gram Panchayat level. Till November 2016, more than 3.4 lakhs applications have been submitted through CSCs located in all States/Union Territories (UTs). The CSCs facilitate filling and uploading of Passport application forms, payment of applicable fee and scheduling of appointment for the visit to the Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) at a nominal charge not exceeding ₹ 100/-.

Police Verification

Police Verification (PV) plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/UTs to reduce the time taken in completion of Police Verification Report (PVR) for expeditious issuance of Passports. The Ministry has successfully connected a significant number of District Police Headquarters (DPHQ) digitally into the Passport Seva Project. So far, 698 Police Districts out of a total of 731 Police Districts have been connected with Passport Seva Project digitally. The number of days taken in PVR submission is continuously improving and constant efforts are being made to meet the desired timeline of 21 days. During the calendar year 2016, the average time taken by State/Union Territories for submission of Police Verification Report (PVR) to issue fresh passports has reduced to 29 from 34 days in 2015. During 2016, some of the State/UT Police completed the police verification within two weeks like Telangana (6 days), Andhra Pradesh (9 days), Gujarat (11 days), Chandigarh (12 days), Delhi (12 days) and Goa (13 days). As on 31 December 2016, 70% of the police verification process is being completed within 21 days against an average all-India figure of 29 days.

To encourage the State/UT police for expeditious submission of PVR related to Passport Services, the Ministry has made provision for reimbursement of a fixed amount to the State/UT Police authorities. The PV reports received within 21 days are being reimbursed ₹ 150/- per application and those taking more than 21 days are being reimbursed ₹ 50/- per application. In order to further ease and expedite the issuance of the PVR, the number of questions asked in the questionnaire has also been reduced from 12 to 9 for police verification.

A mobile application 'mPassport Police' has been launched by the Ministry of External Affairs in January 2016 for speedy submission of Police Verification Report (PVR). The mobile application would facilitate the field verification police officers to capture the PVR into the system digitally. With the launch of this application, the need to download and print the physical Personal Particulars Form and questionnaire would no longer be required resulting in paperless end-to-end digital flow of the PVR process, further reducing the time required for completion of PVR, within the desired time limit of 21 days.

Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Under the PSP, the Ministry has put in place a strengthened Grievance Redressal system whereby a multilingual National Call Centre with a toll free number (1800-258-1800), operating in 17 languages and on 24X7 basis, has been set up to cater to dissemination of information about various passport related services, including handling of grievances and citizen feedback, which at present works on a central system platform. It presently handles approximately 20,000 calls per day (out of which 48% are in Hindi and 23% in English). The Passport portal has also an email-based helpdesk, where suggestions and grievances can be logged. Citizens can also monitor the status of their passport application/grievance online through this portal.

A Public Grievance Redressal Cell (PGRC) has been established in the CPV Division under the supervision of the Joint Secretary (PSP) and Chief Passport Officer, who is also designated as the Director of Public Grievances of the Ministry for Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). It deals with grievances received through telephone, e-mail and post directly from general public and also references from various Government offices such as President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office,

Cabinet Secretariat, Central Vigilance Commission and Parliament Secretariat.

In addition, all POs handle public grievances through the CPGRAMS website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (www.pgportal.gov.in) and Passport grievances i.e. Service Request Number (SRN) received through Passport portal. Information and Facilitation Counters, Public Grievance Cell, complaint/ suggestion boxes and Help Desks have been set up at strategic locations in POs and PSKs to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/complaints expeditiously. The names, addresses and phone number of the Public Grievance Officer are also displayed in the POs/PSKs and also on website of the POs. There is a Public Grievance redressal mechanism in all POs to enquire into and redress any complaints from citizens in a timeframe.

Under CPGRAMS, 12,944 grievances were received during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 (inclusive of pending 514 of 2015) out of which 12,603 grievances have been disposed off. During the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016, 33,087 public grievance petitions (inclusive of 20,143 received by email, post, fax related to grievances/enquiries and CPGRAMS as mentioned above) were received, out of which 32,687 grievances have been disposed off. The latest position on their applications, along with directions for further action, is posted on this website, which can be accessed by the public.

Passport Offices hold Passport Adalats regularly to review the old and complex cases, which has been useful to redress the grievances of passport applicants. In 2016, some 8000 cases have been disposed off through direct interaction with the applicants.

Citizens' Charter

This Citizens' Charter relating to Passport services rendered by the POs in India functioning under the administrative control of the Central Passport Organization of the Ministry of External Affairs was issued in February 2016. The Passport services rendered by Indian Missions/Posts abroad are excluded from the scope of this Charter. The Ministry of External Affairs, through its network of Passport Issuing Authorities, shall endeavour to deliver passport services to citizens in accordance with the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967 and Rules made under it in a timely, transparent, more

accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment, through streamlined processes and by committed, trained and motivated workforce. The Charter lays down the Service Delivery Standards and Timelines for the issue of passports.

Simplification of Procedures for realizing Minimum Government Maximum Governance

In order to streamline, liberalize and ease the process of issue of passport, the Ministry announced several steps during 2016 in the realm of passport policy which is expected to benefit the citizens of India applying for a passport. It is expected that these changes in the Passport Rules would further ease the process for passport applicants in getting their Passport. The details of these steps are given below:

a. Proof of date of birth

As per the extant statutory provisions of the Passport Rules, 1980, all the applicants born on or after 26 January 1989, in order to get a passport, had to, hitherto, mandatorily submit the Birth Certificate as the proof of Date of Birth (DOB). It has now been decided that all applicants of passports can submit any one of the following documents as the proof of DOB while submitting the passport application:

- i. Birth Certificate (BC) issued by the Registrar of Births & Deaths or the Municipal Corporation or any other prescribed authority whosoever has been empowered under the Registration of Birth & Deaths Act, 1969 to register the birth of a child born in India;
- ii. Transfer/School leaving/Matriculation Certificate issued by the school last attended/recognized educational board containing the DOB of the applicant;
- iii. PAN Card issued by the Income Tax Department with the DOB of applicant;
- iv. Aadhar Card/E-Aadhar having the DOB of applicant;
- v. Copy of the extract of the service record of the applicant (only in respect of Government servants) or the Pay Pension Order (in respect of retired Government Servants), duly attested/certified by the officer/in-charge of the Administration of the concerned Ministry/Department of the applicant, having his DOB;

- vi. Driving licence issued by the Transport Department of concerned State Government, having the DOB of applicant;
- vii. Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) issued by the Election Commission of India having the DOB of applicant;
- viii. Policy Bond issued by the Public Life Insurance Corporations/ Companies having the DOB of the holder of the insurance policy.

b. Report of the Inter Ministerial Committee

A three-member Committee comprising of the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Child Development was constituted to examine various issues pertaining to passport applications where mother/child insisted that the name of the father should not be mentioned in the passport and also relating to passport issues to children with single parent and to adopted children. The Report of the Committee was accepted by the Minister of External Affairs. The following policy changes were made *inter-alia* on the basis of the recommendations of this Committee, which came into force on 26 December 2016:

- i. The online passport application form now requires the applicant to provide the name of father or mother or legal guardian, i.e., only one parent and not both. This would enable single parents to apply for passports for their children and to also issue passports where the name of either the father or the mother is not required to be printed at the request of the applicant.
- ii. The total number of Annexes prescribed in the Passport Rule, 1980, has been brought down to 9 from the present 15. Annexes A, C, D, E, J, and K have been removed and certain Annexes have been merged.
- iii. All the annexes that are required to be given by the applicants would be in the form of a self-declaration on a plain paper. No attestation/ swearing by/ before any Notary/ Executive Magistrate/ First Class Judicial Magistrate would be henceforth necessary.
- iv. Married applicants would not be required to provide Annexure K or any marriage certificate.

- v. The Passport application form does not require the applicant to provide the name of her/his spouse in case of separated or divorced persons. Such applicants for passports would not be required to provide even the Divorce Decree.
- vi. Orphaned children who do not have any proof of DOB such as Birth Certificate or the Matriculation Certificate or the declaratory Court order, may now submit a declaration given by the Head of the Orphanage/ Child Care Home on their official letter head of the organization confirming the DOB of the applicant.
- vii. In case of children not born out of wedlock, the applicant for the passport of such children should submit only Annexure G while submitting the passport application.
- viii. In case of issue of passport to in-country domestically adopted children, submission of the registered adoption deed would no longer be required. In the absence of any deed to this effect, the passport applicant may give a declaration on a plain paper confirming the adoption.

c. Others

- i. Government servants, who are not able to obtain the Identity Certificate (Annexure-B)/ No-Objection Certificate (Annexure-M) from their concerned employer and intend to get the passport on urgent basis can now get the passport by submitting a self-declaration in Annexure-'N' that he/she has given prior Intimation letter to his/her employer informing that he/she was applying for an ordinary passport to a Passport Issuing Authority.
- ii. Sadhus/ Sanyasis can apply for a passport with the name of their spiritual Guru mentioned in the passport application in lieu of their biological parent(s) name(s) subject to their providing of at least one public document such as Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) issued by the Election Commission of India, PAN card, Aadhar Card, etc wherein the name of the Guru has been recorded against the column(s) for parent(s) name(s).
- iii. The Ministry revised the policy regarding changing the date of birth (DOB) in the existing passport. As per the revised guidelines, the Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA)

have been authorized to consider the explanation of each applicant seeking change in the DOB (irrespective of the period that would have lapsed after the issue of the passport) to find the genuineness of the claim and if the PIA is satisfied with the claim and with the document(s) submitted by the applicant in support of the claim, the PIA shall accept all such requests made by the applicant to issue the passport with revised DOB.

- iv. Necessary instructions have been issued to the Passport Issuing Authorities to accept digitally signed Marriage Certificates and Birth Certificates as valid proofs of marriage and birth respectively.
- v. The process of issuance of passport was simplified w.e.f. 26 January 2016 in order to expedite the process for first time passport applicants. All first time passport applicants who furnish Aadhaar Card, Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), PAN Card and a self-declaratory affidavit of non-criminality in the prescribed format, will get faster service, without payment of additional fees, subject to successful online validation of Aadhaar. The passports under this liberal dispensation will be issued on Post-Police Verification basis.
- vi. Applicants can now choose any appointment date from the earliest five available dates (working days) for

scheduling/ rescheduling an appointment for passport related services. Earlier, the system used to offer only one available date to the applicant for seeking appointment for passport related services.

Passport Services Overseas

During 2016, 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad rendered approximately 13.65 lakh passports and other related services (excluding 20 Missions/Posts). Two countries, namely UAE and Saudi Arabia contributed to 46% of total services abroad (Location-wise, Dubai, Riyadh, Kuwait, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha, Singapore accounted for 72% services). Top ten countries from the perspective of passport services were, UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA, Kuwait, Muscat, Doha, Singapore, Bahrain, UK, and Canada. They collectively accounted for 87% of total passport services abroad.

Awards & Recognition

The Passport Seva Project was conferred the Silver medal under the category 'Digital Citizen Solutions Award' by the Indian Express Group on 9 December 2016. This category recognizes initiatives by any Ministry/ Department under the Central or State Government which has empowered citizens by providing them with effective, responsive and accessible e-services.



External Affairs Minister at 4th Passport Seva Diwas and Passport Officers Conference in New Delhi 24 June 2016.

Passport Seva Divas and Passport Officers Conference

The 'Passport Seva Divas' is celebrated on 24 June. This is the day on which the Passports Act was enacted in 1967, which lays down the legal framework for issuance of Passports and other travel documents in the country. Concurrently, a Passport Officers' Conference is also held on the occasion to deliberate on passport service related matters.

The 4th Passport Seva Divas and the Passport Officers' Conference was held on 24 June 2016 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. The valedictory address was delivered by the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj in the presence of Gen (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs. Passport Seva Puraskars were given away to officials for exhibiting high degree of devotion towards duty and delivering excellent services to the citizens. The Conference held discussions and had presentations made by the senior officials of the Ministry, Passport Officers and officials of the Service Provider, M/s TCS on passport related issues including prospective improvements in service delivery.

Haj pilgrims: Special Drive

As decided by the Haj Committee of India (constituted under Act of Parliament no. 35 of 2002), only valid passport holders can apply for Haj. Like previous years, instructions have been issued to all the Passport offices to accord high priority to passport applications of prospective Haj applicants and extend requisite assistance for expeditious issuance of passports to them by means of nominating a nodal office; opening of facilitation counter, reserving appointment slots for such applicants and attending to requests/grievances petitions received from such citizens in a very prompt manner.

Inspection of Passport Offices

Passport Offices in various States are inspected regularly. During these inspections, there is exchange of views to improve procedural efficiency. After the inspections, POs are advised to take suitable follow up actions for better operational efficiency in order to improve the services by clearing pendency and other bottlenecks. Passport Seva Kendras, in operation all over India, are also inspected under the Non-technical Service Level Agreements (SLA) on regular basis. During 2016, 5 passport offices and 8 PSK were inspected.

Right to Information Act (RTI)

Central Public Information Officers and Appellate Authorities have been appointed in every Passport Office and the CPV Division vide order V/RTI/551/800/2011 dated 3 May 2016 and 6 May 2016 to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act. During the year 2016, a total number of 5526 online RTI applications were received out of which 5388 were disposed off and 138 were pending. During the same period, 522 online First Appeals were also received out of which 499 were disposed off and 23 were pending.

Appeals (u/s 11 of the Passports Act)

The appeal against the decisions of Passport issuing authorities is a statutory right conferred upon the affected persons u/s 11 of the Passports Act. In 2016, 14 appeal sessions took place, whereby 77 appellants attended the proceedings. In pursuance of decision taken during the hearing, 73 appeals were disposed off.

Manufacturing and Personalization of Travel Documents

All Indian travel documents are manufactured by India Security Press, Nashik. In order to improve the overall quality, functionality and security of Indian passports, various measures have been taken. All Passport Offices, Headquarters and select Missions/Posts abroad have been provided with machine readable passport printers. All Passport Offices issue machine-readable passports as per the guidelines laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

For 161 Missions/Posts abroad and Office of Assistant Secretary (Passport) Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, Machine Readable Passports (MRP) with ghost image security feature are printed at Central Indian Passport Printing System (CIPPS) of the CPV Division, New Delhi. CIPPS printed 1,79,957 passports during 2016 (inclusive of 3,567 for Andaman and Nicobar Islands) .

E-Passports

The Ministry has plans to issue e-passports to the citizens. It has given its approval for procurement of electronic contactless inlays for manufacturing of e-passports to India Security Press (ISP), Nasik. In this regard, ISP, Nasik, has been authorized

to float a global three-stage tender for procurement of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)-compliant electronic contactless inlays along with its operating system which is required for manufacture of e-passports. Manufacture of e-passport will commence on the successful completion of the tendering and procurement process by ISP, Nasik.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

India served as a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTD) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and has been implementing the ICAO guidelines on MRTD. The ICAO, in terms of Document 9303 as the central reference, has established ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), on cost sharing basis, to promote a globally inter-operable e-passport validation scheme for electronic travel documents to support ICAO's strategic objectives to improve civil aviation security. The PKD Board members are nominated by PKD participating countries and appointed by the ICAO Council. India was admitted to ICAO PKD in February 2009.

India was represented at 10th Edition of Security Development World 2016 at London during the period 10-12 May 2016, 23rd PKD Board Meeting held in October 2016 at Luxembourg and 12th Symposium & Exhibition on MRTDs, Biometrics & Security Standards held at Montreal from 15-17 November 2016.

Digitization Project

The project for "creation of image retrievable database" for the passport, visa, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Person of Indian Origin (PIO) applications in 32 Indian Missions/Posts, which was awarded to a panel of three vendors in June 2012, has been completed in 27 Missions/ Posts. It is continuing in the remaining five Missions/ Posts. This project has led to central repository of data, made files easily retrievable and brought in uniformity in the passport data of Indian Missions/ Posts abroad.

Visit of Parliamentary Committees to POs/PSKs

The First Sub-committee of the Committee of Parliament

on Official language made visits to Passport Office Bareilly (5 April 2016), Shimla (8 June 2016), Pune (12 July 2016), Ghaziabad (24 September 2016), Kochi (3 January 2017) and Thiruvananthapuram (7 January 2017) to review the implementation of Official language in these offices.

A delegation from the Standing Committee on External Affairs made visit to Passport Offices in Kolkata and Chennai and the PSKs under them during the period 30 May 2016 to 4 June 2016.

Extending outreach of Passport Services through the Post Offices

In order to extend Passport Services to the citizens on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage, the Ministry and the Department of Posts (DOP) have agreed to utilize the head Post Offices (HPO) in the various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) for delivering passport related services. The pilot project in this joint venture between the Ministry and the DOP was inaugurated on 25 January, 2017 at the HPO at Dahod in Gujarat by Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, and at Mysuru in Karnataka by Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs. Applicants, who apply for their passports on-line through the passport portal, can now schedule an appointment and then visit the designated POPSK to complete the formalities similar to those at the PSK necessary prior to the issue of the passport. Delivery of passport related services through POPSK is yet another citizen-centric measure in taking IT- driven public services closer to the people of the country. This programme of extending passport related services through the POPSK would be scaled up by opening new POPSK in all the HPO in a phased manner.

Public outreach

As part of expanding its outreach, the CPV Division is bringing out a half-yearly bulletin "Passport Patrika", containing information on various passport related issues, in association with the Service Provider.

Visas

Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad issued 40,04,356 visas

during the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016. Apart from regular visas, **11,80,930** electronic Tourist Visas (e-TVs) were issued during the above period. The procedure for grant of visas by Missions/Posts has been further simplified, which includes computerization of the issuance system and outsourcing of visa services, which commenced in 2006. At present the visa work has been outsourced in **65** Missions/Posts abroad.

In order to enhance the security environment of the visa issuance system, Government had decided to introduce biometric enrolment procedure for foreigners seeking visa to visit India in 2012, which was a part of the Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) project. This is a joint project of MHA, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and MEA with MHA being the nodal authority and MEA, the implementing authority in Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The biometric enrolment procedures consist of ten fingerprint and facial biometrics. At present (as on 31 December 2016), IVFRT scheme has been introduced in **163** Indian Missions/Posts abroad in which **93** Missions/Posts had implemented biometric enrolment procedures. The introduction of biometrics procedures is related to implementation of IVFRT system in Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The implementation of IVFRT scheme along with enrolment of biometric procedures would enhance the environment of security aspects of visa issuing mechanism besides facilitating movement of genuine foreign visitors to India.

With a view to rationalise, liberalise and simplify the visa regime of India, the Government has decided to extend the facility of 5 years Tourist and Business visas to the nationals of most of the countries. A new Permanent Residency Status scheme has been introduced for the foreign investors. Besides, a new category of Intern and Film visa has been introduced.

Visa Issuance by CPV Division

The Consular Passport Visas (CPV) Division has issued **6515** visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders during the period from **1 January to 31 December 2016**. The CPV Division also issued **8575** visa notes during the above period to Indian Government officials going to join Indian Missions/Posts abroad on transfer and official engagements.

Outsourcing of Visa/Consular/Passport Work by Indian Missions/Posts

The Ministry introduced outsourcing of visa services in

Missions and Posts abroad during 2006-07. Subsequently, passport and consular services were also outsourced. As on 31 December 2016, **65** Indian Missions/Posts abroad have outsourced passport/visa/consular services and collection work. The objective of outsourcing is to facilitate prompt and efficient visa, passport and consular services to the public.

e-Tourist Visa (e-TV)

The Tourist Visa on Arrival - Electronic Travel Authorisation (TVoA-ETA) Scheme was launched on 27 November 2014. It was renamed as e-TOURIST VISA (eTV) with effect from 15 April 2015. Initially it was available for nationals of 43 countries and later extended to more countries. A new e-Visa policy has been recently notified by the Government. The e-Visa will now be available for business and medical treatment purposes too, in addition to tourism. The duration of stay in India under e-Visa has been increased from the existing 30 days to 60 days. The duration of stay for medical treatment purposes can be extended up to 6 months, on a case to case basis, on merits of each case. While double entry will be permitted for tourism and business purposes, triple entry will be permitted for medical treatment purposes. The e-Visa facility will be available to nationals of 161 countries and territories. The countries and territories covered under the scheme are:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Island, Chile, China, China- SAR Hong Kong, China- SAR Macau, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger Republic, Niue

Island, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Island, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vatican City-Holy See, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The e-Visa facility will be available at 16 designated international airports and 5 seaports in India.

Visa-Waiver Agreements

India has visa waiver Agreements with 73 countries by which diplomatic/official passport holders are exempted from the requirements of visas. In the year 2016, Visa waiver Agreements were signed with Afghanistan (1 February 2016), Ghana (13 June 2016), Ivory Coast (21 October 2016), Kenya (11 July 2016), Portugal (January 2017) Qatar (3 December 2016), Switzerland (6 October 2016) and Tanzania (10 July 2016). The Visa waiver Agreements signed with Morocco, Mozambique, Sweden and Tunisia entered into force in the year 2016. Similar Agreements are under negotiation with several other countries. A Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility was signed with the European Union (29 March 2016) and a Technical Arrangement on identification and return of nationals was signed with Switzerland (6 October 2016).

Attestation and Apostille Convention Project

The Attestation Cell in the CPV Division of the Ministry has been providing attestation services for authentication

of educational, commercial and personal documents of individuals for personal and commercial use in countries abroad. Apart from this, Indian business establishments also need commercial documents attested by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for export as well as for other business ventures abroad. Authentication is of two types: Normal Attestation and Apostille Certification. Apostille certification is done when documents are to be used in countries which are members of the Hague Apostille Convention. While Normal Attestation is free, a fee of ₹ 50/- per document/ per page, as the case may be, is charged by way of Postal Order for affixing Apostille stickers. The work of collection delivery of documents for attestation/ apostille by Ministry of External Affairs has been outsourced since July 2012. Presently there are four agencies for collection delivery of documents. These companies charge a service fee of ₹ 22/- (Personal), ₹ 18/- (Educational) and ₹ 16/- (Commercial) per document.

For the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016, the Attestation Cell in the CPV Division attested 3,40,635 General and 1,65,959 Commercial documents and apostilled 4,53,041 documents for use in the Apostille member countries. In addition 30,284 documents were attested/ apostilled at the four MEA Branch Secretariats at Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati during this period.

A pilot project, i.e. e-SANAD for online submission of documents for Attestation/ Apostille has been launched in the 5 Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) with effect from 13 October 2016. Ultimate aim is to offer faceless, cashless and paperless services to the applicant. In its first phase the work has been decentralised to RPOs in Chandigarh, Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram to carry out the attestation/apostille related work.



Overseas Indian Affairs

Indian Community Welfare Fund

The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad, has been immensely useful in assisting Indian nationals abroad in times of distress and emergency on a means-tested basis. There are over 80,000 beneficiaries of the Fund. Against the backdrop of the deteriorating security situation in South Sudan, the Government of India launched Operation 'Sankat Mochan' to evacuate 143 Indian nationals and 2 citizens of Nepal from the country from 14-15 July 2016.

Welfare and Protection of Indian Workers

The Ministry continued to improve the institutional framework towards ensuring a safe, orderly, legal and humane migration process. One of the priority areas was to strengthen the eco-system that supports migrant workers in all stages of migration cycle – pre-departure, in countries of destination, as well as on return.

New initiatives were launched towards skills upgradation and certification of vocational skills of Indian emigrant workers. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 2 July 2016, between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for implementation of the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY). The scheme aims at enhancing the skill set of potential emigrant workers in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment. Initially, the scheme would focus on sectors that are in demand in Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries.

The National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) is in process of setting up customized India International Skill Centres to operationalize this Scheme. The PKVY

would include a technical top-up training which will be complemented by Pre-Departure Orientation Training aimed at enhancing the soft skills of potential emigrants in terms of culture, language, traditions and local rules and regulations of the destination country.

The media campaign "Surakshit Jaaye, Prasikshit Jaaye" was helpful in raising the awareness and making the migrant workers aware of their rights and responsibilities.

MoUs were signed with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates for mutual recognition of skills.

Awareness Campaign

During May to August 2016 the Ministry initiated a coordinated national level awareness programme on "Safe and Legal Migration of the Indian Migrant worker (सुरक्षित जाओ, प्रशिक्षित जाओ)" on Doordarshan, All India Radio (AIR), Lok Sabha Television, Private TV and Radio Channels and Digital Cinema in six languages Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada. The target states for this campaign were Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi.

Overseas Employment (OE) and Protectorate General of Emigrants (PGE)

Every year, a large number of people from India go abroad for overseas employment purposes. Major outflow of emigrant workers from India in the last few years has been to the Gulf countries where more than five million Indian workers are estimated to be employed. A vast majority of migrants to the Middle East, including Gulf countries, are semi-skilled and unskilled workers and most of them are temporary migrants who return to India after expiry of their contractual employment.

There has generally been a steady increase in the number of Indians emigrating for employment abroad. Out of the overall outflow of Indians for overseas employment, almost 7-8 lakh emigrants go to countries which are notified as 'Emigration Check Required' (ECR) countries namely Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen (18 at present). Emigration Clearances (EC) granted to the ECR category persons during the years from 2010 to 2016 (up to 15 December 2016) is as follows:

(In lakhs)

| Year | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 (Upto 15-12-16) |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------|
| No. of Emigration Clearances granted by PoE Offices | 6.41 | 6.27 | 7.47 | 8.17 | 8.05 | 7.81 | 5.06* |

*Due to oil crisis and slowdown of economy in the Gulf Countries, the number of Indian emigrants is less in the year 2016 in comparison to previous years.

Countries where protection/welfare of emigrants/workers is not strong, have been designated by Government of India as Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. Many of these ECR emigrants are less educated and less skilled/unskilled; their Passports are issued with an 'Emigration Check Required' (ECR) remark affixed on their Passports. Before they travel abroad for employment, they are required to obtain an 'Emigration Clearance' from offices of Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs). Emigration clearance is a safety measure issued only after verifying employment details like offered salary, working terms and conditions in the employment contract as well as credentials of foreign employer etc. so as to ensure that emigrants are not duped overseas. The Emigration Clearance is now issued online by ten Protectors of Emigrants whose offices are located in Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Rae Bareli and Thiruvananthapuram. Due to complaints of exploitation in respect of 'Nurses' last year, the 'Nurses' as a category have also been brought under 'Emigration Check Required' and that too to be recruited only by Government Recruiting Agents for safeguarding the Nurses going for overseas employment.

A number of students and highly skilled professionals also move to countries such as USA, UK, Canada, Australia, etc., where labour and employment laws are well defined and workers' interests are protected under the law. No emigration clearance is required to be obtained for emigrating to such countries for employment.

Briefly, the sole purpose of emigration clearance process is to ensure that Indian ECR-passport holders emigrate safely, after skill development and pre-departure orientation, and have a safe stay overseas during the period of employment.

E-Migrate System

To regulate overseas employment especially for protection of less educated and blue collar workers, the Emigration Check Required process is regulated through an electronic system called "e-Migrate". E-Migrate is an e-Governance project which facilitates emigration of ECR category of emigrants going to notified countries for employment purpose. Through an online portal, eMigrate enables streamlined and efficient emigration which is integrated with Passport Seva Project (PSP) for validation of passport details of ECR category workers being registered. The system is also integrated with Bureau of Immigration (BoI) of the Ministry of Home Affairs used at Immigration Check Post (ICP) at airports for online validation of the emigration clearance granted by PoEs. Integration with the BoI system enables the e-Migrate system to record departure and arrival information of ECR category workers. It provides a comprehensive and online database of Emigrants, Missions, Recruiting Agents, Foreign Employers, and Insurance Agencies to all stakeholders. This ensures that all stakeholders of all Emigrants are on the same electronic-platform, which greatly enhances "ease-of-doing-business" and ensures prompt and easy action on all fronts to all the Stakeholders including quick redressal of grievance of emigrants or their relatives who complain. Whenever an emigrant arrives at an airport or check-post to proceed abroad, his passport details are validated online by the Immigration Officers and only those who have obtained Emigration Clearance are allowed to travel. This is a measure to ensure protection against possible exploitation of Indian workers on arrival and during their stay abroad.

The "e-Migrate" system functions under the control of **Protector General of Emigrants (PGE)** who exercises powers and responsibilities under the Emigration Act 1983 through

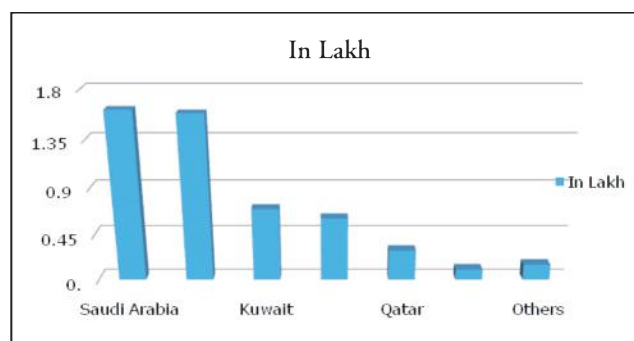
this system, to ensure protection of interests of Indian emigrants proceeding abroad for overseas employment.

Trends in Migration

During the year 2016, till 15 December 2016, about 5.06 lakh workers emigrated from India after obtaining emigration clearance. Country-wise number of emigration clearances given for emigration to major ECR countries during the current year are given in the table below.

Workers emigrated (In lakhs)

| SL.No. | Name of Countries | Year-2016 (As on 15-12-2016) |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Saudi Arabia | 1.62 |
| 2 | UAE | 1.59 |
| 3 | Kuwait | 0.70 |
| 4 | Qatar | 0.29 |
| 4 | Oman | 0.61 |
| 5 | Malaysia | 0.10 |
| 6 | Others | 0.15 |
| | Total | 5.06 |



States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala were the leading sending States in order of the numbers who emigrated.

