



Ministry of External Affairs

Annual Report | 2019-20

Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

Annual Report | 2019-20

The Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs is brought out by the Policy Planning and Research Division. A digital copy of the Annual Report can be accessed at the Ministry's website : www.mea.gov.in. This Annual Report has also been published as an audio book (in Hindi) in collaboration with the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) Dehradun.



Dr. S Jaishankar
External Affairs Minister.

Earlier Dr S Jaishankar was President – Global Corporate Affairs at Tata Sons Private Limited from May 2018.

He was Foreign Secretary from 2015-18, Ambassador to United States from 2013-15, Ambassador to China from 2009-2013, High Commissioner to Singapore from 2007-2009 and Ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2000-2004.

He has also served in other diplomatic assignments in Embassies in Moscow, Colombo, Budapest and Tokyo, as well in the Ministry of External Affairs and the President's Secretariat.

Dr S. Jaishankar is a graduate of St. Stephen's College at the University of Delhi. He has an MA in Political Science and an M. Phil and Ph.D in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

He is a recipient of the Padma Shri award in 2019.

He is married to Kyoko Jaishankar and has two sons & and a daughter.



Shri V. Muraleedharan
Minister of State for External Affairs

Shri V. Muraleedharan, born on 12 December 1958 in Kanuur District of Kerala to Shri Gopalan Vannathan Veettil and Smt. Devaki Namballi Vellam Velli, was sworn in as a Union Minister of State on 30 May 2019 by the President of India.

Shri V. Muraleedharan officially took charge as Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs on 31 May 2019.

Early Career

After graduating in English Language and Literature from Government Brennen College, Thalassery, Kerala. Shri Muraleedharan started his journey as an activist in socio-political affairs which vastly enriched his experience. He held various positions such as Vice Chairman of Nehru Yuva Kendra (under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India) from 1999-2002 and later Director General, Nehru Yuva Kendra from 2002-2004.

Political Career

In April 2018, Shri Muraleedharan was elected to Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra. In June 2018, he was nominated as Member to the Standing Committee on External Affairs. In June 2018, he was also appointed as a Member to the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Railways. Later in December 2018, he was appointed as a Member of the Committee on Rules.

Shri Muraleedharan is married to Dr. K.S. Jayasree.

CONTENTS

	Introduction and Synopsls	8
1	India' s Neighbours	38
2	South-East Asia and Asia-Pacific	70
3	East Asia	86
4	Eurasia	92
5	Gulf and West Asia	104
6	Africa	118
7	Europe and European Union	142
8	The Americas	176
9	Saarc, Bimstec & Nalanda	210
10	Indo-Pacific	214
11	United Nations and International Organisations	220
12	Multi-Lateral Economic Relations	234
13	Development Cooperation	240
14	Economic Diplomacy & States	254
15	Disarmament and International Security Affairs	264
16	Legal and Treaties Division	272
17	Policy Planning and Research Division	282
18	Counter Terrorism	286
19	Global Cyber Issues, E-Governance & Information technology	288
20	Consular, Passport and Visa Services	294
21	Overseas Indian Affairs	310
22	Protocol	318
23	External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division	330
24	Adminstration, Establishment and Right To Information	336
25	Implementation of Official Language Policy and Propagation of Hindi Abroad	340
26	Finance and Budget	342
27	Parliament and Coordination Division	348
28	Conference Division	352
29	Archives	354
30	Foreign Service Institute	356
31	Indian Council for Cultural Relations	364
32	Indian Council for World Affairs	372
33	Research & Information System for Developing Countries	384

INTRODUCTION AND SYNOPSIS

2019 was a year of continuity and change for the Ministry of External Affairs. Traditional partnerships and the diplomatic initiatives of the recent past were given a newer dimension by the installation of a new government following general elections in May 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in for his second term as Prime Minister. Dr. S Jaishankar was appointed as External Affairs Minister and Shri V. Muraleedharan as Minister of State for External Affairs.

Indian diplomacy during the year under review continued its purposeful pursuit of national interest during a time of rapid global change. Greater economic well-being,

peace in our region and in the world, the protection of Indian interests and Indians abroad and projection of Indian influence and views were fundamental to the operation of Indian foreign policy during this period. Working with multiple partners on different agendas, this Ministry built on its Neighbourhood First and Act East policies. A focus on intensifying contacts and on concrete manifestations of goodwill and intent in these areas were supplemented by a focus on major bilateral relationships and multilateral and plurilateral activities. The adjustment of foreign policy to domestic priorities to ensure their constant alignment received close attention. External challenges during this



Oath Ceremony of Prime Minister at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (May 30, 2019)

period included substantial changes in geo-political equations including major shifts in great power policy on regional issues and countries, potentially disruptive technologies and global technology regimes and the response to major international issues such as migration, climate change and global economic and development governance.

Congruent with India's emphasis on engaging like-minded friendly countries in the immediate neighbourhood, leaders of BIMSTEC countries, Kyrgyzstan and Mauritius attended the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected government on 30 May 2019. The first overseas visit of Prime Minister immediately after assuming office for the second time was to Maldives on 08-09 June 2019. This enabled us to further our partnership with Maldives by opening up new areas of cooperation in health, connectivity, capacity building and maritime operations. This was followed by a visit to Sri Lanka on 09 June. EAM Dr.

S. Jaishankar also made his first visit abroad to Bhutan on 07-08 June 2019, reflecting the importance that India attaches to its bilateral relationship with Bhutan, a close friend and neighbour.

The Ministry continued with the accelerated momentum of international engagements with Prime Minister attending the Council of Heads of States at the SCO in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (13-14 June), G20 meetings at Osaka, Japan (27-29 June), Japan-America-India and Russia-India-China Trilateral meetings, and informal BRICS Summit (28 June) on the margins of the G20 Summit. EAM Dr. Jaishankar participated in the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) at Dushanbe on 14-15 June 2019; the 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (09-11 July, UK). EAM also participated in this year's editions of the Ministerial Meetings in the Mekong Ganga Cooperation, ASEAN-India, and East Asian Summit formats.

Engagement with great powers continued apace. United States Secretary of State Michael Pompeo visited India in June 2019. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov visited New Delhi in July. Reciprocal visits provided an opportunity for enhancing India's bilateral and multilateral commitments. EAM visited Washington in December 2019 and Moscow in August 2019. Prime Minister concluded a highly successful visit to the United States in September 2019 which cemented India's strong connections with the US and included an appearance with President Donald Trump at the Howdy Modi event in Houston. India also further extended the range of its cooperation with Russia with Prime Minister's successful visit to Russia in September 2019, where India expressed its commitment to work together with Russia for the development of Russia's Far East Region. The President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping visited India in October for the 2nd Informal Summit with Prime Minister at Chennai while EAM visited China for the 2nd India-China high-level mechanism on cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Prime Minister visited France in August 2019 to attend 2019 G-7 Summit (where India was designated as 'Biarritz partner'), wherein he addressed sessions on Environment, Climate, Oceans and Digital Transformation.

The Ministry continued its efforts to maintain and augment its position as a pre-eminent player in the Indian Ocean Region. Given the increasing salience of the Indo-Pacific concept in global discourse, the Ministry of External Affairs established a new Division for the Indo-Pacific in April 2019. This was followed by an intensification of India's engagement with various Indo-Pacific frameworks like the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC). India also joined the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) as a Development Partner. The Ministry also undertook

a programme of bilateral visits to important countries in this region to further our engagement with them. Significant initiatives were undertaken to cement defence and maritime relationships with neighbours in this region. Development initiatives and connectivity/infrastructure projects were given high importance. Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR, which underpins Indian activity in this region, was described by EAM in his keynote address on "Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges" at the 4th Indian Ocean Conference in Maldives in September 2019.

Prime Minister attended the 74th UN General Assembly in New York in September 2019. He addressed the General Assembly on 27 September. His remarks highlighted India's civilisational contributions and its current efforts towards combating terrorism, achieving universal health care and mitigating climate change. The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was suitably commemorated at the United Nations. Prime Minister also announced the launch of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure during UNGA. CDRI is designed to be an international platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure and will bring together technical expertise from a multitude of stakeholders. In doing so, it will create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices, with regard to infrastructure development. Institutions such as International Solar Alliance and CDRI are major initiatives by India to harnessing India's domestic strengths and capacities and mobilize international efforts to answer global problems and challenges.

A major activity of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2019 was the management of the international and diplomatic aspects of changes in the Indian polity. The modification of certain provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution of India and the passage of legislation by Parliament were used by Pakistan as a pretext

for increasing tension in the bilateral relationship. Pakistan also undertook a number of hostile actions in the bilateral context such as the downgradation of diplomatic relations. It encouraged in the international context the organizing of protests and hostile actions against Indian interests and diplomatic establishments overseas. This was overcome by a sustained diplomatic effort by the Ministry and its missions and posts to reach out to interlocutors and key constituencies to explain the rationale behind the forward looking legislations of Parliament and decisions of Government.

Terrorist assaults in Jammu and Kashmir in February 2019 which led to deaths of 40 policemen in Pulwama and other efforts directed at destabilizing and negatively impacting the security situation in that part of India were resolutely countered by the Government of India through the year. In the absence of action by Pakistan against internationally proscribed terrorist organizations such as Jaish-e-Mohammad, in spite of irrefutable evidence of their being trained and armed inside Pakistan, India undertook non-military pre-emptive action specifically targeted at the Jaish-e-Mohammad Camp in Balakot on 26 February 2019. The diplomatic dimensions of this firm display of Indian resolve to combat terrorism and subsequent measures was managed by this Ministry. The message that India reserved the right to take firm and decisive action to protect its national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity against any act of aggression or cross-border terrorism was conveyed to our interlocutors.

The Ministry continued its efforts to become more user-friendly, accountable and transparent in its administrative and public-facing operations. Reflective of the Government's commitments in this direction, MEA launched its own dedicated Performance Dashboard which is a visual display of important objectives of the Ministry. Data on passports and citizen-centric services like visas/OCI card and up-to-date economic data on trade and commerce is now available in the public domain by means of an internet-

enabled application. The Ministry also developed a dedicated e-Audit Portal for the management and monitoring of audit reports which would be accessible globally through its own website. Audit enforces accountability and this is expected to strengthen administrative oversight and prudential controls. The Ministry achieved and exceeded the targets set for it for the first 100 days of the new Government, with 12 new Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (against a target of 10) being opened as part of Ministry's efforts to open at least one PSK or POP SK in every Lok Sabha constituency in the country.

Appropriately commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the international arena was a major focus of this Ministry's activities in 2019. An event was organized at the United Nations on 24 September 2019 to mark this event. It was attended by Prime Minister, several other Heads of State and government and UN Secretary General. External Publicity Division of this Ministry published an anthology on 'What Gandhi Means to Me' with contributions from major personalities from across the world. An Indian Council of Cultural Relations **program led to installation of Mahatma Gandhi busts in 40 countries.** Indian Council of World Affairs, in partnership with the Ministry, will organize an international seminar on the theme 'Gandhi and the World' in February 2020. Missions and posts across the world have and continue to suitably commemorate this in their jurisdictions.

The year 2019 also marked the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji. This Ministry and its missions and posts organised events highlighting the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev and celebrating his life and teachings. Special events like the planting of trees, "Gurbain Kirtan/Ardas, blood donation and medical camps, demonstrations of Sikh martial arts / Hola Mohalla, institution of an academic Chair in the name of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji were undertaken in multiple locations globally. UNESCO's involvement in

translating Nanak's teachings in multiple international languages is a notable decision in this context that will catalyze greater outreach and impact.

In a coordinated effort with other Ministries and our missions and posts abroad, we were able to roll out the e-Aarogya and e-Vidya Bharti projects in 15 African countries within this period. This set the ground for the launching of more of these innovative, technology-enabled education platforms to cover all 54 African countries, thereby providing a new format for engaging with them and for sharing India's expertise in creation of human capital.

Former EAM, Smt Sushma Swaraj, who passed away suddenly in August in New Delhi, had addressed the

inaugural session of the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Abu Dhabi on 01 March, 2019. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, led this Ministry from May 2014 to May 2019 and added new dimensions to the activities of this Ministry in India and abroad. In recognition of her invaluable contribution to Indian diplomacy, the cause of the Indian diaspora and the ethos of public service, the Ministry decided to rename the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Foreign Service Institute also in New Delhi, as Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.

The following pages provide further details on the key developments in India's foreign relations during the year.

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

Afghanistan

India-Afghanistan strategic partnership continued to witness all round development and was further strengthened in the last one year. This was reflected in high level bilateral engagements, including in the areas of political, defence engagement, security, trade and investment, connectivity, development partnership, social & cultural issues, education and capacity building. The bilateral trade between India and Afghanistan reached US\$ 1.5 billion. Afghanistan started its exports to India through Chabahar Port the operations of which were taken over by an Indian company in December 2018. India actively engaged with international partners and participated in international fora on Afghanistan. India voiced its support for national peace and reconciliation efforts that were Afghan led, Afghan owned and Afghan controlled; establishing early peace, security, stability; protecting independence, sovereignty and democracy; promoting the rights of the minority, the youth and women in an inclusive Afghanistan.

Pakistan

India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. India's consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive environment. It has been made clear that India will not compromise on issues relating to national security and will take firm and decisive steps to deal with all attempts to undermine our security and territorial integrity.

Following the dastardly suicide terror attack (14 February) by Pakistan based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Pulwama, in which 40 Indian security personnel were killed, India carried out successful anti-terror pre-emptive air strike (26 February) against JeM training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. Indian forces have also given robust response to over 3000 unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan forces during 2019 meant to support cross-border terrorist infiltration.

During the year, India, as a result of its proactive outreach with the international community, successfully thwarted Pakistan's repeated attempts, including at the UN to present an alarmist situation of the region, interfere in internal affairs of India, and internationalise bilateral issues.

In implementation of the decision of the Cabinet taken on 22 November 2018 to fulfill the long pending demand of the Indian pilgrims, the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 9 November 2019 on the occasion of the 550th birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Efforts in the case of innocent Indian national Shri Kulbhushan Jadhav were successful with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its verdict (17 July 2019) unanimously upholding India's claim that Pakistan was in egregious violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, on several counts and ordered immediate consular access and effective review and reconsideration of the sentence awarded to him by Pakistan military court through a farcical trial. Separately, India also won the case against Pakistan in the 70-year-old issue of 'Hyderabad Fund' in a verdict the UK High Court ruled (02 October 2019) in favour of the Indian party.

Bangladesh & Myanmar

Bangladesh and Myanmar remained central elements in the implementation of India's 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First' policies as exemplified by priority attention accorded to these relationships by most line Ministries of the Government of India, including the Ministry of Defence and our Defence Services, as well as our infrastructure Ministries.

India's relations with Bangladesh and Myanmar continue to progress in the year 2019. In both cases, contact at the highest political levels continued through the year, under review, with several Ministerial and other visits also being exchanged in 2019. India's

Development Partnership projects in Bangladesh and Myanmar recorded consistent progress, as these two countries continue to rank amongst India's largest recipients of grant and concessional credit. Trade and economic relations also grew, as did people-to-people contact, with the expansion of air services with both countries and simplification of travel permits, as well as creation of new travel infrastructure.

The re-election of the Awami League Government in Bangladesh at the beginning of the year and the NDA Government in India in the middle of the year helped ensure continuity in the relationship with Bangladesh. With Myanmar, continued close ties with the NLD Government and other key entities ensured that the bilateral relationship maintained a positive focus and tenor.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share special and privileged relations based on mutual trust, shared history and civilisational ties. The traditionally close bilateral relations between India and Bhutan continued to be consolidated over the course of the year, with sustained progress witnessed in all areas of co-operation, including hydropower, communication, security, infrastructure, health, education, Information Technology, culture, agriculture and into several new areas such as space and digital and financial connectivity.

The tradition of regular high level visits and dialogue between the two countries continued with the visit of the Prime Minister, Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering, on 30 & 31 May 2019, to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Indian Government. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Bhutan on 17 & 18 August 2019 which led to further deepening and diversification of our bilateral cooperation with focus on new areas of space and youth exchanges. During the visit, 720 MW Mangdechhu hydropower project as well as Ground Earth Station for utilization of South

Asia Satellite were inaugurated. Both sides have also agreed for joint development of a small satellite for Bhutan.

India has extensive development partnership with Bhutan, based on Bhutan's priorities. For the current 12th Five Year Plan (2018-23), GOI has committed economic assistance of Rs 4500 crores, apart from transitional Trade Support Facility of Rs. 400 crores. Over 400 big and small projects in areas of infrastructure development, roads and bridges, construction of regional hospitals, schools, cultural heritage buildings and covering sectors like ICT, capacity building, industries, agriculture, e-governance, community development projects like irrigation channels, farm roads, block connectivity roads, basic health units, etc. have been identified by the two sides and are at various stages of implementation. Both sides continue to monitor these projects closely to ensure their timely implementation. Timely Gol assistance has been helpful in successful implementation of several developmental projects that are contributing to the socio-economic development of Bhutan.

In the flagship area of bilateral cooperation in hydropower sector, with the inauguration of 720 MW Mangdechhu hydropower project, jointly developed hydro power capacity has crossed the 2000 MW mark. Both the governments maintained close coordination to expedite implementation of two ongoing major projects - the 1200MW Punatsangchu-I and the 1020MW Punatsangchu-II. Two rounds of bilateral discussions were held to finalize implementation modalities of 2585 MW Sankosh Reservoir hydropower project.

Nepal

The close and multi-faceted relations between India and Nepal, based on age-old cultural and people-to-people ties, continued to deepen across diverse sectors during the year 2019. In keeping with the

'Neighbourhood First' policy, high-level political exchanges have intensified. Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K P Sharma Oli attended the swearing-in ceremony of the new Government of India on 30 May 2019. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar paid a visit to Nepal on 21&22 August 2019 to co-chair the Joint Commission Meeting with his Nepali counterpart. The year also witnessed intensive engagements with over 30 exchanges at the ministerial, official, and technical levels.

Government has laid particular emphasis on expeditious implementation of ongoing bilateral connectivity, physical and social infrastructure development projects. The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal remotely inaugurated the Motihari (India) - Amlekhgunj (Nepal) cross-border petroleum products pipeline on 10 September 2019. The preliminary survey report of the new broad gauge electrified rail line connecting Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal was completed in May 2019 and work is underway for conducting final location survey of the rail line. Integrated Check Post at Biratnagar, being constructed with Gol grant assistance, is nearing completion. Under Gol assistance for post-earthquake reconstruction in the housing sector, about 40,000 houses (i.e. 80% of work) in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts have been completed. Under the four Lines of Credit of over US\$ 1.65 billion extended by Government of India to Nepal, a number of infrastructure projects, including post-earthquake reconstruction work, are being implemented in Nepal. India offers about 3000 scholarships (including 250 ITEC slots) to Nepali candidates every year, providing opportunities to study in Nepal and at premier institutes in India.

India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the leading source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal. Total bilateral trade increased by over 17% from US\$ 7.05 billion in FY 2017-18 to reach US\$ 8.27 billion in FY 2018-19. Both governments continue to engage

and take measures to facilitate trade and mutual investments.

The two sides have laid a forward-looking trajectory to advance wide ranging bilateral ties in all areas of cooperation.

China

The bilateral relationship between India and China under the overall framework of Closer Developmental Partnership continued to strengthen and deepen in the year 2019 with the Second Informal Summit between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping held in Chennai on 11-12 October 2019. In addition to the

informal summit, PM Modi and President Xi held three more meetings on the sidelines of the SCO Leaders' summit, G-20 Summit and the 11th BRICS Summit. Other important events in 2019 include the visit of EAM to Beijing for High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges and the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to India for the 22nd meeting of Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question. Overall, the year witnessed a sustained positive momentum in India-China bilateral relations. 2020 will mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and both sides have agreed to celebrate it by organizing 70 activities in India and China.

INDIAN OCEAN REGION

India's relationships with IOR countries (Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles) have been strengthened further in all fields, including in commerce & trade, security & defence, culture, science & technology and education during the period, guided by Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). Marked by high level exchange of visits between India and the IOR countries, the year saw substantial engagements and outcomes. India's development partnership with countries of IOR Division has been an integral and substantive part of her engagement with the region during the period.

Sri Lanka

India's relations with Sri Lanka gained further momentum in 2019-20. Frequent visits at the highest political level from both sides enhanced the cooperation and understanding between India and Sri Lanka in various areas such as commerce, trade, defence, developmental cooperation and education. Further, successful implementation of people oriented and demand driven projects such as Emergency

Ambulance Project and commencement of flights between Chennai and Jaffna brought the two countries even closer. During this period, India continued to accord high priority to relations with Sri Lanka in accordance with its Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR Doctrine. After the Presidential elections on 16 November, EAM visited Sri Lanka on 18-19 November 2019 as a Special Envoy of Prime Minister, immediately after the swearing-in of President of Sri Lanka, to convey the greetings of Prime Minister and to invite the President to visit India. President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, paid a State Visit to India from 28-30 November 2019, his first overseas visit after taking over as the President.

Maldives

India-Maldives bilateral relationship during the period saw rapid expansion in various new domains. President Solih's visit to India in December 2018 had set the agenda, which got further direction and ambition during the visit of PM Modi to Maldives in June 2019. The period saw the implementation of various LoC projects,

grant projects and a series of new capacity building initiatives being taken up in hitherto unexplored areas like good governance, Aviation Security, Firefighting, National Security Guards, Special Protection Group, etc.

Mauritius

India sees Mauritius as a close maritime neighbour. The cultural, historical and ancestral linkages between India and Mauritius have over the decades cemented this shared feeling of proximity. The relationship is further buttressed by strong development cooperation, defence, trade & commercial ties, high-level visits, capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes etc. This year was marked by a number of high level visits, completion of development cooperation projects like e-tablet project, ENT Hospital, 1st phase of the Metro Express project, intensive defence and cultural engagement etc. On the official invitation of PM Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth attended the swearing-in ceremony of PM Narendra Modi and his

Council of Ministers on 30 May 2019. Mauritius was the only country that was invited to the event outside the BIMSTEC countries. After Mr Pravind Jugnauth was elected as the Prime Minister of Mauritius for a second term in November 2019, Prime Minister Modi congratulated him over the phone and invited him to visit India on an official visit.

Seychelles

India-Seychelles relations have been characterised by close friendship, understanding and cooperation. This is evident from the strong defence and security cooperation, including on counter terrorism and other transnational crimes; development partnership; cultural cooperation; capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes. India has expanded the scope and spread of its development assistance in Seychelles by committing support in helping Seychelles in its national developmental priorities. India continued its close engagement with the Government and people of Seychelles this year, which further strengthened our close bilateral relations.

INDO-PACIFIC & ASEAN

Given the increasing salience of the Indo-Pacific concept in global discourse, the Ministry of External Affairs established a new Division for the Indo-Pacific in April 2019. The purpose of doing so was two-fold: to help consolidate India's vision of the Indo-Pacific across Government of India, in line with the elements set out by the Prime Minister of India in June 2018, and to provide substantive policy elements and programmes to that vision.

India's Vision for the Indo-Pacific focuses on a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific. India emphasizes respect for sovereignty and territorial

integrity of all nations in the region, equality of all nations, peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use or threat of use of force and adherence to international laws, rules and regulations. India's objective is a multi-faceted engagement with all countries in the region and those with interests in it, encompassing political, security, economic, and socio-cultural spheres, aimed at Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

The year 2019 witnessed intensification of India's engagement with various Indo-Pacific frameworks including, inter alia, Association of South East Asian

Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC); we also agreed to join the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) as a Development Partner in July 2019.

India's engagement with South East Asian region of which Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was its primary component, is governed by Act East Policy (AEP), announced by PM Shri Narendra Modi in November 2014 in Myanmar. Key elements of AEP are to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in Indo-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Towards this end, in 2019, PM had met Prime Ministers of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and President of Indonesia. Our President had State visit to Philippines in November 2019, while Vice-President visited Vietnam in May 2019. External Affairs

Minister (EAM) Dr. S Jaishankar and Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan had met all ASEAN Foreign Ministers, except Cambodia and Laos. Structured mechanism meetings like Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) were held this year with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand. India's relations with Pacific Island Countries (PIC) received a shot in the arm with the historic India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting, held on 24th September 2019 in New York on the sidelines of 74th UNGA. 2019 marked the year when ASEAN formulated its Outlook towards Indo-Pacific on 23 June 2019, as a response to Indo-Pacific concept. The end of the year marked the 35th ASEAN/14th East Asia Summit (EAS)/16th India-ASEAN Summit from 2-4 November 2019 in Bangkok where PM interacted with ASEAN Leaders and announced the India Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) during EAS.

EAST ASIA

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Diplomatic relations between India and Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) continued to be cordial. DPRK supported India's candidatures in various multilateral fora.

Japan

India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership continued to be propelled by growing convergence in political, economic and strategic interests of the two countries with numerous high-level engagements throughout the year. The visit of the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in October 2019 to Japan for attending the Enthronement Ceremony of

the Emperor of Japan reflected the close relationship between the two countries. The three Summit-level bilateral meetings that were held between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Abe Shinzo during 2019 gave direction and impetus to the partnership. Japan became the only country with which India has an Annual Summit as well as 2+2 Ministerial mechanism when the inaugural India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting was held in November 2019. Japan's Presidency of G20 in 2019 also presented numerous opportunities throughout the year for having high-level bilateral engagements with Japan on the margins of the G20 events.

Republic of Korea

India-Republic of Korea bilateral relationship, elevated to the level of “Special Strategic Partnership” during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Republic of Korea in 2015, received a further boost by three VVIP visits from both sides within a period of one year. President Moon Jae-in (MJI) and First Lady Kim Jung-sook paid State Visits to India in July and November 2018 respectively. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Seoul in February 2019 to receive the Seoul Peace Prize. Other important events in 2019 included the visit of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to Seoul in September 2019.

Mongolia

Historically, India and Mongolia have shared a warm and cordial relationship. However, the historic visit of our Prime Minister to Mongolia in 2015 brought in a paradigm shift in our approach towards Mongolia. The traditional friendship received a huge boost

and our relationship with Mongolia was elevated to “Strategic Partnership”. Most Mongolians consider India as their “third” and “spiritual neighbour” and are acutely aware of the special relationship with us. The upsurge and momentum in our relationship has since been sustained through regular high-level visits from both sides. In 2019, President Khaltmaagiin Battulga paid a state visit to India from September 19-23. This was the first Presidential visit from the Mongolian side in almost a decade. Other important events in 2019 included the visit of Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr. D. Tsogtbaatar and that of Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry from the Mongolian side. From the Indian side, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel visited Mongolia in October 2019 to inaugurate the infrastructure works related to India’s largest Line of Credit (LoC) Project-the ‘Oil Refinery Project (ORP)’. Overall the year witnessed a sustained positive momentum in the India-Mongolia bilateral relations.

EURASIA

Relations between India and countries in the Eurasian Region continued to register positive growth during the year. Apart from advancing bilateral relations, relations with several countries in the Eurasian region also received multi-dimensional focus through the activities pertaining to the India-Central Asia Dialogue, the India-Eurasian Economic Union negotiations on a possible trading arrangement, the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Sooronbai Jeenbekov, was invited as a special guest as the SCO Chairman to grace the swearing-in ceremony of the new Government on 30 May 2019. Prime Minister visited Bishkek on 13-14 June 2019 to attend the SCO Summit in Bishkek followed by a bilateral visit

to the Kyrgyz Republic. Bilateral relations with the Kyrgyz Republic were raised to the level of Strategic Partnership during the visit. Visit of Raksha Mantri to Uzbekistan for the SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting and bilateral visit on 1-3 November 2019 led to the holding of the first joint military exercise between Indian and Uzbek armed forces in Uzbekistan. Visit of Shri Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat to Uzbekistan on 19-23 October 2019 led to significant results, conclusion of several MoUs and further boost in cooperation between the Andijon region of Uzbekistan and Gujarat. Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan visited New Delhi on 14-15 January 2020 during which he called on Prime Minister, had a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister and addressed the Raisina Dialogue 2020. Shri V. Muraleedharan,

Minister of State for External Affairs visited Kazakhstan on 11-12 November 2019 to address the Astana Club Meeting. During his visit, he also called on Mr. Nigmatulli, Speaker of the Kazakh Parliament and Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Foreign Minister.

Under the initiatives announced by India during the First India-Central Asia Dialogue held in Samarkand in January 2019, a familiarization visit for Central Asian journalists to India was organized from 22-29 April 2019, a Special Training Course was conducted by Foreign Service Institute of India for diplomats from Central Asian Countries in June-July 2019 and the 6th Edition of the International Folk Dance & Music Festival with a Central Asia-focus was organised by ICCR from 2-4 December 2019 in New Delhi. Delegations from all the Central Asian countries enthusiastically participated in these initiatives.

Indian Missions in Eurasian countries organized a series of events to commemorate 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi. Painting exhibitions, cycling events, tree-planting drives and vegetarian food festivals were held to mark the occasion. Missions also celebrated the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji with great fervour.

Russia

Prime Minister visited Vladivostok on 4-5 September 2019 to hold the 20th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit and participate in the 5th Eastern Economic Forum as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. Earlier on 12 April 2019, Russia announced the award of the Order of St Andrew, the Apostle, Russia's highest state decoration, for Prime Minister.

Visit of EAM (27-28 August 2019), of Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser (21 August 2019) and of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas (29-30 August 2019) led to significant groundwork for Prime Minister's bilateral visit to

Vladivostok. For exploring business opportunities in the Russian Far East, a 150-strong business delegation accompanied Shri Piyush Goyal, Commerce and Industry Minister and Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Goa to visit Vladivostok from 11-13 August 2019 and met Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev and 11 Governors of the Russian Far East region. The business delegation strengthened bilateral cooperation between regions of Russia and states of India. Raksha Mantri visited Russia on 26-29 November 2019 for co-chairing the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission Meeting on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yury Borisov visited India on 22 July 2019 for the conduct of the inter-session meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission - Technical and Economic Cooperation co-chaired by him along with External Affairs Minister. Mr. Sergei Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation paid a bilateral visit to New Delhi on 15 January 2020 during which he met External Affairs Minister and called on Prime Minister. Foreign Minister Lavrov gave a keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue 2020.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

During the period from April-November 2019, the momentum of India-SCO cooperation continued to grow based on India's longstanding cultural linkages as well as its vibrant modern day relations with the SCO Members. India actively took part in various SCO dialogue mechanisms held under the SCO chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan as well as under the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the format of Council of SCO Heads of Government. The then External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting of Council of SCO Foreign Ministers held on 22 May 2019 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi represented India in the meeting of Council of SCO Heads of State held under the chairmanship of

the President of Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov on 14 June 2019 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The Leaders signed the Bishkek Declaration and approved important documents including the Regulations of the Forum of Heads of Regions and Concept of cooperation in the field of Digitization and Information-Communication Technologies. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh represented India in the

18th meeting of Council of SCO Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Abdulla Aripov on 2 November 2019 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah chaired the 10th meeting of SCO Ministers dealing with the Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi.

GULF AND WEST ASIA

The Gulf

India has close and strong relationship with Gulf region which has remained a region of prime importance in our extended neighborhood. Our bilateral friendly ties with each of the Gulf countries are deep-rooted in shared history and have been constantly nourished through growing multidimensional cooperation and vibrant people-to-people engagement.

There has been an unprecedented boost in political and economic engagement with the Gulf region over the past few years. With sustained efforts and focused engagement, the traditional buyer-seller relationship (basically focused on energy supplies) has been transformed into a strategic engagement. The Gulf region is one of the largest trading partners of India with a bilateral trade of over US\$ 150 billion in 2018-19. It is the source of more than 50 percent of our oil and gas needs. The region hosts a 9 million strong Indian community and contributed an annual remittance of over US\$ 48 billion in 2018 (out of total remittances to India of 78.6 Billion dollars).

In the Year 2019-20, the close political engagement with the countries in the region continued to grow. The visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin

Salman to India in February 2019 further consolidated the bilateral partnership and opened avenues for enhanced cooperation and prospects of increased Saudi investments in India's infrastructure. PM Shri Narendra Modi visited Bahrain (first ever Indian PM visit to the nation) and UAE in August 2019, where he was conferred their respective nations' highest civilian awards. He also attended the third session of the Future Investment Initiative Forum in Riyadh on 28-29 October, 2019 at the invitation of Saudi King Salman, as a 'Guest of Honour' where the two leaders signed an Agreement for establishment of a Strategic Partnership Council between the two countries

Iran

The year 2019 witnessed momentum being maintained in bilateral political and commercial exchanges at all levels. The 19th session of the Joint Commission at the level of External Affairs was held in December 2019 after a gap of four years. Both sides agreed on building upon the success achieved in operationalising Chabahar port for promoting regional connectivity. The India-Iran bilateral trade during the fiscal year 2018-19 witnessed a 23.8 % increase vis-à-vis 2017-18 and reached USD 17.03 billion.

WANA REGION

The West Asia & North Africa (WANA) region remains important for India's energy and food security, as also for its salience in maintenance of global peace and security. During the year, relations with all the countries of WANA region were taken forward in a calibrated manner, through regular holding of institutional dialogue mechanisms and high-level exchange of visits. This region is a primary source of rock phosphates and its derivatives, and potash used in fertilizers. India sources over 80% of its rock phosphate requirement from countries in this region. This region is also rich in minerals. We continue to intensify our efforts to further secure our energy interests in the region. We forged greater defence and security cooperation with most of the countries in the region through formal and informal mechanisms in the areas of intelligence sharing; counter-terrorism; cyber security etc. We have enhanced our maritime security and anti-piracy cooperation with Djibouti, Somalia and other countries in the region. Government of India conferred its second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan on the President of the Republic of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh in March 2019.

In the backdrop of continued financial crisis being faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), India has enhanced its annual contribution to the organization from US \$ 1.25 million to US \$ 5 million. India also continued to contribute towards United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). A sizable contingent of Indian security personnel is engaged in peacekeeping operations as part of the United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS).

Leaders of WANA countries congratulated Prime Minister on his party's electoral victory, and conveyed condolences over the demise of former External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj. In addition, International

Day of Yoga, 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji, ICCR Foundation Day, 55th ITEC Day were celebrated by our Missions in all WANA countries in partnership with the government authorities, local communities and Indian diaspora organisations.

AFRICA

During the year 2019-20, India's relations with countries in Africa continued to expand and diversify. In the context of India's Africa Outreach Policy, this year the first incoming and the first outgoing visits by Heads of State after the formation of the new government were to and from Africa. The year witnessed the first-ever visit of President Edgar Lungu of Zambia to India in September 2019. The President of India visited Benin, the Gambia and Guinea in July-August 2019. The first-ever visit by an Indian Vice President to Comoros took place in October 2019 and Vice President also visited Sierra Leone.

Parliamentary exchanges during the year included the visit of Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha leading 84-member delegation comprising Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Speakers/Deputy Speakers and Members of Legislative Assemblies from 25 States to attend the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Kampala in September 2019. A delegation from Parliamentary Commission of Uganda visited India in July 2019. For the first time, India deployed Election Observers for Zimbabwe General Elections. Observers from Zimbabwe also witnessed Indian Elections. Indian EVMs were used in Namibian Elections this year.

Interaction and engagements between leaders continued on the sidelines of multilateral meetings. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Presidents of Namibia and Niger on the sidelines of the United

Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Prime Minister Shri Modi interacted with President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and President of Senegal on the margins of G-20 and BRICS Summit. External Affairs Minister met Prime Minister of Uganda Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and Foreign Ministers of Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Equatorial Guinea on the sidelines of UNGA. EAM also met Deputy Foreign Minister of Cameroon on the margins of NAM meeting.

The high-level political engagements were supported by regular meetings of institutional mechanisms, including at the Ministerial level. India hosted the second Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with Kenya (March 2019). Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan led a delegation for the CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India-Southern Africa Project Partnership Conclave in Lusaka in October 2019. The official level engagements included the first Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) with Botswana in May 2019 in New Delhi and FOCs with Lesotho and South Africa in October 2019. The 9th meeting of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee was held in August 2019.

The period witnessed enhanced defence and security engagement with the region and a focus on maritime cooperation. During the first ever visit of Raksha Mantri (RM) to Mozambique in July 2019, MoU on Hydrography and MoU on Sharing of White Shipping Information were signed. RM gifted two Fast Interceptor Boats for the use of Mozambican Navy. During the visit of Defence Minister of Mozambique to India in November 2019, MoU on promoting maritime security in Mozambique Exclusive Economic Zone was signed. The First India Africa Field Training Exercise IAFTX was held in March 2019. India concluded a bilateral MoU on Defence Cooperation with Zambia in August 2019 and Comoros in October 2019. We now have institutionalized Framework of Cooperation in the Defence Sector with all Indian Ocean littoral countries in East & Southern Africa.

We have enhanced our maritime security and anti-piracy cooperation with Djibouti, Somalia and other countries in the region. Government of India conferred its second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan on the President of the Republic of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh in March 2019.

India has been contributing troops including military observers and police personnel for MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo). At present, 2,614 Indian personnel are deployed with MONUSCO. On the HADR front, Operation Sahayata was conducted in Mozambique in March-April 2019 rescuing over 204 people and providing medical assistance to over 3500.

On the economic front, our trade with Africa increased and diversified. The current bilateral trade figures are US\$ 69.7 billion which is an increase of nearly 12% over the previous year. Our Missions in the region facilitated visits of several Indian business delegations and organised trade fairs, Buyer-Seller Meets and exhibitions. India-Africa Regional Economic Conclaves were held in Zambia (Southern Africa) and Egypt (Northern Africa).

A delegation from African Union visited India in September 2019 for the review meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Framework of India-Africa-Forum Summit III. The delegation along with IAFS Committee of Resident Africa HOMs evaluated the progress made in achieving various targets set out by the leaders during IAFS-III. The meeting welcomed the tremendous enhancement of overall engagement between India and Africa. The AU Delegation acknowledged the progress made by the Indian side on the status of implementation of various commitments made under IAFS-III through Lines of Credit, Grants and capacity building initiatives. The Meeting welcomed the status of implementation provided by Indian side, particularly the fact that more than US\$ 6.3 billion under the Indian Lines of Credit have been committed /ongoing out of the overall IAFS-III commitment of US\$ 10 billion, that

an amount of more than US\$ 700 million has already been committed/ongoing as grant assistance thereby exceeding the target of US\$ 600 million set out in IAFS-III for grant assistance, and the completion of more than 40,000 slots for training, scholarship and capacity building out of the total commitment of 50,000 slots in IAFS-III.

During his visit in January 2020 to Niamey, Republic of Niger, EAM along with President of Niger, H. E. Mahamadou Issoufou jointly inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC), a spacious, modern and eco-friendly facility, including a 2000 capacity Plenary Hall, to witness high-level and wide-ranging participation from AU Member States and other high level Conventions. This is the first centre to be established in Africa by India to honour the memory of Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th birth anniversary was observed in 2019. EAM also visited Tunisia in January 2020.

With the opening of a new resident Mission in Mbabane, Eswatini in August 2019, India has expanded its presence in East and Southern Africa. Dignitaries from Africa participated in the second Assembly of International Solar Alliance (October 2019).

During 2019-20, India signed 7 MoUs with Zambia; 6 with Comoros and 4 with Mozambique. Malawi and Uganda joined e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti Project.

The focus on cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sector was maintained with gifting of medicines and medical equipment, including Bhabhatron and ambulances, etc. India continued to assist African countries by grant-assistance (medicines, books, vehicles etc.), Lines of Credit, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, scholarship for higher education and a range of capacity building programmes including short term civilian and military training courses.

To make the movement of Indian and African people easier, e-Visa facility was expanded to cover 33 countries from Africa. In 2019-20, Air connectivity with the region increased with resumption of Air India flight in Nairobi-Mumbai sector in November 2019 as well as direct flights from Dar es Salaam by Air Tanzania and new connectivity between Addis Ababa and Bengaluru by Ethiopian Airlines.

During the period, several scholarship/fellowship schemes/training programmes were offered to the students and officials from the region under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships, ITEC initiatives and under IAFS. We continued with trilateral training programmes for African candidates with USA in the area of Agriculture and UN Peacekeeping under India for Humanity Programme for Ethiopia.

EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION

The year saw a further deepening of bilateral relations between India and the European Union (EU). The trend of high-level exchanges continued with several important visits from India, including the visit of External Affairs Minister. The India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was also held on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi in preparation for the 15th India-EU Summit.

Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, met Mr.

Joseph Borrell, EU High Representative/Vice President-designate for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on 23 November 2019 on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Nagoya and deliberated on future India-EU ties.

Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Brussels on 30 August 2019 and met the President of the European Parliament Mr. David Maria Sassoli, EU

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Federica Mogherini and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Mr. Christos Stylianides and exchanged views on bilateral, regional, global and multilateral issues.

Dr. S. Jaishankar and Ms. Federica Mogherini also met on 1 August 2019 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, and again on 27 September 2019 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey participated in the Global Vaccination Summit 2019 organised by the European Commission, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation, on 12 September 2019. During his intervention, Shri Choubey described the ways in which the Government of India was strengthening primary healthcare and rolling out one of the largest vaccination programmes in history consisting of seven vaccines.

The India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was held on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East), and the EU side by Mr. Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary General, European External Action Service. The meeting covered the entire spectrum of the India-EU relationship with a view to identify areas to strengthen cooperation as well as possible deliverables at the 15th India-EU Summit likely to take place in early 2020. Both sides recognized the need to fully realize the untapped potential of the Strategic Partnership. They also expressed commitment to increase the engagement including in the areas of Digital Economy, Climate Change and cooperation at multilateral forums.

Shri Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) and Ms. Paraskevi Michou, Director General (Migration and Home Affairs),

European Commission co-chaired the 5th High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) between India and the European Union in New Delhi on 11 July 2019. The discussions at the meeting encompassed a wide range of issues of mutual interest in the context of migration and mobility along the India-EU corridor.

The annual meeting of the India-EU Sub Commission on Trade was held in Brussels on 4 July 2019 co-Chaired by Ms Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, DoC and Mr. Peter Berz, Acting Director, Directorate General of Trade, European Commission. The Sub Commission reviewed the reports of the Joint Working Groups under its purview such as Pharmaceuticals, SPS/TBT (Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary/Technical Barriers to Trade), Agriculture & Marine Products, etc. It also discussed trade related issues such as GSP (Generalised System of Preference), Market access issues, data protection, IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), steel, regulatory measures affecting trade on both sides, etc.

The 12th annual meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on ICT (Information and Communication Technology) took place in Brussels on 12-13 September 2019 which was co-Chaired by Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, MeitY, and Mr Gerard De Graaf, Director, Directorate General of Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission. The discussions focused on Telecommunications, including market issues, 5G, Cyber security, Research & Innovation, Personal data protection, AI (Artificial Intelligence), Supercomputing Quantum, Standardisation, etc. An EU-India Business Dialogue was also organized by Digital Europe and NASSCOM on 12 September 2019.

Ministry of Railways and the European Commission (Directorate General of Mobility and Transport) signed an Administrative Arrangement on Cooperation in the field of Railways on 3 September 2019. In pursuance to this, both sides held a Technical Seminar on 19 November 2019 in New Delhi with the participation

of European Commission officials and industry representatives.

The EU is India's largest regional trading partner while India is the EU's 9th largest trading partner. India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU in 2018 stood at €91.5 billion (\$107.97 billion) comprising India's exports to the EU at €45.8 billion (\$54.0 billion) and imports at €45.7 billion (\$53.9 billion). India's bilateral trade for the period January-September 2019 with the EU stood at €68.6 billion (\$75.46 billion).

India's bilateral trade in services with the EU in 2018 was €36 billion (\$42.5 billion) comprising India's exports at €19.3 billion (\$22.7 billion) and imports at €16.7 billion (\$19.7 billion).

EU is India's largest source of FDI. During the period April 2000 to June 2019, FDI equity inflows from the EU to India totalled \$100.35 billion, which is about 23% of the total FDI.

Central Europe

The Central Europe Division of MEA looks after bilateral relations with 30 countries from the region. Bilateral relations with some of the CE countries are rooted in cultural ties. Prominent Indian figures such as Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi are highly revered in the CE countries. During a recent visit of our President to Switzerland, he unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi.

Politically, India's relations with all the countries are free from any major bilateral irritants. Most of them support India at international and multilateral fora including India's permanent membership to the UNSC and NSG. Over the past decade or so, particularly after the countries in the region stabilized, joined the EU, and found their own niche capabilities, relations have deepened. Their expanding global presence has in recent years attracted the attention of many countries. Within the EU, the CE countries have a strong voice

and constitute groupings like the Visegrád Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) which is a robust force within the EU.

During the year 2019, close to 20 high level exchanges took place giving relations a further boost. EAM visited Poland and Hungary in August 2019, Finland in September 2019 and Serbia in November 2019. The presence of three HOS/HOGs at the recently concluded Vibrant Gujarat Summit from CE countries was testament to our growing economic cooperation.

India - CE economic engagement is multi-faceted, broad based and complementary. The CE countries have great potential in several fields such as IT & ITES, Pharmaceuticals, Artificial Intelligence, e-governance, renewable energy that resonate with India's growing demand in these areas. The 5th edition of IE29BF concluded in 2019 saw good participation from CE countries. These countries look to India as a desirable destination for future cooperation and investments.

Western Europe

India's engagement with countries in Europe West including European Union, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Andorra and Monaco witnessed an upswing during the fiscal 2019-2020. This year was marked with a series of high level political visits which deepened the existing bilateral relationship between India and West European countries including the European Union (EU). The trend of high-level exchanges continued with several important visits from India, including the visit of Prime Minister for the G7 Summit in France and visits by External Affairs Minister to these countries. Raksha Mantri received the first Rafale fighter aircraft at the handing over ceremony in Paris on 08 Oct 2019.

This year also witnessed India hosting German Chancellor Angela Merkel along with her cabinet and business delegation on 1 Nov. 2019 for the 5th Inter-Governmental Consultations. During which 22

Agreements/MoUs were signed in multi-faceted areas of cooperation.

EAM visited United Kingdom in 11 July 2019 to participate in the 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting and held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from UK and some other Commonwealth member countries.

The India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was held on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi in preparation for the 15th India-EU Summit. EU continues to be India's largest regional trading partner while India is the EU's 9th largest trading partner. India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU in 2018 stood at €91.5 billion (\$107.97 billion) comprising India's exports to the EU at €45.8 billion (\$54.0 billion) and imports at €45.7 billion (\$53.9 billion).

With Italy, the momentum generated by the visits of Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni in 2017 and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in 2018 continued during 2019, with regular exchange of high-level visits and various initiatives in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields. EAM attended the 5th edition of the Mediterranean Dialogues (December 2019) organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, in collaboration with the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). EAM addressed

a Special Session on India, which highlighted India's interests in the Mediterranean and the Gulf region, as well as India's role in the changing global environment.

From Netherlands it was the first State Visit by King and Queen in Oct 2019, which was followed by a visit by EAM. Monaco Prince Albert II of Monaco paid an official visit on February 5, 2019 which provided an opportunity to review progress in bilateral cooperation and discuss ways to further expand the multi-faceted partnership in areas of mutual interest.

Prime Minister of Portugal Mr Antonio Costa was on a working visit from 19-20 Dec on an invitation extended by Prime Minister Modi to attend the second meeting of the Organising Committee on the celebrations for the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 19 Dec 2019. The Organising Committee meeting was presided over by President of India. This was followed by the visit by the Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa in Feb 2020.

Overall, India's engagement with the countries in Europe West has been further deepened with enhanced cooperation in trade, investment, infrastructure, science and technology, civil nuclear cooperation, space, defence, urban management including Smart Cities, student exchanges and tourism flows.

THE AMERICAS

North America

India and the United States (U.S.) continued to expand and develop the multifaceted ties between the two nations. There was significant progress in bilateral cooperation in areas such as defence, security, counter-terrorism, energy, science & technology, and people-to-people ties. Regular interaction at the leadership level continued to provide guidance and vision for taking forward the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership. Meetings

at the Ministerial levels and high-level dialogue mechanisms such as EAM's visit to the US and Canada (in December 2019) and the India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue played an instrumental role in developing the framework for future cooperation as well as expansion of ties in various areas of mutual interest. Aided by the growing convergence on strategic perspectives between the two sides, the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership is playing an increasingly important role

in enhancing regional and global peace, security, and stability.

Latin America

Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, comprising 33 countries from South & Central America and the Caribbean, gained momentum in 2019-20. The momentum is an acknowledgment of the fact that India increasingly views LAC countries as a significant partner in its own economic growth trajectory. India's trade with the region reached US\$40 billion in 2019. The historic-cultural linkages binding us with a vibrant and dynamic Indian diaspora of nearly 1 million in the Caribbean were buttressed further. The first ever India-CARICOM Leaders' meeting at PM level was held in September 2019 on the sidelines of UNGA. The meeting underscored India's firm commitment to strengthen its political, economic and cultural engagement with CARICOM. Prime Minister of St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mr. Ralph E. Gonsalves became the first Head of the Government from St. Vincent & the Grenadines to visit India on an official visit when he visited India in September 2019. Earlier Rashtrapatiiji visited Chile in April 2019. PM visited Brazil to attend the BRICS Summit in November 2019 in Brasilia. India's engagement with LAC countries at the regional and multilateral levels gained impetus. Many LAC countries supported India's candidatures to various international bodies and *vice versa*.

UNITED NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND LEGAL AND TREATIES DIVISION

India continued its high-level engagement with the United Nations in line with the central role that the institution plays in the world order.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, accompanied by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan and other senior officials, led the Indian delegation to the High-Level Segment of the UNGA in September 2019. PM attended high level meetings viz. *Climate Action Summit*, *High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage*, and the *Leaders' Dialogue on Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives*. PM also announced the launch of the *Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)* and the initiative of the "*Leadership Group*", an outcome of the Industry-Transition Track that India co-led with Sweden as part of the Climate Action Summit. PM also met with leaders of Pacific Islands Developing States and the CARICOM leaders on the sidelines. India also hosted an event to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

India hosted the 14th Conference of Parties (CoP14) of the *United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification* in Delhi in September, 2019 at which Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina Mohammad participated. High level engagement continued with the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet on various human rights issues. Shri Narender Singh Tomar led the Indian delegation to the Governing Body meeting of International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in November 2019 at FAO Rome. The Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, led the delegation to the 108th Centenary Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva from 10-21 June, 2019. The 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) session took place in Geneva from 20-28 May 2019 at which WHA appointed the Comptroller & Auditor General of India as the external auditor of WHO for the four-year period 2020-23. India was re-elected to the Councils of International Civil Aviation Organization, of International Maritime Organization and of Food

& Agriculture Organization during the year. India was also elected to the Executive Board of UN-Habitat. India actively participated in various meetings of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). India also remained actively engaged with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as a member of its Steering Group. The 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Baku Convention Centre from 30 June to 10 July 2019. The Walled City of Jaipur got inscribed in the representative list of the World Heritage site during the Session taking the total number of Indian sites inscribed to 38.

Other international organisations

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation to the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 25-26 October, 2019. EAM participated in the NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 23 -24 October 2019. EAM also participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) held in London during 9-11 July 2019. Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President for the 74th session of UNGA visited New Delhi from 1-4 September 2019. Hon. Lok Sabha Speaker led Indian delegation to the 141st Session of the IPU held in Belgrade from 13-17 October 2019. India proposed an emergency item on the theme 'Addressing Climate Change' which was unanimously adopted by all member states of IPU.

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Global peace and security hinges upon a robust disarmament, non-proliferation and international security architecture. India has been actively engaged in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and

international security and has developed a strong and credible narrative based on its experiences and engagements in various regional and multilateral forums. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by its national security interests and tradition of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with global challenges in an evolving geostrategic environment.

In 2019, 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.

MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

BRICS

Prime Minister led the India's delegation to the Eleventh BRICS Summit that was held on 13&14 November 2019 in Brasilia under the theme "BRICS: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future". At the Summit, the Leaders discussed global financial and security situation, countering terrorism, climate change, sustainable development, reform of the multilateral system, reform of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and institutions of international governance, ways to promote Intra-BRICS cooperation including in science & technology, trade, health, information and communication technology, people-to-people exchanges. BRICS Business Council and the New Development Bank also presented their reports to the Leaders at the Summit. The outcomes of the Summit included the Brasilia Declaration in which strong sentiments were expressed by BRICS Leaders on Terrorism. BRICS Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They recalled the responsibility of all States to prevent the menace of

terrorist networks and actions from their countries. BRICS Leaders also held their customary informal Meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 June 2019. The Leaders held discussions on agenda of G20 meeting and also exchanged views on a wide range of global political, security, economic and global governance issues of importance and mutual concern.

G 20

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the Fourteenth G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 & 29 June 2019. The themes of G20 Summit were “Global Economy”, “Trade and Investment”, “Innovation”, “Environment and Energy”, “Employment”, “Women’s empowerment”, “Development” and “Health”, to Ensure Global Sustainable Development. The G20 Leaders issued a Communiqué (the G20Osaka Leaders’ Declaration) at the Summit.

IBSA

A meeting of the IBSA Foreign Ministers was held on the margins of 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2019.. EAM Shri S. Jaishankar Chaired the Meeting. The IBSA Joint Statement on the Reform of the Multilateral System, calling for promoting the reform of the multilateral system through cooperation and coordination in all relevant multilateral fora and international organizations was issued on the occasion.

G7 Summit, Biarritz, France

Prime Minister participated in the G7 Summit held in Biarritz, France on 26 August 2019, as ‘Partners of Goodwill - Biarritz Partner’. At the Summit, Prime Minister was the lead speaker in the session on digital transformation, where he highlighted India’s success in the field of digital and financial inclusion.

BIMSTEC, SAARC AND NALANDA

Activities under BIMSTEC served as a visible input into India’s ‘Neighbourhood First Policy’ and ‘Act East’ policies. Presence of BIMSTEC leaders at the government’s swearing-in ceremony in May 2019 reinforced the growing stature of BIMSTEC in the region. Nalanda University made steady progress in developing its infrastructure and academic programmes.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Development partnerships hold an important place in India’s external engagement, particularly with reference to our immediate neighbourhood under the Government’s ‘Neighborhood First’ and ‘Act East’ policies. While India’s development cooperation initiatives have a long and enduring history, the nature and spread of such development assistance has, in recent years, expanded both geographically and sectorally. India’s development cooperation aligns with the development priorities of its partner countries.

Eight years after the creation of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) wing of the Ministry of External Affairs, greater institutional coherence and focus has been brought to the Government’s development initiatives with foreign countries including in project delivery and implementation. India’s development assistance model that gives primacy to the needs and priorities of the host country has made India a valuable partner in their developmental growth journeys. The focus of India’s developmental assistance is on sharing the Indian experience, building capacities, investing in people, creating critical infrastructure and enhancing connectivity with our

extended neighbourhood. Government of India's grant assistance includes infrastructure creation that span various sectors such as railway links, roads & bridges, waterways, border-related infrastructure, transmission lines, power generation, hydropower etc. Capacity building, education, healthcare, agriculture and community development are some other sectors where India is partnering with neighbouring countries.

During 2019-20, around 12000 civilian training slots were offered to 160 partner countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. These capacity building courses also included especially designed courses and training programmes in a variety of disciplines, based on specific requests from partner countries.

A comprehensive review of ITEC programme has led to various new initiatives including introduction of new modalities like e-ITEC, ITEC-Onsite and ITEC Executive, enhanced facilities to participants, inclusion of new premier institutes like IITs & IIMs, partnership with private institutions, increased social media outreach, launch of new logo for ITEC, etc. ITEC also includes capacity building cooperation with friendly foreign countries in defence areas by offering more than 2000 slots for officers and men from their defence forces. In addition, the ITEC programme also covered deputation of Indian experts abroad to share India's expertise and development experience in the areas chosen and requested by partner countries.

Various projects to establish infrastructural facilities with technology and skill meeting the requirement of partner countries were undertaken, especially in the areas of capacity building such as Centres of Excellence in Information Technology (IT), Vocational Training Centres and Business Incubation Centres for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Archaeological and Heritage Conservation Project.

Humanitarian assistance was rendered by India to DPRK by supplying food and anti-TB medicine kits. Medical assistance was also provided to other countries including Namibia, El-Salvador and Zimbabwe.

In an effort to broaden our development cooperation to include culture and heritage conservation projects, the Ministry set up a dedicated division within the DPA in January 2020. This Division would undertake development partnerships abroad for culture and heritage conservation projects; collaborate with international and national institutions for the purpose of museology, temple restoration, manuscript preservation and intangible cultural heritage preservation; and develop and disseminate a repository of information in this area.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY AND STATES

The ED & States 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 2019-20. The Division's efforts were to ensure greater coordination between the MEA, GOI line ministries / departments, State governments, business and industry chambers and Missions / Posts abroad with the objective of enhancing 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 promote FDI into India.

To enable the Indian Missions / Posts to intensify their economic engagement with the countries of their accreditation, ED & States Division under its "Market Expansion Activities" budget has extended funding to the tune of Rs. 10 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.