Registration of Recruiting Agents

The Emigration Act, 1983 (Section 10) requires that those who wish to recruit Indian citizens for employment abroad shall register themselves with the registering authority, i.e., the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE). The fee prescribed

under Rule (7) (2) for registration is ₹25,000/-. Initially, the Registration Certificate (RC) is valid for a period of five years. The form for applying for registration as a recruiting agent may be obtained free of charge and may be accessed at emigrate.gov.in. The Recruiting Agent is required to deposit a Bank Guarantee for an amount of Fifty lakh Rupees after being found eligible for grant of Registration Certificate (RC). The form, instructions, training videos for applying for registration as Recruiting Agent are available online at www.emigrate.gov.in

To improve and streamline the procedure for processing of fresh applications for registration as Recruiting Agent under the Emigration Act, it was decided that with effect from 1 March 2016, all fresh applications for registration as Recruiting Agents will be submitted to the respective Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) on-line only. The PoE does the initial scrutiny to verify the completeness of the applications and forwards the same to the Ministry of External Affairs (OE & PGE Division) along with all the documents including:

- The PoE Inspection Report of the premises of the proposed office of the RA; and
- The Police Verification Report (PVR) on verification of character and antecedents of the applicant from the local police.
- The verification of Graduate/equivalent certificate of the RA from the concerned University

Protection and Welfare of Emigrants

The Government has initiated several measures for safe and legal migration, and to ensure protection and welfare of Indian emigrants in the destinations countries. Some of them are as follows:

- (a) To save Indian nurses from exploitation by unscrupulous agents, recruitment of Indian nurses has been made mandatory through the six State Government owned recruiting agents only, viz. NORKA Roots & Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants (ODEPC) of Kerala, Overseas Manpower Corporation Ltd. (OMCL) of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh Financial Corporation (UPFC) of Uttar Pradesh, Overseas Manpower Company Andhra Pradesh Limited (OMCAP) of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Overseas

Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) of Telangana.

- (b) Of all emigrant workers, housemaids and unskilled workers are the most vulnerable categories. To safeguard their interest, the following measures have been taken:
- Age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants (except Nurses) emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries irrespective of nature/category of employment;
 - Vide Order No.Z-11025/126/2015-Emig (pt. File) dated 2 August 2016 emigration clearance of all female workers having ECR passports, for overseas employment in 18 ECR countries has been made mandatory through six state-run recruiting agencies only.
 - Foreign Employer should deposit a security deposit of US\$2500 if he recruits the worker directly.
 - Embassy attestation has been made mandatory in respect of direct recruitment of all ECR passport holder women workers to all ECR countries;
 - With effect from June 2015, registration of foreign employers in the e-migrate system has been made mandatory- a process which involves validation of the foreign employer by the concerned Indian Mission.

Enforcement and Grievance Redressal

Complaints are received about exploitation of overseas Indian workers about non-payment/ delayed payment of wages, unilateral changes in the contract of workers, changing jobs arbitrarily, etc. In such cases, PGE directs concerned Recruiting Agent (if the worker was recruited through a registered RA) to get the workers repatriated at his expense. If the RA fails to do so, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration and forfeit his bank guarantee to pay for repatriation expenses. Indian Missions and Consulates abroad also address such issues by taking up the complaints with the concerned foreign employer/sponsor or the foreign government in the destination country. PoE-wise number of emigrants rescued/ redeployed by the RAs during the year 2016 are as under:

| Sl. No | Name of PoEs | No. of emigrants rescued/ redeployed | Total complaints resolved |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Delhi | 287 | 287 |
| 2 | Mumbai | 2297 | 3557 |
| 3 | Chennai | 31 | 31 |
| 4 | Kolkata | 17 | 17 |
| 5 | Jaipur | 08 | 08 |
| 6 | Chandigarh | 01 | 02 |
| 7 | Thiruvananthapuram | 31 | 14 |
| 8 | Cochin | 01 | 05 |
| 9 | Hyderabad | 35 | 35 |
| 10 | Rai Bareli | 01 | 01 |
| | Total | 2709 | 3959 |

In case of complaints against the RAs who are not registered with Protector General of Emigrants of the Ministry of External Affairs, the complaints are referred to concerned State Police Authorities/Protector of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act 1983 and provisions of various other laws as applicable, including under the Indian Penal Code, etc.

The Police authorities in turn, after investigating the case seek prosecution sanction of the Protector General of Emigrants in the Ministry of External Affairs who is the competent authority for prosecuting the accused in the appropriate Court of Law under Section 27 of the Emigration Act, 1983. Requests for such Prosecution Sanction are processed and Prosecution Sanction issued on priority by the office of the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs.

Grievances against Foreign Employers

Immediately on receipt of a complaint, the Mission/Post takes up the matter with the foreign employer, the Indian emigrant as well as local Authorities to settle the matter amicably. In deserving situations, they try to get the workers repatriated by coordinating with concerned Recruiting Agent and the Protector General of Emigrants. Indian Missions and Posts also recommend inclusion of such Foreign Employers in the

Prior Approval Category (black list) based on complaints of maltreatment of Indian emigrants. On the basis of such recommendation, the Ministry places the concerned foreign company in the Prior Approval Category. A foreign company – when included in the Prior Approval Category list – is no longer allowed to recruit workers from India.

Some of the significant achievements of the OE & PGE Division during the period 1 December 2015 to 6 December 2016 in respect of Recruiting Agents are as under:

| Sl. No | Name of activity | Status |
|--------|---|--------|
| 1 | Fresh Registration Certificate Issued | 90 |
| 2. | Renewal of Registration Certificate done | 182 |
| 3 | Eligibility Letter to prospective RAs issued | 100 |
| 4 | Deficiency Letters issued | 409 |
| 5 | Bank Guarantees released on closure of Agency | 136 |
| 6 | Approval granted for change of address, branch office, name of office bearers etc | 94 |
| 7 | Action against registered Recruiting Agents-issue of Show Cause Notice (SCN) | 162 |
| 8 | Prosecution Sanction/Letter to State Government against illegal agents | 230 |

Cooperation on Labour and Manpower

Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd) led the Indian delegation to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Colombo Process held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 24-25 August 2016. The Colombo Process is a Regional Consultative Process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia.

India also participated at the Official Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, a Regional Consultative Process of labour sending and labour receiving countries in Asia, held in Dubai on 11-12 May 2016.

The cooperation between India and Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) countries on labour and manpower related issues were strengthened during the year. Meeting of Joint Working Groups with Oman (26 July 2016), Qatar (24-25 November 2016) and Kuwait (14-15 December 2016) were held in New Delhi. A technical team from India held discussions in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 6-7 November 2016 on aligning the e-platforms for labour recruitment between the two countries.

Economic slowdown in GCC Countries

The ongoing economic downturn in the Gulf countries due to the fall in crude oil prices has affected expatriate workers. There were some reports of Indian workers being asked to leave before completion of existing contracts. Instances of unpaid salaries for the last few months were also reported. The Government of India worked in close coordination with the GCC countries towards extending all possible assistance to Indian nationals abroad. Over 4600 Indian workers facing difficulties in two major Saudi companies, namely, Saudi Oger and the Saad Group returned to India with necessary support of the Saudi authorities.

India Centre for Migration

India Centre for Migration, a research think-tank of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on all matters relating to 'International Migration', entered into technical collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN Women. The Centre collaborated with International Organization for Migration (IOM) for preparing a Pre-Departure Orientation Training module and with UN Women for training and creating awareness among Domestic Workers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The Centre also undertook studies on labour and migration related issues.

Diaspora Engagement

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Panel Discussions: In 2015 the format of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was revised with the objective of ensuring sustained and issue-based engagement with the Indian Diaspora. It was decided that the PBD Convention would be held once in two years in India. In the intervening year, PBD conferences would be held in New Delhi, on issues of concern to the Diaspora.



Prime Minister inaugurating 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 7 January 2017 in Bengaluru

Beginning in January 2015, Indian Missions/Consulates have been celebrating PBD on 9 January. On 9 January 2016, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations were led by the Minister of External Affairs (EAM) in New Delhi who interacted with the Indian Diaspora in five countries through a Video Conference and addressed them.

PBD conferences enable a regular dialogue with the Diaspora and an opportunity to seek their insights on issues that pertain to them. The first such series of 10 PBD conferences were held in New Delhi, from February to November 2016 on various issues pertaining to engagement with the Indian Diaspora. To each conference nearly 10 overseas Indians who are domain experts and 10 resident Indian policy makers and stakeholders were invited. These conferences were chaired by EAM or Minister of State for External Affairs.

Each conference saw day-long discussions which resulted in specific recommendations. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has sent the recommendations of each Conference to the relevant Government of India (GoI) Ministry or Department for consideration. The recommendations of all 10 conferences were presented during the 14th PBD Convention held in January 2017. The subjects discussed by the PBD Conferences and the dates on which they were held are given below:

| Subject | Date |
|---|--------------|
| Diaspora contributing to India's Social and Developmental Efforts: Role of India Development Foundation | 27 February |
| Delivering Consular Services to the Indian community abroad | 29 March |
| Accelerating Tourism in India | 30 April |
| Making India the Preferred Destination for Holistic Health Care | 26 May |
| Managing Emigration to ECR Countries and role of ICM | 28 June |
| Diaspora: Transferring Knowledge and Encouraging Innovation | 30 July |
| Documenting the History and Migration of the Indian Diaspora in Giritiya countries | 23 August |
| Problems of Indian Students abroad and NRI & OCI Students in India | 09 September |
| Connecting with Diaspora through Social Media | 25 October |
| Role of Diaspora Community Organisations | 12 November |

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2017: The Ministry of External Affairs organized the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention from 7 – 9 January 2017 in Bengaluru

in partnership with the Government of Karnataka with the theme “Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora”. State Governments were also invited to participate to connect with their respective Diasporas and showcase their States’ investment and business potential.

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held on 7 January 2017 to strengthen the connect with young overseas Indians. On 8 January 2017, Prime Minister inaugurated the PBD Convention and address delegates. The Chief Ministers’ Session was also held on the same day. On 9 January 2017, President of India conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on overseas Indians to recognize their contributions in various fields in India and abroad. Prime Minister of Portugal, Mr. Antonio Costa was the Chief Guest at the PBD Convention. The Vice President of Suriname Mr. Ashwin Adhin was the Special Guest at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. An exhibition was also held at PBD to showcase the government’s flagship programmes, opportunities in the States, programmes for Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs); the corporate sector and our handicrafts.

Know India Programme (KIP)

Know India Programme is a flagship initiative of the MEA to reconnect young persons of Indian-origin with their roots. The three-week orientation programme organised in India gives them an overview of India’s heritage and culture. It also seeks to enhance awareness about different facets of contemporary India and progress made by the country in various fields. From 2016 we are organising six KIPs each year in partnership with the State Governments.

Each KIP group includes 40 Persons of Indian-origin in the age group of 18-30 years. Preference is given to those from *Girmitiya* countries and those who have not visited India so far. They are provided hospitality in India during the duration of the programme and 90% of international airfare.

The programme includes the following broad elements:

- Visit to cultural, historical places of significance.
- Interaction with leadership, officials and policymakers.
- Visit to Agra and Delhi.
- An orientation programme in Foreign Service Institute

in New Delhi.

- Visit to select industries, agricultural sites, villages and interaction with civil society groups.

The 35th KIP held from 5 to 29 May 2016 with Maharashtra as Partner State had 40 participants from Fiji, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Singapore. The 36th KIP held from 1 to 25 October 2016 with Punjab as Partner State had 40 participants from Fiji, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, etc. They also attended the inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on 2 October 2016.

Four KIP groups of 40 participants each visited India during December 2016 to January 2017 – with Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal and Gujarat as partner states. All four groups also participated in the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on 7 and 8 January 2017 in Bengaluru respectively.

MEA has set up a Facebook page for KIP in November 2016, on which the KIP alumni are now connected with Ministry of External Affairs, our Missions and are networking with each other.

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children enables students of Indian-origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indian students (NRIs), to pursue Under Graduate courses in Indian Universities/Institutes in different fields (except medical and related courses) both professional and non-professional in Engineering/Technology, Humanities/Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture/Animal husbandry, etc.

The scholarship amount is given for payment of tuition fee, admission fee and post-admission services. In the First Year, partial financial assistance is upto 75% of the total Institutional Economic Cost subject to a maximum of US\$ 4000 per annum in respect of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and other institutions covered under Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA) Scheme.

In 2015-16, following a review, a revamped SPDC was launched from academic year 2016-17 with following changes:

- Scheme was extended from 40 to 66 countries including

17 ECR countries.

- Number of scholarships was increased from 100 to 150 with 50 slots earmarked for Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries. One third of these 50 scholarships are reserved for children of Indian workers in ECR countries studying in India.
- Income criteria would be applicable to all categories of students and has been raised from US\$2250 to US\$4000.
- Scholarships will be offered for pursuing courses in:
 - Central Universities of India offering Under Graduate Courses
 - Institutions accredited “A” Grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC);
 - Institutions covered under DASA Scheme: National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and other premier institutions.
 - Information Technology, B.Sc (Nursing) and B.Pharm have been added to courses eligible for scholarships.

As an e-governance mechanism, a portal, spdcindia.gov.in has been developed to enable online application and processing. A total of 770 candidates have availed the scholarship since inception of the scheme.

Bharat ko Jaaniye Online Quiz

In his keynote address at the 13th PBD Convention on 8 January 2016 in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that in the era of information technology and communications, a Quiz competition “*Bharat ko Jano*” will be held online every year for young overseas Indians residing outside India.

In pursuance of this announcement, an online Quiz “*Bharat ko Janiye*” was organised for young overseas Indians (in two categories i.e. PIOs and NRIs) of 18-35 years of age. The online Quiz was held in two rounds. Those who completed the first round were invited to participate in the second round online. Participants logged in for the Quiz from 96 countries. The quiz topics covered both India’s heritage, culture, history and various aspects of contemporary India.

Top 10 contestants in each category, NRIs and PIOs, were invited to participate in the final round in New Delhi. 17 participated in the final round in New Delhi (10 NRIs and 7 PIOs). They also visited Goa, Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra under the “*Bharat Ko Janiye Yatra*”, a 25-day tour of India organized by the MEA from 9 September onward.

The final round of the Quiz was held on 1 October 2016 with Minister of External Affairs, Smt Sushma Swaraj, as the Chief Guest. At the inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra on 2 October 2016 in New Delhi the winners in each category were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals by the Prime Minister.

Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra

To commemorate the evolution and achievements of Indian Diaspora, a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) has been set-up at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi as a state-of-the-art building. The Kendra was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 October 2016. The Kendra, located at the heart of the Capital (15A, Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi), is a tribute to the overseas Indian community; and commemorates their migration to various parts of the world, the challenges they faced abroad, their achievements and contributions. The Kendra has, among other facilities, a library; meeting rooms; a 350-seater auditorium; a permanent exhibition space; guest rooms; a banquet Hall and a restaurant.

Since its inauguration, PBK has received an encouraging response from various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and other organisations for holding their meetings / conferences. In a very short span of time, it has become one of the most desired destinations for such events. Many meetings and training sessions including Council of Ministers’ Meetings chaired the Prime Minister, World Sanskrit Awards function chaired by the Vice President, Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meetings in which the Finance Minister and the Finance Ministers from various states of India have participated, Training sessions of Junior Passport Assistants of Passport Offices in various states in India, to name a few, have taken place.

An interactive digital museum named ‘Gandhi Ek Pravasi’ is being exhibited on the first floor of the Kendra depicting life of Gandhiji in South Africa and his return to India; his role in independence movements and his journey of becoming



Prime Minister inaugurating the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on 2 October 2016. External Affairs Minister, Ministers of State for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar, General (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.) and the Foreign Secretary are also seen.

a mass leader in India. Thus far the museum has witnessed more than 2800 footfalls which include visits by students of schools in and around Delhi including Delhi Public School, Ramjas School, Holy Child Auxilium School etc, and other visitors including high dignitaries, diplomatic community and Government officials.

The Library, situated on the second floor of the Kendra, is a valuable repository of material about the Indian Diaspora. It has collection of over 2800 books related to the trials and tribulations of the Diaspora, their histories, genealogies, evolution, empowerment, education and the present status. It also has a special corner of literature from major Diaspora countries, their current publications and magazines. Literature in all national languages is available at the library including periodicals, books and digital material. With an emphasis on digital material, the library provides access to major digital knowledge networks in India. Work stations are available in the Library for onsite working.

Over the time, the Kendra is expected to develop into a hub of activities for sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding economic, social and cultural engagement between India and its Diaspora.

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDFOI) is a not-for-profit Trust established to enable overseas Indians to engage in social and development projects in India. The Trust is exempt from provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010. IDF-OI is administered by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Smt Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister. Other Board members are prominent Overseas Indians and eminent Indians who have an active interest in philanthropy; senior Government of India officials from Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Finance and NITI Aayog.

In 2015, IDF-OI's mandate was revised to channelize contributions from Overseas Indians towards Government's flagship programmes – National Mission for Clean Ganga; Swachh Bharat Mission, and social and development projects of by State Governments. The Board of Trustees of IDF-OI met in July and December 2016 to the review progress made by the organisation.

In 2016, IDF-OI collected over 88 projects from 15 States i.e. Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha, Tripura, Sikkim, Mizoram, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh in areas of sanitation, education, women and child development, sustainable livelihood, and healthcare.

To enable small and regular contributions to projects and to IDF-OI Pool fund, an online Payment Gateway was launched by Minister of External Affairs, Smt Sushma Swaraj, on 31 July 2016.

Since January 2016, 73 Overseas Indians have contributed to IDF-OI. Two projects have been implemented through contributions received from Overseas Indians in 2016:

- One Community Toilet in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- One Community Toilet in Varadaraja Nagar, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Projects under implementation by IDF-OI:

- Construction of One Public Toilet in Rambagh Garden in Amritsar, Punjab
- Construction of Community Sanitary Complex in Gangtok, Sikkim

Funds have been allocated to projects in Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir. Implementation will commence shortly.

To contribute online, Overseas Indians can visit: <https://idfoi.nic.in/contribute.aspx>

IDF-OI Facebook Page: [fb.com/idfoi](https://www.facebook.com/idfoi)

Twitter: @GivingtoIndia

Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre

The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) was set up in 2007 by the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs as a not for profit Trust in Partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The core function of this organization was to facilitate knowledge and economic engagement with the overseas Indians.

Following the merger of erstwhile MOIA with the Ministry of External Affairs in February 2016, work pertaining to promotion of direct foreign and non-resident investment in industrial and service projects, as well as overall promotion of investment by overseas Indians was allocated to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under Allocation of Business Rules issued in February 2016. Consequently, since there is no justification for the continuation of OIFC, it has been decided to wind up OIFC during 2016-17. The requisite procedures for closure of OIFC are underway.

Indian Women Deserted / Divorced by their NRI spouses

The Ministry launched in 2007 a Scheme under which Indian women deserted by their overseas spouses can obtain financial assistance for access to counselling and legal services, through Indian Women's Organisations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad in USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore; and some Gulf countries.

Ten Indian women received legal/financial assistance of ₹19 lakhs under this scheme during 2016-17. In addition to this scheme, since January 2016 Ministry has addressed 533 petitions and grievances of Indian women married to NRIs or overseas Indians by providing them guidelines and advisory information on how they can address various problems they face, including the legal issues.



Administration and Establishment

Administration

Administration Division continues to strive for optimal utilization of manpower resources to meet the requirements of the Ministry both at Headquarters and in 184 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. To achieve these objectives, the Division oversees cadre management exercises which involve recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations and career progression among others. In addition, the Division also deals with formulation, amendments and reforms of all the relevant rules and regulations relating to personnel. The Division also obtains approval for setting up new Missions/Posts abroad. A new consulate was opened in Erbil, Iraq in 2016.

In order to augment the manpower resources of Missions and Posts, approximately 500 posts of local staff were created in 2016. All posts in erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs HQ as well as in Protector of Emigrants Offices were encadred into the Ministry. The Ministry also notified Recruitment Rules of the IFS(B) after a comprehensive review in consultation with DoPT and UPSC. The Ministry continued to use the MEA e-SamikSha, an online interface between Headquarters and the Missions/Posts, for collation of information on various policy decisions in the Ministry as well as for evolving and developing best practices for good governance.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4194 (Appendix IX). Personnel posted against these posts are deployed in India and in 184 Missions/posts abroad. This includes officials from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Foreign Service Branch 'B' (IFS 'B'), Interpreters Cadre and Legal & Treaties Cadre.

Recruitments were made to various groups in the Ministry through various modes including Direct Recruitment (DR) and Departmental Promotions (DP) in the Recruitment Year

2016-17. (Appendix X).

Ministry of External Affairs, having 184 Missions/Posts spread across the world, attaches much attention to training and development of linguistic skills of its officers. Over a period of time, this has resulted in the creation of sufficiently large and diverse pool of those with foreign language skills within the Service, enabling officers to discharge their diplomatic responsibility more effectively. (Appendix XI).

The Ministry continues its policy of ensuring adequate opportunity to persons with disability and to have suitable representation of persons with disability among its personnel in line with GOI rules.

Establishment

Establishment Division looks after the maintenance and upkeep of offices and residential complexes of the Ministry; allotment of office space and housing; purchase and supply of furniture and office equipment for Missions and Posts abroad. Installation and maintenance of telephone connections, supply of newspapers and magazines in offices; purchase and supply of special procurement items and official vehicles for the Missions and Posts abroad. The Toshakhana Section of the Division is the repository of all gifts received by Indian officials from foreign sources which are not retained by recipient of gifts. The Division also runs canteens and pantry services in all MEA offices including services during meeting and conferences.

All the residential complexes located at Chanakyapuri, KG Marg, Gole Market and Dwarka were upgraded through provision of additional facilities with regard to maintenance, landscaping and gardening.

Ministry has participated in all Swachh Bharat activities. 'Swachh Bharat Pakhwada' was observed during 14-29 April

2016 and 1-15 January 2017. The Ministry also followed the 'Swachh Bharat Time' for fifteen minutes every day (1715-1730 hrs.) during which special focus was given to the regular cleaning and proper upkeep of office premises, review and weeding of records and disposal of obsolete and unused items, etc.

In pursuance of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aimed at highlighting the need for officials to pay due attention to cleanliness as well as to be personally involved in fostering clean surroundings, several steps were undertaken both in the Ministry and in Missions and Posts abroad during the last year. All Indian Missions/Posts abroad also overwhelmingly participated in cleanliness drive to ensure enhanced level of cleanliness with a special focus on representational areas, visitors rooms, waiting lobbies etc. A positive behavioural change has been observed among employees of the Ministry of External Affairs regarding healthy sanitation practices.

Welfare Section

Welfare Division looks after general welfare of all employees of Ministry of External Affairs. During 2016, we lost 12 employees of the Ministry of External Affairs for whom all assistance was rendered by the Division and ex-gratia payment from Staff Benefit Fund was provided.

In 2016, 66 wards were accorded admission to Engineering courses. These seats were allotted to MEA by Ministry of Human Resource Development. Four children of MEA officials were accorded admission to MBBS course; these seats were allotted to MEA by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The selection of candidates for Engineering & Medical seats were done in a transparent and time bound manner. Relevant details were circulated via MEA intranet.

46 children were accorded admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas against the 60 seats allotted by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

One dependent of the deceased employee was appointed as JSA on compassionate grounds against only post available during the recruitment year.

Fund raising campaign was organised by the Welfare Division for Communal Harmony. Grant-in-aid to Indian Missions/ Posts abroad to set up recreational clubs was also provided. In addition, Welfare Division carried out routine matters pertaining to assistance to officers and members of staff returning from Missions to Headquarters (HQ) in various public/private

schools, getting gas connections, Adahar cards, telephone connections and so on, as and where necessary assistance required in medical emergencies, whether for those coming from Missions abroad or working at HQ.

Global Estate Management

As per directives of the Public Accounts Committee, the Division's mandate was expanded to cover the purchase/construction/redevelopment of Government of India (GoI) properties in India as well as the renting of properties abroad, through merger of Projects Division and Property I Section which earlier formed a part of Establishment Division. In accordance with the expanded role, the Division has been renamed Global Estate Management Division.

Highlight of the year was the successful completion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) construction project including interior and art-work installation. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 October 2016.

Other successful project is the acquisition of a plot of land in Jeddah for construction of Chancery and residences. Acquisition proposals in Cape Town (built-up property for Consul General's residence), Amman (built-up property for Chancery), Seoul (built-up property for Chancery) and Ramallah (plot of land for Chancery) are at advanced stages of finalization. Further, the Division is pursuing Acquisition proposals in Kandy (built-up property for Chancery), Madrid (built-up property for Chancery), Geneva (plot of land for Chancery) and Caracas (plot of land for residences).

The Division continued to closely monitor the progress of various acquisition / constructions / renovation projects to ensure their timely implementation. The construction projects nearing completion include Dar-es-Salaam (Chancery & Staff Residences), Bahrain (Chancery & Staff Residences), Kathmandu (redevelopment of Chancery & Staff Residences), Dhaka (Chancery, High Commissioner's Residence and Staff Residences) and Islamabad (High Commissioner's Residence & other residences).

During the period, civil construction successfully commenced in Tashkent (Chancery, Embassy Residence (ER), Cultural Centre & Staff Residences), Wellington (Chancery & Staff Residences), Port Louis (Chancery, Multi-purpose Hall & Staff Residences as well as World Hindi Secretariat) and Addis Ababa (Chancery, ER & Staff

Residences). The construction of 5 residential units in Nicosia is also likely to commence in the near future. Construction projects in Moscow, Shanghai, Male and Mahe (Seychelles) presently at the design and tendering stage are expected to move to the construction stage during the next financial year. The Division is also designing the new residential complex in Gole Market, New Delhi, for re-development of residences for the Ministry.

Renovation projects which saw substantial progress during the period include Indian Cultural Centres in Washington and Paris, Chancery in Houston, Chancery renovation in Bangkok and Chancery in Port Moresby.

The Division also made substantial progress towards launch of a Global Estate Management Portal.



Right to Information and Chief Public Information Office

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During the year, the Ministry continued to make efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005. In keeping with instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) on suo-motu disclosure, uploading of RTI applications/appeals/responses and monthly RTI figures on public domain have been implemented. All foreign visits of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and EAM have been listed in the Ministry's website along with their important outcomes. All the joint statements, agreements/MOUs signed during these visits were made available on the website of the Ministry. Similarly, incoming visits of foreign dignitaries, agreements and MOUs signed during their visits along with joint statements were made available on the Ministry's website. All the important statements made by the country representatives in international fora were also made available on the website.

A total of 2342 applications seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the period from 1 April 2016 to 30 November 2016 and have

been disposed of satisfactorily. Applications in general covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, Haj pilgrimage, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same. Consular Passport and Visa (CPV) Division, Missions and Posts abroad, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Indian Council for World Affairs maintain their own records as independent public authorities under the Act.

Interactive sessions with an expert on the RTI Act, 2005 were organized for the officers and the staff of the Ministry at periodic intervals to promote a better understanding of the provisions of the Act and to enable the Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) to handle the applications more efficiently.

All Central Information Commission (CIC) hearings have been attended to by the CPIOs concerned and a representative of the RTI Cell. The Ministry has received no adverse ruling/remarks from the CIC. Quarterly returns have been filed with CIC as required, on schedule.

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E-Governance

E-Governance and Information Technology (EG&IT) Division is mandated to carry out feasibility studies, design, development, testing, implementation and maintenance of various e-Governance applications in the Ministry, in coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC) as per the standard norms of Government of India. In addition, EG & IT Division provides all IT related support to the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad for procurement, maintenance, upkeep and security of all IT infrastructure.

EG & IT Division is taking steps to implement different components of Digital India Programme in the Ministry and all Missions/Posts abroad. Four Mission Mode Projects of e-Kranti (fourth pillar of the Digital India Programme) namely e-Office, e-Procurement, IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigner's Registration, Tracking) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP), are currently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. E-Office software has also been implemented in various Divisions of the Ministry.

The following initiatives have been taken in the domain of e-governance from 1 April to 30 November 2016:

- Launch of BRICS website in March 2016, which enabled the online registration of delegation for BRICS Summit held in Goa. The website also contains information on developments.
- Launch of a Portal for Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children on 23 August 2016 which facilitates online application by children of Persons of Indian Origin/Non-Resident Indian (PIO/NRI) in 66 countries and children of Indian workers in 17 Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries, for seeking scholarships who have taken admission in undergraduate courses

in Indian University/IIT/NIT/School of Planning and Architecture for academic session 2016-17.

- Launch of Performance Evaluation Monitoring System (PEMS) in September 2016 wherein performance of all Missions/Posts are being evaluated on the basis of preliminary binary questions and subsequent detailed questions.
- Implementation of KOHA Library Management Software in Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra Library in October 2016. It is recommended as integrated library systems under 'Framework for Adoption of Open Source Software in E-Governance Systems' - 2015.

In order to provide better IT and Cyber Security safeguards to all users in the Ministry of External Affairs, the measures taken include revamping of firewall policy, LAN policy, monitoring of internet traffic and increased usage of security enhanced version of open source platforms.

Email alerts regarding cyber security threats are sent to all users on a regular basis. In view of the growing incidence of such threats, there is an increased emphasis on cyber security training to the Ministry's officers and staff at headquarters and officers going on postings abroad.

E-Sanad (<http://esanad.nic.in/>) was made live in October 2016 in five Regional Passport Offices on pilot basis which would facilitate verification and attestation of documents of Indian citizens abroad. It would be subsequently implemented in remaining Regional Passport offices and Indian Missions/Posts abroad to establish an online platform for attestation/apostille of documents. Pratishtit Pravasi e-Registration Portal (<http://pratishtit-pravasi.gov.in>) was made live in January 2017.



Parliament Division

Parliament Division is the Ministry's interface with Parliament and the nodal point of the Ministry of External Affairs for all Parliament-related work. The work includes liaison with all Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to replies for Parliament Questions, fulfillment of Parliamentary Assurances, Calling Attention Notices and Motions, Suo Moto statements, debates/Short Duration Discussions on foreign policy, legislative business, laying of reports and documents in the Parliament. Prior to the commencement of Parliament Session, the Division also compiles briefs on important issues likely to be raised in Parliament during the forthcoming session for Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The Division also coordinates meetings of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs, work related to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and MEA's interaction with other Parliamentary Committees.

Meetings of the Consultative Committee

EAM chaired two meetings of the Consultative Committee for External Affairs during April - December 2016:

- i) The second meeting (of 2016) of the Consultative Committee was held on 30 June 2016 on the subject 'India's BRICS Chairmanship 2016: Goals and Opportunities'.
- ii) The third meeting was held on 1 October 2016 on the subject 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017: New Format and Suggestions from MPs'.