The Division facilitated external economic engagement of states through the network of Missions and Posts abroad and Branch Secretariats and Regional Passport Offices in India. Missions and posts conducted state facilitation activities through State Facilitation Abroad fund. Liaising with the state and UT governments through regular interactions with their Resident Commissioners continued and progress was made on the initiative of allotment of states to IFS officers, in collaboration with state government authorities. Facilitation of MoUs between state governments and cities with their foreign counterparts to establish sister-state and city partnerships was also done by the division.

COUNTER TERRORISM

The issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels in the wake of various incidents of terrorism that occurred in different parts of the world during the year. During all such interactions, India reiterated its commitment to combating the menace at global level and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. India continued to hold structured consultations through the Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism with various partner countries. During the year 2019, India held CT dialogues with China, France, Canada, USA, Australia, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Russia, UK, Germany and participated in the BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting.

GLOBAL CYBER ISSUES, E-GOVERNANCE AND IT

The Ministry has consistently pursued a focused approach to optimize Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) initiatives for harnessing the dividends of Digital India. This has also resulted in proportionate growth of IT assets in the Ministry and ever increasing dependency and reliance on IT applications, thereby necessitating the management of cyber threats. The EG&IT Division has been 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 Digital India Programme) namely e-office, e-procurement, Immigration, Visa, Foreigners registration and Tracking System (IVFRT) and Passport Seva Projects (PSP) are presently operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad. A number of e-governance and automation projects have been also undertaken by the MEA in consonance with aim and objectives of Digital India such as e-political clearance system, Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS), portal for scholarship programme for Diaspora children, Admission to Alumni (A2A) ICCR scholarships programme, Know India Programme, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, . The MEA Performance Monitoring Dashboard has been launched on 14 August 2019. The dashboard is created on three target areas capturing all major schemes programmes and initiatives of Ministry with many major indicators sliced and diced across five clusters (Diaspora Engagement, Development partnership, International engagement, Trade & Commerce & Citizen services). In addition to steering of e-governance projects, Ministry has also consistently pursued a focused approach to manage and mitigate over growing challenges of cyber security.

Cyber Diplomacy Division was established as an independent division in MEA In June 2017 to deal

intensively and exclusively on cyber related issues. The Division deals with international cyber-issues both at bilateral and multilateral levels. The main objective of such engagements is to safeguard India's Cyber interests, while following a multi-stakeholder approach. Cyber Diplomacy division initiated actions as the nodal point for discussions on cyber security issues, data protection laws and internet governance in consultation with other agencies like NSCS, MHA, Meity, CERT-In, National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), DRDO, DoT etc during the period of 2014 till date.

POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH (INCLUDING BOUNDARY CELL AND LIBRARY)

The Policy Planning And Research Division of the Ministry continued its mandate of providing the Ministry's strategic interface with the global and domestic strategic community, by means of organizing flagship conferences, smaller conferences all over India and support to various think tanks and academic institutions for the conduct of policy-oriented research of interest to the Ministry. The Division also carried out analyses of global geopolitical developments, more detailed studies of specific issues as well as assessments of the likely trend of international relations in the near future; it conducted policy planning dialogues with partner countries.

The Division played a significant role in spear-heading Government of India's global efforts in setting up the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, not only by providing diplomatic outreach support, but also substantial policy inputs towards its final legal form and structure. Within a short span of a year, PPR Division was able to take the idea of the CDRI from the drawing board stage to launch at the UN and formal

endorsement by major countries like the US, the UK, Germany and Japan. The PPR division was also able to establish itself as the key division, leading the Ministry's policy-oriented efforts in emerging issues like the Arctic, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

During this period, PPR Division also provided substantial administrative guidance to the functioning of autonomous bodies (i.e., the RIS and the ICWA) constituted under the mandate of the Division. Significant improvements in the procurement of books and journals and subscriptions to international newspapers and databases were also achieved during this period.

PROTOCOL

In 2019, Protocol Division handled 100 incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister (as on 18 December 2019).

Protocol also coordinated participation of 6 Foreign Ministers in RAISINA Dialogue in January 2019, 11 Foreign Ministers and 07 former HoS/HoG for RAISINA 2020, 8 HOSs/HOGs in Swearing-in-Ceremony of the Prime Minister in May 2019 and Foreign Minister of Indonesia and other dignitaries in XI Delhi Dialogue in December 2019.

CONSULAR PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES

The issuance of passports has emerged as one of the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric services rendered by the Ministry. The Ministry has been making quantitative and qualitative changes so that passports can be delivered to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and by a committed, trained and motivated workforce.

Indian passports (together with other travel documents such as Certificate of Identity to Stateless persons, Emergency Certificates for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates, Surrender Certificates, Line of Control Travel Permits in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its all-India network of 36 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 424 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) (in association with the Department of Posts) as extended arms of these 36 Passport Offices. The total number of Passport Seva Kendras functioning in the country was 517 as on 31 December, 2019 including PSK and POPSK. For Indians living abroad, passports and Emergency Certificates are being rendered by 192 Indian Missions/ Posts abroad.

OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

The welfare and protection of Indian workers abroad is among the highest priorities of the Ministry. Significant efforts have been made towards ensuring a safe, orderly, legal and humane migration process. Ministry has further strengthened the eco-system that supports migrant workers in all stages of migration cycle including pre-departure, in countries of destination as well as on return. This includes setting up of a broad-based institutional framework for welfare and protection of migrant workers and awareness generation through Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) programmes. It is important that migrant workers should migrate safely with an enhanced skills set. The message being: “Surakshit Jaaye, Prasikshit Jaaye, Vishwas ke Saath Jaaaye.” Steps have been taken to strengthen cooperation on man power and labour issues with

countries of destination in the Gulf region and also on migration and mobility related issues with countries, including France, Germany, Denmark and the EU.

COORDINATION AND PARLIAMENT

The Parliament Division is the Ministry’s interface with Parliament and the 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, conversion of Student visa into Research visa with respect to foreign students studying in India and foreign scholars coming to India for field visits/ training/inspection etc. in various institutions.

The Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign students from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, MD/MS, B. Arch., BE, B. Pharmacy, and Diploma courses in Engineering in various institutions in India under the Self Financing

Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India are also offered seats under this scheme.

Monitoring Cell has been tasked with coordinating the review of MOUs/Agreements signed with foreign countries with Ministries/Departments concerned from the angle of their continued relevance and status.

ADMINISTRATION, ESTABLISHMENT AND FINANCE

Administration Division is implementing the Ministry's plans to open 25 new Indian diplomatic missions in Latin America, Indo-Pacific region, Europe and Africa, as part of an effort to expand diplomatic presence, promote economic opportunities, support Indian citizens, and outreach in respective regions. The Global Estate Management Division continued to vigorously pursue its mandate to create capital assets for the Government through acquisition/construction of office and residential buildings for Indian Missions & Posts abroad and for the Ministry in India. Establishment of Videsh Bhawans in the State Capitals was pursued with the aim of consolidating all the services provided by the Ministry and its subordinate offices, under one roof, for better delivery of service to the people of respective States/Union Territories and to enhance coordination between the State Administration and the Ministry. Several acquisition projects were initiated, on-going construction/renovation projects were completed and work on several new construction/renovation projects commenced.

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division has swiftly adapted to India's rising global profile and rapidly evolving communications environment through responsive and focused outreach to the domestic and global audience. This has been achieved through our extensive engagement with the media and expanding India's public diplomacy footprint both at home and abroad and leveraging social media and other modern tools to maximise the outcome. In 2019, the Division promoted three special initiatives of public diplomacy – School and MEA Engagement Programme (**SAMEEP**) – outreach to students by the alumni of that school belonging to the Indian Foreign Service, Videsh Aaya Pradesh ke Dwaar – a focused engagement with the regional media in different cities across India and 'Bharat Ek Parichay – a corner for books on India in libraries of educational institutions abroad. On the Press relations front, the Division launched a new initiative called 'India Beyond Headlines' – a familiarization programme for foreign journalists based in India with a view to providing them an understanding of India on a range of topics.

XPD Division was the nodal point for the celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. The Division supported several activities organised by our Missions and Posts abroad to celebrate the occasion. An Anthology on 'What Gandhi Means to Me' was brought out on the occasion with contributions from high-profile personalities across the world. The Division played an important role in the celebration of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. In a novel initiative, a LED film on Guru Nanak's teachings was commissioned and projected in different cities across the world. These efforts played a critical role in projecting India's foreign

policy as proactive, effective and people-centric, while complementing efforts to raise India's stature in the world.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AND PROPAGATION OF HINDI ABROAD

Implementation of official language policy of Government of India is a priority for the Ministry. Towards this, Ministry has a comprehensive scheme for promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad. World Hindi Conference and Regional Hindi Conferences are organized regularly. Hindi Diwas on 14 September and World Hindi Day on 10 January are celebrated every year. Hindi Pakhwada, during which various Hindi competitions are held to mark Hindi Diwas. The Ministry has instituted Atal Bhashantar Yojana (ABY) for training language experts towards creating a pool of Specialized Interpreters.

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

The scope and number of training programmes at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) continued to expand in 2019. New training courses such as for officials of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) were introduced. Indian journalists underwent an orientation programme to give them exposure to foreign policy issues. Comprehensive promotion-related training programmes and Stenography Test were started for MEA officials of the level of Section Officer and below. On the training vertical for foreign diplomats, a record number of approx. 750 foreign diplomats were trained this year. New initiatives of FSI included a quarterly newsletter *Videsh Sewa*.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, an autonomous body under Ministry of External Affairs runs 19 Regional Centres in India and 37 Cultural centres (including 2 centres in PPP model) in various countries abroad. The year 2019-2020 had been a significant year for the Council, during which nearly 3940 scholarship slots were offered to foreign nationals from 131 countries under various schemes. A total of 69 cultural troupes were sponsored to various countries, 30 performances by incoming cultural delegations were organised, 29 bronze busts of Mahatma Gandhi were installed in 40 countries, besides many other activities including the celebration of Indian Council for Cultural Relations Foundation Day for the first time and celebration of 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, economic and security developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider global geo-strategic environment. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, Shodh Lekh which were published on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi which are regularly posted on its website. Efforts are under way to revamp the Council's website to make it more user friendly. It is now available both in Hindi and English. 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 lectures, discussions, conferences, think tank dialogues and outreach activities.

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based autonomous Think-Tank specialises in issues related to international economic development, 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 is on South-South Cooperation and the Institute collaborates with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS continues to be engaged across intergovernmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas through its intensive network of think tanks. As part of this mandate, some of the major events and conferences organized by RIS in 2019 were : Delhi Process Fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation; the Sixth India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Academic Forum in Kochi; a special De-Briefing Session on G20 Osaka Summit by G 20 Sherpa Shri Suresh Prabhu; and a multi-session High-Level Political Forum 2019.

1

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS

AFGHANISTAN

As a contiguous neighbour to Afghanistan, India has an abiding interest in the peace, security and stability of Afghanistan. India and Afghanistan enjoy a deep rooted, historic, cultural and wide spectrum strategic relationship, which witnessed all round development, strengthening and deepening in the last one year. This was reflected in continued high level bilateral engagements including in the areas of political, defence engagement, security, trade and investment, connectivity, development partnership, social & cultural issues, education and capacity building.

High Level Exchanges

The momentum of high level visits and engagements was maintained during the course of the year. Prime Minister met President Ashraf Ghani on 13 June

2019 in Bishkek on the sidelines of the SCO Summit. Earlier, Afghan President made a telephone call to Prime Minister to congratulate him on his re-election in May 2019. Both sides expressed determination to strengthen bilateral strategic partnership. On December 24, Prime Minister congratulated President Ghani on the successful conduct of Presidential polls and announcement of the preliminary results. Prime Minister conveyed that India values the strong friendship with Afghanistan. India will always support Afghanistan in their development needs and to fulfil the aspirations of the Afghanistan's people.

Among other exchanges, Vice President of India met President Dr. Ghani on the sidelines of NAM Summit, in Baku in October 2019; Speaker, Lok Sabha met Speaker of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Afghan Parliament) Al-

Haj Mir Rahman RAHMANI during the Fourth South Asian Speakers' Summit in Male in September 2019; and Raksha Mantri met Chief Executive Dr Abdullah at SCO Council of Heads of Governments in Tashkent in November 2019.

Visits of senior leaders from Afghanistan to India during the year include that of the former President Hamid Karzai in August 2019 and NSA Dr. Hamdullah Mohib in December 2019. NSA Mohib and former President Mr Karzai participated in the Raisina Dialogue in January 2020.

Economic Cooperation and Connectivity

The total bilateral trade between India and Afghanistan stood at US\$ 1.5 billion. Over 500 flights, have successfully ferried over 5000 tonnes of cargo through the dedicated Air Freight Corridor which was launched in 2017. This has proven to be a big boost to Afghan exports to India and has directly benefited Afghan farmers, and small traders and exporters. India and Afghanistan now aim to expand the Corridor to many other cities in both countries. In September 2019, the Third Edition of India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show, 'Passage to Prosperity' was held in New Delhi with participation of 173 Afghan businessmen. Trade deals worth US\$ 33.6 millions were finalised. Six MoUs were signed between India women and Afghan women-owned companies and organisations as a result of business to business meetings.

Afghanistan started its exports to India through Shahid Behesti Port, Chabahar. The first consignment was shipped in February 2019. Thereafter, five more consignments have been exported through Chabahar.

Developmental Cooperation

Development cooperation remains one of the cornerstones of bilateral cooperation. During the period between April - December 2019, 37 developmental

projects were completed in various provinces of Afghanistan under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme of Government of India.

As part of capacity building and human resource training programme, 500 slots under the ITEC scheme and 25 slots TCS Colombo Plan have been extended to Afghanistan in 2019-20. A 1000 scholarships under the ICCR Special Scholarship scheme for Afghan Nationals have been offered for undergraduates, Postgraduates and PhD courses. Under the scholarship scheme for Children/Dependents of Martyrs of Afghan National Defence & Security Forces, 500 slots have been offered from the academic session 2018-19. 79 of these slots have been utilised in Year 2018-19.

India carried out training programmes for Afghan officials in various fields for good governance. This included training courses for the officials from Afghanistan National Statistics and Information Authority and Afghanistan Central Civil registration Authority that were organised in November and December 2019 by FRRO, Delhi, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and Unique Identification Authority of India. These included study of system of registration of deaths and births, ADHAAR, census enumeration, immigration procedures, etc.

As a part of capacity building programme, training of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan Air Force (AAF) personnel in India continued across various training establishments of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. Third batch of 20 Afghan lady officers have undergone special training course at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai.

As part of cooperation with third countries for capacity building efforts in Afghanistan, second India- China joint training programme for Afghan diplomats was organised in November 2019.

India has provided home ground for Afghan National Cricket team in Lucknow. A bilateral test cricket series between Afghanistan and West Indies was played in India, from 06 November - 01 December 2019. The series comprised of 3 One day Matches, 3 T-20s and One test match.

Other Bilateral Developments

Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan came into force on November 24, 2019.

A group of leading Afghan journalists from print and electronic media visited India in June 2019.

Afghanistan opened its new Consulate in Hyderabad in January 2020. This is in addition to their existing Embassy in New Delhi and Consulate in Mumbai.

International Conferences on Afghanistan

India has actively engaged the international community and participated in various international conferences and fora on Afghanistan. India and Uzbekistan co-hosted the first Foreign Ministers level dialogue between India, the five central Asian Countries and

Afghanistan in Samarkand in January 2019. MoS Gen (Retd) V. K. Singh represented India at the Eighth Ministerial meeting of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process in Istanbul and called on President Dr. Ghani in December 2019; India participated at the SCO Contact Group Meeting on Afghanistan held in Bishkek in April 2019; Deputy NSA Rajinder Khanna participated in the Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan held in Tehran in December 2019. Special Envoys of the US, Germany, UK, EU, Uzbekistan and China on Afghanistan visited India during the year.

At various fora, India has voiced its support for a united, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable, prosperous and inclusive Afghanistan. India unequivocally expressed its support for all peace and reconciliations that are Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled; protection and promotion of a constitutional order and inclusive democracy; preserving the gains of the last 18 years, including the rights of the minorities, women and children. India welcomed the successful conduct of Presidential election in Afghanistan in September 2019 amidst challenging circumstances and commended the people for reposing their faith in democratic governance.

BANGLADESH

India was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh and establish diplomatic relations immediately after its independence in December 1971. India- Bangladesh relationship is anchored in history, culture, language and shared values of secularism, democracy, and countless other commonalities between the two countries. Both countries share an all-encompassing win-win partnership based on sovereignty, equality, trust and understanding that goes far beyond a strategic partnership.

Political and Visits

India-Bangladesh bilateral relations were reinforced in 2019 with intense high level engagements at political and official level. President of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet members on 30 May 2019. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited New Delhi on an official visit from 03-06 October 2019. Both the Prime Ministers also met in a high level event on celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the sidelines of 74th session of

the UN General Assembly in September 2019. Prime Minister Hasina and the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee jointly inaugurated the historic pink ball test cricket match between India and Bangladesh in Kolkata on 22 November 2019. These high level visits charted the pathway for strengthening the multifaceted partnership between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated four bilateral developmental projects in March 2019 in Bangladesh through video-conferencing including (i) supply of 500 trucks, 300 double decker buses and 200 AC buses under the second Line of Credit, (ii) extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh, (iii) establishment of 36 community clinics in five districts of Bangladesh and (iv) establishment of 11 water treatment plants in Bangladesh and another three projects in October 2019 including (i) inauguration of Vivekananda Bhaban at Rama Krishna Mission in Dhaka, (ii) import of bulk LPG from Bangladesh and (iii) inauguration of Bangladesh-India Professional Skill Development Institute (BIPSDI) at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), Khulna.

The External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Dhaka in August 2019 and met the Prime Minister and Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh. The Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting and Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Prakash Javadekar visited Dhaka in November 2019 to attend the 15th Meeting of Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP) and met Md. Hasan Mahmud, Information Minister of Bangladesh.

From the Bangladesh side, important Ministerial level visits included that of Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen in February 2019 to attend the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting, Home Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Khan for the Home Minister Level Talks in August 2019 and Railways Minister Md. Nurul Islam Sujon in August 2019 to discuss various issues related to cooperation in railway sector.

In addition to the above high level visits and exchanges between the two countries, there have also been various visits at senior official level for participating in various bilateral mechanisms. The multi-dimensional cooperation between the two countries ranges from traditional sectors of tourism, health and education to frontier technologies of nuclear science, space and information technology. Ten MOUs/agreements for cooperation in various sectors were signed by the two countries on various occasions in 2019.

The visit of Prime Minister to Bangladesh is anticipated in March 2020, on inauguration of the celebrations in Bangladesh on the occasion of Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Other anticipated events until March 2020 include the visit of Bangladesh Information Minister to India (January 14-16, 2020), Commerce Secretary-level talks, meetings of the Joint Working Groups on Trade and on the Conservation of Sunderbans, and 1st meeting of India-Bangladesh Textile Industry Forum (IBTIF).

Security and Border Management

Director General (DG) Level Talks between Border Security Force (BSF) and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were held in 2019. In addition, border coordination conferences between regional commanders of BGB and frontier Inspectors General of BSF were also held to discuss management and security of 4096.7 Km of the India-Bangladesh land border.

Defense Cooperation

The year 2019 witnessed significant strides in defense cooperation between India and Bangladesh. High level exchanges at the level of services chief of Indian Navy, Bangladesh Navy and Indian Air Force, conduct of second annual defense dialogue and inaugural tri-services staff talks, service specific talks of Navy and Air Force and the DG level talks between the Coast Guards have contributed to significant improvement in bilateral defense cooperation. The Indian army band

also for the first time performed at the national parade of Bangladesh during Victory Day celebration. In the training domain both the countries have continued and enhanced mutual engagements.

Muktijoddha related engagements, annual reciprocal visit of Muktijoddhas and war veterans on the occasion of Victory Day were undertaken in 2019 and scholarships were distributed to the heirs of Muktijoddhas.

Connectivity

Both the governments are undertaking various measures to restore the pre-1965 rail links and other connectivity links that existed between India and Bangladesh. To enhance people to people contacts, it has been decided to increase the frequency of two passenger trains, i.e., Maitree Express and Bandhan Express from 4 days a week to 5 days a week and from one day a week to two days a week respectively. During the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina to New Delhi in October 2019, both the governments decided to commence Dhaka-Siliguri-Gangtok-Dhaka and Dhaka-Siliguri-Darjeeling-Dhaka bus service to enhance people to people contacts between both the countries and the trail run of Dhaka-Siliguri-Gangtok-Dhaka was also held in December 2019.

Two new India-Bangladesh Protocol Routes (Sonamura-Daudkandi on river Gomti and extension of Dhulia to Godagiri up to Aricha on river Padma) have also been agreed upon for inclusion in the second addendum to the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT).

Economic and Commercial

Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia. Bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh has grown steadily over the last decade. India's exports to Bangladesh in FY 2018-19 stood at US\$ 9.21 billion and imports from Bangladesh during the same period were US\$1.04 bn. Meetings of various institutional mechanisms to promote bilateral trade including that of

border haats, shipping, LCS/ICP infrastructure and on establishment of Indian Economic Zone etc were held in 2019. In order to promote cooperation on bilateral trade, both the Prime Ministers agreed to create an India-Bangladesh CEO's Forum to provide policy level inputs in various areas of trade and investment and also to facilitate exchanges among the business communities of both the countries.

Cooperation in power sector has become one of the hallmarks of India- Bangladesh relations. Bangladesh is currently importing 1160 MW of power from India. The meetings of Joint Working Group (JWG)/Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on power were also held in 2019.

Development Partnership

Bangladesh is the biggest development partner of India today. India has extended 3 Lines of Credits (LOC) to Bangladesh in the last 8 years amounting to US\$ 8 billion for development of infrastructure in various sectors including roads, railways, shipping and ports. In addition to LOCs, the Government of India has also been providing grant assistance to Bangladesh for various infrastructure projects including construction of Akhaura-Agartala rail link, dredging of inland waterways in Bangladesh and construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline.

Small Development Projects (SDPs) constitute an active pillar of India's development assistance. The Government of India has funded 55 SDPs including construction of student hostels, academic buildings, cultural centers and orphanages etc in Bangladesh and another 26 SDPs are being implemented.

Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

Human resource development is a key component of India's development cooperation efforts in Bangladesh through its several ongoing training programs and scholarships. The Government of India has been training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Service officials from

2019 at National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Mussoorie. Bangladeshi police officials are also being trained at various premier training institutes in India on various modern policing and new investigative techniques of this information age. Similarly, the Government of India has been extending training for 1500 Bangladeshi judicial officials since 2017 at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and also at various State Judicial Academies in India. Bangladesh is also an important ITEC partner countries and annually around 800 participants from Bangladesh avail ITEC training courses. In addition, 200 scholarships are awarded by ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) every year to students from Bangladesh for pursuing under-graduation, post-graduation and MPhil/PhD courses in educational institutes of India including the IITs and NIITs.

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in Dhaka plays an important role in celebration of common cultural links between the two countries. Its training programs including Yoga, Kathak, Manipuri dance, Hindi language, Hindustani classical music and the cultural programs of renowned artists of India and Bangladesh contribute in promotion of people to people contacts.

Visas

In pursuance of the policy of the Government of India to further liberalize Indian visa application process and to strengthen people to people contacts between India and Bangladesh, six new Indian Visa Application Centers (IVACs) were opened in Cumilla, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Sathkira, Thakurgaon and Bogura of Bangladesh in 2019 raising the total number of IVACs to 15. In 2019, the number of visas issued to Bangladeshi citizens crossed the mark of 15 lakh. Opening of two new Assistant High Commissions in Khulna and Sylhet in 2019 has also helped in facilitating an efficient and quick visa processing for Bangladeshi nationals.

The visit of Prime Minister to Bangladesh is anticipated in March 2020, on inauguration of the celebrations in Bangladesh on the occasion of Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Other anticipated events upto March 2020 include the visit of Bangladesh Information Minister to India (January 14-16, 2020), Commerce Secretary-level talks, meetings of the Joint Working Groups on Trade and on the Conservation of Sunderbans, and 1st meeting of India-Bangladesh Textile Industry Forum (IBTIF).

BHUTAN

India and Bhutan enjoy unique and special bilateral ties based on mutual trust and understanding, and reinforced by shared history and cultural heritage and strong people-to-people links. This exemplary bilateral ties between India and Bhutan, characterized by mutual trust and understanding, continued to be consolidated over the course of the year.

High level Exchanges

The tradition of regular high level visits and dialogues between the two countries continued with the visit of the Prime Minister, Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering, on

30 & 31 May 2019, to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Indian Government.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook a State Visit to Bhutan on 17 & 18 August 2019. During his visit, Prime Minister received audience with H. M. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, and held talks with Prime Minister Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering. Both Prime Ministers formally inaugurated the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project, the Ground Earth Station for the utilization of South Asian Satellite in Thimphu, the inter-connection between India's National Knowledge Network and

Bhutan's Research and Education Network, and launched the facility of use of Indian-issued RuPay cards in Bhutan. Ten MoU's/Agreements were exchanged in different sectors including four on enhancement of Academic Exchanges and STEM cooperation between the Royal University of Bhutan, and IITs at Kanpur, Delhi and Mumbai and NIT Silchar. Space cooperation emerged as an increasingly important part of bilateral ties, with India agreeing to give increased bandwidth on an additional transponder of South Asia Satellite for expanded requirements of Bhutan, and a decision on joint development of a small satellite for Bhutan and development of a geoportal system for Bhutan.

Prime Minister also addressed the Bhutanese youth in a special event organized at the Royal University of

visit, EAM received audience with H.M. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, called on Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan, and met his counterpart Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Foreign Minister of Bhutan.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji paid an official visit to India from 17-23 November 2019. During the visit, he held bilateral discussions with EAM and reviewed the entire gamut of India-Bhutan relations, including economic cooperation, development partnership and hydropower cooperation. He also met with the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah. He also paid a visit to Bodhgaya, Rajgir and Kolkata. In Kolkata, he met with Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar.



Bhutan, where he highlighted the people-centric nature of bilateral ties and the deep spiritual and Buddhism connect between the two countries.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India paid his maiden (abroad) visit to Bhutan from 7-8 June, 2019 after assuming charge of EAM. During the

Foreign Secretary paid official visits to Bhutan on 04-05 July 2019 and 03-04 December 2019. He held discussions with the Bhutanese leadership on a range of bilateral matters, including high-level exchanges, economic and development co-operation, hydropower co-operation, and people-to-people ties. Secretary (Power) visited Bhutan on 23-26 April 2019 to review



ongoing and future Hydropower projects in Bhutan.

Secretary (West) visited Bhutan on 25-27 April 2019 to hold the first Plan Talks of the 12th Five Year Plan of the Royal Government of Bhutan (2018-23). Foreign secretary of Bhutan visited India on 28 November to 02 December 2019 for the 2nd Plan Talks of the 12th FYP.

Development cooperation

India-Bhutan continued discussion through two rounds of Plan Talks in April 2019 and November 2019 for smooth disbursal of the Gol committed financial support of Rs. 4500 crores for the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2018-23). 72 big and intermediate projects worth Rs. 2556 crores approx in sectors including roads and bridges, construction of regional hospitals, schools, and covering sectors like ICT, capacity building, industries, agriculture, e-governance have been identified during the Plan Talks for implementation during the 12th FYP. Two rounds of Small Development Project Committee meetings were also held in April 2019 and October 2019 during which 359 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) worth Rs. 573 crores approx. in various sectors including community

development projects like irrigation channels, farm roads, block connectivity roads, basic health units, etc. have been identified for implementation during the 12th FYP of Bhutan.

India is also assisting Bhutan in setting up of a Multi Disciplinary Super Specialty Hospital in Bhutan. An expert team led by AIIMS visited Bhutan on 7-9 August 2019 and submitted report to the Royal Government of Bhutan through Government of India. Gol is in the process of appointing a consultant for preparation of DPR of the project.

Hydropower Cooperation

Mutually beneficial hydropower cooperation reached another milestone with the inauguration of 720 MW Mangdechhu hydropower project during the visit of Prime Minister to Bhutan in August 2019. With this, the jointly developed hydropower capacity has crossed 2000 MW mark. Both Governments maintained close coordination to expedite implementation of two ongoing major projects – the 1200MW Punatsangchu-1 and the 1020MW Punatsangchu-2. Discussions continued for early signing of Concession Agreement and commencement of construction works for the 600

MW Kholongchhu joint venture hydropower project, and for finalizing implementation modalities of 2585 MW Sankosh reservoir based hydropower project.

Trade and Economic Cooperation

India continued to be Bhutan's largest trading partner. In 2018, the bilateral trade reached around USD 1.5 billion. Both governments continued to engage and take measures to facilitate trade and mutual investments. Government of India released the first tranche of the transitional Trade Support Facility of Rs. 80 crore to promote trade and economic linkages between the two countries.

Bhutan has availed the facility of additional USD 100 million of currency swap under the Standby Swap Arrangement.

During the visit of Prime Minister to Bhutan in August 2019, Phase-I of the introduction of RuPay Cards i.e. use of Indian-issued RuPay cards in Bhutan, was formally launched by the two Prime Ministers. This would greatly facilitate Indian travellers to Bhutan by reducing the need to carry cash, while at the same time boosting the Bhutanese economy and further integrating the economies of both countries.

Gol has also increased the quantum of subsidized LPG to Bhutan from 700 MT to 1000 MT per month, to enable RGoB to meet the increasing domestic requirements and facilitate increased penetration of LPG in rural areas.

Culture and people to people ties

Vibrant people-to-people contacts continued to characterise the warm and friendly bilateral relations. As in past years, a large number of Bhutanese students benefited from GOI scholarships for study in Indian universities. A number of short-term technical courses were also organised for capacity-building of Bhutan Government officials. The Bhutanese public appreciated the gesture made during Prime Minister Modi's visit of extending the period of loan of a statue of Dharma Raja or Zhabdrung (the founder of the modern state of Bhutan) by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, by another five years.

During the year, 10 students from the Royal University of Bhutan visited India to witness the moon landing of Chandrayaan-II. These students also visited Industrial Facility (Hero Motors) and institutes of Science and Technology (Atal Tinkering Lab, TERI) apart from several famous cultural sites including Nalanda, Gaya and Rajgir.

During 2019-20, eight students under the Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship Scheme (for undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. courses), and 75 students under Undergraduate Scholarships were benefitted. 20 training slots are offered by Gol under ITEC Programme. Gol also increased Nalanda University scholarships to 5 from current academic year onwards. In FY 2019-20, a number of government officers from Bhutan are being trained in premier government training institutes including LBSNAA, FSI, NACEN and SVP-NPA. In addition, India has been deputing lecturers to various colleges affiliated to the Royal University of Bhutan.

CHINA

Leaders Level Engagement

The bilateral relationship between India and China

under the overall framework of Closer Developmental Partnership continued to strengthen and deepen in the year 2019 with the Second Informal Summit between

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping held in Chennai on 11-12 October 2019. The Second Informal Summit evaluated the direction of bilateral relationship in a positive light and discussed ways to further deepen India-China bilateral interaction to reflect the growing role of both countries on the global stage. The Summit recognized that India and China were factors for stability in the current international landscape and that both sides should properly manage their differences and not allow them to become disputes. President Xi Jinping extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit China for the Third Informal Summit in 2020.

In addition to their Second Informal Summit in Chennai, Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping also met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Leaders' Summit in Bishkek on 13 June 2019, which was their first meeting after the re-election of Prime Minister Modi, and also on the sidelines of the 14th G-20 Summit in Osaka on 30 June 2019 and at the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia on 13 November 2019.

High Level Exchanges

As part of the regular high-level engagements between India and China, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to China from 11 to 13 August 2019, during which he held a bilateral meeting and co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the India-China High-level Mechanism (HLM) on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges with State Councilor & Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi in Beijing. After the meeting, both Foreign Ministers witnessed the signing of cooperation documents between the two sides on sports, cultural exchanges, traditional medicine and museum cooperation. In addition, both Foreign Ministers signed a Plan of Action to implement the Protocol on cooperation in bilateral relations for the year 2020 between Ministry of External Affairs and Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the visit, EAM also met with the Vice President of China Mr. Wang Qishan.

Talks on Boundary Question

During the Second Informal Summit, the two leaders positively appraised the work of the Special



Prime Minister meets Xi Jinping, President of China at hotel Taj at Mamallapuram

Representatives and urged them to continue their efforts to arrive at a mutually-agreed framework for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement based on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles that were agreed by the two sides in 2005. The two leaders reiterated their understanding that efforts will continue to be made to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas.

The 14th round of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held in Beijing on 29 July 2019, during which both sides reviewed the situation along the India-China border areas and the progress made in effective implementation of various confidence building measures (CBMs) to further enhance mutual trust and understanding. The two sides also took note of regular exchanges at the troop level and at diplomatic level, including under the WMCC framework, for maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

'The Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question - National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval and State Councillor & Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi - met in New Delhi on 21 December 2019 for the 22nd round of Special Representatives' Talks. Recalling the strategic guidance and support to their work provided by the leaders at the 2nd Informal Summit in Chennai in October 2019, the Special Representatives resolved to intensify their efforts to achieve a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the India-China boundary question in accordance with the directives provided by PM and President Xi Jinping. The Special Representatives agreed that pending the final resolution of the boundary question, it is important to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and to ensure that the boundary question does not affect the overall development of the bilateral relationship.'

Other High Level Exchanges

Within the framework of regular bilateral exchanges, meetings of a variety of bilateral dialogue mechanisms

took place during the course of the year. The 6th India-China Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held on 03 June 2019 in New Delhi. The first Joint Working Group meeting on Education between India and China was held on 16 October 2019 in Beijing. A delegation of Senior Indian Diplomats paid a familiarization visit to China from 06 to 10 May 2019. Another significant event was the second India-China Joint Training Programme for Afghan diplomats, which was conducted from 11 to 23 November 2019 in New Delhi and from 04 to 13 December 2019 in Beijing.

As part of the bilateral exchanges envisaged under the MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee Mr. Li Xi visited New Delhi and Gujarat from 05-08 June 2019. During his visit, he met with EAM in New Delhi and Chief Minister of Gujarat in Ahmedabad. Ministers and senior officials from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Goa also paid visits to China for investment and tourism promotion activities. From China, Mr. Zhang Zhinan, Executive Vice Governor of Fujian and Mr. Qin Rupei, Member of the Standing Committee and Executive Vice Governor of Guangxi also paid visits to India in June and November 2019 respectively.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China. In order to commemorate the occasion, Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping agreed during their Second Informal Summit in Chennai to organise 70 celebratory activities in both India and China. A list of 70 activities, which have been jointly identified by both sides, was published on 22 November 2019. These activities, which will be organized during 2020-21 will demonstrate the historic connect between the two civilizations as well as their growing bilateral relationship over the years. They will further deepen people-to-people exchanges between

the two countries at all levels, including between their respective legislatures, businesses, academics, cultural and youth organisations as well as the defence forces.

Furthering interaction between scholars, academicians, experts and strategic thinkers on both sides, the 4th India-China Think Tank Forum was held from 28-29 November 2019. A 15-member delegation led by Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Ambassador T.C.A. Raghavan visited China to participate in the forum, which was co-organized by ICWA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The 6th ICWA - Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) Dialogue was also held from 06 to 07 November 2019 in New Delhi.

Cooperation in Water Resources

Both India and China have maintained regular exchanges on cooperation in water resources. From 12-13 June 2019, the 12th meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) on Trans-border Rivers took place in Ahmedabad. During the meeting, in pursuance to the MoU for provision of hydrological information of the Brahmaputra River, both sides signed the "Implementation plan on the provision of hydrological information of Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River in flood season". A similar MoU for provision of hydrological information of the Sutlej River is also in force. In accordance to the extant MoUs, China provided hydrological information for Brahmaputra and Sutlej rivers to India during flood season in 2019.

Defence Exchanges

Bilateral defence and military to military engagements between India and China continued throughout the year. An India-China Joint Working Group Meeting between the two Defense Ministries was held in China on 13-14 August 2019, wherein both sides agreed on specific defence exchanges for 2019. The meeting was attended by 5-member delegation led by Mr. Anand Rajan, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation)

from the Indian side and Deputy Chief of the Office of International Military Cooperation Major General Song Yanchao from the Chinese side. Two Indian Naval ships, INS Kolkata and INS Shakti, participated in the International Fleet Review held at Qingdao, Shandong Province in April 2019, which marked the 70th Anniversary of the PLA Navy. The 8th addition of India-China Joint Training Exercise (Hand-in-Hand 2019) was held from 06 to 20 December 2019 at Umroi, India wherein 130 soldiers from both sides jointly conducted Counter-Terrorism and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise.

Other exchanges during the year included visit by a middle-level officers delegation to China in March 2019 and by a 15-member National Defense College (NDC) study tour delegation's visit to China in May 2019. Defense Engagements between India and China at multilateral forum during the year included participation of Indian delegation in International Army Games held at Korla, Xinjiang Province from 03 to 17 August 2019, the 9th Xiangshan Forum held at Beijing from 20 to 22 October 2019, the 7th International Military Sports Council (CISM) World Military Games held at Wuhan from 18 to 27 October 2019, the 7th International Army Cadets Week held at Nanjing from 28 October to 03 November 2019, ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting Plus Field Training Exercise held at Guilin from 13 to 22 November 2019, and SCO Review meeting of the leaders of International Military Cooperation Division held in Beijing and Guangzhou from 09 to 12 December 2019.

Trade and Economic Relations

Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan, led a delegation to China in August 2019 for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial meeting, and also had a meeting with Mr. Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China to discuss RCEP related issues as well as bilateral commercial issues. Commerce

Secretary led another delegation to China from 04 to 08 November 2018 to participate in the 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE) at Shanghai, in which India participated as Guest Country of Honour, with more than 80 Indian businesses showcasing their products and services. During this visit, he also held a meeting with Mr. Li Chenggang, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Commerce of China to undertake further discussion on RCEP as well as bilateral issues. During these meetings, India reiterated its concern on growing trade imbalance, and underlined that areas like agriculture products, pharmaceuticals, information technology services and tourism in which India has proven strengths and significant global presence but minuscule presence in China, need to be encouraged in bilateral trade.

The 9th Financial Dialogue between India and China was held on 25 September 2019 in New Delhi, wherein Dr. Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Ms. Zou Jiayi, Vice Minister of Ministry of Finance of China held wide-ranging interaction on issues of mutual interest. The 6th Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) Meeting was held on 07-09 September 2019 in New Delhi. A 50-member Chinese official delegation led by Mr He Lifeng, Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, had a dialogue with Indian delegation led by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog. Meetings of SED working groups on Policy Coordination, Infrastructure, Resource Conservation & Environmental Protection, Energy, and Hi-Tech were also held on 07 September 2019. At working level, meetings of various Joint Working Groups/Working Groups, including on Pharma under SED (07 May 2019, Beijing) and Trade in Services (18 November 2019, New Delhi) were held. Negotiations on Social Security Agreement were held from 13-15 November 2019 in New Delhi.

Following removal of technical market access barriers last year for export of Indian rice, rapeseed meal, fish meal & fish oil and tobacco leaves from India to

China, Protocol on export of Indian Chili spent/meal to China was signed on 07 May 2019. Efforts were made throughout the year to promote export of Indian grapes, sugar, marine products, pharmaceuticals, and Indian IT & ITeS services. A day-long training on drug regulations in China was organized for Indian pharmaceutical companies in Shanghai on 21 June 2019. Indian fisheries exporters participated in Qingdao Marine Expo and a buyer-seller meet in Qingdao in October 2019. A NASSCOM led Indian industry delegation participated in an investment seminar on 31 May 2019 in Beijing. Roundtables for promotion of Indian IT and Pharma were organised on 27 November 2019 in Wuhan. A startup investment roadshow was organised in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing in which 15 Indian startups participated and showcased their products to Chinese venture capital investors.

Export of grapes was increased by more than 150%, reaching US\$ 13 million from January-October 2019, as per Chinese Customs data. Export of marine products also witnessed a robust increase of more than 250%, and may soon cross US\$ 1 billion mark. Export of other agriculture commodities such as sugar and tea were also increased.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

India and China continued to make joint efforts to enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries. During the 2nd meeting of HLM on Cultural and People to People Exchanges held in Beijing on 12 August 2019, EAM and Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed wide-ranging issues including cooperation in the areas of cultural exchanges, film and media cooperation, museums, sports, youth, tourism, state and city level exchanges, traditional medicine, yoga and education. Two sides also signed four cooperation documents to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges. These included: MoU on sports cooperation, Programme of cultural exchange, MoU concerning cooperation in traditional medicine,

and MoU between Hubei Provincial Museum of China and the National Museum, New Delhi. Several people-to-people and cultural activities, including a film festival and a cultural performances were organized on the sidelines of the HLM meeting.

The 4th India-China High-level Media Forum, co-organized by External Publicity Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and China Public Diplomacy Association of China, was also held on the sidelines of the 2nd HLM on 12 August 2019 in Beijing. The forum saw participation of journalists from prominent news agencies of the two countries.

The 5th International Day of Yoga was observed in June 2019 in various cities of China at iconic locations such as the Tianhe Tan Park in Guiyang, Yellow Crane Tower in Wuhan, Shaolin Temple in Henan and Jade Buddha Temple in Shanghai. It was also observed in Qingdao, Wuxi, Guangzhou among other places. All the events saw large participation by Chinese yoga enthusiasts. The week-long celebration culminated with a Yoga event at India House in Beijing which was attended by over 1000 people.

A number of activities were organized in China to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. On 02 October 2019 during the celebrations of Gandhi Jayanti, twelve paintings of Mahatma Gandhi by distinguished painters of China were unveiled. The Embassy continued with organization of Gandhi-themed events at Chinese school and universities, distribution of Gandhian literature in Chinese language, including his autobiography and the Chinese version of a comic book on Mahatma Gandhi from Amar Chitra Katha. Consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong also held several events commemorating the

anniversary, which included cycling, school-outreach activities, tree plantation and radio series.

The 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak was celebrated by the Embassy in collaboration with the local Sikh community which included keertan programme, recitation of Shabad by children and a langar. Consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong also held various activities such as tree plantation, Shabad Kirtan Sabha and distribution of stamps commemorating the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak.

Continuing the tradition of youth exchanges between India and China since 2006, a 200-member Indian youth delegation led by Ms. Kiran Soni Gupta, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports visited Beijing, Lanzhou and Dunhuang in China from 02 to 09 July 2019. A Chinese youth delegation led by the All China Youth Federation also visited India from 20 to 27 November 2019.

In pursuance of the MoU between the National Museum, New Delhi and Hubei Provincial Museum, Wuhan, signed during the 2nd HLM meeting, the Hubei Provincial Museum put up an exhibition on cultural relics from ancient China at National Museum, New Delhi in November 2019.

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, in co-operation with state governments and other agencies, during June to September, every year. In 2019, a total of 18 batches comprising of 1005 Yatris through Lipulekh Pass and 10 batches comprising of 341Yatris through Nathu-La Pass undertook the Yatra.

MALDIVES

India-Maldives bilateral relationship during the period saw rapid expansion in various new domains. President Solih's visit in December 2018 had set the agenda, which got further direction and ambition during the visit of PM Modi to Maldives in June 2019. The period saw the implementation of various LoC projects, grant projects and a series of new capacity building initiatives were taken up in hitherto unexplored areas like good governance, Aviation Security, Firefighting, National Security Guards, Special Protection Group, etc. India further deepened its close engagement with the Government and the people of Maldives with a common desire for mutual progress and prosperity. The ties were also inspired by our mutual desire for a peaceful, free and secure Indian Ocean region. There were several high level visits and engagements, and bilateral cooperation in several areas intensified in the period under review.

President Solih paid an unofficial visit to Bengaluru on 21-22 April 2019. A strong focus was laid on capacity building and infrastructure development for cricket in the Maldives. As a result, BCCI has already conducted

two training sessions for coaches and umpires in the Maldives in November 2019.

PM, on his first overseas visit after taking oath of the office for his second term, visited Maldives on a State Visit on 8-9 June 2019. PM Modi addressed a session of the newly constituted People's Majlis, and interacted with a wide spectrum of dignitaries from the Government and the political leadership. Both sides signed (i) MoU on cooperation in the field of Hydrography, (ii) MoU on cooperation in the field of Health, (iii) MoU on establishment of Passenger cum Cargo service by sea, (iv) MoU for cooperation in Customs' capacity building, (v) MoU between Maldives Civil Service Commission and NCGG, Mussourie and (vi) Technical Agreement on exchange of White Shipping Information between IN & MNDF. Both the leaders jointly inaugurated CTC facility of MNDF in Maafilafushi and Coastal Surveillance Radar System by remote links. PM's State Visit infused fresh momentum into India-Maldives relations. The Government of Maldives reiterated its India-First policy.



Prime Minister conferred Order of the Distinguished Role of Nishan Izzuddeen by Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of Maldives in Male (8 June, 2019)

EAM visited Maldives on September 3-4, 2019 to attend the Indian Ocean Conference. EAM met President Solih, Speaker Mohamed Nasheed and Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid during the Visit. The Foundation Stone for the new Chancery Project was jointly laid by EAM and Foreign Minister Shahid.

Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Shri Harivansh led the India delegation to the South Asia Speaker's Summit held in Male.

On the joint invite of Speaker Lok Sabha and Chairman Rajya Sabha, Speaker Mohamed Nasheed led a team of 10 MPs to visit India from December 8-13, 2019. The delegation met PM, EAM and Lok Sabha Speaker and also visited Ahmedabad. An MoU on Parliamentary Cooperation between the People's Majlis and the Lok Sabha was signed during the visit.

The 6th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Maldives was held on Dec 13, 2019 and co-chaired by EAM and Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid. The JCM reviewed the considerable progress achieved in implementing the bilateral agenda and also identified new areas of cooperation. MoUs/Agreements between the Financial Intelligence Units of both countries, between the Election Commission of both countries, and Instruments of Ratification for Mutual Legal Assistance were signed/exchanged during the JCM.

A Digital Video Conference was held on December 4, 2019 chaired by PM and President Solih. It saw the launch/gifting of 4 projects to Government/People of Maldives including the gifting of CGS Kaamiyaab, installation of streetlights in Male, launch of RuPay card in the Maldives and the signing of 3 HICDP MoUs on setting up fish processing plants in Addu Atoll.

Chief of Army Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat visited Maldives in September 2019. The first meeting of the Joint Hydrography Commission was held in Maldives in September 2019, co-chaired by Chief Hydrographer to GoI and MNDF Coast Guard Commander. Chief of Defence Forces, MNDF, Major General Abdulla Shamaal visited India in July 2019. The Fourth Edition of the Annual Joint Mil-to-Mil Staff Talks were held in July 2019.

Construction of the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES), Coastal Surveillance Radar System (CSRS) and the MoD headquarters continue apace along with joint EEZ surveillance programmes.

Under the USD 1.4 billion economic package announced for the Maldives, budgetary support of USD 50 million, T-Bill purchase for USD 150 million, and the signing of the currency swap agreement for USD 400 million have been completed. Consultants for two large projects dealing with water and sanitation on 34 islands, and road and reclamation in Addu Atoll have been identified and contracts have been signed. Three proposals under the INR 40 Cr grant for HICDPs have been approved. 16 projects under the INR 50 Cr cash grant are at different stages of completion. All efforts are being made to compress the execution timelines.

Capacity building initiatives have been underway in the areas of civil services, police and MNDF. ITEC slots for Maldives have been increased to 250 per annum. Nearly 40 ICCR scholarships have also been offered.

India and Maldives share strong cultural ties steeped in history. Work on the restoration of Hukuru Miskiy/ Friday Mosque in Male by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has commenced.

MAURITIUS

India sees Mauritius as a maritime neighbour. The cultural, historical and ancestral linkages between India and Mauritius have over the decades cemented this shared feeling of proximity. The relationship is further buttressed by strong development cooperation, defence, trade & commercial ties, high-level visits, capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes etc. This year was marked by a number of high level visits, completion of development cooperation projects like e-tablet project, ENT Hospital, 1st phase of the Metro Express project, intensive defence and cultural engagement etc.

The election in Mauritius in November 2019 saw the return of Mr Pravind Jugnauth as the Prime Minister of Mauritius for a second term. Prime Minister Modi congratulated him over the phone and invited him to visit India on an Official visit.

India's fraternal relations with Mauritius were further strengthened this year. High level visits between the two countries have been a regular feature of the bilateral relationship, which is a testimony to the level of trust and mutual understanding between the leadership of the two countries. On the official invitation of PM Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth attended the swearing-in ceremony of PM Narendra Modi and his Council of Ministers on 30 May 2019. Mauritius was the only country that was invited to the event outside the BIMSTEC countries.

Two projects implemented by India in Mauritius, the ENT Hospital Project and the 1st phase of the Metro Express Project was jointly inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of the two countries through DVC on 03 October 2019.

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt Anandiben Patel visited Mauritius on 02 November 2019 as Chief Guest

for the 185th Anniversary of the Arrival of Indentured Labourers in Mauritius. The day is commemorated in Mauritius every year as the 'Aapravasi Diwas'.

PM Mr Pravind Jugnauth, accompanied by his spouse, travelled to India on a private visit from 03-10 December 2019, after being sworn in as the PM of Mauritius for a second term in November 2019. During the visit, he held bilateral meetings with PM Shri Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. This was the third visit of PM Shri Jugnauth to India this year. Apart from his visits in May and December, he had travelled to India from 20-28 January 2019 to attend the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Varanasi as the Chief Guest.

The High Commission of India in Mauritius celebrated the ICCR Foundation Day on 9 April 2019. Hon. Minister for Education, Mrs Leela Devi Dookun was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The ITEC Day 2019 was celebrated on 17 September 2019. On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi ji, the Mission organized an event at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, which was attended by the Hon. Minister for Education, Mrs Leela Devi Dookun, the Hon. Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr. Prithvirajsing Roopun, among other dignitaries. The 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji was also celebrated by the High Commission of India on 12 November 2019.

The 12th meeting of the Joint Committee on Hydrography between India and Mauritius was held at New Delhi from 19-23 August 2019. The following Ships paid friendly visits to Mauritius this year: *INS Shardul* from 26-28 October 2019, *INS Darshak* from 25-28 November 2019; 09-12 December 2019; and 23-26 December 2019 to undertake joint hydrographic survey on the request of Government of Mauritius.

A number of India assisted projects being implemented

in Mauritius under the Special Economic Package of USD 353 million and the USD 500 million Line of Credit are progressing satisfactorily. The ENT Hospital Project and the 1st phase of the Metro Express Project was jointly inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of the two countries through DVC on 03 October 2019. In recent years, significant progress has been made in the implementation of people oriented development projects which has helped in further enhancing the

bonds of friendship between the two countries. Assistance on two new projects was announced by PM Modi during the Joint DVC launch; construction of Renal Transplant Unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Construction of 4 Medi-clinics and 2 area health centres. The Agreement for Participation in the e-Vidhya Bharti Arogya Bharti (e-VBAB) Network Project was signed between India and Mauritius in October 2019.

MYANMAR

Myanmar and India have shared a historical and cultural past and share friendly relations. Myanmar is the only ASEAN country with which India shares a land border, of over 1600 kms, making it a gateway to ASEAN countries. Myanmar is at the confluence of India's two key foreign policy objectives; 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First'. This relationship has been further strengthened by high-level visits, signing of MoUs, ongoing development cooperation, regular ITEC and capacity building programmes, enhanced trade & commercial ties, and growing defence and security collaboration.

A visit of President of Myanmar U WIN MYINT to India is anticipated in the first half of 2020. Other anticipated events include a visit by Chairman of Union Election Commission of Myanmar to India and a visit by Dy NSA to Myanmar in the first half of 2020.

Political

High level Visits: At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, President of Myanmar U Win Myint visited India on 29-30 May 2019 to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the new government. This was followed by a visit of Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Defence Forces, Sr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing to India in July 2019. PM met State Counsellor on 3 Nov 2019 on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit in Bangkok Foreign Office

Consultations were also held at the level of Foreign Secretary on 6 December 2019 in New Delhi.

Opening of India Liaison Office in Nay Pyi Taw: On 1 October 2019, India opened a new Liaison Office in Nay Pyi Taw in the capital city of Myanmar. With the opening of this new office, India now has representation in 4 major cities of Myanmar viz. Embassy in Yangon, two Consulates in Mandalay and Sittwe and a liaison office in Nay Pyi Taw.

A visit of President of Myanmar U WIN MYINT to India is anticipated in the first half of 2020. Other anticipated events include a visit by Chairman of Union Election Commission of Myanmar to India and a visit by Dy NSA to Myanmar in the first half of 2020.

Development Cooperation

Development cooperation is a prominent feature in India's overall bilateral cooperation with Myanmar. Our involvement and assistance in this field extends from the setting up of major connectivity infrastructure to significant initiatives in establishing long-term, sustainable and relevant institutions for capacity building and human resource development in areas such as agricultural research and education, IT and skill development. An important aspect of these initiatives is that they are, for the most part, completely grant-funded, though India also extends a considerable

amount of assistance by way of concessional finance for projects ranging from transport and communications to agriculture and farm mechanization and highway development. The total portfolio of projects involving Indian assistance is valued at approximately US\$ 1.75 Billion, of which projects worth nearly US\$ 1 Billion are completely grant-funded.

Port Operator for Sittwe Port: The Port Operator for Sittwe Port under the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Project was appointed in November 2019. Work on the waterway component is complete, however, that on the road component from Paletwa to Zorinpui is ongoing.

Border Area Development Programme (BADP): The third year of the Border Area Development Programme has been completed. 28 projects for the fourth year BADP have begun in 2019.

Rakhine State Development Programme (RSDP): Under the Rakhine State Development Programme, India has committed over US\$ 25 Million for the development programmes in the state. In July 2019, 250 prefabricated houses were handed over to Myanmar in Rakhine state. 20,000 Relief material kits were provided to internally displaced persons in Rakhine State in December 2019.

Defence Cooperation

India-Myanmar defence engagement was further strengthened with the signing of MoU on Defence Cooperation in 2019. There were substantial high-level visits, military training programmes, capacity building and the established interaction mechanisms functioned vibrantly.

High-level Visits

While functional level goodwill visits continued regularly, following important visits were undertaken from 1 April 2019. The then Defence Secretary, Shri

Sanjay Mitra, visited Myanmar in May 2019, adding to the list of engagements and regular exchanges on the defence side. In July 2019, Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Defence Forces, Sr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing visited India during which the MoU on Defence Cooperation and MoU on Exchange of White Shipping Information were signed. Pursuant to the second MoU, near real time exchange has commenced between Information Fusion Centre Indian Ocean Region, New Delhi and Maritime Regional Coordination Centre, Yangon, bringing in the much-needed transparency in the regional maritime neighbourhood.

Visits/symposia such as the Goa Maritime Conclave, National Defence College reciprocal visit and Higher Command Courses have aided in strengthening understanding between officers of both armed forces at mid and senior level.

Naval Cooperation

The first maritime security dialogue under the MoU on Maritime Security Cooperation took place in September 2019. Substantial headway was made in the field of cooperation in maritime safety, maritime domain awareness, hydrography etc.

Initiatives such as the addition of maritime patrol aircraft and increase in the frequency of coordinated patrols to twice a year has increased the efficacy of these patrols. Two Myanmar Navy ships were deployed at Visakhapatnam for the 2nd edition of INMEX from 18-22 October 2019. These initiatives were aimed at ensuring regional security and smooth flow of maritime trade.

Military Training: In the last one year, 126 trainees were deputed to various Defence establishments across India under ITEC-1 scheme. In addition to the structured courses, Indian Armed Forces Mobile Training Teams (MTT) undertook the UN Peacekeeping training courses and two courses were conducted in February and September-October 2019. 5 other courses were

also conducted by MTTs from Indian Navy. Subject Matter Expert Exchange for fighter Aircrew of MiG-29 with Observer Sortie was held for pilots of Myanmar Air Force in April 2019. A Myanmar combat team was trained in October 2019. Further, training on English language, hydrography, medical has been undertaken along with cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Capacity Building: An Indian Air Force Met Squadron team established two Met Squadrons of Myanmar Air Force and imparted training from August – November 2019. Installation of a Coastal Surveillance System in Myanmar is in progress.

Interaction under Established Mechanisms: The 4th Army and 4th Air Force Staff Talks took place between 13-15 March 2019 at Nay Pyi Taw and 18-20 September 2019 at Yangon respectively. The 15th Regional Boundary Committee Meeting took place between 9-12 December 2019.