Sittings of the Standing Committee on External Affairs

The following meetings of the Ministry were held or are

expected to be held with the Standing Committee on External Affairs during the period April 2016-March 2017:

a) Briefing Meetings:

- i) A briefing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 20 May 2016 on 'Indo-Pakistan Relations under the Current Political Situation in Pakistan'. Foreign Secretary (FS) led the delegation.
- ii) A briefing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 8 August 2016 on the subject "Status of India's Trade Partnerships as well as Pending Free Trade Agreements with Various Countries/Blocs." Secretary (Economic Relations) led the delegation which also comprised of representatives of Ministry of Commerce.
- iii) A briefing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 18 October 2016 on the subject "Indo-Pak Relations with Specific Reference to Surgical Strikes Across the Line of Control (LOC)". FS led the delegation which also comprised of Defence Secretary, Special Secretary (Home), Vice Chief of Army Staff and Director General, BSF.
- iv) A briefing of the Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 23 November 2016 on the subject "One Belt One Road Initiative of China and its Strategic and Economic Ramifications for India." FS led the delegation.
- v) A sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs is scheduled to be held on 12 January 2017 on 'India-Pakistan Relations; Strategic & Economic Aspects'. FS will lead MEA's delegation.

- vi) A sitting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs is expected to be held during January-March 2017 to take oral evidence of the Ministry in connection with the examination of Ministry's demand for grants for the year 2017-18.

b) Oral Evidence:

- i) FS presented oral evidence before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on 27 July 2016 on the subject "India's Soft Power Diplomacy including Role of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Diaspora". An earlier oral evidence on the same subject was held on 23 February 2016 where Secretary (West) led the delegation.
- ii) An oral briefing of the Standing Committee on External Affairs was held on 15 December 2016 on the subject "Role of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in implementation of external assistance programmes." FS led the delegation. He was accompanied by Secretary (ER).

Meetings of other Committees of Parliament

The Ministry gave oral evidence/briefing before the Joint Committee on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in its sitting on 03 October 2016 in connection with examination of the Bill. MEA was represented by Officer on Special Duty (OSD) (CPV&OIA).

The Ministry is scheduled to give oral evidence before the 'Committee on Subordinate Legislation' on 24 January 2017 on the subject-Indian Foreign Service (Recruitment, Cadre, Seniority, Promotion) Rules, 1961 framed under Article 309 of the Constitution. Ministry would be represented by Foreign Secretary.

Coordination Division

The Coordination Division processes all proposals for the grant of no objection from the Political aspect for the foreign visits of Governors, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers, Ministers in the State Governments, Members of Parliament, Members

of the State Legislative Assemblies, Members of Judiciary, Government officials etc. Political clearance is accorded by the Ministry of External Affairs after taking into consideration the guidelines laid down by the Government for the purpose from time to time, the political and functional justification for the visit, meetings arranged, and the recommendation of the Indian Missions / Posts concerned. During April-December 2016, the Coordination Section issued 2259 political clearances for such visits.

The Division also handles work relating to the grant of diplomatic clearances for foreign non-scheduled Military flights and visit by foreign naval ships. During April-December 2016, the Section issued 417 clearances for foreign non-scheduled military flights and 25 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships.

The Coordination Division processed approvals for the participation of Indian sports teams and sportsmen in international events abroad, and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India. 164 such cases were processed for clearance during April-December 2016.

The Division also examines requests for grant of no objection for holding international conferences, seminars, and workshops, grant of Amateur W/T Licence under the Indian Telegraph Act (1885), clearances for Name/Emblem registration and grant in aid to Indo-foreign cultural friendship and cultural societies, located in foreign countries.

During April-December 2016, the Division issued clearances for 912 conferences and seminars in India. In addition, 79 requests for training / research in India by foreign students/scholars were processed.

The Coordination Division coordinates work relating to the grant of Padma Awards to foreign nationals. The nominations are obtained by the Coordination Division from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and recommendations of the Ministry are conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Coordination Division coordinated the observance of Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May), Sadhbhavana Diwas (20 August), Quami Ekta Week (19-25 November), and Constitution Day (26 November) in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. The Division also coordinated the celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by our Missions/Posts abroad.

The Division also coordinated Ministry's participation in PM's monthly PRAGATI Video-Conferences on grievance redressal and review of programmes and projects. It coordinated Ministry's responses for the Cabinet Secretariat's e-Samiksha web-site. Coordination Division processed Ministry's inputs on draft Cabinet notes and parliament related work where inputs from several divisions in the Ministry were required to be collated.

Education

The Education Section deals with the selection, nomination, and admission of foreign students in respect of applications solicited from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries, for MBBS, BDS, B.Engineering, B.Pharmacy courses, in various central institutions/colleges in India, under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Cases of Political Clearances in respect of foreign students already studying in India in government institutions for Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and other technical and professional courses, including elective training/observership/research are also processed when approached by the nodal Ministries of the Government of India.

Details of applications with respect to foreign nationals received/processed in Education Section for selection of nominated seats during the period April-December 2016 are given below:

- i) 23 applications were received for nomination/selection in respect of 5 seats for PG Medical courses at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi for academic year 2016-17.
- ii) 128 applications were received for nomination/selection in respect of 120 Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Pharmacy seats for academic year 2016-17.
- iii) 286 applications in respect of foreign nationals and 24 applications in respect of persecuted religious minority migrants based in India from Bangladesh and Pakistan were received for nomination/selection of 444 MBBS and BDS seats for academic year 2016-17.

During the period April-December 2016, 1904 cases of political clearances for foreign students/nationals were handled by the Section for their appearing in PG entrance examinations/ Elective training/ Observership /Ph.D Research etc.



External Publicity and Public Diplomacy

Press Coverage

The External Publicity and Public Diplomacy (XPD) Division made logistical arrangements, including setting up and operating fully equipped Media Centres, organising media briefings and facilitation of the media accompanying the President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister on their visits abroad to ensure suitable media coverage of the same.

The Division also played a critical role in suitable media coverage of world leaders and other foreign dignitaries' visits to India.

Summits/Conferences and Outreach coverage

The Division successfully organised coverage of 17th India–Russia Annual Summit on 15 October 2016 as well as the 8th BRICS Summit and BIMSTEC Meeting on 16 October 2016 at Goa. BRICS Media Forum was organized on 18 October 2016 at New Delhi.

The Division also organised the 4th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention to be held in Bengaluru from 7-9 January 2017 and 8th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017 to be held in Ahmedabad from 10-13 January 2017.

To highlight the achievements and key events during the visits of Prime Minister abroad, special e-books were created. These are hosted on our website and social media channels and have proven to be an invaluable resource to understand how the visits unfolded as well as to document outcomes.

Digital Outreach

Official Website

The Ministry's website is not only a window to India's

foreign policy but a link to the 184 Missions and Posts across the world. Updated in real time, the MEA website is a vital source for Indian and international media, diplomatic missions, governmental organizations, scholars, think tanks, students, businessmen and tourists. The present portal is highly accessible, scalable, flexible, reliable and compliant to standard specifications. Available in Hindi, English, Russian, French and Arabic, it also provides the translation of key press releases in multiple Indian languages.

This year, the MEA website has incorporated a new search feature through which it has become easy to find any press release, document, or statement with the help of keywords. A special visits section showcases the incoming and outgoing visits of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, seamlessly linked to the Ministry's social media account on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, Instagram, SoundCloud.

The MEA portal also provides the critical link to our Missions through the integrated Mission pages, which allows a user to find India's diplomatic representatives abroad and keep abreast of their latest events.

The MEA portal is also a key resource for both overseas Indians and for those wishing to know more about Consular and Passport issues. With the merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, 300+ informative sections were added in 2016 in a dedicated section providing critical information about India's diaspora and on key programmes and initiatives undertaken for them, including information on the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas and the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman.

Given the importance of key celebrations such as the International Day of Yoga and the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, special sections have not only provided more information but also showcased the international nature of celebrations on these occasions. The information was

processed and displayed in a structured manner based on inputs from Missions in each of the countries.

Additionally, to highlight the achievements and key events during the visit of the Prime Minister abroad, special e-books have been created. Hosted on the website and social media channels, they have proven to be an invaluable resource in documentation and in understanding how the visits unfolded.

Social Media Platforms

MEA's presence on social media platforms has been constantly growing with the acquisition of a uniform digital identity.

- a) The numbers of likes on the Facebook page of MEA, India have reached 2,017,718 (2 million) likes. Recognizing the importance of streamlining identities, XPD merged the Indian Diplomacy and MEA Facebook pages, retaining the MEA identity.
- b) Twitter is a critical medium for breaking news and the Indian Diplomacy Twitter account (@IndianDiplomacy) and the Official Spokesperson's twitter account (@MEAIndia) have 1,069,490 (1.07 million) and 1,121,604 (1.12 million) followers respectively. The platforms are used to tweet on India and India's foreign policy. Similarly, the number of people adding the MEA India on Google+ page to their inner circles is fast expanding and stands at 8,69,850.
- c) MEA's YouTube channel has a total of 17,666 subscribers with 1,687,495 views and the total minutes viewed at 17,31,244. The Indian Diplomacy YouTube channel too has a high viewer footfall; number of subscribers are 34,187, number of views 7,958,385 and total minutes viewed are 3,31,62,360.
- d) The followers of MEA, India on its Google+ page have increased tremendously and today the number stands at 8,70,220 with 38,190,287 views.
- e) The Flickr account (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/meaindia>) continues to serve as a useful and popular online repository of photographs of all major events of the Ministry.
- f) MEA made an entrance on Instagram this year, with its presence garnering an excess of 19,963 followers in the short time that it has been active.

- g) The MEA website has been modified to make it mobile responsive and it is available in five languages i.e. English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish and French. Visualization of bilateral briefs section on the MEA website (www.mea.gov.in) is still under process. However, the following details were uploaded on the website:

- Number of Press Releases -272
- Number of Speeches & Statements- 191
- Number of Media Briefing- 129
- Number of Media Advisory- 56
- Number of Bilateral/Multilateral Documents- 96

As part of its initiative to expand the role of social media in foreign policy, the Ministry has roped in our Missions and Posts abroad to enter the online space and communicate directly with the local population of the host countries as well as with the Indian Diaspora. Today all Indian Missions and Posts (where Facebook has been permitted by the host government) have a Facebook presence. Working with Facebook, the Ministry has verified all accounts, and has standardized them under one title e.g., 'India in USA', 'India in Ireland' and so on. These accounts are used to routinely put out information about Mission's activities, soft stories about India, channels of investments, and participation in lead programmes such as Make in India and Digital India. Around 163 Missions and Posts are also active on Twitter.

Social media has also played a key role in the effective communication during the conduct of visits and Conferences. During India's BRICS chairmanship as well as for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, special handles were created on Facebook and Twitter to disseminate information.

Visual Outreach – Films and Documentaries

MEA commissions documentaries aimed at positive projection of India's image abroad. DVDs of the documentaries are sent to Indian Missions abroad for presentation, screening and telecast on foreign TV Channels. The procurement and supply of feature films with non-commercial screening rights for non-commercial screenings, organizing film festivals, assisting in organizing photographic exhibitions are other publicity activities undertaken by this Division. Customized sets of popular Indian Classical/Bollywood music CDs are

commissioned for sending to Missions/Posts abroad for presentation purposes.

Ten Documentaries were completed during the year namely, Indian Women on Record, Mrinal Sen: An Era in Cinema, Srinivasa Ramanujan: The Mathematician & His Legacy, Nautical Narratives of India, The Indian Woman-An Indomitable Spirit, Stopover, Electric Shadows, The Wave Riders, The Tale of Stamps, Yoga for the World-Celebrating the First International Day of Yoga and A day in the life of India.

Documentary films which are in various stages of production include The Ramayana: A shared culture in India and South East Asia, India Boundless, India Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017, Sojourns in a composite culture.

MEA has granted M/s Studio Gola non-exclusive rights in 2016 to telecast three of the documentary films commissioned earlier by MEA namely, The Musalman, Faith Revisited and Black Pepper White Pepper: Stories from the Trenches on Epic Channel for a period of two years.

MEA commissioned two short films: one for the BRICS summit 2016 held in Goa and another on India- Afghanistan – An enduring Friendship for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process.

To commemorate the 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, MEA had arranged an Exhibition on Sardar Patel, a feature film titled *Sardar* from Sardar Patel Trust and a documentary film titled Man of Silence- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel from Films Division. These were uploaded on Google Drive for use by the Missions.

High Resolution photographs of national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar were made available in digital format either on DVDs/CDs or online on MEA intranet or Google drive. High Resolution and virtual exhibitions on various topics like Buddhist Heritage of India, Temples of India, Pluralistic Culture of India, Velha Goa, Islamic Monuments of India, Yoga India's Gift to the world, Ramayana: The Greatest Epic were also procured and made available to Missions in digital format.

Audio video spots on safe and legal migration of Indian workers abroad were also produced in cooperation with Oversees

Indian Affairs (OIA) Division. This was advertised on various TV and Radio channels in various Indian languages.

Documentaries commissioned by MEA were uploaded on Indian Diplomacy channel on YouTube to ensure global dissemination, and are popularized through the Ministry and Missions' social media channels.

Public Outreach

With an objective to create awareness of India's Foreign Policy amongst the youth, the XPD Division's public outreach initiative under the rubric of Distinguished Lecture Series has been expanding steadily since its inception in 2010. The lecture series has now brought under its ambit 46 Central Universities besides a large number of premier education/training institutions like the IITs and IIMs across the country. This programme now covers more than 100 institutions all over the country. The growing interest in the lecture series is evident from the increasing number of requests received from several other institutions from all over India and the number of lectures conducted increasing manifold. This year alone, 41 lectures have been conducted.

India Perspectives, the flagship magazine of the Ministry continues to be available in 16 languages – Hindi, Arabic, English, French, German, Bahasa Indonesian, Italian, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhalese, Spanish, Tamil, Chinese and Japanese. It can also be read online at www.indiaperspectives.in and is available across multiple digital platforms through Magzter and Issuu.

A number of Coffee Table Books were commissioned during this period. These include Jalsa – Indian Women & their Journey, Indian Army on Western Front, Journeys Across Continents and a booklet on two years of Path Breaking Diplomacy. These reflect some of the key soft power projections and partnerships that the Ministry has undertaken.

Familiarization Visits

In order to enhance awareness about India amongst friendly countries and to encourage media exchanges, the XPD Division organises familiarization visits by foreign and Indian journalists.

Visits of Journalists from Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, BRICS countries and Croatia were organised

during this period. A visit of Indian journalists was organised to Cambodia and Indonesia under the ASEAN-Indian Media Exchange Programme with the budget support of ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

Familiarization Programme for 13 journalists from China will be taking place from 12-19 February 2017. Familiarization Programme for 20 journalists from 10 ASEAN Countries

towards end of March 2017 is likely to take place. This visit will coincide with Delhi Dialogue.

Bilateral Media Forum

BRICS Media Forum was organised on 18 October 2016 in New Delhi with participation of 22 senior journalists from BRICS countries as well as senior Indian journalists. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the forum.



Foreign Service Institute

Officer Trainees

The Foreign Service Institute conducted training programmes for Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2015 Batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). Thirty-three IFS OTs completed their training. Their valedictory function was organized at FSI on 8 June 2016. Minister of State Gen. (Dr.) V.K.Singh (Retd) was the Chief Guest. EAM's Gold Medal for the Best OT of the 2015 Batch, Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation and trophies for Best Sportspersons were awarded, on the occasion, to deserving OTs.

The IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2015 batch joined the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) after completing their Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in December 2015 for a six-

month long training, which ended in June 2016. With the training programme curtailed from nine to six months all intense lecture components were front loaded in the first three and a half months. Their training included modules on foreign policy, neighbouring countries, the extended neighbourhood and multilateral organizations. Lectures on international law, theories and history of international relations were delivered. Soft power and communication skills were also stressed upon. Training on Finance, cultural work, hospitality and international law was also incorporated.

Training was delivered through interactive lectures, group discussions, panel discussions, case studies, role playing and simulation and presentations on topical issues to develop creative thinking. The OTs were exposed to lecture-cum-simulation modules on the Kashmir and Shimla issues. Visits



2014 and 2015 batch of officers of the Indian Foreign Service calling on the President on 6 April 2016.

to RPO, Delhi for training on Consular, Passport and Visa issues, and to the National Stock Exchange for training on Economy and Trade were organised. The OTs underwent a two-day attachment with the Centre for Science and Environment where topics of climate change including national and international approaches were discussed, including the impact and India's future on the issues. A two-day training module on Protocol and Hospitality was arranged in coordination with Hotel Taj Mahal, Delhi.

FSI's new initiative, the 'Blow Your Mind' series of lectures was introduced with the 2015 batch training. Eminent speakers including Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri M.J Akbar and Shri Subramanian Swamy were invited to address the Officer Trainees on various topics of contemporary national and global relevance with a view to encourage out-of-the-box thinking in budding diplomats. Other speakers included Dr. Tejendra Sharma, a known Hindi Literateur, Ms Shubhra Bharadwaj, owner & CEO of Ferriswheel Entertainment and Dr. Seema Anand, Narrative practioner and TED speaker.

In order to familiarize the OTs with the work of Indian Missions abroad the OT's undertook week-long Mission Orientation visits to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, China and Russia among the countries of prime strategic importance to India. The visits familiarized OTs with various aspects of a Mission's functioning including the socio-political, cultural, historical, touristic and economic profile of the country.

The OTs were sent on three-week attachments with the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, visiting Port Blair for Navy attachment, Mohanbari, Chabua and Dinzan for Air Force attachment and Northern and Eastern Commands for Army attachment.

The OTs were sent for a 3-week long Bharat Darshan after which they had a two-day attachment with the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training and a two-day attachment with the External Publicity Division of MEA. The OTs were then sent for a two-week State specialization or District attachment in groups. On their return, the OTs submitted and then had a Thesis Defence presentation.

An exhibition of photographs taken by the OTs was held and Mr. Dushyant Parashar, a wildlife photographer of international repute was invited to judge the entries. The

winners were awarded cash prizes. On completion of their training, the Valedictory Function for the 2015 batch was held in the presence of MOS Gen. VK Singh subsequent to which the 2015 batch proceeded on desk attachment in the Ministry in June 2016.

Three sessions on heartfulness meditation were also held at FSI for the benefit of the OTs.

The 2016 batch of IFS Officer Trainees are currently undergoing Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The 41 Officer Trainees have begun their training at FSI on 12 December 2016.

Mid-career training

For the first time, FSI successfully conducted a 6-week half-a-day training programme for Grade I Officers of IFS(B) at the FSI from 17 August to 27 September 2016 with the intention to build their capacity to handle real diplomatic functions and to expose them to foreign policy issues, negotiating skills and representational duties.

After a gap of almost four years, FSI conducted the Mid-Career Training Programme Phase-III for 36 Joint Secretary level officers of the 1989, 1990 and 1991 batches of the IFS from 26-30 September 2016 followed by training at ISB, Hyderabad and State Specialization visits.

Another new flexible training program for MCTP – I (Mid-Career Training Programme Phase I), meant for officers who return to Headquarters (HQs) after completing their first round of postings abroad (typically, with 5-8 years of service under their belt) was conducted from 24 October. The second leg of the programme regarding Management Module was from 19 December at IIM Ahmedabad. Participating officers would be expected to complete the last leg of this training with State Specialization visit, at their own pace and as per their convenience.

For the first time ever, FSI is conducting a special training programme for first time HOMs (Head of Missions) from 28 November followed by a week's leadership training at IIM, Ahmedabad.

An orientation capsule on Foreign Policy was conducted for officers of Cabinet Secretariat on 3-4 May 2016, at their request.



Officer Trainees of Indian Foreign Service call on the Prime Minister in New Delhi on 5 April 2016.

Foreign Training Programmes

FSI also organized a series of training programmes for foreign diplomats in 2016, which are listed below:

- 61st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, conducted from 06 April to 06 May 2016. The course was attended by 28 foreign diplomats.
- 2nd Foreign Policy Module for ASEM Diplomats, conducted from 13 June to 17 June 2016. The course was attended by 19 foreign diplomats.
- 62nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, conducted from 27 July to August 2016. The course was attended by 28 foreign diplomats.
- 10th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats, conducted from 21 September to 21 October 2016. The course was attended by 18 foreign diplomats.

Memoranda of Understanding

During 2016, FSI signed MOUs with

- Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & European Integration, Montenegro on 20 May 2016.
- Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Morocco, on 31 May 2016.
- Ministry of Foreign and Regional Unification, Ghana, on 13 June 2016.
- Intra-BRICS MoU with the Diplomatic Academies of all BRICS member countries on 16 October 2016.

Visits of Foreign Delegations/ Delegates

- A 7-member delegation from Mongolia, led by the Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren, visited FSI on 28 April 2016.

- U.S. Under Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas A Shannon, visited FSI on 29 June 2016.

Non-Representational Grade Training Programme

In 2016, the following training courses were organised as part of the training for Non-Representational Grade (NRG) Officials:

- Consular Matters: 05-06 April 2016.
- Passport Matters: 12-13 April 2016.
- Protocol, RTI and Hindi: 22 April 2016
- Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT): 26-29 April 2016.
- Trade Promotion & E-Procurement: 03-04 May 2016.
- Financial Procedure: 10-11 May 2016.
- MEA Accounts: 17-18 May 2016.
- IMAS: 24 May to 24 June 2016 in 4 batches.
- Personality Development: 01 July 2016.
- Computer Training: 08-11 July 2016.
- MTS Training Programme: 22 July 2016.
- Induction Training for DR Assistant Superintendents of CPO: 08-12 August 2016.
- MEA Administration: 23-24 August 2016.
- IMAS: 15-21 September 2016.
- Computer, IT Security: 26-28 September 2016.
- MEA Office Procedure: 17-18 October 2016.
- MEA Establishment: 26-27 October 2016.
- Protocol, RTI and Hindi: 21 October 2016.
- VISA IVFRT: 03-08 November 2016.
- Induction Training Programme for DR Assistants of Combined Graduate Level Examination 2015: 09-25 November 2016.
- Consular Matters: 30 November to 01 December 2016.

In addition to the above programmes, the following courses were also conducted by the NRG Section of FSI:

- Bharat ko Jaaniye Yatra for NRIs and PIOs: 29 September 2016.
- 36th Know India Programme: 03-04 October 2016.
- Programme for 250 students of ASEAN Countries: 28 November 2016.

“The BRICS Young Diplomats Forum” was successfully conducted by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in Kolkata from 03 to 06 September 2016, which was attended by 33 delegates from BRICS member countries. The forum concluded with the signing of an ‘Outcome Document’ by all the young diplomats, which formed the framework of the Intra-BRICS MoU, which was signed between the passage of the ‘BRICS Summit’ on 16 October 2016.



Nalanda University

Inspired by the academic excellence and global vision of the ancient Nalanda University, the participating countries of the 4th East Asia Summit held in Thailand in 2009 issued a joint press statement supporting the revival of Nalanda University in Bihar as an international institution for the pursuit of historical and intellectual studies to improve regional understanding by appreciation of one another's heritage and history. Consequently, the Nalanda University came into being with the passage of Nalanda University Act, 2010 by the Parliament. The University, which made a humble beginning in 2014 with the launch of two Schools of Studies, has witnessed steady progress since then.

Nalanda University held its first convocation on 27 August 2016 when the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Visitor of the University, conferred the degrees on the first batch of students from the two Schools of Studies, School of Historical Studies and School of Ecological and Environment Studies. The convocation ceremony was attended, among others, by the Governor of Bihar, Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar, and Deputy CM of Bihar. Over 20 members from the diplomatic corps including the Ambassador of Japan and Ambassador of Thailand also attended the event. The President also laid the Foundation Stone for the building of the permanent campus of Nalanda University on the 455-acre land given by the Bihar Government.

The University launched the third School of Studies – School of Buddhist studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religion – from the academic year 2016-17. Enrolment of students in the University has steadily gone up and at present the University has a student strength of about 130 which includes foreign students from 12 different countries such as Japan, China, South Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Brazil, Peru, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 12 East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries and 4 non-EAS countries on the establishment of Nalanda University.

In November 2016, the first Governing Board of the University has been constituted as laid down in the Nalanda University Act, 2010 replacing the Nalanda Mentor Group (NMG) which had been hitherto discharging the functions of the Governing Board. The construction of Nalanda University's permanent campus has commenced with the award of tender package 1A for construction of internal roads and earthwork for water bodies. The tender process for the second tender package 1B for construction of non-residential buildings is also underway which will be followed by the tendering process for construction of residential buildings. The Government of India has allocated an amount of ` 2,727 crores for the capital and recurring expenditure of Nalanda University during its establishment phase till 2021-22.



Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad

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Ministry of External Affairs has a comprehensive scheme for promotion and propagation of Hindi Language through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Financial assistance is provided through Missions/Posts abroad to foreign universities and educational institutions for organizing Hindi promotion activities. Financial assistance is also given to Missions/Posts abroad to conduct Hindi teaching classes and undertake activities like celebrating World Hindi Day and other events to promote Hindi. Hindi teaching material is supplied to Missions/Posts abroad for presentation to educational institutions and organizations involved in the teaching and promotion of Hindi.

World Hindi Conference is organised every three years by the Ministry. The last World Hindi Conference was organized at Bhopal, India on 10-12 September 2015. The Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The inaugural and concluding ceremonies of the Conference were attended by more than 7000 participants including a large number of foreign delegates. The main theme of the Conference was “Hindi Jagat: Vistar evam Sambhavnae”. Based on the main theme, discussions were held on twelve sub-themes in parallel sessions. To ensure effective and speedy implementation of the recommendations passed at the 10th World Hindi Conference organised in Bhopal, a Committee has been formed under the Chairpersonship of External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj which meets regularly at the interval of three months to review implementation of the recommendations. In addition, Ministry also organises Regional Hindi Conferences through our Missions abroad with the association of local organisers involved in the propagation of Hindi and Indian culture. During the year 2016, Regional Hindi Conferences were organized in Paris and Moscow.

To promote Hindi as an international language, a World Hindi Secretariat has been set up in Mauritius under a bilateral agreement between India and Mauritius. Functioning of the Secretariat is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs and its Mauritian counterpart in the Government of Mauritius.

The Ministry coordinates work relating to grant of scholarships for foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. There is a provision of awarding 100 scholarships every year.

Implementation of Official Language Policy of the Government of India continued to be accorded a very high priority by the Ministry in 2016. Ministry had organised Hindi Pakhwara commencing from Hindi Diwas on 14 September 2016. Regional Passport Offices as well as Missions abroad organised various Hindi competitions on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. World Hindi Day is celebrated in all our Missions/Posts abroad as well as at the Headquarters on 10 January every year. Special grants have been sanctioned to Missions/Posts abroad for organising these activities.

A Hindi Advisory Committee is working in the Ministry under the Chairpersonship of External Affairs Minister.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, Official Language Implementation Committees are being set up in Indian Missions abroad. In compliance with the annual program issued by the Department of Official Language, Ministry regularly conducts inspection of Regional Passport Offices in India and Indian Missions/Posts abroad, to take stock of the progressive use of the Official language in Official Business.

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Indian Council for Cultural Relations

ICCR undertook a wide range of activities to promote cultural relations and better understanding of India and its culture in countries abroad. ICCR's 36 full-fledged Cultural Centres and one sub-Centre abroad actively promoted India's soft power through a wide range of activities, including dance, music, yoga, Hindi talks and exhibitions.

It continued to build synergies and signed MoU for cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, with State Governments of Haryana, Andaman and Nicobar and the North East Council. It also signed MoUs with counterpart foreign cultural organisations namely Iran Culture Organisation and CEFLAC of China.

ICCR organised mini-culture festival in Iran during the Prime Minister's visit to Tehran in May 2016; two large-scale Cultural Festivals including "Confluence" in Australia and "Namaste France 2" in France from September to November 2016 and Days of North East Cultural Festival "Namaste Nepal" in Nepal in January 2017. Back home it organised its annual Jazz Festival, Festival of International Folk Dance and Music; International Sufi Festival and World percussion festival, Mushaira and Kavi Sammellan. High quality cultural programmes were organised at the events organised by MEA and other government agencies Sinhanst and PBD 2017 are few to mention. In addition to the composite cultural festivals, ICCR sponsored 124 Indian cultural groups to 50 countries, including "Natkhwaan" from Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of celebration of "Eid-e-Milad-Un -Nabi" to Mauritius. ICCR also organised performances of 42 incoming foreign groups in various cities of India.

Given the renewed interest in Yoga, ICCR empanelled multi-talented teachers with abilities and expertise in teaching Yoga, Sanskrit and Vedas at Indian Culture Centres and Indian Missions/ Posts abroad. It facilitated celebration of International Day of Yoga 2016 and sent 35 Yoga teachers to lead IDY 2016 celebration. ICCR collaborated with Ministry

of AYUSH in establishing of India-China Yoga College in China and promotion of traditional Indian Medical System abroad.

As part of its academic and intellectual activities, ICCR offered 3452 scholarship slots to foreign students for studying in India under its various scholarship schemes. 10th anniversary of ICCR Scholarship to Afghan Youth was celebrated on November 17, 2016 jointly inaugurated by MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) and Dr. Farida Momand, Higher Education Minister, Afghanistan. To facilitate better comprehension of English Language, Council commenced English Language Bridge course for 500 Afghan students in Kabul (Afghanistan) from January to March, 2017 before the students join regular academic course in Indian Universities/ Institutions in 2017-18. As welfare measures ICCR organized summer camps in June 2016 and winter camps in December 2016 and January 2017 for the foreign students and celebrated International Student Day in November 2016 in Regional Offices as well as in some of the Missions abroad. In addition to its existing 70 Chairs overseas ICCR signed 10 MoU with various universities for establishment of new Chairs abroad for Indian studies.

Council actively promoted Hindi language overseas. In addition to existing 22 Hindi chairs abroad, Council established 08 more. It has deputed 13 teachers to the Missions and Indian Culture Centres overseas. It published book on Father Kamil Bulke's contribution to Hindi literature and a special issue its journal on Vishwa Hindi Diwas was brought. ICCR also organised orientation workshops for the chairs and teachers being deputed overseas.

ICCR organized 10 major conference/ seminars (Appendix -XII) including Conference in Tehran on India-Iran Relations (May 2016), in Ulanbaataar on Legacy of Chengis Khan and India-Mongolia relations (September 2016); in Shenzhen, China the 2nd International Conference of Indologists

(November 2016); Quantum Reality and Theory of Shunya in Delhi (December, 2016); Vedic Mathematics in Kolkotta (December, 2016); International Conference on Bedil in Chandigarh (February 2017) and International Conference on Dara Shikoh in (March 2017).

ICCR instituted World Indology Award, World Sanskrit Award and Distinguished alumni award in year 2015. The 2016 World Indology Award was conferred by Hon'ble President of India to Professor. Yu Longyu of China on December 1, 2016 at Rashtrapati Bhavan; 2016 World Sanskrit Award was to conferred to Dr. George Cordona in November 2016 and 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to five ICCR Alumni from Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Indonesia, Bulgaria and Mauritius by MoS for External Affairs General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.) in February 2017.

Council sent 13 exhibitions of which 9 were from its own collection to various countries including Australia, France,

UK, Nepal, Slovenia, Spain, China and South Africa. A list of incoming and outgoing exhibitions is at Appendix-XIII. It sponsored gifting of landmark digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi by India to South Africa during Prime Minister's visit to South Africa. It sponsored visits of Iranian and Vietnamese craftsmen, Chinese, Belarusian and Montenegro artists. Belarusian painters were received during celebrations of 25th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Belarus. Artists from Zhejiang Kaiming Art Gallery of Eastern China Region were received for artists' residency programme. A total of 16 busts and 3 statues of different eminent Indian personalities were gifted to and installed in various countries, including Aryabhata's bust which was gifted to UNESCO on the occasion of International Conference organised in UNESCO, Paris.

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Indian Council for World Affairs

Research

During the period (April –November 2016), the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) conducted two sets of interviews to appoint new Research Fellows and renew the term of existing Research Fellows. Following the interviews held on 23 April 2016, the contracts of five Research Fellows were renewed, and were asked to complete their respective book projects. Three new Research Fellows were appointed with specialisation on Europe, China, and East Asian affairs respectively. One new Research fellow with specialisation in China resigned subsequently. In August 2016, another Research Fellow (RF) Dr. Rajiv Ranjan resigned.

In the recently conducted interviews on 26-27 September 2016 for six positions, four new Research Fellows were selected of which two have already joined. They have specialisations on counter terrorism, and trade and economic issues. Dr. Sampa Kunda refused to join the Council despite her appointment while another appointee Mohd Abdul Gaffar will join after receiving his Ph.D degree. The contracts of two existing RFs were also renewed for terms of two years each.

The current strength of the Research Faculty is:

- a) Director(Research) 1
- b) Research Fellows 23
- c) Research Interns(RI) Nil

(New RIs to be appointed shortly)

During the period under review, RFs were engaged in publishing Policy Briefs, Issue Briefs, View Points and articles in media and other academic journals. The ICWA scholars undertook the study and research on political, security, and economic trends and developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States and the wider global geostrategic and economic environment. Since the last Research Committee meeting, ICWA has published 3 Books, one Sapru House Paper, 5

Special Reports, 34 Issue Briefs and 45 Viewpoints.

In order to reach out to a wider audience, ICWA has been publishing translated versions of its academic articles in Hindi also. ICWA faculty has also been encouraged to write articles in Hindi and nine such Viewpoints have been uploaded on the Council's website. Further, ICWA has made a conscious attempt to reach out to the public through translation of its academic products. In pursuit of this objective, 1 Viewpoint, and 6 Issue Briefs have been translated in Hindi.

As part of its outreach activities and to create awareness about foreign policy issues among the youth, ICWA has undertaken two National Level Essay writing contests among school going students (10-12 standard), and undergraduate and postgraduate students. The last date for receiving essays was June 30, 2016. More than 650 essays were received. Four referees were nominated for selecting the best essays and the Council has declared the results which are uploaded on the ICWA website. The winners will shortly be invited to a felicitation ceremony at Sapru House.

ICWA instituted the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme (in Hindi) and sponsored 2 Seminars in collaboration with universities/academic institutions. ICWA was represented by at least one of the members of its research faculty.

ICWA as part of its outreach initiative would be taking its Research Faculty to different colleges and universities across India to give lectures to the students on topics of importance so as to promote and publicise the foreign policy initiatives undertaken by the government. In the inaugural University Workshop programmes two members of the ICWA Research Faculty visited *Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna* (HNB) Garhwal University (29-30 September 2016), interacted with the faculty and students and apprised them of the current development in India's neighbourhood and international affairs. ICWA has received more such requests from Jammu

University, Karnataka University, Central University of Jharkhand and IGNOU. Few other private universities such as Christ University have approached ICWA for such orientation programmes.

Publications

Various ICWA's publications were brought out regularly during the period as per details provided below:

1. ICWA's Journal 'India Quarterly' was brought out regularly during the period 2016-17
 - i) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs) Vol-72 No.1, March
 - ii) India Quarterly (A Journal of International Affairs) Vol-72 No.2, June

2. ICWA's Books (Manuscripts) published during the period 2016-17

| S. No | Title | Editor/Author | Year of Publication |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|
| I Books/Booklets | | | |
| 1 | Saudi Arabia in a Multipolar World | Author by Zakir Hussain | 2016 |
| 2 | Perspectives on Nepal: Recent History and Indo-Nepal Relations | Author by Amb. Deb Mukharji | 2016 |
| 3 | भारत और रुस: सामरिक साझेदारी का परगाठकिरण | संपादक एवं अनुवादक डॉ राकेश कुमार मीणा | 2016 |
| II Sapru House Paper | | | |
| 4 | PM Modi's Visit Reinvigorates Ties with Central Aisa | By Athar Zafar | 2016 |
| III Monograph | | | |
| 5 | A China Primer: An Introduction to a Culture and Neighbour" | By Amb. G. S. Iyer | 2016 |
| IV. Oral History Project | | | |
| 6 | Oral History Project of Amb. A. N. Ram | Interview by Gajanan Wakankar | 2016 |
| 7 | Oral History Record of Ambassador Surendra Kumar - Vol.- V | Interview by Balkrishna Shetty | 2016 |

List of Book Projects under process

- Integrating North East in India's Act East Policy- Edited by Pankaj Jha & Rahul Mishra
- Regional Resurgence in Africa Prospects and Challenges of African Union- Author by Sandipani Dash
- China and the Eurasian Region: Edited by Amb. C.V. Ranganathan and Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA
- Rise of Neighbourhood in Chinese Foreign Policy" Author by:- Sanjeev Kumar, Research Fellow, ICWA

Outreach Activities

ICWA's outreach programmes included joint conferences

and seminars with several Indian universities and think tanks including Council's MoU partners across the country. Likewise, international engagements included participation in conferences, seminars and lectures in several countries.

From 1 April, 2016 to 30 November, 2016, the Indian Council of World Affairs organized the following events:

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| i) Lectures | - | 04 |
| ii) Seminars/Conferences | - | 08 |
| iii) Bilateral strategic dialogue | - | 07 |
| iv) Panel Discussions/Background briefings | - | 05 |
| v) Book Launch/Release/Discussion function | - | 03 |
| Total | | 27 |

Lectures

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| 1 | 6 June 2016 | Lecture by His Excellency Mr. Demetrios Theophylactou, High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to India on <i>“Conflict Prevention - the impact of supranational EU Legal Institutions”</i> With Opening Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union to India Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |
| 2 | 22 July 2016 | Talk by Mr. António Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal and former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on <i>“The International Situation and Present Challenges of Forced Displacements”</i> Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |
| 3 | 29 August 2016 | Talk by Mr. Kim Won-Soo, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Chaired by: Ambassador Rakesh Sood |
| 4 | 23 November 2016 | Talk by H.E. Prof. George Katrougalos, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece on <i>“Europe in front of new challenges”</i> Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |

Seminars/Conferences

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 11-12 July 2016 | Two day National Seminar on <i>India and the Ocean Economy</i> |
| 2 | 22-23 September 2016 | Two day meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks of India and Russia Venue: Moscow, Russia |
| 3 | 23-24 September 2016 | Two day National Seminar on <i>“Reinventing India-East Asia Relations under NDA-II Cultural and Strategic Perspective”</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: ICWA Representatives Dr. Avinash A. Godbole, RE, ICWA Organized by the Society for Social Empowerment, New Delhi in collaboration with V.K. Krishna Menon Study Centre for International Relations, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram Venue: Kerala University, Kerala |
| 4 | 29-30 September 2016 | ICWA-University outreach programme supported by ICWA: ICWA Representatives Dr. Pankaj Jha, Director (Research), ICWA; and Dr. Samatha Mellampati, RE, ICWA Organized by the HNB Gharwal University, Garhwal Venue: Garhwal |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 5 | 6 October 2016 | Foreign Policy awareness programme in HINDI in Digvijai Nath P.G. College, Gorakhpur. Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: ICWA Representatives: Ambassador Achal Malhotra; Dr. Rakesh Kumar Meena, RF, ICWA; Venue: Gorakhpur, U.P. |
| 6 | 24-25 October 2016 | Two day International Conference on <i>"Focus Latin America: The Need for an Effective Programme"</i> |
| 7 | 26-27 October 2016 | Third Conference of 'Indian Strategic Thinkers' on <i>"Enduring Strategic Challenges and India's Response in Changing Scenario"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: ICWA Representatives: Dr. Amit Kumar, RF To be organized by the Centre for Policy Analysis (Research Wing of Association for Social and Economic Transformation), Patna Venue: BNR Chanakya, Ranchi, Jharkhand |
| 8 | 10-11 November 2016 | International Seminar on <i>"Heart of Asia"</i> |

Bilateral and Strategic Dialogue

| | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| 1 | 11 April 2016 | Interactive Session between ICWA Research faculty and Students from Higher Academy for Strategic and Security Studies (HASSS), Sudan Coordinators from ICWA: Dr. Nivedita Ray |
| 2 | 28 April, 2016 | Interaction with the Delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on <i>"Central Asia"</i> Participants/Speakers Research Faculty of ICWA Chair: Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, DDG, ICWA |
| 3 | 26 May 2016 | Interaction with the Delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on <i>"Maritime Affairs"</i> Chair: Shri Piyush Srivastava, JS, ICWA |
| 4 | 04 August 2016 | Meeting with the delegation from China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Beijing China led by Prof. Ji Zhiye, President of CICIR at Sapru House Chair : Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |
| 5 | 27 Sept. 2016 | Working Luncheon Meeting with the visiting delegation from The China Reform Forum Chair : Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |
| 6 | 28 October 2016 | Interaction between Research Faculty of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS) Chair: Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, DDG, ICWA |
| 7 | 16 November 2016 | Interaction between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Chair : Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |

Panel Discussions/Background briefings

| | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 1 | 12 April 2016 | Roundtable on “ <i>Al Qaida and Daesh: The Present State of Play</i> ” |
| 2 | 27 April 2016 | Meeting of the Heads of Think Tanks (HoTT) Forum |
| 3 | 08 August 2016 | Presentation for HoMs of Latin American and Caribbean countries on the forthcoming two day International Conference titled “ <i>Focus Latin America: The Need for an Effective Programme</i> ” to be held at Sapru House on 24-25 October 2016 at Sapru House |
| 4 | 19 August 2016 | First Coordination Meeting [<i>in connection with the Two days’ forthcoming meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks of India and Russia to be held in Moscow, 22-23 Sept. 2016</i>] Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |
| 5 | 16 September 2016 | Second Coordination Meeting [<i>in connection with the Two days’ forthcoming meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks of India and Russia to be held in Moscow, 22-23 Sept. 2016</i>] to finalize the presentations/interventions of the Indian delegation Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |

Book Launch/Release/Discussion event

| | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| 1 | 13 April 2016 | Release of an ICWA publication entitled “A CHINA PRIMER: An Introduction to a Culture and a Neighbour” authored by Ambassador G.S. Iyer by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, M.P., Hon’ble Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs & Vice President of the Indian Council of World Affairs |
| 2 | 30 June 2016 | Book Discussion on Shri Mohan K. Tikku’s book “ <i>After the Fall: Sri Lanka in Victory and War</i> ” Discussants: Shri H.K. Dua, former M.P. & Senior Journalist; Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha; and Dr. Samatha Mallempati, RE, ICWA <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |
| 3 | 5 July 2016 | Book Discussion on Shri M. Rasgotra, Former Foreign Secretary’s book “ <i>A Life in Diplomacy</i> ” Discussants: Ambassador S.K. Lambah; Ambassador Rajesh Prasad; and Shri K. P. Nayar, Consulting Editor, The Telegraph Chaired by: Ambassador Nalin Surie, DG, ICWA |

Planned events 1st December onwards

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | 1-2 December 2016 | Fourth Annual “ <i>India-Central Asia Dialogue</i> ” |
| 2. | 9-10 December 2016 | First India-China Think Tank Forum in New Delhi [in collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS)] |
| 3. | 19-20 December 2016 | Proposal from the Jadavpur Association of International Relations (JAIR), Kolkata for collaboration and partial Financial Assistance for organizing Conference on ‘ <i>INDIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: GOVERNANCE AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPERATIVES</i> ’ Venue: Mumbai |
| 4. | 27-29 December 2016 | ICWA-Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), Tehran Dialogue ICWA’s MoU partner Venue: New Delhi |
| 5. | 4-6 January 2017 [event date: 5 Jan. 2017] | Third ICWA- Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) Dialogue ICWA’s MoU partner Venue: New Delhi |
| 6. | 19-20 January 2017 | IAFS-III: First ICWA Annual Academic Conference “ <i>India-West Africa Partnership: Enhancing Security, Development and Growth</i> ” Venue: Accra, Ghana |
| 7. | March/April 2017 | Second dialogue with Soong Ching Ling Foundation of China at Sapru House |
| 8. | 1 st Quarter of 2017 | First Sapru House International Two day Dialogue, “ <i>Bridging the Gulf</i> ” |
| 9. | 1 st Qtr. Of 2017 [TBC] | Seventh Annual Asian Relations Conference(ARC-VII) |
| 10. | January –February 2017 [TBC] | National Seminar on <i>Cooperating with the EU</i> |
| 11. | First quarter of (the week of commencing 27 th Feb.) 2017[TBC] | ICWA Delegation to New Zealand India Research Institute(NZIRI) ICWA’s 5-members Delegation to New Zealand Venue: New Zealand |
| 12. | 28 February-1 March 2017 | Fifth Saudi-Indian Workshop with Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute of Diplomatic Studies(PSAIDS), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ICWA’s MoU partner Venue: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia |
| 13. | 23-24 March, 2017 | Two-day International Seminar entitled, “ <i>Internal Changes in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities.</i> ” Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: To be organized by Centre for International Relations, Central University of Jharkhand, Brambe, Ranchi Venue: Ranchi, Jharkhand |
| 14. | Between August to October 2017 | Meeting of Heads of Think-Tanks 2017 in New Delhi |

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

ICWA has been hosting the Secretariat of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)-India Committee since 2001. During the period from 1 April 2016 to 30 November 2016, the Council coordinated the following activities:

- 1) The 2nd Meeting of CSCAP Study Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) held in New Delhi on 8-9 April 2016.
- 2) 30th Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting and 45th Steering Committee Meeting of CSCAP held at Hilton Hotel, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia during 30 May – 02 June 2016.
- 3) 3rd Workshop of Young Scholar's Meeting of CSCAP held at Beijing and Qingdao, China from 4-6 September 2016.
- 4) 2nd Meeting of CSCAP Study Group on Marine Environment Protections held in Qingdao, China from 4-6 September 2016.
- 5) First Meeting of CSCAP Study Group on Enhancing Contributions from the Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations on 11-12 November 2016

ICWA Library

The Sapru House Library, since its inception in 1955, has emerged as a premier resource centre for Indian and foreign

scholars. It houses 1,47,259 books, journals, maps, and UN & EU documents at present. It is expected that approximately 600 more books would be added to the library collection by 31 March 2017. The entire collection is accessible through a digitised index and can be searched via On-Line Public Access Catalogue. A large part of the Sapru House Library is accessible to research scholars in digital format, as is the entire collection of the ICWA journal- *India Quarterly*. Endowed with a state of the art Cyber Library, the Sapru House Library has linkages with other prestigious institutions that provide for access to ICWA scholars.

The Library aims to be a comprehensive repository of research materials and documents in the core areas of Indian foreign policy, with focus on South Asia. It strives to meet the demands of ever expanding horizons of our research projects and to upgrade its facilities.

Dissemination

ICWA initiated a policy of wide dissemination of its output and activities to reach the largest possible global audience and raise awareness about Indian concerns and aspirations in the national and global arena. A system of circulating publication alerts as well as revamping of the website: www.icwa.in and global webcasting of important events has been helpful in achieving the ICWA mandate. ICWA has also updated and reprinted its publicity brochure to disseminate information about the Council to a wider global audience.



Research and Information System for Developing Countries

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Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specializes in issues relating to international economic development with special focus on trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation (SSC) and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various fora. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to enhance policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

Highlights of the work programme of RIS from April 2016 to December 2016 are presented below:

Launch of RIS volume entitled ‘India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward’, 7 October 2016, New Delhi

External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj launched the RIS publication entitled ‘India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward’ on 7 October 2016 at the Ministry. The Volume has 19 comprehensive papers covering the full spectrum of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with two cross-cutting themes, namely finance and technology.

Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in India; and Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs

addressed the gathering. Authors who contributed in the volume were also present during the launch.

IORA Blue Economy Dialogue, 4-5 November 2016

RIS, in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India organised the Indian Ocean Region Association (IORA) Blue Economy Dialogue on “Economic Potential and Commercialisation aspects of Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean” on 4-5 November 2016 in New Delhi.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Amb. Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, India and Prof. S.K. Mohanty, from RIS chaired the introductory session.

Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India delivered the inaugural address.

This Blue Economy Dialogue fostered informed debate on the economic potential of blue economy in the IORA region in five crucial sectors of renewable ocean energy; fisheries; deep sea and off-shore mining; coastal tourism and urbanization; and maritime and strategic dimensions.

Regional Consultation of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT), 27 September 2016

RIS, jointly with the BIMSTEC Secretariat, organised a Regional Consultation of the BIMSTEC Network of Policy Think Tanks (BNPTT) on 27 September 2016 at New Delhi to explore key issues for the BRICS and BIMSTEC Summit. The members of the BIMSTEC network deliberated on issues related to Trade, Investment and Regional Value Chain; Connectivity and People to People Contact; and BIMSTEC, BRICS and Global Governance. RIS also invited other Indian think-tanks at the meeting.

Meeting of Development Partnership Administrator of BRICS Member States, 6-7 August 2016

In the run up to the BRICS Summit in October 2016, India held a 2-day meeting of Development Partnership Administrators (DPAs) equivalent of BRICS Member States on 6-7 August 2016 at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) along with the Ministry of External Affairs organised the meeting. Mr. Dinkar Asthana, Joint Secretary (JS) (DPA-II), MEA delivered Keynote Address. Mr. Hemendra K. Sharma, Director (DPA-II), MEA made opening remarks. Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, School of International Studies, JNU and Chairperson, FIDC made the special address. Mr. S.K Dudeja, DS (DP-1), MEA, extended vote of thanks at the inaugural session.

Mr. Dinkar Asthana chaired the first session on 'Sharing of development cooperation experience among BRICS Member States'. Ms. Claudia Vieira Santos, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi; Mr. Mikhail Ermolov, Deputy Director, Department of International Development and Cooperation, Russia; Mr. Hemendra K. Sharma, Director (DPA-II), MEA; Mr. Li Baijun, Economic and Commercial Counsellor, the Embassy of People's Republic of China in India; Ms. Nathalie Vereen, National Treasure, South Africa and Ms. Dineo Mathlako, DIRCO, South Africa made presentations.

Combined meeting of DPAs and FIDC on emerging global development architecture was chaired by Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, JNU, and FIDC Board. Mr. Dinkar Asthana co-chaired. Dr. Kaustuv Bandyopadhyay, Director, PRIA made presentation on the evolution and working of FIDC. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General (DG), RIS and Convener, FIDC made a presentation on FIDC's view on BRICS led processes. Mr. Harsh Jaitli, Chief Executive Officer, Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) made presentation on FIDC's view on BRICS led processes.

National Consultation on Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All, 9 August 2016

RIS in collaboration with NITI Aayog and United Nations (UN) in India organised the National Consultation on

Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs): A national consultation on Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for all focussing on SDG 6 was held in New Delhi on 9 August 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, India made the opening remarks. Mr. Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. P.K. Anand, Senior Consultant, NITI Aayog, Dr. V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Mr. N. C. Saxena Advisor, UNDP; Mr. Ajoy Kumar Sinha, Secretary (Water Supply & Sanitation), Government of Punjab; Mr. Animesh Bhattacharya, Director, Water and Sanitation Support Organization, Government of West Bengal; Dr. Mamata Dash, Manager, Water Aid; Mr. Amitangshu Acharya, Development Professional and Columnist; and Mr. Manish Wasuja, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) India, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder, Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reform Movement, Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Advisor (RD), NITI Aayog; Mr. Frank Odhiambo, UNICEF India; Dr. M. Geetha, Director, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of Chhattisgarh; and Mr. Jai Prakash Dwivedi, Chief Engineer, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Shyam Bahadur Khadka, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative, India Mr. Jitendra Kumar, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mr. S. Masood Hussain, Director General, National Water Development Agency; Mr. R. S. Julaniya, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh; and Dr. Upendra Kulkarni, Chairman, Indian Water Works Association, Aurangabad participated.

Dr. P. K. Anand chaired the fourth session on 'Preserving Water Ecosystems.' Mr. Rakesh Singh, Principal Secretary, Government of Karnataka; Prof. A. L. Ramanathan, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Mr. G.Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) India; Mr. Jitendra Kumar, Advisor, NITI Aayog; and Mr. Dhimant Vyas , Technical Advisor (Water Supply), Government of Gujarat were the panellists. The consultation ended with closing remarks by Dr. P K Anand and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev.

National Consultation on Industrialisation and Employment for Sustainable Growth in India, 2-3 August 2016

RIS, in collaboration with NITI Aayog and UN in India,

organised the National Consultation on Industrialisation and Employment for Sustainable Growth in India relating to SDGs 8 and 9 in New Delhi on 2-3 August 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS; and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, India made the Welcome Remarks. Prof. Arvind Panagariya, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog delivered the Valedictory Address.

Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made Chairman's Remarks and Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. P. K. Anand, Senior Consultant (DMEO), NITI Aayog presented the structure of the Consultation.

Mr. Yuri Afanasiev chaired the first session on 'Paradigm of Sustainable Growth and Industrialisation.' The panellists included: Mr. Devender Singh, Secretary (Industries), Government of Haryana; Mrs. Rashmi Singh, Secretary (Industries), Andaman and Nicobar Administration; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head UNESCAP (S&SWA); Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Prof. Pulin B Nayak, former Director, Delhi School of Economics; and Mr. P. K. Biswal, Additional Secretary (Planning and Convergence), Government of Odisha.

Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog chaired the second session on 'Strategies of Better Inclusiveness for Sustainable Economic Growth'. The session had the following panellists: Prof. Bina Agarwal, University of Manchester and Institute of Economic Growth; Ms. Renu Pillay, Principal Secretary, Government of Chattisgarh; Mr. Deepak Kapoor, Principal Secretary, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of Maharashtra; Prof. P G Chengappa, National Professor Indian Council for Agricultural Research, Bangalore; and Dr. G. G. Koppa, Assistant FAO Representative (Programmes).

Dr. Sher Verick, Deputy Director (Decent Work) International Labor Organization (ILO) South Asia chaired the third session on 'Employment Generation and Decent Work.' The Panellists included: Mrs. Sunita Sanghi, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mrs. Kavyashree Mahanta, Joint Secretary (Labour and Employment), Government of Assam; Mr. S. K. G. Rahate, Principal Secretary (Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development), Government of Jharkhand; Mr. Nomaan Majid, Senior Specialist (Employment Policy), ILO; Prof. Sandip Sarkar, Institute of Human Development;

Prof. Saikat Sinha Roy, Jadavpur University; and Mr. Sushil Ramola, Managing Director, BASIX Academy for Building Lifelong Employability.

Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog chaired the fourth session on 'Small and Medium Enterprises and Informal Sector.' Prof. S. K. Mohanty, RIS; Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, Trade Policy, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII); Mr. Mukesh Gulati, Executive Director, Foundation for MSME Clusters; and Prof. B. N. Goldar, Professor and Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) National Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth; and Mr. Subrata Kumar Biswal, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh were the panellists.

Prof. Bibek Debroy, Member, NITI Aayog chaired the session one of day two on 'Developing Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure.' The panellists included: Mr. Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, Department of Rural Development; Mr. Manoj Singh, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mr. Praveen Mehta, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Mr. Apurva Chandra, Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Maharashtra; and Mr. P. Sampath Kumar, Resident Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya.

Prof. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) chaired the session on 'Green Financing and Green Accounting.' The panellists of the session were: Dr. P K Anand, Senior Consultant (DMEO), NITI Aayog; Mr. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Dr. Chandra Bhusan, Deputy Director General, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE); and Dr. Divya Dutt, Fellow & Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

Dr. C. Muralikrishna Kumar, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog chaired the session on 'Innovation for Sustainable Industrialisation and Development.' The session had the following panellists: Dr. Ashwani Gupta, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora, Executive Director (Science & Technology), Government of Punjab; Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Head, Asia-Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT); and Mr. Raghvendra Saha, Senior Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

Prof. T. C. A. Anant, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation made special remarks at the valedictory session. Amb. Shyam Saran, Mr. Yuri Afanasiev,

UN Resident Coordinator, India and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi also addressed the Valedictory Session.

BRICS Wellness Workshop in Bengaluru, 10-11 September 2016

BRICS Wellness Forum was organised by Ministry of AYUSH in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs and RIS in Bengaluru on 10-11 September 2016 to promote partnership in traditional medicine systems. The Government of Karnataka was the host for the event.

Shri Ananth Kumar, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizer, Government of India; Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for AYUSH; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Minister, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka and Sri Sri Ravishankar, Art of Living Founder inaugurated the workshop. Mr. Ajit M. Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India; Mr. Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India; Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. H. R. Nagendra, Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) Deemed University; Mr. O. O. Salagai, Head of the Department of International Cooperation and Public Relations, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation; Mr. Zhu Haidong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Prof. James Campbell, Head of Department, School of Natural Medicine, University of Western Cape also made addresses.

RIS Volume titled 'Health, Nature and Quality of Life: Towards BRICS Wellness Index' was also released on the occasion. This is based on a new research that RIS team worked on. The report is being widely dispatched.

BRICS Economic Forum, 13-14 October 2016

RIS, in association with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Reserve Bank of India, successfully organised the first ever BRICS Economic Forum in Goa on 13-14 October 2016. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the BRICS countries attended the meeting, besides, senior policymakers, academics and senior bankers.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. Joint Secretary Sameer Khare, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India set the context of the meeting. Dr. Subir Gokarn, Executive Director (India), International Monetary Fund (IMF) delivered the inaugural address.

The inaugural session was followed by four technical sessions on BRICS and Multilateral Institutions, BRICS and Financing for Development, BRICS and Innovation Economy and BRICS and Financial Markets. A panel discussion with BRICS Central Bank Governors on Global Norm Setting, Policy Coordination and Crisis Management and a Roundtable with BRICS Finance Ministers on Cooperation for Sustainable Development was also organised. The Finance Ministers had a conversation with media representatives and experts during the Forum.

A conversation session with Shri Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister, Government of India was also organised.

Indian Think-Tanks Dialogue on Rising Powers, 18-19 September 2016

Preceding the BRICS Academic Forum, RIS and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) organised the Indian Think-Tanks Dialogue on Rising Powers in Goa on 18-19 September 2016 in partnership with American Centre, Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD); Economic Policy Forum (EPF), German Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogues (EMS). Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS delivered the welcome address. Mr. Samir Saran, Vice-president, Observer Research Foundation was the moderator. Nearly 12 other institutions participated at the meeting.

BRICS Academic Forum, 19-22 September 2016

RIS, in collaboration with ORF, organised a four-day BRICS Academic Forum in Goa during 19-22 September 2016. Chief Minister of Goa Shri Laxmikant Parsekar inaugurated the conference. Mr. Sunjoy Joshi, Director, ORF made the Opening Remarks. Mr. Samir Saran, Vice-President, ORF moderated the session while closing remarks made by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS.

The BRICS Academic Forum is a track two platform for academicians from the five countries to deliberate on issues of crucial importance to BRICS and come up with ideas and recommendations. Scholars from each member nation spoke on themes of importance. In addition, a large number of scholars from all countries participated in the deliberations.

The conference ended with valedictory session by the Governor of Goa, Mrs. Mridula Sinha.

BRICS Civil Forum 2016, 3-4 October 2016, New Delhi

FIDC with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Research and Information System for Developing Countries organised the BRICS Civil Forum on 3-4 October 2016 in New Delhi. It was an important Track II event at the sidelines of the 8th BRICS Summit hosted by India during its Chairmanship in October 2016 in Goa. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament and Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs delivered the inaugural address. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS and Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Chairperson, FIDC made the welcome remarks. On this occasion, an exhibition was also organised in which a large number of organizations showcased their contribution fostering the BRICS development partnership.

Representatives from BRICS countries, civil society organisations, policymakers, academicians and senior officials of the government participated in the two-day long conference. The conference aimed to ensure a constructive dialogue between civil society and decision makers in the main social spheres of healthcare, food security, human security, poverty, as well as sustainable development, urbanisation, and financial issues.

Launch of IBSA Visiting Fellowships at RIS

In association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, RIS will be offering IBSA Visiting Fellowships to two research scholars from each of the two other partner countries of India under the IBSA Dialogue Forum -Brazil and South Africa. The programme focuses on development of an effective multilateral institutional framework to coordinate, support and enable sustainable development in a coherent and integral manner. It will be open

for research scholars and academicians from South Africa and Brazil with profound interest in carrying out deeper research towards the realisation of the aims and objectives of the IBSA Dialogue process in the partner countries. RIS organised the launch of the fellowships on 28 November 2016. The programme began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA, while launching the programme, said that IBSA has been acknowledged as a successful example of South-South cooperation. She said that there were several issues on which the three countries could work better. Remarks were also made by: Mr. Alok Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Ben Joubert, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of South Africa, New Delhi; and Ms. Claudia Vieira Santos, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi. The programme was chaired by Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS.

EAS Conference on Disaster Risk Management and Regional Cooperation, 2 November 2016

ASEAN India Centre (AIC) at RIS, in association with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India organised the EAS Conference on Disaster Risk Management and Regional Cooperation on 2 November 2016 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS delivered welcome address. Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home Ministry, Government of India delivered the inaugural address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Amb. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India delivered special address. Prof. Santosh Kumar, Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi delivered the vote of thanks at the inaugural session.

The conference deliberated on issues including Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals and Regional Cooperation; and Regional Cooperation to Strengthen Disaster Risk Management Capacity.

Representatives from Australia, China, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Korea, and Thailand participated in the conference.

Mr Krishna Vatsa, Global Advisor, Climate Risk Management, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York also made special remarks at the conference.

Second EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation, 4-5 November 2016

AIC at RIS, in association with the MEA and National Maritime Foundation (NMF) organised the Second EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation on 4-5 November 2016 in Goa.