Commerce

India-Myanmar bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1.7 Billion in 2018-19, an increase of 7.53% from 2017-18. India is the fifth largest trading partner of Myanmar. India's export to Myanmar during 2018-19 was US\$ 1205.60 Million and import from Myanmar was US\$ 521.49 million. In terms of investment, India stands at the 11th position with an approved investment of US\$ 768.567 million by 31 Indian enterprises (*out of the total estimated investments of US\$ 81.598 billion from 50 countries by 1846 enterprises*) as of October 2019. Myanmar's investment in India is US\$ 8.97 million. The major import items from Myanmar are beans and pulses, wood, metal etc. India's exports to Myanmar are agro-commodities, chemicals, fuel, pharmaceutical items, machinery etc. Border trade with Myanmar during 2018-19, estimated at US\$ 154.04 million, took place through two land borders crossing points –

Moreh-Tamu in Manipur and Zowkhathar-Rhikhawdar in Mizoram. 12 Indian Public Sector Undertakings have their representative offices in Myanmar

High level Visits: Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Shri Parshottam Rupala, led a delegation for the BIMSTEC Ministers of Agriculture meeting in July 2019. Further, Minister of Industries and Commerce, Government of Assam, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, led a delegation of MLAs and senior officials to speak about enhancing bilateral commercial relations between India and Myanmar.

Joint Working Groups: Important meetings such as the 1st Joint Working Group (JWG) in Health & Medicine Cooperation and the 1st JWG under the new Programme of Cooperation (2018-2021) in the field of Science and Technology, took place in April 2019 and September 2019 respectively.

Visit of Business Delegations: 27 Indian companies participated in COMPLAST Exhibition in June 2019; 40 Indian healthcare companies participated at MEDEX 2019 in Yangon, in October 2019, and about 74 Indian participants exhibited their products at the MYANFOOD in November 2019, under the patronage of Trade Promotion Council of India, ASSOCHAM and Dept. of Commerce, India.

Donation of Anti-Rabies Vaccines to Ministry of Health: India donated 10,000 vials of anti-rabies vaccine to Myanmar in September 2019.

Training & Capacity Building

240 slots on civilian side were utilized under the ITEC programme in the year 2019-20. A new **Hindi Language Course** was started at the Yangon University in October 2019.

EAM remotely inaugurated the **e-ITEC programme on Big Data Analytics** at Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay on 7 October 2019

India continued to provide training to Myanmar officials such as Administrators; Town Planners; Election officers; Police officers; Parliamentarians; Judiciary officers; and others in English, IT, Accounting & Finance, etc. **Some of these were:**

Election Officers: Seven courses for Union Election Commission of Myanmar (UECM) were conducted by the Election Commission of India in New Delhi and Nay Pyi Taw for UECM officials in 2019. Two courses were earlier completed in 2018.

1st batch of **40 judges/Judicial officers** attended training at National Judicial Academy of India (Njai), Bhopal from August 23-29, 2019. In all 400 officers would be trained.

Administrators: Two Mid-Career Training Program for 34 Township Administrators (July 15-27, 2019) and 28 Township Administrators (Nov. 18-30, 2019) in Governance and Leadership Training were conducted at National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

A Special Training Programme for Myanmar Educational Administrators was conducted by the National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi from 1-23 November, 2019.

Police Training: More than 250 Myanmar Police officers received training in India in the year 2019.

Training of Myanmar Sports Personnel in India: A team of sports persons in hockey, badminton and shooting were trained in India for the 30th South East Asian Games from 29 September to 28 October 2019. An MoU on Cooperation in Sports is under discussion to formalize the framework of such training in the future.

India is also offering 1000 Integrated PhD Fellowships for ASEAN students including Myanmar at 23 IITs. IIT-Madras delegation visited Yangon and interacted with Rectors of leading universities and prospective students in October 2019. Another delegation from IIT Delhi visited Myanmar on 15-18 December 2019, for interacting with officials of the Ministry of Education and Rectors for sharing their experiences in the frontier areas in the Science and Technology.

Cultural

This year, several events such as the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, and International Yoga Day were celebrated in Myanmar.

A full-fledged Indian Cultural Centre will become functional in Yangon by mid-2020. The level of engagement in this field has also increased due to the deployment of a full time Director, in addition to a Teacher of Indian Culture, Hindi and Dance and the current centre conducts regular classes for Hindi, Yoga and Indian classical dance.

NEPAL

India and Nepal share close ties of friendship and cooperation based on age-old civilizational linkages. This people-centric partnership has been reinforced by intensified high-level political exchanges and multi-faceted economic and development cooperation between the two countries. Closer economic

integration, enhanced connectivity, strong development partnership and close people-to-people contacts with Nepal are the key bilateral objectives. A continuously expanding partnership with Nepal is in line with the 'Neighbourhood First' policy of the Government of India.

High Level Exchanges

At Government of India's invitation, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K P Sharma Oli attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Union Council of Ministers on 30 May 2019. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar paid a visit to Nepal on 21&22 August 2019 to co-chair the 5th India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Nepal Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. The meeting reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations and explored ways to further strengthen the traditionally warm and close relations between the two countries. An MoU to facilitate technical cooperation between the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Nepal was signed on the sidelines of the Joint Commission Meeting, on 21 August 2019.

The year witnessed intensive engagements with over 30 exchanges at the ministerial, official, and technical levels. Around 20 bilateral mechanisms at a functional/technical level met over the year covering issues such as economic and development cooperation, water resources and power cooperation, culture, defence and security, and connectivity projects. Similarly, over a dozen exchanges took place at the ministerial / senior official level to further strengthen ties between the two countries. The Attorney General of Nepal Mr. Agni Prasad Kharel led a 14-member delegation on an observation visit to India from 25-30 August 2019 and met the Attorney General of India and also called on the Minister of Law and Justice of India. Minister of State (IC) for Power, New & Renewable Energy and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri R.K. Singh delivered the key note address at the "3rd Nepal Infrastructure Summit" held on 11-12 September 2019 in Kathmandu. Minister of State (IC) for Tourism Shri Prahalad Singh Patel participated in the Ministerial Conclave and the Inaugural Ceremony of 'Visit Nepal Year 2020' on 01 January 2020. Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi met Foreign Secretary

of India Shri Vijay Gokhale on 17 July 2019 in New Delhi to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Defence and Security Cooperation

India and Nepal have long standing and extensive mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of defence and security. The battalion-level joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' is conducted regularly by the Indian Army and the Nepal Army, alternatively in India and in Nepal. The 14th edition of joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' was held from 03-16 December 2019 at Saljhandi, Nepal.

A Nepal Army delegation visited premier disaster management institutes in New Delhi from 22-25 September 2019 and another Nepal Army delegation visited defence production industries from 13-20 October 2019 in India. As part of the 59th course organized by the National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi, Vice Admiral Srikant, AVSM, Commandant, NDC led a 16-member multi-national delegation, including officers from the Indian armed forces, on a study tour to Nepal from 26-28 August 2019. The first Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mount Makalu in Nepal was conducted from 29 March to 30 May 2019. In addition, senior officers of the Indian Army visited Nepal in September and November 2019 to review the welfare activities of the Nepal domiciled Gorkha ex-servicemen. The General Officers also called on Chief of the Army Staff of Nepal to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Security agencies of both sides also share close cooperation including exchange of information. Law enforcement agencies hold regular bilateral meetings at various levels to discuss border-management issues. The 4th coordination meeting between Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal and Inspector General, Armed Police Force was held in Nepal from 20-22 November 2019. Seven (07) training and study tours were conducted for personnel of Nepal Police and

Armed Police Force in India from April to November 2019.

Connectivity and Development Partnership

Development cooperation is a key area of bilateral partnership. Completion of already committed projects, under grant and loan assistance, has been in focus. Recognizing the critical importance of connectivity in stimulating economic growth, the focus is on infrastructure development and increased connectivity. A series of cross-border connectivity and other infrastructure projects such as rail links, roads, integrated check posts, polytechnic, police academy, link canal, and 900 MW Arun-3 hydro-electric project are under implementation. Under the four Lines of Credit of over US\$ 1.65 billion extended by Government of India to Nepal, a number of hydropower, irrigation and infrastructure projects, including post-earthquake reconstruction work, are being implemented in Nepal.

Government has laid particular emphasis on expeditious implementation of ongoing projects. The progress of projects is closely monitored at the level of two Foreign Secretaries, who held their fifth video-conference on 11 July 2019. The 'Oversight Mechanism', co-chaired by Ambassador of India to Nepal and Foreign Secretary of Nepal, met for the seventh time on 08 July 2019 to review progress in project implementation and address bottlenecks, if any. The regular review has resulted in good progress in project implementation.

South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline, constructed and funded by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., connecting Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal was remotely inaugurated by the two Prime Ministers on 10 September 2019. Integrated Check Post at Biratnagar was remotely inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on 21 January 2020. The preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey report of the new broad gauge electrified rail line connecting Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal

was completed by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. in May 2019 and work is underway for conducting final location survey of the rail line as the next step, with financial assistance by Government of India. Work was initiated in 2019 on the link canal project connecting Tanakpur Barrage in Uttarakhand to the India-Nepal border.

The ground-breaking ceremony of the Gol-assisted flagship project, Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic Institute at Hetauda in Nepal was held on 05 November 2019. Considerable progress was achieved on the Terai Roads Project during the year; out of 14 road packages, seven (07) are nearing completion. In 2019, about 20 High Impact Community Development Projects (formerly Small Development Projects) were completed in the sectors of education, health, sanitation, connectivity, and micro-hydro power projects. Gol also gifted 60 ambulances and 12 school buses to various government and non-governmental institutions working in the health and education sectors in Nepal.

Gol-assisted post-earthquake reconstruction work in the housing sector in Nepal is being implemented expeditiously. Out of the 50,000 earthquake-affected beneficiaries in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts of Nepal allocated to the Government of India, over 45,000 Gol-supported houses (i.e. 90% of work) have been completed till date. The Prime Ministers of India and Nepal remotely witnessed the progress made in housing reconstruction on 21 January 2020. After the appointment of CSIR-Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee in March 2019 as project management consultant for post-earthquake reconstruction work in the education sector, construction of eight (08) schools was initiated and is underway in Gorkha and Nuwakot districts of Nepal. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was appointed for reconstruction work in the cultural heritage sector in December 2019 and appointment of a project management consultant is underway in respect of health sector.

Under the 'New Partnership in Agriculture' launched by the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in April 2018, a training course for Nepali scientists and technicians was organized at the Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute in Faridabad from 25 November to 24 December 2019.

A regular bus service between Kathmandu and Siliguri was jointly flagged off by Ambassador of India Shri M.S. Puri and Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation of Nepal Mr. Raghubir Mahaseth from Kathmandu on 26 August 2019.

Trade and economic cooperation

India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the leading source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal. Total bilateral trade increased by over 17% from US\$ 7.05 billion in FY 2017-18 to reach US\$ 8.27 billion in FY 2018-19. Both governments continue to engage and take measures to facilitate trade and mutual investments.

The two sides initiated bilateral discussions to review the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Treaty of Transit with a view to further facilitating Nepal's access to the Indian market, enhancing overall bilateral trade, and facilitating Nepal's transit trade. Two bilateral meetings were held in September and November 2019 in this regard.

As agreed by the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal in April 2018, significant progress was achieved with regard to development of inland waterways connectivity for movement of Nepal-bound bilateral and transit cargo. Discussions are underway for operationalisation of multi-modal routes using national waterways of India.

Cultural and People-to-People Ties

India and Nepal have robust cooperation in the area of capacity building and human resource development.

India offers about 3000 scholarships to Nepalese students every year, providing opportunities to study in Nepal and India. Under the ITEC programme, more than 250 scholarships are offered annually to Government and non-Government employees of Nepal for training in technical institutes in India. About 60 Government of Nepal officers dealing with anti-money laundering and countering terror financing matters were trained at National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics in Faridabad and Bengaluru in 2019. Further, 42 officials from the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority of Nepal underwent training at Gujarat Forensic Science University, Gandhinagar in 2019-20.

On the occasion of the 5th International Day of Yoga, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu organized several events including 'Yoga at Mount Everest Base Camp' and 'Yoga at Gateway of Mount Everest, Syangboche'.

To mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the Nepal Rastra Bank launched silver commemorative coins in the denominations of NPR 100/-, NPR 1000/- , and NPR 2500/- on 23 September 2019. A book titled 'Sikh Heritage of Nepal' was also released by the Indian Embassy. In commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu organized various events, including distribution of about 200 solar lamp kits to students from eight schools in Nepal.

Regional Cooperation

India and Nepal cooperate closely on sub-regional, regional and international issues of mutual interests. In 2019, cooperation continued in multilateral and regional fora, including the UN and BIMSTEC.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health & Population of Nepal, Mr. Upendra Yadav, visited India from 02-06 September 2019 for the "72nd Session of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia", and from 19-21 November 2019 for the "2019 World

Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030” in New Delhi, organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India.

Minister for Finance of Nepal, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, visited India on 03&04 October 2019 to participate in the “33rd India Economic Summit” organized by the World Economic Forum and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

Minister for Forest and Environment of Nepal, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, visited India from 23-25 October 2019 to attend the “Fourth Meeting of the Steering

Committee of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection” and from 08-11 September 2019 to attend “UN Convention to Combat Desertification COP-14”, organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of India.

A delegation from Nepal Army (in Nepal’s capacity as Dialogue Partner of SCO) attended the “First Conference of Military Medicine for Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Member States” held on 12&13 September 2019 in New Delhi, conducted by the Indian Armed Forces.

PAKISTAN

India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. India’s consistent position is that issues, if any, between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence.

Bilateral exchange

Prime Minister Modi received a telephone call from Pakistan Prime Minister on 26 May 2019 congratulating him on election victory. Prime Minister Modi thanked him and recalled his earlier suggestion to Pakistan Prime Minister to fight poverty jointly. Prime Minister Modi also stressed that creating trust and an environment free of violence and terrorism were essential for fostering cooperation for peace, progress and prosperity in the region. Prime Minister Modi also reiterated India’s commitment to the early operationalising of Kartarpur Corridor.

Cross border terrorism

India’s attempts to build normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan continued to be undermined by Pakistan’s continued support to cross-border terrorism and violence against India. On 14 February 2019, 40

Indian security forces were killed in a cross-border suicide terror attack in Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir by Pakistan-based and supported terrorist organization Jaish-e-Mohammed. India has been repeatedly urging Pakistan to take action against JeM to prevent terrorists from being trained and armed inside Pakistan. On 26 February 2019, India carried out an intelligence led anti-terror pre-emptive air strike against JeM training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. After the Pulwama cross-border terror attack, India withdrew the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status accorded to Pakistan and imposed a Customs Duty of 200% on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. India also suspended cross-LoC trade from 19 April 2019 on receiving reports that cross-LoC trader routes are being misused by Pakistan based elements for funneling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency.

During the year, Pakistan forces carried out unprovoked to violate ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and the International Boundary, including to provide cover-fire for cross border terrorist infiltration into India. In over 3000 incidents of unprovoked firing by Pakistan forces resulted in death of 31 Indians so far. India registered strong protests with Pakistan,

including through diplomatic channels and that of the Director Military Operations. Pakistan was called upon to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire understanding in order to maintain peace and tranquility along the border. It was also made clear that till Pakistan forces ended all kind of support to cross-border terrorism, Indian forces would continue to provide a determined and robust response to all attempts at cross-border terrorist infiltration.

Hostile propaganda and unilateral actions by Pakistan

Following the decision of the Indian Parliament regarding Article 370 of the Constitution, Pakistan went into a battery of hostile propaganda against India and attempts to present an alarming picture of bilateral ties to the world. On 7 August 2019, Pakistan announced unilateral measures, including downgrading of diplomatic relations, suspension of bilateral trade and review of bilateral agreements with India. Subsequently, Pakistan suspended all bus, train, and postal services between India and Pakistan, thereby curtailing normal trade and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. There have been highly irresponsible statements, including the calls for 'jihad' against India made by the Pakistani leadership on matters entirely internal to India.

India completely and unequivocally rejected in entirety all such actions and Pakistan's blatant misrepresentation of facts and fabricated narratives. As a result of India's efforts and proactive outreach to the international community, Pakistan's attempts to interfere in internal affairs of India, to present an alarmist situation of the region and its abuse of international fora have been successfully and effectively thwarted. Countries have shown understanding that matters pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir, which is an integral part of India, are internal to India. Countries have also called on Pakistan to not allow its territory to be used for terrorism in any manner.

International focus on terrorism emanating from Pakistan

Government efforts were successful in greater international recognition of the dangers of terrorism emanating from Pakistan. On 1 May 2019, United Nations 1267 Sanctions Committee designated Masood Azhar, the leader of JeM, as a UN proscribed terrorist. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in its October 2019 Plenary notified continuation of Pakistan in the Grey List due to continuing terror financing related concerns. FATF expressed serious concerns with the overall lack of progress by Pakistan to address its Terror Financing risks and strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its full Action Plan by February 2020.

Kulbushan Jadhav case at ICJ

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its unanimous judgment on 17 July 2019, found that it had jurisdiction on the Jadhav case and by a vote of 15-1, pronounced that Pakistan had breached relevant obligations under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The sole dissenting Judge was from Pakistan. The Court order Pakistan to provide immediate consular access to Mr Jadhav and undertake effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence. External Affairs Minister made a suo-motto statement in the Parliament on the matter in July 2019.

Hyderabad Funds Case

On 2 October 2019, the UK High Court ruled in favour of India in the 70 years old Hyderabad Funds case rejecting Pakistan's claims to the £35 million Fund being held by the National Westminster Bank in London. The Fund has been lying frozen with the National Westminster Bank in London due to contesting claims. While giving the verdict in favour of India, the Court rejected Pakistan's claims that the Fund had been intended as payment for arms shipment or as outright gift by the then Nizam to Pakistan. The

Court also ordered Pakistan to pay India £2.8 million on account of costs incurred by India.

Exchange of list of Nuclear installations and facilities

On 01 January 2020, India and Pakistan exchanged through diplomatic channels, the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan. This was the 29th consecutive exchange of such list between the two countries, the first one having taken place on 01 January 1992.

Religious Pilgrimage

Kartarpur Corridor: In keeping with Government's commitment to fulfill the long-pending demand of Indian pilgrims to have an easy and smooth access to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib and to commemorate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor was formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 9 November 2019. Earlier, an Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan for facilitating Pilgrims to visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan on 24 October 2019. The Agreement, inter alia, provides for visa-free travel of Indian pilgrims as well as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, from India to the holy Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan on a daily basis, throughout the year. Up to 5000 pilgrims can visit Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur through the Corridor on any given day. Till 31 December 2019, over 30,000 Indian pilgrims have successfully undertaken pilgrimage through the corridor.

Pilgrimages under 1974 Bilateral Protocol: A regular exchange of pilgrims visits was facilitated under the 1974 India-Pakistan bilateral Protocol on visits to religious shrines. Seven groups/ jathas of Indian pilgrims visited Pakistan and five groups of pilgrims

from Pakistan visited India in 2019. These include - 1898 Indian pilgrims visited Pakistan during Baisakhi (April 2019); 416 pilgrims visited during the Martyrdom of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ji (June - July 2019); 476 pilgrims visited for Nagar Kirtan (on the occasion of 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev in the month of July - August 2019); and 3529 Indian pilgrims visited Pakistan in the month of November 2019 to celebrate Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th Birth Anniversary.

Humanitarian issues of prisoners and fishermen

Government attaches high importance to the issue of prisoners held in Pakistan custody and consistently takes up the matter of their early release and repatriation to India. In keeping with the understanding reached under the 2008 bilateral Agreement on Consular Access, lists of prisoners and fishermen in each others custody were exchanged on 1 July 2019 and 1 January 2020. As per the lists exchanged on 01 January 2020, there are 267 Pakistan civilian prisoners and 99 fishermen in India's custody. Pakistan acknowledged custody of 55 civilian prisoners and 227 Indian fishermen.

As a result of persistent efforts, India has been successful in securing the release and repatriation of 2132 Indians, including fishermen, from Pakistan's custody since 2014. This includes 364 Indians who returned in 2019 and 20 Indian fishermen whose release and repatriation was secured on 6 January 2020. Government has sought release of 4 Indian civilian prisoners and 106 remaining Indian fishermen who have completed their sentences but continue to languish in Pakistan jails. India has sought early consular access and release and repatriation of the remaining Indian nationals in Pakistan's custody.

In addition, India has raised the issue of 83 missing Indian defence personnel, including Prisoners of Wars, whose are believed to be in Pakistan's custody.

However, Pakistan has not acknowledged their custody so far. India also continue to take up the issue of visit of a medical team in order to address the issue of mentally

unsound prisoners in each other's custody. Pakistan has also been asked to organise an early visit of the revived Joint Judicial Committee for prisoners to Pakistan.

SEYCHELLES

India-Seychelles relations have been characterised by close friendship, understanding and cooperation. This is evident from the strong defence and security cooperation, including on counter terrorism and other transnational crimes; development partnership; cultural cooperation; capacity building through scholarships and ITEC programmes. India has expanded the scope and spread of its development assistance in Seychelles by committing support in helping Seychelles in its national developmental priorities.

India continued its close engagement with the Government and people of Seychelles this year, which further strengthened the close bilateral relations.

The year was marked by the following high level visits from the Seychelles side: The Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles, Mr. Wallace Cosgrow, attended the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties (CoP14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from 30 August to 03 September 2019. The Minister of Health, Mr. Jean Paul Adam visited India from 23-28 September 2019 and visited various hospitals at Chennai and Bangalore. He also held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Health of India during the visit where avenues of cooperation in the health sector were discussed.

Development Cooperation is one of the strongest pillars of the bilateral relations with Seychelles. In order to broad base the cooperation in the area, a number of small, people friendly projects under the MoU on Small Development Projects was signed in June 2018 are ongoing. Many of these projects were tendered this year and are moving towards implementation phase.

Apart from small projects, other projects like the Solar PV project is also ongoing at a satisfactory pace. Solar PV Installation & Commissioning was completed in the National Assembly of Seychelles in June 2019, in 46 Barbarons Social Housing Units in October 2019 and in Victoria Hospital & 6 Other Hospitals across the 3 Inner Islands in November 2019.

India and Seychelles have an elaborate architecture of defence and security cooperation that has deepened over the years with the growing piracy menace and other economic offences in the strategic Indian Ocean region. This is in line with the government's policy for better cooperation among Indian Ocean nations as part of its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative. The following ships paid visits to Seychelles: INS Shardul, Sujata, Magar, Tarangini/Sudarshini and Indian Coast Guard Ship Ship Sarathi from 06-10 April 2019, INS Kochi from 23-30 June 2019, INS Shardul from 21-22 October 2019, Indian Coast Guard Ship Vikram from 12-15 December 2019 and INS Darshak from 30 December 2019 to 18 January 2020.

Among other events, the High Commission of India in Seychelles held cultural events on the occasion of ICCR Foundation Day on 9 April 2019, ITEC Day on 6 September 2019, which was attended by ITEC Alumni, officials from local Government and other dignitaries. To commemorate Gandhi@150, a 'Bicycle Race and Rally' was organised by the Mission on 2 June 2019. In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Mission participated in the planting of 150 saplings on World Environment Day on 5 June 2019. The Mission organized the 5th International Day

of Yoga (IDY) on 15 June 2019 which was attended by more than 1% of the total population of Seychelles. On the 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2019, the Mission commemorated the day with a *Garlanding Ceremony* and release of a postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi jointly by the High Commission of India and the Seychelles Postal Department.

A 9-member Lavani group (folk dance from

Maharashtra) visited Seychelles from 24-28 October 2019 to participate in the “Kreol Festival” and Diwali celebrations in Seychelles.

The 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated by the High Commission on 12 November 2019. The event was marked by a “Book Exhibition on Guru Nanak Dev Ji”, a short digital video on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji followed by a documentary.

SRI LANKA

India’s relation with Sri Lanka gained further momentum in 2019-20. Frequent visits at the highest political level from both sides enhanced the cooperation and understanding between India and Sri Lanka in various areas such as commerce, trade, defence, developmental cooperation and education. Further, successful implementation of people oriented and demand driven projects such as Emergency Ambulance Project and commencement of flights between Chennai and Jaffna brought the two countries even closer. During this period, India continued to accord high priority to relations with Sri Lanka in accordance with its Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR Doctrine.

India’s bilateral ties with Sri Lanka were further strengthened in 2019-20 by frequent high level visits, implementation of people oriented projects, close cooperation in culture, education.

Former Sri Lankan President Mr. Maithripala Sirisena visited India from 30-31 May 2019 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers. After the Presidential elections on 16 November, President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, paid a State Visit to India from 28-30 November 2019. This was his first overseas visit after taking over as the President. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka, Mr. Malik Samarawickrama, visited India from 06-08 August

2019 to hold discussions on trade related issues.

From India, Prime Minister visited Sri Lanka on 09 June 2019 after the Easter Day terror attacks of April 2019 to express India’s solidarity with Sri Lanka in the fight against terrorism. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, visited Sri Lanka on 18-19 November 2019 as a Special Envoy of Prime Minister, immediately after the swearing-in of President of Sri Lanka, to convey the greetings of Prime Minister and to invite the President to visit India. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice visited Sri Lanka from 05-07 November 2019 to attend the Commonwealth Law Ministers meeting in Colombo.

In the developmental cooperation front, Sri Lanka continued to be one of the major recipients of development assistance from India in 2019-20. Out of the 4,000 remaining houses, part of 50,000 houses under the flagship Indian Housing Project, more than 2,200 houses were completed. The work for implementation of 10,000 houses, announced during the visit of Prime Minister in May 2017, is expected to be commenced soon. With this India’s total commitment to build houses in Sri Lanka stands at 60,000 and out of these houses, as on date, more than 48,200 houses have been completed.

The final phase of the island-wide expansion of Emergency Ambulance Service under an Indian grant of USD 15.02 million was launched in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka on 23 June 2019. Based on the success of the Pilot phase, Sri Lankan Government requested India to expand the service country wide.

Other than the above projects, India continues to implement a large number of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in various areas including education and health. The Upgradation of Saraswathy Central College in Pussellawa, Renovation of schools in the Northern Province, Construction of Warehouse at Dambulla, and Jaffna Cultural Centre were completed. Projects such as Construction of Surgical Unit and Supply of Medical Equipment to Teaching Hospital at Batticaloa, Construction of 600 houses under Gram Shakti project in Northern Province and construction of 600 houses under Gram Shakti project-II in Southern Province were commenced in this year.

During the visit of President of Sri Lanka in November 2019, India announced new Lines of Credit worth USD 450 million for undertaking infrastructure projects (USD 400 million) and for Security and Counter Terrorism (USD 50 million). Under a USD 318 million Indian Line of Credit, a contract agreement for around USD 91.30 million for up-gradation of the Northern Railway line from Maho to Omanthai in Sri Lanka was signed on 18 July 2019 in Colombo.

The economic & commercial relations between India and Sri Lanka remained strong in 2019-20. Sri Lanka is one of the largest trading partners of India in South Asia. India in turn is one of Sri Lanka's largest trade partners globally. Bilateral trade in 2018 amounted to USD 4.93 billion. Exports from India to Sri Lanka in 2018 were USD 4.16 billion, while exports from Sri Lanka to India were USD 0.77 billion. India was the third largest contributor to Sri Lankan FDI, with total investment amounting to around US\$ 173 million

in 2018. India was also the largest source market of tourists (18 % of tourist inflow) coming to Sri Lanka. Further strengthening the cooperation in the port sector, a trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation on the Development of the East Container Terminal of Colombo South Port in Sri Lanka was signed between India, Japan and Sri Lanka on 28 May 2019.

Defence engagement with Sri Lanka continued to receive strong impetus by high level visits from both sides including the visits of Director General of Indian Coast Guard, Director General Ordnance Service, Director General of National Cadet Corps, Chief of Naval Staff and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff to Sri Lanka and Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy and Director General of Sri Lankan Coast Guard to India. The 6th Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Sri Lanka, at the Defence Secretary level, was conducted in Colombo from 08-09 April 2019. Further, to enhance coordination and cooperation between the armed forces bilateral exercises such as SLINEX (07-12 September 2019), Mitra Shakti (01-14 December 2019), MILAN (18-28 March 2020) were conducted. As part of efforts to increase interaction and bonhomie between armed forces personnel of both countries, the second edition of special pilgrimage trip to Bodh Gaya for 160 personnel of Sri Lanka armed forces and their families was organised from 15 - 18 June 2019. Further, a reciprocal visit of 160 Indian defence personnel to Sri Lanka was also organised.

As the cultural relations and people to people contact between the countries are one of the important aspects of bilateral ties, various activities including celebration of 5th International Day of Yoga, celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary Of Mahatma Gandhi, 550th Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and commencement of flights between Chennai and Jaffna were undertaken during this period.

Minister of Foreign Relations, Skills Development, Employment and Labour Relations of Sri Lanka, Mr.

Dinesh Gunawardena made an official visit to India from 08-10 January 2020. This was the first overseas visit of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister after assuming charge in November 2019.

The visit of Foreign Minister Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena is in continuation of and as a follow up to the recent visit of President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to India in November 2019.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar hosted the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka for delegation level talks on 09 January 2020. During the visit, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister also met our Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey, and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

2

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND ASIA-PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

The year 2019 witnessed frequent interactions at the highest level as Prime Ministers (PM) of both countries held bilateral meetings twice during the year on 29 June 2019 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka and on 4 November 2019 on the margins of East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok. Australia joined India-led initiative Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructures (CDRI) as a founding member. It also supported India's Indo-Pacific Oceans initiative (IPOI). Australia also co-sponsored UNSC resolution in April 2019 to list Azhar Masood as a terrorist.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S Jaishankar met his Australian counterpart Senator Marise Payne four

times for bilateral meetings during the period- on 10 July 2019 on the sidelines of Commonwealth Foreign Ministerial Meeting in London; on 2 August 2019 on the sidelines of ASEAN related meetings in Bangkok; on 26 September 2019 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York and 23 November 2019 on the sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers meeting in Nagoya, Japan. Australia's Foreign Secretary Ms. Frances Adamson and Defence Secretary Greg Moriarty visited New Delhi for the 3rd 2+2 Foreign and Defence Secretaries (2+2) Dialogue on 9 December 2019.

MOS(Home) Shri G. Kishan Reddy visited Melbourne on 7-8 November 2019 for attending 'No Money for

Terror Ministerial Conference'. MOS also held bilateral meeting with Australia's Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton. Australia's Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matt Canavan visited India on 26-29 August 2019 where he met with his Ministerial counterparts and resource industry leaders. Australia's Education Minister Den Tehan led a delegation from education sector to India from 19 - 21 November, 2019 and held a meeting with Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. He co-chaired 5th Australia-India Education Council meeting along with his Indian counterpart in New Delhi.

The other important bilateral meetings during 2019 include India-Australia Bilateral Maritime Dialogue in New Delhi on 19 November 2019; India - Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue in New Delhi on 19 November 2019; Bilateral Cyber Policy Dialogue in New Delhi on 4 September 2019, India-Australia Dialogue on Indo-Pacific in New Delhi on 13 August 2019, Joint Working Group(JWG) Meeting on Counter Terrorism in Canberra on 2 May 2019; India - Australia Joint Committee Meeting on Civil Nuclear Cooperation in Mumbai on 30 April 2019; and JWG on Tourism in Sydney on 15 April 2019.

Trade and investment continued to grow. The first Treasury-NITI Aayog Economic Policy Dialogue was held in Australia in April 2019. In response to Australia's India Economic Strategy, Government of India (GOI) has tasked CII to prepare a mirror strategy to take advantage of complementarities between both the economies which would be finalized soon.

Defence engagement between both the countries grew in intensity. Admiral Karamvir Singh, Chief of Naval Staff visited Australia from 2-4 September 2019 for bilateral talks. The 3rd iteration of AUSINDEX,

major biennial bilateral Naval exercise between both countries was conducted in the Bay of Bengal near Visakhapatnam in April 2019. Bilateral Special Forces Exercise AUSTRAHIND was held in Australia in September 2019. Indian Army, Navy and Air Force conducted regular annual bilateral services to services staff talk with their Australian counterparts. Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaurya visited Darwin in November 2019.

Indian community in Australia continues to grow in size and importance, with the population of nearly seven lakh (2.8 % of the population). India emerged as the top source of skilled immigrants to Australia. The number of Indian students continue to grow with approximately 90,000 students presently studying in Australian universities.

Foreign Minister Senator Marise Payne visited India on 15-16 January 2020, during which she participated in the Raisina Dialogue -2020 and HAD bilateral meetings with Hon'ble EAM and Hon'ble NSA. other anticipated visits are :

(ii) Visit of Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Mr. Simon Birmingham in February 2020 (24-28 February) for attending Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC). Minister Birmingham is also expected to lead a business delegation to India during his visit in February, as the part of Australia-India Business Exchange, which Austrade is coordinating.

(iii) Senator Matt Canavan, Minister for Resources and Northern Australia is expected to visit India in March 2020. This visit would be a follow up visit to Senator Canavan's earlier visit to India on 26-29 August 2019 where he met with his Ministerial counterparts and resource industry leaders.

BRUNEI

India has been engaging closely with countries in the South East Asia region. Brunei is a key partner of India under its 'Act East Policy' and ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific. India's relations with Brunei Darussalam remained warm and were strengthened through high level exchanges. EAM met Dato Erywan, Brunei Minister of Foreign Affairs II on the sidelines of 74th UNGA Session in New York in September 2019 and discussed issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Consent of Government of Brunei was conveyed in October 2019 to ISRO's proposal for relocation of its Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand Centre (TTC) to a bigger site in Brunei, and for commencement of construction work for the Centre.

The whole gamut of bilateral relations was discussed during Secretary level Foreign Office Consultations (7th) between India and Brunei at New Delhi on 24 June 2019 led by Secretary (East) Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh and Brunei's Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Mrs. Hajah Dayang Siti Norishan. Both sides agreed to cooperate more closely in sectors of agriculture, health, education, energy,

space and defence. India agreed to share its expertise in agricultural research with Brunei.

Commander, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) visited India on 4-8 August 2019 and held wide ranging discussions with Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force. It was agreed to establish JWG on Defence Cooperation to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation. Participation of two Indian Naval officers in Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) from April 30 to 2 May 2019 further boosted bilateral defence cooperation.

A delegation led by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Kailash Choudhary which included a rice expert visited Brunei to participate in 5th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry on 14-17 October 2019 The Minister met his Brunei counterpart on the sidelines of the meeting and offered Indian assistance to Brunei to promote rice cultivation. A 2-member delegation led by H.E. Emaleen Abd Rahman Teo, Permanent Secretary (ASEAN), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei visited India to participate in Delhi Dialogue XI on 13-14 December 2019.

CAMBODIA

India and Cambodia have close civilization and cultural links from ancient times, which continue even today. While Prime Minister Hun Sen's visit to India in January 2018 and follow up visits at high level provided the necessary impetus, during 2019, both countries demonstrated keenness to further expand and deepen their bilateral relationship through exchange of official and business delegations. Development cooperation, Human resource development and capacity building activities continued to be the focus of bilateral cooperation.

After a gap of 8 years, the 2nd India-Cambodia Foreign

Office Consultations (FOC) were held in New Delhi on 3 July 2019, which was co-chaired by Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) and Mrs. Eat Sophea, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia and reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral relations.

Development cooperation with Cambodia constitutes a growing dimension of the close and multi-faceted ties between the two countries. India continued its assistance to Cambodia in the fields of water resource development, restoration and conservation of temples and capacity building. For providing safe drinking

water to Cambodian people living in rural areas, under GOI's Grant-in-Aid programme, WAPCOS had already installed 1,190 Afridev Hand Pumps in Kampong Cham Province and ground-breaking ceremony for installation of the remaining 310 Hand Pumps in Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia was held on 4th December 2019. Since its inception in 2015, 15 Quick Impact Projects (QIP) have been implemented in the areas of health, education, agriculture, women empowerment, sanitation, environment & skill development, etc. Given the overwhelming interest shown by the line Ministries, the number of QIP projects has since been increased to 10 from the earlier limit of 5 projects per year. During 2019-20, 10 QIP projects are currently under implementation.

After completing the first two phases of restoration project of Ta Prohm Temple successfully, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is currently undertaking the 3rd phase at a cost of US\$ 4.5 million. India, as Co-Chair of prestigious International Coordination Committee of Preah Vihear (ICC), conveyed its willingness to carry out restoration and conservation work at Preah Vihear, the oldest Shiva Temple and the work is expected to start in 2019-20.

Provision of training programmes for Cambodian officers under ITEC progressed smoothly. Till date, more than 1750 Cambodian nationals benefited from

ITEC programmes since its launch in Cambodia in 1981. Tailor-made courses as per the requirements of the Cambodian Government led to GOI, sending ITEC experts to train Cambodian nationals.

Defence cooperation continued with conduct of annual training capsules for Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. A grant of US\$ 1.5 million for procurement of demining equipment announced during RM's visit in June 2018 is under active consideration of the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Members of Cambodian Defence forces also continued to receive training in Indian Defence establishments under ITEC scholarships. As part of India Navy's goodwill visits to the Southeast Asia region, two Indian Naval Ships, INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan visited Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia on a 5-day goodwill visit from 5-9 September 2019, which included joint maritime exercises and sports related activities with Royal Cambodian Navy.

Cultural relations flourished during this period with the MoU on establishment of ICCR's Chair in Buddhist and Sanskrit Studies at PSRB University, Phnom Penh extended for another three years period till 2021-22. Bilateral trade continued to grow. Trade delegations from both countries visited India and Cambodia. Under FIEO banner, 27 Indian companies participated in CAMBUILD on 18th September 2019 for first time in Phnom Penh.

INDONESIA

PM and President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo met twice during the year – on the sidelines of G20 Summit in Osaka in July 2019 and ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in November 2019, building on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between the two countries. EAM paid an official visit to Indonesia on 5 September 2019. During the visit, EAM held meetings with senior leadership of Indonesian Government including delegation level talks with Foreign Minister Ms. Retno Marsudi.

The 6th JCM co-chaired by Foreign Ministers of both countries was held on 13 December 2019 in New Delhi. The Joint Task Force (JTF) set up for strengthening physical, economic and people to people connectivity between Andaman Nicobar and Aceh province of Indonesia, and to develop port related infrastructure in Sabang, held its first meeting on 7 December 2019 in Banda Aceh.

Under defence cooperation, there were regular

engagements at the operational level between the three services. The 2nd Joint Naval Exercise (November 2019), 3rd Air Force to Air Force Talks (October 2019), 8th Army to Army Staff Talks (August 2019) and the 10th Navy to Navy Staff Talks (August 2019) were held during the year. The 3rd India-Australia-Indonesia (IAI) Senior Officials' Strategic Dialogue (DG level) was held on 19 November 2019 in New Delhi.

Indonesia remains one of India's largest trading partners in the ASEAN region in 2018-19 with total trade of US\$ 21.21 billion. In order to meet the trade target of USD 50 billion by 2025, several efforts were made for expanding the trade basket between India and Indonesia, with special focus on market access for Indian agricultural commodities in India. As announced during the PM visit in 2018, Representative office of CII in Jakarta was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister on 5 September 2019 to facilitate bilateral investments.

Exchanges under various bilateral dialogue mechanisms took place during the course of the year. 1st India-Indonesia Consular Dialogue was held in Indonesia in July 2019, which was co-chaired by Secretary (CPV & OIA) Shri Sanjay Arora. Discussions covered wide ranging issues pertaining to consular, immigration, visas and related issues of mutual interest. The 2nd Policy Planning Dialogue took place in Jakarta on 11 July 2019. Both sides explored convergences on global issues, with special focus on Indo-Pacific region.

Parliamentary relations with Indonesia were further strengthened with the visit of a 10-member Parliamentary Delegation of Commission-I (Law, Politics and Government) of the House of Representatives of Aceh Province, Indonesia visited India from 14-20 July 2019. Dr. Agus Hermanto, Deputy Speaker of National House of Representative for Industry and Development also visited India on 19-23 August 2019. Shri Ashok Malik, Policy Advisor, MEA represented India at the

12th Bali Democracy Forum held on 5-6th December 2019 in Bali.

India and Indonesia have robust cooperation in the area of capacity building and human resource development. A delegation of Village Heads from all across Indonesia attended a 2-week International training cum exposure visit on Rural Development initiatives at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

India and Indonesia commemorated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations with year-long celebrations in both countries. As agreed during the PM's visit in May 2018, Department of Posts of Government of Indonesia released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of 'Ramayana' to mark the event. Indian Embassy, Jakarta in association with PT POS Indonesia issued a special commemorative cover on Mahatma Gandhi which was released by EAM on 5 September 2019, during his visit to Jakarta. Bust of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated at Sari Mutiara Indonesia University, Medan.

"The 6th bilateral Joint Commission Meeting co-chaired by Dr. S. Jaishankar, EAM and Ms Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia was held on 13 December 2019 in New Delhi. During the meeting, both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthen ties in the areas of defence, security, connectivity, trade and investment and people-to-people exchanges and emphasised the need to hold regular meetings of existing bilateral institutional mechanisms, including in areas of trade, energy, defence, security and counter-terrorism.

During her visit, Foreign Minister of Indonesia also delivered the keynote address at the Delhi Dialogue XI on 13 December 2019. In her keynote address she called for greater synergy between India & Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific for peace, prosperity & stability of this region."

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Relations with Lao PDR, a key partner of India in India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' Policies were further strengthened. Under an MoU signed with Lao Ministry of Information and Culture in 2007, a Team from ASI is assisting in the restoration of UNESCO World Heritage Site at Vat Phou, an ancient Khmer Shiva Temple in two phases (2009-17) and (2018-28). Phase-I of the project was completed in 2017. Phase-II has commenced in 2018.

India continued to assist in the development of Lao PDR's infrastructure through grants and Lines of Credit and its human resources through capacity building programmes under ITEC, ICCR and MGC Programmes as well as under ASEAN-India Framework. A LOC Project for conversion of diesel pumps and upgradation of electric pumps for irrigation was completed and handed over to the Lao Government in August 2019. Training programmes to Lao officials under ITEC programme, and fully funded scholarships to Lao

students for undergraduate and postgraduate courses continued. An expert from Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has been deputed for 6 months for training Lao youth in IT skills at the India funded Laos-India Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT) of the Institute of Information and Communication Technology in Laos. An MoU was signed between Foreign Service of India (FSI) and Institute of Foreign Affairs (FAI) of Laos for organizing courses for capacity building for Lao officials in the field of foreign affairs.

Dr. Bounkong Syhavong, Minister of Public Health led a delegation from Lao PDR for participation in the GAVI Board Meeting in India from 02-05 December 2019. Mr. Somchith Inthamith, Dy. Minister, Ministry of Industry and Commerce led a delegation from Lao PDR for participation in Delhi Dialogue from 13-14 December 2019.

MALAYSIA

India shares strong ties of friendship, based on shared history and vibrant cultural and people to people linkages with Malaysia, which is India's third largest trading partner in ASEAN. Malaysia has emerged as the 13th largest trading partner for India globally while India now figures among the ten largest trading partners for Malaysia. This robust bilateral relationship covers a wide gamut of mutually beneficial areas, maintained by regular exchanges and engagements at political/official levels.

The political engagement at the highest levels continued during this period with PM meeting his Malaysian counterpart Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad on the side-lines of Eastern Economic Summit Forum in Vladivostok, Russia on 5 September 2019. EAM

met Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah on the side-lines of Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting in Azerbaijan on 23 October 2019. Other important visits included that of Malaysian Human Resource Minister Mr. M. Kulasegaran who visited India thrice including to Tamil Nadu (on 16-22 May 2019); Bengaluru (21- 24 September 2019) and Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai (22-27 November 2019). Minister in Prime Minister's Department (National Unity and Social Well-being), Mr. P. Waytha Moorthy visited India in August 2019 during which he called on EAM and conveyed greetings from the Malaysian PM to our PM on the latter's victory in the May General elections in India. Minister of Primary Industries Ms. Teresa Kok during her visit to India in August 2019

to promote Malaysian palm oil and rubber, met the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal. She also visited Mumbai from 25-27 September 2019 to attend Globoil 2019 Conference.

Sultan Sallehuddin Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Sultan of Kedah visited India from 13-19 November 2019. Besides travelling to Mumbai, he also visited his alma mater-Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun on 18-19 November 2019. The Sultan had undergone training at IMA from July 1962 to June 1963 before assuming his appointment as Lieutenant in the Royal Malay Regiment. Defence Cooperation included regular exchanges and visits of Indian Naval ships. Indian Coast Guard Ship VIJIT and INS SAGARDHWANI made port calls at Port Klang from 9-13 April 2019 and 9-13 August 2019 respectively. INS Savitri did an Operational Turn Around at Port Klang from 19-21 August 2019. Indian Naval Ships, INS SAHYADRI and INS KILTAN participated in the 2nd edition of joint naval exercise SAMUDRA LAKSAMANA 2019, at Kota Kinabalu from 12-16 September 2019. Indian delegation led by Maj Gen Ravin Khosla, SM, VSM attended the 7th Army-to-Army Staff Talks in Kuala Lumpur from 18-20 September 2019. Vice Admiral Datuk Khairul Anuar Bin Yahya, Deputy Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy attended the Goa Maritime Conclave from 3-5 October 2019. 22 officers from

Higher Defence Management Course (HDMC-15) visited Malaysia from 21-25 October 2019 as part of their Foreign Study Tour. Two rounds of planning conference for the ADMM plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian & Disaster Relief were held in April and July 2019. Indian delegation, led by JS (Army), attended final conference in October 2019 at Kuching.

Malaysia India Business Council (MIBC) and ASEAN India Business Council (AIBC) led a 30-member strong business delegation, from wide range of industries, to North-Eastern states of Assam and Manipur from 6-10 November 2019 to explore trade and investment opportunities. 55 Malaysian-Indian students were awarded scholarships worth RM 3,00,000 for 2019-20 in December 2019 under the Indian Scholarship and Trust Fund (ISTF).

Visit of Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Hon'ble MP(Lok Sabha) and Smt. Sampatiya Uike, Hon'ble MP(Rajya Sabha) to Malaysia for Inter-Parliamentary Union workshop from 30 September-3 October 2019. Visit of Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia. Mr. Mohamed Hanipa Maidin, to India from 20 to 24 December 2019. Visit of Malaysian Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Muhammad Bakhtiar bin Wan Chik to India from 07 to 10 January 2020.

NEW ZEALAND

The friendly and warm relations between India and New Zealand were reaffirmed during the year through regular high-level dialogue and contacts. On 25 September 2019, PM had a bilateral meeting with PM Ms. Jacinda Ardern on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA), during which PM Ardern informed PM Modi that New Zealand has commissioned an India strategy paper titled "India 2022 - Investing in the Relationship" to chart out the course of New Zealand's

approach towards its relationship with India over coming years. On 24 September 2019, at the invitation of PM Modi, PM Ardern became one of the six world leaders to participate in special event held in New York to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

New Zealand Leader of Opposition Simon Bridges visited India from 30 August to 5 September 2019 and met EAM, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment,

Minister for Jal Shakti and MOS for Commerce & Industry. On 1 August 2019, EAM met Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Mr. Winston Peters in Bangkok on the sidelines of ASEAN-related meetings. DPM Winston Peters, accompanied by Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker, has accepted to visit India on 26-28 February 2020. NZ Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth and Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor visited India from 5-7 November 2019 and met Minister of Commerce & Industry, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, MOS Health and Family Welfare and MOS for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. A 4-member delegation from South and SouthEast Asia Parliamentary Friendship Group visited New Delhi and Mumbai on 20-26 November 2019 and met MOS for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Chief Election Commissioner.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh visited New Zealand on 5-7 September. Later, on 17 November 2019, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and NZ Defence Minister Ron Mark met in Bangkok

on the sidelines of ADMM-Plus and discussed the full spectrum of bilateral defence ties. Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) led a delegation to New Zealand from 9-11 April 2019 for Track-II dialogue with Asia New Zealand Foundation. Four groups of senior civil servants visited New Zealand for short term training programmes conducted by Victoria University of Wellington on leadership, e-governance and organizational behavior.

Bilateral trade continued to see double digit growth and amounted to NZ\$ 2.31 bn (January-September 2019) as compared to NZ\$ 2.68 billion during 2018 as per data of Statistics New Zealand. Indian IT giant HCL opened its delivery centre in Hamilton in August 2019. India New Zealand Business Council, in association with FICCI held the 6th edition of Annual Business Summit with the theme 'India Unplugged: Trade, Collaborate, Grow' on 14 October in Auckland. The 7th round of India-New Zealand Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 28 November 2019.

People to people linkages with a large Indian diaspora in NZ, continued to underpin strong relations between the two countries. As per the recently declared census



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, New York, 25 September 2019

result, Indians now number more than 2,31,000, contributing to 4.7% of the NZ population. Hindi is the fifth most commonly spoken language in New Zealand. All major Indian festivals and events were widely celebrated in which Cabinet Ministers, MPs Mayors and other senior leaders participated enthusiastically. The Auckland Diwali Festival was inaugurated by PM Ardern on 12 October 2019. MP Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, MP Dr. Parmjeet Parmar and Mr. Bhav Dhillon, Hon Consul of India in Auckland were among 381 people honoured by the Government of Punjab to commemorate the 550th Parkash Purb Celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev ji on 10 November 2019. With a view to enhance cultural exchanges, the Ministry of Culture

has included New Zealand for holding a Festival of India during the year 2020. A 4-member Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Greg O'Connor visited India from 20-26 November 2019 and interacted with MOS (External Affairs) Shri V Muraleedharan and Chairperson of Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs Shri PP Chaudhary and Chief Election Commissioner Shri Sunil Arora on 25 November 2019. MoS for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan is scheduled to visit Auckland and Wellington from 26-28 Jan 2019 during which he is likely to meet DPM & FM Mr. Winston Peters, Trade Minister David Parker, Minister for Ethnic Communities Ms. Jenny Salesa among others.

PHILIPPINES

The year 2019 was an important landmark in India-Philippines bilateral relations as it marked 70 years of diplomatic relations between both countries. The major highlight of our bilateral engagement was the State visit of Rashtrapati Shri Ram Nath Kovind to the Philippines from 17-21 October 2019 and delegation level talks with President Duterte on issues such as defence and maritime cooperation, counter terrorism, joint exploration of historical and pre-colonial linkages, cooperation in pharma sector and air connectivity. Four agreements: MoU on sharing of White Shipping Information, MoU on Tourism Cooperation, Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP), Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology (S&T) were concluded during President's visit.

The mainstay of bilateral defence cooperation continues to be capacity building and training, exchange of visits of delegations and naval and coast guard ship visits. In this regard, two Indian Naval Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan visited Philippines from 23-26 October 2019. Bilateral trade continued to be steady at US\$

2.32 billion in 2018-19. India's exports increased by 3%. Trade balance continues to be in India's favour with major exports being in Vehicles, Machinery, Pharma, frozen buffalo meat.

The largest ever business event by India in the Philippines was organized during the State visit of President of India. Philippines-India Business Conclave and 4th ASEAN-India Business Summit on 19 October 2019 attracted 34 Indian companies from FICCI, CII and ASOCHAM and over 300 representatives of local companies. It covered Fintech, Start-ups and Innovation, Pharma and Agro. Four Business MoUs were signed during the event. The 2nd ASEAN India Innotech Summit and Grassroots Innovation Forum was held from 20-22 November, 2019 at Davao City. All ASEAN countries and a large contingent of Indian grass-root innovators and young innovators participated in the event. President of India unveiled the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Centre for Peace Education in Miriam College during the State Visit.

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES (PIC)

(FIJI, COOK ISLAND, KIRIBATI, NAURU, TONGA, VANUATU, TUVALU, SOLOMON ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, MARSHALL ISLAND, SAMOA, NIUE, PALAU, MICRONESIA)

Guided by the spirit of solidarity and South-South- Cooperation, India has for long partnered in development efforts of PICs by sharing its experience and expertise. This special relationship has deepened in recent years as we see the evolution of 'Act East Policy', resulting in setting up of action-oriented Forum for Indi-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIIC). The two summits of FIPIIC were held in November 2014 in Fiji and August 2015 in Jaipur, during which PM clearly articulated commonalities of challenges faced by PICs and India and articulated for India's wish to engage with PICs to address these through Annual Grant-in-Aid, capacity, human resource building under ITEC Program. Annual grant in aid provided by India to all PICs has been increased from US\$ 125000 to US\$ 200000 since 2015.

At multilateral level, India is partnering with international agencies to deliver projects in the region through India-UN Development Partnership Fund

established in 2017. International Solar Alliance (ISA) also compliments our relationship with PICs which are extremely vulnerable to climate change effects. Delegations led by Hon. Jone Usamate, Minister of Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management & Meteorological Services (Fiji), Hon. Ruateki Tekaiara, Minister for Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (Kiribati), Hon. Rennier Gadabu M.P., Minister of Climate Change, Infrastructure Development and Commerce, Industry and Environment (Nauru), Hon. Poasi Mataele Tei, Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (Tonga) and Mr. Avafoa Irata, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Energy and Tourism (Tuvalu) attended the 2nd General Assembly of ISA held on 31 October 2019 in New Delhi. Delegation from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu attended the 2nd General Assembly of ISA held on 31 October 2019 in New Delhi. During the first



Group Photo of Foreign Ministers of ASEAN member Nations at ASEAN-India Ministerial meeting in Thailand (August 01, 2019)

ever historic meeting of PM with the leaders of PSIDS on the sidelines of UNGA on 25th September 2019 at New York, our PM announced grant of US\$ 1 million to each member of PSIDS for high impact projects of their choice; concessional Line of Credit (LOC) of US \$150 million to PICs for projects in Solar, Renewable energy and climate change; and that the 3rd Summit of FIPIC will be held in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the first half of 2020.

For relief and restoration work in PNG affected by earthquake in February 2018, India donated US\$ 1 million to PNG Government towards India's humanitarian assistance in July 2019. Another US\$ 1 million was donated to PNG in September 2019 towards relief and restoration efforts in areas affected by Ulawun Volcano in June 2019. The Mahatma Gandhi Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (MG-CEIT), has been established with GOI's financial and technical assistance in University of PNG.

A 4-member Indian delegation, led by Cdr. P.K. Srivastava, Director, Ministry of Earth Sciences, visited PNG from 25-27 July 2019 on a scoping mission to set up Institute for Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Research in Pacific region and network of marine biology research. Electoral Commissioner of PNG Mr. Patilas Gamato and 5 other senior Officers from Electoral Commission of PNG visited India from 2-5 September 2019 to attend Association of World Election Bodies General Assembly in Bangalore and meet Election Commission of India Officials in New Delhi.

A team of officials from PNG Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) visited India from 3-9 November for fact-finding trip to National Small Industries Corporation of India (NSIC). Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Agisa Sekie along with Mr. Tommy Angau, Assistant Director, Asia Branch, Dept of Foreign Affairs and International Trade attended Indian Ocean Conference held in Maldives from 1-5 September, 2019 at India's invitation.

Samoa became the 85th member of ISA by signing and ratifying ISA protocol in December 2019. The project of setting up of Centre for Excellence in Information Technology at the National University of Samoa, Apia is operational with effect from 25 November 2019. In Niue, work is progressing on Setting Centre of Excellence in IT in coordination with CDAC, Pune. The proposal for the second phase of installing 4G network aimed to cover the remaining population is under consideration of the Government.

H.E. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji received Sustainable Development Leadership Award-2019 from 'The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)' in February 2019. EAM met with Mr. Inia Batikoto Seruiratu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security of Fiji on 24 September 2019 on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UNGA in New York and discussed bilateral cooperation. 42 participants have been selected in 54-59 schedules of Know India Programme (KIP) during 2019-20. In Palau, India is upgrading the community health centres and is installing solar energy to power the President's Office in Palau. Recently Palau has signed the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 15th July 2019 becoming the 76th member of ISA.

Fijian Minister of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment, Dr. Mahendra Reddy visited India to attend UN Convention to Combat Desertification held on 9-10 September 2019. During his visit he also had fruitful bilateral discussions with Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister, Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation on 11 September 2019.

Mrs. Veena Bhatnagar, Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Fiji visited India (Ayodhya) for Deepotsav 2019 on 26 October 2019. Mrs. Bhatnagar was invited as the Chief Guest on the occasion by the Government

of State of Uttar Pradesh. Mrs. Bhatnagar also visited Delhi and met with Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and also visited Parliament of India.

The first Regional Hindi Conference is scheduled to be held on 25 January 2020 in Suva. Shri, V. Muraleedharan, Hon. Minister of State for External Affairs, is due to visit Fiji on 25-26 January 2020 to attend this Conference. Hindi scholars from India, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand are expected to participate in the Conference which will be a Curtain Raiser event for the World Hindi

Conference which is also due to be held in Fiji in 2020.

Mahatma Gandhi-Centre of Excellence in IT: Shri V. Muraleedharan, MOS External Affairs is scheduled to inaugurate Mahatma Gandhi-Centre of Excellence in IT in Fiji National University in early 2020.

A visit of ISRO team to visit Papua New Guinea in January 2020 is proposed.

Government of Solomon Islands confirmed its support to India's candidature to UNSC Non-Permanent Seat for the 2021-2022 term.

THAILAND

Thailand is the Chair of the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during 2019 and India's Country Coordinator for India-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership for three years from 2018-21. Bilateral relations were characterized by intensive engagements including several high-level exchanges in 2019, including 8th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Thailand co-chaired by Foreign Ministers of the two countries on 10 October 2019 at New Delhi; 12th JWG on Security Cooperation held on 2 December 2019 at New Delhi; 3rd India-Thailand Army-to-Army Staff Talks held from 23-25 July 2019 at New Delhi; and 10th Indian Air Force- Royal Thai Air Force Staff Talks held from 23-25 July 2019 in Thailand.

PM, accompanied by EAM and Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Railways & Commerce and Industries, visited Thailand from 2-4 November 2019 to participate in 16th India-ASEAN Summit, 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) and 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit. PM held bilateral meetings with Prime Ministers of Thailand, General (Rtd.) Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Ministers of Vietnam and Australia, President of Indonesia and pull aside meetings with PM of Singapore. PM addressed a community event

"Sawasdee PM Modi" on 2 November 2019 at which over 5,000 persons participated and also released a special commemorative coin to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji and Thai translation of Tamil work "Thirukkural".

EAM visited Thailand from 1-3 August 2019 to attend the India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, 10th MGC Ministerial Meeting, 9th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and 26th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). On the margins of these meetings, EAM held bilateral meetings with Foreign Minister of Thailand Mr. Don Pramudwinai and Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Timor Leste, Vietnam and Secretary General of ASEAN.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry and Railways attended 16th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) - India Consultations, 7th EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting and 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting from 7-10 September 2019 in Bangkok. On the sidelines of these meetings, he held bilateral meetings with Economic Ministers of Thailand, Japan, China, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States of America. He also visited Thailand

from 11-12 October 2019 to participate in the 9th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Thailand from 16-18 November 2019 to attend ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and opening ceremony of Defence & Security 2019 Exhibition. On the sidelines, he held bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of Thailand, Australia and New Zealand.

Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy, visited Thailand from 16- 29 April 2019. Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa Chairman COSC & Chief of the Air Staff, visited Thailand from 26-29 August 2019 to attend Chief of Defence Conference. Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy conducted CORPAT-28 Exercise off Port Blair coast from 5-15 September 2019. The maiden India-Thailand-Singapore Trilateral Maritime exercise was successfully conducted at Port Blair from 16-20 September 2019. The Indian Army- Royal Thai Army Joint Exercise Maitree 2019 was held from 16- 29 September 2019 in Meghalaya, India.

An MoU between Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi and Devawongse Vorapakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs of Thailand was signed during the JCM in October 2019 and three MoUs were signed between Ranong Port and Indian ports of Visakhapatnam, Chennai and

Kolkata during the BIMSTEC Ports Conclave held from 7-9 November 2019 in Visakhapatnam, India.

Embassy in association with North Eastern States of India will organize the 2nd edition of North East India Festival from 21-23 February 2020 in Bangkok. The festival is expected to promote connectivity, tourism, trade and people-to-people exchanges between the North East region of India and Thailand and South-East Asia region. Chief Ministers of some North Eastern States of India are expected to attend the festival.

Cobra Gold Exercise 2020, co-hosted by US and Thailand is scheduled in Thailand from 03 February - 06 March 2020. India will be participating in the Exercise as Observer Plus Category. The 29th cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT exercise is scheduled during 12-20 February 2020.

The 7th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) will be held from March 25-27, 2020 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok. The APFSD is an inclusive intergovernmental forum and a regional platform for supporting countries, in particular those with special needs, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme of 7th APFSD is "Accelerating action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific".

TIMOR-LESTE

India's relationship with Timor-Leste deepened further. Two projects were implemented by India in 2019. First one was Information Technology Innovation Lab Project in Oê-Cusse region of Timor-Leste, funded by India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which aims at enhancing IT literacy in schools, with coverage of 12 schools, both through IT innovation labs and mobile IT innovation vans. The second project, Sustainable Agriculture & Permaculture Learning Centre established

in Aaturo Island in Timor-Leste is funded by IBSA Fund would enhance productivity in agricultural, horticultural and fisheries sector through the Permaculture Centre serving as a learning centre for sustainable agriculture and natural resources conservation.

EAM met with Timor-Leste Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Dionisio da Costa Babo Soares in Bangkok on the sidelines of EAS Summit on 2 August 2019 and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. A high-

level delegation led by Mr Joaquim Jose Gusmao dos Reis Martins, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste took part in 4th Our Ocean Conference held by India Foundation in Maldives on 3-4 September 2019.

Mr Xanana Gusmao, Chief Negotiator of Maritime Boundaries and Special Representative of Timor-

Leste, led a delegation to New Delhi on 12-13 November, 2019 and had detailed discussions with Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources, seeking investments in oil and gas sector of Timor-Leste, with particular reference to the Greater Sunrise Project.

SINGAPORE

There was broad-based progress in the India-Singapore strategic partnership in 2019-20. Our PM and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Osaka (June 2019) and on the sidelines of ASEAN/ EAS meetings in Bangkok (November 2019). PM Lee was one of the six world leaders invited to speak at a special event at the United Nations, New York on 24 September 2019 to celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

EAM, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh; and, MoS (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Civil Aviation and MoS, Commerce & Industry Shri Hardeep Singh Puri visited Singapore in 2019. EAM co-chaired the 6th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) with Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan on 9 September 2019. Raksha Mantri co-chaired the annual Defence Ministers' Dialogue with Defence Minister Dr. Ng Eng Hen on 20 November 2019. Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, visited Singapore in August 2019. Senior officials visiting Singapore included Dy National Security Advisor Rajendra Khanna for the Security Dialogue and Defence Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar for the Defence Policy Dialogue.

From Singapore, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Finance Minister Mr. Heng Swee Keat paid his first visit as DPM in October 2019. During the visit, DPM Heng met PM Modi, several cabinet ministers and co-chaired

the World Economic Forum (WEF) India Economic Summit (IES). In addition, other high-level visits included Minister for Communications and Information & Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations, S. Iswaran who visited in June and October; Minister of Home Affairs and Law Mr. K Shanmugam and Education Minister Mr. Ong Ye Kung visited India in August and September 2019.

The India-Singapore Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue took place in Delhi in July 2019. Defence engagement was marked by annual Defence Ministers' Dialogue; Secretary-level Defence Policy Dialogue; Air Force, Army and Navy staff talks; Defence Technology Steering Committee and Defence Industry Working Group meetings; and, annual meeting of Heads of Military Intelligence Agencies. Both sides maintained their annual schedule of exercises-Singapore annual Army's Armour and Artillery exercises in India; the 26th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), held in Singapore this year; 10th edition of the Air Force Joint Military Training, which enables Singapore Air Force to exercise and conduct live firing in India. This year's edition included for the first time a naval component as well. India participated in the 12th International Maritime Defence Exhibition Asia 2019 (IMDEX Asia-2019) in May 2019 in Singapore. Indian Naval Ship Sagardhwani visited Singapore in August 2019 to promote scientific collaboration between Indian agencies including DRDO and Singaporean

agencies. Inaugural Trilateral Maritime Exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand (SITMEX) was held from 16-19 September 2019 in Andaman sea. During Defence Ministers Dialogue, India conveyed its readiness to allow Singapore to conduct missile test firing at Chandipur Integrated Test Range.

Bilateral trade in FY 2019-20 (till October 2019) was US\$14.8 billion with exports to Singapore constituting US\$ 6 billion, recording a growth of 0.4 % while imports stood at US\$8.7 billion, a decline of 6.4%. In 2018-19, FDI inflows from Singapore amounted to USD 16.23 billion out of total FDI receipts in India of USD 44.37 billion. The outward Indian FDI to Singapore was US\$ 66.93 billion (April 2000 - October 2019) out of which about US\$ 2 billion in FY 2019-20 till October 2019, making Singapore one of the top destinations for Indian investments.

Vistara- a Joint Venture between Singapore Airlines and Tata Group - launched their first ever international flights from Singapore to Delhi and Mumbai in August 2019, while GoAir started their services from Bengaluru and Kolkata to Singapore in October 2019. Cooperation in the areas of technology, innovation, fintech and startups have grown. In 2019. A Pilot demo of BHIM UPI QR based payments was launched in Singapore on 13 November during 2019 Fintech Festival. Commercial and technical arrangements have also been worked out for acceptance of RuPay domestic card in Singapore, in addition to the RuPay International Card, launched in June 2018. Under the JWG on Fintech, two sides are making progress on a Global Stack, based on India Stack, and developing an international MSME digital platform, Business Sans Border.

Mission in Singapore organized region's first international business & innovation summit on India in Government's second term on 9-10 September 2019, "India- Singapore: The Next Phase." The event drew over 4500 registered participants. The Ministerial

Plenaries featured EAM, MoS (I/C) Shri Puri, Senior Minister Teo Chee Hean and Foreign Minister of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. The 3rd edition of our Mission's startup engagement platform, "India-Singapore Entrepreneurship Bridge (InSprenur)" was held along with Business & Innovation Summit on innovation themes and exhibition of 85 startups from India and Singapore. 120 university students from India and Singapore participated in the second Joint Hackathon held in Chennai in September 2019. Singapore's Education Minister Mr. Ong Ye Kung visited India to participate in the awards ceremony presided over by PM Modi.

Central and State Governments as well as Government organisations are working with Singapore to establish skill development centres in various sectors. North East Skill Centre was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Assam in Guwahati in March 2019.

In Jan 2020, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies visited India where he called on PM, met senior ministers and delivered a lecture in Mumbai at the invitation of RBI.

An IAF Delegation Headed by Chief of Air Staff visited & Sarang Helicopter Display Team participated in the Singapore Air Show in February 2020. A high level delegation from Singapore Armed Forces participated in the DefExpo 2020 at Lucknow in February 2020.

Bilateral trade in FY 2019-20 (till November 2019) was USD16.3 billion with exports to Singapore constituting USD 6.6 billion while imports stood at USD9.7 billion. In the fiscal 2019-20, total inflow until September 2019 was USD 8.01 billion while Cumulative FDI from Singapore into India (April 2000- September 2019) is USD 91.02 billion, accounting for 20% of total inflows into India. The outward Indian FDI to Singapore was US\$ 67.14 billion (January 2008 - December 2019) out of which about US\$ 1.72 billion in FY 2019-20 till November 2019,

VIETNAM

Following its 'Act East Policy', India has enhanced its engagement with Vietnam to boost close and friendly relation with Vietnam. The bilateral relationship strengthened through exchange of high-level visits, extensive defence and security cooperation, implementation of development partnership programme, and extending support to Vietnam in its capacity building initiatives under GOI's scholarships.

Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited Vietnam from 9-12 May 2019 as Guest of Honour at the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak celebration held at Tam Chuc Pagoda in Ha Nam Province of Vietnam by Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and International Council of UNDV and delivered his keynote address. Vice President again met his Vietnamese counterpart Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh on 25 October on the sidelines of the 18th NAM summit in Baku. PM met Prime Minister Phuc twice; first in Osaka, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on 28 June 2019; and during 16th India-ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok on 4 November. EAM met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Minh on sidelines of AMM meeting on 01 August 2019 and reviewed the bilateral relations.

Member of Party Central Committee and Secretary of Phu Yen province's Party Committee and Chairman of the People's Council Mr. Huynh Tan Viet visited India from 15-19 October 2019 under Ministry's Distinguished Visitors Programme. He had meetings with MOS for Commerce and Industry and senior officials of the Ministry.

Cooperation in Defence and maritime security is the cornerstone of India's relations with Vietnam. Defence Secretary of India, Dr. Ajay Kumar held the 12th round of India-Vietnam Annual Security Dialogue with the Deputy Defence Minister of Vietnam, Sr. Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh in Ho Chi Minh City on 3 October. High level exchanges between the two-armed forces continued during the year. These included visits by Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army, Senior Lt. Gen Phan Van Giang and, Dy. Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People's Army Ngo Minh Tien in November and December 2019 respectively. Army to Army Staff Talks, Navy to Navy Staff Talks and Air Force Staff Talks were held in Vietnam in 2019. Indian ships made friendly port calls to Vietnam. Three Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri, Kolkata, Shakti undertook goodwill visits to Vietnam in 2019.

On connectivity front, an important milestone was achieved with the launch of direct flight operations by private airlines- Indigo and Vietjet connecting New Delhi and Kolkata with Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. ASI's ongoing 5-year project of conservation and restoration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site at My Son in central Vietnam continued this year also. The Jaipur Foot artificial limb fitment camp was organized in collaboration with Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayta Samiti (BMVSS) in May 2019 in Hanoi and Phu Tho and Vinh Phuc provinces benefitting 500 Vietnamese citizens.

3

EAST ASIA

JAPAN

India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, forged during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Japan in 2014, has witnessed unprecedented transformation in recent years and evolved into one of great substance and purpose and is the cornerstone of India's Act East Policy. Today the bilateral relationship is multifaceted and propelled by growing convergence in political, economic and strategic interests of the two countries.

The bilateral relationship in 2019 continued to be steered by engagements at engagements between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Abe Shinzo, and witnessed progress across wide-ranging sectors of cooperation. Japan's Presidency of G20 in 2019 also presented numerous opportunities throughout the year for having high-level

bilateral engagements with Japan on the margins of the G20 events.

India's close relationship with Japan was reflected by the visit of Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Japan from 21-23 October 2019 to attend the Enthronement Ceremony of the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Naruhito. Apart from attending the ceremonies related to the Emperor's enthronement and a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Abe, Hon'ble President also visited a Tsukiji Hongwanji Buddhist temple and planted a sapling from the sacred Bodhi Tree in Gaya to highlight India and Japan's historical and cultural linkages based on Buddhism.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Japan from 27-29 June 2019 to participate in G20 Summit held in Osaka where he held a bilateral meeting with Prime

Minister Abe on 27 June 2019. The two leaders also held bilateral meetings on the margins of Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok (5 September 2019) and East Asia Summit (4 November 2019) in Bangkok. They also had the opportunity to meet at the G7 Summit in Biarritz (August 2019).

The year also witnessed significant strengthening of bilateral security and defence cooperation with the visit of Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan, Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, and Minister of Defense of Japan Mr. Kono Taro for the inaugural India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in November 2019. Prior to the 2+2 Dialogue, Raksha Mantri (RM) Shri Rajnath Singh visited Japan for the Defence Ministerial meeting on 3 September 2019. RM also held bilateral meetings with Japanese Defence Minister in November 2019 on margins of “ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting+” and ‘2+2’ Dialogue in Bangkok and New Delhi respectively. Regular interactions took place between the three components of the defence forces with staff talks between the three services held at various points in 2019-2020. Former Indian Chief of Army Staff, Shri Bipin Rawat, visited Japan in December 2019 and Mr. Yamazaki Koji, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan Self-Defense Forces, visited India in January 2020 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. Operational engagements between the defence forces continued in 2019 with the conduct of 2nd editions of air and ground exercises, Shinyuu Maitri (October 2019) and Dharma Guardian, were held in October and October-November 2019 respectively. Trilateral naval exercise Malabar 2019 was conducted off Western Kyushu in the Sea of Japan in September 2019. The 19th Indian Coast Guard-Japanese Coast Guard Joint-Exercise was held in January 2020 in Chennai.”

As part of the high-level engagements, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar held the 11th India-Japan Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue in June 2019 on the margins of G20 Osaka Summit. The 12th India-Japan Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue was

also held in November 2019 during the visit of Japanese Foreign Minister to New Delhi for the ‘2+2’ Dialogue. EAM met former Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on sidelines of ASEAN-Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Bangkok in August 2019 and incumbent Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi in New York and Nagoya on margins of United Nations General Assembly (September 2019) and G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (November 2019) respectively.

There were also numerous high-level exchanges throughout the year that sustained the momentum in the bilateral relations. Some notable visits from India to Japan included visit of: Dr. Rajiv Mishra, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, for the 9th Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) of Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) in March 2019, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Piyush Goyal for the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy in June 2019 where he held a bilateral meeting with former METI Minister Hiroshige Seko; visit of Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman for the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in June 2019; visit of Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Raj Kumar Singh in June 2019; visit of MOS (IC) for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Gangwar for G20 Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting in September 2019; visit of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Science, Technology and Earth Science in October 2019 for G20 Health Ministers Meeting; and visit of Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla for the 6th Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit of G20.

Notable visits from Japan to India in the year 2019 included visit of: Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to Prime Minister, for the 10th JCM on MAHSR in July 2019, Mr. Shigeru Kitamura, Secretary General of National Security Secretariat (NSS) of Japan in November 2019; visit of Japan’s Minister for Economy Trade and Industry Mr. Kajiyama Hiroshi where he also

participated in the 10th India-Japan Energy Dialogue.

Some of the other important high-level interactions between the two countries in 2019 were: India-Japan Cyber Dialogue held in Tokyo in February 2019; inaugural India-Japan Space Dialogue held in New Delhi in March 2019; India-Japan Act-East Forum held in New Delhi on 15 May 2019 and 06 December 2019; 11th Joint Working Group Meeting on Urban Development held in Tokyo in October 2019; 3rd Indo-Japan Policy Dialogue on Next Generation / Zero Emission Vehicles held in New Delhi in October 2019; and 5th round of Maritime Affairs Dialogue and 8th round of Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Export Control held in Tokyo in December 2019.

Japan continued to be an important partner for India's economic transformation in 2019. Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Fiscal Year 2018-19 was US\$ 2.96 billion and currently, Japan ranks third among the major investors in terms of cumulative investments since 2000 with presence of 1,441 Japanese companies (as of October 2018) registered in India. Japan is one of the largest bilateral partners in India's efforts for

accelerated economic development particularly in priority areas like power, transportation, environment, and projects related to basic human needs. In 2018-19, Japan committed Japanese Yen 416.458 billion under its Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme in India.

Both India and Japan continued their focus on expanding people-to-people exchanges through cultural, educational, parliamentary, academic, and Track 1.5 engagements in 2019. In March 2019, Rajya Sabha delegation led by Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh visited. A delegation from the House of Representatives, National Diet of Japan, led by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Hiroshi Moriyama, visited India in August 2019 and called on MoS Housing & Urban Affairs (IC) and EAM. High-level delegations from states of Meghalaya, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu visited Japan during the year. Currently, seven Indian states and three cities/regions in India have partnered with the prefectures and cities of Japan to cooperate in diverse sectors.

MONGOLIA

India enjoys warm and cordial ties with Mongolia based on pillars of Dharma, Democracy and Development Partnership. The visit of our Prime Minister marked a watershed moment after which there has been a consistent and steady improvement in our relationship. Mongolian Foreign Minister Mr. D. Tsogtbaatar attended 'Raisina Dialogue' in New Delhi in January, 2019 and exchanged views on bilateral relations with the then External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj. This was followed by the visit of Mr. D. Sumiyabazar, Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry to attend 'Petrotech 2019'. He also held bilateral discussions with our Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in February 2019. This visit also witnessed the signing of

an agreement between Mongol Refinery and Engineers India Ltd for providing consultancy services for USD 1.236 billion Oil Refinery being constructed under EXIM bank LoC. Mr. L. Bold, Member of Parliament and a prominent politician of Mongolia attended 'Mahakumbh' at Prayagraj in February 2019.

President of Mongolia Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga accompanied by Foreign Minister D Tsogtbaatar & Minister of Road & Transport Development Byambasuren Enkhmagan paid a State Visit to India from 19-23 September 2019. Besides meeting Rashtrapatiiji, Vice President and Prime Minister, he also received a courtesy call by our MOS (EA). Four Agreements - Cultural Exchange Protocol (2019-

23), Disaster Management and Risk Reduction, Cooperation and usage of Outer Space for peaceful and civilian purposes and Comprehensive Work Plan for cooperation in the field of Animal Health and Dairy – were also signed during the visit.

In October 2019, Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Mongolia at the invitation of Prime Minister

of Mongolia for joint inauguration of the completed infrastructure works for the Oil Refinery in Shainshand. Besides inspecting the facilities & announcing ITEC scholarship for 10 Mongolian students of Dornogovi province, he also witnessed signing of the additional LoC of US \$ 236 Million for construction of Oil Refinery. The US\$1.236 billion is now the single largest LoC project outside India's immediate neighbourhood.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The momentum of good relationship between India and Republic of Korea (RoK) continued from last year with the State visit of Prime Minister Modi to RoK from 21-22 February 2019, at the invitation of President Moon Jae-in(MJI), barely seven months after the visit of MJI to India. During the visit both sides held wide ranging discussions on defence, economic, culture and science cooperation. In addition to the official programme, PM Modi along with MJI unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, addressed an India-Korea Business symposium, gifted the sacred

Bodhi sapling to Gimhae city and received the Seoul Peace Prize 2019. Six MoUs on areas such as media, start-ups, combating trans-border and international crime, trade facilitation etc. were also signed.

PM Modi met MJI again on the side-lines of G20 summit in Osaka, Japan and discussed ways for expanding cooperation between the countries and improving regional security conditions. In September 2019 MJI gave his remarks in a special event on commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi held during the UNGA in New York.



Prime Minister receives Seoul Peace Prize at 14th Seoul Peace Prize Award Ceremony (February 22, 2019)

Raksha Mantri visited RoK from 03-05 September 2019. He met ROK PM Mr. Lee Nak-yon, and had bilateral talks with Defence Minister Mr Jeong Kyeong-doo, and discussed ways to improve the bilateral relations. Two MoUs were signed on mutual logistic support of the two Navies and on educational exchanges. RM also presided over the India- RoK Defence CEOs Forum.

Governor of Odisha visited RoK and had a bilateral meeting with the Governor of Chungcheongnam province and discussed cooperation in agriculture, aquaculture, food processing, and smart cities. He was also conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Public Administration by Hanseo University.

Chief Minister of Kerala visited RoK where a Kerala investment roadshow was organised for the Korean businessperson to invest in Kerala, especially in food processing, IT, tourism, fisheries and automobile sectors. He also visited Busan port and discussed collaboration in Kerala's vibrant port sector and capacity building. A Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between Kerala Tourism and India Yoga Centre, Busan to promote wellness tourism from Kerala.

RoK Chairman of Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy visited India in October 2019 and met with CEO, NITI Aayog and also interacted with Indian companies.

4

EURASIA

RUSSIA

Continuing with the tradition of annual bilateral summits between India and Russia, Prime Minister visited Vladivostok on 4-5 September 2019 for the 20th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit. He was also the Chief Guest at the 5th Eastern Economic Forum. A joint statement titled “Reaching New Heights of Cooperation through Trust and Partnership” was issued which outlined the entire gamut of India-Russia relations. 14 MoUs in the fields of Trade and Investments, defence cooperation, Road Transport and cooperation in oil and gas sectors were signed during the visit. Prime Minister announced a USD 1 billion Line of Credit for the Russian Far-East Region to promote participation of Indian companies in the economic opportunities in the region.

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Russia (27-28 August

2019), Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser (21 August 2019) and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas (29-30 August 2019) led to significant groundwork for Prime Minister’s bilateral visit to Vladivostok. For exploring business opportunities in the Russian Far East, a 150-strong business delegation accompanied Shri Piyush Goyal, Commerce and Industry Minister and Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Goa to visit Vladivostok from 11-13 August 2019 and met Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev and 11 Governors of the Russian Far East region. The business delegation strengthened bilateral cooperation between regions of Russia and states of India. Raksha Mantri visited Russia on 26-29 November 2019 for co-chairing the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission Meeting on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yury Borisov visited India on 22 July 2019 for the conduct of the inter-session meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission - Technical and Economic Cooperation co-chaired by him along with External Affairs Minister. Mr. Sergei Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation paid a bilateral visit to New Delhi on 15 January 2020 during which he met External Affairs Minister and called on Prime Minister. Foreign Minister Lavrov gave a keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue 2020.

On 12 April 2019, Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin signed the Executive Order on awarding Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Russia's highest state decoration - Order of St Andrew, the Apostle. The order was announced for Prime Minister's distinguished contribution to the development of the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the Russian and Indian people. The ceremony of presentation of award will be held later at a mutually convenient date.

Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District of Russia, Mr. Yury

Trutnev visited India from 17-20 June 2019 to prepare ground for Prime Minister's visit to Vladivostok in early September for the Eastern Economic Forum and to explore bilateral cooperation in Far East in priority areas. He met National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval, Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dr. Rajiv Kumar.

On 11 July 2019, Mr. Dmitry Rogozin, Director General, State Space Cooperation (ROSCOSMOS) visited India and met National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Doval and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization Dr. K. Sivan to discuss bilateral space cooperation including the ongoing cooperation on the Gaganyaan program, India's indigenous Human Space Flight Programme.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yury Borisov visited New Delhi on 22 July 2019, and met Minister of External Affairs to co-chair an inter-session meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission - Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). This was their first meeting as co-chairs of the IRIGC-TEC.



Prime Minister and Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, visit the Zvezda Shipbuilding Plant during his visit to Vladivostok (September 04, 2019)

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Kiran Rijiju led a 32-member youth delegation to Russia from 28 July to 2 August 2019.

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal led a high-power delegation of Chief Ministers of Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Goa with a 140-strong business delegation of Indian companies to Vladivostok from 11-13 August 2019. This visit prepared the ground for Prime Minister's visit to Vladivostok and helped map the priority sectors of interest for the Indian companies in the Russian Far East region. Five MoUs were concluded during the visit between the Indian states and the Russian regions.

National Security Adviser visited Moscow on 21 August 2019 and met the Secretary of the Russian National Security Council Mr. Nikolai Patrushev. He also met Director General of State Space Cooperation (Roscosmos) Mr. Rogozin to review the ongoing cooperation in the field of space.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs visited Moscow on 27-28 August 2019 and met Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov. They exchanged views on

the state and prospects of the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Minister of External Affairs also met the IRIGC Co-chair and Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yury Borisov. He also addressed a session on India's Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific at the Valdai Discussion Club.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel visited Moscow on 29 & 30 August 2019. During the visit, he met Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yury Trutnev and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the energy and metal sectors. He also met the Minister of Energy, Mr. Alexander Novak and discussed energy cooperation between India and Russia. He visited Vladivostok and Sakhalin from 22-25 October 2019 to review opportunities in the oil, gas and steel sectors in the Russian Far East.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister visited Moscow from 5-7 November 2019, for the 19th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission – Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC). During the meeting, issues related to defence equipment, industry and technological engagement, after sales support/up-gradation and joint manufacturing of



Prime Minister and Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, visit the Zvezda Shipbuilding Plant during his visit to Vladivostok (September 04, 2019)

projects were discussed. Shri Rajnath Singh also met Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Yury Borisov in their first meeting as co-chairs of the India-Russia High Level Committee on Science and Technology.

Intensifying the trade and economic relations has been identified as a priority area by the leaders on both sides. In 2018, trade increased by 17.25% over the previous year and stood at USD 10.97 billion. In 2019, total bilateral trade between the two countries from January-September 2019 stood at USD 7.55 billion. As part of various initiatives to reach the bilateral trade target of USD 30 billion by 2025 set by both sides, the Second India-Russia Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 10 July 2019 co-chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and Mr. Timur Maksimov, Deputy Minister of Economy. Russian Minister of Economy Mr. Maxim Oreshkin later

visited New Delhi on 21 August 2019. A Joint Action Strategy Document for the Enhancement of India-Russia Trade, Economic, and Investment Cooperation was signed between the Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Department of Commerce from the Indian side during the 20th Annual Bilateral Summit in Vladivostok in September 2019.

Events marking the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi were celebrated by Embassy of India, Moscow throughout the year. The Embassy in collaboration with the Leo Tolstoy Museum and Estate and the Institute of Oriental Studies organized a day-long Exhibition and Academic Conference dedicated to the historic exchanges between Mahatma Gandhi and Leo Tolstoy, at the Tolstoy Estate in Yasna Polyana on 28 September 2019. A Gandhi-Tolstoy exhibition was also held at the State Duma on 2 October, 2019.

BELARUS

External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Belarus Mr Vladimir Makei met on the sideline of the 74th UNGA in New York on 25 September 2019. Both discussed prospects of enhancing bilateral cooperation including in the fields of Smart Cities and Make in India.

A 3-member delegation headed by Mr. Mahesh Dixit, Joint Director in Ministry of Home Affairs participated in the International Conference on Counter Terrorism held in Minsk on 3-4 September 2019.

Ambassador (Retd.) Sujan Chinoy represented India in his capacity as Director General, Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, at the Minsk Dialogue Forum held in Minsk on 7-8 October 2019.

A 15-member Indian delegation led by CII participated in the Belarusian Industrial and Investment Forum held in Minsk from 17 to 20 September 2019. CII inked an MoU with National Agency of Investment and Privatization. A 16-member CAPEXIL delegation visited Minsk from 25-27 September 2019 for B2B meetings.

Belarusian-Indian Center for demonstrating various technologies is planned to be opened in Hyderabad. The documents to open the Center were signed during the visit of an 8-member delegation from Department of Science & Technology to Belarus from 24-28 September 2019.

On 12 November 2019, Guru Nanak Jayanti celebrations were held by the Indian Embassy in Minsk.

UKRAINE

Following the assumption of office by Mr Volodymyr Zelensky after the Ukrainian Presidential elections

and his party's victory in the Ukrainian parliamentary elections, a congratulatory telephone call took place

between Prime Minister and Mr Zelensky on 1 August 2019. The two leaders briefly discussed various spheres of the ongoing bilateral cooperation including in trade and economy, people-to-people contacts, education and tourism. The two leaders also reaffirmed their readiness to work together for further strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral relations.

External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar met Ukrainian Foreign Minister Mr Vadym Prystaiko on the sidelines of the UNGA Session on 25 September, 2019 and discussed different aspects of bilateral relations, especially prospects in energy and agricultural cooperation.

From 8-13 July, 2019, an ISRO delegation visited Ukraine at the invitation of the State Space Agency of Ukraine, to explore avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation in technology and data sharing. The delegation also met Mr Volodymyr Prisiazhnyi, Chief of the National Space Facilities Control and Test Center (NSFCTC).

A delegation from Bhabha Atomic Research Cooperation (BARC) visited Ukraine from 9-18 September, 2019 for exploring cooperation in bilateral

scientific collaboration under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The 4th Meeting of India-Ukraine Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held on 2 April 2019 in New Delhi. A delegation from CII set up the 'India Pavilion' and participated in the 17th edition of the World Build Kyiv Expo from 14-17 May 2019. A delegation from FICCI participated in the Pharma Tech Expo held in Kyiv from 17-19 September 2019.

On 1 May 2019, Embassy of India, Kyiv participated in the annual Kyiv cycling marathon, in which Ambassador of India Shri Partha Satpathy and Mayor of Kyiv Mr Vitalii Klitschko addressed the audience present on the occasion to spread the message of Mahatma Gandhi. The 19th edition of the 'All Ukrainian Dance Festival of Indian Dances- Rythms of Joy' was held in Odessa on 16-17 November 2019, which saw the participation of over 250 Ukrainian dancers performing Indian dance forms. The First International Congress on Ayurveda and Yoga in Ukraine was organized by the newly formed Ukrainian Association of Ayurveda and Yoga (UAAY) on 23-24 November 2019 in Kyiv.

ARMENIA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Armenian Prime Minister Mr. Nikol Pashinyan met on 25 September 2019 on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York to review the India-Armenia bilateral relations. Mr. Pashinyan invited the Prime Minister to visit Armenia. This was the first meeting between the two leaders.

Mr. Arsen Torosyan, Minister of Health of Armenia visited India from 2-6 December 2019 to participate in

the international GAVI Alliance Board Meeting. On the sidelines, he met Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare and discussed bilateral cooperation in the health sector.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Hay Post (Armenia Post) issued a stamp on Mahatma Gandhi on 23 May 2019.

AZERBAIJAN

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Baku to attend the 18th NAM Summit from 24-26 October 2019. This was the first ever VVIP visit from India since the independence of Azerbaijan. Besides addressing the NAM Summit, the Vice President attended an Indian community reception organized to welcome him.

External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar met Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Mr Elmar Mammadyarov on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UNGA in New York on 28 September 2019. They discussed the possibilities of further developing bilateral cooperation in the spheres of connectivity, culture, energy and other sectors.

Business delegations from India continued their active engagements with their Azerbaijani counterparts. A 28-member joint Multi-Product Business Delegation of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(PHDCCI) visited Baku on 1-2 July 2019. A business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Baku on 21-22 November 2019. Two exclusive Indian product exhibitions were held in Baku in March and September 2019.

The Department of Agricultural Research and Education deputed Dr. V.N. Waghmare, Director of the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, to Azerbaijan from 27 October - 02 November 2019 to explore collaboration with Azerbaijan in cotton cultivation.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 'Azermarka', under the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, commissioned a 70 Gepik commemorative postal stamp on Mahatma Gandhi. Besides, a painting exhibition, cycling and tree-planting events marked the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Azerbaijan.

GEORGIA

India and Georgia have warm and friendly relations. Following the Presidential elections in Georgia, President of India congratulated Ms. Salome Zourabichvili, expressing hope to enhance bilateral relations in all spheres.

In order to make concerted efforts to increase the quantum of bilateral trade between the two sides, India and Georgia agreed in June 2019 to constitute a Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Ambassador of India to Armenia, Shri K. D. Deval, who is concurrently accredited to Georgia, presented his credentials to President Ms Salome Zurabishvili on 6 December 2019.

The 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated by the Embassy of India with the Sikh community at the Gurdwara Dhan Guru Nanak Darbar Sahib in Tsnori, Georgia on 17 November 2019.

KAZAKHSTAN

Cooperation between India and Kazakhstan in all areas continued to strengthen during the year, which

included visits from both sides, cooperation in defence, participation in trade fairs and cultural exchanges.

Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh visited Kazakhstan to attend the 4th meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments held on 23-24 September in Nur-Sultan. During his intervention, Shri Harivansh focused on terrorism, climate change, sustainable development, energy security, gender equality and connectivity, and called upon the parliamentarians attending the Meeting to make concerted efforts in this direction for the benefit of the people of their respective countries.

On the sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York, External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar met Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. The two reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation including co-deployment of Kazakh troops' with Indian troops in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), improving connectivity and potential of trade in hydrocarbons.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Kazakhstan on 11-12 November 2019 to participate in the 5th anniversary of 'Astana Club', a regional discussion forum. He also called on Chairman of Mazhilis of the Kazakh Parliament Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi.

Shri Sushil Chandra, Election Commissioner of India visited Kazakhstan to observe the Presidential elections held on 9 June 2019.

Under India-Kazakhstan defence cooperation, Kazakhstan peacekeeping companies joined the Indian battalion at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for 2nd and 3rd round of rotation in May and November 2019 respectively. The upgraded

joint military exercise between the two countries, 'KAZIND 2019' was held in India from 01-16 Oct 2019 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. Kazakh Army Contingent comprising of 60 personnel participated in the exercise.

Efforts to increase exports from India included participation of Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), with a delegation of 30 Indian companies, in Kazbuild and Aquatherm 2019 Expo held in Almaty from 4-6 September 2019; and a CAPEXIL delegation comprising 18 Indian companies at the Kazcomak Expo held in Almaty from 18-20 September 2019. With a view to improve connectivity between the two countries, the 1st meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Joint Working Group on Connectivity, Transport and Logistics was held on 26 November 2019 in New Delhi.

Technical and Economic Cooperation with Kazakhstan continued with special courses for school teachers in English pedagogy and in Cyber Security organized at the English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad and IIT Kanpur respectively. 35 participants from Kazakhstan completed a course in 'Big data' conducted by IIT Chennai through video-conferencing at the India-Kazakhstan Centre for Excellence on Information and Communication Technology.

Several events on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi were organized throughout the year, including the release of a commemorative stamp on Mahatma Gandhi by Kazakhstan Post in the presence of Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs. The 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated in Almaty with recitation of Kirtan and Katha, followed by Langar on 17 November 2019.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Bilateral relations between India and the Kyrgyz Republic received a new impetus with the bilateral visit

of Prime Minister to the Kyrgyz Republic on 14 June 2019. During the visit, India and the Kyrgyz Republic

agreed to announce the raising of their bilateral relations to the level of Strategic Partnership. President Jeenbekov and Prime Minister jointly inaugurated the India-Kyrgyz Business Forum. 15 MoUs/Agreements including Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership, 5-year Road Map for Trade and Economic Cooperation, Bilateral Investment Treaty were signed/adopted during the visit. Prime Minister announced a Line of Credit of US \$ 200 million for financing development projects in the Kyrgyz Republic. An India-Kyrgyz Joint Textile Exhibition was also held in Bishkek from 13-26 June 2019 to coincide with the visit of Prime Minister to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Visit of Raksha Mantri to Uzbekistan for the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting and bilateral visit on 1-3 November 2019 led to the holding of the first joint military exercise between Indian and Uzbek armed forces in Uzbekistan. Visit of Shri Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat to Uzbekistan on 19-23 October 2019 led to significant results, conclusion of several MoUs and further boost in cooperation between the Andijon region of Uzbekistan and Gujarat. Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan visited New Delhi on 14-15 January 2020 during which he called on Prime Minister, had a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister and addressed the Raisina Dialogue 2020. Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Kazakhstan on 11-12 November 2019 to address the Astana Club Meeting. During his visit, he also called on Mr. Nigmatulli, Speaker of the

Kazakh Parliament and Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Foreign Minister.

Former EAM Late Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited the Kyrgyz Republic on 21-22 May 2019 to attend the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of SCO member states. She called on President Jeenbekov and had a bilateral meeting with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr Chingiz Aidarbekov. External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar met Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Mr Aidarbekov on 27 September, 2019 on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Former Raksha Mantri Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the Meeting of Council of Defence Ministers of SCO Member States in Bishkek on 29 April, 2019. She also met her Kyrgyz counterpart Maj. General Raimberdi Duishenbiyev during the visit.

The 10th India-Kyrgyzstan Foreign Office Consultations took place in Bishkek on 20th April 2019. The Kyrgyz delegation was led by Mr. Nurlan Abdrahmanov, Deputy Foreign Minister and the Indian side was led by Mr. A. Gitesh Sarma, the then Secretary (West). Secretary (West) called on Kyrgyz Foreign Minister during the visit.

An India Trade Expo called 'Namaskar Eurasia' coordinated by FICCI was held in Bishkek from 9-11 November 2019. The Expo also had a special focus on defence industry and was inaugurated by Kyrgyz Defence Minister, Maj. General Duishenbiyev.

TAJIKISTAN

India-Tajikistan Strategic Partnership continued to grow and strengthen during the current year. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar visited Dushanbe on 14-15 June 2019 to attend the 5th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

(CICA). On the sidelines of the Summit, EAM also had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Sirojiddin Mohriddin, Foreign Minister of Tajikistan. The two also held a meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York on 23 September 2019.

The first India-Tajik Consular Consultations were held in Dushanbe on 6-8 June 2019. The delegations were led by Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (CPV&OIA), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Zohir Ozod Saidzoda, Tajik Deputy Foreign Minister. Under the MoU on Cooperation in Youth Affairs signed in 2018, the two sides exchanged 10-member youth delegations in September and October 2019.

Air connectivity between the two countries received a great boost when on 26 November 2019, Tajik Air resumed its direct weekly flight between Dushanbe and

Delhi while Somon Air, a private Tajik Airline started its direct Dushanbe-Delhi-Dushanbe flights from 1 Dec 2019.

Tajikistan issued a set of four Commemorative Stamps to mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. In November 2019, two differently-abled Tajik artists performed at SAMBHAV 2019 Music Fest organized by ALPANA, an NGO in Delhi. In 2019, the Indo-Tajik Friendship Society published 9 books in Tajik language including translations of some great Indian works.

TURKMENISTAN

India and Turkmenistan enjoy warm and friendly relations strengthened by the shared historical and cultural links.

Turkmenistan hosted the first Caspian Economic Forum in the coastal city of Avaza on 11&12 August 2019. A 2-member delegation from GAIL (India) Limited participated in the forum. At the official level, Ambassador of India Shri Azar A.H. Khan represented India at the Forum.

A 3-member Turkmen delegation led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr. Allanur Altyyev participated in the 14th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification held in New Delhi on 9 September 2019. The Turkmen delegates presented a report on the achievements of the country on combating desertification and land degradation during the conference.

The 31st plenary meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG) was held in Ashgabat from 25-29 November 2019. A 2-member delegation from Ministry of Finance, New Delhi represented India in the plenary.

India co-sponsored Turkmenistan's resolution in the

UN for declaration of 2021 as 'International Year of Peace and Trust' at the 73rd Session of UNGA on 22 August 2019.

Turkmenistan hosts the first Yoga and Traditional Medicine Centre in the region which has been functioning successfully. Embassy of India, Ashgabat organised the 4th Ayurveda Day event on 25 October 2019 at the State Medical University in Ashgabat. Ambassador addressed the gathering on the relevance of Ayurveda in today's world followed by a presentation on Ayurveda and its benefits by Dr. Dinesh Baruah, an Ayurveda Expert. The event was attended by Mr. Geldimyrat Jumagulyyev, Head of Education Department, Ms. Nargozel Myratniyazova, Rector of the State Medical University and other dignitaries.

Embassy of India in Ashgabat celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2019 at Bagtyarlyk Sports Complex, Ashgabat by laying flowers at the Gandhi bust followed by the display of paintings made by Turkmen artists on the theme of Gandhian ideals. They were felicitated during the event. As part of the celebrations, a 'Vegetarian Food Festival' was held at hotel 'Yyldyz' on 4 October 2019. Mr. Sapardurdy Toyliyev, President of Academy

of Sciences of Turkmenistan was the Chief Guest from the Turkmen side at the inauguration.

The 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated in Chancery premises on 12 November 2019. Indian Community and local Turkmen public

were invited to the event. During the event, children of Embassy officials delivered speeches on Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, followed by screening of a documentary film.

UZBEKISTAN

The upward trajectory of India-Uzbekistan relations was maintained this year with regular exchange of high-level visits. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh visited Tashkent to participate in the SCO Heads of Government Meeting from 1-3 November, 2019 and also paid a bilateral visit in which he met his Uzbek counterpart Maj. Gen. Bakhodir Kurbanov. The two jointly inaugurated the first-ever joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan which took place from 4-14 November 2019.

Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani visited Uzbekistan from 19-23 October 2019. He attended the International Investment Forum "Open Andijon" and called on President Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister Mr Elyor Ganiev. During the visit, Shri Rupani inaugurated the "Sardar Patel Street" in Andijon and unveiled the bust of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. His visit was followed by a return visit of a 50-member Uzbek delegation to India in end-November 2019. An MoU on cooperation in the field of agriculture between the Ministry of Agriculture, Uzbekistan and the Government of Gujarat was signed on 29 November, 2019.

Minister of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan Mr Pulat Bobojonov visited India from 20-22 November, 2019 on the invitation of Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. They held bilateral discussions and signed an Agreement on Security Cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Bobojonov also paid homage at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi.

The 8th meeting of the bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi in July 2019. Deputy NSA Shri Pankaj Saran visited Tashkent from 23-25 September, 2019 for the first-ever bilateral consultations between the National Security Council Secretariat and the Uzbek National Security Council.

India and Uzbekistan have signed a Joint Statement in September 2019 to carry out a joint feasibility study for entering into negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

The Samarkand State University set up an 'Indian Study Centre' in October 2019. On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Uzbek Government released a postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi.

SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION

During the period from April-November 2019, the momentum of India-SCO cooperation continued to grow based on India's longstanding cultural linkages as well as its vibrant modern day relations with the

SCO Members. India actively took part in various SCO dialogue mechanisms held under the SCO chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan as well as under the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the format of Council of SCO Heads of

Government. The then External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting of Council of SCO Foreign Ministers held on 22 May 2019 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi represented India in the meeting of Council of SCO Heads of State held under the chairmanship of the President of Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov on 14 June 2019 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The Leaders signed the Bishkek Declaration and approved important documents including the Regulations of the Forum of Heads of Regions and Concept of cooperation in the field of Digitilization and Information-Communication Technologies. Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh represented India in the 18th meeting of Council of SCO Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Abdulla Aripov on 2 November 2019 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah chaired the 10th meeting of SCO Ministers dealing with the Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi.

During the period from April-November 2019, India actively took part in various SCO dialogue mechanisms held under the SCO chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan as well as under the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the format of Council of SCO Heads of Government.

The then Secretary (West), MEA Shri A. Gitesh Sarma represented India in the meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group held on 19 April 2019 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). Director General of Narcotic Control Bureau (MHA) Shri Abhay represented India in the 9th meeting of SCO Heads of Agencies responsible for combating illegal drug trafficking, held on 25 April 2019 in Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyzstan). The then Minister of Defence, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman represented India in the meeting of SCO Ministers of Defence held on 29 April 2019 in Bishkek. Deputy National Security Adviser Shri Pankaj Saran represented India in the 14th meeting of Secretaries of the Security Councils

of SCO Member States held on 15 May 2019 in Bishkek. Secretary, Ministry of Culture Shri Arun Goel represented India in the 16th meeting of SCO Ministers of Culture held on 15 May 2019 in Bishkek.

The then External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting of Council of SCO Foreign Ministers held on 22 May 2019 in Bishkek. The meeting reviewed the progress on implementation of the decisions of the June 2018 SCO Summit as well as the October 2018 meeting of Council of SCO Heads of Government. It also discussed the preparations for the June 2019 SCO Summit and approved the Roadmap for development of interaction of SCO Secretariat with Observers and Dialogue Partners.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi represented India in the meeting of Council of SCO Heads of State held under the chairmanship of the President of Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov on 14 June 2019 in Bishkek. The Leaders signed the Bishkek Declaration which outlined the agreed positions of SCO Member States on the prospects of development of SCO as well as topical issues of international and regional importance. The Leaders also approved several SCO documents including the Work Plan for realization of SCO Anti-Narcotics Strategy for 2019-2020, Regulations of the Forum of Heads of Regions, Concept of cooperation in the field of digitilization and information-communication technologies, Program of development of SCO Inter-Regional Cooperation, etc. SCO Member States concluded Agreements for cooperation in the fields of Mass Media and Physical Education/Sports as well as a Basic Action Plan for cooperation in the field of Healthcare for 2019-2021. A Roadmap of further actions of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group as well as MoUs for cooperation of SCO Secretariat with UN World Tourism Organisation, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Astana International Financial Centre were signed on the sidelines of the SCO Summit.

The then Chief Justice of India Shri Ranjan Gogoi

represented India in the 14th meeting of Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of SCO Member States held on 17-19 June 2019 in Sochi (Russia). The first two-day Military Medicine Conference inaugurated by Raksha Mantri was hosted in India on 12-13 September 2019 as part of the SCO Defence Cooperation Plan 2019-20. The Indian Armed Forces demonstrated the Rapid Action medical Team and organized a guided tour for delegations of military medicine experts to Army Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi. Chairman of Railway Board Shri Vinod Kumar represented India in the 2nd meeting of Heads of Railway Administration of SCO Members held on 19 September 2019 in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan). Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Som Parkash represented India in the 18th meeting of SCO Ministers responsible for External Economy and Foreign Trade held on 26 September 2019 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Parkash Javadekar represented India in the meeting of SCO Ministers of Environmental Protection held on 27 September 2019 in Moscow (Russia). Additional Solicitor General Ms. Pinky Anand represented India in the 17th meeting of SCO Prosecutors General held on 1 October 2019 in Bishkek.

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh represented India in the 18th meeting of Council of SCO Heads

of Government (Prime Ministers) held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Abdulla Aripov on 2 November 2019 in Tashkent. The meeting discussed issues of trade-economic and humanitarian cooperation within SCO and exchanged views on global and regional economic development. Important documents approved at the meeting include the Program of Multilateral Trade-Economic Cooperation, Concept of interaction of the Railway Administrations of SCO Members, Regulations of the Consortium of SCO Economic Analytical Centres and Program of Development of Ecological well-being of SCO Cities. MoU on Mutual Integration of National Transit Systems among the Customs Services of the SCO Member States as well as MoU between SCO Secretariat and UN Food and Agriculture Organisation were signed on the sidelines of the meeting.

Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah chaired the 10th meeting of SCO Heads of Departments dealing with the Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi. Prior to this meeting, India also hosted the SCO Joint Urban Earthquake Rescue Exercise and SCO Meeting of the experts dealing with the Prevention and Liquidation of Emergency Situations from 4-7 November 2019 in New Delhi.

5

GULF AND WEST ASIA

BAHRAIN

India continues to enjoy excellent, deep rooted and historic ties with Bahrain. Presence of a sizeable Indian community in Bahrain remains the cornerstone of the bilateral ties. Bilateral trade increased to US\$ 1281.77 million in 2018-19 from US\$ 987.94 million in 2017-18, registering a growth of over 30%, with exports of US\$ 742.14 million and imports reaching US\$ 539.63 million.

At the invitation of Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, PM Shri Narendra Modi paid the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 24 -25 August 2019. During the visit, he called on Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain. King of Bahrain bestowed 'Bahrain Order - First Class' on

the PM, in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain. PM also held bilateral talks with Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Prime Minister of Bahrain. He also met the Crown Prince of Bahrain. During the visit he launched the redevelopment of 200 year old Sreenath Ji temple (oldest Hindu temple) in the region.

Signing of agreements including the Cultural Exchange Programme; a Statement of Intent on the collaboration in the area of Space Technology; a Statement of Intent on Bahrain joining International Solar Alliance and MoU for Launch of 'RuPay Card' in Bahrain during the year has opened up new opportunities for further advancing bilateral relations.



Prime Minister is conferred The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by the King of Bahrain at Al Gudaibiya Palace in Manama (August 24, 2019)

KUWAIT

During the year 2019-20, bilateral relationship continued to expand and deepen with Kuwait. Bilateral trade registered a 2.7 percent growth in 2018-19 and stood at US\$ 8.76 billion, with Indian exports totalling US\$ 1.33 billion and imports at US\$ 7.43 billion. The size of the Indian community continued to grow, estimated to be around one million; and remained the largest expatriate community in the country, which is a clear sign of the enormous trust, goodwill and acceptance enjoyed by the Indian community in Kuwait.

Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Shri V. Muraleedharan paid an official visit to Kuwait on 14-15 September 2019. During the visit, he met the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kuwait Mr. Khalid Suleiman Al-

Jarallah and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mrs. Mariam Al-Aqeel.

A two member delegation from the Kuwait Engineers Society led by its Chairman, Engineer Faisal Dweeh Al Attal, took part in the annual ranking event of India's National Institutional Ranking Framework and the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement held in April 2019 in New Delhi. A two-member delegation from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), led by the Director General Dr. Samira A.S. Omar, visited India in October 2019 and had official engagements with premiere scientific institutions in India including ISRO, CSIR, IISc.

IRAQ

Iraq shares historic and civilization ties with India and has been an important partner for India's energy security. Iraq emerged as the largest supplier of crude oil for India during the past three years. Our bilateral trade of US\$ 24.161 billion during the last 2018-19 registered a growth of 27.06% over the bilateral trade of US\$ 19.07 billion during the previous year. Oil imports constitute a large part of the bilateral trade. Oil imports at US\$ 22.26 billion during 2018-19 comprised over 92% of the bilateral trade.

An unstable governmental structure and continued challenges of internal security in Iraq prevented both sides from being able to revive political engagement to its optimal. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Iraq on 16-17 September, 2019 and held discussions with the Iraqi President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Iraq. He also visited Erbil in the Kurdistan Region where he met the President and Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the President of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at a prominent place in the city. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member Parliament visited Iraq on

03-06 September 2019 to attend Asian Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in Baghdad. EAM Dr S Jaishankar met Iraqi Foreign Minister in Baku on 24 October 2019 on the sidelines of 18th NAM Summit. A delegation of IOCL visited Baghdad on 17-18 April, 2019 and had a meeting with State Organization for Marketing of Oil (SOMO) for exploring ties in the oil sector.

India continued to assist Iraq in capacity building. For the year 2019-20, a total of 200 slots were allotted under the ITEC programme. A batch of 29 Iraqi Diplomats underwent training at FSI in Aug-Sept, 2019. Another group of 18 Iraqi officials from different Ministries/Departments underwent a training programme for English proficiency at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad in March-April, 2019.

India remained a preferred destination for Iraqis to undergo medical treatment and higher education for the people of Iraq. About 30,000-40,000 Indians visit Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf and Samarra in Iraq for pilgrimage annually. Air India began its direct flights on Lucknow-Najaf route in March 2019.

OMAN

India and Oman share millennia old relations comprising trade, cultural and people to people links. The bilateral relations received a significant boost during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Oman in February 2018. Trade, Security and Defence cooperation remained strong pillars of bilateral cooperation, with positive movement in cooperation in new areas like Mining, Higher Education, Space and Science & Technology.

Oman participated in the Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) 2019, which was organized by India Foundation in Maldives in September 2019 and was represented by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud al Busaidi, Secretary General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also met EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the conference. EAM also met Yusuf bin Alawi, Oman's Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly in September 2019 at New York.

Defence cooperation continued to expand further as delegations from Indian Air Force (IAF) & Indian Navy visited Oman during the year. Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of Air Staff (CAS), IAF choose Oman for his first foreign visit after taking over as CAS. CAS called on Sayyid Badr bin Saud al Busaidi, Oman's Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs and Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani, Oman's Minister of the Royal Office. CAS also met Air Vice Marshall Matar bin Ali al Obaidani, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO).

IAF delegation visited Oman from 13-16 April 2019 for participation in the IAF-RAFO Air Staff Talks. Indian Navy delegation visited Oman on 02-03 September 2019 for Navy Staff Talks. Bilateral air force exercise, Eastern Bridge V was held between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) at Masirah from 15-26 October 2019 and was witnessed by CAS. Oman continued to provide valuable operational turnaround support to visiting India Navy ships and Indian Air Force aircrafts during the year.

Bilateral trade and economic relations maintained the growth trajectory as several business delegation visits were exchanged between both the countries. The total bilateral trade between both the countries was US\$ 5 billion in financial year 2018-19 and bilateral trade during April-October 2019 was US\$ 3.32 billion. In a sign of renewed focus of Indian businesses on Oman, Secretary General of FICCI visited Oman during Oman Health Exhibition & Conference in September 2019, which saw the largest country pavilion from India, with more than 48 health care institutions from India. A 50 member delegation from Oman visited India from 17-19 October 2019 and participated in Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019.

1st meeting of the Joint Committee on Science & Technology was held in New Delhi on 24-25 September 2019. A delegation from ISRO visited Oman from 10-11 September 2019 and held discussion on space cooperation. India continued to provide capacity building training under ITEC and as a testimony to the strong capacity development cooperation.

QATAR

India and Qatar share deep historical, cultural and people-to-people contacts. The Indian community in Qatar, estimated at 7,50,000, forms the single largest expatriate population in the country.

The growing ties are evident in the growth in bilateral trade. India's bilateral trade with Qatar in 2018-19 was US\$ 12.33 billion, registering a growth of 25% over the previous year. India's exports to Qatar during 2018-19 was US\$ 1.61 billion and India's import from Qatar was US\$ 10.72 billion. Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) announced a US\$ 150 million investment in BYJU'S, the Indian edu-tech company in October 2019.

An Indian delegation led by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Shri Hari Bansh Narayan Singh, participated in the 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union

(IPU) Assembly meeting in Doha from 06-10 April 2019. The Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd) visited Doha to participate in the 16th Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) from 30 April-02 May 2019. On the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, PM Shri Narendra Modi met the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on 23 September 2019, and discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them, especially in political and economic fields.

The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan visited Qatar from 11-12 September 2019 and met the Minister of State for Energy Affairs of Qatar Mr. Saad Sherida Al Kaabi in

Doha and reviewed bilateral energy ties. He also called on the Qatari Prime Minister and Interior Minister H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani.

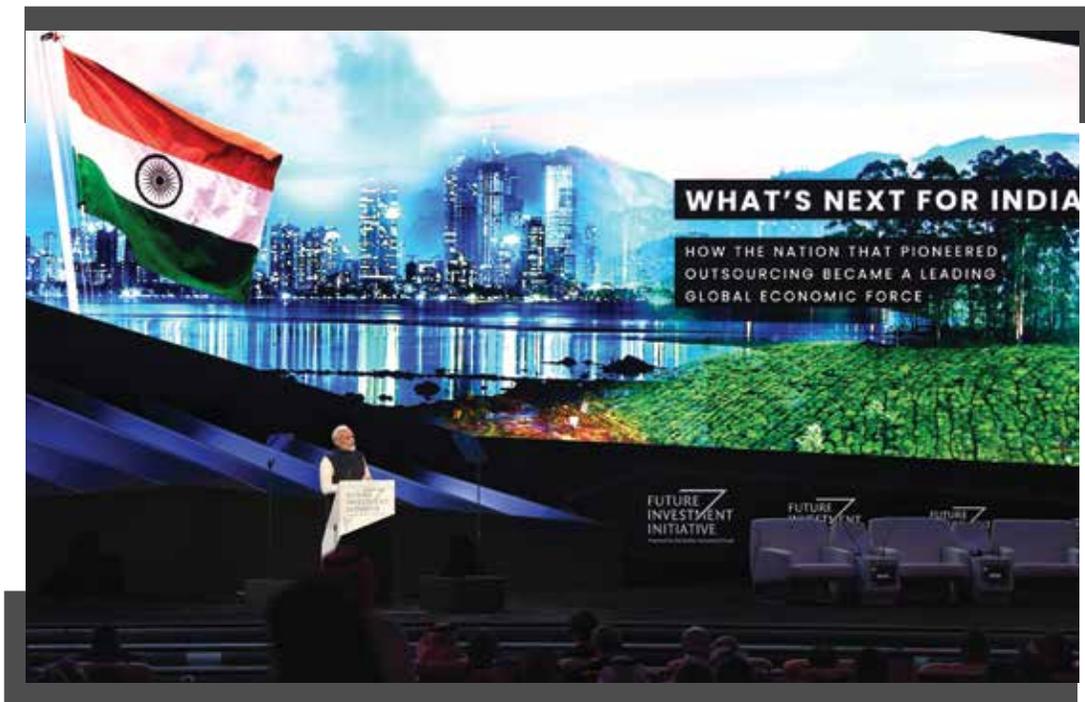
The year 2019 was celebrated as India-Qatar Year of

Culture. The decision in this regard was taken during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Doha in June 2016. Nearly 40 cultural programmes/ events were organized under this framework.