Dr. Prabir De, Professor/Coordinator, AIC made welcome remarks. Ms. Pooja Kapur, Jt. Secretary (ASEAN ML), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India delivered inaugural address. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Dr. Vijay Sakhuja, Director, NMF, New Delhi; and Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, NM, Commandant, NWC, Goa delivered special addresses.

The conference deliberated on issues including Maritime Security Issues in the Asia-Pacific; Maritime Multilateralism: Opportunities, Challenges and Prospects for Asia-Pacific; and Blue Economy and Marine Conservation. The conference also had a panel discussion on way forward. The Conference discussed, analysed and had put together the various components that would help strengthen cooperation among EAS participating countries in the maritime domain.

RIS-Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) – Dialogue on ‘Towards an Asia Pacific Community, 6 April 2016

RIS, in collaboration with ASPI, organised a special discussion in New Delhi on 6 April 2016 about the future of regional governance in Asia, and the possibility for an Asia-Pacific Community to take shape in New Delhi.

Mr. Kevin Rudd, ASPI President and former Prime Minister of Australia discussed the need of a pan-regional institution in the Asia-Pacific that can manage peace and security. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS moderated the conversation. Amb. Shivshankar Menon, India's former National Security Advisor; Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), MEA Government of India; and Mr. Marshall Bouton were the panelists. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS delivered the welcome remarks.

Consultation on Indian Science Diplomacy at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, 7 April 2016

RIS, in collaboration with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), organised a discussion meeting on 7 April 2016 at NIAS, Bangalore for developing an approach strategy for promoting Indian science diplomacy, under the proposed RIS work programme on science diplomacy. Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, NIAS; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Dr. K Kasturirangan, Emeritus Professor, NIAS; Prof. V. S. Ramamurthy, Emeritus Professor, NIAS; Prof. Rajaram Nagappa, Visiting Professor, NIAS, Dr. Suba Chandran, Professor, NIAS; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Dr. Amit Kumar, Research Associate, RIS participated in the meeting.

Visit of Indonesian Delegation to RIS, 23 May 2016

A delegation from the Centre of Policy Analysis and Development on International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia led by Mr. P. Gultom, Senior Analyst had a meeting with RIS faculty members on South-South Cooperation on 23 May 2016. The members of the delegation included Mr. Novrizal, Counsellor, Indonesian Embassy; Mr. Faiz Ahmad Nugroho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; Mr. Akbar Nugraha, Third Secretary, Indonesian Embassy; and Ms. Agnes Rosari Dewi, Policy Analyst, Centre for Policy Analysis and Development on International Organisations.

Interactive Session with Afghan Delegation, 25 May 2016

RIS, jointly with the Centre for South-South Cooperation, Sharda University, organised an interactive session on “Public Delivery Mechanism and Change Management in Indian Agriculture” with a delegation from Afghanistan on 25 May 2016 in New Delhi. Mr. Gopal Baglay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Prof. T.P. Rajendran, Visiting Fellow, RIS had a brief discussion on agriculture with the delegates. Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India delivered a lecture and made a presentation on “Experiences from Indian Horticulture Sector.” Dr. Arvind

Kaushal, Distinguished Fellow, TERI delivered a lecture and made a presentation on “Indian Experience in Livestock and Animal Husbandry Sector.” Dr. R.K. Singh, CMD, National Scheduled Castes Development Finance Cooperation delivered a lecture and made a presentation on “Indian Experience in Change Management in Agriculture”.

Launching Volume on ‘Moulding Technology and Science Policy in India’, 15 November 2016, New Delhi

RIS organised the launch of the volume on Moulding Technology and Science Policy in India in honour of Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi. Launch of the Festschrift Volume began with welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari launched and presented it to Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi. The Vice-President said that the foundations laid by people like Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi enabled India to enhance its Science and Technology capacity. Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Emeritus Chairman, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai; Prof. Roddam Narasimah, FRS, Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research Bengaluru, (in absentia); Dr. Malti Goel, Executive Director, Climate Change Research Institute, New Delhi and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion. The volume is edited by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

Launch of Study on Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade, 15 June 2016, New Delhi

The Commerce Secretary Ms. Rita Teatota, launched the RIS study on “Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade: Policy and Implementation Measures”. The study has been prepared by Prof. Ram Upendra Das, RIS. The programme was organised by RIS in association with the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in New Delhi on 15 June 2016. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. The Report aims at providing an impetus to India’s Act East policy as emphasised by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, by harnessing the potential of trade between India and Myanmar through border routes. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Rita Teatota highlighted that border trade between India and Myanmar through the land routes has seen a paradigm shift

from barter to normal trade and also abolishing the list of items restricted until recently. This effectively means that now India and Myanmar trade through the border can take place under the Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme and ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA).

A distinguishing feature of India’s border trade with Myanmar and bilateral normal trade is that, in case of border trade both import and export growth exceed growth rates in overall bilateral trade, said Mr. Ravi Capoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry while presenting the rationale and genesis of the study. He amplified the role of integration with Myanmar for development of Myanmar and also accessing ASEAN and other markets with which Myanmar has preferential access. Prof. Ram Upendra Das made a presentation about the report.

Interactive Session on Strengthening India-Nepal Development Cooperation, 10 July 2016

A delegation from the Parliamentary Committee for Development, Legislature Parliament of Nepal visited India for interacting with academicians, experts and diplomats. RIS, jointly with the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad-Bharat (Indian Council for International Co-operation), organised an interactive session with members of the delegation in New Delhi on 10 July 2016.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Shyam Parande, Secretary, Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad-Bharat (Indian Council for International Co-operation) made welcome remarks. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS made special remarks. Shri Rabindra Adhikari, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Development, Legislature Parliament of Nepal also gave a statement.

Member of delegation included: Mr. Rabindra Adhikari; Mr. Ajay Shankar Nayak; Ms. Anita Devkota; Ms. Ranjana Kumari Sarkar; Mr. Karna Bahadur BK; Mr. Baijanath Chaudhari (Tharu); Ms. Sita Devi Yadav; Mr. Tulasa Rana; Mr. Ishtiyak Ahmed Khan; Mr. Prem Bahadur Ale; Mr. Janardan Dhakal; Mr. Jiwan Bahadur Shahi; Mr. Mahendra Yadav; Mr. Kalpana Chaudhari; Mr. Rajendra Amatya; Mr. Ghanindra Raj Chimauriya; Mr. Shiva Dutta Baral and Mrs. Dipa Kumari Dulal. The meeting discussed various development projects in Nepal and the role of Parliamentarians in bridging the relationship between Nepal and India.

Launch of RIS publication on 'India's Approach to Development Cooperation', 27 June 2016

RIS, jointly with The Asia Foundation, South Centre and the Permanent Mission of India, Geneva organised a Panel Discussion, 'Dialogue on South-South Cooperation' on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 'Right to Development' and the launch of the book "India's Approach to Development Cooperation" edited by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi and Ms. Anthea Mulakala at United Nations Office in Geneva on 27 June 2016. The Opening Session started with welcome remarks by Mr. Vicente Yu, South Centre; followed by the introductory remarks by Ambassador Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Mr. Ajit Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of India to the UN and it was followed by a panel discussion. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS; Dr. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Globalisation and Strategic Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Ms. Anita Amorim, Head of the Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, International Labor Organization; Dr. Prabodh Saxena, Principal Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh and former Senior Advisor, Asian Development Bank (ADB); Mr. Zhou Taidong, Program Manager, China-UK Partnership Programme Development Research Centre; and Dr. Youba Sokona, Special Advisor on Sustainable Development, South Centre and Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) Panel were the panelists. Discussion was moderated by Ms. Anthea Mulakala, Director of International Development Corporation, The Asia Foundation.

The book launch for "India's Approach to Development Cooperation" was also held at Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK on 29 June 2016; at India House, High Commission of India, London on 30 June 2016; in New Delhi on 9 August 2016 where Mr. Amar Sinha, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs released the book; in the State Department at Washington DC on 14 September 2016, where Mr. Taranjit S. Sandhu, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India launched the book; and at the Canada-India Centre for Excellence, Carleton University in Ottawa on 12 September 2016.

Consultation Meeting on Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), 30 August 2016

RIS convened a consultation meeting on TFM in New Delhi on 30 August 2016. Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS presided over the meeting. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made the welcome remarks. The discussion was led by Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), MEA; Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Dr. P.K. Anand, Consultant, NITI Aayog. Others present at the meeting were Dr. Sadhana Relia, Head, International Cooperation (Multilateral / Regional), Department of Science and Technology; Prof. Pranav N. Desai, JNU; Dr. K.J. Joseph, Professor, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram; and Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor, RIS. The key recommendations from the meeting have been forwarded to the United Nations Economic and Social (UNES) Division of the MEA.

Seminar on Heart of Asia and Connectivity, 3 December 2016

RIS in collaboration with the MEA and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised the "Seminar on Heart of Asia and Connectivity" on 3 December 2016 in Amritsar, under the Trade, Commerce & Investment - Confidence Building Measures (TCI- CBM) of the Heart of Asia Process of Rebuilding Afghanistan.

The Heart of Asia has emerged as an important initiative for connecting Afghanistan with rest of the South Asian & Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. The strategic location of Afghanistan, as gateway to connect Asia, Iran, and the CIS region, provides immense potential for diversifying Indian industries engagement in Afghanistan & Central Asia.

The programme began with welcome addresses by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS and Mr. Goutam Ghosh, Director, FICCI. Ambassador Manpreet Vohra, Ambassador of India in Kabul delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Professor, RIS extended the vote of thanks at the inaugural session.

Some of the key policy recommendations of the seminar on connectivity are: The Sea-Road/Rail multi-modal linkage between West-East Indian ports and Chabahar is business-feasible since it is an agglomeration of India's outbound cargo

to South Europe (Rail), Central Asia, Russia and North Europe (Rail-Road). To make this successful a 'Proof of Concept' needs to be done that may include the three steps: (i) Run a regular shipping service (once or twice a week) with some subsidy; (ii) Undertake a 'micro-level' operation study to understand the problems of using this port as a multi-modal point; and (iii) Focus on TIR Convention and other forms of Customs facilitation in the North-South Corridor. To connect South and Central Asia there is a need to find and develop cheapest and shortest routes possible which are essentially land routes. These have the potential to convert land-locked countries into land-linked countries. For this to be viable the work by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in terms of Trans-Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Network needs to be focused at the operational levels. These could be situated in the multimodal context of rail-road-sea connectivity. Further, infrastructure need not necessarily be a bottleneck in the region impeding trade and investment flows. Therefore for development of trade and investment, facilitating infrastructure is to be put in place.

Capacity Building Programmes ITEC/ SCAAP Capacity Building Programme on South-South Cooperation

RIS under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)/ Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) of the MEA organised a two-week Capacity Building Programme on South-South Cooperation in New Delhi during 15-25 November 2016 in New Delhi.

The programme intended to familiarise the participants with a broader concept of South-South Cooperation (SSC), particularly on Development Cooperation in the context of ongoing resurgence of the economies of the South in the wake of major changes being witnessed in the global aid architecture. The programme, among other things, focused on the rationale, concepts and contours of SSC by building on individual accomplishments of the respective countries, thus explaining the benefits from and barriers to their collective engagements. It also covered the key principles, policies, modalities (that include national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefit) and practices that were evident across SSC and looked at how the policy orientations

or the strengths of SSC could be practically applied.

The programme also discussed how SSC was a different paradigm from the North-South Cooperation (NSC) and how SSC should be viewed as a voluntary partnership which had now developed into a more matured platform transcending the initial foundations of political solidarity and not as a replacement for the NSC in any significant measure.

Twenty-eight participants from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs/Finance/Commerce or other Ministries dealing with SSC/NSC and civil society representatives engaged in related issues from the participating countries attended the programme. Apart from intellectual sessions, a study tour was also organised. The participants were also encouraged to share their learning outcomes through group discussions and presentations.

Workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities

RIS supports Myanmar through its capacity building programme on Building Trade and Investment Capacity. Under this, RIS, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok; the Centre for Economy and Social Development (CESD), Myanmar; and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce organised the sixth workshop on Trade Facilitation: Global Agenda and Regional Priorities at UMFCCEI, Yangon on 12-13 May 2016. The workshop comprised six sessions covering global and regional issues of trade facilitation. Mr. Soe Win, Dy. Director General, Myanmar Ministry of Commerce delivered the opening address. Dr. Prabir De, Professor/Coordinator, AIC at RIS and Dr. Tangfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UNESCAP, Bangkok introduced the workshops to the participants.

Workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration

Under the Myanmar Capacity Building Programme, RIS organised a three-day workshop on Regional Cooperation and Integration at Yangon during 9-11 May 2016 in collaboration with UNESCAP, Bangkok; CESD, Myanmar and Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. The opening address was given by Mr. Soe Win, Deputy Director General, Myanmar Ministry

of Commerce. Dr. Mia Mikic, Chief, Trade Policy Section, Trade Policy and Analysis – Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UNESCAP, Bangkok and Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS introduced the objectives of the workshops to the participants. The workshop was divided into eleven sessions covering several aspects of Regional Cooperation and Integration.

Joint Programme between RIS and John Hopkins University towards Shaping the US-India Trade Agenda 15-17 November 2016, New Delhi

RIS, jointly with Johns Hopkins University organised a capacity building programme on ‘Towards Shaping the US-India Agenda’ during 15-17 November 2016 in New Delhi. Students from Johns Hopkins University participated in the programme and interacted with Indian experts on specific issues relating to ‘India-US Trade Relationship’.

RIS Summer School, 6-10 June 2016

RIS has taken the initiative of launching ‘RIS Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practices’. The first of this was conducted during 6-10 June 2016. The course aimed to contribute towards capacity building of scholars specialising in international trade. The course structure included: recent developments in Trade Theory; Databases and Information on International Trade, Tools and Techniques in Trade Analysis; Understanding Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Regional Trading Blocs; Issues of Trade in Technology and Classification; and Trade and Development: Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and New Issues. Eleven candidates attended the RIS Summer School in addition to the Research Assistants of RIS faculty members. Inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, UNESCAP, New Delhi. Prof. S. K. Mohanty led the course from RIS. Shri Arvind Mehta, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry also addressed the participants. Experts were invited to deliver lectures on different subjects. RIS faculty members also addressed the participants.

Workshop on Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia, 5 December 2016

RIS jointly with South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) organised a Workshop on Job Creation in Manufacturing Sector as a Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth in South Asia on 5 December 2016, New Delhi. The workshop discussed impending issues related to Emerging Trends in Macroeconomic Performance; Economic Growth and Industrialisation; and External Linkages and Sustainable Economic Growth all in the context of South Asia. It served as a platform for facilitating stimulating academic discourse on the issues by senior experts and policy researchers from South Asia to come up with a possible policy roadmap.

The agenda included discussion on Emerging Trends in Macroeconomic Performance; Economic Growth and Industrialisation; and External Linkages and Sustainable Economic Growth. The participants from South Asia were: Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka; Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan (via skype call); Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; Dr Khondakar Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh; Dr Frederico Gil Sander, Senior Country Economist, World Bank, Dr Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman, Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD), Former Member of Parliament, Government of Nepal; Dr Nomaan Majid, ILO Senior specialist on Employment Policy, India; Dr Sher Singh Verick, Deputy Director, ILO DWT for South Asia and Country Office for India; Mr Vishvanathan Subramanian, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka.

The workshop successfully concluded with key lessons on the manufacturing sector in South Asia and challenges of employment generation. The workshop witnessed rich display of analytical evidence from noted experts highlighting specific constraints with regard to the growth of the manufacturing sector and associated employment generation in South Asia. To arrive at future directions several key issues were taken up primarily covering roadmap for industrialisation by overcoming existing constraints and through leveraging opportunities in export led growth, global value chains and regional cooperation in trade and investment.

Indian Economy and Demonetisation, 15 December 2016

RIS organised a Consultation Meeting on Indian Economy and Demonetisation on 15 December 2016 in New Delhi. Dr. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute for Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Founder Director, Pahle India Foundation & Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi were Co-Chairs. The discussion began with the welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant, RIS made the thematic presentation. It was followed by open discussion in which eminent experts participated. The meeting emphasized that delegalisation in the current form as India has attempted is the largest ever macroeconomic programme ever attempted consciously. It has been a huge leap of faith for the policy-makers in India led by the Prime Minister. This also has great relevance for other developing countries which may also require similar tough measures.

Blue Economy as Emerging Development Paradigm, 29 December 2016

The concept of the Blue Economy has become important for both national and regional development. RIS in association with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has been actively engaged in the programme of promoting the concept of Blue Economy. The institute has also brought out a number of publications and organized conferences on different themes of Blue Economy in the recent past.

In continuation of this endeavour, RIS organized a seminar titled “Blue Economy as Emerging Development Paradigm” on 29 December 2016. Prof. V.N. Attri, Chair, Indian Ocean Studies, IORA, University of Mauritius made the thematic presentation. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS delivered the opening remarks and Dr. S.K. Mohanty, Professor, RIS made special remarks. Dr. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, IDSA was the discussant. A large number of participants took part in the open discussion that followed. The Blue Economy is emerging as a major area of global attention because of its inherent power to create a wide range of productive and sustainable development opportunities that oceanic resources offered. There is tremendous potential and

opportunities for development in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture, renewable ocean energy, seaports and shipping and offshore hydrocarbons and seabed minerals. The Prime Minister of India has also emphasized on different occasions that the Indian Ocean is critical to the future of the world. We also seek a more integrated and cooperative future in the region that enhances the prospects of sustainable development for all. We must promote greater collaboration in trade, tourism and investment; infrastructure development; and overall development of ocean or blue economy.

Launch of BIMSTEC and IBSA Reports, 9 December 2016

RIS brought out two major publications covering issues related to BIMSTEC and IBSA. The two reports namely, ‘*BIMSTEC – The Road Ahead*’ and ‘*IBSA – Trinity for Development, Democracy and Sustainability*’ were launched by Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India on 9 December 2016 in New Delhi. Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Dr. V.S. Seshadri, Vice-Chairman, RIS made opening remarks. Shri Alok A. Dimri, Joint Secretary (MER), MEA extended the vote of thanks.

The IBSA report highlights that IBSA stands as an important milestone in the history of South-South Cooperation (SSC). IBSA countries defend multilateralism and peace, promote respect for sovereignty, encourage development of people and support trade and economic initiatives between the South and developed countries. Similarly, the BIMSTEC report underlines that capabilities of each country in many areas could be a source of sharing and learning among members of the BIMSTEC group. BIMSTEC constitutes a significant building block for eventual establishment of a Bay of Bengal Economic Community. A list of books, reports, discussion papers, policy briefs, journals is at **Appendix-XIV**.

Other important events organised by RIS

- Informal FIDC consultation on BRICS Civil Society Meet, 2 April 2016.
- Consultation Meetings on Free Trade Agreements, 14 April and 1 May 2016.
- Project Review Meeting – Socio Economic Assessment of LMOs, 28 April 2016.

- Final Meeting of Project on Biosafety - Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs, 26 May 2016.
- Roundtable Discussion on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Access to Technology and Policy Interventions, 4 June 2016.
- Panel Discussion on Booms, Crises and Recoveries, 7 July 2016.
- Roundtable Consultation on Resolving Legal Ambiguity related to IPR and Access to Technology, 27 July 2016.
- Visit of the Members of Parliament from Bangladesh, 3 August 2016.
- Partners in Asian Development Cooperation: The Role of the Private Sector, 10-11 August 2016.
- Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of Living Modified Organisms, 24 August 2016.
- Visit of Japanese Delegation on 29 August 2016.
- Prelude to International BRICS Meeting, 30 October-1 November 2016.

- Seminar on Promoting India's Exports to Japan under India-Japan CEPA, 06 October 2016, New Delhi.
- RIS Breakfast Seminar Series.

Forthcoming Events

- RIS-ITEC Course on Science Diplomacy, 9-20 January 2017, RIS, New Delhi
- Brainstorming Session on Japan-India Partnership for Africa, 12 January 2017, New Delhi
- Stakeholder Consultation on IPR and Traditional Medicine, jointly with Ministry of AYUSH, 19 January 2017, New Delhi
- Dedication of RIS Library to the memory of Prof. Sukhomay Chakravarty, 30 January 2017, New Delhi
- RIS-ITEC Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP), 13 February - 3 March 2017, RIS, New Delhi
- Transforming India 2030: Strategies for Sustainable Development Goals, jointly with Symbiosis University, Pune, 15-17 February 2017, Pune



External Affairs Minister of India launching the RIS publication entitled 'India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward' on 7 October 2016 at the Ministry. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India; Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs; and Amb. Sudhir T. Devare.



Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India releasing the Policy Brief on 'Fisheries Sector in IORA: Driving Force in Region's Blue Economy' at the IORA Blue Economy Dialogue. Also seen in picture (from left to right) are: Prof. S.K. Mohanty, RIS; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Amb. Sudhir Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, RIS.



Vice President of India launching the Volume 'A Lifetime of Moulding Technology and Science Policy in India' to Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi in New Delhi on 15 November 2016. Also seen in picture are Prof. Ashok Parthasarathi and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.



Library and Archives

Library

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) library performs the duties of a library and also acts as a Resource and Information Centre for the use of officers and staff members of MEA at Head Quarters (HQ) as well as Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The library currently functions at Patiala House and Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan (JNB).

The library has over one hundred thousand books, rich resource materials and a large collection of maps, microfilms and official documents. It is also equipped with modern facilities to support policy planning and research. The library subscribes and maintains about 300 periodicals / journals and newspaper titles (including on-line journals and databases).

A Library Committee manages activities including purchase of books and subscription of journals / periodicals and databases. The Foreign Secretary constitutes / re-constitutes the Library Committee. The current Committee comprises of Joint Secretary (Policy Planning & Research) as Chairman, Director / Deputy Secretary from 3-4 territorial divisions as Members and Director (Lib & Info) as Member Secretary. Books submitted on approval by vendors are first screened by library officers before being put up to the Committee. 4-5 committee meetings are held every year for selection of books for the library. Requested / recommended books are purchased on priority at a day-to-day basis. Books are also procured and supplied to officers through Inter-library loan. The library has recently purchased a collection of e-books on international relations.

Library services are provided not only to MEA officers and staff members and all Indian Missions abroad, but also to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), President's and Vice President's Offices, Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), National Development

Council (NDC) as well as several other Ministries and Departments. The library also entertains research scholars from various universities and institutions because of its rich and specialized collections on International Relations and allied subjects.

All Documentation / Bibliographic Services as well as other library operations and user services have been computerized, using integrated library management software "LibSys". Information about all books and documents as well as selected articles from periodicals / journals received in the library are available through Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). MEA has recently upgraded the library management software to "Web Centric LibSys 7". Library's information can also be accessed through Internet on MEA Library's website: <http://mealib.nic.in>

All new documents received in the library and selected articles from periodicals and journals are fed on a regular basis in the database on foreign affairs. These online databases and journals / periodicals can be accessed on Internet via username and passwords. A list of such titles is regularly circulated at HQ as well as Indian Missions and Posts abroad and is also available on Ministry's intranet.

To provide documentation, bibliography and reference services to its users, the library regularly issues various bulletins such as Recent Additions and Foreign Affairs Documentation Bulletin. In addition to this, the library provides access to online databases such as Africa Confidential, Britannica Academic Edition, Business Monitor International, Chatham House Online Archives, EIU online services, JSTOR Archival database, Marketline Advantage, Press Reader, PROQUEST Historical Newspaper Archives, Janes' Online Services, Keessing's World News Archives, and so on. It also maintains group subscriptions in order to access to Financial Times, Wall Street Journal and the International New York Times.

MEA library has a good collection of rare books. A catalogue of some selected rare books has already been prepared and printed as per instructions of former FS. These rare books are also kept in a separate rare books library at JNB.

The library recently completed a project to publish / re-print “India’s Bilateral Treaties and Agreements including joint declarations and communiqués” from 1947 to 2015-16 and this publication is likely to be released in 18 volumes.

MEA Library also provides practical training to the students of Library Science studying in various institutions of Delhi from time to time. On request from ICWA, one MEA library officer has also been deputed to ICWA Library to upgrade the library and its services.

The library is an institutional member of Indian Library Association (ILA), Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centre (IASLIC), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Special Libraries Association (SLA). Director (Lib & Info) and other officers regularly attended / participated in International

and National Conferences / Seminars / Meetings of ILA, IASLIC, IFLA, and SLA, from time to time. Dr S S Dhaka, Director (Lib & Info) has been elected as President of SLA (Asian Chapter) for the term 2015-2017. He is also a standing committee member of the International Federation of Library Associations-Government Information and Official Publications Section (IFLA-GIOPS) and President of Asian Library Association. Shri Sanjay Kumar Bihani, ALIO is elected as Secretary of IFLA –RSCAO for the term 2015-2017 and SC member of IFLA-GIOPS for 2015-2019.

Archives and Record Management

In April-November 2016, 3970 old ordinary files have been destroyed after approval from concerned HODs. During the Swachh Bharat Pakhwada, a special drive for cleanliness was organized for files received in the Division. Also orderly arrangement of furniture and fixture, lamination of old photographs, restoration/replacement of tube lights in rooms and corridors were undertaken, special efforts were made to keep files in the compactors in an optimum manner.



Finance and Budget

The total budget outlay for the Ministry of External Affairs for FY 2016-17 was ₹14662.66 crore, which was 2.03% less than the budget allocated for FY 2015-16 (₹14966.83 crore). This was enhanced to ₹15262.66 crore after receiving a cash supplementary of ₹600.00 crore in the first batch of supplementary demand for grants, making the FY 2016-17 budget 1.94% more than the FY 2015-16 budget.

A major part of the budgetary outlay is committed towards technical and economic cooperation with other countries through both Plan and Non-Plan funds.

PLAN

The Plan component of MEA's budget caters to several large developmental projects in the areas of infrastructure, hydroelectric power projects, agriculture, industry etc., which are undertaken in India's neighbouring countries. Hydro-Electric Projects in Bhutan; the Kabul to Pul-e-Khumri double circuit transmission line and sub-stations at Doshi and Charikar in Afghanistan; the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project in Myanmar; and Nalanda University in Rajgir, Bihar, are the principal projects being funded from the Plan budget head.

NON-PLAN

The principal beneficiaries of the Non-Plan technical and economic cooperation budget in FY 2016-17 are Bhutan (₹1200 crore), Bangladesh (₹150 crore), Afghanistan (₹500 crore), Sri Lanka (₹230 crore), Nepal (₹300 crore), Myanmar (₹200 crore), African countries (₹290 crore) and Mauritius (₹445 crore). Other beneficiaries include Seychelles, Maldives, Mongolia, and countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, Central Europe and the Pacific region.

The Ministry had revenue receipts from issuance of passports, visa fees and other receipts to the tune of ₹ 3165.31 Crores up

to 30.11.2016 The Revenue receipts were as follows:

| Minor Head | Revenue Receipt (in crores) |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Passports | 1467.75 |
| Visa Fees | 1215.76 |
| Others | 481.80 |
| Total | 3165.31 |

The Ministry's revenue receipts from issuance of passports, visa fees and other receipts were ₹ 2682.68 crores up to 31 October 2016, as follows:

| Minor Head | Revenue Receipt (in ₹crores) |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Passports | 1256.91 |
| Visa Fees | 1005.68 |
| Others | 420.09 |
| Total | 2682.68 |

A sectoral analysis of the budget allocation as per Budget Estimates 2016-17 show that out of a total allocation of ₹15262.66 crore, 55.74% (₹8507.82 crore) of the budget was allocated for projects under technical and economic cooperation with other countries and ₹2675.50 crore as loans and advances to foreign governments. Indian Missions and Posts abroad were allocated 16% of the budget (₹ 2460.58 cr.), 12% was allocated for Special Diplomatic Expenditure, 5% for Passport and Emigration Services, 3% for MEA Secretariat, 3% for International Organisations, 2% for Grant to Institutions, 2% for Capital Outlay on Public Works, and 1% on other charges.

MEA actual expenditure 2008-09 to 2015-16 is at **Appendix-XV**, major sectoral allocation in FY 2016-17 is in **Appendix-XVI**, principal destinations of ITEC Programmes is at **Appendix XVII** and status of pending C&AG paras is at **Appendix-XVIII**.



Appendices

TREATIES/ AGREEMENTS/MoUs SIGNED BY INDIA DURING 2016.