SAUDI ARABIA

As the host of 2.7 million Indian expatriates and as the second-largest supplier of crude oil to India, Saudi Arabia is an important strategic partner in India's extended neighbourhood. The cordial and friendly relations between India and Saudi Arabia have been nurtured by regular exchange of visits at the highest-level. After the State Visit of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to India during February 2019, PM Narendra Modi met him on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 June, 2019.

At the invitation of Saudi King, PM paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia on 28-29 October, 2019 to attend the third session of the Future Investment Initiative Forum in Riyadh, as a 'Guest of Honour'. During the visit, an Agreement for the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Council was signed between the two countries. Further, Saudi Arabia identified India as one of the Kingdom's Strategic eight partner countries under 'Vision 2030'. Twelve MoUs and Agreements were signed during the visit in the fields of energy, security, combating trafficking of narcotic



Prime Minister delivers his address at the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh during his visit to Saudi Arabia October 29, 2019

drugs, defence production, civil aviation, medical products, strategic petroleum reserves, SMEs, launch of RuPay card, cooperation in the training of diplomats, cooperation between stock exchanges, etc.

Saudi Arabia remained poised to retain its position as India's fourth-largest trade partner (after China, USA and Japan) and a major source of energy needs. India imports around 18% of its crude oil requirement from the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia is also a major source of LPG imports for India. Bilateral trade during 2018-19 had registered a growth of 23.83 % over the previous year to reach US \$ 34.04 billion of which India's imports were at US\$ 28.47 billion.

Saudi Minister for Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Khalid Al Falih visited India on 25 July for bilateral meetings with Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, who in turn visited Jeddah on 8 September 2019 and met the Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz and discussed aspects of energy cooperation.

A number of business delegations visited Saudi Arabia during the period. These include Invest India (April & July); TPCI (September & November); FIEO (November) presenting the investment and business opportunities available in India and also to explore business potential in

Saudi Arabia. Pharmexcil and ASSOCHAM participated in the Annual SFDA Exhibition (September) and Foodex (November) respectively. The Saudi India Business Council delegation visited India in September at the invitation of CII and a delegation from the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Water visited New Delhi and Mundra in November 2019.

Given the size of the Indian community in Saudi Arabia, engagement on community welfare issues remains a top priority. The second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Consular and Labour Issues took place in Riyadh on October 14. 200,000 Indian pilgrims, the highest-ever from India, performed the Hajj during 2019 season.

On defence cooperation, following the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) held in Riyadh in January 2019, a defence industry delegation from India visited the Kingdom and interacted with General Authority of Military Industry (GAMI), Saudi Arabian Military Industry (SAMI), Military Industry Corporation (MIC) and members of Royal Saudi Armed Forces, to progress defence industry partnership initiatives under the Make in India Programme.

UAE

The traditionally close and friendly relations that were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and UAE in 2017 were further cemented through high-level visits during 2019-20 including that of PM Shri Narendra Modi to UAE on 23-24 August, 2019. During the visit, "Order of Zayed" medal was conferred upon PM by Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. Both leaders also released postage stamps on Mahatma Gandhi to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary. PM also

launched the RuPay card in the UAE and met key NRI business leaders.

Other ministerial visits from India to UAE during the year included the following: (i) Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister for Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal from 21-23 September, 2019 for the 7th meeting of the UAE-India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLTFI) in Abu Dhabi; (ii) Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, & Steel from 9-12 September 2019 for the 8th Asian Ministerial

Energy Round-table & 24th World Energy Congress; and again from 10-12 November 2019 to attend the 35th edition of Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC); (iii) Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan visited three times; on 14 June 2019, on 14-17 October 2019 when he attended the 6th Abu Dhabi Dialogue(ADD) and on 6-8 November, 2019 to participate in the IORA Council of Ministers Meeting; (iv) EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the Sir Bani Yas Forum in UAE from 15-17 November, 2019.

High level visits from UAE to India included the visit of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation from 7-9 July 2019, immediately after the formation of the new Government in India. Suhail Bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Industry, led a high-level delegation from the UAE to the Second Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in India during 30-31 October 2019.

With effect from November 16, 2019 Gol announced the extension of the Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility to UAE nationals, becoming only the 3rd country after Japan and South Korea to get this special facility. UAE has also announced visa on arrival facility to Indian citizens.

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.

India welcomed the UN brokered 'Stockholm Agreement' of 13 December 2018, and the 'Riyadh Agreement', a peace deal signed in Riyadh on 05 November 2019 with a hope that peace will return to Yemen.

JORDAN

India-Jordan relations experienced an intensive engagement. Following up on last year's historic visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Jordan and subsequent State Visit of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan to India, the two leaders again met during the 74th UNGA in New York on 24 September 2019. EAM also met his Jordanian counterpart in New York on 27 September 2019. In October 2019, PM met King Abdullah II in Riyadh during the 'Future Investment Initiative' Summit and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties in different sectors, especially in trade and investment.

A 62-member businesswomen delegation mounted by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) visited Jordan on 12 September 2019 to participate in the India-Jordan Business meeting organised by Jordan Chamber of Commerce and Business and Professional Women's Association.

International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2019 was celebrated at the historically significant Citadel in capital Amman. A 6-member odissi dance troupe led by Ms. Sasmita Panda from ICCR visited Jordan from 26 April to 3 May 2019 to perform in the festivities related to the 15th International City Festival in Amman.

Hon'ble EAM, held a telephonic discussions over regional issues on 6 Jan 2020 with his Jordanian counterpart, Mr. Ayman Al Safadi

Maj Gen. Mohammed Farghal, Director General of King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau has been nominated by the Jordanian side for attending the DefExpo-2020 to be held from 5-8 Feb 2020.

The 11th session of India-Jordan Joint Trade and Economic Joint Committee(IJTEJC) under the co-

chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Commerce & Industry) is expected to be held in Feb/March 2020.

Joint Steering Committee meeting on proposed Mining and Beneficiation of Rock Phosphate, as per the MOU signed between India and Jordan, is expected to be held in Jordan in Feb/March 2020.

India-Jordan Center of Excellence for IT is expected to be established in Al Hussein Technical University, Amman in Feb 2020.

ISRAEL

The year saw further consolidation of the India-Israel strategic partnership. Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited Israel during 17-19 November 2019 to participate in the conference on 'India-Israel Strategic Partnership on Water' and WATEC 2019 - the biennial conference on latest water technologies. Delegations from state governments of Andhra Pradesh (Minister-level), Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Delhi, as well business delegations, also participated in the events. Minister of Jal Shakti co-chaired the conference along with his Israeli counterpart Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Energy and Water.

National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen (Retd.) Rajesh Pant visited Israel during 23-27 June 2019 to participate in Cyber Week 2019, the biggest annual cyber security conference in Israel.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) held their annual international conference, NATCON 2019, in Tel Aviv during 5-7 August 2019 in which more than 1,200 delegates took part, making it the largest-ever Indian business gathering in Israel. Minister for Construction and Housing of Israel Dr. Yifat Shasha Biton attended the inaugural session of the event while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the gathering through a video message.

Defence relationship is a key pillar of India-Israel strategic partnership and the tradition of regular exchanges between the armed forces of the two countries continued. Israeli Air Force Chief Maj Gen Amikam Norkin made an official visit to India on 18-19 August 2019, during which he met his Indian counterpart Air Chief Marshal B. S. Dhanoa, along with other senior officials of the Air Force. Five Defence PSUs (Bharat Electronics Limited, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd and Goa Shipyard Limited) set up the India Pavilion during the ISDEF-2019, the largest International Defence and Homeland Security Exhibition in Israel, in June 2019. The event was attended by an official delegation from the Department of Defence Production, which included 16 defence manufacturers from the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers.

The 5th International Day for Yoga (20 June 2019) was celebrated in a public event at HaTachana in collaboration with the Tel Aviv Municipality and the Ministry of Culture and Sports with participation of about 500 people. Celebrations for the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi included planting trees at Kibbutz Naan on World Environment Day on 5 June 2019, the inauguration of Gandhi Circle in Kiryat Gat town on 16 September 2019, a discussion

with writer Shimon Lev on 2 October 2019 and an exhibition titled “Experiments with Truth”, curated by Gargi Seth and based on famous Indian artists inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, at the 4th Jerusalem Biennale at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center on 11 October 2019.

Israel’s Arkia flights launched direct flights to Kochi and Panaji from September and October respectively. In May 2019, Indian historian Shri Sanjay Subrahmanyam was awarded the prestigious Dan David Prize for outstanding contribution in the category “Past Time Dimension”, along with Professor Kennet Pomeranz of the University of Chicago at a ceremony at the Tel Aviv University.

Celebrations of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Jayanti saw large participation from Indian communities and Israelis. ICCR kathak dance troupe led by Rachana Yadav performed at the Karmiel Dance Festival in July and sarod player Debasmita Bhattacharya performed at

the Raga Mela in August. An India Culinary Festival showcasing master chef India Ms. Shipra Khanna was organized with Sheraton Hotel in July. Hindustani classical singer Parveen Sultana and sitar player Shahid Parvez Khan performed at the International Oud Festival in Jerusalem to an audience of over 700 on 28 November 2019.

President of Israel Reuven Rivlin, Speaker of the Knesset Yuli Yoel Edelstein, and Mayor of Tel Aviv Ron Huldai issued video messages, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tweeted his greetings to the people of India on the 70th anniversary of the Constitution Day on 26 November 2019.

The 3rd Joint Steering Committee between India and Israel on cooperation in Homeland and internal Security took place from 14-16 January 2020 in Israel where the JWG on Capacity Building and Police Modernization were convened.

JWG on Defence headed by Defence Secretary is expected to take place in February 2020.

LEBANON

A Chennai-based company Operational Energy Group (OEG) was awarded the contract for operation and maintenance of two power plants in Zouk (198 MW) and Jieyh (78 MW) in Lebanon. Advanced Construction Technology Services (ACTS), a geo-technical engineering, materials testing and consulting firm from Lebanon has acquired a 51% stake in Pune-based CQRA and Durocrete Engineering Servicing. The Lebanese company will be investing about \$ 10 million over the next three years besides transfer of the know-how.

Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs visited Lebanon on 21-22 May 2019 and had separate meetings with Mr. Hani Chemaitelly, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon and Mr. Nadim Mulla, Adviser to Prime Minister of Lebanon on 22 May 2019.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence, a commemorative stamp on Mahatma Gandhi was issued by the Postal Department of Lebanon.

A delegation led by Mr. Mohammad Kalash, Adviser to the Minister of Public Health visited India to attend the 5th International Summit on Medical Value Travel “Advantage Healthcare India”. Another Lebanese delegation in education sector visited India to participate in the 15th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2019.

India continued to contribute towards United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

A generator set of 35 KVA was donated to Burghuz village in Hasbaya area of South Lebanon through

Embassy of India in Lebanon and INDBATT- XXI under the Quick Impact Project of MEA on 19 December 2019.

PALESTINE

Work on development projects in Palestine progressed at a steady pace under the Government of India assistance package worth US\$ 42.1 million, announced during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's historic visit to Palestine on 10 February 2018.

India provided US\$ 3.9 million for construction of developmental projects including Palestine-India Techno Park and schools. Government of India contributed USD 5 million in 2019 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and attend the Advisory Committee meetings of UNRWA.

On 2 October 2019, Palestine released a commemorative postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, honoring his "legacy and values" to mark his 150th birth anniversary.

About 180 Palestinian benefited under the ITEC and ICCR Scholarship programmes.

SYRIA

Several bilateral exchanges and meetings on the sidelines of international/ multilateral fora took place during the period. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Syrian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates Mr. Walid Al-Mouallem on 27 September 2019 on the sidelines of 74th Session of UNGA in New York. Minister of Labour and Employment Shri S. A. Gangwar met with the Syrian Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ms. Rima Kadiri in June 2019 on the sidelines of International Labour Conference in Geneva.

Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), accompanied by Dr. B. Balabhaskar, Joint Secretary (WANA), visited Damascus on 19-21 May 2019 and had fruitful discussion on further enhancing bilateral relations in diverse fields with the Syrian leadership including Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Head of Planning and

International Cooperation Commission, Ministers of Electricity, Industry, Petroleum & Natural Resources, and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

Under the Distinguished Visitors' Programme (DVP) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), senior leader of the ruling Ba'ath Party and Head of the Higher Education Bureau Dr. Mohsen Bilal visited India from 13 to 18 November 2019. During the visit, Dr. Bilal called on Hon'ble Vice President, External Affairs Minister, and President of ICCR. He also had fruitful interaction with the think-tanks, academics, journalists and senior officials at Indian Council for World Affairs, India Islamic Cultural Centre, and Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.

In the capacity building domain, 90 training slots have been offered to Syria under ITEC; another 600 scholarships have been allotted to Syrian students

for pursuing graduate, postgraduate and doctoral degree studies under Ministry of Human Resource Development's 'Study in India' programme; and 18 scholarships have been offered under the ICCR scholarship programme during the academic year 2019-20.

India-Syria Centre for Excellence in IT, which was set up at Damascus in December 2010 but could not be operationalized due to security concerns, has now been upgraded to a NextGen Center for Excellence in IT by concluding an MoU between the two countries on 1 October 2019.

The 2x200 MW Tishreen Thermal Power Plant Extension project, for which an LOC of US\$ 240 million was extended to Syria in 2010 for part-financing (52%), was halted by the BHEL due to the crisis in Syria. With improvement in the security situation, the work on the project has resumed since October 2019.

Under the theme of 'India for Humanity' launched by MEA as a part of the Gandhi@150 celebrations, an Artificial Limb Fitment Camp was organized in Damascus (December 2019 - January 2020) in association with Bhagwan Mahavir Sahayta Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur. Syrian Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ms. Rima Kadari inaugurated the camp in presence of her Deputy Minister, 6 Members of Syrian People's Assembly, senior officials of Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs & Expatriates, Defence, Ambassador of India to Syria and founder and Executive President of BMVSS. The camp aimed at fitment of 500 artificial limbs to the Syrian beneficiaries during their 6-week stay of BMVSS team in Syria. This humanitarian gesture by the Government of India has been widely appreciated by the Syrian authorities, prominently covered by local media and left a great impact on generating goodwill among the Syrians.

IRAN

High Level Exchanges

India-Iran bilateral relations saw positive momentum during 2019-20. The year was marked by the meeting of Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the United National General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2019. During the meeting, the leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest. They discussed operationalisation of Chabahar Port and noted its importance as a gateway to and for the landlocked Afghanistan and the Central Asian region. The two leaders agreed to hold events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of bilateral Treaty of Friendship in 2020.

EAM paid a visit to Iran on 22-23 December 2019 for the 19th session of India-Iran Joint Commission. The Joint Commission, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Foreign Minister of Iran Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, was held in Tehran after a gap of 4 years. The Ministers reviewed and positively assessed progress in bilateral cooperation including connectivity, trade & commerce, cultural and people-to-people contacts. With a view to support trade and economic cooperation, both sides to hold early meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade, to finalise Preferential Trade Agreement and Bilateral Investment Treaty, and promote cooperation in customs matters. During the visit, EAM called on the President of Iran H.E Dr. Hassan Rouhani on 23 December 2019 and also met Secretary Supreme National Security Council

Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani and Minister for Roads and Urban Development of Iran.

Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr Javad Zarif visited India on 14 May 2019 and met the then External Affairs Minister, Late Smt. Sushma Swaraj and held discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Zarif was scheduled to visit India in January 2020 for participating in the Raisina Dialogue.

Foreign Office Consultations

The 16th round of Foreign Office Consultations were held in Tehran on 16 September 2019, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs. Views were exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the efforts being made by various parties to address issues that have arisen over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Both sides agreed to take forward joint cooperation in line with commitments made during President Dr. Hassan Rouhani's visit to India from 14-18 February 2018.

Working Group meetings

The 8th Joint Committee Meeting on Ports and Maritime Cooperation between India and Iran was held on 29-30 July 2019 at Tehran. Both sides reviewed their progress in cooperation in the port and maritime sector, and agreed on measures to take forward cooperation on Chabahar port.

The 2nd Follow-up Committee meeting of the trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan, at the level of Joint Secretary / Director General, was held on 20 December 2019 in New Delhi. The meeting welcomed steady progress in Shahid Behesti Port, Chabahar operations by India Ports Global Ltd company since taking over the port

operations in December 2018, including the fact that over 5 lakh tonnes of cargo has been successfully handled at the Port, and Afghanistan has started using the port for its exports to India. It was decided to include New Mangalore and Mormugoa Ports as part of the designated route under the Chabahar Agreement; undertake a study to streamline cargo transit through the Port, hold more business promotion events in Afghanistan and India.

A delegation from the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) led by Shri T C A Raghavan, Director General of ICWA participated in a round table organized by the Institute of Political and International Studies in Tehran on 13 October 2019. The round table deliberated possible collaboration between India and Iran and also with other stakeholders for sustainable development of the Indo-Pacific region.

Bilateral trade

The India-Iran bilateral trade during the fiscal year 2018-19 reached USD 17.03 billion as against USD 13.76 billion in 2017-18, an increase of 23.8%. During 2018-19, Indian exports increased by 32.3% and accounted for USD 3.5 billion, whereas imports from Iran increased by 21.8% and amounted to USD 13.5 billion.

Consular relations

The 11th Joint Consular Committee Meeting between India and Iran was held on 14 May 2019 at New Delhi. Both sides reviewed status of ongoing cooperation in consular and visa related issues and discussed issues of mutual interest including further expanding people to people contacts and promoting friendly exchanges between Indian and Iran. They welcomed the successful implementation of the e-visa facility for visitors from other countries.

Culture

The Embassy of India, along with its cultural centre (Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre) organized year-long activities/events/seminars to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, including a tree plantation at the world famous iconic Tehran

Milad Tower. Iran Post released a commemorative stamp to mark the occasion. The Embassy, along with the local Indian community organized 10 day long activities, including sports and cultural activities to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji.

6

AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algerian Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries H. E. Mr. Cherif Omari visited India on 7 September 2019 to participate in the UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP-14) held in New Delhi. Mr. Moussa Laaraba, Permanent Secretary General of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (CCJA) and former Judge of the Constitutional Court of Algeria attended the 20th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World, held in Lucknow from 6 to 12 November 2019.

The period saw the visit of an Indian delegation of Vijai Electricals Ltd., on the occasion of the 'The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony' of M/s SPA Vijai Electricals, a Joint Venture Project with M/s Sonelgaz and M/s Electro Industries, specializing in the manufacturing

of high voltage transformers, on 10 November 2019 in the premises of M/s Electro-Industries, Azazga, Tizi Ouzou.

35 Indian companies took part in various trade fairs and exhibitions. These included Maghreb Pharma in Algiers from 1 to 3 October 2019, International Agriculture and Agro Equipment Fair SIPSA-FILAHA in Algiers from 7 to 10 October 2019, and the 8th International Fishing and Aquaculture Fair in Oran from 6 to 9 November 2019.

Around 20 Indian companies from the Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) are participating in the TEXSTYLE EXPO to be organized in Algiers from 25-27 February 2020.

DJIBOUTI

India opened its Embassy in Djibouti on 21 April 2019, which currently also functions as the camp office of Indian Mission in Yemen.

Government of India conferred its second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan on the President of the Republic of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh in March 2019.

Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Djibouti Mr. Yonis Ali Guedi attended the second Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi on 31 October 2019. India deputed two experts to Djibouti for 10 days in October 2019 to assist the government in its plantation drive.

EGYPT

High-level engagements continued to impart momentum to the bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met with his Egyptian counterpart Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 28 September 2019. Hon'ble Justice Vineet Saran of Supreme Court of India attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt on 19 October 2019. Minister of State (IC) for Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Hardeep Singh Puri visited Egypt from 5 to 7 November 2019 to attend a "Regional Conclave on India - West Asia and North Africa (WANA)" in Cairo, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). On the sidelines of the Conclave, he held talks with Eng. Amr Adel Nassar, Minister of Trade & Industry of Egypt on 6 November 2019.

A commemorative stamp on Mahatma Gandhi was released by Egypt Post and a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at Al-Horreya Park as part of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan met Special Adviser to President and former Prime Minister of Egypt Eng. Sherif Ismail on

the sidelines of Democracy Day in Abuja on 11 June 2019. Dr. Ezz el-Din Abu-Steit, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt visited India to attend the 14th Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from 2 to 13 September 2019.

Indian Naval Ship Tarkash made a port call at the Egyptian Naval Base Ras Al Tin from 28 June to 1 July 2019, conducted PASSEX with Egyptian Naval Forces. The 9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting was held in Cairo from 5 to 7 November 2019.

CII organized a "Regional Conclave on India - West Asia and North Africa (WANA)" in Cairo on 6-7 November 2019. Business delegations from Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India, Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Engineering Export Promotion Council of India, and Pharmaexcil participated in trade shows/exhibitions in Egypt.

'Jaipur Foot Artificial Fitment Camp' under 'India for Humanity' initiative was organised at Assiut from 2 May to 9 June 2019, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity of Egypt.

Thirteen Egyptian diplomats attended the 1st Special Course for Egyptian Diplomats at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 10 to 22 June 2019. During

April to November 2019, 112 Egyptians underwent training conducted under a number of programmes including ITEC, India-Africa Forum Summit, ICCR and CV Raman Fellowship.

International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 was celebrated with enthusiasm in Cairo, Ismailia and Al-Minya in June 2019. The 25th edition of the "Glimpses of India" painting competition was conducted in twelve governorates during October - November 2019. About 16000 children from over 1600 schools participated in the competition. A number of ICCR sponsored troupes visited Egypt. 'Egypt by the Ganga' festival was

organized by the Egyptian Embassy in New Delhi and Mumbai in collaboration with ICCR.

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria visited Egypt from 24 - 27 December 2019 and held talks with Air Marshal Mohamed Abbas Helmy, Commander-in-Chief, Egypt Air Force.

Smt. Upma Chawdhry, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, represented India at the World Youth Forum 2019, which was held in Sharm-el-Sheikh from 14-17 December 2019.

ERITREA

India opened its Embassy in Asmara on 26 August 2019. Relations with Eritrea received a boost with the country becoming the 15th partner country of

India's e-VidyaBharati and e-Aarogya Bharati (e-VBAB) Network Project. An MOU in this respect was signed in New Delhi on 7 November 2019.

LIBYA

India continued to address the needs of the Indian community in Libya and in this regard, engaged with the Libyan authorities concerned.

MOROCCO

Relations with the Kingdom of Morocco continued to deepen and diversify during the year, building on the successful visit of External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj in February 2019. Mr. Mohamed Rherras, Secretary of State (MoS) for Vocational Training of Morocco visited India in May 2019 to study Indian experience in the field of training and skill development.

The expanded inter-governmental dialogue, based on over 30 MoUs and agreements signed over the past three years, continued with the meetings of the JWG on Water Resources in June 2019, JWG on Renewable

Energy in September 2019 and JWG on Cooperation in Railways in November 2019. Defence ties, which commenced with the visit of the Moroccan Minister-delegate in October 2018, were strengthened with a port call by INS Tarkash at Tangier and first ever Passage Exercise with the Royal Moroccan Navy in July 2019, visit of a Moroccan delegation on military medicine in May 2019 and commencement of training of Royal Moroccan Navy personnel in Indian Navy institutions.

A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Fez-Meknes visited Delhi to explore

opportunities in textile and food processing industries. The Mission organised two successful Business Conferences and B2B meetings between Indian and Moroccan companies in Marrakech and Agadir in September 2019. Indian companies continued to strengthen their investments in Morocco, with new ventures in hospitality and automobile component sectors being established this year.

Training and capacity building has emerged as a key facet of bilateral ties, with the announcement by External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj of a doubling of ITEC slots to 75 annually. The first ever Special training programme for 16 Moroccan diplomats was organized at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi in April 2019. So far, 36 Moroccan government representatives have attended programmes under ITEC. An e-ITEC course on Big Data Analytics was launched at the India-Morocco Center For Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) in Casablanca. CEIT has trained over 600 Moroccan IT professionals in the two years since its inception. In addition to regular ICCR scholarships, 4 Moroccan students from University Mohammed V in Rabat, which hosts an ICCR Hindi Chair, received scholarships to

study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS), Agra.

Cultural ties remained vibrant. Leading painters from India participated in the International Contemporary Art Symposium 2019, in which India was the Guest of Honour. A 9-member Moroccan culture troupe 'Abidat Rma' visited New Delhi to participate in International Folk Music and Dance Competition. Shri Dikr Arrahmane, University Professor and Director of the Islamic Cultural Centre in New Delhi was invited to deliver the second religious lecture of Ramadan at the Royal Palace in Rabat on 14 May 2019. 13 editors and senior Moroccan journalists visited India on a familiarization tour hosted by XP Division in October 2019.

Two Parliamentarians, including the Chairperson of the India- Morocco Friendship Group in the House of Councilors of the Parliament of Morocco, Mr. Abdelkarim El Mehdi, participated in Raisina Dialogue 2020. They also called on the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in Lok Sabha, Shri P. P. Choudhary.

SOMALIA

India has decided to participate in IMF debt relief package for Somalia. The process for donation of 27 mini buses to Somalia has commenced.

Chief Justice of Somalia visited India to participate in the 20th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World held in Lucknow during 6-12 November 2019.

SUDAN

A two-member delegation led by Under Secretary (Secretary-rank) of Ministry of Energy and Mining Dr. Hamid Suliman Hamid attended the Second General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi on 31 October 2019, and on the sidelines,

met Shri R. K. Singh, MOS (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy and MOS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for bilateral discussions. A delegation led by Under Secretary of Ministry of Industry & Trade, Mohamed Ali Abdalla Mohamed Ali, attended the CII-

organized 1st India-WANA Regional Conclave held in Cairo, Egypt on 6-7 November 2019 and held bilateral discussion with Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MOS for Commerce & Industry on the sidelines.

Three cultural performances were held during 4-6 October 2019 at different venues in Omdurman and Khartoum cities by a 9-member visiting Rajasthani folk group led by Gulabi Sapera, sponsored by ICCR.

For celebrating Constitution Day of India on 26 November 2019, a 'Talk on Indian Constitution' was organised by the Indian Embassy in Khartoum in coordination with Sudan Judiciary, where the Chief Justice of Sudan Ms. Nemat Abdullah Mohamed Khair was the Chief Guest. On the sidelines, a 'Photo Exhibition on the Life of Dr. BR Ambedkar, Architect of the Indian Constitution and work of the Constituent Assembly' was also organized.

On an Invitation from Hon'ble Chief Justice of India to Hon'ble Chief Justice of Sudan Ms. Nemat Abdullah Khair, will be attending the International Judicial Conference on the theme of "Judiciary and the Changing World" to be held in New Delhi on 21-23 February 2020.

Setting up of a Vocational Training Centre (VTC), proposed under IAFS-II, is likely to be set up in Sudan in March 2020.

Sudan has signed the MOU on e-VBAB Network Project on September 13, 2019.

A 10-Member Sudanese cultural troupe will be participating in 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela to be held in Faridabad from February 1-16, 2020.

SOUTH SUDAN

A sizable contingent of Indian defence personnel continues to serve in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The battalions are deployed in Juba, Jonglei and Upper Nile Regions. Additionally, there is a police component (UNPOL) of around 23 Indian Police Officers attached with UNMISS. Apart from peacekeeping operations, the Indian soldiers have been performing community welfare activities.

Ministry has supplied life-saving medicine worth approx INR 1 Crore to South-Sudan as humanitarian assistance. M/s. HLL Lifecare Ltd has been selected for procurement and depatching the Medicines to South Sudan. The shipment has already left for South Sudan in the second week of January 2020.

TUNISIA

India and Tunisia continued cordial bilateral relations. A Tunisian Film Festival was held in Manipur on 25-26 May 2019 with participation of six Tunisian art and commercial films.

A group of 22 senior Tunisian administrators underwent a specially-tailored training programme on

e-governance and cyber-security at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi from 15 to 26 April 2019.

In May 2019, a Gandhi Udyan was inaugurated in Riadh Ennasr (Ariana Governorate) as part of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

EAM will be undertaking a bilateral visit to Tunisia from 22-23 January, 2020.

Mr. Nabil Baffoun, Chairperson for Independent High Authority for Election of Tunisia (ISIE) is scheduled to

visit India from 23-25 January 2020 to participate in the first Sukumar Sen Lecture, International Conference and NVD celebrations.

BOTSWANA

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind sent a letter of congratulations to President of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi on his re-election in October 2019.

Foreign Office Consultations between India and Botswana were held on 15 May 2019 in New Delhi. Botswana signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement in October 2019. Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi organised a special training course for 18 diplomats from Botswana in May 2019.

20 Indian companies participated at the Botswana's 14th Global Business Expo held from 6-9 August

2019 in Gaborone. Botswana Textile and Clothing Association signed an MoU with India International Textile Machinery Exhibition Society on 6 August 2019 in a bid to promote trade and investments in textile and engineering sectors.

President of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi attended the India Day organized by Mission on 28 April 2018. ICCR - sponsored Jhankaar Bollywood Dance Troupe led by Ms. Neha Sharma performed in Gaborone on 23&24 November 2019. In year 2019-2020, 86 scholarship slots have been utilized by Botswana under ITEC/ IAFS/ ICCR and other schemes.

BURUNDI

LoC Agreement between the Government of Burundi and EXIM Bank was signed on 2 July 2019 in New Delhi for construction of the new Parliament Building in Gitega [US\$ 102.27 million] and two Ministerial buildings in Bujumbura [US\$ 59.09 million].

Medicines worth US\$ 2 million were gifted by

Government of India to the Ministry of Health of Government of Burundi.

Mr. Come Manirakiza, Minister of Energy and Mines of Burundi attached the 2nd General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held on 30&31 October 2019 in New Delhi.

COMOROS

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu paid a State Visit to Comoros from 10-12 October 2019. The first-ever visit from India to Comoros provided a new momentum to bilateral relations. Six MoUs on cooperation in the fields of Defence; Art & Culture; Health & Medicine; Foreign Office Consultations; Exemption of Visa for

Diplomatic and Official/Service Passport Holders and participation in the e-VBAB network project were signed.

During the visit, a Line of Credit for US\$ 20 million for procurement of High Speed Interceptor Boats; grants

of US\$ 1 million for medicines and medical equipment, US\$ 1 million for transport vehicles and US\$ 2 million

for interceptor boats and supply of 1000 MT of rice were announced.



Vice President delivers his Press Statement during his visit to Comoros (October 11, 2019)

ESWATINI

In follow up of India's Africa outreach policy, a new resident Mission of India was opened in Mbabane, the capital of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) on 13 August 2019 with the assumption of charge by Ms. Radha Venkataraman as High Commissioner.

On 21 October 2019, Mr. Jabulani Mabuza, Minister

of Agriculture of Eswatini officially launched Lubuyane Irrigation Scheme initiated with the grant assistance of US \$400,000 from the Government of India.

A delegation led by Mr. Peter Bhembe, Minister for Natural Resources of Eswatini visited India on a study tour from 10-16 November 2019.

ETHIOPIA

A high level delegation from African Union visited India for a mid-term review meeting of the Africa-India Forum Summit III in New Delhi on 11 & 12 September 2019.

Dr. Mulatu Teshome, former President of Ethiopia visited India on 5 November 2019 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. Dr. Teshome called on External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

The India - Ethiopia Innovation Programme, conceived as part of India's commitment under the India Africa Forum Summit-III was launched on 23 May 2019 in the presence of Dr. Getahun Mekuria, Minister of Innovation & Technology of Ethiopia.

India gifted medicines worth US\$ 2 million to the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia on 13 November 2019 in fulfillment of the announcement made by President Shri Ram Nath Kovind during his State Visit. An Artificial Limb Fitment Camp under Ministry's 'India for

Humanity' project was inaugurated on 29 November 2019 in Addis Ababa.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Gedu Andargachew visited the newly constructed premises of the Embassy of India in Addis Ababa to plant trees on 4 December 2019.

Ethiopian Airlines began operations of weekly non-stop flights between capital Addis Ababa and Bengaluru in October 2019.

KENYA

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar met Chief Administrative Secretary (MoS) for Foreign Affairs of Kenya Mr. Ababu Namwamba on the sidelines of NAM Summit in Baku on 25 October 2019.

Cabinet Secretary (Minister) of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Mr. Peter Munya visited India on 19-20 August 2019 to co-chair the 9th session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee with Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal. The 2nd meeting of India-Kenya Joint Technical Committee on Housing was held on 30 May 2019 in Nairobi.

Minister of State for Women and Child Development Ms. Debasree Chaudhuri visited Nairobi to participate in International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) held in Nairobi from 12-14 November 2019. Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs (I/C) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri met his Kenyan counterpart Mr. James Wainaina Macharia in Montreal on 26 September 2019.

Amb. Macharia Kamau, Principal Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya met Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary, MEA in New Delhi on 3 December 2019. A Special Course for 10 diplomats from Kenya was organised at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi from 25 November to 7 December 2019.

Modernization of Rivatex East Africa Ltd, a US\$ 29.95 million project funded by Indian Line of Credit signed during PM Modi's visit in July 2016, was inaugurated by President Uhuru Kenyatta on 21 June 2019.

Four ships of 1st Training Squadron (1TS) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi visited Mombasa port on a goodwill visit from 7-10 October 2019. Kenya Army Commander Lieutenant General Raria Koipaton paid an official visit to India on 27 November 2019.

Air India restarted its operations on Mumbai-Nairobi sector on 27 November 2019. Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) with the support of Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India organised Enterprise India show from 2-4 December 2019 in Nairobi.

LESOTHO

The 4th round of Joint Bilateral Commission for Cooperation between India and Lesotho was held in Maseru on 30 September & 1 October 2019.

MADAGASCAR

The first-ever visit of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Madagascar in 2018 has further strengthened India-Madagascar relations. MoS for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan met Prime Minister of Madagascar Mr. Christian Nstay on the sidelines of the 'Choose La Reunion' business meet in St. Denis, Reunion Island on 23 October 2019.

Four ships of 1st Training Squadron (1TS) INS Tir,

INS Shardul, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi visited Antsiranana port on a goodwill visit from 1-3 October 2019. A team from BEL visited Madagascar to conduct a survey to study the feasibility of setting up Coastal Surveillance System in Madagascar.

India gifted the cancer treatment radiotherapy machine Bhabhatron-II and 100,000 NCERT books donated to the Government of Madagascar as grant.

MALAWI

On 18 October 2019, Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi inaugurated the Mulanje to Blantyre Water Project with GOI supported Lines of Credit of US\$ 23.5 million.

An MoU between the Government of Malawi and M/S Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) was signed on 23 August 2019 in New Delhi to implement the e-VidyaBharti (Tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti (Tele-medicine) Project (e-VBAB).

MOZAMBIQUE

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi sent a letter of congratulations to President of Mozambique Mr. Filipe Nyusi on his re-election in October 2019.

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh accompanied by a high-level delegation visited Maputo from 28-30 July 2019. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister of Mozambique, held bilateral talks with Mozambican Defence Minister, Foreign Minister and Interior Minister. RM signed two bilateral MoUs - Cooperation in field of Hydrography and MoU on sharing the White Shipping information. Defence Minister Shri Singh gifted two Fast Interceptor Boats (FIB) for the use of Mozambican Navy and 44 SUVs to Mozambican Criminal Investigation Agency.

Defence Minister of Mozambique Mr. Atanasio Salvador M'tumuke visited India from 27-30 November

2019. He held talks with Defence Minister Shri Singh and signed supplementary agreement on Maritime Security of Mozambican Exclusive Economic Zone. Defence Minister of Mozambique called on External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Dhoval.

In the aftermath of cyclone IDAI in central part of Mozambique, Government of India, as the first responder, sent 3 Indian Naval Ships to Beira for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) from 18-30 March 2019 under Operation Sahayata. They saved 204 persons and provided medical assistance to more than 3500 affected people. INS Magar arrived to Beira from 13-15 April 2019 to provide support with 250 tonnes of rice and essential medicines (500 kg) to affected people.

India deployed a 4-member Indian Coast Guard team for providing training and maintenance support to Mozambican Navy officials on two FIBs gifted by GOI. Indian Naval Ship INS Tarkash paid a goodwill visit to Maputo from 26-28 September 2019.

An MoU between the Government of Mozambique and M/S Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) was signed on 3 October 2019 in New Delhi to implement the e-VidyaBharti (Tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti (Tele-medicine) Project (e-VBAB).

NAMIBIA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of Namibia Dr. Hage Geingob held a meeting on the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York on 23 September 2019. Prime Minister congratulated President Dr. Geingob on his re-election in November 2019.

India delivered 1000 metric tonnes of rice to Namibia in September 2019 as drought relief assistance. Under the Ministry's 'India for Humanity' initiative, as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, an artificial limb fitment "Jaipur Foot" camp

was organised in Rundu, Namibia from 17 September - 22 October 2019.

Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi conducted a special training course for 20 Namibian diplomats from 1-13 December 2019. Prof. Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia visited India under ICCR's Academic Visitors Programme from 29 September - 5 October 2019.

Indian Naval Ship INS Tarkash paid a port call to Walvis Bay Port in Namibia from 15-18 September 2019.

RWANDA

The first ever State visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Rwanda in July 2018 had set a vast template for bilateral cooperation.

On 16 April 2019, India handed over medicines worth US\$ 2 million as a gift to the Ministry of Health of Rwanda to fight against HIV AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. India gifted 100,000 NCERT books to Rwanda Education Board on 7 November 2019.

Prime Minister of Rwanda Dr. Edouard Ngirente inaugurated the India-Africa ICT Expo in Kigali on 5 August 2019. The event was organised by Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council

(TEPC) of India in partnership with the Government of Rwanda under the theme "Accelerating Africa's Digital Transformation Agenda". During the Transform Africa Summit in Kigali on 16 May 2019, a session on supporting capacity building in Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Skills in Africa was co-organized by India and Japan.

A 39-member delegation from the Rwanda Defence Force Command and Staff College visited India for a study tour from 30 March - 06 April 2019. Two Rwandan nationals participated in the India Commonwealth Youth Cricket Coaching Camp at the National Cricket Academy, Bangalore from 01-30 October 2019.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a meeting with President of South Africa Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa at the BRICS Leaders Informal Meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka on 29 July 2019. PM Shri Narendra Modi met President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia on 14 & 15 November 2019.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Foreign Minister Dr. Naledi Pandor during the BRICS and IBSA Inter-Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York on 26 September 2019.

The 10th Foreign Office Consultations between India and South Africa were held on 3 & 4 October 2019 in Pretoria.

As part of a study tour of Higher Defence Management Course conducted by India, a 24 member delegation led by Brigadier Ratan Kumar visited Pretoria and Capetown from 22-26 October 2019.

As part of the Festival of India in South Africa, a series of cultural performances were organized in different parts of South Africa during September 2019.

TANZANIA

Tanzania assumed the rotating chairmanship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) at the 39th Summit Meeting of the Heads of State/Government of SADC in August 2019.

Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Innocent Basungwa met MoS for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan in Lusaka during the CII-EXIM India-Southern Africa Regional Conclave on 14-15 October 2019.

Air Tanzania started operation of its direct flights from Dar es Salaam to Mumbai (3 times a week) in July 2019. A 4-member delegation led by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Minerals of Tanzania visited India in June 2019.

A meeting of India-Tanzania Joint Working Group on Water was held in Dar es Salaam on 15-17 May 2019.

An Artificial Limbs (Jaipur Foot) Fitment Camp was organized under "India for Humanity" programme from 6 June - 13 July 2019 in Dar es Salaam.

2 young budding Tanzanian cricketers attended the first ever Cricket Coaching for Under-16 cricketers from Commonwealth countries organised by BCCI at the National Cricket Academy Bangalore from 1-31 October 2019.

223 Tanzanians were extended ITEC scholarships and 32 Tanzanians under IAFS-III for various training courses in India during the period from April - Nov 2019.

The tenure of the 6-member Indian Military Training Team (IMTT) in Arusha, deputed for a period of 2 years from December 2017 to December 2019, has been extended till June 2020 at the request of the Government of Tanzania.

Four ships of the 1st Training Squadron (1TS) INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi visited Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar on a goodwill visit from 14-17 October 2019. 13 ITEC Defence Slots have been provided to Govt. of Tanzania from April-November, 2019.

UGANDA

Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha led 84-member delegation comprising Member of Parliaments from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Speakers/Deputy Speakers and Member of Legislative Assemblies from 25 States to attend the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Kampala from 22-29 September 2019.

A 6-member delegation of Parliamentary Commission of Uganda led by Ms. Cecilia Atim Ogwal Barbara, Parliamentary Commissioner visited India in July 2019. The delegation met Rajya Sabha Parliamentary Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Prime Minister of Uganda Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda on the sidelines of UNGA in New York on 26 September 2019.

India delivered the consignment of 100,000 NCERT Text Books to the Government of Uganda in fulfillment of announcement of a gift made by PM Modi during his state visit to Uganda in July 2018.

Mr. Simon D'Ujanga, Minister of State for Energy of Uganda led a delegation to attend the Second General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi on 30-31 October 2019.

President of Uganda Gen Yoweri Museveni hosted Diwali celebrations at State House, Entebbe on 7 November 2019.

An MoU between the Government of Uganda and M/S Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) was signed on 3 October 2019 in New Delhi to implement the e-VidyaBharti (Tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti (Tele-medicine) Project (e-VBAB).

ZAMBIA

President of Zambia Mr. Edgar Lungu paid a state visit to India from 20-22 August 2019. Seven bilateral MoUs in the fields of Defence; Geology and Mineral Resources; Health and Medicine; Art & Culture; Foreign Service Training; Elections Management and Tele-education & Tele-medicine were signed. India announced support to set up an SME Incubation Centre; donation of 1,000 metric tonnes of rice and 100 tonnes of milk as well as 100 solar irrigation pumps and five fire tenders to Zambia.

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan led a delegation for the CII-EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India-Southern Africa Project Partnership Conclave in Lusaka on 14&15

October 2019. The Conclave was inaugurated by President Edgar Lungu. During the visit, MoS Shri V. Muraleedharan called on President Lungu; former President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and Foreign Minister Mr. Joseph Malanji.

A bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by Minister of General Education Mr. David Mabumba on 2 October 2019 at the Mahatma Gandhi Primary School.

A 16-member delegation from National Defence College (NDC) of India, led by Major General Suresh Kumar Mohanty, visited Zambia from 19-24 May 2019 on a study tour.

ZIMBABWE

India handed over the first tranche of the gift of medicines worth US\$ 250,000 to Government of Zimbabwe in June 2019. HMT machines under Phase-2 of the US\$ 2.91 million project of Indo-Zim Technology Centre were delivered to Zimbabwe on 9 September 2019. ITEC/ICCR scholarship programmes continue to be a regular feature of India's assistance to Zimbabwe for capacity building. During the period, 101 ITEC slots, 5 defence ITEC slots and 18 ICCR scholarships have been utilized by Zimbabwe.

Pursuant to the MoU on cooperation between Prasar Bharati and the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), a two-member delegation from ZBC visited India in May 2019 to cover the last phase of general elections.

Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small & Medium Enterprises Development of Zimbabwe Ms. Sithembiso G. Nyoni visited India from 22-25 August 2019 to the MSME Expo. and Summit. MoS for

External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan held a meeting with Minister of Industry and Commerce of Zimbabwe Mr. Ngobizitha Mangaliso Ndhlovu on the sidelines of the CII-EXIM Bank India-Southern Africa Regional Conclave on 14 October 2019 in Lusaka.

Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services of Zimbabwe, Dr. Jenfan Muswere visited India to attend India Mobile Congress held from 14-16 October 2019 in New Delhi. Minister of Energy and Power Development of Zimbabwe Mr. Fortune Chasi visited India to attend the 2nd ISA General Assembly meeting on 30 & 31 October 2019.

Minister of Mines of Zimbabwe Mr. Winston Chitando visited India from 18-22 November 2019 to attend the meeting of the Kimberly Process in New Delhi. He called on Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Prahlad Joshi, Minister of Mines.

ANGOLA

Relations with Angola remained on an even keel during the year. Angolan Finance Minister, Mr. Archer Manguera, visited India on 02 September 2019 on a working visit and held discussions with the EXIM Bank for various projects under LOCs/Buyers credit programme. Efforts are underway to expand multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

A high-level defence delegation, led by the Angolan Secretary of State for Material Resources and Infrastructure, General Afonso Carlos Neto, will be participating in the "DefExpo 2020" in Lucknow from 05-08 February 2020.

BENIN

India-Benin bilateral engagement gained in substance with the State visit to Benin of Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji from 28-30 July 2019, heading a high-level delegation.

This was a historic visit, the very first to Benin at the level of Head of State/Government. In addition to holding talks with his counterpart President Patrice Talon, in a

special honour extended to India by Benin, President addressed the National Assembly (Parliament) in Porto Novo. He also met members of the Indian community at a reception hosted in his honour. Four Agreements/ MoUs were signed during the visit: (i) Agreement on Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Official/Service Passports; (ii) Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2019-2023; (iii) Country Agreement for Benin to avail India's tele-education and tele-medicine programme - e-VBAB and (iv) MoU to help Benin set up an Export Credit Agency. President announced GoI's decision to extend e-visa facility to Benin to give a boost to business and people-to-people ties (operationalised in October 2019). India also announced a Line of Credit of USD 100 million to Benin for its national priority projects.

Seven Beninese diplomats attended the 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Francophone Central & West African Countries at Foreign Service Institute, Hyderabad, from 25 November-7 December 2019. 20 Beninese officials from various Ministries have undergone a Special ITEC Course on English Proficiency at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, from 04 November-13 December 2019.

India emerged as the largest trading partner of Benin. Bilateral trade turnover reached US\$ 802.71 million in 2018-19, a growth of 14.23 %.

The Model Ginning Unit that has been set-up in Benin to demonstrate the viability of double roller ginning technology and provide training on the same, has been operationalized in September 2019 under Phase-I of the Cotton TAP.

Mr. Todeman Assan, Director (New and Renewable Energy) represented the Beninese Minister of Energy at the Second General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi on 31 October 2019 (Benin has signed and ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA).

During 2019-20, under ITEC Programme, India offered 25 civilian and 61 defence slots to Benin. In addition, so far (till November 2019), 3 Beninese have utilized the training programmes offered by India under IAFS-III and 2 have availed the ICCR scholarships for pursuing Undergraduate and Post-Graduate courses in India. The International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 was celebrated in a big way in Cotonou on 21 & 23 June 2019.

BURKINA FASO

Bilateral relations with Burkina Faso was further strengthened with the re-opening of our Embassy in Ouagadougou in March 2019. The Burkinabé Minister of Environment, Mr. Batio Basserie visited New Delhi in connection with the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) held from 2-13 September 2019. The 5th International Day of Yoga

(IDY) was celebrated in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2019 in the presence of Burkinabé Minister of Sports. The Indian Embassy participated in the Diwali celebrations on 19 October 2019 organized by the 500-strong Indian community. With the hiring of the new Embassy premises on 15 September 2019, consular services are expected to start soon.

CAMEROON

As a part of our diplomatic outreach in West Africa, MOS for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Cameroon from 3-5 September 2019. He held wide ranging discussions with the Cameroonian Foreign Minister, Mr. Mbella Mbella Lejeune, MOS in-charge of OIC, Mr. Adoum Gargoum and MOS for Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Felix Mbayu. He also called on PM, Mr. Joseph Dion Ngute and Senior Vice President of the National Assembly, Mr. Etong Hilarion. Over 100 members of the Indian community in Yaoundé attended the community reception in honour of MOS (VM).

Bilateral relations were further strengthened with the opening of our resident High Commission in Yaoundé on 12 September 2019. From the Cameroonian side, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mrs. Lifaka

Emilia Monjowa, visited New Delhi to attend the Commonwealth Youth Parliament Meeting from 24-29 November 2019.

A 4-member Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Njaingum Musa Mbutoh, Member of Parliament, visited India from 2-5 December 2019. Bilateral trade between India and Cameroon during 2018-19 increased by about 28% as compared to 2017-18 and stood at US\$523 million. Under Gol Line of Credit of US\$93.50 million, the project for the construction of the 225KV Nkongsamba Bafoussam and Abong Mbang - Yaoundé transmission line started in November 2019. Ten Cameroonian diplomats visited India to attend the 1st FSI Course for Francophone countries of Africa in November 2019.

CAPE VERDE

Relations with Cape Verde remained cordial. Cape Verde extended support to India's candidates in the elections at the UN and related international bodies.

Our Mission in Dakar celebrated the 5th International Day of Yoga 2019 in Praia, Cape Verde on 15 June 2019.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Due to an uncertain political situation and the prevalent insecurity in the Central African Republic (CAR), interaction with the Government CAR during the year was limited. CAR Minister of Trade & Industry, Mr. Mahamat Taib Yacoub, visited Delhi, on 13-14 May 2019 for the informal WTO Ministerial Meeting.

A four-member CAR delegation, led by the DG of Industry, Mr. Cyprien Ouilibona, visited Delhi on 18 November 2019 to request for reviving of the cement plant project (being constructed through a Gol LoC) on which work had been halted due to fighting and insecurity in Bangui.

CHAD

Chad is in the process of opening an Embassy in New Delhi and the first Resident Ambassador, Mr. Soungui Ahmed, is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Chad has been offered 5 civilian short term training programmes under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) for the year 2019-20. In addition,

so far (till November 2019), 7 Chadians have availed other short term training programmes offered under IAFS and 8 scholarships to pursue undergraduate and PG studies in various Indian Universities. India's

Honorary Consulate in N'Djamena celebrated the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 on 23 June 2019 with full enthusiasm.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

India-Côte d'Ivoire bilateral relations continued to expand during the period. During his visit to West Africa, MOS (VM) visited Côte d'Ivoire on 6 September 2019 and had detailed discussions with Vice President, Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan. Bilateral trade crossed US\$1 billion mark for the first time and is set to grow in the coming years. Indian pharmaceutical companies

enjoy a notable share of the market. Indian automobile companies are also expanding presence in Cote d'Ivoire. Mission organized several events to promote bilateral trade. The Mahatma Gandhi IT & Bio-Tech Park's Administrative Building in Grand Bassam constructed under Gol's line of credit (LoC) was inaugurated during the year and is functional.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

With a new government in power since August 2019, political stability has returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Bilateral relations with DRC remained cordial with DRC extending support to India's candidates at the elections to UN and related international bodies. Gol approved three new solar power projects totalling 40MW, under fresh lines of credit (LoC), worth US\$ 140.328 million in July 2019. India continues to provide capacity building support to the DRC, notably under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), ITEC capacity building programmes and ICCR scholarships. During the year, utilization of the ITEC

slots (90) and the 10 ICCR scholarships offered to DRC has been satisfactory. Eleven Congolese diplomats attended the special course conducted by FSI, MEA for Francophone African countries. DRC signed an MOU to participate in the e-VBAB Network Project. On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a bust of Father of the Nation was unveiled by the Minister of Culture of the DRC at the Embassy premises. A three-member Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (MIDHANI) delegation led by its CMD visited Kinshasa from 5-8 November 2019 to explore the possibility of sourcing cobalt from the DRC.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA (EG)

In accordance with the India's on-going efforts to strengthen its relations with the hydrocarbon-rich Equatorial Guinea, the Indian Embassy was opened in April 2019 and the first resident Indian Ambassador presented his credentials in September 2019. EG has been supportive of India in various multilateral fora. EG Foreign Minister, Mr. Simeon Oyono Esono Angue

met EAM on 24 September 2019 in New York on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA Session and discussed the road-map for further strengthening of bilateral relations.

EG's Minister of Transport & Telecommunication, Mr Rufino Ovono Ondo, would participate in the Raisina

Dialogue 2020. The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment, Mr. Nicolas Houtondji Acapo will be attending the India-Africa Agriculture Meet on 14 March 2020 in New Delhi. EG Ministers

for Commerce and Industry are expected to attend the 15th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in March 2020.

GABON

India's bilateral relations with Gabon have sustained momentum during the year. Our Ambassador in Kinshasa, DRC who is concurrently accredited to Gabon, presented credentials in early October 2019. During the year, Gabon supported India's candidatures to various international bodies. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in partnership with Indian Oil Ltd. (IOL) is conducting oil exploration in the Shakti Block over an area of 3761 sq

km. OIL is in Phase II of exploration which is projected to continue till 2020/2023. 13 Gabonese diplomats attended the special course conducted by FSI, MEA for Francophone African countries. Gabonese Minister of Higher Education, Mr. Iwangou Moukagni, led a four-member delegation to India from 27-30 November 2019 for the 15th FICCI Higher Education Summit.

THE GAMBIA

Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji paid a State Visit to The Gambia from 30 July-1 August 2019. This was the first ever visit of HOS/HOG of India to The Gambia. In addition to talks with his Gambian counterpart, Rashtrapatiji, as a special gesture, addressed the National Assembly (Parliament) which was in recess. The National Assembly Building Complex in Banjul is one of the prominent projects in West Africa built under a Gol Line of Credit. During the visit, a MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy was signed. The Gambian side handed over the instrument of ratification of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. President also announced Gol's decision to extend an assistance of US\$ 500,000 in support of skill development and

cottage industry projects. It was also agreed to offer training in the fields of judiciary, police, administration and technical expertise, as per the request and in line with the priorities of the Gambian side. A special capacity building programme under the ITEC+ rubric was organized for the 25 senior Gambian Civil Servants at the National Centre for Good Governance, Mussoorie from 10-21 June 2019. Another high-level delegation led by Vice Chairman of Civil Services Commission of The Gambia visited India in December 2019. A Special Training Programme for 25 Gambian Permanent Secretaries/Deputy Permanent Secretaries will be held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie from 25-31 March 2020.

GHANA

The traditionally warm and cordial bilateral relations between India and Ghana were further strengthened

by high level visits during the year. These included visit of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Charles

Owiredu to New Delhi for the first Foreign Office Consultations held on 28 August 2019; visit of Mr. Isaac Adjei-Mensah, Deputy Minister of Road and Highways of Ghana to participate at the India-Africa Higher Education and Skill Development Summit held at New Delhi on 26-27 August, 2019. and visit of Mr. Joe Ghartey, Minister for Railway Development to attend the International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE 2019) held in New Delhi from 21-23 October 2019.

Bilateral trade between the two countries showed an upward trend and increased from US\$3345.83 million in 2017-18 to US\$4480.74 million in 2018-19. A Digital Video Conference was organised on 6 May 2019 during which Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry of India interacted with the Indian business community in Ghana.

India has been a reliable and steady partner of Ghana in her journey towards socio-economic growth and its developmental partnership is based on the priorities set by the Government of Ghana. Line of Credit Agreements of US\$ 150 million for Agriculture Mechanization and US\$ 30 million to upgrade Potable Water Supply System in Yendi Town were signed on 5 April 2019 in Accra. An India Education Fair was organized in Accra on 12 April 2019 and at the University of Cape Coast on 13 April 2019. A MoU was signed between the between Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and Government of the Republic of Ghana for participation in the e-VBAB Network Project of the Ministry of External Affairs on 26 August 2019. India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) is participating in the implementation of the pilot phase of the e-VBAB. AITI-KACE in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Madras also conducted first e-ITEC programme on Big Data Analytics. During the period April-November

2019, Ghana utilised 42 ITEC slots, 32 slots under India-Africa Forum Summit decisions and 8 out of 16 slots offered under ICCR scholarships. Defence training slots were fully utilised.

ICCR Day was celebrated on 9 April 2019 at which Hon. Deputy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts was Guest of Honour. The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 22 June 2019. As part of the two-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian High Commission organised a 'cycling march' on 2 June 2019 in association with Chain Ghana; planted 150 saplings in association with Green Republic at various locations on 5 June 2019; organized a 'peace walk' on 29 September 2019, gifted pharmaceutical products and OTC supplies to the Mahatma Gandhi Ward of the 37 Military Hospital; and Special Commemorative Postage Stamps on Mahatma Gandhi were released by the Ghana Posts at a function organized at AITI-KACE (India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT) on 2 October 2019. The 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated on 9 November 2019 and Constitution Day was celebrated on 26 November 2019.

The Ghanaian Deputy Minister of Power, Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo, participated in the 2nd Global Sigma Summit 2020 from 9-11 January 2020 at ICAR-IARI Pusa Campus, New Delhi. The Minister of Defence, Mr. Dominic Nitiwul will participate in the 11th Edition of DefExpo India-2020 at Lucknow from 5-8 February 2020. The Assistant Director of Africa and Regional Integration Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana attended the 2nd Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programme at FSI, New Delhi from 13-31 January 2020. Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was celebrated on 9 January 2020.