A: Multilateral Treaties

| Sl. No. | Title of the Convention/Treaty/Agreement | Organization | Date of - Signature/ Ratification/ Accession | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | MoU on Mutual Cooperation between the rio branco institute of the ministry affairs of the federative republic of brazil, the diplomatic academy of the ministry of foreign affairs of the russian federation, the foreign service institute of ministry of external affairs of the republic of india, the china foreign affairs university and the china diplomatic academy of the ministry of foreign affairs of the people's republic of china and the diplomatic academy of the department of international relations and cooperation of the republic of south africa. | Brics | 16-10-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 2 | Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of the conference on interaction and confidence building measures in asia | Cica | 14-09-2016 | Ministry of external affairs |
| 3 | Agreement on Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Between the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 4 | Protocol on Amendments to the Agreement on the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Among the Member States of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 5 | Protocol on amendments to the Agreement on the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Among the Member States of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 6 | Agreement on Protecting Classified Information in the Framework of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 7 | Memorandum between the governments of the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization on Fundamental Goals and Directions of Regional Economic Cooperation and Launch of the Process of Creating Favourable Conditions for Trade and Investment. | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 8 | Protocol to the memorandum between the governments of the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization on Fundamental Goals and Directions of Regional Economic Cooperation and Launch of the Process of Creating Favourable Conditions for Trade and Investment. | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |

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| Sl. No. | Title of the Convention/Treaty/Agreement | Organization | Date of - Signature/ Ratification/ Accession | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 9 | Agreement on the procedure for the preparation and execution of the budget of the shanghai cooperation organization. | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 10 | Protocol Amending the Agreement on the Procedure for the Preparation and Execution of the Budget of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 11 | Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 12 | Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, and Precursors Between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 13 | Agreement on the Databank of the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure of the shanghai cooperation organization, | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 14 | Protocol on cooperation and coordination of activities between the ministries of foreign affairs of the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 15 | Agreement On Cooperation In Identifying And Blocking The Channels Of Entry Into The Territory Of The Member States Of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Of The Persons Involved In Terrorist, Separatist And Extremist Activities, | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 16 | Agreement on the procedure for organizing and conducting joint anti-terrorist operations in the territory of the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 17 | Agreement on the procedure for preparation and conducting joint anti-terrorist exercises among the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 18 | Agreement on cooperation in ensuring international information security between the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 19 | Agreement on the training of personnel for anti-terrorist units of the member states of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 20 | Convention of the shanghai cooperation organization against terrorism | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |

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| Sl. No. | Title of the Convention/Treaty/Agreement | Organization | Date of - Signature/ Ratification/ Accession | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|--|--|--|
| 21 | Charter of the shanghai cooperation organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 22 | Shanghai convention on combating terrorism, separatism and extremism | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 01-12-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 23 | Memorandum of obligations of the republic of india with the aim of obtaining the status of the member state of the shanghai cooperation organization. | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 24-06-2016 | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 24 | Agreement on the establishment of an international transport and the transit corridor among the governments of the republic of india, the islamic republic of afghanistan and the islamic republic of iran (chabahar agreement) | Trilateral (India, Afghanistan & Iran) | 23-05-2016 | Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways; and Ministry of Shipping; Ministry of External Affairs |
| 25 | Paris Agreement | United Nations | 22-04-2016 | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |

B: Bilateral Treaties

(Arranged alphabetically- country-wise)

| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) Between The Ministry Of Rural Development (Mord), Government Of India And The African-Asian Rural Development Organization (Aardo) | Aardo | 30-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Rural Devemopment</i> |
| 2 | Agreement Between India And Afghanistan On Juridical And Judicial Cooperation In Civil And Commercial Matters For The Service Of Summons, Judicial Documents, Commission, Execution Of Judgments And Arbitral Awards | Afghanistan | 14-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Law & Justice</i> |
| 3 | Agreement Between India And Afghanistan On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports | Afghanistan | 01-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| 4 | Extradition Treaty Between India And Afghanistan | Afghanistan | 14-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 5 | MoU Between India And Afghanistan On Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space | Afghanistan | 14-09-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 6 | MoU Between Indian Council Of Agriculture Research And Afghan National Agricultural Sciences And Technology University For Cooperation In Agriculture Research And Education | Afghanistan | 21-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmaer Welfare</i> |
| 7 | Protocol Amending The Convention Between India And Armenia For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income, Which Was Signed At New Delhi On 31St October 2003. | Armenia | 27-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 8 | MoU Between The ICAR And Horticultural Innovation Australia | Australia | 27-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmaer Welfare</i> |
| 9 | MoU Between India And Austria Concerning Cooperation In The Fields Of Culture And The Arts For The Years 2016-2021 | Austria | 09-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 10 | MoU Beteen The University Of Vienna, Austria In Particular The Faculty Of Philological And Cultural Studies And Iccr | Austria | 21-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 11 | Agreement Between The Government Of Republic Of India And The Government Of The Kingdom Of Bahrain On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons | Bahrain | 23-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 12 | Bilateral Agreement Between India And Bangladesh Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of "Satellite For Saarc Region Proposed At 48E | Bangladesh | 02-02-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 13 | Letter Of Intent On The Implementation Of The MoU Between India And Belgium Relating To Maritime Transport | Belgium | 02-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 14 | MoU Between India And Belgium On Cooperation In The Field Of Biotechnology | Belgium | 02-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Science & Technology (Dept of Biotechnology)</i> |
| 15 | Bilateral Agreement Between India And Bhutan Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of "Satellite For Saarc Region Proposed At 48E | Bhutan | 07-03-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 16 | Agreement On Trade, Commerce And Transit Between India And Bhutan | Bhutan | 12-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Commerece and Industry</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| 17 | MoU Between Icar And Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), Brazil | Brazil | 17-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare</i> |
| 18 | Agreement Between Bureau Of Indian Standards And The Associacao Brasoliera De Normas Tecnicas (Abnt) On Cooperation In Mutual Recognition | Brazil | 24-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 19 | MoU Between India And Brunei Darussalam On Cooperation In Youth And Sports Affair | Brunei Darussalam | 02-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</i> |
| 20 | MoU Between India And Brunei Darussalam On Defence Cooperation | Brunei Darussalam | 02-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 21 | MoU Between India And Brunei Darussalam On Health Cooperation | Brunei Darussalam | 02-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</i> |
| 22 | MoU Between India And Combodia Regarding Grant Assistance For Implimentation Of Quick Impact Project On Solution For Tb Managemetn In Cambodia | Cambodia | 31-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 23 | MoU Between India And Cambodia Regarding Indian Grant Assistance For Implementation Of Quick Impact Projects In Combodia Project On Water, Sanitation And Hygeine In Schools Small Scale Water Supply And Integrated Food Security | Cambodia | 13-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 24 | MoU Between India And Cambodia For Strengthening Cooperation In Parliamentary Affairs | Cambodia | 14-09-2016 | <i>Rajya Sabha Secretariat</i> |
| 25 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Railway Of The Government Of India And The Ministry Of Transport Of The Government Of Canada In Cooperation In Railways | Canada | 10-03-2016 | <i>Ministry of Railways</i> |
| 26 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Civil Aviation Of The Republic Of India And The Departamento The Transport Of Canada On Deepening Cooperation In Civil Aviation. | Canada | 10-03-2016 | <i>Ministry of Civil Aviation</i> |
| 27 | MoU Between Iccr And Careleton University | Canada | 15-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 28 | MoU Between Iccr And Centre For China Shanghai International Art Festival China | China | | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 29 | MoU Between Indian Council For Cultural Relations (Iccr) And China Federation Of Literacy And Art Circles (Cflac) | China | 08-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 30 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Côte D'ivoire On The Obligation Of Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports | <i>Côte D'ivoire</i> | 21-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 31 | Agreement And Its Protocol Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Cyprus For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income And Its Protocol | <i>Cyprus</i> | 18-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 32 | Agreement Between India And Egypt On Maritime Transport | Egypt | 02-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 33 | MoU Between Iccr And Ain Shams University On The Establishment Of The Iccr's Indian Chairs | Egypt | 30-03-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 34 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Republic Of Estonia On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons | Estonia | 15-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 35 | Arrangement For The Establishment Of Indo-French Joint Committee On Science And Technology Cooperation Between India And France | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Science and Technology</i> |
| 36 | Implementing Agreement Between India And France Concerning Cooperation In Definition Studies On A Future Joint Thermal Infra Red Earth Observation Mission | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 37 | Implementing Arrangement Between India And France Related To Their Cooperation Concerning Hosting Argos On-Board Oceansat-3 | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 38 | Letter Of Intent For Cooperation In Space Exploration Between India And France | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 39 | MoU Between India And France For Cooperation In Food Safety | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</i> |
| 40 | MoU Between India And France For Implementation Of Festival Of India In France-"Namaste France" In 2016 And Festival Of France In India-"Bonjour India" In 2017 | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 41 | MoU Between India And France On Cooperation In The Area Of Cyber Security | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
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| 42 | Partnership Agreement Between India And France On Public Administration And Administrative Reforms | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</i> |
| 43 | Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The French Republic For The 2016-2018 Period | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 44 | Agreement For The Renovation Concept Design Of Ludhiana And Ambala Stations In India | France | 21-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Railways</i> |
| 45 | Memorandum Of Understanding For Industry Sponsored Ph.D. Fellowship Between Thales Systemes Aeroportes (TSA), France And Thales India Private Limited (TIPL) And Indian Institute Of Technology Bombay (IITB) | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Human Resource And Development</i> |
| 46 | Agreement Of Cooperation Between The Centre National De La Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) And Telecom Bretagne And The Universite De Bretagne Occidentale, (UBO) And The Universite De Bretagne Sud (UBS) And The Ecole Nationale Superieure De Techniques Avancees Bretagne, (Ensta Bretagne) And The Ecole Nationale De'ingenieurs De Brest, (ENIB) And The Indian Institute Of Technology Bombay (IITB). | France | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Human Resource And Development</i> |
| 47 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of External Affairs, The Republic Of India And Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And Regional Integration, The Republic Of Ghana | Ghana | 13-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 48 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Ghana On The Establishment Of A Joint Commission. | Ghana | 13-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 49 | Agreement Between India And Ghana On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports | Ghana | 13-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 50 | MoU Between India And Ghana On Cooperation In The Field Of Diplomacy | Ghana | 13-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 51 | MoU Between Indian Council Of World Affairs And The Institute Of Foreign Affairs And Trade Of Hungary | Hungary | 16-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 52 | India- United Nations Postal Administrations (India-Unpa) On Joint Issue | India-Unpa | 24-02-2016 | <i>Department of Posts</i> |
| 53 | MoU Between Iccr And Mahendradatta University On The Establishment Of The Iccr Chair Of Hindi Language | Indonesia | 25-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 54 | MoU Between The Bureau Of Indian Standards Of The Republic Of India And The National Standardization Agency Of The Republic Of Indonesia On Standardization Cooperation | Indonesia | 12-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 55 | MoU Between The Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Youth Sports Of The Republic Of Indonesia On Youth And Sports Cooperation | Indonesia | 12-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</i> |
| 56 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between Construction And Development Of Transportaion Infrastructures Company And Ircon International Limited For Chabahar-Zahedan Railway Project | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 57 | Ministry Of Roads And Urban Development Ports And Maritime Organisation Contract For Equipping And Operation Of Multipurpose And Container- Terminals At Firts Development Phase Of Shahid-Beheshti- Chabahar Port Between Aria Banader Iranian Port And Marine Services Company And India Ports Global Private Limited And Ports And Maritime Organization Of Islamic Republic Of Iran And Ministry Of Road Transport, Highways And Shipping Republic Of India | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping; Ministry of Road Transport & Highways; Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 58 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Indian Councilil For Culutral Relations Of The Republic Of India And The Islamic Culture And Relations Organization Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 59 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between Export Development Fund (EDF) (Administered By The Export-Import Bank Of India) Exim Bank And Ports And Maritime Organization (PMO) (Affiliated To Ministry Of Road And Urban Development Of I.R. Iran) | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 60 | Memorandum Of Understanding On National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) India And Iranian Mines And Mining Industries Development And Renovation Organisation (IMIDRO) | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Mines</i> |
| 61 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between ECGC Limited (ECGC) And Export Guarantee Fund Of Iran (EGFI) | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Commerce & Industry</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 62 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of External Affairs, Republic Of India And The School Of International Relations, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic Of Iran | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 63 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of External Affairs, Government Of India And The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Government Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran On Policy Dialogue Between Governments And Interaction Between Think Tanks | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 64 | Executive Programme Of Cultural Exchange Cooperation Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran For The Years 2016-2019 (1395-1398 Hegira) | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 65 | Implementation Protocol Between The Department Of Science & Technology, Ministry Of Science And Technology Of The Republic Of India And The Ministry Of Science, Research And Technology Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran On Cooperation In The Fields Of Science And Technology | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Science and Technology</i> |
| 66 | Memorandum Of Understanding For Cooperation Between The “National Archives Of India” And The “National Library And Archives Of The Islamic Republic Of Iran”. | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 67 | Contract For Equipping And Operation Of Multipurpose And Container Terminals At First Development Phase Of Shahid- Beheshti-Chabahar Port Between India And Iran | Iran | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 68 | Declaration Of Intent Between The Ministry Of Agriculture And Rural Development Of The State Of Israel And The Ministry Of Agriculture Of The Republic Of India | Israel | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare</i> |
| 69 | MoU Between Iccr And The “Orientale” University Of Naples On The Establishment Of The Iccr Teacher For Hindi Language | Italy | 19-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 70 | MoU Between Iccr And Reitaku University On The Establishment Of The Iccr Of Indian Studies | Japan | 20-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 71 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of Japan For Cooperation In The Peaceful Uses Of Nuclear Energy | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Department of Atomic Energy</i> |
| 72 | MoU Between Ministry Of Earth Sciences (MOES), Republic Of India And The Japan Agency For Marine-Earth Science And Technology (JAMSTEC) On Mutual Collaboration In Marine And Earth Science And Technology | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Earth and Sciences</i> |

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| 73 | Memorandum Of Cooperation (MOC) Between The Ministry Of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Of India, Government Of India And Ministry Of Economy, Trade And Industry Of Japan, Government Of Japan On The Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Program | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship</i> |
| 74 | Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) Between Isro And Jaxa Concerning Cooperation In The Field Of Outer Space | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 75 | Moc Between The Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare, Government Of India And Ministry Of Agriculture, Forestry And Fisheries Of Japan In The Field Of Agriculture And Food Related Industry | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</i> |
| 76 | MoU Between National Investment And Infrastructure Fund Limited And Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation For Transport And Urban Development | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 77 | MoU Between Textiles Committee, Ministry Of Textiles, Goi And Japan Textiles Products Quality And Technology Centre (Qtec) In The Field Of Textiles | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Textiles</i> |
| 78 | Moc In The Field Of Cultural Exchange Between The Ministry Of Culture, Government Of India And The Ministry Of Education, Culture, Sports, Science And Technology, Government Of Japan | Japan | 11-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 79 | Letter Of Intent Between Isro And The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Jaxa) Concerning Study On A Joint Earth Observation Mission | Japan | 05-04-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 80 | Agreement Between India And Kenya For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income | Kenya | 11-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 81 | Agreement Between India And Kenya On Visa Exemption | Kenya | 11-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 82 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Kenya On Co-Operation In The Field Of Defence | Kenya | 11-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 83 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Bureau Of Indian Standards And The Kenya Bureau Of Standards | Kenya | 11-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 84 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Kenya On Cooperation In The Field Of National Housing Policy Development And Management | Kenya | 11-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of Urban Development</i> |

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| 85 | MoU Between India And Korea On Cooperation In Port Related Industry | Korea | 13-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 86 | Cultural Exchange Programme Between India And Lithuania For The Years 2016-2018 | Lithuania | 11-03-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 87 | MoU Between India And Madagascar For The Establishment Of Centre On Geoinformatics Applications In Rural Development In Madagascar | Madagascar | 29-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Rural Development</i> |
| 88 | MoU Between India And Madagascar On Agriculture | Madagascar | 29-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</i> |
| 89 | MoU Between India And Madagascar On Cooperation In The Field Of Agriculture And Allied Sectors, Agricultural Technology & Machinery, And Fertilizer Production | Madagascar | 29-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</i> |
| 90 | MoU Between India And Malawi On Setting Up Of A Business Incubator For Promotion And Growth Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises In Malawi | Malawi | 29-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</i> |
| 91 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Maldives For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation Of Income Derived From International Air Transport. | Maldives | 11-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 92 | Action Plan For Defence Cooperation Between India And Maldives | Maldives | 11-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 93 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Maldives For Co-Operation In The Area Of Conservation And Restoration Of Ancient Mosques And Joint Research And Exploratory Surveys In Maldives | Maldives | 11-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 94 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Maldives On Cooperation In The Field Of Tourism | Maldives | 10-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Tourism</i> |
| 95 | Bilateral Agreement Between India And Maldives Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of 'South Asia Satellite' Proposed At 48 ^o e | Maldives | 11-04-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 96 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Maldives For The Exchange Of Information With Respect To Taxes | Maldives | 11-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
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| 97 | Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Mali For The Years 2016-2017 | Mali | 29-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 98 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Bureau Of Indian Standards And The Standards Organisation Of Mali | Mali | 29-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 99 | Agreement Between India And The Marshall Islands For The Exchange Of Information Relating To The Tax Matters | Marshall Islands | 18-03-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 100 | Protocol Amending The Convention Between India And Mauritius For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income And Capital Gains And For The Encouragement Of Mutual Trade And Investment Signed At Port Louis On 24Th August 1982 | Mauritius | 10-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 101 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Mauritius On Implementation Of Projects With GoI's Grant Assistance. | Mauritius | 14-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 102 | Agreement Between India And Mauritius On Cooperation For The Establishment Of Telemetry, Tracking And Telecommand Station For Satellites And Launch Vehicles And For Cooperation In The Fields Of Space Research, Science And Applications | Mauritius | 03-06-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 103 | Protocol On Cooperation Between The Secretariat Of Lok Sabha Of The Republic Of India And The Secretariat Of The State Great Hural Of Mongolia | Mongolia | 19-04- 2016 | <i>Lok Sabha Secretariat</i> |
| 104 | Protocol On The Exchange Of The Instruments Of The Ratification Of The Treaty Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of Mongolia On The Transfer Of Sentenced Persons | Mongolia | 28-04- 2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 105 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of Extenal Affairs, Republic Of India And The Diplomatic Academy, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And European Intergration, Montenegro | Montenegro | 20-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 106 | Cultural Exchange Programme Between The Government Of The Kingdom Of Morocco And The Government Of The Republic Of India For The 2016-2019 | Morocco | 31-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |

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| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| 107 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Moroccan Academy For Diplomatic Studies, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs And Cooperation, Kingdom Of Morocco And The Foreign Service Institute, Ministry Of External Affairs, Republic Of India | Morocco | 31-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 108 | MoU Between The Government Of The Republic Of Mozambique And The Government Of The Republic Of India On Cooperation In The Field Of Youth Affairs And Sports | Mozambique | 07-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports</i> |
| 109 | MoU Between India And Myanmar In The Field Of Renewable Energy | Myanmar | 29-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</i> |
| 110 | MoU Between India And Myanmar On Cooperation In The Construction Of The 69 Bridges Including Approach Roads In The Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa Road Section Of The Trilateral Highway In Myanmar | Myanmar | 29-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 111 | MoU Between India And Myanmar On Cooperation In The Construction Up-Gradation Of The Kalewa-Yagyi Road Section Of The Trilateral Highway Of Myanmar | Myanmar | 29-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 112 | MoU Between India And Myanmar On Cooperation In The Field Of Traditional Systems Of Medicine | Myanmar | 29-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of Health And Family Welfare</i> |
| 113 | Memorandum Of Understanding On Designing And Implementing An Academic And Professional Capacity Building Program For The Insurance Industry Of Myanmar Between Insurance Institute Of India And Financial Regulatory Department, Ministry Of Planning And Finance Of The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar | Myanmar | 19-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 114 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of The Union Of Myanmar On Cooperation In The Field Of Power Sector | Myanmar | 19-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Power</i> |
| 115 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Reserve Bank Of India And The Central Bank Of Myanmar | Myanmar | 19-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 116 | MoU Between India And Namibia Concerning Technical Cooperation In The Area Of Capacity Building Of Public Officials | Namibia | 16-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 117 | MoU On The Establishment Of A Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology Between India And Namibia | Namibia | 16-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |

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| 118 | MoU Between Iccr And Kathmandu University Dhulikhel Nepal On Cooperation For The Establishment Of The Iccr Chair Of Indian Studies | Nepal | 13-16-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 119 | MoU Between India And Nepal On Utilization Of The Grant Component Of India's Assistance Package For Post-Earthquake Reconstruction In Nepal | Nepal | 20-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 120 | MoU Between India And Nepal Regarding Strengthening Of Road Infrastructure In The Terai Area Of Nepal | Nepal | 20-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Road, Transport and Highway</i> |
| 121 | Bilateral Agreement Between India And Nepal Related To Orbit Frequency Coordination Of "Satellite For Saarc Region Proposed At 48E | Nepal | 15-03-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 122 | Air Services Agreement Between India And New Zealand | New Zealand | 01-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Civil Aviation</i> |
| 123 | MoU Between India And New Zealand On The Continuation Of The Iccr Chair Of Indian Studies | New Zealand | 02-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 124 | Third Protocol To The Convention Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of New Zealand For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation Andthe Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Resepect To Taxes Of Income | New Zealand | 26-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 125 | Memorandum Of Understandig Between The Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of The Government Of The Republic Of India And Sport New Zealand Of The Government Of New Zealand On Cooperation In The Field Of Youth Affairs And Sports | New Zealand | 26-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</i> |
| 126 | MoU Between Iccr And Faculty Of Humanities And Social Sciences Victoria University OfWellington On The Continuation Of Iccr Of Indian Studies | New Zealand | 02-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 127 | Arrangement Between The Food Safety And Standards Authority Of India And The Ministry For Primary Industries Of New Zealand Regarding Food Safety Cooperation | New Zealand | 26-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 128 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Bureau Of Indian Standards And The Standards Organisation Of Nigeria | Nigeria | 27-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |

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| 129 | Letter Of Intent To Work Towards Early Conclusion Of Discussions And To Sign MoU/Agreement On (A) Cooperation In Renewable Energy ; (B) Transfer Of Sentenced Persons ; (C) Customs Cooperation ; And (D) Health Cooperation | Nigeria | 27-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 130 | MoU Between India And Nigeria | Nigeria | 27-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 131 | MoU Between India And Oman In The Field Of Marine Crime Prevention At Sea | Oman | 10-03-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs: Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 132 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Defence Of The Sultanate Of Oman And The Ministry Of Defence Of The Republic Of India On Military Cooperation | Oman | 22-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 133 | Protocol Between The Ministry Of Defence Of Defence Of The Sultanate Of Oman Represented By Royal Air Force Of Oman And The Ministry Of Defence Of The Republic Of India Represented By The Indian Air Force On Flight Safety Information Exchange. | Oman | 22-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 134 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Sultanate Of Oman And The Government Of The Republic Of India To Cooperate On Maritime Issues. | Oman | 22-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 135 | MoU Between India And Papua New Guinea For Establishing India-Papua New Guinea Centre Of Excellence In Information Technology | Papua New Guinea | 29-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 136 | MoU Between Icar And University Of Technology Of Papua New Guinea In The Field Of Horticultural Science Research | Papua New Guinea | 29-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</i> |
| 137 | MoU Between India And Papua New Guinea On Cooperation In The Field Of Health Care And Medical Science | Papua New Guinea | 29-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</i> |
| 138 | MoU For A Line Of Credit Of Us\$ 100 Million Between India And Papua New Guinea | Papua New Guinea | 29-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 139 | MoU Between Iccr And Central For Oriental Studies Peru For Continuation Of The Iccr's Annual Financial Support To Pucp | Peru | 23-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 140 | Agreement Between India And Portugal On Paid Employment By Dependents Of Diplomatic, Administrative And Technical Staff Of Diplomatic And Consular Missions | Portugal | 08-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 141 | India-Portugal On Joint Stamp Issue | Portugal | 31-05-2016 | <i>Department of Posts</i> |

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| 142 | Agreement Between India And Qatar On Co-Operation And Mutual Assistance In Custom Matters | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 143 | MoU Between India And Qatar Concerning Co-Operation In The Exchange Of Intelligence Related To Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing And Related Crimes | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 144 | MoU Between India And Qatar Concerning Investment Co-Operation | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 145 | MoU Between India And Qatar On Tourism | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Tourism</i> |
| 146 | MoU For Cooperation In Skill Development And Recognition Of Qualifications Between India And Qatar | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Mhrd</i> |
| 147 | MoU On Cooperation In The Field Of Health Between India And Qatar | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</i> |
| 148 | The First Executive Program For MoU In The Field Of Youth And Sports Between India And Qatar For The Two Years(2017-2018)(2018-2019) | Qatar | 05-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Youth and Sports</i> |
| 149 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The State Of Qatar On Exemption Of Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic, Special And Official Passports | Qatar | 03-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 150 | Letter Of Intent Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The State Of Qatar | Qatar | 03-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 151 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Russian Federation And The Government Of The Republic Of India On Cooperation In The Field Of Security In The Use Of Information And Communication Technologies. | Russia | 15-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Information Technology and Communication</i> |
| 152 | MoU Between The Russian Federation And The Government Of The Republic Of India On Cooperation In The Field Of Youth Matters | Russia | 18-11-2016 | <i>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</i> |
| 153 | MoU Between Iccr And Russian State University For The Humanities (Rshu) | Russia | 09-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 154 | Protocol Between The Ministry Of Culture Of The Russian Federation And The Indian Council For Cultural Relations (Iccr) To Organize Bilateral Culture Festival Of Russia And India 2016-17 | Russia | | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |

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| 155 | MoU Between Isro And State Space Cooperation Roscosmos On Mutual Allocation Of Ground Measurement Gathering Stations For Russian Global Navigation Satellite System <<Glonass>> And Navigation With Indian Constellation <<Navic>> | Russia | 15-10-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 156 | Agreement On Labour Co-Operation Between The Ministry Of Labour Of The Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia And Ministry Of External Affairs Of The Republic Of India For Recruitment Of General Category Workers. | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 157 | Cooperation Programme Between India And Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 158 | Executive Programme For Cooperation In The Field Of Handicrafts Between India And Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises</i> |
| 159 | Framework For Investment Promotion Cooperation Between India And Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 160 | MoU Between India And Saudi Arabia Concerning Cooperation In Exchange Of Intelligence Related To Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing And Related Crimes | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 161 | Technical Cooperation Programme Between India And Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 162 | Technical Cooperation Programme Between The Saudi Standards, Metrology And Quality Organization (Saso) And The Bureau Of Indian Standards (Bis) India | Saudi Arabia | 03-04-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 163 | MoU Between Iccr And The Faculty Of Philosophy Of The University Of Novi Sad On The Establishment Of The Iccr Teacher For Hindi Language | Serbia | 20-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 164 | MoU Between India And Serbia On Cooperation In The Field Of Information Technology And Electronics | Serbia | 13-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</i> |
| 165 | <i>Memorandum Of Understanding For Collaboration In The Field Of Technical And Vocational Education And Training Between The Government Of State Of Assam, Republic Of India And Its Education Services Singapore (A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary Of The Institute Of Technical Education, Singapore)</i> | Singapore | 04-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</i> |

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| 166 | Memorandum Of Understanding In The Field Of Industrial Property Cooperation Between Department Of Industrial Policy And Promotion, Ministry Of Commerce And Industry, Government Of The Republic Of India And The Intellectual Property Office Of Singapore, Ministry Of Law, Government Of The Republic Of Singapore | Singapore | 04-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</i> |
| 167 | Protocol Amending The Convention And The Protocol Between India And Slovenia For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income Which Was Signed At Ljubljana On January 13, 2003 | Slovenia | 17-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 168 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of South Africa On Cooperation In Information And Communication Technologies | South Africa | 08-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology</i> |
| 169 | MoU Between India And Spain On Cooperation In Port Matters | Spain | 05-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of Shipping</i> |
| 170 | MoU Between Iccr And Al Zaiem Al Azhari University, Khartoum On The Establishment Of The Iccr Chair For Hindi Language | Sudan | 16-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 171 | MoU Between Iccr And University Of Lausanne On The Establishemtn Of Iccr Of Indian Studies | Switzerland | 09-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 172 | Technical Arrangement Between The Ministry Of External Affairs Of India And The Federal Department Of Justice And Police Of Switzerland On The Identification And Return Of Swiss And Indian Nationals. | Switzerland | 06-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 173 | Agreement Between The Swiss Federal Council And The Government Of India On Mutual Visa Exemption For Holders Of Diplomatic Passports | Switzerland | 06-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 174 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between Prasar Bharati, India And The Committee Of Television And Radio Under Tajikistan And For Cooperation On Broadcasting In Exchange Of Audio Visual Programs | Tajikistan | 17-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</i> |
| 175 | MoU Between Financial Intelligence Unit-India (Fiu-Ind) And The Financial Monitoring Department Under The National Bank Of Tajikstan Concerning Cooperation In The Exchange Of Financial Intelligence Related To Money Laundering, Related Crimes And Financing Of Terrorism | Tajikistan | 17-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 176 | Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Tajikistan For The Avidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income | Tajikistan | 17-12-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |

APPENDIX - I

| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 177 | Agreement Between India And Tanzania On Exemption From Visa Requirement For Holders Of Diplomatic And Official Passports | Tanzania | 10-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 178 | MoU Between India And Tanzania For Establishment Vocational Training Centre | Tanzania | 10-07-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 179 | Executive Programme For Cultural Exchange Between India And Thailand For The Years 2016-2019 | Thailand | 17-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 180 | MoU Between India And Thailand On Cooperation In Academics | Thailand | 17-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Human Resources and Development</i> |
| 181 | <i>Memorandum Of Understanding Between Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand And Nagaland University, Hq Lumami, Nagaland, India</i> | Thailand | 17-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Human Resources and Development</i> |
| 182 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Republic Of Tunisia On Cooperation In Information And Communications Technology And Digital Economy | Tunisia | 02-06-2016 | <i>Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology</i> |
| 183 | Memorandum Of Understanding On Cyber Security Between Cert-In And Cert-UK | UK | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 184 | Agreement Between India And United Kingdom For Co-Operation In The Peaceful Uses Of Nuclear Energy | UK | 13-11-2016 | <i>Department of Atomic Energy</i> |
| 185 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Indian Space Research Organisation And The United Arab Emirates Space Agency Regarding Cooperation In The Exploration And Use Of Outer Space For Peaceful Purposes. | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 186 | MoU Between Dubai Economic Council (Dec) And Export-Import Bank Of India | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 187 | MoU On India Rupee (Inr)/Uae Dirham (Aed) Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement Between Reserve Bank Of India And Central Bank Of The United Arab Emirates | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 188 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Ministry Of Defence Of The Republic Of India And The General Headquarters Of The United Arab Emirates Armed Forces Concerning The Mutual Protection Of Classified Information. | United Arab Emirates | 23-05-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 189 | Executive Programme For Cultural Cooperation Between India And The United Arab Emirates 2016-2018 | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |

APPENDIX - I

| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| 190 | General Framework Agreement Between India And The United Arab Emirates On Renewable Energy Cooperation | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</i> |
| 191 | Letter Of Intent Between India And The United Arab Emirates For Cooperation In Skill Development And Recognition Of Qualifications | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</i> |
| 192 | MoU Between India And The United Arab Emirates On Establishing A Framework For Facilitating The Participation Of Uae Institutional Investors In Infrastructure Investments In India | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 193 | MoU Between India And United Arab Emirates In The Field Of Insurance | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 194 | MoU On Technical Cooperation In Cyber Space And Combating Cyber Crime Between India And The United Arab Emirates | United Arab Emirates | 11-02-2016 | <i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i> |
| 195 | Framework For The U.S.- India Cyber Relationship | USA | 30-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of Information Technology and Electronics</i> |
| 196 | Logistics Exchange Memorandum Of Agreement (Us-In-01) Between The Ministry Of Defence Of The Republic Of India And The Department Of Defence Of The United States Of America | USA | 29-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of Defence</i> |
| 197 | MoU Between Isro And Usgs For Cooperation In The Exchange And Use Of U.S. Land Remote Sensing Satellite Data | USA | 09-07-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 198 | Reimbursable Agreement Between Isro And Nasa For Nasa Spacecraft Communications And Navigation Support Of The Mom | USA | 30-09-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 199 | The Charter For Establishing Isro-Nasa Working Group On Heliophysics | USA | 27-09-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 200 | Implementing Arrangement (Ia) Between Isro And Nasa For Cooperation On Utilisation Of Data From The Nasa International Space Station- Rapid Scatterometer And The Isro Scatsat-1 Scatterometer | USA | 15-11-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 201 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) (Department Of Electronics And Information Technology) Of The Republic Of India And Information Security Center (ISC) Under The Ministry Of Development Of Information Technologies And Communications Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan On Cooperation In The Area Of Cyber Security | Uzbekistan | 25-01-2016 | <i>Ministry of Information Technology and Electronics</i> |
| 202 | MoU Between India And Vanuatu For Establishment India - Vanuatu Centre For Excellence In It | Vanuatu | 26-10-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |

APPENDIX - I

| Sl. No. | Name Of The Treaty/Agreement/MoU | Name of the Country | Date of Signature | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| 203 | MoU Between Iccr And University Of Social Sciences And Humanities For The Establishment Of The Iccr Chair Of Indian Studies | Vietnam | 17-08-2016 | <i>Ministry of Culture</i> |
| 204 | MoU Between India And Vietnam On Cooperation In The Field Of Information Technology | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</i> |
| 205 | Framework Agreement Between India And Vietnam On Cooperatiao In The Exploration And Uses For Outer Space Peaceful Purpose | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Department of Space</i> |
| 206 | MoU Between India And Vietnam On Health Cooperation | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</i> |
| 207 | MoU On Cooperation Between India And Vietnam | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 208 | Protocol Amending The Agreement Between India And Vietnam For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation And The Prevention Of Fiscal Evasion With Respect To Taxes On Income | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Finance</i> |
| 209 | Protocol Between India And Vietnam On Celebrating The Year 2017 As “The Year Of Friendship” | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of External Affairs</i> |
| 210 | Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN), Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology, Republic Of India And The Cyber Security Department, Ministry Of Public Security, Socialist Republic Of Vietnam On Cooperation In The Field Of Cyber Security | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology</i> |
| 211 | MoU Between The Bureau Of Indian Standards And The Directorate For Standards, Metrology And Quality For Cooperation In The Field Of Standardization And Conformity Assessment | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution</i> |
| 212 | Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of India And The Government Of The Socialist Republic Of Vietnam On Cooperation In Peaceful Uses Of Atomic Energy | Vietnam | 09-12-2016 | <i>Department of Atomic Energy</i> |
| 213 | Agreement Between India And Vietnam For Setting Up Of Sustainable It Infrastructure For Advance It Training Using Conventional, Virtual Classroom And E-Learning Technologies In Clmv/Asean | Vietnam | 03-09-2016 | <i>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</i> |

FULL POWERS ISSUED IN 2016

| Sl.No. | Title of the Treaty/Agreement | Country | Date of Issue |
|--------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and the African – Asian Rural Development Organization [AARDO] | AARDO | 7 November, 2016 |
| 2 | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income , which was signed at New Delhi on 31st October 2003 | Armenia | 18 January, 2016 |
| 3 | Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan and its Protocol | Bhutan | 7 November, 2016 |
| 4 | Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia | CICA | 5 August, 2016 |
| 5 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Economic Cooperation | Croatia | 8 September, 2016 |
| 6 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol | Cyprus | 24 October, 2016 |
| 7 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Estonia on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | Estonia | 9 November, 2016 |
| 8 | Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation in the field of Water Management between the Ministry of Interior of Hungary and the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation of the Republic of India | Hungary | 13 October, 2016 |
| 9 | Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | Kuwait | 23 June, 2016 |
| 10 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes | Maldives | 8 April, 2016 |
| 11 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income Derived from International Air Transport | Maldives | 8 April, 2016 |
| 12 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands for the Exchange of Information relating to Tax Matters | Marshall Islands | 15 March, 2016 |

APPENDIX - II

| Sl.No. | Title of the Treaty/Agreement | Country | Date of Issue |
|--------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 13 | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mauritius for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains , and for the Encouragement of Mutual Trade and Investment, signed at Port Louis on 24th August 1982 | Mauritius | 6 May, 2016 |
| 14 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development | Mauritius | 20 October, 2016 |
| 15 | Paris Agreement | Multilateral | 18 April, 2016 |
| 16 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of the Sultanate of Oman on Military Cooperation | Oman | 20 May, 2016 |
| 17 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Oman Police (Coast Guard) in the Sultanate of Oman and the Indian Coast Guard of the Republic of India in the field of Marine Crime Prevention at Sea | Oman | 20 May, 2016 |
| 18 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman to Cooperate on Maritime Issues | Oman | 20 May, 2016 |
| 19 | Protocol between the Government of India represented by the Indian Air Force and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman represented by Royal Air Force of Oman on Flight Safety Information Exchange | Oman | 20 May, 2016 |
| 20 | Memorandum of Obligations of the Republic of India with the Aim of Obtaining the Status of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member State | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 23 June, 2016 |
| 21 | Protocol Amending the Convention and the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income , which was Signed at Ljubljana on January 13, 2003 | Slovenia | 6 May, 2016 |
| 22 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the General Headquarters of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces Concerning the Mutual Protection of Classified Information | United Arab Emirates | 20 May, 2016 |
| 23 | Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy | United Kingdom | 8 January, 2016 |
| 24 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy | Vietnam | 8 December, 2016 |
| 25 | Protocol amending the Agreement between India and Tajikistan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | Tajikistan | 17 December, 2016 |

LIST OF TREATIES/AGREEMENTS RATIFIED IN 2016

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Textiles, Clothing, Investment, Compliance and Skill Development | Afghanistan | 7 January, 2015 | 8 January, 2016 | | Ministry of Textiles |
| 2 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports | Afghanistan | 1 February, 2016 | 21 March, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 3 | Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan | Afghanistan | 14 September, 2016 | 21 November, 2016 | | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 4 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Council of Ministers of Republic of Albania on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/ Service Passports | Albania | 27 November, 2015 | 24 June, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 5 | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income , which was signed at New Delhi on 31st October 2003 | Armenia | 27 January, 2016 | 1 March, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 6 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Australia on Transfer of Sentenced Persons | Australia | 18 November, 2014 | 1 January, 2016 | | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 7 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals | Bahrain | 2 December, 2015 | 21 March, 2016 | | Ministry of Home Affairs |

APPENDIX - III

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8 | agreement on trade, commerce and transit between India and bhutan | Bhutan | 12 November, 2016 | 20 December, 2016 | | Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| 9 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of India and the Republic of Costa Rica on Technical Cooperation | Costa Rica | 21 July, 2015 | 19 February, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 10 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on the Obligation of Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports | Côte d'Ivoire | 21 October, 2016 | 21 November, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 11 | Agreement and its Protocol Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol | CYPRUS | 18 November, 2016 | 7 December, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 12 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Republic of Estonia on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | Estonia | 15 November, 2016 | 7 December, 2016 | | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| 13 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Ghana on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports | Ghana | 13 June, 2016 | 11 July, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 14 | Agreement to Facilitate Issuance of Visas between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of the Republic of India | Iran | 18 December, 2015 | 8 January, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 15 | Protocol Amending the Convention and the Protocol between the Republic of India and the State of Israel for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital , signed on 29th January 1996. | Israel | 14 October, 2015 | 18 January, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |

APPENDIX - III

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 16 | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | Japan | 11 December, 2015 | 1 January, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 17 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology | Japan | 12 December, 2015 | 1 January, 2016 | 4 March, 2016 | Ministry of Defence |
| 18 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Maritime Transport | Jordan | 11 October, 2015 | 19 February, 2016 | | Ministry of Shipping |
| 19 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income | Kenya | 11 July, 2016 | 8 September, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 20 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income Derived from International Air Transport | Maldives | 11 April, 2015 | 18 May, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 21 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives for the Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes | Maldives | 11 April, 2016 | 10 June, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 22 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Republic of Malta on Waiver of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports | Malta | 10 November, 2013 | 1 January, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |

APPENDIX - III

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 23 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the Exchange of Information Relating to Tax Matters | Marshall Islands | 18 March, 2016 | 23 May, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 24 | Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mauritius for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains, and for the Encouragement of Mutual Trade and Investment , signed at Port Louis on 24th August 1982 | Mauritius | 10 May, 2016 | 8 June, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 25 | Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage | Multilateral | 27 October, 2010 | 14 January, 2016 | 4 May, 2016 | Department of Atomic Energy |
| 26 | Agreement on the Establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (Ashgabat Agreement) | Multilateral | 25 April, 2011 | 11 April, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 27 | Paris Agreement | Multilateral | 22 April, 2016 | 28 September, 2016 | | Ministry of Environment |
| 28 | Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat , its Personnel and Representatives of Members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia | Multilateral | 14 September, 2016 | 21 October, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 29 | Third Protocol to the Convention Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation Andthe Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Resepect to Taxes of Income | New Zealand | 26 October, 2016 | 20 December, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |

APPENDIX - III

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 30 | Agreement on Defence Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru | Peru | 28 October, 2013 | 6 June, 2014 | 15 July, 2016 | Ministry of Defence |
| 31 | Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology of the State of Qatar on Co-operation in the Field of Information Communication Technology | Qatar | 25 March, 2015 | 1 January, 2016 | 19 February, 2016 | Ministry of Communications and Information Technology |
| 32 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Qatar on Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters | Qatar | 5 June, 2016 | 11 July, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 33 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Helicopter Engineering | Russian Federation | 24 December, 2015 | 6 May, 2016 | 21 July, 2016 | Ministry of Defence |
| 34 | Agreement on Labour Co-operation between the Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India for Recruitment of General Category Workers | Saudi Arabia | 3 April, 2016 | 30 September, 2016 | | Ministry of Labour |
| 35 | Agreement on Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 36 | Protocol on Amendments to the Agreement on the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Among the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 37 | Protocol on Amendments to the Agreement on the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Among the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |

APPENDIX - III

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 38 | Agreement on Protecting Classified Information in the Framework of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 39 | Memorandum Between the Governments of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Fundamental Goals and Directions of Regional Economic Cooperation and Launch of the Process of Creating Favourable Conditions for Trade and Investment. | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 40 | Protocol to the Memorandum Between the Governments of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Fundamental Goals and Directions of Regional Economic Cooperation and Launch of the Process of Creating Favourable Conditions for Trade and Investment. | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 41 | Agreement on the Procedure for the Preparation and Execution of the Budget of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 42 | Protocol Amending the Agreement on the Procedure for the Preparation and Execution of the Budget of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 43 | Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 44 | Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, and Precursors Between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 45 | Agreement on the Databank of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |

APPENDIX - III

| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 46 | Protocol on Cooperation and Coordination of Activities Between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 47 | Agreement on Cooperation in Identifying and Blocking the Channels of Entry into the territory of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization of the Persons Involved in Terrorist, Separatist and Extremist Activities | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 48 | Agreement on the Procedure for Organizing and Conducting Joint Anti-Terrorist Operations in the Territory of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 49 | Agreement on the Procedure for Preparation and Conducting Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercises Among the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 50 | Agreement on Cooperation in Ensuring International Information Security Between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 51 | Agreement on the Training of Personnel for Anti-Terrorist Units of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 52 | Convention of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Against Terrorism | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 53 | Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 54 | Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism And Extremism | SCO | | 01 December, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |

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| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 55 | Memorandum of Obligations of the Republic of India with the aim of obtaining the status of the Member State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 24 June, 2016 | 7 July, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 56 | Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 7 June, 2002 | 12 September, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 57 | Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism | Shanghai Cooperation Organization | 15 June, 2001 | 12 September, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 58 | Protocol Amending the Convention and the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income , which was signed at Ljubljana on January 13, 2003 | Slovenia | 17 May, 2016 | 24 June, 2016 | | Ministry of Finance |
| 59 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Spain for the Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information | SPAIN | 4 March, 2015 | 8 June, 2016 | 27 Sept, 2016 | Ministry of Defence |
| 60 | Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of India on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passports | Switzerland | 6 October, 2016 | 20 October, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 61 | Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports | Tanzania | 10 July, 2016 | 19 September, 2016 | | Ministry of External Affairs |
| 62 | Agreement On The Establishment Of An International Transport And The Transit Corridor Among The Governments Of The Republic Of India, The Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan And The Islamic Republic Of Iran (Chabahar Agreement) | Trilateral (India, Afghanistan & Iran) | 23 May 2016 | 7 December, 2016 | | Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways; and Ministry of Shipping; Ministry of External Affairs |

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| Sl. No. | Name of the Agreement/Treaty/MoU | Country/ Organization | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification/ Accession | Date of Entry Into Force | Administrative Ministry |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 63 | Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Republic of India and Ukraine | Ukraine | 10 December, 2012 | 1 January, 2016 | | Ministry of Law and Justice |
| 64 | Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy | United Kingdom | 13 November, 2015 | 13 December, 2016 | | Department of Atomic Energy |
| 65 | Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Department of Defence of the United States of America | United States of America | 29 August, 2016 | 19 October, 2016 | | Ministry of Defence |
| 66 | Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (Trade Facilitation Agreement) | World Trade Organization | 27 November, 2014 (A) | 21 March, 2016 | | Ministry of Commerce |

List of Partner Countries under the ITEC Programme

| S.No. | Country |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Afghanistan |
| 2 | Albania |
| 3 | Algeria |
| 4 | Angola |
| 5 | Anguilla |
| 6 | Antigua and Barbuda |
| 7 | Argentina |
| 8 | Armenia |
| 9 | Azerbaijan |
| 10 | Bahamas |
| 11 | Bahrain |
| 12 | Bangladesh |
| 13 | Barbados |
| 14 | Belarus |
| 15 | Belize |
| 16 | Benin |
| 17 | Bhutan |
| 18 | Bolivia |
| 19 | Bosnia – Herzegovina |
| 20 | Brazil |
| 21 | Brunei Darussalam |
| 22 | Bulgaria |
| 23 | Burkina Faso |
| 24 | Burundi |
| 25 | Cambodia |
| 26 | Cape Verde Island |
| 27 | Cayman Island |
| 28 | Central African Republic |
| 29 | Chad |
| 30 | Chile |
| 31 | Colombia |
| 32 | Commonwealth of Dominica |
| 33 | Comoros |
| 34 | Congo |
| 35 | Cook Islands |
| 36 | Costa Rica |
| 37 | Cote D' Ivoire |
| 40 | Czech Republic |
| 41 | Democratic Republic of Congo |

| S.No. | Country |
|-------|--------------------|
| 42 | Djibouti |
| 43 | Dominican Republic |
| 44 | Ecuador |
| 45 | Egypt |
| 46 | El-Salvador |
| 47 | Equatorial Guinea |
| 48 | Eritrea |
| 49 | Estonia |
| 50 | Ethiopia |
| 51 | Fiji |
| 52 | Gabon |
| 53 | Georgia |
| 54 | Grenada |
| 55 | Guatemala |
| 56 | Guinea |
| 57 | Guinea Bissau |
| 58 | Guyana |
| 59 | Haiti |
| 60 | Honduras |
| 61 | Hungary |
| 62 | Indonesia |
| 63 | Iran |
| 64 | Iraq |
| 65 | Jamaica |
| 66 | Jordan |
| 67 | Kazakhstan |
| 68 | Kiribati |
| 69 | Korea (DPRK) |
| 70 | Kyrgyzstan |
| 71 | Laos |
| 72 | Latvia |
| 73 | Lebanon |
| 74 | Liberia |
| 75 | Libya |
| 76 | Lithuania |
| 77 | Macedonia |
| 78 | Madagascar |
| 79 | Malaysia |
| 80 | Maldives |

APPENDIX - IV

| S.No. | Country |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 81 | Mali |
| 82 | Marshall Islands |
| 83 | Mauritania |
| 84 | Mexico |
| 85 | Micronesia |
| 86 | Moldova |
| 87 | Mongolia |
| 88 | Montenegro |
| 89 | Montserrat |
| 90 | Morocco |
| 91 | Myanmar |
| 92 | Nauru |
| 93 | Nepal |
| 94 | Nicaragua |
| 95 | Niger |
| 96 | Oman |
| 97 | Palau |
| 98 | Palestine |
| 99 | Panama |
| 100 | Papua New Guinea |
| 101 | Paraguay |
| 102 | Peru |
| 103 | Philippines |
| 104 | Poland |
| 105 | Qatar |
| 106 | Republic of Sao Tome |
| 107 | Romania |
| 108 | Russia |
| 109 | Rwanda |
| 110 | Samoa |
| 111 | Senegal |
| 112 | Serbia |
| 113 | Singapore |
| 114 | Slovak Republic |
| 115 | Solomon Island |
| 116 | Somalia |
| 117 | Sri Lanka |
| 118 | St. Kitts & Nevis |
| 119 | St. Lucia |
| 120 | St. Vincent & Grenadines |
| 121 | Sudan |

| S.No. | Country |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 122 | South Sudan |
| 123 | Suriname |
| 124 | Syria |
| 125 | Tajikistan |
| 126 | Thailand |
| 127 | Timor Leste |
| 128 | Togo |
| 129 | Tonga |
| 130 | Trinidad & Tobago |
| 131 | Tunisia |
| 132 | Turkey |
| 133 | Turkmenistan |
| 134 | Turks & Caicos Island |
| 135 | Tuvalu |
| 136 | Ukraine |
| 137 | Uruguay |
| 138 | Uzbekistan |
| 139 | Vanuatu |
| 140 | Venezuela |
| 141 | Vietnam |
| 142 | Yemen |
| 143 | Cameroon |
| 144 | Cameroon |
| 145 | Gambia |
| 146 | Ghana |
| 147 | Kenya |
| 148 | Lesotho |
| 149 | Malawi |
| 150 | Mauritius |
| 151 | Mozambique |
| 152 | Namibia |
| 153 | Nigeria |
| 154 | Seychelles |
| 155 | Sierra Leone |
| 156 | South Africa |
| 157 | Swaziland |
| 158 | Tanzania |
| 159 | Uganda |
| 160 | Zambia |
| 161 | Zimbabwe |

List of ITEC/SCAAP Empanelled Institutes

| S. No. | Name of Institute | City |
|---|---|-----------|
| Accounts, Audit, Banking and Finance Courses | | |
| 01. | Institute of Government Accounts and Finance | New Delhi |
| 02. | International Centre for Information and System Audit | Noida |
| 03. | National Institute of Bank Management | Pune |
| Environment and Renewable Energy Courses | | |
| 04. | Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology | Roorkee |
| 05. | National Institute of Wind Energy | Chennai |
| 06. | National Institute of Solar Energy | Gurgaon |
| 07. | The Energy and Resources Institute | New Delhi |
| IT, Telecommunication and English Courses | | |
| 08. | Aptech Limited | New Delhi |
| 09. | Centre For Development of Advanced Computing | Mohali |
| 10. | Centre For Development of Advanced Computing | Noida |
| 11. | Centre For Excellence in Telecom Technology and Management | Mumbai |
| 12. | CMC Ltd. | New Delhi |
| 13. | English and Foreign Languages University | Hyderabad |
| 14. | NIIT Ltd | New Delhi |
| 15. | UTL Technologies Ltd. | Bengaluru |
| Management Courses | | |
| 16. | Administrative Staff College of India | Hyderabad |
| 17. | Indian Institute of Management | Ahmedabad |
| 18. | International Management Institute | New Delhi |
| 19. | National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development | Delhi |
| SME/Rural Development Courses | | |
| 20. | Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India | Ahmedabad |
| 21. | National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises | Hyderabad |
| 22. | National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development | Noida |
| 23. | National Institute of Rural Development | Hyderabad |

APPENDIX - V

| S. No. | Name of Institute | City |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Specialized Courses | | |
| 24. | Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training | New Delhi |
| 25. | Human Settlement Management Institute | New Delhi |
| 26. | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade | New Delhi |
| 27. | Indian Institute of Mass Communication | New Delhi |
| 28. | International Statistical Education Centre | Kolkata |
| 29. | National Crime Records Bureau | New Delhi |
| 30. | National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research | Chennai |
| 31. | National Institute of Training for Standardization | Noida |
| 32. | National University of Educational Planning and Administration | New Delhi |
| 33. | Rafi Ahmed Kidwai National Postal Academy | Ghaziabad |
| 34. | Research and Information System for Developing Countries – | New Delhi |
| 35. | V.V. Giri National Labour Institute | Noida |
| Technical Courses | | |
| 36. | Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute | Faridabad |
| 37. | Central Institute of Rural Electrification | Hyderabad |
| 38. | Central Institute of Tool Design | Hyderabad |
| 39. | Central Scientific Instruments Organization | New Delhi |
| 40. | Fluid Control Research Institute | Kerala |
| 41. | Geological Survey of India- Training Institute | Hyderabad |
| 42. | Indian Institute of Production Management | Kansbahal, Orissa |
| 43. | Indian Institute of Remote Sensing | Dehradun |
| 44. | Indian Institute of Technology | Roorkee, Department of Water Resources Development and Management |
| 45. | Indian Institute of Technology | Roorkee, Department of Hydrology |
| 46. | National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research | SAS Nagar, Punjab |
| 47. | South India Textile Research Association | Coimbatore |

**Conference/Seminars/Study projects organized/undertaken by Universities/
Institutions funded partially or wholly by Policy Planning & Research Division
during 2016-17.**

| S.No. | Event | Institution / Beneficiary |
|-------|---|---|
| 1. | T-20 Conference June 2016 | Gateway House, Mumbai |
| 2 | Raisina Dialogue 1-3 March 2016 | Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi |
| 3. | Gateway of India Dialogue 13-14 June 2016 | Gateway House, Mumbai |
| 4. | 1 st meeting of Heads of Think Tanks in Moscow 22-23 September 2016 | ICWA, New Delhi |
| 5. | Indian Ocean Conference 1-2 September 2016 Singapore | India Foundation, Delhi |
| 6. | 2 nd India-Japan Track 1.5 Dialogue 25 October 2016 | Delhi Policy Group, Delhi |
| 7. | 15 th India-Korea Dialogue 18-19 November 2016 | ICRIER, New Delhi |
| 8. | First India-China Think-Tank Forum 9-10 December 2016 | ICS, New Delhi |
| 9. | Raisina Dialogue 17-19 January, 2017 | Observer Research Foundation |
| 10. | Gateway of India Dialogue 13-14 February 2017 | Gateway House, Mumbai |
| 11. | Round table core group meeting between NIAS, MEA and ISRO officials on "Space in India's Foreign Policy", February 2017 | National Institute of Advance Studies, (NIAS) Bangalore |
| 12 | Trilateral Commission, March 2017 | Ananta Aspan Centre, Delhi |

APPENDIX - VII

Statement showing the number of Passport services rendered by Passport Offices from January 01 to December 31, 2016

| RPO | Total Number of passport applications received (Normal+ Tatkal) | No. of Normal Passports issued | No. of Tatkal Passports issued | Total No. of Passports issued (Normal+ Tatkal) | No. of Misc. application received | No. of Misc. services issued | Total issued Passport and Miscellaneous service rendered |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Ahmedabad | 523233 | 527088 | 3247 | 530335 | 21762 | 21726 | 552061 |
| Amritsar | 125819 | 124838 | 1072 | 125910 | 8358 | 8211 | 134121 |
| Bangalore | 106731 | 109647 | 1142 | 110789 | 4793 | 4820 | 115609 |
| Bareilly | 620930 | 611804 | 32538 | 644342 | 15100 | 16127 | 660469 |
| Bhopal | 145566 | 143356 | 3366 | 146722 | 1867 | 1848 | 148570 |
| Bhubaneswar | 103229 | 106492 | 1175 | 107667 | 5558 | 5953 | 113620 |
| Chandigarh | 425659 | 423197 | 7009 | 430206 | 20745 | 20759 | 450965 |
| Chennai | 418880 | 408976 | 8519 | 417495 | 13244 | 13574 | 431069 |
| Cochin | 400762 | 358253 | 48956 | 407209 | 26527 | 26541 | 433750 |
| Coimbatore | 132440 | 132904 | 572 | 133476 | 2536 | 2537 | 136013 |
| Dehradun | 69201 | 66460 | 1901 | 68361 | 2927 | 2916 | 71277 |
| Delhi | 499453 | 470702 | 51958 | 522660 | 10281 | 9932 | 532592 |
| Ghaziabad | 198221 | 198169 | 10221 | 208390 | 3861 | 3985 | 212375 |
| Goa | 46092 | 47979 | 278 | 48257 | 6028 | 6164 | 54421 |
| Guwahati | 95874 | 90489 | 7755 | 98244 | 2143 | 2572 | 100816 |
| Hyderabad | 633904 | 649780 | 17900 | 667680 | 31087 | 33461 | 701141 |
| Jaipur | 300792 | 299068 | 5877 | 304945 | 15018 | 15619 | 320564 |
| Jalandhar | 278431 | 275622 | 375 | 275997 | 28930 | 28886 | 304883 |
| Jammu | 42467 | 42758 | 28 | 42786 | 3796 | 4349 | 47135 |
| Kolkata | 489311 | 515381 | 15907 | 531288 | 20870 | 20712 | 552000 |
| Kozhikode | 284134 | 261475 | 23210 | 284685 | 8091 | 7921 | 292606 |
| Lucknow | 700744 | 716177 | 10782 | 726959 | 40768 | 40157 | 767116 |
| Madurai | 232867 | 237987 | 64 | 238051 | 10634 | 10939 | 248990 |
| Malappuram | 190677 | 187575 | 14166 | 201741 | 2774 | 2910 | 204651 |

APPENDIX - VII

| RPO | Total Number of passport applications received (Normal+ Tatkal) | No. of Normal Passports issued | No. of Tatkal Passports issued | Total No. of Passports issued (Normal+ Tatkal) | No. of Misc. application received | No. of Misc. services issued | Total issued Passport and Miscellaneous service rendered |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Mumbai | 439833 | 422472 | 26379 | 448851 | 10369 | 10916 | 459767 |
| Nagpur | 115701 | 114191 | 2421 | 116612 | 2259 | 2276 | 118888 |
| Patna | 261142 | 281428 | 1586 | 283014 | 26974 | 27653 | 310667 |
| Pune | 272004 | 265532 | 15221 | 280753 | 6103 | 6423 | 287176 |
| Raipur | 41225 | 41095 | 837 | 41932 | 374 | 366 | 42298 |
| Ranchi | 74899 | 79334 | 965 | 80299 | 3619 | 3801 | 84100 |
| Shimla | 39815 | 41404 | 576 | 41980 | 2123 | 2172 | 44152 |
| Srinagar | 53080 | 58945 | 203 | 59148 | 1607 | 1996 | 61144 |
| Surat | 139899 | 139046 | 356 | 139402 | 8331 | 8347 | 147749 |
| Thane | 300764 | 304901 | 10374 | 315275 | 7526 | 7886 | 323161 |
| Trichy | 186085 | 187719 | 160 | 187879 | 10010 | 10042 | 197921 |
| Trivandrum | 202868 | 190637 | 11915 | 202552 | 12253 | 12237 | 214789 |
| Visakhapatnam | 215043 | 212510 | 2583 | 215093 | 10182 | 10460 | 225553 |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 3567 | 0 | 0 | 3567 | 0 | 0 | 3567 |
| Total | 9411342 | 9345391 | 341594 | 9690552 | 409428 | 417194 | 10107746 |
| (i) | 38 RPO's (Passport+Misc. services =(9690552+417194) | | | | | | 10107746 |
| | PV-II, MEA, and Passport Offices in India for (Official & Diplomatic Passports) = | | | | | | 26993+2522=29455 (As on 30.11.2016) |
| | (IC) issued by RPO, Delhi | | | | | | 3807 (As on 30.11.2016) |
| | Surrender Certificate & LoC Issued = | | | | | | 4498+3147=7645 (As on 30.11.2016) |
| (ii) | PPt+ECs+Misc. services by Indian Mission/Posts | | | | | | 1068960+45019+252239 = 1366218 (As on 09.01.2017) |
| | Grand Total (i + ii) | | | | | | 11514871 |

APPENDIX - VIII

Cadre Strength of the Central Passport Organisation as on 31.12.2016

| I. Group & Name of Post | Total sanctioned strength |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Group 'A' | |
| Passport Officer | 17 |
| Deputy Passport Officer | 71 |
| Assistant Passport Officer | 135 |
| Sub-Total: | 223 |
| Group 'B' (Gazetted) | |
| Passport Granting Officer (Redesignated as Senior Superintendent) | 320 |
| Superintendent | 245 |
| Sub-Total: | 565 |
| Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) | |
| Assistant (Redesignated as Assistant Superintendent) | 428 |
| Hindi Translator | 23 |
| Stenographer Grade I | 17 |
| Sub-Total: | 468 |
| Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted) | |
| UDC (Redesignated as Senior Passport Assistant) | 628 |
| UDC (Hindi) | 04 |
| LDC (Redesignated as Junior Passport Assistant) | 648 |
| Driver | 00 |
| Stenographer Grade II | 13 |
| Office Assistant | 148 |
| Sub-Total: | 1441 |
| II. Posts created by the Union Cabinet decision in 2007 to man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project | |
| Technical | 15 |
| Administrative | 06 |
| Sub-Total | 21 |
| Grand Total (I + II) | 2718 |

APPENDIX - IX

**Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad as on 23 November 2016
(including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce and ex-cadre posts)**

| S.No. | Cadre/Post | Posts at Hqrs. | Posts at Missions | Total |
|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Grade I | 5 | 28 | 33 |
| 2 | Grade II | 6 | 40 | 46 |
| 3 | Grade III | 38 | 126 | 164 |
| 4 | Grade IV | 58 | 149 | 207 |
| 5 | Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale | 117 | 232 | 349 |
| 6 | (i) Junior Scale | 10 | 25 | 35 |
| | (ii) Probationers Reserve | 62 | | 62 |
| | (iii) Leave Reserve | 15 | | 15 |
| | (iv) Deputation Reserve | 19 | | 19 |
| | (v) Training Reserve | 7 | | 7 |
| | Sub Total I | 337 | 600 | 937 |
| IFS(B) | | | | |
| 7 | (i) Grade I | 118 | 125 | 243 |
| | (ii) Deputation Reserve | 6 | | 6 |
| 8 | (i) Integrated Grades II & III | 359 | 225 | 584 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 30 | | 30 |
| | (iii) Deputation Reserve | 16 | | 16 |
| | (iv) Training Reserve | 25 | | 25 |
| 9 | (i) Grade IV | 214 | 529 | 743 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 60 | | 60 |
| | (iii) Deputation Reserve | 55 | | 55 |
| 10 | (i) Grade V/VI | 202 | 89 | 291 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 60 | | 60 |
| | (iii) Deputation Reserve | 14 | | 14 |
| 11 | (i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre | 47 | 47 | 94 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 5 | | 5 |
| 12 | (i) Stenographer's Cadre | 396 | 510 | 906 |
| | (ii) Leave Reserve | 47 | | 47 |
| | (iii) Training Reserve (Hindi) | 10 | | 10 |
| | (iv) Deputation Reserve | 12 | | 12 |
| 13 | Interpreter's Cadre | 7 | 26 | 33 |
| 14 | L&T Cadre | 20 | 3 | 23 |
| | Sub Total II | 1703 | 1554 | 3257 |
| | Grand Total(Sub total I+II) | 2040 | 2154 | 4194 |