GUINEA

Bilateral relations with the Republic of Guinea received a boost with the opening of our Embassy in Conakry in January 2019. Our first resident Ambassador assumed charge in August 2019. Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji paid the first ever State Visit to the Republic of Guinea from 1-3 August 2019. In addition to holding detailed discussions on bilateral relations, international and regional issues of mutual interest with Guinean President Alpha Condé, the President also addressed the Indian community in Conakry. The President announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Metropolitan city of Conakry (which has since been approved and being signed in December 2019 in New Delhi). During the visit, the following 3 MoUs were signed: (i) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine and

Homeopathy; (ii) MoU between the Government of the Republic of Guinea and the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited [TCIL] for Participation in the e-VBAB Network Project [Technology Upgradation of Pan Africa e-Network Project] and (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy. Foreign Minister of Guinea Mr. Mamadi Toure visited India from 2-5 December 2019. The visiting minister held bilateral discussions with EAM on 5 December. Following lines of credit agreements were signed during the visit: (i) US\$170 million for strengthening of drinking water supply of Grand Conakry and (ii) US\$ 20.22 million for two solar projects: (a) Supply of electricity and drinking water for seven public universities and (b) Solar project for electrification and refrigeration in 200 health centres.

GUINEA BISSAU

Relations with Guinea-Bissau continued on an even keel during the year. 5MW power plant at Buba constructed with Indian Line of Credit, was tested

successfully in November 2019. A special ITEC English Language Proficiency Course for 25 Guinea Bissauans was organized from 17 September-31 October 2019.

LIBERIA

Relations with Liberia were further strengthened during the year. India extended grant assistance of US\$ 2 Million for the construction of a Hospital in Monrovia. India also provided 50 vehicles (45 Buses and 5-Fire Trucks) for strengthening the public transport system

in Monrovia city and boosting the capacity of the government fire department. The Liberian Government continued to support India's candidatures at all international/UN bodies' elections.

MALI

The 1st India-Mali Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 4 November 2019. The consultations provided an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and to explore new

areas for cooperation. A MoU on Mali's Participation in the e-VBAB Network Project (Technology upgradation Pan African e-network Project (PAeNP) Phase-I) was also signed. Gol has extended Lines of Credit

of a total value of US\$ 353.6 million for various developmental projects including in the power sector in Mali. The Malian Minister for Water and Energy, Dr. Sambou Wague, visited India to participate in the second General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi on 31 October 2019. Training slots under ITEC have been increased from 60 to 70 during 2019-20. A special English language training course for officials of Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Mali was organized at the English and Foreign Language University Hyderabad from 18 September-30 October 2019. This was the third such special course during the last three years organized under ITEC. Eight scholarships under the ICCR Africa Scholarship Scheme have been offered to Mali for Academic Session 2019-20. Mali Postal Department released commemorative postage stamps on the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

MAURITANIA

Mauritanian Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ms. Marieme Elizabeth Bekaye, visited India to participate in the high-level segment of the 14th Conference of Parties to the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) held in New Delhi from 2-13 September 2019. Five ITEC slots and three ICCR scholarships have been offered to Mauritania during 2019-20.

NIGER

The inauguration of the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre, which has been established in Niamey under the Gol's grant assistance of US\$ 35.484 million, is likely to take place in January/February 2020. Nigerien Minister of Defence, Prof. Issoufou Katambe, will take part in the India-Africa Defence Ministers' Meet, along with DefExpo, to be held on 6 February

2020 in Lucknow. The Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of Niger, Mr. Albade Abouba, is likely to participate in the India-Africa Agriculture Meet 2020 on 14 March 2020 in New Delhi along with the 15th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership from 15-17 March 2020.

NIGERIA

Our relations with Nigeria, Africa's largest democracy and economy, and our largest trading partner in Africa, saw heightened bilateral engagement and interactions. India remained Nigeria's largest trading partner globally. Bilateral trade turnover reached US\$13.89 billion in 2018-19, a growth of 18.15%, with our exports growing by 33.27% to reach US\$ 3.01 billion, and our imports growing by 14.56%, to reach US\$ 10.89 billion. Nigeria continued to play an important role in India's energy security being the third largest supplier of crude

oil and second largest supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India so far in 2019-20. Around 10% of India's annual crude requirements are imported from Nigeria. During the year, Indian companies continued to participate in all major Trade Fairs/Exhibitions held in Nigeria.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Nigeria to attend the Democracy Day celebrations of Nigeria on 12 June 2019,

representing Gol. In September 2019, a 9-member Nigerian delegation led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Mustapha L.Sulaiman, visited India from 09-10 September 2019 for the first round of Consular Dialogue.

A Nigerian delegation participated in the 2nd Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, New Delhi on 31 October 2019. Nigeria ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA and deposited the Instrument of ratification in November 2019. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Mr Istifanus Fuktar, visited India for the 3rd edition of the India Mobile Congress 2019 which took place from 14-16 October at Aerocity, New Delhi. A Nigerian delegation led by senior officials of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment visited India to participate in the India International Cooperative Trade Fair, which was held from 11-13 October 2019, in New Delhi.

The deployment of an Indian Navy Mobile Training Team in May 2019 and visit of INS Trakash to Lagos in September 2019 to commemorate India-Nigeria @ 60, further strengthened our defence cooperation as also engagement between both the navies.

India is also emerging as a development partner of Nigeria by offering concessional loans in the areas of interest to Nigeria. During the year, India has offered a LoC of US\$100 million for the Rural BroadBand Network Project. This is in addition to the concessional loan of US\$ 75 million for two solar projects which was announced during the Founding Conference of ISA in March 2018 and the US\$100 million LoC already offered to Nigeria, of which projects in Kaduna and Cross Rivers amounting to US\$60 million are under

implementation.

Under ITEC Programme, Nigerian nationals are attending training programmes in civilian as well as defence training institutions in India.

A 9-member ICCR sponsored Manipuri Dance troupe, Narmada Cultural Organization, led by Ms. Narmada Devi Khumanthem visited Nigeria from 21-26 November 2019 and performed at the 12th edition of International Arts and Crafts (INAC) Expo in Abuja. In addition, a 14-member ICCR's Bastar band folk dance group from Chattisgarh, led by Shri Anup Ranjan Ranjan, visited Nigeria from 12-14 April 2019. Prof. Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah, Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja, visited India under ICCR's Academic Visitors Programme (AVP) from 2-11 October 2019. The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated for the first time in association with the Federal Ministry of Youth & Sports Development, Nigeria at Abuja National Stadium on 15 June 2019. To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Mission in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria released a Commemorative Stamp on 02 October 2019. The Indian Mission also organized a 'Cycle Yatra' (Cycle rally) on the occasion of World Bicycle Day and the Office of the High Commission of India (OHCI), Lagos celebrated the World Environment Day by planting new saplings, trees & grass cover. Our Mission organized various events including "Swachata Hi Seva" campaign, 55th anniversary of ITEC Day, the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbai Patel, 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji, Constitution Day with the active participation of the Indian Community.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO (ROC)

Relations with ROC received a boost with the opening of our Embassy in Brazzaville in November 2019. ROC Minister of Health, Dr. Jacqueline Lydia Milogo, visited

New Delhi to attend the GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) Board Meeting during 2-5 December 2019.

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

India and Sao Tome & Principe enjoy warm and cordial relations. Sao Tome supported India's candidatures in various multilateral fora. India and Sao Tome are actively collaborating in the areas of economic cooperation, traditional medicine, medicinal plants, International Solar Alliance and exploration and uses of outer space

for peaceful purposes. India continues to assist Sao Tome in training and capacity development. India has donated 150 computers in November 2019 towards IT upgradation of government offices and schools in Sao Tome.

SENEGAL

Relations with Senegal continued to deepen and strengthen during the year under review. President Macky Sall and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in August 2019 on the sidelines of G7 Summit in Biarritz, France. In July 2019, Tata supplied the last lot of the 562 Tata buses under a Line of Credit. In May 2019, Ashok Leyland signed a contract with Senbus to supply 400 mini-buses out of which 60 have already been supplied till now. During May-June 2019, a limb fitment camp was organized at Thies and 556 Prosthetic limbs were provided by the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayatha Samiti (BMVSS) funded by MEA. HMT completed and handed over to the Senegalese side Phase I of the modernization grant project pertaining to

Entrepreneurial Training & Development Centre (CEDT) in Dakar in November 2019. Ten diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the First Special Course for Senegalese Diplomats from 14-27 April 2019. Our Mission in Dakar will be organising, on 26 January 2020, Tiranga 4.0, the 4th edition of its cultural festival. An 8 member Bollywood cultural troupe from Dance Smith and under ICCR sponsorship will be visiting Senegal and countries of the region from 25 January-3 February 2020. A seminar on India-Senegal bilateral relations is being organised on 31 January 2020 inter alia to build mutually beneficial linkages between Indian States and Senegalese Regions.

SIERRA LEONE

Warm and cordial bilateral relations between India and Sierra Leone were further reinforced by the visit of Hon'ble Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, to Sierra Leone from 12-14 October 2019, a historic first-ever high level visit from India to Sierra Leone. Vice President conveyed our decision to allocate a LoC for construction of a new State House in Freetown; re-allocate US\$15 million for potable water project; provide 1000 MT of rice to Sierra Leone under our grant-in-aid assistance.

Six MoUs were signed during the visit including- (i)

Protocol for Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Sierra Leone; (ii) MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Sierra Leone; (iii) MoU between Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and the Republic of Sierra Leone for participation in the e-VBAB Network Project of Ministry of External Affairs; (iv) Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of India and

the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for the years 2019-2023; (v) Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Sierra Leone on the Establishment of a Joint Commission and (vi) US\$30 million LoC Agreement between EXIM Bank of India and the Government of Sierra Leone for Land and Infrastructure Development including Hydraulics, Water Management System (Irrigation) and provision of Tractors.

In line with Gol's decision of opening 18 Missions in Africa, Vice President announced the opening of Mission in Sierra Leone in 2019-20.

Election Commissioners Mr. Mohamed Nfah-Alie Conteh (CEC) and Mr. Edmund S. Alpha attended

the 4th General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies and an international conference held at Bengaluru from 3-4 September 2019. During the period April-November 2019, Sierra Leone utilised 10 slots under ITEC, 4 slots were utilized by the Sierra Leonean armed personnel, 3 slots under India-Africa Forum Summit decisions and 5 out of 8 slots offered to it under ICCR scholarships. The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Free Town on 22 June 2019.

Higher Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone will attend the 2nd Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programme at FSI, New Delhi from 13-31 January 2020.

TOGO

India and Togo continued to share warm and cordial bilateral relations which were further cemented by the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, to Togo on 5-6 September 2019. During the visit, MOS (VM) called on President Faure Gnassingbe, held bilateral meetings with Foreign Minister, Minister of Digital Economy, Ministers of Planning and Minister of Mines and Energy. MOS (VM) also interacted with the Indian diaspora and delivered a lecture on the theme 'India-Africa Relations' at the Diplomatic Club of Lomé. In line with Gol's decision of opening 18 Missions in Africa, MOS (VM) announced the opening of an Indian Mission in Togo in 2020-21. Togolese Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Marc Dèdèriwè Ably-Bidamon, led a delegation to participate in the Second Assembly of the ISA from 28 October-1

November 2019 at New Delhi. A UNESCO project to promote biodiversity-friendly livelihoods in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park (North Togo), funded by the Gol through the India-UN Fund for Development Partnership for US\$ 1 million, was launched in Lomé on 15 July 2019. During the period April-November 2019, Togo utilised 5 slots under ITEC and 3 Defence slots, 3 slots under India-Africa Forum Summit decisions and 3 out of 8 slots offered to it under ICCR scholarships. The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Lomé on 22 June 2019. An officer from the Department of Defence and Security Affairs of Togo will attend the 2nd Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programme at FSI, New Delhi from 13-31 January 2020.

7

EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION

BELGIUM

India-Belgium bilateral relations were further strengthened with focus on enhanced multilateral engagement as Belgium holds the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2019-2020.

The period was marked by high-level exchanges between India and Belgium. Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, visited Brussels on 29-30 August 2019. During the visit, he met his Belgian counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Mr. Didier Reynders, and held comprehensive discussions on a range of bilateral, regional, global and multilateral issues.

A delegation led by Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Sadananda Gowda, visited Belgium on 14-15 October 2019 and paid a working visit to

the Port of Antwerp's Petrochemical Cluster. The delegation also met members of the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), and exchanged views regarding investment opportunities in India in chemical and petrochemical sectors in Petroleum, Chemicals, Petrochemical Investment Regions (PISSOIRS). They also visited Gemini Corporation in Antwerp, a Belgian company which is one of the world's largest circular economy market makers.

The India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union Joint Commission (India-BLEU JCM) established in 1997 is the main forum for deliberating on bilateral economic and commercial issues. The 16th India-BLEU JCM was held in New Delhi on 17 September 2019 during which a range of subjects including trade diversification, investment, economic cooperation, renewable energy,

clean-tech, water treatment, ICT, services, traditional medicines, ayurveda, yoga, tourism, market access issues, multilateral cooperation, etc. were discussed.

The central pillar of India-Belgium bilateral relations has traditionally been trade and investment. India is Belgium's second largest export destination in terms of trade in goods. Trade in diamonds dominates the bilateral trade which in the year 2018-19 amounted to USD 17.2 billion (€15.6 billion), registering a growth

of 41% as compared to 2017-18. Trade in services between India and Belgium during 2018 was USD 1110.38 million (€941 million); India's exports were USD 696.2 million (€590 million) and imports from Belgium were USD 414.18 million (€351 million). Total investment by Belgium in India stood at USD 1.87 billion (€1.70 billion) from April 2000 to June 2019, making it the 22nd largest investor in India.

LUXEMBOURG

India enjoys warm and friendly relations with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union Joint Commission (India-BLEU JCM) established in 1997 is the main forum for deliberating on bilateral economic and commercial issues. The 16th India-BLEU JCM was held in New Delhi on 17 September 2019 during which a range of subjects including trade diversification, investment, economic cooperation, renewable energy, clean-tech, water treatment, ICT, services, traditional medicines, Ayurveda, Yoga, tourism, market access issues, multilateral cooperation, etc. were discussed.

The bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg during 2018-19 was USD 161.98 million (€147.18 million), registering a growth of 150% as compared to 2017-18. Trade in services between India and Luxembourg during 2018 was USD 260.78 million (€221 million); India's exports were USD 76.7 million (€65 million) and imports from Luxembourg were USD 184.08 million (€156 million). FDI flows from Luxembourg to India between April 2000 and June 2019 were about USD 2.84 billion (€2.58 billion), making it the 16th largest investor in India.

NETHERLANDS

The year 2019 marked a high point for India-Netherlands relations with the first State Visit to India by King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands. The State Visit was followed by a visit to the Netherlands by External Affairs Minister of India. Foreign Office Consultations took place at New Delhi and a training course for Indian diplomats was held in The Hague. The engagement between the States from India and relevant entities from the Dutch side got impetus with visits of Chief Ministers from Kerala and Himachal Pradesh to the Netherlands. There was

an exchange of a number of business and other sector specific delegations between the two sides. The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated on a grand scale. A number of cultural activities were organized by Gandhi Centre, The Hague.

King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands had a highly successful State Visit to India from 13-18 October 2019. Their Majesties led a high-powered ministerial delegation that included Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; Mr. Bruno Bruins, Minister

for Medical Care and Sport; Ms. Mona Keijzer, State Secretary for Economic Affairs & Climate Policy; and a trade delegation of over 250 persons representing more than 140 companies and organizations from various sectors including technology and innovation, agriculture, water, health-care and climate. This was the largest ever Dutch trade delegation to India. During the visit, Their Majesties met President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. External

Affairs Minister called on the King and the Queen. Their Majesties also attended the Inaugural Session of 25th Technology Summit in New Delhi on 15 October 2019. The Netherlands was the partner country for the Summit. The King and the Queen also visited Mumbai and State of Kerala. The 3rd edition of the Indo-Dutch Forum on Smart and Sustainable Port led development took place in Mumbai on 16 October 2019.



President and Prime Minister of India meet King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) visited the Netherlands from 9-11 November 2019. EAM met Mr. Stef Blok, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and various multilateral and bilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. EAM also interacted with Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Dutch House of Representatives. The Dutch side was led by Ms Pia Dijkstra, Chair of the Committee. Mr. Sven Koopmans, Foreign Policy spokesperson of VVD (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy); Ms Lilianne Ploumen, Foreign Policy spokesperson of PvdA (Labour Party); Mr. Sjoerd Sjoerdsma, Foreign

Policy spokesperson of D66 (Democrats 66); and Mr. Achraf Bouali, Member of Parliament from D66 joined the interaction.

Foreign Office Consultations between India and the Netherlands were held on 11 April 2019 in New Delhi. The Indian Side was led by Mr. A. Gitesh Sarma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and the Dutch side was led by Ms. Yoka Brandt, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, commercial, scientific and cultural cooperation. The two sides also exchanged views on

regional and multilateral issues, including cooperation at the United Nations and other international fora.

A training course for the Indian Diplomats was held at Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations) Academy, The Hague from 28 October to 1 November 2019. Six diplomats from Indian Missions in Europe including Berne, Rome, Geneva, Lisbon, Berlin, Paris and three officers from Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi participated in the Course.

Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan led a delegation to the Netherlands from 8-12 May 2019. He met with the Dutch Minister for Infrastructure and Water Management, Ms Cora van Nieuwenhuizen and Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Jan Kees Goet. He interacted with representatives from the agriculture and water sectors in a meeting organized by Mr. Hans de Boer, Chairman VNO-NCW (Dutch Employers Federation). He visited Wageningen University and Port of Rotterdam. He also visited the National Archives of the Netherlands and had discussions on digitizing Dutch records present in the Kerala State Archives. He attended a business interaction event and meeting with the Kerala community in the Netherlands.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur led a delegation to the Netherlands from 12-15 June 2019 to promote "Rising Himachal", Global Investors' Meet taking place from 7-8 November 2019 at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The delegation comprised of State Industries Minister Bikram Singh and senior government officials and representatives of companies from Himachal Pradesh. A road show was held in The Hague on 14 June 2019 showcasing the investment opportunities in Himachal Pradesh. Chief Minister met Mr. Jan Kees Goet, Secretary General of Ministry of Agriculture and King's Commissioners of Provinces of North and South Holland.

Mr. Hirday Narayan Dikshit, Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly visited the Netherlands

from 22-23 September 2019. He met Mr Jaap Smit, King's Commissioner of the Province of South Holland and Ms. Pia Dijkstra, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Dutch House of Representatives.

Trade and commercial relations continue to be the bedrock of bilateral ties. The Netherlands was the third largest investor in India, after Mauritius and Singapore for Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 with FDI inflows of USD 3.87 billion across a variety of sectors. For FY 2019-2020 (April-June) FDI equity inflows stood at USD 1.35 billion. The Netherlands was India's 5th largest trading partner in Europe, after Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and the United Kingdom in FY 2018-2019. Total two-way trade stood at USD 12.87 billion with exports from India amounting to USD 8.81 billion and imports from the Netherlands at US\$ 4.06 billion. For FY 2019-2020 (April-October), the bilateral trade was USD 7.6 billion. India exported USD 5.3 billion to the Netherlands and imported USD 2.3 billion from the Netherlands.

Embassy of India, The Hague organized a briefing session on 4 October 2019 "Striding into the Future with Confidence" for delegates of the trade mission accompanying Their Majesties on the State Visit. Leading officials from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Invest India participated in the session to address queries and interact with potential investors. On 4 November 2019, a feedback session was organized for the delegates and potential Dutch investors with speakers from NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research), Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and Royal Dutch Shell. ASSOCHAM led a delegation with Dutch companies to the Invest Himachal event 6-8 November 2019 at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The Dutch Greenhouse Delta also led a delegation during the Investor Meet and signed an MoU with the Government of Himachal Pradesh to develop a high-tech greenhouse project.

Geospatial World Forum took place from 2-4 April 2019 at Amsterdam. Senior officials from the Ministry

of Statistics and Program Implementation, Airport Authority of India, and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways took part in the Forum. An India Geospatial Business Summit also took place on 3 April 2019.

A delegation led by Shri Tarun Shridhar, Secretary (Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries) visited the Netherlands from 8-10 April 2019. The meetings at Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and site visits to understand the Dutch Dairy sector took place during the visit.

A delegation from India comprising Tech Startup companies and Invest India visited the Netherlands from 7-10 May 2019 to attend the Next Web Summit at Amsterdam. The delegation interacted with leading incubators and organizations to understand the Dutch Startup Ecosystem.

An innovation mission on Digital Health comprising leading Dutch health companies visited New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru from 23-29 June 2019 to understand India's health sector and interact with leading hospitals and organizations.

Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority & Chairman Committee on Doubling Farmers Income visited the Netherlands from 25-29 August 2019 and had meetings at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality along with visits to the University of Wageningen and Dutch companies.

A delegation led by Shri Singireddy Niranjana Reddy, Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation and Marketing, Government of Telangana visited the Netherlands from 2-5 November 2019 for a study visit on the Seeds sector.

A delegation comprising of officials of the City of The Hague led by the Deputy Mayor, Ms Saskia Bruins visited Karnataka and Telangana from 17-20 November 2019. The MoUs between city of The Hague and the States were renewed. The delegation also attended the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019.

Mr. Maarten Camps, Secretary General, Ministry of Economic Affairs visited India from 23-26 July 2019. He participated in the launch of the Global Innovation Index at New Delhi and delivered a keynote address. Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry and Prof Vijay Raghavan, Principal Science Advisor to the Government of India were in attendance. He also met with Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science and Technology.

The 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 16 June 2019 at prestigious Dam Square in Amsterdam. This is the first time the Dam Square was host to a public event related to India. The Square is the historical centre of Amsterdam with the Royal Palace and the National Monument erected in 1956 for the victims of World War II on its flanks. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Representatives of the Royal Dutch army joined the celebrations for the first time and also conducted a workshop.

A number of activities for celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi were held which among others included: a march involving school children and adults from the Gandhi statue at Hobbemapplein to the Peace Palace in The Hague; an outreach programme across the schools in the Netherlands to spread the ideas and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi; seminars with eminent personalities in the Netherlands speaking on Mahatma Gandhi; Showcasing films on Gandhi at the Gandhi Centre, The Hague; organizing a quiz on Gandhi at the Gandhi Centre; organizing a Khadi exhibition; an event on 'Khadi as an idea and not merely a Garment' and a cycling event in The Hague. It is also planned to plant 150 trees to celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary year.

A seminar titled "India and the Netherlands-Past, Present and Future", organized jointly by the Embassy of India and the Royal Asian Art Society in the Netherlands, was held at the prestigious Rijksmuseum (National Museum) on 30 September 2019 as a curtain

raiser to the State Visit of the Dutch Royals to India in October 2019. The King and the Queen of the Netherlands attended the seminar along with Minister of Education, Culture and Science; King's Commissioner of North Holland; Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam; and Ambassadors of 26 countries. The Seminar featured talks on various aspects of ties between India and the Netherlands by Mr. Hans de Boer, Chairman, VNO-NCW; Mr. Marens Engelhard, Director of the National

Archives of the Netherlands; Mr. Taco Dibbits, Director, Rijksmuseum; Mr. Menno Fitski, Head of the Asian Art Department and Ms. Martine Gosselink, Head of Department of History, both of the Rijksmuseum; and Mr. Pieter Ariens Kappers, Chairman Royal Asian Art Society of the Netherlands. A book authored by India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Venu Rajamony, on the subject was released by H.M. King Willem-Alexander on this occasion.

IRELAND

Bilateral political and economic relations between India and Ireland continued to remain upbeat. Ireland opened a new full Consulate in Mumbai (April 2019) to promote greater economic and commercial relations. Local Council elections were held in (May 2019) and for the first time two Indian origin Councillor from the ruling Fine Gael Party were elected reflecting the growing influence of Indian diaspora in the politics of Ireland. Irish Minister of State for Health Mr. Jim Daly visited India in (March 2019). He met with former Minister of Health and Family Welfare Sh. J.P.Nadda and discussed bilateral issues in matters of health and possibility of signing of an MoU in health issues.

The Embassy was shifted to a new Chancery premises (19 October 2019). The shift will add to the prestige of India and help in its outreach programmes in Ireland.

India-Ireland trade turnover for the year 2018-19 reached US\$ 1.06 billion. Irish investments into India during this period exceeded US\$ 427 million. The Embassy, in collaboration with CII, organised a networking event on (10 April 2019) titled "Indian Start-Up Research Mission to Ireland" for 30 CII members who had useful interactive sessions with Irish Industry counterparts. The decision of the UK to leave the European Union has forced Ireland to focus its export and business strategies towards Asia-Pacific countries like India, which present an enormous potential. An Ambition

Asia-Pacific Conference was held on (13 June 2019), organised by Irish Government, in which more than 15 Indian industrialists representing major companies like Lawcubator, PayU, Hero Housing Finance, Hero Fincorp, ICICI Bank, Vodafone Idea, Yes Bank, Tata Communications, Netsweeper, Tech Mahindra and Test Triangle participated. The participants brainstormed various aspects of bilateral cooperation, especially in the context of new opportunities due to Brexit especially in Fintech, Health, Bio-Pharma, Agritech and ICT sectors.

The 5th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was held on (21-24 June 2019) in 20 counties across Ireland, with the active partnership of City Councils, Yoga institutions and Indian communities. In Dublin itself, the event was organized at the heart of the business district, and attended by around 500 people, including politicians, MPs, diplomats, business leaders, sporting stars, Indian community and cross section of Irish people. Mme Sabina Higgins, wife of Irish President made a powerful speech advocating for yoga to be introduced in the core school curriculum. Other dignitaries were Lord Mayor of Dublin, Paul McAuliffe and former PM Bertie Ahern. Across Ireland, an estimated 1500 people participated.

Annual Dublin Rathayatra Festival (Festival of Chariots) was organised by the International Society for Krishna

Consciousness (ISKCON) on (27 July 2019). More than 500 people including representatives of Dublin City Council participated in the function. The Rath Yatra was greeted by thousands of people on the way. The 5th India Day celebration at Phoenix Park in Dublin took place (01 September 2019). It was attended by over 300 people and showcased the cultural diversity of India. The 10th Ireland India film festival (IFFI) was held (15-17 November 2019). Noted film personalities Prakash Jha, Parvati Nair, and Foukiya Akhter were special invitees this year in connection with the Irish premier of their film 'Pareeksha'. A repertoire of select Bengali films were also shown as part of the festival.

A Tourism Road Show titled "Dekho Apna Desh" was held in Dublin (19 September 2019). Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Govt of Punjab, Mr Charanjit Singh Channi was the Chief Guest. More than 20 Tour Operators from India, participated.

The Mission actively organised Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary celebrations across several cities in Ireland. The main events took place in Dublin, Cork and Mayo. The Embassy collaborated with University College Dublin (UCD) to organize an interactive discussion on Gandhi (2 October 2019). An illustrated book 'Walk with Gandhi' was launched (6 October 2019) at the Liberty Hall Theatre, Dublin, containing snapshots on the life and beliefs of Gandhi. A book "Gandhi in Gujarat" was launched (2 October 2019) at Central Library in Cork. It has a significant collection of images commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's life. A Peace Tree was planted (3 October 2019) at Mayo in collaboration with Michael Davitt Museum of Cork. University College Cork (UCC) held a tree plantation ceremony on (31 October 2019) followed by a talk on Gandhi. There was a special screening of "Lage Raho Munnabhai". Gandhi@150 functions will continue to be celebrated throughout the year.

The Embassy has drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak in

Ireland. Celebration were kick-started by unveiling of a plaque (11 September 2019) to respect Max Arthur MacAuliffe from Limerick who translated the holy Sikh texts including Guru Granth Sahib into English in early 20th C. A lecture was organised by The Center for Inter-religious Dialogue & The School of Theology, Philosophy and Music and Dublin City University, on the "Relevance of the life and teachings of Guru Nanak, in the Present Age" (14 October 2019). A Shabad Kirtan was organized (11 November 2019) in the Christ Church in Dublin, which was decorated like a Gurudwara. The celebrations will continue throughout the year.

The Embassy celebrated Hindi Divas (22 November 2019). The program included a talk on the origins of Hindi, a play in Hindi, discussion on the relevance of Hindi in today's world and classical dance performance. Members of the community enthusiastically participated in large numbers.

The Embassy kick-started the year-long celebrations of Constitution Day (26 November 2019). A special programme was held in the Embassy with collective reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India. Later, an interactive discussion was organised on relevance of the Indian Constitution in the 21st Century, which was attended by Indian students from Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Dublin Business School and Dublin City University. A screening of "India: The Spirit of Freedom" was also held. This was followed by the screening of a short movie titled 'Mooknayak: Leader of the Silent' based Dr. Ambedkar's life.

Smt. K.K. Shailaja, Minister of State for Health, Social Justice and Woman & Child Development, Government of Kerala visited Dublin (27-29 November 2019). She met with Mr. Jim Daly, Minister of State at the Deptt. of Health with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People of Ireland. Minister Daly had visited India in March 2019 and met with our former Health

Minister Sh. J.P. Nadda. She also had meetings with prominent medical consultants from Kerala in Ireland. She also had interaction with CEO of St. Vincent Hospital, Ms. Kay Connolly and faculty members and Nurses of the Hospital. She also met with Prof. Mary Horgan, President and Head of International Affairs of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). Members of the Kerala community in Ireland organised a get-together in her honour.

The Diaspora population in Ireland is about 45,000 (approx), of whom about 25000 are OCI card holders and about 20000 are Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The bulk of the community is in healthcare (doctors and nurses), IT, engineering, senior management positions

and are well-integrated into Irish society. The Embassy regularly organises Diaspora outreach programs in Dublin and in other counties of Ireland. The Irish Government made a historic decision on (4 April 2019) allowing members of Sikh community to wear turbans while serving in the Police Force. Requirement of re-entry visa for foreigners who have resident cards was waived w.e.f. 12 April 2019. In another positive development the requirement for obtaining an Employment Permit for the spouses of the Indian nationals working in Ireland on critical skills visas was waived (22 April 2019). This issue had been raised by the Embassy on the basis of the complaints received from the Indian nationals.

FRANCE

India and France have completed twenty-one years of their Strategic Partnership which was established in 1998. The relationship is marked by a close and growing bilateral relationship, frequent high-level exchanges and increasing convergence of views on a range of international issues.

The areas of defence & security cooperation, space cooperation and civil nuclear cooperation constitute the principal pillars of our Strategic Partnership. Apart from these traditional fields of cooperation, India and France are increasingly engaged in new areas of cooperation like security in the Indian Ocean region, fight against terrorism, climate change including the International Solar Alliance, and sustainable growth and development among others.

India and France share a wide degree of convergence on a range of regional and global issues. France has continued to support India's claim for permanent membership of the Security Council and the reforms of the United Nations. France's support was vital in India's accession to MTCR, WA and AG while France continues

to support India's bid for accession to the NSG.

In the economic domain, where there exists vast potential, French businesses and enterprises have forged strong linkages with the Indian economy and industry. There exist vibrant bilateral cultural and educational linkages as also growing people-to-people contacts. Indian diaspora also has a sizable presence in metropolitan France and its overseas departments/territories.

Recent high level political exchanges

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (PM) visited France in August 2019 at the special invitation of H.E. President Emmanuel Macron of France for the 2019 G-7 Summit, where India was one of the 'Goodwill' partners. The visit comprised two segments: the bilateral component (August 22-23 in Chantilly/Paris) and the G-7 related visit in Biarritz (August 25-26). On August 22, the two leaders met for a bilateral meeting in the historic chateau in Chantilly (north of Paris) which was followed by a joint press conference. The outcomes of the visit included a visit Joint Statement,

the India-France Roadmap on Cybersecurity and Digital Technologies and 4 agreements/MoUs. On August 23, PM met the French Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Edouard Philippe and later addressed the Indian community in Paris. PM subsequently visited Biarritz (south-west France) on August 25-26 to participate in the G-7 Summit. He participated in the sessions on environment and on digital democracy.

PM and President Emmanuel Macron of France were co-participants at a session titled 'Leaders' Dialogue on Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives' on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019. They also held a pull aside meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 2019 in Osaka in June 2019, and a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 2018 in December 2018 in Buenos Aires.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar visited Paris on November 11-12, 2019 and held talks with Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs. The two ministers discussed issues of bilateral partnership and international importance. EAM also attended the 2nd edition of the Paris Peace Forum where he participated in a high-level panel-discussion on multilateral governance of cyberspace. He also called on the French President on the sidelines of the Forum. EAM later addressed a gathering of prominent business-representatives and think-tank members at Institut Montaigne (a French think-tank) and gave an interview to French daily newspaper Le Monde.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Paris on October 07-10, 2019, for the second bilateral Ministerial-level Annual Defence Dialogue with his counterpart Ms. Florence Parly, France's Minister for the Armed Forces. During the visit, RM also called on the French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron and interacted with heads of key French defence industry enterprises. RM also visited Bordeaux to attend the handing over ceremony of the first Rafale fighter aircraft to be acquired from France under the Inter-

Governmental contract signed in September 2016, and undertook a sortie. He also visited select defence industry sites in France.

MoS External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Reunion Island from 24-24 October 2019, along with a business delegation to participate in a summit meeting on "Regional Economic Integration in the Indo-Pacific" organized by France. He held conversations with several French Ministers and also called-on French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron.

From the French side, recent Ministerial visits to India have been those of the Secretary of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne (10 June 2019); and Secretary of State to the Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Ms. Brune Poirson (30 October - 1 November 2019) to co-preside over the 2nd Assembly of the International Solar Alliance.

India and France share a range of regular institutional dialogue mechanisms. India-France Strategic Dialogue takes place between NSAs from both sides. The last Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 29 August 2019 between Shri Ajit Doval, NSA and Mr. Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Adviser to the French President. Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale also held discussions with Secretary General of the French Foreign Office, Mr. Maurice Gourdault-Montagne on 11 January 2019 in New Delhi.

The fourth bilateral dialogue on Maritime Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 9 December 2019 led by Deputy NSA, Shri Pankaj Saran and Ms. Alice Guitton, DG for International Relations and Strategy at French Ministry for the Armed Forces. The annual India-France Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in Paris on 14 February 2019. India-France Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism met in Paris on 15 February 2019.

Defence Cooperation

During the visit of the French President H.E. Emmanuel Macron to India (March 2018), the two countries decided to create an annual defence dialogue at the Ministerial level, the second of which was held in October 2019 as mentioned above. Regular working level meetings as well as exchange of visits at the level of Services Chiefs also take place. The three services also have regular defence exercises. The regular bilateral naval Exercise Varuna took place in May 2019 in two phases in Goa and Djibouti. The bilateral exercise between the two air forces, Garuda, took place in July 2019 in France. The major on-going defence-related projects include the purchase of Rafale aircraft and the P-75 Scorpene Project.

Space Cooperation

Building on the historical linkages in the arena of civilian space, both India and France issued a “Joint Vision for Space Cooperation” during the visit of the French President to India (March 2018). Implementation is ongoing as regards the identified projects. The jointly developed Megha-Tropiques satellite which observes clouds and water vapours over the tropical region continues to be in good health and providing valuable scientific data. A joint Ka-band propagation experiment is also under implementation. As part of ongoing bilateral cooperation between ISRO and Arianespace, GSAT-11 was launched from Kourou (French Guiana) in December 2018. France continues to be a major supplier of components and equipment for the Indian space programme.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

During the visit of the French President to India (March 2018), NPCIL and EDF concluded an Industrial Way Forward Agreement. Discussions between EDF and NPCIL have been ongoing with the objective of expeditious realization of the project.

Economic Cooperation

Both India and France have important bilateral investments and trade and commercial cooperation. Almost 1000 French companies are present in India with a total turnover of US\$ 20 billion and employing around 300,000 persons. France is the ninth largest foreign investor in India with cumulative investment of USD 6.59 billion from April 2000 to December 2018. In France, about 150 Indian companies are present (including sub-subsidiaries) with an estimated investment stock of Euro one billion and employing 7000 people.

In the period April 2018 to March 2019, India-France bilateral trade stood at USD 11.89 billion (+4.15%) as compared to the corresponding period the previous financial year. India's exports to France were valued at USD 5.23 billion, up 6.78%. Meanwhile, French exports to India increased by 2.17% during the same period to USD 6.66 billion. However, the overall volume of bilateral trade remains low; trade with France constituting only 1.41% of India's total international trade.

Cultural & People to people Cooperation

Indian culture enjoys wide following amongst the people of France. An Indian Cultural Centre, named Vivekananda Cultural Centre, currently under renovation, is to be opened in Paris.

The International Day of Yoga has been organized by the Embassy of India, Paris in Paris and in other cities of France since 2016 and which have received wide acclaim and press coverage. Events have also been organized under the Mahatma Gandhi @ 150 celebrations.

Cooperation in the fields of S&T and Education

In the field of S&T, the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA) based in

New Delhi established in 1987 is playing a major role by funding joint proposals for research in the sciences and evaluation existing research projects. Several other bilateral cooperation programmes exist including an Indo-French Ministerial-level Joint Committee on Science and Technology, established in 2016, whose first meeting was held in New Delhi in June 2018.

It is estimated that there are about 10000 Indian students in France. Encouraged by the offer of courses in English medium in the French institutes of

higher education, especially in the field of business management, about 3,000 new Indian students come to France every year. The two sides aim to reach the number of 25,000 students by 2025. An Agreement on the mutual recognition of degrees, signed in March 2018, has already entered into force. In August 2019, an Administrative Arrangement was also signed between the two countries for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training.

ANDORRA

Relations between India and the Principality of Andorra remain cordial and friendly. The first ever Indian classical music concert by Dr Rajnandini and group was organized as part of the annual *Setmana de la*

Diversitat cultural festival in Andorra on 14 May 2019. International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Andorra la Vella on 23 June 2019 with yoga session and mantra chanting.

SPAIN

Following the impetus provided by Prime Minister's official visit to Spain in May 2017 and EAM's official visit to Spain in February 2019, bilateral relations remain strong with a planned visit of MoS for External Affairs Mr. V. Muraleedharan in December. At the multilateral level, a high level delegation to United Nations Framework for Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP25) led by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr. Prakash Javadekar is expected in December 2019. Reaffirming India-Spain relations and defence cooperation, INS *Tarkash* made a port call at Cadiz as a part of Western Fleet Overseas Deployment.

On the commercial front, Mr Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Railways, met Ms Reyes Maroto, Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Government of Spain on 9 June 2019 in Tsukuba, Japan on the sidelines of G20 Ministerial Meeting on Trade & Digital

Economy in Japan. A 4 member Spanish delegation led by Mrs Antonia Alomar, Chief of Cabinet of Secretary of State for Tourism, Government of Spain attended the 2nd meeting of the India-Spain Expert Panel on Tourism in New Delhi on 3 July 2019. A workshop on synergy between India's Iconic Destinations and Spain's Smart Destinations was also organised. Ms Reyes Maroto, Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Government of Spain, spoke at the Horasis India-Spain Conference in Segovia, which was attended by many C-level Indian executives. Indian delegations participated in the International Machinery Trade Fair, Barcelona, InterGift Madrid and Smart Cities World Expo Congress. Apparel Exports Promotion Council organised a buyer-seller meet in Madrid and India Tourism conducted roadshows in Barcelona, Madrid and Sevilla in October.

The 5th International Yoga Day was celebrated in

Madrid at the iconic Templo de Debod on 21 June followed by IDY events in 15 major cities such as Barcelona, Tenerife, Granada, Valladolid etc. totaling about 3000 participants. The celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with President ICCR Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe as the Chief Guest included an audio-visual exhibition- "My Life is my Message" in various Spanish cities, International Conference on Gandhi, the release of a Commemorative Stamp by the Spain Philatelic Commission, musical performances and lectures, and floral offerings at the five Mahatma Gandhi statues. A 'Walk for Unity', photo exhibition and quiz were organized for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated with Guru Langars in Gurdwaras of Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia in which more than 12000 devotees participated. Constitution Day 2019

celebrations included lectures by Padma Shri Dr. Rafael Iruzubieta and the Translator of Indian Constitution into Spanish Prof. Santiago Sanchez. The first ever Indian-Spanish play was performed at the *Almagro Theatre Festival* in July 2019. The second edition of the film festival of independent films India-Indie was held in Madrid and Valladolid in November.

Interaction with Indian diaspora remains strong with several interactions being organised cutting across regions and demographics, including students, professionals, *GenNext* entrepreneurs and sportspersons. Monthly consular camps were held across Spain and consular service delivery time was reduced thanks to on-site passport printing, faster document verification and process optimisation.

GERMANY

Regular meetings at the highest level between India and Germany ensured the continued strengthening of the strategic partnership. In continuation of a special tradition that links the two countries, the 5th

Intergovernmental Consultations were co-chaired by Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merkel in Delhi on 01 November 2019, which was followed by the signing of 22 agreements. Climate change mitigation,



Prime Minister meets Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi November 01, 2019

digitalisation and education were some of the major areas in which the two countries announced closer cooperation. The two leaders had also met during the year on the side-lines of the G-20 summit in Japan, G7 in Biarritz and the Climate Action Summit on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York. The partnership was further intensified through several bilateral visits and interactions, both at the central and state level of both the countries on a regular basis. The areas of cooperation between the two countries were further extended which reflected the wide spectrum of the bilateral relationship.

In a telephonic conversation on 25 May 2019, Chancellor Merkel congratulated PM Modi on his party's victory in the Indian general elections. She noted the growing relationship between the two countries while expressing her desire to further enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interests. PM Modi thanked Chancellor Merkel and noted the exemplary role played by her in furthering bilateral ties between the two countries as well as for global peace and prosperity.

Chancellor Merkel was on a State Visit to India from 31 October – 02 November 2019 to co-chair the fifth Indo-German Intergovernmental Consultations. She was accompanied by a delegation with German cabinet ministers including Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner and Education Minister Anja Karliczek. They held meetings with their Indian counterparts to explore possible areas of mutual cooperation. During her visit, Chancellor Merkel held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials. The agreements signed between India and Germany included cooperation in the fields of agriculture, maritime technology, Ayurveda, Yoga, occupational diseases, rehabilitation and vocational training of insured persons and workers with disabilities and collaboration in agricultural, technical and professional training. Chancellor Merkel pledged an investment of €1 billion into new green mobility projects in India and also called for a fresh attempt to

implement the India-EU free trade agreement.

Prime Minister Modi also met Chancellor Merkel on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 June 2019. The two leaders discussed multiple issues during their meeting such as enhancing cooperation in Artificial Intelligence, e-mobility, cyber security, railway modernization and skill development.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and State Secretary in the German Foreign Office, Andreas Michaelis held Foreign Office Consultations in Berlin on 24 April 2019. During his visit, Foreign Secretary Gokhale also met Minister of State Niels Annen at the German Foreign Office to discuss wide ranging issues of bilateral cooperation.

During the Hannover Messe, an 'India Investors Meet' was organized in collaboration with the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC) in April 2019. Mr. A.R Sihag, Secretary (Department of Heavy Industries) visited Hannover Messe for the Investors Meet.

The 4th Indo-German Business Dialogue was held on 11 September 2019 at the Embassy of India, Berlin. The Dialogue was inaugurated with welcome remarks by Mr Mark Hauptmann, Member of the German Parliament and Mr Christian Hirte, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. It included keynote speeches by Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP and former Union Minister of State and Mr. Ralph Brinkhaus, MP and head of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Parliament. The dialogue was attended by business representatives from India and Germany. The event intends to build bridges between German and Indian know-how and promotes closer economic cooperation between Germany and India.

The total trade between the two countries reached 24 billion euros in 2018 making Germany the 8th largest trading partner for India. The total investments from

Germany in the year 2018-19 were to the tune of USD 886 million, making Germany a major investment partner for India.

Germany has been an important partner for India since 1958. Total bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation since 1958, amounts to 16.98 billion euros. Energy, sustainable economic development, environment and management of natural resources are priority areas under development cooperation. The unique feature of German development cooperation with India is that it focuses less on local projects and more on programmes with a structural impact. These

programmes build on India's own efforts and reform programmes. They demonstrate model solutions and qualify the participating partners to continue and expand the projects independently.

The German-Indian Business Forum 2019 (GIBF) was organized in collaboration with the German-Indian Association (GDIZ) in September 2019 which focused on 'Manufacturing Excellence & Sustainability'. The Forum provided a platform for high-ranking decision makers from the areas of business, politics and administration to confer on matters of mutual interest.

ITALY

The momentum generated by the visits of Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni in 2017 and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in 2018 continued during 2019, with regular exchange of high-level visits and various initiatives in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields.

PM Narendra Modi met PM Conte on the sidelines of the G-20 meeting in Japan in June 2019 and the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar met his counterpart Foreign Minister Mr. Luigi Di Maio on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2019.

The Italian Parliament in 2019 constituted an India Parliamentary Friendship Group, chaired by former Defence Minister, Senator Roberta Pinotti. The Group is a cross-party grouping of 15 Senators and Deputies.

On October 2nd, 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated in the Senate, with the participation of Speaker Elisabetta Casellati, Senator Pinotti and other MPs and guests. Floral tributes were paid at Gandhiji's statue in Rome and other cities of Italy. Embassy organized Gandhi bike

cycle rally, tree plantation, lectures at schools and Universities, dedication of a bridge to Mahatma Gandhi in Florence, and Rome half-Marathon where the medal was dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi with his image and message. This year, a local high school has adopted the Piazza Gandhi and the Gandhi monument in Rome for care and maintenance.

Italy has extended support to India in crucial elections including in UNESCO Executive Board and International Maritime Organization. Italy also supported India's initiative on Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). In October 2019, Italy has joined the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) as a Dialogue Partner.

The year saw a steady growth in trade & investment cooperation between the two countries. Bilateral trade for the current year is estimated to reach an all time high of US€10 Billion, with surplus in favour of India. On 16th July 2019, the governments of both countries signed an agreement to set up a Fast Track Mechanism in order to facilitate Italian companies and investors in India and vice versa.

In order to promote the Make in India Programme

and to attract more Italian SMEs to India, the Mission in association with DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched Access India Initiative (AII) program in October 2019. Under the AII, 30 Italian SME's will be identified for hand holding services to invest in India.

To explore business opportunities in food processing sector, Italian food processing companies visited India in September 2019 and Indian companies came to Italy. A 4-member delegation on Start-ups led by CII visited Italy from 2-6 September, 2019 to explore opportunities for Start-ups and create collaboration in the field of entrepreneurship.

Under the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological cooperation, an India-Italy collaborative R&D program is under implementation. The Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) program has created a funding mechanism through which Indian & Italian companies can seek support for joint India-Italy research and development (R&D) projects and other activities intended to generate new technologies.

The period witnessed a number of bilateral defence activities. After a gap of more than 10 years, a 16 member National Defence College delegation from India visited Italy from 25 to 31 May 2019. A sombre ceremony for presentation of urns carrying the remains of two soldiers of the Indian Army who had sacrificed their lives in Italy during WW-II was organized in Florence on 29 May 2019. The 10th India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) met in New Delhi on 5-6 Nov 2019. The period also saw numerous visits from DRDO and other scientific establishments to procure CNC machines, spectrometers, lathe machines and such equipment from Italy. Indian Army Marksmen Team participated in Italian Open Shotgun Shooting Championship. Indian Navy kept up cooperation through their delegation's visit to Fincantieri, participation of the sailing team at the Italian Sailing Regatta and through other delegation visits to Italian Hydrographic Institute and others.

The second meeting of the JWG on Counter Terrorism Cooperation was held in India on 13 June 2019. Both sides exchanged views on current counter-terrorism challenges including countering radicalization, terror financing and misuse of internet for terrorist purposes. They also discussed threats arising from transnational crimes and money laundering. The next meeting of the JWG will be held in Italy on mutually convenient dates.

India continues to participate in Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as a member of the FAO Council. India has been elected to the FAO Council for another term from 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2023. It also continues to serve as a member of various committees such as the Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry, FAO Council, Committee on Food Security, Committee on Commodity Problems and Committee on Agriculture.

India's proposal for International Year of Millets in 2023 was approved by the 41st Conference of FAO held in Rome from 22-29 June 2019. India has also been elected as a member of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health to be celebrated in 2020. India continues to be an active member of the Executive Board of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the Evaluation Committee of IFAD.

Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar visited Rome on 11 November 2019 to participate in the 8th Governing Body meeting of International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) as the Chief Guest. He met his Italian counterpart Minister of Agriculture, Ms. Teresa Bellanova and Director General, FAO. An announcement for hosting the 9th Governing Body meeting of ITPGRFA in New Delhi in 2021 was made by the Minister.

This year, Embassy organized various events in the field of culture, performing arts and yoga. On the cultural

side, the 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji is being celebrated across Italy through multiple events organized with the support of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committees of Italy and enthusiastic participation of the Sikh diaspora. A special Shabad Kirtan was organized at India House by ICCR sponsored Hazuri Ragi group of Bhai Sukhjinder Singh ji on October 27, 2019. The group also performed kirtan at 3 Gurudwaras in and around Rome from 25-27 October.

In 2019, the 5th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at a large scale with ten events spread over a two-week period. The festival of Deepavali was celebrated officially this year at the Italian Senate in collaboration with the Italian Hindu Association. This along with few other events such as Summer Mela with the FIND foundation, film festivals in Florence and Rome are now an annual feature where Embassy provides active support.

In 2019, India participated at the Venice Biennale, one

of the most prestigious art fairs in the world after a long gap of 8 years. The Ministry of Culture, in association with the NGMA and CII, showcased art works of 8 prominent and renowned Indian artists. The theme of India's pavilion, inaugurated on 8th May 2019, was celebrating Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary and his message of peace.

In order to reach out to Indian community members residing in central and southern parts of Italy, a series of consular camps were organized throughout the year in various provinces of Italy including Arezzo, Catania, Cagliari, Reggio Calabria, Latina and Bari wherein a large number of Indian citizens and OCIs holders participated to avail of consular services. This was an effective way of reaching out to the Indian community and was greatly appreciated by them. Mission is issuing all categories of visas in a very prompt manner, taking into account the recent changes in visa rules which is more liberalized.

SAN MARINO

Relations with San Marino remained cordial and friendly. Both the countries have established a fruitful cooperation, particularly within international fora, but also at a bilateral level on issues of common interest.

San Marino has extended support to India's candidature in UNESCO Executive Board, International Maritime Organization and also supported India's initiative on Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$0.36 million, reflecting a decline by 53.38% in 2018-19 over 2017-18. India's exports to San Marino however increased by 9.03% and stood at US\$ 0.15

million while imports from San Marino decreased 66.82% reaching US\$ 0.21 million (Values in US \$ millions).

Embassy of India in Rome has been celebrating the International Day of Yoga every year in the Republic of San Marino in collaboration with the Government of San Marino. The IYD was celebrated in San Marino at a large scale on 15 June 2019. Minister of Culture of San Marino, Mr. Marco Podeschi along with other local authorities participated at the event that was followed by Kathak dance performance. A food festival was also organized on this occasion to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

BULGARIA

Bulgaria continued to be a strong partner, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora, including support to India's candidature for WHO, ICAO, IMO, etc. Bilateral trade and investment relations are on an upward trajectory. Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mariyana Nikolova led the most high-powered business delegation to India Europe 29 Business Forum held in New Delhi on 20 and 21 November 2019, which also included President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of

India Bulgaria Business Chamber, senior Government officials and businessmen. President of Balkan Indian Business Association led a delegation to the 5th edition of Global Exhibition on Services held in Bengaluru on 26-28 November 2019. Several Defence delegations visited Bulgaria in connection with procurement of arms and ammunition.

The then EAM, Smt. Sushma Swaraj paid an official visit to Bulgaria on 16 and 17 February 2019.



External Affairs Minister meets Ekaterina Zaharieva, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bulgaria in Sofia (February 16, 2019)

NORTH MACEDONIA

North Macedonia is a long-standing friend of India and remains a reliable partner. It extended support to India's candidatures for ICAO and WCO, and permanent membership to the UNSC. Trade and investment ties between India and North Macedonia is growing. Bilateral trade stood at USD 25.98 million

from April to September 2019. India's exports in this period amounted to USD 11.62 million and imports to USD 14.36 million, with exports registering a 23.90 percent year on year increase during the period. H.E. Ms. Renata Deskoska, Minister of Justice visited India from 6-12 November 2019.

CROATIA

A significant development during the year was the installation of Mahatma Gandhi Bust in Zagreb on 02 October 2019, the first such bust in Croatia. The bust was unveiled by Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic (first such instance of Croatian PM unveiling a bust) and Zagreb Mayor Milan Bandic. An important milestone in India-Croatia sports cooperation was the appointment of Croatia's Igor Stimac as the head coach of Indian football team on 15 May 2019. Croatia

supports India's membership to the UNSC and NSG.

A live-streaming event was organized on the occasion of counting of ballots of the General Elections of India on 23 May 2019. Members of Parliament, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the Diplomatic Corps and media persons attended the event. Gandhi@150 was celebrated throughout the year.

CYPRUS

Cyprus has been a staunch supporter of India on issues of critical and crucial interest to it. Bilateral trade between India and Cyprus has increased over the recent years after the visits of both Presidents. India-Cyprus trade balance upto June 2019 was 32 million Euros. Cyprus is 8th top investor in India with cumulative investments of USD 9.927 billion during April 2000 - June 2019.

Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi met with President Nicos Anastasiades on the sidelines of the UNGA in

New York on 26 September 2019.

Cyprus has supported India for its permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, and India's candidate at the World Customs Organization, India's candidature to council of ICAO & council of IMO. Cyprus Space Exploration Organisation (CSEO) supported ISRO's bid to host 73rd IAC in 2022 in New Delhi. On the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, Government of Cyprus released a commemorative stamp on 10 September 2019.

CZECH REPUBLIC

India- Czech Republic witnessed the exchange of high level visits during the year - Czech Prime Minister, Hon'ble Andrej Babis visit to India for Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2019; and Czech Defence Minister, Mr. Lubomir Metnar in February 2019 - and 20 business missions. Following the up-gradation of relations with these exchanges, India received full support and understanding of Czech Republic on all issues of critical importance. Meeting between EAM and Czech Foreign Minister on the sidelines of UNGA in

September 2019 helped reinforce the strategic aspects of the relationship. Czech Republic supported India's bid for the non-permanent membership of UNSC for 2021-22, reiterated support for UN Reforms and for India's credentials as a permanent member of UNSC. During the year, economic relations remained stable with bilateral trade remaining at par with the previous year. People to people contacts witnessed a surge in tourist flows and an increase in the number of Indians in the country.

Under the bilateral dialogue mechanisms, the 6th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Heavy Engineering was held in Brno, Czech Republic on 8 October 2019. Regular exchange of our economic relationship provided an exchange of ideas, interactions and exploration of future areas of cooperation.

The Foreign Minister of Czech Republic, Tomas Petricek visited India from 13-15 Jan, 2020 along with an official and business delegation to participate in the Raisina

Dialogue 2020; On the sidelines of the Dialogue, he held a bilateral meeting with EAM. He also met Hon'ble Defence Minister, Minister of Commerce & Industries/ Railways and Minister of Civil Aviation during the visit.

In the defence sector, visit of Czech Deputy Minister for the Defexpo at Lucknow in February, 2020 will enable close interactions between the Defence Industry on both sides and sustain the growth in our defence relations.

DENMARK

During the year, India - Denmark relations had several exchanges of dignitaries to identify areas of possible cooperation, including cooperation in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector. The Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, visited India for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2019, as one of the four HOS/ HOGs. He also met Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Summit.

Commercial relations saw significant exchange of visits. Ms. Saloni Jhaveri, Head, Investor Relations & Partnerships, National Investment Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) visited Denmark; a 15-member Indian delegation visited Denmark during 15-21 June 2019 as part of the 'Nordic Master Class in Sustainable Urban Development'.

During the year, the following Joint Working Groups (JWGs) were held: The 2nd JWG on Food Processing was held from 19-21 June 2019 in Copenhagen where it was agreed to finalize a common JWG Plan for 2020-2023 including joint initiatives, seminars, etc; and the 3rd JWG on Labour Mobility was held during 4-5 Nov

2019 in New Delhi where further cooperation in the field of labour mobility between India and Denmark was discussed. Denmark also supports India's bid for a permanent seat in the UNSC and NSG.

Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod visited India during 14-16 Jan 2020 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. He held bilateral meetings with EAM on the sidelines of the Dialogue. He also met Minister of Jalshakti during the visit.

Commercial delegations/events

A delegation from Danish Export Association and DI Food is participating in Indus Food 2020 in Noida organised by Trade Promotion Council of India during 8-9 Jan 2020.

Joint Working Groups (JWGs)

The 2nd JWG on Animal Husbandry will be held on 17 Jan 2020 in Copenhagen during the visit of delegation led by Secretary (Animal Husbandry & Dairying) from 14-17 Jan 2020.