APPENDIX - X**Data on recruitment/vacancies in DR, DP and LDE Modes for the period 01 April 2016- 31 March 2017**

| S.No. | Groups | Total No. of Vacancies | SC | ST | OBC |
|-------|-----------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Group 'A' | 228 | 29 | 6 | 13 |
| 2 | Group 'B' | 523 | 123 | 77 | 60 |
| 3 | Group 'C' | 229 | 11 | 21 | 72 |
| | Total | 980 | 163 | 104 | 145 |

APPENDIX - XI**No. of IFS officers with proficiency in various languages**

| S.No. | Language | No. of Officers |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Arabic | 100 |
| 2. | Bhasa Indonesia | 10 |
| 3. | Bhasa Malay | 1 |
| 4. | Burmese | 5 |
| 5. | Chinese | 76 |
| 6. | French | 86 |
| 7. | German | 31 |
| 8. | Hebrew | 6 |
| 9. | Japanese | 26 |
| 10. | Kazakh | 1 |
| 11. | Kiswahili | 2 |
| 12. | Korean | 5 |
| 13. | Persian | 18 |
| 14. | Portuguese | 23 |
| 15. | Pashto | 2 |
| 16. | Russian | 94 |
| 17. | Sinhalese | 3 |
| 18. | Spanish | 81 |
| 19. | Turkish | 6 |
| 20. | Ukrainian | 1 |
| 21. | Vietnamese | 3 |
| | Total | 580 |

Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Conferences during April, 2016 to December, 2016

| Sr. No. | Country | Conference | Dates |
|---------|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Iran | India-Iran Relations | May 23-25, 2016 |
| 2. | Georgia | Mahatma Gandhi Peace and Nonviolence International Conference | July 25-26, 2016 |
| 3. | Mongolia | Chinggis Khan – His Legacy and Indian Culture | September 28-29, 2016 |
| 4. | India | Indian Subjects, Foreign Artists | October 10-11, 2016 |
| 5. | India | Kushok Bakula Rinpoche – Saint and Statesman | October 1-3, 2016 |
| 6. | India | ‘Sagar-Sangam: Trans-Oceanic Cultural Dialogue, Kalinga and Indonesia | November 15-16, 2016 |
| 7. | China | 2 nd International Conference of Indologists 2016 | November 12-13, 2015 |
| 8. | India | Quantum Reality and Theory of Shunya | December 9-10, 2016 |
| 9. | India | Vedic Mathematics | December 28-30, 2016 |

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Exhibitions

Implementation Report April to December, 2016

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|
| 1. | April, 2016 | Phulkari Exhibition | Slovenia |
| 2-3. | May, 2016 | Painting/Calligraphy Exhibition curated by Kamna Prasad | Iran |
| | | 'Digital Prints of the Artworks by Tagore' | Slovenia |
| 4-6. | June, 2016 | Kalpana – Masterpieces of Figurative Indian Contemporary Paintings curated by Ms. Anjolie Ela Menon | Hungary |
| | | Churches and Christian Culture of Goa by Shri Benoy K. Behl | Slovenia |
| | | Monuments of India by Shri Kashi Nath Das | Slovenia |
| 7-8 | August, 2016 | Churches and Christian Culture of Goa by Shri Benoy K. Behl | Slovakia |
| | | Sari : The Magic of Indian Weages by Smt. Rta Kapur Chishti | |
| 8-12. | September, 2016 | Islamic Monuments of India by Shri Benoy K. Behl | Brunei |
| | | Monuments of India by Shri Kashi Nath Das | |
| | | Forms of Devotion curated by Smt. Sushma Bahl | Spain |
| | | Painting Exhibition of Smt. Jayashree Chakravarty | France |
| | | Painting Exhibition of Shri Manish Pushkale | |
| 13. | October, 2016 | 'Mahatma in Me A tribute to Gandhi Ji' by Shri Vibhod Sogani | Australia |
| 14. | November, 2016 | Exhibition of Photographs 'Tales of the Tribes : From Tribal Forest to Urban Jungle' by Dr. Verrier Elwin | UK |
| 15. | December, 2016 | Painting Exhibition of Ms. Preety Nigam | UK |
| SUPPORT EXTENDED | | | |
| 1-2. | May, 2016 | An air ticket for the sector Delhi – Izmir – Delhi has been provided to Ms. Sangeeta Singh to participate at the Babylon Artist Residency | Turkey |

APPENDIX - XIII

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------|
| | | An air ticket for the sector Delhi – Izmir – Delhi has been provided to Ms. Kiran Soni Gupta to participate at the Babylon Artist Residency | |
| 3. | July, 2016 | An air ticket for the sector Delhi – Irkutsk – Delhi has been provided Ms. Srinia Chowdhury to participate at the Ceramic Symposium ‘Baikal – Ceramystica’ | Russia |
| 4-6. | August, 2016 | Air ticket for the sector Delhi – Madrid – Delhi has been provided to Smt. Sushma Behl and Ms. Archana Sapra to curate the exhibition at Spain | Spain |
| | | An Air ticket for the sector Bengaluru – Budapest – Bengaluru has been provided to Shri Ramesh Terdal to display his art exhibition | Hungary |
| 7-8. | September, 2016 | Air ticket for the sector Kolkata – Paris – Kolkata has been provided to Smt. Jayashree Chakravarty to display her exhibition in France during the ‘Namaste France Festival’ | France |
| | | Air ticket for the sector Delhi – Paris – Delhi has been provided to Shri Manish Pushkale to display his exhibition in France during the ‘Namaste France Festival’ | |
| 9. | September, 2016 | An air ticket for the sector Delhi – Sydney – Delhi has been provided to Shri Ajit Ninan to display his Cartoon Exhibition during the ‘Festival of India’ in Australia | Australia |
| 10-11. | October, 2016 | Air ticket for the sector Delhi – Madrid – Delhi has been provided to Smt. Sushma Behl and Ms. Archana Sapra to curate the exhibition at Spain | Spain |
| 12-13. | | Sponsored the visit of Shri Vibhor Sogani and Smt. Navdeep Kaur Sogani to curate the exhibition ‘Mahatma in Me ... A tribute to Gandhi Ji’ | Australia |
| INCOMING EXHIBITIONS and EXHIBITION HOSTED UNDER HORIZON SERIES | | | |
| 1. | June, 2016 | Exhibition of Bundelkhand Vikas Parishad | Delhi |
| 2. | August, 2016 | Exhibition ‘Save Girl Child’ by Shri Madhusudan Das | Delhi |
| 3-4. | September, 2016 | Photo Exhibition display during the occasion of the 25 th Anniversary of Armenia’s Independence | Delhi |
| | | Painting and Sculpture exhibition by Ms. Ameeta Kumar | Delhi |
| 5-6. | October, 2016 | Exhibition of ‘Tripti – Women Empowerment & Children’ | Delhi |
| | | Exhibition ‘India in Heart : Bhagad Gita & Tagore’ by Dr. Tatjana Buzanovic from Montenegro | Delhi |
| 7. | November, 2016 | Painting Exhibition of Ms. Navpreet Kaur | Delhi |

RIS Publications

Reports

- India and Sustainable Development Goals: The Way Forward
- South-South Cooperation 2016: Conference Proceedings: Insights from South-South Capacity Building Programme
- Health, Nature and Quality of Life: Towards BRICS Wellness Index
- Institutional Architecture for South-South Cooperation
- India-Japan CEPA: An Appraisal
- Trinity for Development, Democracy and Sustainability
- BIMSTEC: The Road Ahead
- Report on Developing Guidelines and Methodologies for Socio-Economic Assessment of LMOs – UNEP/GEF Supported Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety
- Enhancing India-Myanmar Border Trade: Policy and Implementation Measures
- ASEAN-India Air Connectivity Report
- FIDC Regional Consultation at Chennai: Summary of Proceedings
- Resurging South: Stylized Facts (Research Brief)
- South-South Cooperation Mapping New Frontiers (Background)

Books

- The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation by Sachin Chaturvedi (ed), RIS and Cambridge Press.
- India's Approach to Development Cooperation, Sachin Chaturvedi and Anthea Mulakala (eds), Routledge.
- A Lifetime of Moulding Technology and Science Policy in India by Sachin Chaturvedi (ed), RIS and Academic Foundation.

RIS Discussion Papers

- No. 207: Trade in High Technology Products Trends and Policy Imperatives for BRICS by Sachin Chaturvedi, Sabyasachi Saha and Prativa Shaw, December 2016.
- No. 206: India-Africa Seed Sector Collaboration: Problems and Prospects by T.P. Rajendran and Amit Kumar, November 2016
- No. 205: The BRICS Initiatives Towards a New Financial Architecture: An Assessment with Some Proposals by Sunanda Sen, October 2016
- No. 204: Emergence of LoCs as a Modality in India's Development Cooperation: Evolving Policy Context and New Challenges by Prabodh Saxena, June 2016
- No. 203: The Development Compact: A Theoretical Construct for South-South Cooperation by Sachin Chaturvedi, June 2016

FIDC-Discussion Papers

- No. 2 Inbound International Student Mobility in India: Path to Achievable Success by Vidya Raji Yeravdekar, November 2016

Policy Briefs

No. 76: Financing Technology Delivery for SDGs: A Way Forward for TFM, November 2016

No. 75: Costs of Non-Cooperation in South Asia: An Illustration and Way Forward, September 2016

No. 76: Indian Economy and Demonetisation; Way Forward, November 2016

FIDC Policy Briefs

No. 6: FIDC Regional Consultation at Jaipur

No. 7: Indian Development Cooperation: A Theoretical and Institutional Framework

No.8: Development Compact – The Cornerstone of India's Development Cooperation: An "Externalities" Perspective

No.9: TOSSD: Southernisation of ODA, November 2016

Blue Economy Briefs

- Fisheries Sector in IORA: Driving Force in Region's Blue Economy

Mekong-Ganga Policy Brief

- No. 7, November 2016

Journals

Asian Biotechnology and Development Review

Vol. 17 No. 3, April 2016

Vol. 18 No. 1, April 2016

Vol. 18 No. 2, July 2016

Vol. 18 No. 3, November 2016

South Asia Economic Journal

Vol. 17, No. 1, March 2016

Vol. 17, No. 2, September 2016

RIS Diary

Vol. 12 No. 1 Jan 2016

Vol. 12 No. 2 April 2016

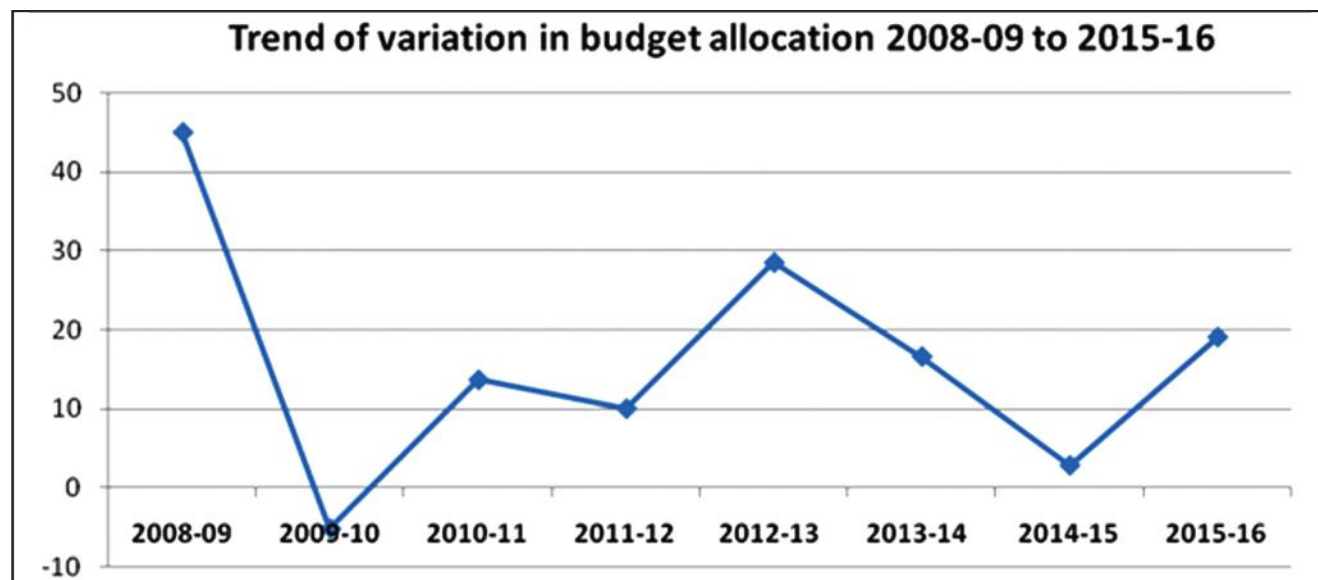
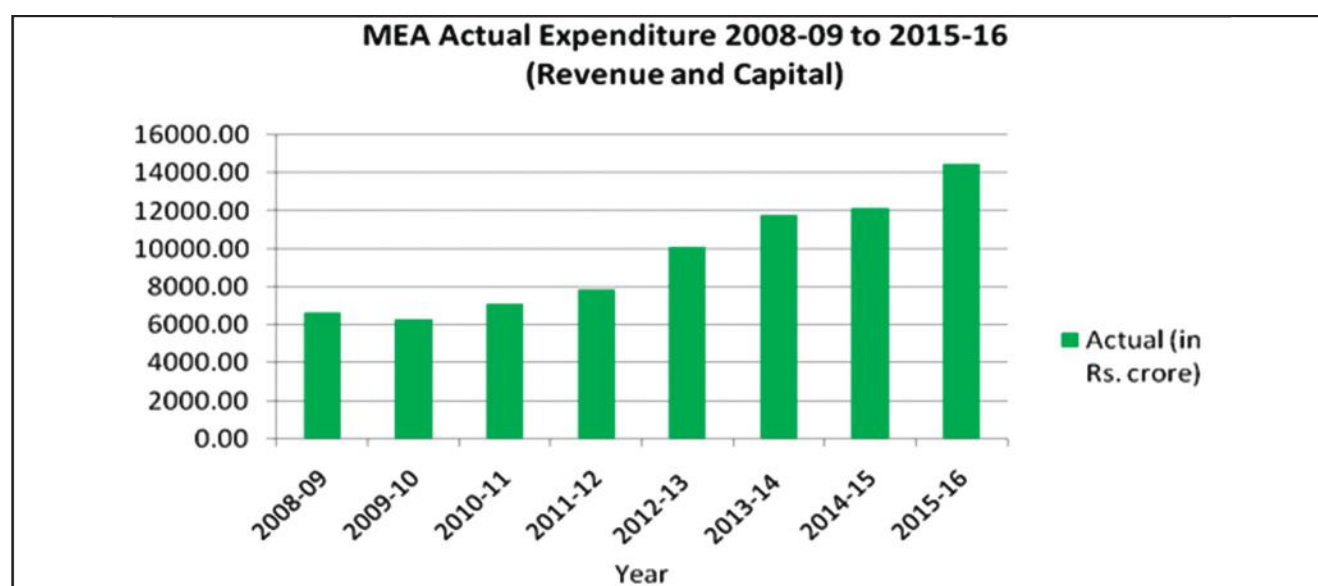
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MEA Actual Expenditure 2008-09 to 2015-16 (Revenue and Capital)

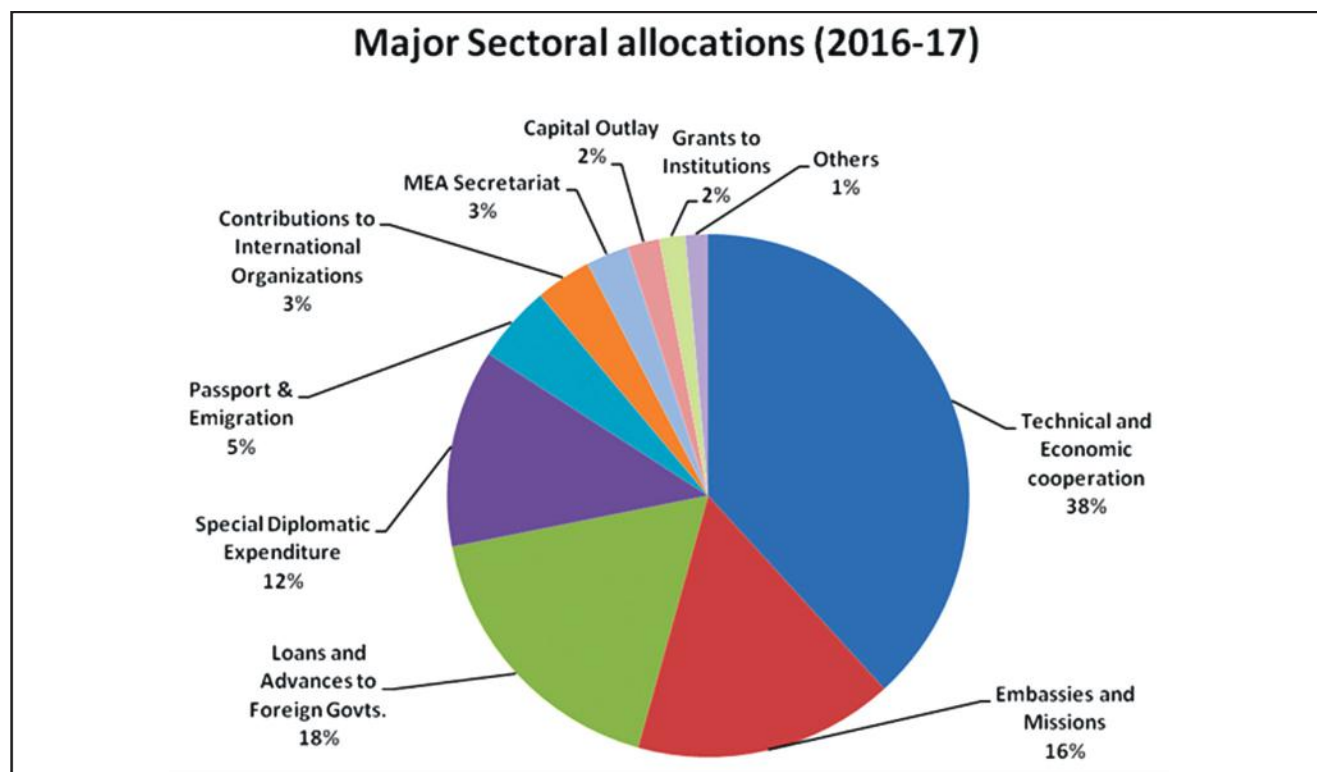
MEA's budget allocation for FY 2016-17 is ₹ 15262.66 crore, which is 1.94 % more than BE 2015-16.

| Years | Actual (in crore) | %age variation from previous year |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2008-09 | 6630.73 | 45.02 |
| 2009-10 | 6290.77 | -5.13 |
| 2010-11 | 7153.27 | 13.71 |
| 2011-12 | 7872.76 | 10.06 |
| 2012-13 | 10120.88 | 28.55 |
| 2013-14 | 11807.36 | 16.66 |
| 2014-15 | 12148.82 | 2.89 |
| 2015-16 | 14472.95 | 19.13 |



Major Sectoral Allocations in FY 2016-17 Budget Estimates

| Sectors | Allocation (in crore) |
|--|------------------------|
| Technical and Economic cooperation | 5832.32 |
| Embassies and Missions | 2460.58 |
| Loans and Advances to Foreign Govts. | 2675.5 |
| Special Diplomatic Expenditure | 1870.01 |
| Passport & Emigration | 730.04 |
| Contributions to International Organizations | 527.78 |
| MEA Secretariat & POEs | 402.32 |
| Capital Outlay | 307.5 |
| Grants to Institutions | 241.24 |
| Others | 215.37 |
| Total | 15262.66 |



Principal Destinations of India's Technical Cooperation Programmes

The principal beneficiaries of India's technical and economic cooperation programmes in FY 2016-17, as per budgetary allocation, are as under:

| Sl. No. | Technical Cooperation Budget | (In Crore) | % of India's Total Aid & Loan Budget |
|---------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Bhutan | 5490.00 | 69.42 |
| 2 | Bangladesh | 150.00 | 1.90 |
| 3 | Afghanistan | 520.00 | 6.58 |
| 4 | Sri Lanka | 230.00 | 2.91 |
| 5 | Nepal | 300.00 | 3.79 |
| 6 | Myanmar | 400.00 | 5.06 |
| 7 | African Countries | 290.00 | 3.67 |
| 8 | Eurasian Countries | 20.00 | 0.25 |
| 9 | Maldives | 40.00 | 0.51 |
| 10 | Latin American Countries | 15.00 | 0.19 |
| 11 | Mongolia | 5.00 | 0.06 |
| 12 | Others | 447.82 | 5.66 |
| | Total | 7907.82 | |

*As on 11.11.2016

Status of pending C & AG Audit Paras

| S. No | Year | No. of Paras/PA reports on which ATNs have been submitted to PAC after vetting by Audit | Details of the Paras/PA report on which ATNs are pending | | |
|--------------|---------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time | No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry | No. of ATNs which have been finally vetted by audit but have not been submitted by the Ministry to PAC |
| 1 | 2010-11 | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | 2011-12 | - | - | - | - |
| 3 | 2012-13 | - | - | - | - |
| 4 | 2013 | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | 2014 | - | - | - | - |
| 6 | 2015 | - | - | - | - |
| 7 | 2016 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 6 | - | 1 | 1 |

The Summary of important audit observations appearing in the most recent audit reports (for the year 2016) as on 9/01/2017 is given below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Less collection of revenue due to incorrect adoption of exchange rate on fees/penalties charged towards renunciation of citizenship and misuse of Passports | <p>Incorrect adoption of prevailing official exchange rate by High Commission of India (HCI), Ottawa and its Consulates in Toronto and Vancouver in June 2010 instead of the exchange rate for visa fees as required under the Manual and unwarranted downward revision of service fees for renunciation of Indian citizenship and penalty on misuse of passports later in March 2013, resulted in less collection of revenue of Rs.27.01 crore.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Para 7.1 Chapter VII of Report No.11 of 2016)</p> <p>[Para stands approved for settlement]</p> |
| 2 | Undue benefit of Rs.10.72 crore to the Service Provider | <p>Permitting the Service Provider to handle fast track business visa with Service Charge at an arbitrary rate (Great Britain Pound 25) in place of normal service charge of GBP 7.70 resulted in undue benefit of Rs.10.72 crore to the Service Provider during the period March 2010 to February 2015.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Para 7.2 of Report No.11 of 2016)</p> <p>[Revised Draft ATN with Audit for vetting]</p> |
| 3 | Award of work to a dubious firm | <p>Audit scrutiny of records of Embassy of India, Washington DC for the period January 2014 to February 2015 revealed (March 2015) that the Mission did not invite open tender in the following two cases though the value of work was more than Rs.25 lakhs in each case. Further, in both cases the work was awarded and the payment was released to a firm, whereabouts of which were not verifiable.</p> <p>(a) Annual Maintenance Contract of 2 servers and 16 desktops at Consular Section wherein an amount of US\$156450 (Rs.97.94 lakhs) was paid to M/s ATC from May 2012 to March 2015 at a monthly rate of US\$4470.</p> <p>(b) Procurement of the equipment of connectivity (CISCO ASA5510) and onsite support wherein equipment was supplied and the cost of US\$18670.86 (Rs.11.77 lakhs) and onsite support at the rate of US\$2310 (Rs.1.43 lakhs) per month for five years from November, 2013 to March, 2015.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Para 7.3 of Report No.11 of 2016)</p> <p>[Para vetted at Final stage. Final ATN under preparation]</p> |

APPENDIX - XVIII

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 4 | Loss of revenue due to non-revision of Fee for passport and related services | <p>High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, failed to comply with the instructions of Ministry of External Affairs on revision of fees for Passport and other related services which resulted in a loss of revenue worth Rs.63.28 lakhs (Para 7.4 of Report No.11 of 2016)</p> <p>[Para stands approved for settlement]</p> |
| 5 | Non-payment of Service Tax by the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai | <p>Haj Committee of India neither registered itself with the Service Tax Department nor paid Service Tax amounting to Rs.7.09 crore on supporting services provided to Haj pilgrims. (Para 7.5 of Report No.11 of 2016)</p> <p>[As all works related to Haj Division of MEA was transferred to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, New Delhi, w.e.f. 1st October, 2016, the para was transferred to them by C&AG at Final ATN stage]</p> |
| 6 | Performance Audit on Implementation of Passport Seva Project | <p>Main audit conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delay in giving appointment at the PSKs - Police verification process - Pendency in printing of passports at the Passport offices - Pendency in delivery of passports by India Post Department - Overall delay in issue of Passports - Non formulation of Citizens Charter - Delay in getting appointment - Long waiting time at the PSKs in Delhi - Inconvenience to citizens in PSKs - Pendency in Grievance Redressal System - Absence of refund mechanism in PSP - Project Implementation Terms - MSA and Service Level Agreement terms - Change in definition of Walk-in applicant - Reward to service provider on peak hour terminology - Change in calculation of average time spent by citizens in PSK - Governance structure deficiencies - Programme Management Committee - Non-submission of information to audit on legacy Data Migration - Internal Control related to reconciliation of receipts <p style="text-align: right;">(Para7 of 2016{entire report})</p> <p>[Revised ATN under preparation]</p> |

Abbreviations

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|--|
| AALCO | Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation | FMCT | Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty |
| ARF | ASEAN Regional Forum | FTA | Free Trade Agreement |
| ASEAN | Association of South East Asian Nations | G-20 | Group of Twenty |
| ASEM | Asia Europe Meeting | GCTF | Global Counter Terrorism Forum |
| ASSOCHAM | Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry | GFMD | Global Forum for Migration and Development |
| AU | African Union | GOI | Government of India |
| AWG-LC | Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action | HEP | Hydro-Electric Project |
| AYUSH | Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy | HRC | Human Rights Council |
| BARC | Bhabha Atomic Research Centre | IAFS | India-Africa Forum Summit |
| BIMSTEC | Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi- Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation | IANS | Indo-Asian News Service |
| BIPPA | Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement | IBSA | India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum |
| BRIC | Brazil, Russia, India and China | I/C | Independent Charge |
| CBM | Confidence Building Measure | ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organisation |
| CBRN | Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear | ICCR | Indian Council for Cultural Relations |
| CECA | Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement | ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| CELAC | Community of Latin American and Caribbean States | ICWA | Indian Council of World Affairs |
| CEPA | Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement | IDP | Internally Displaced Person |
| CHOGM | Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet | IDFR | Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations |
| CII | Confederation of Indian Industry | IDSA | Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses |
| CLMV | Cambodia, Lao PDR, Burma, and Vietnam | IEA | International Energy Agency |
| CPIO | Central Public Information Officer | IFS | Indian Foreign Service |
| CPV | Consular Passport and Visa | IGNOU | Indira Gandhi National Open University |
| DTAA | Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement | IIFT | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade |
| EAM | External Affairs Minister | IIMC | Indian Institute of Mass Communication |
| EASA | External Affairs Spouses' Association | ILO | International Labour Organisation |
| ECOSOC | Economic and Social Council | IOM | International Organization on Migration |
| EEPC | Engineering Exports Promotion Council | IONS | Institute of Noetic Sciences |
| EU | European Union | IOR-ARC | Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation |
| EXIM | Export Import Bank of India | IPR | Intellectual Property Rights |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment | IPU | Inter-Parliamentary Union |
| FICCI | Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry | IRENA | International Renewable Energy Agency |
| FIDC | Forum for Indian Development Cooperation | ISRO | Indian Space Research Organization |
| | | ITEC | Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation |
| | | ITMA | International Textile Manufacturers Association |
| | | IVFRT | Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking |

(Contd...)

| | | | |
|------------|---|-------------|--|
| JCBC | Joint Commission on Business Cooperation | SCO | Africa Programme |
| JWG | Joint Working Group | SDP | Shanghai Cooperation Organisation |
| LCS | Land Customs Stations | SEBI | Small Development Projects |
| LDC | Least Developed Country | SED | Securities and Exchange Board of India |
| LoC | Line of Credit | SICA | Strategic Economic Dialogue |
| MEP | Member of the European Parliament | SME | Central American Integration System |
| MERCOSUR | Market of Southern Cone Countries | SR | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| MGC | Mekong-Ganga Cooperation | TERI | Special Representative |
| MoEF | Ministry of Environment & Forests | UNASUR | Tata Energy and Research Institute |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding | UNCITRAL | Union of South American Nations |
| MP | Member of Parliament | UNCOPUOS UN | United Nations Commission on International Trade Law |
| MTCR | Missile Technology Control Regime | UNCSTD | Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space |
| NAM | Non-Aligned Movement | UNCTAD | United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development |
| NASA | National Aeronautical and Space Administration | UNDP | United Nations Conferences on Trade and Development |
| NDC | National Defence College | UNEP | United Nations Development Programme |
| NGO | Non-Government Organisation | UNESCO | United Nations Environment Programme |
| NIFT | National Institute of Fashion Technology | UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| NPT | Non-Proliferation Treaty | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| NSCS | National Security Council Secretariat | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| OCI | Overseas Citizenship of India | UNGA | United Nations General Assembly |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development | UNIFIL | United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon |
| OPCW | Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons | UNSC | United Nations Security Council |
| OTs | Officer Trainees | UNODC | United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime |
| PHARMEXCIL | Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India | UPA | United Progressive Alliance |
| PIO | Persons of Indian Origin | WHO | World Health Organization |
| PM | Prime Minister | WIPO | World Intellectual Rights Organisation |
| PTA | Preferential Trade Agreement | WTO | World Trade Organisation |
| PTI | Press Trust of India | XPD | External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division |
| PSP | Passport Sewa Project | | |
| PSU | Public Sector Undertaking | | |
| RBI | Reserve of Bank of India | | |
| RGoB | Royal Government of Bhutan | | |
| RTI | Right to Information | | |
| SAARC | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation | | |
| SAFTA | South Asian Free Trade Area | | |
| SAU | South Asian University | | |
| SBI | State Bank of India | | |
| SCAAP | Special Commonwealth Assistance for | | |