FINLAND

During the year, bilateral high-level dialogue received a boost with the visit of Minister of External Affairs,

Dr. S. Jaishankar to Helsinki on 19-20 September 2019 to mark the 70 years of India-Finland diplomatic

relations. EAM met President, Mr. Sauli Niinistö, Prime Minister, Mr. Antti Rinne, and Foreign Minister Mr. Pekka Haavisto. To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, EAM and Foreign Minister of Finland, Mr. Pekka Haavisto jointly unveiled a life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi gifted by Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Government of India to the Government of Finland. Finland extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

To continue the high-level dialogue, Foreign Minister of Finland, Mr. Pekka Haavisto visited India from 4 to 6 November 2019 and exchanged views with EAM and Minister of Finance. He also inaugurated the state-of-art manufacturing facility of Finnish company, KONE elevators in Chennai.

In 2019-20 an MOU was signed between our Ministry of Tourism and the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment for Cooperation in Tourism; a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between Finnish

Ministry of Economic Affairs & Employment and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, GoI for Cooperation in the field of Digitization; and MOU was signed between the National Skills Development Cooperation, India and EDUFI, Finland for Cooperation in Vocational Education Training. 25 Indian start-ups participated at the annual event for start-ups in Helsinki, SLUSH with support from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Permanent Secretary of Defence Mr. Jakku Juusti would be participating in Raisina Dialogue 2020 as a Speaker. The MOU for Cooperation in Production, Procurement, Research and Development of Defence Related Equipment and Industrial Cooperation is likely to be signed during the visit.

Anticipated: 10 Members of Parliament from the Finance Committee in Finland's Parliament led by Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Johannes Koskinen, would be visiting India from 23-29 February for familiarisation.

ESTONIA

During the year, Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Estonia from 20-21 August accompanied by three Members of Parliament, media and a business delegation of 18 companies. Vice President and Prime Minister, Mr Jüri Ratas jointly addressed the India Estonia Business Forum in which a business delegation from India led by CII and an Estonian business delegation participated. Three MOUs were signed during the visit for - Waiver of visas for diplomatic passport holders; Cooperation in Cyber Security; and for Cooperation in e-Governance and emerging Digital Technologies respectively. Estonia extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

Foreign Minister of Estonia, H.E.Mr. Urmas Reinsalu would be visited India to participate in the Raisina Dialogue 2020 as one of the key note speakers. He interacted with EAM and had other official engagements.

Anticipated: Four Members of Parliament led by Mr. Sven Sester, Chairperson of India Estonia Parliamentary Group in Estonia's Parliament would be visiting India from 31 January to 6 February, 2020 for familiarisation on their own initiative.

GREECE

During the year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the newly elected Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, on the sidelines of the High Level Segment of the UNGA in New York on 27 September 2019. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MOS(C&I) visited Thessaloniki, Greece on 7 September 2019, to jointly inaugurate the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF 2019) with the Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. India

was the 'Honoured Country' at the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair 2019 (TIF 2019), the largest annual commercial exposition of Greece and also the largest in Southeast Europe and the Balkans, held at Thessaloniki from September 7-15, 2019. Greece extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

HUNGARY

India's relations with Hungary continued to strengthen during the year. A series of activities were held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the visits of External Affairs Minister and Minister of Jal Shakti to Hungary set the stage for deepening of bilateral engagement. EAM Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar visited Hungary on 25-27 August 2019 and held discussions with Hungary's Foreign Minister Mr. Peter Szijjarto on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues. The two Ministers signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2019-22. The Hungarian side also announced their decision to join the International Solar Alliance. Hungary extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

Other visits during the year included Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti to Budapest on October 14-17 2019; a visit by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari to Budapest to attend the 5th ASEM Transport Ministers' meeting with a high-powered delegation is also expected on December 9-12, 2019; Chairman TRAI and the Chairman TDSAT participated in the International Telecommunication Union Conference 2019 held in Budapest. From Hungary, Deputy State Secretary for

External Economic Relations, Mr. Istvan Joo visited India to participate in IE29BF on 20-22 November 2019 and met with MoS (VM) on the sidelines of the meetings. Hungary reconstituted the India Hungary Friendship Group in their Parliament for the period 2018-22.

In the first seven months of 2019, the bilateral trade saw an increase of around 10% year-on-year, with exports rising by 12% and imports by 3%. During the two ministerial visits, the areas of film production, digitization, water management, solar energy and pharmaceuticals for strengthening cooperation inter alia were identified, apart from enhancing educational, tourism and scientific exchanges. On 22nd May, 2019 Samvardhana Motherson Automotive Technologies & Engineering (MATE), an Indian company in the automotive sector announced a EUR 15.3 million expansion at its base in Túrkeve.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Mr. Peter Szijjarto visited India from January 15-17, 2020 to participate in the 5th edition of Raisina Dialogue. He held bilateral meetings with EAM on the sidelines of the Dialogue. He also met CIM and Minister of Small & Medium Enterprises during the visit.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

India's relations with Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) steadily progressed during the year. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin presented his credentials to H.E. Mr. Zeljko Komsic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia

and Herzegovina on 18 September 2019. He also called on Mr. Milorad Dodik, Serbian member of the tripartite Presidency on 20 September 2019.

ICELAND

The relationship between India and Iceland progressed significantly during the year. The business relations between the two countries also grew. The two nations continued to cooperate in the United Nations and other international fora.

Ms. Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Secretary (Fisheries) from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GOI, along with a two member delegation visited Iceland from 20-22 August 2019. During the visit, Secretary (Fisheries) met with Iceland's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries & Innovation and held extensive discussions. Secretary also visited the Iceland Ocean cluster house.

The bilateral relations received a boost as the Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to Iceland from 9 - 11 September 2019. He was accompanied by MoS for Women and Child Development Smt. Debasree Chaudhuri, Members of Parliament Dr. Ramapati Ram Tripathi and Shri Basanta Kumar Panda, a high level official delegation, and a 35-member business delegation.

Rashtrapatiiji held delegation level talks with President of Iceland, who also hosted a State dinner. Following three Agreement/MoUs were signed in the presence of both Presidents:

- (i) Agreement on Exemption from Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports;



Ceremonial Welcome of President at Presidential Residence during his visit to Reykjavik, Iceland (September 10, 2019)

- (ii) Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the year 2019-2022;
- (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Fisheries Development.

Rashtrapatiji also delivered a public address at the

University of Iceland on the topic “India-Iceland for a Green Planet”, and addressed the India-Iceland Business Forum which saw over 75 leading CEOs from Iceland participating.

MALTA

Relations with Malta continued to grow during the year. Dr. Jose Herrera, Minister for Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change of Malta visited India to participate in the UNCCD COP14 meeting hosted by India from 2-13 September 2019. The Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat, visited India as one of the four HOS/HOG for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit

2019. He also met with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Summit.

Prime Minister meets Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta on sidelines of Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Ahmedabad (January 18, 2019)

NORWAY

This year the Prime Minister of Norway, Ms. Erna Solberg, visited India on a State Visit from 7 and 8 January 2019 and had bilateral talks on issues of mutual interest. She also delivered the inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue. An MoU on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue was exchanged during the visit. The State

Secretary (Deputy Minister) of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Marianne Hagen, visited India from 8 -12 February 2019 and a Letter of Intent on India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative was signed between Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, GOI under the India-Norway Ocean Dialogue. She also attended the World Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI. Norway extends support to Indian’s bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG.

Mrs. Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying attended the 6th Meeting of JWG on Marine Resources and Aqua Nor 2019 held in Trondheim, Norway from 22-25 August 2019. A delegation from the Ministry of Shipping visited Oslo from 18-21 November 2019 to attend the 7th Joint Working Group on Maritime.

Anticipated events: (i) First meeting of the Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI) is scheduled for January 15-



Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway delivers her inaugural address at the fourth Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi (January 08, 2019)

16, 2020 in New Delhi and (ii) Ms Iselin Nybø, Minister of Research and Higher Education will be visiting India (Delhi and Chennai) from February 2-6, 2020. During the visit, an MoU on Higher Education is expected to be signed between Ministry of HRD and Norwegian

Ministry of Higher Education. Talks/Lectures on “Constitution Day and Campaign of Citizens’ Duties” will be organized in January, February and March, 2020 as part of the celebrations of the Constitution Day.

POLAND

India and Poland share a long-standing friendly relationship, marked by strong political partnership, vibrant economic engagement and traditional cultural links. This positive trend in the relationship, particularly economic and commercial ties, is reflected in the increase in the bilateral trade as per Indian statistics, to USD 2.37 billion in 2018-19 from USD 1.59 billion in 2015-16. Indian investment in Poland is estimated at USD 3 billion providing employment to over 25,000 Poles and Polish investment in India, which has also risen significantly, is estimated at over USD 673.62 million. Poland extends support to India’s bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S. Jaishankar visited Poland from 28-29 August 2019. EAM held delegation level talks with his Polish counterpart Foreign

Minister Jacek Czaputowicz. During his visit EAM met Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and National Integration Piotr Glinski.

Other visits during the year included- a) A Government of Haryana delegation led by Shri Om Prakash Dhankar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare visited Poland from 20-22 May to study the wholesale fruit, vegetables, and flowers markets; b) A delegation from PHD Chamber of Commerce, led by Mr. Naveen Seth, principal director, visited Warsaw from 24-26 May 2019 to participate in the Warsaw Gift and Deco Show; c) 60 Companies from India and Nepal participated in the second edition of Made in Asia exhibition that was held in Lodz from April 5-15 2019.



External Affairs Minister calls on Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland in Warsaw (August 29, 2019)

6th Roundtable between the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) would be held on 14th January, 2020 in New Delhi.

The following commercial events are scheduled to be held during the period January-March 2020:

Workshop in Warsaw in February 2020 to introduce

WAPCOS (Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. to Polish companies with the objective to explore areas of mutual cooperation in the fields of water resources, power and infrastructure.

Participation by a trade delegation from CLE (Council for Leather Exports) in the Poznan Fashion Fair during February 19-20, 2020.

LITHUANIA

India and Lithuania enjoy cordial relations that are marked by close cultural linkages. In a significant development in the bilateral relations Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Lithuania from 17-19 August 2019, along with a delegation. This was the first high level visit from India since the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries in 1992. Three MOU's, namely, Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP), Agricultural Work Plan and Exchange of Protocol for implementing the Extradition Treaty were signed during the visit. Lithuania extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership to the UNSC, and NSG membership.

The economic and commercial ties have grown in recent years and the bilateral trade between India and

Lithuania stands at USD 339.51 million in 2018-19. Indian investment (Indorama group) is estimated to be over USD 200 million. A dedicated Indian Chamber of Commerce was established in September 2018.

On the Commercial side the following were the important visits include - CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) business delegation led by Mr. Mohsin Khan, Deputy Director, on 17-19 August 2019; FICCI jointly with Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council (W&WEPC) organised "India Pavilion" at Baltic Fashion & Textile at Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre LITEXPO, Vilnius from 17-19 October 2019. For the first time, FICCI participated and organised "India Pavilion" at the 28th Baltic Fashion & Textile Trade Fair, the biggest fashion and textile trade fair in the Baltics.

ALBANIA

Bilateral relations are friendly and remain one of mutual trust and understanding. India and Albania cooperate on an issue-based approach in the multilateral fora.

Albania extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC.

MOLDOVA

Bilateral relations are friendly and remain one of mutual trust and understanding. India and Moldova cooperate on an issue-based approach in the multilateral fora. The Postal Department of Moldova issued commemorative

postal stamps and postal cards on the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi in October 2019.

ROMANIA

Bilateral relations are friendly and remain one of mutual trust and understanding. India and Romania cooperate on an issue-based approach in the multilateral fora. India's presence in Romania has increased with the opening of offices by major IT companies like Infosys,

TCS and HCL in Romania. There has also been a steady increase in the import of human resources from India to help the construction sector in Romania. Romania extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership to the UNSC, and NSG membership.

SERBIA

A series of high level visits during this year added further momentum to the bilateral relations between India and Serbia. The External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to Serbia on 7-9 September 2019. During the visit, he met President of Serbia Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia Ms. Maja Gojkovic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Ivica Dacic, and Defence Minister of Serbia Mr. Aleksandar Vulin and held detailed discussions on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues. Serbia extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

Cooperation in international forums, regular exchange of high level visits between India and Serbia, and further development of relations in economic and trade areas such as IT, Agriculture, Tourism, film production, Pharmaceuticals and Defence industry were identified as areas of cooperation. Agreement on Defence Cooperation between India and Serbia was also signed during the visit.

Other exchanges includes, Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla led parliamentary delegation to participate in 141st Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Belgrade on 12-18 October 2019; State Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and



External Affairs Minister meets Maja Gojkovic, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia in Belgrade,(November 07, 2019)

Water Management of Serbia Mr. Bogdan Igic led a 12-member delegation of officials of his Ministry and private businesses to India on 24-28 September 2019. A Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) is likely to be organized

in Belgrade in the first week of March 2020 for Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council's delegation of Indian pharmaceutical companies.

SLOVAKIA

India - Slovakia relations are friendly and free from any major bilateral issues. Both cooperate well in the international fora and have been, by and large, supportive of each other's candidatures. India's total exports to Slovakia during the period January - August, 2019 were worth Euro 191.3 million and total imports were Euro 61.4 million. Slovakia is the biggest producer of cars; one of the fastest growing economies in the region with the labour force of high quality.

On 13 February 2019, 10th Session of Joint Economic Committee (JEC) between India and Slovakia took place in New Delhi; followed by bilateral meeting between the State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy,

Slovak Republic and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Gol took place on 14 February 2019. Commercial Representative and Marketing Executive will be participating in the International Fair of Travel and Tourism 'ITF SLOVAKIATOUR' to be held during January 23 - 26, 2020 at Incheba Expo Center in Bratislava

Commercial Section will be organizing a Business Forum/Seminar in Kosice in the month of February 2020 in cooperation with Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kosice and the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bratislava.

SLOVENIA

Bilateral relations between India and Slovenia received impetus by the first-ever State visit at the level of Head of State by Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji to Slovenia from 15-17 September 2019. He, accompanied by a large delegation including MOS for Women and Child Development and two Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha, visited Slovenia at the invitation of Slovenian President Borut Pahor. A business delegation also accompanied him during the visit. Rashtrapatiji was granted State Honour by the Slovenian President. His engagements including tête-à-tête with the Slovenian President, delegation-level talks, calls by Slovenian President of National Assembly and the Prime Minister. Slovenia extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG membership.

During his visit, he also addressed the Indian community and Slovenia-India Business Forum. The following agreements were signed during the visit:

- Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of India and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia for the period 2020-2022
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sport between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia
- Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Arts, Education, Sports and Mass Media
- Programme of Cooperation between the Bureau of

Indian Standards (BIS) and the Slovenian Institute for Standardization (SIST) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Standardization

- MoU between Invest India and SPIRIT Slovenia
- Memorandum of Understanding between IIT Kanpur (for cGanga / India) and VGB (Slovenia)
- Memorandum of Understanding between IIT Kanpur (for cGanga / India) and Space-SI (Slovenia)
- Cooperation Agreement between Chamber Of Commerce And Industry Of Slovenia (CCIS) and the Associated Chambers Of Commerce And Industry

Of India (ASSOCHAM)

There was continued cooperation and support between the two countries in multilateral fora. Total bilateral trade increased by 33.79% from EUR 270.01 million to EUR 361.25 million during the year. Indian exports to Slovenia increased by 36.57% from EUR 183.52 million to EUR 250.61 million and Indian import from Slovenia increased by 29.15% from EUR 86.49 million to EUR 110.64 million. This is the highest commodity trade between the two countries during the period 2014-2018.

SWEDEN

This year Sweden's Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden paid a State Visit to India from 1-6 December 2019, at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind. This was His Majesty's third visit to

President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and called on by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest. His Majesty was accompanied by Foreign



King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurates of Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant at Haridwar during his visit of India (December 05, 2019)

India, the earlier visits being in the years 1993 and 2005. During the visit, His Majesty held meetings with

Minister, Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation, Mr. Ibrahim Baylan and State Secretary

at the Ministry of Health, Ms.Maja Fjaestad and a 50-member business delegation. Sweden extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG.

Some of the other visits include Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, Industry and Railways Shri Piyush Goyal visit to Sweden on 22&23 October 2019 to co-Chair the 19th Session of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation in Stockholm. Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, Industry and Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal signed the minutes of the 19th Session of Indo-Swedish JCM for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Co-operation in Stockholm on 23 October 2019. A Ministry of Ayush delegation visited Gothenburg, Sweden from 13-17 April, 2019 to promote/propagate AYUSH medicines and to attend ISOTC-215 Health Informatics meeting. A 4-member high-level delegation led by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, visited Sweden from 1-4 May 2019 to co-chair the 6th Joint Working Group Meeting of India-Sweden Joint Committee Meeting on Science & Technology with

Swedish State secretary Malin Cederfeldt Östberg, Ministry of Education and Research, and State secretary Stina Billinger, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation. Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat led a high-level delegation to Sweden from 28-29 August 2019 to participate in the SIWI's World Water Week 2019.

A study Visit of a 8-member Government of Maharashtra delegation led by Minister for Urban Administration Development to Sweden from 15-17 January 2020 with focus on e-governance and citizen service is under consideration.

Visit by Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to attend the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Stockholm from 19-20 February 2020 is under consideration.

A visit of a 2-member delegation led by Deputy CAG of India Andrew Wan Kupur Langstieh to Sweden from 26-27 March 2020 to attend the Annual Goal Chair Cooperation Representatives Meeting 2020 is under consideration.

LATVIA

This year high level visit took place in the context of increasing political engagement, as well as intensified trade and commercial engagement. Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Latvia from 19 & 20 August 2019.

He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Minister of State for HRD, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Smt. Ranee Narah, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and a 25 member business delegation led by ASSOCHAM, CII and IMC (with ASSOCHAM as the lead chamber).

During the visit a Cultural Exchange Agreement was signed between India and Latvia. Vice President also unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the prestigious National Library of Latvia.

External Affairs Minister, Shri S.Jaishankar met the Foreign Minister of Latvia on the sidelines of 74th UNGA in New York on 26 September 2019. Latvia extends support to Indian's bid for permanent membership of the UNSC, and NSG. Foreign Minister of Latvia Edgars Rinkēvičs visited India from January 13-16, 2020 to participate in the 5th edition of Raisina Dialogue. He held bilateral meetings with EAM on the sidelines of the Dialogue. He also met Chairman of Lok Sabha External Affairs Committee during the visit.

TURKEY

During the year, PM Modi and President Erdogan discussed bilateral cooperation during their interaction on the margins of G-20 in Osaka in July 2019. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu discussed bilateral relations on the margins of UNGA in September 2019. Dr. Ibrahim Kalin, Senior Advisor and Spokesperson of the President of Turkey and Deputy Chairman of the Foreign and Security Council of Turkey visited India on 25 April 2019. The 10th round of India-

Turkey Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on 8 May 2019. A delegation from the 43rd Higher Command Course led by Air Vice Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik, VM visited Turkey from 14-18 October 2019.

Bilateral trade between India and Turkey during April-September 2019 was USD 3.75 billion. An 18-member Turkish media delegation visited India in August 2019. This was the first ever visit by Turkish media to India.

SWITZERLAND

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind visited Switzerland on a State Visit from 11-15 September 2019. During the delegation-level talks, the complete spectrum of the bilateral relationship was discussed and reviewed. The bilateral agreements signed during the visit included: (i) Letter of Intent on Establishment of India-Switzerland Science & Innovation Alliance; (ii) MOU on Technical Cooperation in the Field of Climate Change; and (iii) MOU on Renewal of Establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Lausanne. Hon'ble President of India and Swiss President H.E. Mr. Ueli Maurer made remarks at the India-Switzerland Business Round table which was held on 13 September 2019 in Berne. Hon'ble President also inaugurated a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Villeneuve on 14 September. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan accompanied by a delegation visited Switzerland from 12-15 May 2019.

The 5th meeting of the Indo-Swiss Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held on 30 April 2019 in Berne. The 5th round of India-Switzerland

Consular Dialogue was held in Berne on 11 November. Switzerland's State Secretary for International Finance Ms. Daniela Stoffel visited India on 13 November 2019 and had meetings in Department of Revenue for further assistance in tax matters.

During April-October 2019, India's exports to Switzerland saw an increase of 14% compared to April-October 2018. Switzerland continues to be one the major trade partners with India with total bilateral trade at USD 19.7 billion in 2018-19. The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum will take place in Davos from 21-24 January 2020 and will witness participation from Union Government as well as State Governments from India. India is the Country Guest of Honour at the Geneva Health Forum taking place from 24-26 March 2020 in Geneva. While the dates are yet to be finalised, there is the possibility of India-Switzerland Joint Economic Commission and India-Switzerland Financial Dialogue taking place in March 2020.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Bilateral relations between India and Liechtenstein continued smoothly. In order to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Liechtensteinische Post AG, launched Commemorative Postal Stamp on Mahatma Gandhi on 22 October 2019 in Vaduz.

A meeting to discuss exemption of visa requirement

for holders of diplomatic passports was held on 12 November 2019 in Vaduz. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Adarsh Swaika, Joint Secretary (CPV), Ministry of External Affairs and the Liechtenstein delegation was led by Mr. Domenik Wanger, Dy. Director of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein.

THE HOLY SEE

Bilateral relations between India and The Holy See continued smoothly. Indian delegation led by Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs visited the Vatican City on 12&13 October 2019 to attend the Canonization Ceremony of Blessed Sister Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan of India. The delegation also included Shri Shyam Kumar, Minister of Forest and Environment, Horticulture, and

Soil Conservations and Mahud and Town Planning, Government of Manipur. MOS (EA) had an audience with Pope Francis and meeting with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary of State Relations [Foreign Minister], Holy See. On the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary (01 October 2019), the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Inter religious Dialogue organized a day-long Inter-religious Congress.

AUSTRIA

India and Austria share warm and cordial relations. The bilateral relations were strengthened during the year through exchange of visits, business delegations, cultural programmes and people-to-people interaction. Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration & Foreign Affairs, Dr. Karin Kneissl visited India on her first official visit from February 25&26 2019. The visit took place in the context of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Austria.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister Karin Kneissl held delegation level talks on 25 February 2019, and set priorities for the further enhancement of bilateral relations, particularly in areas

of trade and investment, education, migration, culture and tourism and enhancement of people-to-people ties. FM Kneissl also had a detailed interaction with various Think Tanks in New Delhi on the shared interest between India and Austria in a rule-based international order.

2nd India-Austria Consular Consultations were held in New Delhi on 23 October 2019. Both sides discussed various consular issues and ideas to further liberalise the visa regime to make it easier for more tourists, business-people, professionals, officials to travel to each other's countries.

MONTENEGRO

India's relations with Montenegro have traditionally been close and friendly since the days of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) of which it was a constituent republic. There is considerable goodwill and feeling of friendship for India in Montenegro.

The 2nd round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 13 March 2019. A delegation led by Minister of Agriculture of Haryana Sh. Om Prakash Dhankar visited Montenegro on 18&19 May 2019.

EUROPEAN UNION

The year saw a further deepening of bilateral relationship between India and the European Union (EU). The trend of high-level exchanges continued with several important visits from India, including the visit of External Affairs Minister. The India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was also held on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi in preparation for the 15th India-EU Summit.

Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, met Mr. Joseph Borrell, EU High Representative/Vice President-designate for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on 23 November 2019 on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Nagoya and deliberated on the future India-EU ties.

Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Brussels on 30 August 2019 and met the President of the European Parliament Mr. David Maria Sassoli, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Federica Mogherini and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Mr. Christos Stylianides and exchanged views on bilateral, regional, global and multilateral issues.

Dr. S. Jaishankar and Ms. Federica Mogherini also met on 1 August 2019 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, and again on 27 September 2019 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey participated in the Global Vaccination Summit 2019 organised by the European Commission, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation, on 12 September 2019. During his intervention, Shri Choubey described the ways in which the Government of India is strengthening primary healthcare and rolling out one of the largest vaccination programmes in history consisting of seven vaccines.

The India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting was held on 8 November 2019 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East), and the EU side by Mr. Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary General, European External Action Service. The meeting covered the entire spectrum of the India-EU relationship with a view to identify areas to strengthen cooperation as well as possible deliverables at the 15th India-EU Summit likely to take place in early 2020. Both sides recognized the need to fully realize the untapped potential of the Strategic Partnership. They also expressed commitment to increase the engagement including in the areas of Digital Economy, Climate Change and cooperation at the multilateral forums.

Shri Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (Consular, Passport & Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) and Ms. Paraskevi Michou, Director General (Migration and Home Affairs), European Commission co-Chaired the 5th High Level

Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) between India and the European Union in New Delhi on 11 July 2019. The discussions at the meeting encompassed a wide range of issues of mutual interest in the context of migration and mobility along the India-EU corridor.

The annual meeting of the India-EU Sub Commission on Trade was held in Brussels on 4 July 2019 co-Chaired by Ms Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, DoC and Mr. Peter Berz, Acting Director, Directorate General of Trade, European Commission. The Sub Commission reviewed the reports of the Joint Working Groups under its purview such as Pharmaceuticals, SPS/TBT (Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary/Technical Barriers to Trade), Agriculture & Marine Products, etc. It also discussed trade related issues such as GSP (Generalised System of Preference), Market access issues, data protection, IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), steel, regulatory measures affecting trade on both sides, etc.

The 12th annual meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on ICT (Information and Communication Technology) took place in Brussels on 12-13 September 2019 which was co-Chaired by Shri Rajiv Kumar, Joint Secretary, MeitY, and Mr Gerard De Graaf, Director, Directorate General of Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission. The discussions focused on Telecommunications, including market issues, 5G, Cyber security, Research & Innovation, Personal data protection, AI (Artificial Intelligence), Supercomputing Quantum,

Standardisation, etc. An EU-India Business Dialogue was also organized by Digital Europe and NASSCOM on 12 September 2019.

Ministry of Railways and the European Commission (Directorate General of Mobility and Transport) signed an Administrative Arrangement on Cooperation in the field of Railways on 3 September 2019. In pursuance to this, both sides held a Technical Seminar on 19 November 2019 in New Delhi with participation of the European Commission officials and industry representatives.

The EU is India's largest regional trading partner while India is the EU's 9th largest trading partner. India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU in 2018 stood at €91.5 billion (\$107.97 billion) comprising India's exports to the EU at €45.8 billion (\$54.0 billion) and imports at €45.7 billion (\$53.9 billion). India's bilateral trade for the period January-September 2019 with the EU stood at €68.6 billion (\$75.46 billion).

India's bilateral trade in services with the EU in 2018 was €36 billion (\$42.5 billion) comprising India's exports at €19.3 billion (\$22.7 billion) and imports at €16.7 billion (\$19.7 billion).

EU is India's largest source of FDI. During the period April 2000 to June 2019, FDI equity inflows from the EU to India totalled \$100.35 billion, which is about 23% of the total FDI.

8

THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES

India's Relations with the United States

Relations between India and the United States (U.S.) continued to witness comprehensive growth and development over the past year. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's (PM) visit to the U.S. and his other bilateral meetings with the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump (President Trump) in 2019 served to provide high-level attention and guidance to the relationship. Institutionalized dialogue mechanisms such as India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue and other high-level/Ministerial engagements led to significant outcomes in areas such as defence and security, counter-terrorism, energy, trade and commerce, science & technology, and people-to-people ties. The India-U.S. partnership continued to develop and assume greater salience in the Indo-Pacific as well as globally. Both sides are working together to address

regional as well as global challenges, including through their partnership in multilateral fora.

High-level/Leader-level Interaction

PM visited the U.S. on 21-27 September 2019 to participate in the High-Level Segment of the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) and for bilateral engagement with the U.S. side. Apart from participation in UN-related events, PM had a bilateral meeting with President Trump on the margins of the UNGA on 24 September 2019. Earlier, PM and President Trump had participated in a community summit titled 'Howdy, Modi! Shared Dreams, Bright Futures' in Houston on 22 September 2019. Both leaders addressed the gathering at the event.

PM also had other engagements during this visit such as, interaction with Chief Executive Officers of leading energy companies in Houston, a roundtable discussion in New York with U.S. business leaders from across 20 sectors, interaction with different Indian community groups, hosting an event to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the United Nations' Headquarters, receiving the 'Global Goalkeeper Award' of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and delivering the Keynote Address at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum. PM's visit played an important role in promotion of India's relations with the U.S. in areas such as trade, economy, energy, people-to-people ties, counter-terrorism, defence etc.

Prior to his visit to the U.S. in September 2019, PM had two bilateral meetings with President Trump – on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka on 28 June 2019 and on the margins of the G7 Summit in Biarritz on 26 August 2019. Both leaders also met for the India-U.S.-Japan trilateral leader-level meeting held on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka in June 2019. PM and President Trump had two telephone conversations in the recent past (on 24 May 2019 and 19 August 2019).

India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

The Second India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue (2+2 Dialogue) took place in Washington, D.C. on 18 December 2019. The Indian delegation was led by Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh (RM) and External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar who met their U.S. counterparts - Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo (Secretary Pompeo) and the Secretary of Defense, Dr. Mark Esper (Secretary Esper) for a comprehensive discussion on crosscutting bilateral issues of mutual interest in strategic and security domains. Both sides also exchanged views on salient regional and global issues.

Prominent outcomes emerging from 2+2 Dialogue include: conclusion of the Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to the India-U.S. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) that will provide a framework for exchange and protection of classified military information between the U.S. and Indian defence industries, finalization of the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which will harmonise processes for identification, development and execution of projects under the



Prime Minister and Donald Trump, President of USA at the Indian Community Event in Houston, Texas (September 22, 2019)

DTTI, and establishment of an industry-to-industry framework under the DTTI. Both sides also decided to work together for, the establishment of an India-U.S. Young Innovators Initiative, strengthen Parliamentary exchanges, enhance judicial cooperation, expand cooperation in Peacekeeping, explore collaboration for establishment of Maintenance Repair and Overhaul facilities in India, enhance cooperation between the Indian Navy and the U.S. Navy Fleets under U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; Central Command; and Africa Command, and expand similar cooperation between respective Armies and Air Forces. Both sides decided to explore further military liaison relationships, including placement of an Indian officer to liaison with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and placement of a U.S. liaison officer at the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region established by India. They also decided to develop cooperation in Space Situational Awareness.

The U.S. also decided to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure as a founding member.

During the visit to the U.S. in December 2019 for the 2+2 Dialogue, EAM and RM had a joint call on President Trump on 18 December 2019.

Ministerial-level Engagements

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley visited the U.S. in April 2019 to attend meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. He also participated in roundtable discussions with investors during the visit.

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur L. Ross visited India in May 2019 for participation in a business forum titled 'Trade Winds Indo-Pacific Forum and Mission'. During this visit, he called on PM and had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

Secretary Pompeo visited India in June 2019. During this visit, he called on PM, and met EAM and National Security Advisor (NSA), Shri Ajit Doval. He also delivered a speech on India-U.S. relations at the India International Centre in Delhi.

EAM held a bilateral meeting with Secretary Pompeo on the margins of the 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok in August 2019.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, John J. Sullivan visited India in August 2019 and participated in the India-U.S. Forum. He also had a separate bilateral meeting with EAM.

Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal (CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal), visited the U.S. in September 2019 and had a bilateral meeting with the United States Trade Representative, Robert E. Lighthizer (USTR Lighthizer). He also attended a special interactive session with business leaders in New York.

EAM visited the U.S. on 21 September-02 October 2019. During the initial segment of the visit, EAM was a part of PM's delegation for various engagements in Houston and New York. Besides, he took part in various events at UNGA and met with his counterparts and interlocutors from a number of countries. Subsequently, EAM visited Washington, D.C. on 28 September-02 October 2019. He had bilateral meetings with Secretary Pompeo; Secretary Esper; Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Robert C. O'Brien (NSA O' Brien); and Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan. During the visit, EAM interacted with various think-tanks in Washington, D.C. including the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, the Heritage Foundation, Atlantic Council, and the Brookings Institution. EAM also participated in two separate interactions organized by the U.S.-India Strategic

Partnership Forum and the U.S.-India Business Council. On 2 October 2019, EAM met Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and also participated in an event organized by the Embassy of India, Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Minister of Finance (FM), Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation to the International Monetary Fund/ World Bank Annual Meetings 2019 held in Washington, D.C. in October 2019. On the margins of the Annual Meetings, she attended the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings of the G20 and BRICS. During this visit she also interacted with industrial and institutional investors, spoke at the Columbia University, and interacted with members of the Indian Diaspora in Chicago.

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Steven T. Mnuchin (Secretary Mnuchin) visited India in November 2019 for the 7th India-U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership meeting held in Delhi on 01 November 2019. FM, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation for this meeting.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur L. Ross visited India in October 2019 for participation in World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit. He also had bilateral meetings with FM, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, and CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal, during this visit.

CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal visited the U.S. in November 2019. He had a bilateral meeting with USTR Lighthizer, and also participated in a business roundtable in New York.

RM held a bilateral meeting with Secretary Esper on the sidelines of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Bangkok in November 2019.

RM visited the U.S. in December 2019 for the 2+2 Dialogue as well as other bilateral engagements. Apart from participation in the 2+2 Dialogue, he met the

Indian community in New York, visited a naval station in Norfolk, and had a bilateral meeting with Secretary Esper.

EAM visited the U.S. for the 2+2 Dialogue in December 2019 and had separate bilateral meetings with Secretary Pompeo and NSA O'Brien. EAM also met the leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Foreign Ministers of India, Australia, Japan and the United States met in New York on 26 September 2019 for consultations in the Quadrilateral format.

Visits by Chief Ministers of Indian States to the U.S.

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy led a three-member delegation on a visit to the U.S. in August 2019 for meetings with potential investors.

Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma visited the U.S. in September 2019 to attend the Berkeley Innovation Forum at the University of California, Berkeley.

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami visited the U.S. in September 2019 for interaction with potential investors in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Buffalo, and New York.

Visits by Governors of U.S. States to India

Governor of the State of New Jersey, Phil Murphy led a 40-member delegation on a visit to India in September 2019. His engagements in India included a call on PM and a meeting with EAM. He visited Delhi, Agra, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

Governor of the State of Arkansas, Asa Hutchinson visited India in September-October 2019 to promote bilateral economic ties. Apart from various other engagements, he met the Governor of Maharashtra.

Governor of the State of Indiana, Eric Holcomb led a business delegation to India in September-October 2019. During the visit, Governor Holcomb also called on PM and met CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal.

Governor of the State of Colorado, Jared Polis visited India along with a trade delegation in November 2019. He participated in the Global RE-Invest Expo, organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Visits by Parliamentarians

Visits by Indian and U.S. Parliamentarians play an important role in developing greater understanding between the two countries on various issues of mutual interest. Some prominent visits by the members of the U.S. Congress to India in the recent past include: Senator Robert Menendez (September-October 2019), Senator Chris Van Hollen (October 2019), Senator Margaret Hassan (October 2019), and Senator Rafael Edward Cruz (October 2019).

A five-member bipartisan delegation comprising of the members of the U.S. Congress visited India in August 2019 for participation in the India-U.S. Forum. Apart from other engagements the delegation also met EAM.

Other Major Exchanges

Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer, and Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Upendra Prasad Singh visited the U.S. in April 2019 for participation in the World Water Week Conference organized by the World Bank.

Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Shri Subhash Garg visited Washington in April 2019 to attend meetings of the World Bank/IMF.

Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Shri Gopla Krishna visited the U.S. in April 2019 for participation in the Seatrade Global Cruise Conference.

Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Shri Ramesh Abhishek visited the U.S. in May 2019, along with an Invest India delegation for interaction with potential investors.

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad visited India in May and August 2019, and met EAM.

Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra visited Washington, D.C. in May 2019 for interaction with the World Bank.

Controller General of Accounts, Shri Anthony Lianzuala, visited the U.S. in May 2019 for participation in the International Conference on Governmental Financial Management.

Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), Department of Atomic Energy, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty led a delegation on a visit to the U.S. in June 2019 to review ongoing cooperation with Fermilab, Illinois.

President, Indian Council of Cultural Relations, Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe visited Atlanta in August 2019.

Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Shri Atanu Chakraborty held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, the U.S. Under Secretary of Treasury for International Affairs, Brent McIntosh in Washington D.C. in October 2019 on the margins of the 2019 Annual Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Chairman, Railway Board, Shri V.K. Yadav visited the U.S. in October 2019 for deliberations with prominent universities on the U.S West Coast to explore academic collaboration with the newly established National Rail & Transportation University.

Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer visited the U.S. in November 2019 for participation in an Annual Conference at the Columbia University, New York.

Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Upendra Prasad Singh, visited Washington, D.C. in November 2019 for discussions with World Bank Officials on the Indus Water Treaty.

Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Shri T.K. Pandey visited the U.S. in December 2019 for meetings with energy companies regarding disinvestment of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

CEO, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Shri Amitabh Kant visited the U.S. in December 2019 and participated in various events/interactions and round table discussions.

Consultations/Dialogue Mechanisms

There are a number of dialogue mechanisms between India and the U.S. at various levels that cover a wide range of areas. Some major bilateral exchanges under these dialogue mechanisms during the year included the following:

Security/Strategic: The 22nd Indian Air Force - U.S. Air Force Executive Steering Group meeting was held in Hawaii in April-May 2019.

The Defence Procurement and Production Group meeting took place in July - August 2019 in Washington, D.C.. It was co-chaired by Director General (Acquisition), Ministry of Defence, Shri Apurva Chandra and the Director, U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Lt. Gen. Charles Hooper.

The 15th meeting of the India-U.S. Defence Policy Group was held in August 2019 in Washington, D.C.. Defence Secretary, Shri Sanjay Mitra and U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Mr. John Rood, co-chaired the meeting which reviewed the progress in India - U.S. defence cooperation.

The second India-U.S. 2+2 Intersessional meeting at Joint Secretary/Assistant Secretary level took place in August 2019 in Monterey, California. The two sides reviewed the progress and development of bilateral relations in cross-cutting defence, security, and foreign policy areas, and explored further possibilities of cooperation in these fields based on common interest.

The fourth round of the India-U.S. Maritime Security Dialogue was held in August 2019 in Monterey, California. During the Dialogue, the two sides discussed regional maritime security issues and exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation.

The India-U.S. Cyber Security Dialogue took place in September 2019 in Delhi.

The India-U.S. Information Communications Technology Working Group met in October 2019 in Delhi.

Senior officials from India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. met in Bangkok in May and November 2019 on the margins of multilateral events for consultations on regional and global issues of common interest.

The first counter - terrorism table top exercise involving India, U.S., Japan, and Australia took place in Delhi in November 2019.

The 7th meeting of India-U.S. Civil Space Joint Working Group was held in India in November 2019. Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation, Dr. K. Sivan inaugurated the meeting.

Defence and Mil-to-Mil Cooperation

Defence cooperation is an important component of the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership. Both sides continued to work towards expanding military ties as well defence trade:

Military Exercises

The 15th edition of the joint military training exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' between India and the U.S. was held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the U.S. in September 2019.

The 23rd edition of the trilateral naval exercise 'MALABAR' involving Indian, U.S. and Japanese Navies was held off the Coast of Japan in September-October 2019.

The 10th edition of the joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between Indian and the U.S. special forces was held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the U.S. in October 2019.

The first-ever India-U.S. joint tri-services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief amphibious exercise 'Tiger Triumph' was held off the coast of Visakhapatnam, India in November 2019. During the Second 2+2 Dialogue, it was decided to hold this exercise annually in formats to be decided mutually.

Other Exchanges

Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, General Mark A. Milley visited India in April 2019.

Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat visited the U.S. in April 2019. His engagements included meetings with U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford, and the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, General Mark A. Milley.

U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John Richardson visited India in May 2019.

Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral John C. Aquilino visited India in October 2019.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria visited the U.S. in December 2019 and participated in the Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Defence Technology

The 21st meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Technical Group (JTG) was held at San Diego in August 2019.

U.S. Under Secretary for Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), Ms. Ellen Lord, led the U.S. delegation for the 9th Indo-U.S. Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) held in India in October 2019. The Indian delegation was headed by Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence, Shri Subash Chandra.

The 11th India-U.S. Senior Technology Security Group (STSG) meeting was held in Washington, D.C. in November 2019.

Trade and Commerce

The U.S. is India's largest trading partner (goods and services combined). According to U.S. official statistics, bilateral trade increased by more than 12% to reach US\$ 142 billion in 2018. Both sides remain engaged to resolve issues of mutual interest and expand economic ties.

Science & Technology Cooperation

Cooperation in Science and Technology continued to move forward along an upward trajectory. The conclusion of an agreement on cooperation in science and technology in September 2019 provided further impetus to these efforts. Apart from interaction between several stakeholders on both sides, the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), jointly established and funded by both governments, continues to play a key role in sustaining and enhancing cooperation in this field. There was intensive engagement between the two sides in this field with numerous jointly funded projects, exchanges between experts, meetings, conferences etc. taking place over the past year.

ISRO and NASA are working together to intensify cooperation in areas such as earth science, lunar

exploration, and human spaceflight and exploration.

Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Professor Balram Bhargava, visited the U.S. in June 2019 for attending the Heads of International Research Organizations meeting and participating in a few other events.

Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Shri M. Rajeevan, led a delegation on a visit to the U.S. in September 2019 for discussion on collaborative programmes and new scientific initiatives in Earth System Sciences.

Think-Tank Exchanges

The India-U.S. Forum organized by Ananta Centre and the Ministry of External Affairs was held in Delhi in August 2019. Participants from the U.S. included the Deputy Secretary of State, John J. Sullivan and a five-member bipartisan delegation from the U.S. Congress.

A delegation from the Centre for Contemporary China Studies visited the U.S. in November 2019, and interacted with various think-tanks in Washington, D.C. and California.

A delegation from the RAND Corporation which included members of the Advisory Board of the RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy, visited India in December 2019 and met EAM, NSA, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Secretary (Electronics and Information Technology).

The U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) organized the India Leadership Summit in Delhi in October 2019. A USISPF delegation led by USISPF Chairman, John Chambers called on PM on 21 October 2019.

People-to-People Ties

It is estimated that there are about 4 million Indians and Indian-Americans in the U.S. who play a very constructive role in the development of friendly ties between India and the U.S.. Strong people-to-people ties and the goodwill between the peoples of India and the U.S. continue to provide an enduring foundation for the growth and development of the India-U.S. strategic partnership.

The U.S. continues to remain the top destination for Indian students with over 200,000 Indian students currently enrolled in various courses in U.S. institutions. This is the highest number of Indian students abroad in any single country.

During the 2+2 Dialogue, both sides expressed their intent to establish a bilateral Young Innovators Internship Programme, which will support internship opportunities for emerging young leaders in key areas of scientific and economic endeavour.

Embassy of India, Washington, D.C. and Indian Consulates in the U.S. organized various events to showcase the diversity and richness of Indian culture, which included the celebration of the 5th International Day of Yoga, commemoration of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and the celebration of Baisakhi and the Constitution Day.

The Embassy of India, Washington, D.C. and the Indian Consulates in the U.S., held a number of events commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi during the year. The Embassy of India, Washington, D.C. organized a reception commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2019 at the U.S. Library of Congress. EAM and the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives participated in the event along with several other dignitaries and members of the U.S. Congress.

Major Agreements/MoUs Signed Since 01 April 2019

The Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to the India-U.S. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed between the two sides in December 2019.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India's Ministry of Jal Shakti and the U.S. Geological Survey in December 2019 to promote technical cooperation in areas such as water quality and management.

An Agreement on cooperation in science and technology was concluded between India and the U.S. in September 2019 to further strengthen collaboration on science and technology, particle research, and innovation.

The Implementing Arrangement between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) on the Airborne Synthetic Aperture Radar Airborne Campaign was signed in October 2019.

CANADA

India-Canada bilateral relations have grown in recent years, drawing strength from shared democratic values, similar global outlook, mutually complementary trade and investment relations and robust and growing people-to-people relations. The bilateral relationship received a momentum with the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in April 2015. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's State visit to India in February 2018 expanded cooperation in the fields of Electronics & Information Technology, Energy, Sports, Commerce, Higher Education and Science & Technology sectors.

Canada has over 1.6 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), comprising more than 3% of Canada's population. There are 172,000 Indian students in various colleges and universities in Canada, making Canada the second largest overseas destination for Indian students. There has been an increase in bilateral trade and investment in the past few years between India and Canada.

High Level engagements

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had an informal interaction on the margins of G-7 Summit at Biarritz, France on 26 August 2019. External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar and the then Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland met on

the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan (June 2019); Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' meeting in London, UK (July 2019); and 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bangkok, Thailand (August 2019).

Visits from India

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Civil Aviation visited Montreal from 24 September to 4 October 2019 to attend 40th Session of International Civil Aviation Organisation.
- Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister visited Ottawa on 19-20 December 2019. During his visit, he met Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne; and Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng.

Visits from Canada

- Former Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper visited India from 18-20 November 2019.
- Mr. John Baird, former Foreign Minister of Canada visited India from 11-13 November 2019.

- Mr. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade and Export Development, Minister of Immigration and Career Training of Saskatchewan visited India with a trade delegation from 18-22 November 2019.
- Mr. Victor Fedeli, Ontario Minister for Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade visited India from November 16-23, 2019.

Parliamentary exchange

- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting was held in Ottawa from 11-15 April 2019. A 5-member Indian delegation comprising members Lok Sabha Secretariat and Legislatives Assemblies of Assam and Uttrakhand attended the meeting.
- Speaker of the Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla and Vice Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh are slated to visit Ottawa in the first week of January 2020 for Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth.
- Speaker of the Senate of Canada, George J Furey is proposed to visit India in the 3rd week of January 2020.

India-Canada Consular Dialogue

Recognizing the dynamic role of people-to-people ties in the India-Canada partnership, both sides agreed to address consular issues of mutual concern through discussion during Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to India. The First India-Canada Consular Dialogue was held in Ottawa on 30 September & 01 October 2019. Both sides discussed consular matters including issues related to Indian students in Canada, marital disputes, asylum, visa, etc.

Cooperation in Security and Defence

There is substantial engagement on counter terrorism issues particularly through the framework of the Joint

Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism. The 16th JWG on Counter-Terrorism was held in Ottawa from 26-27 March 2019. Both sides briefed on their respective counter-terrorism priorities, strategies and legislative frameworks and reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide and in their respective countries and regions, including cross-border terrorism and discussed actions undertaken to counter terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization to violence.

Finance, Trade and Industry

Bilateral trade between India and Canada was worth US\$6.36 billion in 2018-19. India's exports to Canada during this period were US\$2.85 billion and imports from Canada were US\$ 3.51 billion. In the first six months of 2019-20, the bilateral trade has already shown an increase of almost 13% over the corresponding period of the previous year. Canadian Pension Funds have invested approx. CAD 42.5 billion in India till now and are increasingly viewing India as an attractive destination for investments. More than 400 Canadian companies have a presence in India and more than 1000 companies are actively pursuing business in the Indian market.

Energy

India-Canada cooperation in the field of energy is one of the focus areas. The long-term uranium procurement contract signed by DAE and Canadian uranium Company CAMECO during the visit of Prime Minister to Canada in 2015 is a tangible example of the closeness of our cooperation.

Sixth India-Canada Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Civil Nuclear Cooperation was held in Ottawa from 6-7 June 2019. Both sides discussed proposed collaboration in Research & Development and industry, nuclear cooperation agreement between the two countries. As per the MOU signed between DAE and the Department of Natural Resources of Canada in the field of Science and Technology and Innovation, a Joint

working Group on R&D has been established and had its first meeting in June 2019 in Ottawa. During this meeting a number of areas for cooperation have been identified.

Indian participation in Canadian Arctic research

As discussed during the Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to India on Arctic research cooperation, a visit was undertaken by scientists from National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research of India to the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) campus located in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut from 22-26 September 2019.

India-Canada Science and Technology Innovation Dialogue

IC-IMPACTS (a Canadian Network of Centers of Excellence) in coordination with Ministry of Science and Technology organised the second India-Canada Science and Technology Innovation Dialogue on 9 December 2019 in New Delhi Dialogue to strengthen Canada-India scientific research collaborations leading to community deployments and commercialization, particularly in cleaning polluted water bodies and generating wealth from waste in India.

Education

Education is a key area of collaboration between the two countries. With over 176,000 Indian students currently studying in Canada, it has become one of the most favoured destinations for higher education for Indian students.

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) has been engaged in supporting Canadian and Indian Governments' objectives to extend cooperation in higher education is celebrating its golden jubilee year. On this occasion, SICI organised a Vice-Chancellors Summit in Delhi with University Presidents and Vice-

Chancellors from around 145 institutions from India and Canada on 25-26 November 2019.

Cultural Exchange

Given that people-to-people ties form the bedrock of the India-Canada relationship, cultural exchanges remain vital. Fifth International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Ottawa. The event was attended by over 600 people. There was immense enthusiasm amongst the participants.

A number of events to mark the celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi are being held since October 2018 and will continue till October 2020. Mayor of Ottawa has proclaimed 02 October as Gandhi Day.

A number of activities to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji were also held in November 2019.

Diwali has been celebrated on Parliament Hill for the last 18 years. This was started by Indian origin MP, Deepak Obhrai. This year the 19th Diwali on the Hill was organised by Overseas Friends of India-Canada in collaboration with Deepak Obhrai Foundation and Canada India Foundation. Mr. Andrew Scheer, Leader of Conservative Party of Canada was the Chief Guest..

India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue

With the support of Ministry of External Affairs of India and Global Affairs of Canada, the second edition of India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue on Innovation, Growth and Prosperity between Gateway House, Mumbai and Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Canada was held in Mumbai on 22 November 2019. Experts, government officials and business leaders from both sides discussed enhancing cooperation between India and Canada in a wide range of areas including security, economic partnership, sustainable technologies and the digital domain.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During the visit of MoS(VM)'s visit to Dominican Republic in August 2019, it was decided to send a business delegation to DR in February, 2020. The Mission is in touch with LAC/ED Divisions of the Ministry on the proposed visit from CII.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 25-27 August 2019. During the visit, he called on Foreign Minister Miguel O. Vargas and held discussions with Minister of Energy Antonio Isa Conde, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development Juan A. Jimenez Nunez and Minister of Industry Nelson Toca Simo. Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Dominican Republic was

signed during his visit. The Minister interacted with a cross section of dignitaries and Indian community in the Dominican Republic. Ambassador Jose Blanco Vice Minister, Bilateral Foreign Policy Dominican Republic visited India from 10-16 November 2019 under ICCRs Distinguished Visitors Program.

A group of 8 diplomats from the Dominican Republic, participated in the first Special course for diplomats from Dominican Republic held at FSI New Delhi from 27 October- 10 November 2019. The Government of Dominican Republic launched a commemorative stamp on the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the presence of the Foreign Minister Miguel O Vargas at the Ministry of External Relations, Santo Domingo on 27 August 2019.

HAITI

Haiti signed the ISA Framework Agreement (FA) on 2 August 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with 14 leaders of the CARICOM group of countries, including Foreign Minister of Haiti Bocchit Edmond on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2019 in New York . Three diplomats

from Haiti participated in the 2nd Special Course for CARICOM diplomats held at FSI New Delhi from 12-23 August 2019. India successfully secured the release of two Indian nationals who were abducted in Haiti with cooperation from Haitian authorities in August 2019.

ARGENTINA

The momentum created by the State Visit of President Macri to India in February 2019 during which India-Argentina relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership, continued to strengthen in 2019-20. Minister of State for External Affairs(MoS), Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Argentina from 28-29 August 2019. He met Mr. Jorge Faurie, Foreign Minister and Mr.

Gustavo Zlauvinen, Vice Foreign Minister of Argentina and comprehensively discussed progress achieved in various aspects of the bilateral relations since the state visit of February 2019. MoS also interacted with members of think-tanks and academic community at an India focused round-table at Argentina Council for International Relations. He interacted with the

Indian diaspora in Argentina as well as with the India-Argentina business community.

A delegation led by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog which included CMDs of PSUs in mining and mineral sectors visited Argentina from 15-19 October 2019 to explore partnerships in the mining sector. They visited mineral-rich provinces of Salta and Jujuy besides holding meetings with authorities and companies engaged in the mining sector.

A 4-member delegation from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India, led by Minister Dr. Thaawarchand Gehlot visited Argentina from 6-8 June 2019 at the invitation of Vice President of Argentina, Ms Gabriela Michetti. Dr. Gehlot addressed the II Global Disability Summit. He also held meetings with Ms Michetti and representatives of the Argentine National Agency for Disability. Discussions in the meetings focused on cooperation in the sector of Social Justice and Empowerment, especially in the field of methodology of census and classification of disability as well as training of government agencies and organizations.

A delegation led by Mr. Luis Miguel Etchevehere, State Secretary of Agroindustry visited India in July 2019 and met Ministers of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Commerce & Industry, Food Processing Industries and Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The discussions focused on enhancing

and diversifying agricultural trade between the two countries and strengthening cooperation in food processing, bio vaccines and agro-technology sectors.

A 17 companies-strong Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation participated in an 'India-Argentina Business Forum' organized on 1 October 2019 in Buenos Aires jointly by the Embassy of India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina and CII. A delegation of Indian tour operators participated in 'India Evening', to promote tourism to India on 9 October jointly by the Embassy and India Tourism Office, New York. The delegation participated in the International Tourism Fair of Latin America in Buenos Aires from 5-8 October. India participated at the XI Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) held on 6-7 June 2019 in Buenos Aires.

H.E. Ms. Gabriela Michetti, Vice President of the Republic of Argentina was the Chief Guest at the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi at the Embassy. A special publication of CARI on 'Gandhi - Latin American Perspectives' was released by her on this occasion. Earlier, Argentina Post released a stamp on Mahatma Gandhi. The 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated at the Gurdwara Ram Das ji on 12 November and a traditional NagarKirtan procession of Sikh Sangat organized on 24 November through prominent locations of the city.

BOLIVIA

Relations with India and Bolivia went on the upswing after the first-ever State visit between the two countries by Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind from 28-30 March. In 2019, Bolivia signed International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement. A 5-member delegation led by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog visited Bolivia from 9-12 October and held

discussions to explore possibilities of cooperation in Lithium sector. Two experts from the Bolivian Space Agency attended the UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training), a capacity building programme conducted by ISRO at Bengaluru from 15 October -15 December 2019.

India emerged as the third largest export destination and 16th largest source of imports for Bolivia. A PHARMEXCIL delegation comprising 28 member companies visited Lima in August 2019. Ten Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots have been offered by India to Bolivia. The 5th International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations were held in La Paz, Sucre, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. The Indian Council for Cultural Research (ICCR) sponsored 3-member Sarod

troupe gave performances at the International Festival of Music in Sucre and at Santa Cruz in September 2019. A musical troupe from Bolivia performed at the ICCR-organized Latin America Festival on 4-5 November in India. To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the solar lighting of children's park undertaken with Government of India's assistance was inaugurated.

BRAZIL

India's bilateral relationship with Brazil continued to intensify in 2019. Prime Minister visited Brazil to attend the BRICS XI Summit in Brasilia on 13-14 November 2019. PM attended the BRICS Business Forum Meeting, Plenary Session of the BRICS Summit, Leaders Dialogue with BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on November 14, 2019. PM met President Jair Bolsonaro at a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Summit on 13 November 2019. PM had earlier met with President Bolsonaro on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Osaka on 29

June 2019. Both Leaders discussed issues to improve business linkages and overcome climate change. The Leaders identified trade & investment, agriculture and biofuels in the context of climate change as areas of cooperation.

Visit of President of Brazil

President of Brazil H.E. Mr. Jair Bolsonaro paid a State Visit to India from 24-27 January 2020 as the Chief Guest at India's 71st Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2020. He was accompanied by eight Ministers,



Prime Minister delivers his Press Statement during State Visit of President of Brazil to India (January 2020)

4 members of Parliament, senior officials and a large business delegation. This was the first ever visit of President Bolsonaro to India. During the visit, an Action Plan to Strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Brazil was adopted which provides a roadmap aimed at revitalizing ongoing engagements in a focused manner. Fifteen MOUs/ Agreements in diverse sectors that include Investment, Assistance in Criminal Matters, Cyber Security, Oil & Gas, Bio-energy, S&T, Culture, Animal Husbandry, Health and Traditional Medicines were signed. Both sides also discussed other areas of cooperation including Trade and Investments, Defence, Space, Nuclear Issues and areas of Cooperation on global issues of mutual interest. The leaders agreed on the need to work together more closely in BRICS, IBSA, UN and other international fora, including fight against Terrorism. President Bolsonaro was accompanied by a large business delegation. He participated in a CEO Round Table and at the India-Brazil Business Forum, attended by about 500 business representatives. There were several sectoral business events. Brazilian ministers of Agriculture and Energy also met their Indian counterparts on the sideline of the State visit.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar met with the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ernesto Henrique Fraga Araújo and also with other G4 Foreign Ministers in New York on 25 September 2019 in New York on the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The G4 Foreign Ministers issued a joint statement and reiterated their commitment for an early and comprehensively reform of the Security Council. He also separately met with Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ernesto Araújo along with Ms. Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa (IBSA meet) to discuss the Reform of the Multilateral System.

Shri. Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry visited Brasilia for the 9th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting (11 November 2019); Shri. Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of Power (IC) and New and Renewable

Energy (IC) visited Brasilia for the 4th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting (11 November 2019); Shri. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor visited Brasilia for the BRICS Security Advisors' Meeting (17-18 October 2019); Shri. Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Culture (IC) and Tourism (IC) visited Curitiba for the 4th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting (11 October 2019); Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology visited Campinas for 7th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting (20 September 2019); Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting visited Sao Paulo for the 5th BRICS Ministers of Environment Meeting (15 August 2019); and Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways visited Rio de Janeiro for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting (26 July 2019).

The 5th IDY was celebrated in various cities of Brazil including Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Florianopolis and Curitiba. As part of celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi various activities were organised in Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte. The 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji was celebrated in Sao Paulo and Brasilia on 17-22 November 2019 respectively. The Constitution Day and Campaign on Citizens' Duties was celebrated in Brasilia and Sao Paulo on 26 November 2019.

As a befitting end to the year-long celebrations of Babu@150, the Embassy, in association with the Government of the Federal District, installed a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the prestigious City Park in Brasilia on 9 January 2020. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi is proposed to be installed in the city of Salvador in the first quarter of 2020.

President of Brazil, H. E. Mr. Jair Bolsonaro was the Chief Guest of 71st Republic Day Celebration of India. He visited India from 24-26 January 2020. He was accompanied by his spouse, a number of Cabinet rank Ministers including the Foreign Minister and a contingent of business delegation.

CHILE

The year began on a high note with the visit of Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Chile. The visit took place in a year when we celebrate 70th year of establishment of India-Chile diplomatic relations. Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji had significant discussions with President Sebastián Piñera Echenique, members of his ministerial team and selected businessmen on 1 April 2019, during which focus areas for the development of the India-Chile relationship were identified. The visit reinvigorated bilateral ties and provided new direction to the multi-faceted development of our bilateral relations. On this occasion, Chile announced visa-free entry for all Indian citizens holding US visas with 6-month validity. Agreements signed during the visit included; an MoU on Cultural Exchange Programme, a Joint Letter of Intent for cooperation in Disability Sector and a joint letter for renewing the MoU in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.

Bilateral trade for the period Apr-Oct 2019 was worth US\$ 1204.11 millions (Imports: 696.32 mn & Exports: 507.79 mn), which is approximately similar to trade figures of US\$ 2,227.35 mn for the year 2018-19. Consequent to the 2nd round of discussions between the Joint Administrative Committee of the India-Chile PTA held on 30th April, 2019 in Delhi, both sides agreed on the need for further deepening of the India-Chile expanded PTA. Subsequently, the first round of negotiations for expansion of the PTA was held in Delhi

in December 2019.

A business delegation led by Mr. Eduardo Frei, former President of Chile and Special Envoy to the Asia Pacific visited India and met with officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture. He was accompanied by the Vice Minister of Trade and head of ProChile.

In August 2019 an MoU between State Trading Corporation (STC) India and National Health Service System (CENABAST) Chile was signed for establishing a G2G mechanism for supply of low-cost generic drugs from India to Chile. A delegation from the Ministry of Finance visited Chile from 17-19 June 2019 during which both sides finalized the India - Chile Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. A multi stakeholder delegation led by Niti Aayog visited Chile and had productive discussions on cooperation in the lithium sector.

The celebration of IDY in the Parliament of Chile continued for the 3rd year in a row. On 2nd October, Mission inaugurated the plantation of trees near the Mahatma Gandhi bust located at Plaza de la India in Santiago. Various activities to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary including Essay Competition on Mahatma Gandhi for 7th & 8th grades school-children, food festival were also organized.

COLOMBIA

The year marked the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and Colombia during which relations continued to be strengthened. Prime Minister interacted with the President of Colombia Mr. Ivan Duque Marquez in September 2019 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Shri V. Muraleedharan,

Minister of State (External Affairs) transited through Bogota and interacted with the Indian community on 25 August 2019. A two-member delegation from Competition Commission of India visited Colombia to participate in the International Competition Network annual conference held in Cartagena in May 2019. Shri

Satyendar Kumar Jain, Urban Development Minister, Government of National Capital Territory Delhi participated in a conference on 'Liveable Sustainable Cities' in Medellin in July 2019. A delegation from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India attended a conference on 'Recognition of Collective Land and Forest Rights' in October 2019. Two Colombian scientists participated in the UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly and Training organised by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from October-December 2019.

A delegation comprising Member, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Secretary General, NHRC participated in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions meeting held in November 2019 at Medellin. A two-member delegation from the Directorate General of Lighthouse and Lightships attended a training seminar on the use of Marine Aids Risk Management Tools in Cartagena in November 2019. The Superintendent of Police, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Mumbai participated in the INTERPOL Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery Global Conference in Medellin in November 2019.

Following the signing of the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine of India in October 2018, a video conference between experts of the Ministry of AYUSH, India and the Ministry of Health of Colombia was held in May 2019.

The first video conference to finalize the Terms of Reference and detail out further work plan for the Joint Feasibility Study Report for a Partial Scope Agreement between India and Colombia was held on 9 August 2019. The Mission organized a mega trade and investment promotion event entitled "Commercial and Economic Alliance for the Future" in Bogota on 14 May 2019, where the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia was the keynote speaker. In recognition of the advances in the cutting-edge technology of Artificial Intelligence, India was invited as the Guest of

Honour country in EMBDATA IV (Big Data and Artificial Intelligence) World Meet held in Bogota in June 2019, which was attended by over 1700 international experts including ten Indian experts. A delegation of Synthetic and Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) visited Medellin in June 2019 to promote 'Source India' 2019- a reverse buyer seller meet. A delegation from the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) visited Bogota and Medellin to promote Indian apparel exports to Colombia in October 2019. A delegation from the Government of Uttarakhand led by the Minister of Housing and Urban Development visited Medellin to study mobility network and mass transit system in November 2019. The India Tourism Office, New York in collaboration with the Mission organized a networking session of Colombian tour operators in July 2019. Two journalists from Ecuador and Colombia visited India to gain first-hand knowledge of the tourism potential of India in April 2019.

SRTEPC and Texprocil participated in Colombia Tex-2020, an International textile trade promotion fair, held from 21-23 January 2020 in Medellin. Indian tour operators participated in Vitrina Turística ANATO, a tourism promotion fair organized from 26-28 February 2020, in Bogota, under the aegis of Indian Tourism office, New York. FICCI organized business conferences, exhibitions etc., under the theme " Namaskar Pacific" at Bogota. EPCH organized a BSM from 19-20 March 2020 at Bogota. A CII business delegation also visited Bogota from 23-25 March 2020 and organized business sessions, B2B and B2G meetings.

As part of the Festival of India celebrations, two dance groups from India sponsored by the Ministry of Culture performed across eight cities in Ecuador and Colombia in April and May 2019. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a commemorative stamp was issued at the University of Piloto in Bogota in May 2019. Several seminars, lectures, photographic exhibitions, gastronomy festival and screening of documentaries were also organised.

The fifth International Day of Yoga was celebrated on a grand scale with wide participation in various cities of Colombia and Ecuador. A course on Philosophy and Practice of Yoga by the Teacher of Indian Culture was organised at the University of Piloto from September-

November 2019. A talk on Nutrition and Yoga was organised at the Senate of Colombia in November 2019. The Mission organized an event to mark the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak and the 70th anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution.

ECUADOR

India and Ecuador celebrated 50 years of the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 2019. A Protocol for Completion of the Joint Feasibility Study for a Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Ecuador was signed in New Delhi in October 2019. In order to facilitate the export of Ecuadorian agricultural products to India, a team of the National Plant Protection Organisation visited Ecuador in June 2019 and certified Ecuadorian fumigation agencies for exports to India. Under the MOU for cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education, Director, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow attended a technical meeting on 'Implementation of New Crops as an Alternative for Production in Flood

prone areas of Ecuadorian Coast on 16-18 September 2019. A delegation from ONGC visited Ecuador to explore opportunities in the Oil Sector in November 2019. India participated at the meeting on 'Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products' in Ecuador in December 2019.

The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji was celebrated by organizing six academic and cultural events in Ecuador during May-July 2019. A bust of Rabindra Nath Tagore was unveiled at the University of Cuenca in July 2019. Three expert artisans from India were deputed to Ecuador by the Ministry of Textiles where experiences in design, innovation and production of textile, jewelry and wood items were shared with four hundred local artisans.

MEXICO

During the period, Mexico emerged as the biggest trade partner of India in Latin America and the Caribbean region. The bilateral trade between India and Mexico grew by 22% to US\$ 9.42 billion from US\$ 7.71 billion. The two-way trade during April-September 2019 was US\$ 3.97 billion (Exports US\$ 1.91 billion and imports US\$ 2.06 billion). Amongst Mexico's global trade partners, India's rank rose from 10 to 9 in a year. The total export from India in 2018-19 was US\$ 3.84 billion while the import was worth US\$ 5.57 billion. The balance of trade worth US\$ 1.73 billion was in favour of Mexico. The two-way trade during April-November 2019 was US\$ 5.44 billion (Exports US\$ 2.48 billion

and imports US\$ 2.96 billion).

External Affairs Minister met his Mexican counterpart, Mr. Marcelo Ebrard on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Osaka on 28 June 2019. The 5th round of Foreign Office consultations between India and Mexico were held on 07 October 2019 in New Delhi. The Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Parliament inaugurated the India-Mexico Parliamentary Friendship Group on 07 November 2019. Amb. Julian Ventura, Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico visited India to participate in the Raisina Dialogue 2020 from 14-16 January 2020 in New Delhi. A Consular Dialogue between India and Mexico will be held on 26 February-04 March 2020.

During the year, the Mission facilitated business delegations from Trade Promotion Council of India (31 companies in the construction sector), Federation of Indian Exporter's Organization (30 companies in textiles sector), Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (37 companies in the Pharmaceutical sector), Plastics Export Promotion Council (15 companies), and Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council. Oyo Rooms also entered Mexico.

India participated as the first Asian 'Guest of Honour' Country at the 33rd edition of the biggest and most prestigious Book Fair in the Spanish-speaking region, the Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL 2019) from 30 November-8 December 2019. The Fair was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Shri Sanjay Dhotre. National Book Trust led a literary and academic delegation of over 50 authors and speakers in the fields of literature, science, environment, design & architecture, art, culture, philosophy and history from India. Eminent authors, poets and writers from India participated in over 60 literary and academic programmes including panel discussions and book launches.

A Festival of India, supported by the Ministry of Culture, coincided with India's participation at the FIL 2019

with (i) performances in 8 cultural events by 5 cultural groups from Ministry of Culture; (ii) performance by one theatrical group sent by ICCR; (iii) presentation of 3 exhibitions namely by Lalit Kala Akademi and National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad; (iv) a film festival by the Embassy of India; and (v) an Indian gastronomy festival by Ministry of Tourism. Performances were also held in 6 other cities of Mexico, namely, Oaxaca, Mexico City, San Miguel de Allende, San Luis Potosi, Queretaro and Cancun.

To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, year-long celebrations were held. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was donated by ICCR to the Municipality of Guanajuato, a World Heritage City and was installed on 26 April 2019. The 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated. Baisakhi was also celebrated in April, 2019. The Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC) in Mexico actively conducted the 5th IYD 2019 across many cities in Mexico. An India Week was also organised at the Azcapotzalco Municipality of Mexico City which included a month-long Indian film festival in collaboration with Zee Mundo. Mission Celebrated World Hindi Day on 22 January 2020.

PARAGUAY

India-Paraguay bilateral partnership saw progress on several fronts following the visit of Vice President of India, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu to Paraguay in March 2019. Paraguay joined the International Solar Alliance by signing the ISA Framework Agreement on 4 September 2019. External Affairs Minister met Foreign Minister Antonio Rivas Palacios on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA on 26 September 2019 in New York and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in various fields, including trade and investments; infrastructure, renewable energy and visa facilitation.

Paraguayan Minister of Tourism, Ms Sofía Montiel de Afara, visited India to attend the World Tourism Day celebrations on 27 September 2019. She called on Vice President of India and met Minister of Tourism and discussed avenues of bilateral cooperation in tourism, including new modalities for visa facilitation. An MOU on cooperation in the field of tourism to promote cooperation and direct communication between stakeholders in the tourism, commerce and hospitality industry was signed.

PERU

The long standing friendly political, economic and cultural ties between India and Peru received further momentum during the year. The bilateral visit by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan to Lima from 22-24 August 2019 and his comprehensive meeting with the Peruvian Foreign Minister enabled both sides to review the progress in key bilateral areas and collaboration in international and multilateral fora. Also a meeting at the Peruvian Congress and interactions with prominent Peruvian personalities, including business leaders as well as the Indian community helped to highlight the importance India attaches to its relations with Peru and the Latin American region.

India attended a 3-day ISA-Peru-LAC Sun World 2019 on solar energy under the framework of International Solar Alliance (ISA) from 12-14 November in Lima. Two experts from the Peruvian Space Agency (CONIDA) attended the UNNATI (UNSpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training), a capacity building programme conducted by ISRO at Bengaluru from 15 October -15 December 2019.

In pursuance of the Agreement on Cooperation and New and Renewable Energy between India and Peru, the first Joint Meeting of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India and Ministry of Energy and Mines is scheduled to be held online on 20 December 2019. An Indian expert from the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping, New Delhi attended the 25th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre held in Lima from 7-10 October 2019.

The on-going trade negotiations between India and Peru made significant progress following the fourth round of talks held from 11-15 March 2019 in Lima and the fifth round of negotiations from 22-22 August 2019 in New Delhi. The sixth round of negotiations on

the India-Peru Trade Agreement is scheduled to be held in Lima in January 2020. Indian business delegation led by FICCI took part in the Sun World 2019 from 12-14 November 2019. In its capacity as the convener of the Global Leadership Task Force of the ISA, FICCI's Deputy Secretary General met the Vice Minister of Electricity and held talks with Peruvian authorities, including at the National Institute of Telecommunications Research and Training (INICTEL-UNI).

A 29-member PHARMEXCIL delegation visited Lima on 22 August. Besides buyer-seller meetings (BSM), the delegation met the Ministry of Health officials and its agencies. A 9-member delegation from the Engineering Export Promotion Council visited Lima on 7 October and held BSM. A delegation from the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), comprising representatives of 13 leather companies visited Lima on 17-18 October 2019. A 3-member delegation from Apparel Export Promotion Council led by its Chairman visited Lima on 21-22 October 2019.

A series of business delegation are scheduled to visit Lima during January to March 2020. An eight-member delegation from TEXPROCIL (Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council) is scheduled to visit Lima from 24 – 28 January 2020. The annual India Fair by Indian Trade Promotion Organization is scheduled to take place in Lima from 11-15 March 2020. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will be leading a multi-sector delegation of over 40 members to Peru on 25-26 March 2020.

ITEC Day 2019 was celebrated on 17 September with participation of Peruvian dignitaries, ITEC alumni wherein ITEC alumni admired India's capacity-building support and other forms of development cooperation. Peruvian diplomats have also joined the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) conducted by the Foreign Service Institute.

Several events were organized to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. These included special talks and screening of documentaries on Mahatma Gandhi's life and message at leading universities and bodies in Peru, painting and quiz competitions, a cycling event, Planting of 150 trees, a vegetarian food festival in Lima, a 'peace march' in San Juan de Miraflores. A three-day cultural event with a special focus on Mahatma Gandhi was held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru on 14-16 May 2019.

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 celebrated in Lima, Qoricancha, the Sun Temple of Inca Empire, in Cusco and in Trujillo. In addition to this, a number of yoga workshops, seminars and meditation sessions were held in association with health, sports, police,

civil associations of Peru. Activities to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji were organized. ICCR sponsored 3-member Sarod group led by Shri Apratim Majumdar visited Peru in September and gave performances at various prestigious locations and conducted workshops in Lima. On 9th April, the ICCR Foundation Day was celebrated in Lima.

A three-day workshop on "Healthy Aging through Traditional Systems of Medicine and Ayurveda" was held in Lima from 23-25 October in association with the Peruvian Ministry of Health. An expert on Ayurveda was deputed for the workshop by the Ministry of AYUSH. An International Day of Ayurveda was celebrated in the Embassy on 6 October with the participation of an Ayurveda expert from India.

URUGUAY

An Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters was signed between India and Uruguay in July 2019 in Brussels on the sidelines of the World Customs Organization Council Meeting. 'India-Latin America Business Summit' was organized at the ALADI (Latin American Integration Association) Secretariat on 3 October jointly by the Embassy of India

and CII in collaboration with ALADI and the Uruguayan Chamber of Commerce and Services. The Government of Uruguay released postal stamps on Mahatma Gandhi to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary. Embassy organized a special event to celebrate Constitution Day on 26 November.

VENEZUELA

Venezuela hosted the 19th NAM Ministerial meeting in Caracas from 18-21 July 2019 which was attended by India's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. On the sidelines of the 18th NAM Summit in Baku from 25-26 October 2019, bilateral meetings of Venezuelan President, H.E. Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros and India's Vice President as well as Venezuela's

Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Jorge Alberto Arreaza Montserrat and India's External Affairs Minister were held. Venezuela's Executive Vice President H.E. Ms. Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez visited India from 30 October to 2 November 2019 to attend the 2nd Assembly of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi. The Venezuelan Minister of Economy & Finance,

H.E. Mr. Simon Zerpa Delgado accompanied her. They met India's External Affairs Minister during this visit.

Venezuela ranks 9th as supplier of crude oil to India this year, the total imports touching 3,190.10 million till October 2019. The trade between the two countries from 1st April 2019 to 30 October 2019 has been to the tune of US\$ 3,258.92 million. Indian exports were mainly pharmaceuticals. An exhibition on Indian tea with tea tasting is being organized at Caracas from 5-7 December 2019. ITEC Day was celebrated by the Mission on 20 September 2019. This year, 10 candidates from Venezuela together attended a special basic English course under ITEC. A Venezuelan diplomat attended the 68th Professional Course for

Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) in October 2019 at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). Venezuelan students are also benefiting from ICCR Scholarship Programme.

A number of events including a cycling event and a

vegetarian food festival were organized to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. For the first time in Venezuela, a Mahatma Gandhi statue sent by ICCR is to be installed at Universidad Metropolitana. The 5th IDY was celebrated on 21 -22 June 2019 and 4th Ayurveda Day on 25 October 2019. Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was also observed on 31 October 2019. A special event to mark for 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was held on 17 November 2019 and commemorative Stamps were released on 26 November 2019 at Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB), Caracas. Indian books were presented to the UCAB on 21 October 2019 and to the Universidad de Carabobo on 27 November 2019.

Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, together with Hindi Day was celebrated on 9 January 2020. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi was inaugurated in Metropolitan University of Venezuela was held in March 2020.

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

India's relations with Belize continued to gain significance. This year, a Belizean diplomat attended the 68th PCFD and two Belizean diplomats attended the 2nd Special Training Programme for CARICOM Diplomats. Mahatma Gandhi Resource Centre in Orange Walk, Belize was inaugurated this year, where 50 computers have been donated by the Government of India. An India Belize Centre of Engineering at the University of Belize is being established. In 2018-19, India exported

goods worth USD 16.98 million and imported goods worth USD 0.65 million. Total trade stood at USD 17.64 million in 2018-19 growing at 18.86% from USD 14.84 million in one year. The two-way trade during April-November 2019 was US\$ 10.71 million (Exports US\$ 9.97 million and imports US\$ 0.74 million). As part of 5th IYD 2019, Yoga events were organized in 8 cities in Belize.

COSTA RICA

Vice Foreign Minister of Costa Rica Ms. Lorena Aguilar Revelo, visited India 7-9 September 2019 and attended

the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of UNCCD. From India, Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Environment,

Forest and Climate Change led a delegation to Costa Rica 8-11 October, 2019 to attend PreCop25 meeting. Subsequent to the visit of the Hon'ble Vice President's to Costa Rica, MEA doubled the ITEC slots

for Costa Rica to 40 in 2019-20. The bilateral trade turnover during the period April-September 2019 was US\$140.56 million (India's exports was US\$97.29 million and imports US\$ 43.27 million)

EL SALVADOR

The year 2019-20 saw further enhancement of India's relations with El Salvador. El Salvador signed the ISA Framework Agreement in June 2018 and ratified the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of ISA in November 2019.

On the commercial front, trade relations improved between the two countries. Bilateral trade volume stood at US\$ 82.86 mn. During 2018-19 and at US\$ 39.19 mn. during April-September 2019, with balance of trade in India's favour. Indian exports of automobiles (two and three wheelers) during 2018-2019 stood at US\$ 17.93 mn., while textile and allied products was US\$ 13.32 mn. and pharmaceutical products were US\$

13.95 mn.

Fifth IDY was organized on 23 June 2019 at the Plaza Salvador Del Mundo and was attended by Minister of Culture of El Salvador. An ICCR-sponsored 4-member Jugalbandi Instrumental Group gave performances with the members of the National Folkloric Ballet of El Salvador at the National Theater of Santa Ana and National Theater of San Salvador in May 2019. A Vegetarian Food Festival was organized at hotel Crowne Plaza in San Salvador, as part of the year long celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

GUATEMALA

In the year 2019-20 India's relations with Guatemala strengthened further. On the commercial front, trade relations between the two countries improved. Bilateral trade stood at US\$ 321.64 million during 2018-2019 and at US\$ 148.44 million, during April-September 2019, with balance of trade in India's favour. Indian exports of automobiles during 2018-2019 stood at US\$ 90.01 million, while cotton exports was US\$ 52.68 million and pharmaceutical products export were US\$ 42.96 million.

Embassy of India celebrated States Day 2019 with focus on Kerala. The event was held in collaboration with Galileo University, Guatemala at the University campus. The main theme of the event was to promote

Kerala and Ayurveda. VESTEX (Association of Apparel and Textile Industry, Guatemala) organized an Apparel Sourcing Show in Guatemala City from 14-16 May, 2019 where Texprocil participated. The Indian pavilion witnessed more than 400 visitors. Major Indian companies like Raymonds and Welspun participated in the show.

In June 2019, two business delegations; one from CERAMIX -the largest ceramics expo in India and SRTEPC t-o promote Source India 2019, visited Guatemala. A 20-member delegation of textile companies led by Minister of Economy Designate Mr. Tony Malouf participated at the Source India 2019 show in Mumbai from 21-23 August 2019. An

8-member delegation of pharmaceutical companies from Guatemala visited Gujarat on 10-12 June 2019 to attend the Pharmaceutical expo IPHEX 2019.

The Embassy of India organized an event 'Namaste India: Door to Opportunities' at Cayala, Guatemala City on 2-3 November 2019. This was the first Indian festival organized in a grand scale in Guatemala and focused on Indian business, culture and food. The Minister of Economy-designate, Mr. Tony Malouf inaugurated the two day event visited by an estimated 6000 visitors.

A 26-member delegation led by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) comprising 18 companies visited Guatemala and Honduras from 7-12 November 2019 for the Ferret Expo 2019. A dedicated India Pavilion included participation from the Power Sector, equipment for Sugar Industries, tools, equipment related to hardware and construction, auto components and building material. This was the first time a large delegation of Engineering companies visited Central America. Besides participating in the Expo, the companies had B2B interactions with companies in Guatemala and trade organizations and associations.

Guatemala has been offered 40 ITEC slots for 2019-2020. A 4-member Jugabandi Instrumental group sponsored by ICCR visited Guatemala to perform in the events organized in partnership with Ministry of Culture from 2-9 May 2019. The ICCR troupe performed

in Guatemala and held workshops at prominent universities and the National Conservatory. The Fifth International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June, in Antigua City at the Santa Catalina Arch, the most prominent spot and iconic landmark in Antigua. On 23 June IDY was celebrated in Guatemala City at El Campo Marte, the most prominent sports facility managed by the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The celebrations was attended by around 400 people.

On the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, President-elect of Guatemala, Dr. Alejandro Giammattei accompanied by the Foreign Minister designate Mr. Pedro Borlo visited the Embassy of India in Guatemala City on 2 October 2019 and inaugurated the Bust of Mahatma Gandhi. Several other events including cycling, sculpture, tree planting, visit to universities were organized during the year. A special event was organized in partnership with Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Rigoberta Menchu, to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

An India corner was established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala and also at the Library of San Carlos University and the Rafael Landivar University with books presented by India. The Embassy organized an Indian Film Festival from 19-25 September 2019 where 7 Bollywood movies with Spanish subtitles were screened.

HONDURAS

During 2019-20 relations with Honduras strengthened steadily. On the commercial front, trade relations have seen considerable growth. Bilateral trade volume stood at US\$ 184.97 mn during 2018-2019 and US\$ 102.60 mn. during April-September 2019, with balance of

trade in India's favour. Indian exports of textile and allied products during 2018-2019 stood at US\$ 62.19 mn., while automobiles (two and three wheelers) was US\$ 28.61 mn. and pharmaceutical products were US\$ 23.16 mn.

A 26-member delegation led by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) comprising 18 companies visited San Pedro Sula, Honduras from 11-12 November 2019 for Buyer Seller Meet. Vice Minister of Economy of Honduras Mr. Mario Kafati was the Guest of Honour. More than 100 business meetings were organized during the event. On the cultural front, the Embassy, in association with the Government of Honduras organized the celebration of the Fifth

International Day of Yoga (IDY) at the UNESCO's World Heritage Site, the famous Ruins of Copán located in Honduras. The event was attended by H.E. the Minister of Economic Development of Honduras, Mr. Arnaldo Castillo; and the Vice Minister of Economic Integration and Foreign Trade, Ms. Alejandra Chang, and other senior Government officials including Director of Tourism. India has offered 35 ITEC slots to Honduras for 2019-2020.

NICARAGUA

Foreign Minister of Nicaragua Mr. Denis Moncada Colindres visited New Delhi on 28 October 2019 and met with External Affairs Minister. They discussed ways to strengthen relations between the two countries Government of India welcomed Nicaragua's decision to open its resident Mission in New Delhi and to appoint a Resident Ambassador.

Ms. Sonia Castro Gonzalez, Minister of Health of

Nicaragua visited New Delhi and met Hon'ble Health & Family Welfare Minister on 30 July 2019 and discussed cooperation in health sector.

With optimal utilization of allocated ITEC slots, Nicaragua's slots have been increased to 10 in 2019-20. The bilateral trade turnover during the period April-September 2019 was US\$34.52 million (India's exports was US\$32.01 million and imports US\$2.51 million).

PANAMA

India has been included in the list of major 7 countries with whom Government of Panama led by President Laurentino Cortizo aims to strengthen its ties. Bilateral trade ties was boosted when a trade delegation from Panama led by Mr. Richard Kilborn, Director of National Investment, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of

Panama visited India in October 2019. In addition to holding a Business Conference in New Delhi, the delegation also visited Mumbai and Pune where meetings were held with the business community in collaboration with the All India Association of Industries.

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

India and Antigua & Barbuda enjoy warm and friendly bilateral relations. On 17 September, the two

countries signed an Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official

Passports. Pharmaceutical regulatory authorities from Antigua and Barbuda participated in the International Regulators' Meet organized by PHARMEXCIL on 19&20 Sept 2019 in Hyderabad.

India continued to provide capacity building assistance to Antigua & Barbuda with 5 slots under the ITEC

Programme. Two diplomats from the Antiguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the 2nd Special Training Programme for CARICOM Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi from 12-23 August 2019. India celebrated International Day of Yoga in Antigua & Barbuda on 23 June 2019.

BAHAMAS

The Government of India extended US\$ 1 million as an emergency financial assistance to the Government of The Bahamas as relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. The disaster, which was referred to as a 'historic

tragedy' by the Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, was the largest hurricane to hit the Bahamas. PM Minnis met with PM on the sidelines of India-CARICOM Leaders' Meeting in September 2019.

BARBADOS

Barbados and India enjoy close and cordial relations and interact actively in the UN, Commonwealth and NAM. The first ever India-CariCom meet at Head of State/ Government level at New York on 25 September 2019 has given a further boost to the bilateral relations. Barbados has unilaterally placed India in the list of

countries whose nationals do not require a visa to visit Barbados effective from June, 2019. In Development Partnership, "Local Content Development" Project was to be implemented under India-UNDP Fund. International Day of Yoga and Gurunanak Dev Jayanti were organised in Barbados in 2019.

CUBA

Cuban Vice Minister of Public Health, Alfredo Gonzalez visited India to discuss the application of the different modalities of traditional medicine and held meetings with Secretary Ministry of AYUSH in June 2019. An Ayurveda center in Havana was inaugurated on 7 November 2019 in the presence of Vice President Roberto Morales Ojeda. Cuba is the first country in the world after India to adopt Ayurveda as part of its Public health care system. The largest fertilizer factory in Cuba, NPK Nitrogenized Fertilizer Factory in Cienfuegos funded by an Indian Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 4 Million, started production in July 2019. The factory has the capacity to produce 300,000 tons per

year with which it is expected to meet 70 percent of the national demand.

On 4 September 2019 the postal agency of Cuba Correos de Cuba launched commemorative postal stamps to mark the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary . One Cuban diplomat participated in the 68th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), 2019 held at Foreign Service Institute (FSI) New Delhi. Head of International relations CECMED, the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Body of Cuba participated in Pharmexcil's International Regulators Meet held from 19- 20 September 2019 at Hyderabad, India.

The year 2020 marks the completion of 60 years of India-Cuba diplomatic relations. The Mission is planning

celebrations in connection with the 60th Anniversary of India-Cuba relations.

DOMINICA

Bilateral relations between India and Commonwealth of Dominica remained friendly during the year. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation

Programme, 10 ITEC scholars were sent to India from Dominica under the capacity building programme.

GRENADA

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Labour of Grenada Mr. Peter David visited India in September 2019 and met with EAM. He also held a meeting with the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Vijay Rupani on 12 September 2019. Under the Indian Technical and Economic

Cooperation Programme, 4 ITEC scholars were sent to India from Grenada. Under the 2nd Special Training Programme for CARICOM Diplomats, one participant participated in the training programme from Grenada from 12-23 August, 2019.

GUYANA

EAM met Guyanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Karen Cummings on 23 September on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UNGA in New York and discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations in all sectors. On 25 September, PM Shri Narendra Modi met Dr. Cummings along with 13 other leaders from the CARICOM countries in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA.

Guyanese Minister of Finance, Winston Jordan and Governor of the Bank of Guyana, Dr. Gobin Ganga, visited India from 25-29 Nov 2019 and held meetings with senior functionaries of the Reserve Bank of India, EXIM Bank of India and Bank of Baroda. Mr. Marlon Cole, Director of the Government Analyst Food & Drug Department (GA-FDD) and Mr. O'neil Atkins, Director of Pharmacy attended the 4th International Conference on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices in Bengaluru from 18-19 Feb 2019. Mr. Marlon Cole also attended the International Regulators' Meet at

Hyderabad in September 2019. Dr. Mahender Sharma, CEO of Guyana Energy Agency attended the 2nd ISA General Assembly in New Delhi on 31 Oct 2019. Guyana ratified the revised Framework Agreement of the ISA on Sept 2019.

An Indian business delegation from Guyana-India Business Chamber comprising companies from mining, power generation, sugar industry, agriculture, construction etc. visited Guyana from Sept 3-Oct 4 to explore business opportunities. ONGC Videsh Limited participated in the 2nd Annual Guyana International Petroleum Business Summit & Exhibition (GIPEX-2019) in Georgetown from Nov 20-22, 2019.

President David Granger commissioned the Indian Arrival Monument which was gifted by Government of India, in Palmyra, East Berbice on 5 May 2019. Guyanese Minister of Public Health, Ms. Volda Lawrence, launched the Project on "Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy in Guyana" implemented under India-UN Development

Partnership Fund on 7 June 2019. President Granger inaugurated the Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) on 20 June, which is set up at a cost of US\$ 1 million.

17 Guyanese nationals received training in India under ITEC till Nov 2019. 35 Guyanese visited India under the Know India Programme (KIP) and Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojna (PTDY) and 2 under the Hindi Scholarship Scheme. 9 slots have been allotted to Guyana under the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme and 2 slots under the Cultural/Education Exchange Programme. One senior Foreign Service Officer from Guyanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the 2nd Special Training Programme for CARICOM Diplomats conducted by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in New Delhi from 12-23 Aug 2019. One diplomat from Guyana participated in the 68th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) conducted by the

FSI in New Delhi from 16 Sept-11 Oct 2019. IDY was celebrated in Guyana on 16 June in Georgetown and 23 June 2019 at the iconic Indian Arrival Monument in Berbice.

Coconut Development Board of India and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) organised an event in Guyana to provide exposure to the Guyanese about various uses/byproducts of coconut and the latest technology and techniques available in India in the coconut industry. An India-focused trade promotion event on 'Solar Energy and e-Vehicles' in Georgetown was held in March 2020 with participation from India by relevant Commercial Associations/Organizations, EPCs, Indian exporters and manufacturers, Public Service Undertakings, National & Regional Regulatory Bodies, State & Central Government agencies in the related field.

JAMAICA

During the period, India and Jamaica continued to enjoy cordial and friendly relations built over the years. India also welcomed the decision of Jamaica to open its High Commission in New Delhi. Jamaican PM Andrew Holness was one of the five global leaders to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi during the High-Level event commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at UN Hqrs in September 2019. PM Holness also met with PM Modi at the first ever India-CARICOM leaders' Summit in New York.

Jamaica joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and participated at the 2nd Assembly of ISA in New Delhi on 30-31 October 2019. The bilateral trade and other commercial activities continued to witness growth during the period 2018-19, reaching over US\$60 million. 5th IDY in Kingston was organized on 20 June 2019. Mission also celebrated Gandhi Jayanti and birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. ITEC Day was celebrated on 4 November 2019.

SAINT KITTS & NEVIS

St. Kitts and Nevis joined the International Solar Alliance by signing the ISA Framework Agreement in New Delhi on 31 October 2019. PM met Leaders of

the 14 CARICOM Member States, including St. Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister, Dr. Timothy Harris during the first India- Caricom Leaders Meeting in New York

on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly.

IDY was celebrated in St. Kitts & Nevis on 23 June 2019. St. Kitts and Nevis has been allotted 5 ITEC slots. Two diplomats from St. Kitts and Nevis participated in the 2nd Special Training Programme for CARICOM

Diplomats conducted by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in New Delhi from Aug 12-23, 2019. A diplomat from St. Kitts and Nevis participated in the 68th PCFD conducted by the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi from September 2019.

SAINT LUCIA

India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Saint Lucia. Government of India has taken new initiatives to augment interactions at the highest level to consolidate bilateral relations with St. Lucia further. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met his counterpart Prime Minister Allen Chastanet on the margins of UNGA in New York on 25 September 2019 at the first ever meeting between India and CariCom leaders. Agriculture Minister of St. Lucia participated in the

UN CCD Conference held in New Delhi in September 2019. Saint Lucia signed and ratified the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in 2019. Under India-UNDP Fund, the Skills Training for Saint Lucia's Marginalized Youth Project which aims to identify and train marginalized young people in carpentry and joinery and assist them with job training amounting to US\$ 992,724 is in progress.

SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) paid an official visit to India on 8-12 September 2019. This is the first official level visit from SVG to India. PM-SVG met his Indian counterpart and held discussions on various issues of bilateral interest between the two countries and signed MoUs on i) exemption of visa for Diplomatic and official passports, ii) ISA Framework Agreement, and iii) Traditional Systems of Medicine. The two leaders met again during India-CariCom Meet of Heads of State/Government held on the margins of UNGA in New York. A framework MoU on Implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was signed in Kingstown, SVG on 13 November 2019 by

Ambassador and Prime Minister of SVG.

India has provided 5 ITEC slots to SVG for 2019-20. One SVG Foreign Service Officer participated in PCFD and three Foreign Service Officers in the special training programme for CariCom diplomats held in June 2019. Two senior-level customs officials from SVG participated in the India-Caricom special training programme in customs and taxes held in India on 10-14 June 2019 under ITEC. PM Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves was the Chief Guest at a cultural event was organized to commemorate the Indian arrival day on 1 June 2019.

SURINAME

Vice President of Suriname, Mr. Ashwin Adhin attended the India-CariCom Leaders' Meeting on the margins of

UNGA on 25 September 2019 at New York. He met with Hon'ble Prime Minister. External Affairs Minister's

meeting with his Surinamese counterpart in New York on 26 September 2019 and visit of Vice President of Suriname to India in September 2019 at the invitation of University of Delhi and Lovely Professional University contributed to further consolidation of bilateral relations.

A two-member delegation from Election Commission of Suriname visited India under Visitor Election Programme of Election Commission of India on 10-13 May 2019; two officers participated in the Special Training programme for CariCom's Senior-level customs officers conducted in June 2019 under ITEC; and five diplomats participated in the India-CariCom Special Training Programme conducted by FSI in June 2019. A three member delegation participated in PharmExcil Meet held on 10-12 June 2019 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Under Development Cooperation Partnership, the contract for a Line of Credit (LoC) amounting to US\$ 11.13 million for upgradation and rehabilitation of De Melkcentrale, NV Milk processing plant was signed on 25 May 2019. One of the two small grants projects for women entrepreneurship announced during the historic visit of the President of India in June 2018 namely Craft Market at Garden of Palms, Paramaribo was completed and inaugurated on 7 August 2019. Two students from Suriname joined Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra in 2019 to learn Hindi. Under ICCR scholarship 2019-20, two students are studying in India and one student is under AYUSH scholarship. Ms Priseclla Bispham, a Surinamese national participated in the Kumbh Mela 2019 under foreigners category sponsored by ICCR.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, 33 ITEC scholars were availed by Trinidad & Tobago (T&T). Participants from T&T went to India to learn its culture, history under the Know India Programme (KIP). 7 participants from Port of Spain visited India under the 3rd Pravasi Teerath Darshan Yojana from 22 November – 8 December 2019, while one person availed the ICCR Scholarship for 2019-20.

5th International Day of Yoga was held on 16th June, 2019 at Chaguaramas BoardWalk where about 300 people participated in the yoga drive. 108 Surya Namaskar programme was organized on 23rd June, 2019. Yoga Awareness Programme was organized on 29th June, 2019. A Vegetarian Food Fair was held in tandem with the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 16 at the Chaguaramas Boardwalk. 5 students from Trinidad are studying Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan in academic year August 2019-May 2020. Hindi Day was celebrated where a programme 'Kala Sandhya' was organized by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation.

Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary was celebrated on 2 October 2019 at Gandhi Peace Park with Mayor of Port of Spain Mr. Joel Martinez as chief guest. Online quiz, cycle rally and sapling plantation also formed part of the year long celebrations of Gandhi's birth anniversary. Mahatma Gandhi bust was inaugurated on 12 October 2019 at Chaguanas. A ceremony was organized on 5 June 2019 in Chaguanas in collaboration with Carbon Zero Initiative (CZITT) on World Environment Day.

Under India-Commonwealth Youth Cricket Coaching Camp (1- 30 October, 2019), three T&T (under-16) youth were sent to National Cricket Academy Bangalore for cricket coaching. The High Commission of India hosted a 'Know India Seminar' in San Fernando on November 15 2019. An 8-member Mayurbhanj Chhau troupe sponsored by ICCR visited T&T from 28 November - 5 December 2019 and gave performances across Trinidad.

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

CARICOM

India's relations with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) continued to be warm and friendly. On 25 September 2019, PM Shri Narendra Modi met 14 leaders from the CARICOM countries in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA, along with senior officials of the CARICOM Secretariat. This is the first PM level interaction with the region. During the meeting PM reiterated India's firm commitment to strengthen its political, economic and cultural engagement with CARICOM and emphasized partnering with CARICOM countries in capacity building, development assistance and cooperation in disaster management and resilience. While inviting CARICOM countries to join International Solar Alliance (ISA), PM announced US\$ 14 million grant for the 14 CARICOM countries for quick impact community development projects and also a Line of Credit for US\$ 150 million for solar energy and climate change-related projects. PM also announced the setting up of a Regional Centre of Excellence in IT in Georgetown, and Regional Vocational Training Centre in Belize by upgrading the existing India-funded

centres. He also announced capacity building support through training and deputation of experts and visit of a Parliamentary delegation to India.

In 2019, India assisted CARICOM to upgrade the ICT infrastructure and associated software at CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana, and offices in Barbados and Jamaica by providing a grant assistance of US\$ 2.4 million. India also contributed US\$ 1 million to Caribbean Development Fund to foster regional integration of CARICOM countries.

Five ITEC seats go to CARICOM Secretariat annually, independent of the slots provided to member States. The second Special Training Programme for CARICOM Diplomats was conducted by FSI in New Delhi in August 2019. Pharmaceutical regulatory authorities from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) participated in the International Regulators' Meet organized by PHARMEXCIL from 19-20 Sept 2019 in Hyderabad.

MERCOSUR

India and Mercosur (customs Union of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) agreed to take forward

discussions for expansion of India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement in September 2019.

PACIFIC ALLIANCE

India participated in the Observer States segment at the 14th Summit of the Pacific Alliance (PA) held in Lima on 5 July 2019. India supported the 'Declaration on the Sustainable Management of Plastics' adopted by the Pacific Alliance. India presented five offers of cooperation in Innovation and Development, Access to International Trade, Investment and SMEs from Invest India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

S&T Cooperation on Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture from Ministry of Earth Sciences, Technical Cooperation on Use of Digital tools for development of publishing sector from C-DAC under ITEC and Scholarships for Masters Programme in Cultural Management (from National Museum Institute) under ITEC to PA member States.



President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind during the Tete-a-Tete with the President of the Republic of Chile, H.E. Mr. Sebastian Pinera at la Moneda Presidential Palace, Santiago in the Republic of Chile on April 1, 2019.



The Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Everard Gonsalves meeting the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in New Delhi on September 10, 2019.

The India-CARICOM Leaders' Meeting held in New York was an important occasion for us. Hon'ble PM thanked the esteemed world leaders who joined the meeting. India is eager to work with our friends in the Caribbean to build a better planet.



Minister of States for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan had a productive meeting with H. E. Mr. Miguel Vargas, External Relations Minister of Dominican Republic during his visit to Dominican Republic in August 2019.

9

SAARC, BIMSTEC & NALANDA

SAARC

External Affairs Minister (EAM) participated in the informal meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers held on the side-lines of 74th UNGA session in New York on 26 September 2019. EAM conveyed that India attached great value to the prosperity of the neighbourhood under its 'Neighbourhood First Policy". India stressed on how the problems that beset SAARC were not just a story of missed opportunities but also of deliberate obstacles, terrorism being one of them and that elimination of terrorism in all its forms is a precondition not only for fruitful cooperation, but also for the very survival of our region itself.

Fourteenth Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers was held on 17 October 2019, Washington DC, USA. This was the first time the informal meeting took place on the side-lines of World Bank Annual

Meetings. India was represented by Additional Secretary from Ministry of Finance. During the meeting, it was emphasized that India remains committed to promoting regional cooperation, connectivity and contacts but the way forward is possible only in an atmosphere that was conducive to do so. It was also highlighted that India has already undertaken a number of positive steps and reduced the custom duties to zero percent under SAFTA for all the LDCs for 99.7% tariff lines. The 13th Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers took place in Nadi, Fiji on 2 May 2019 on the side-lines of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank. 4th meeting of SAARC-ADB on the Regional Economic Integration took place at Kathmandu in June 2019. Ministry of Commerce represented India during this meeting wherein it was reiterated that prioritized recommendations from the 1st Meeting of

SAARC-ADB have to be implemented. Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers meeting was held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 24-27 June 2019, and it was attended by our Ambassador in Thimphu.

India has been steadfast in its commitment of sharing the fruits of technological advances with like-minded countries in its neighbourhood. India's unilateral initiative of extending its National Knowledge Network to the countries of South Asia has been extended to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan. PM inaugurated the extension to Bhutan on 17 August 2019. Extension to other participating SAARC countries is under progress. India launched on 5th May 2017 from Sriharikota. Demonstration terminals of the South Asia Satellite that was launched by India in 2017 have been installed in and handed over to Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. During Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan in 2019, he announced additional bandwidth on an extra transponder requested by Bhutan. This too also been implemented.

As in the previous years, India continued its support to

South Asian University. India is the largest contributor to the university and has underwritten its entire capital cost. Construction of its permanent campus in New Delhi is underway. The degrees conferred at the Award Ceremony of the South Asian University held on 3 June 2019 included Masters (151), MPhil (9) and PhD (17).

SAARC Disaster Management Centre (Interim Unit), Gandhinagar continues to operate, fully funded by India, and conducted workshops/training programmes involving SAARC member States in the areas of Regional Severe Weather and Flash Flood Hazard Early Warning Mechanisms, Development of National and Local DRR Strategies, Utilization of Space based and Geo spatial Information in Disaster Risk Reduction, Post Disaster Needs Assessment. 94 participants from SAARC countries have been trained in the above specified areas.

The 57th Session of the SAARC Programming Committee is scheduled to be held on 19-20 December 2019 in Kathmandu.

BIMSTEC

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation fulfils India's key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East'. The visit of BIMSTEC leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the government in May 2019 symbolized the growing role and relevance of BIMSTEC in the region. The MoU for establishment of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnectivity signed during the last BIMSTEC Summit has been adopted by all the Member States in April 2019. Action is underway for the implementation of various initiatives announced by PM in diverse sectors of security, disaster management, economy and trade, blue economy, agriculture, health, digital connectivity, promoting cultural and youth linkages.

Third Meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security

Chiefs was held in Bangkok on 20-22 March 2019. India's National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval led the delegation. He highlighted the need for joint efforts to deal with the menace of terrorism and added that the States that provide safe havens to terrorists and their organisations undermine the international community's fight against terrorism. The following action points arising out of the Meeting of National Security Chiefs were implemented:

Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, trained 36 National Security Officers of BIMSTEC Countries on Cyber terrorism, Counter Terrorism, Cyber Security and Counter-transnational crimes.

First Sub Group meeting on Countering Radicalization and terrorism was held in 11 June 2019 in New Delhi.

Second Meeting of the track 1.5 BIMSTEC Security Dialogue Forum was held on 30-31 July 2019 in Dhaka (Bangladesh). Indian delegation was headed by JS(NSCS).

The Maiden BIMSTEC Conclave of Ports was held in Visakhapatnam (India) on 7-8 November 2019. The inaugural session was attended by the Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge) Chemicals and Fertilisers Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya. Three MoUs have been signed between Rangong Port (Port Authority of Thailand) and the Port Trust of Chennai, Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata.

The Coastal Security Workshop for BIMSTEC Countries was held on 20-22 November 2019 by Indian Fusion Centre- Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) Gurugram, India.

The Second BIMSTEC Think Tanks Dialogue on Regional Security was held at VIF, New Delhi on 27-28, November 2019. The Secretary General of BIMSTEC Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam attended the inaugural Session

First workshop of Himalayan Science Council was held at National Centre for Polar and Oceanic Research, Goa from 5-6 December 2019

The following Gol Initiatives announced by the PM at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Nepal in August 2018 have been implemented/planned:

- The Preparatory Meeting for the 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2019 was held at Puri, Odisha on 14-15 November 2019 as precursor to the 2nd Disaster Management Exercise which is planned to be held in Puri in February 2020.
- An International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems for BIMSTEC Member States has been

organised at NASC Complex, New Delhi from 11-13 December 2019.

- A four-day capacity building workshop on Risk Informed Urban Planning has been scheduled to be held at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) from 17-20 December 2019.
- 24 PG scholarships were approved for BIMSTEC Countries in the Nalanda University. 7 Students have been admitted in the first phase.

The following Gol initiatives are being planned for implementation in the early part of 2020:

- A two week short term course at NESAC (North Eastern Space Application Centre), Shillong is being planned for 24 researchers/students/professionals in each course in the area of space and remote sensing support programme.
- Training for BIMSTEC Diplomats at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi is being planned to be held from 3-15 February 2020.
- Hackathon for Youth from BIMSTEC countries on Blue Economy is planned to be held at Pune in May 2020.

First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (1st BAMM) preceded by the First BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on Agriculture (1st SOM-A) was held on 11-12 July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar which was attended by the Minister of State Shri Purshottam Rupala. India announced 6 Post Graduate and 6 PhD scholarships, for BIMSTEC students in Agriculture Sector. Eleventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (SGAML-CFT) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 2-5 September 2019. Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Trade Facilitation was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 29-30 September 2019. The Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of National Centres on Coordination in

Traditional Medicine (BNNCTM) was held on 16-17 June 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity is likely to be finalized and signed in 2020 subsequent to the third BIMSTEC Working Group Meeting on Transport Connectivity which will be held during early 2020.

BIMSTEC was given further momentum by the convening of the 1st and 2nd BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) that was created on the directions of the BIMSTEC Leaders at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit to serve as the coordinating body and tasked

with the framing institutional procedures/mechanisms and coordinating joint activities, including financial and administrative matters under BIMSTEC. BPWC Meetings that took place in Colombo in January and October 2019 carried forward the process of providing a future road-map for intensifying regional cooperation in diverse sectors in a result-oriented manner. Detailed deliberations on important subjects crucial for the institutional strengthening of BIMSTEC framework took place, such as on BIMSTEC Charter, Rationalization of Sectors, Template MoA for establishment of BIMSTEC centres/entities, MoU between BIMSTEC and Asian Development Bank etc.

NALANDA UNIVERSITY

The Nalanda University Act 2010 established the university and the teaching began in 2014. As per the Act, it is an international institution, which has also been declared as an institution of national importance. Nalanda has made steady progress both in terms of the physical structure of the campus as well as the academic programmes. The pace of construction project has accelerated from 0.3% in May 2017 to nearly 60% today. Starting out with 2 schools of study with 12 Masters and PhD level students, the university today has grown to 5 schools of study and 96 students, including 56 students from 12 countries. 20% of faculty is now from abroad. Short courses that started in September 2018 continued through 2019, in languages such as Sanskrit, English and Korean. A total of 488 such students have been trained. The academic architecture being developed includes innovative programmes, such those focusing on sustainable development, aimed at making the courses relevant to the present times. Systems have been put in place for

academic audit by international experts. The university is in the process of setting up three Global Centres viz. (i) on the Bay of Bengal Studies, (ii) Common Archival Resource Centre and (iii) Centre for Conflict-Resolution and Peace Studies.

As part of India's Act East Policy, the Ministry working to build the university as a world class institution, including by facilitating its international links. Nalanda has also been nominated as nodal university to anchor the India-ASEAN Network of Universities to work out a roadmap for linkages aimed at collaborative activities.

As regards the Net-Zero & Green Campus Development, a Net-Zero Campus Steering Committee comprising of various Regulatory Bodies of Government of India to advise and assist in building the campus has been instituted. The key sustainability features include net zero energy, net zero water, net zero waste and net zero emission

10

INDO-PACIFIC

Given the increasing salience of the Indo-Pacific concept in global discourse, the Ministry of External Affairs established a new Division for the Indo-Pacific in April 2019. The purpose for doing so was two-fold: to help consolidate India's vision of the Indo-Pacific across Government of India, in line with the elements set out by the Prime Minister of India in June 2018, and to provide substantive policy elements and programmes to that vision.

India's Vision focuses on a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific. India emphasizes respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations in the region, equality of all nations, peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use or threat of use of force and adherence to international laws, rules and regulations. India's objective is a multi-faceted engagement with all countries in the region and those with interests in it, encompassing political, security, economic, and socio-cultural spheres, aimed at Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

In this light, the year 2019 witnessed intensification of India's engagement with various Indo-Pacific frameworks including, inter alia, Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), East Asia Summit (EAS), Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC); we also agreed to join the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) as a Development Partner in July 2019.

India's engagement with South East Asian region of which Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was its primary component, is governed by Act East Policy (AEP), announced by PM Shri Narendra Modi in November 2014 in Myanmar. Key elements of AEP are to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in Indo-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. Towards this end, in 2019, PM had met Prime Ministers of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

and President of Indonesia. Our President had State visit to Philippines in November 2019, while Vice-President visited Vietnam in May 2019. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S Jaishankar and Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan had met all ASEAN Foreign Ministers, except Cambodia and Laos. Structured mechanisms meetings like Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) were held this year with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand. India's relations with Pacific Island Countries (PIC) received a shot in the arm with the historic India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting, held on 24th September 2019 in New York on the sidelines of 74th UNGA. 2019 marked the year when ASEAN formulated its Outlook towards Indo-Pacific on 23 June 2019, as a response to Indo-Pacific concept. The end of the year marked the 35th ASEAN/14th East Asia Summit (EAS)/16th India-ASEAN Summit from 2-4 November 2019 in Bangkok where PM interacted with ASEAN Leaders and announced the India Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) during EAS.

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Engagement with ASEAN has been, and will remain, a critical element of India's 'Act East' policy and strategy; Acting East is now a central element in India's Indo-Pacific Outlook.

The 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting was held on 12 April 2019 in New Delhi where Senior Officials from all ten ASEAN countries and India reviewed progress on various activities under the ASEAN-India Cooperation Framework. Concept Papers of 3rd ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy, 3rd International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Linkages, ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting and Conference on Renewable Energy, ASEAN-India Financial Dialogue, ASEAN-

India Maritime Dialogue and ASEAN-India Maritime Cooperation Network were circulated.

External Affairs Minister participated in the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok on 1 August 2019 wherein he announced an increase in the number of scholarships available from 6 to 20 to students from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam for graduate programmes at Nalanda University and also opened it to all ASEAN Member States.

Pursuant to the announcement by the Prime Minister at the 25th Anniversary ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25 January 2018 of offering upto 1000 integrated PhD fellowships for ASEAN students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), External Affairs Minister and Minister of Human Resource Development formally launched the fellowship programme at a ceremony at the Ministry of External Affairs on 16 September 2019. The first batch of ASEAN students will be admitted in January 2020. With a total budget outlay of INR 300 crore, the fellowship programme is the single-largest capacity development initiative of India in its partnership with ASEAN.

The 3rd ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy was organized in Bangkok on 12 September 2019; experts from India and ASEAN Member States discussed developments in blue economy, sustainable harnessing of marine resources, maritime connectivity and maritime safety.

The first ASEAN-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber Issues was organized in New Delhi on 14 October 2019 by the Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation (ORF) with participation of government representatives and cyber experts from ASEAN Member States and India. The dialogue, organized pursuant to fulfil India's commitment at the 25th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in Delhi in January 2018, facilitated discussions on data protection

and privacy, human rights & emerging technologies, regulations & digital economy, the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the geopolitics of 5G and global norms for cyberspace and cyber-security.

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to attend the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok on 3 November 2019. During the Summit, Prime Minister announced Rs 50 million annual endowment for ASEAN-India University Network projects and 50 scholarships for ASEAN agricultural scientists and technicians at Indian Agricultural Universities. He also proposed to hold an ASEAN-India Hackathon and Start-up Festival in 2020.

In partnership with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), a five-day Conference on 'Capacity Building and Sharing of Best Practices in Policy, Regulation and Development' was organized for telecom regulators from ASEAN Member States from 18-22 November, 2019 in New Delhi

The 11th edition of Delhi Dialogue (DD XI) – India's

premier ASEAN-related Track 1.5 policy event, was organized consecutively with the 6th edition of the Indian Ocean Dialogue on 13 and 14 December 2019. For the first time, these two Track 1.5 dialogues—which are key elements of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the India-ASEAN calendars respectively—were held consecutively, and on similar, Indo-Pacific themes. The 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue, organized with the assistance of the Indian Council for World Affairs, focussed on the theme "Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography" while Delhi Dialogue XI organized with the assistance of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) focussed on the theme "Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific".

East Asia Summit (EAS)

External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation at the East Asia Summit Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok on 2 August 2019 wherein he welcomed ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.



Ministerial Keynote Session Delhi Dialogue (13 December, 2019)

The 14th East Asia Summit was held in Bangkok on 4 November 2019; the Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister. Apart from putting forward India's position on global issues such as South China Sea, Korean Peninsula, Rakhine State and terrorism and violent extremism, Prime Minister announced an Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative aimed at forging partnerships to create a safe, secure, stable, prosperous and sustainable maritime domain. He further announced that India would be holding the fourth EAS Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation on 6 & 7 February 2020 in Chennai. Prime Minister also announced holding a seminar on Conservation of Migratory Wildlife Species and an event on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2020.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

The IORA Strategic Planning Workshop took place in Mauritius on 9-11 April 2019, where aspects of IORA reforms and institutional strengthening of the organization were discussed by Senior Officials from the IORA countries.

India participated in the 19th IORA Bi-Annual meeting of Committee of Senior Officials on 19 & 20 June 2019 in Durban, South Africa. This mid-year stock taking of IORA activities was preceded by the hosting of Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum on 17 & 18 June 2019 and the Working Group meeting on Trade and Investment on 18 June 2019.

As part of IORA Disaster Risk Management Cooperation, India hosted delegates from IORA member countries at India's 4th Annual HADR Exercise on 2-4 August 2019 in Chennai. Delegates from Bangladesh, Kenya, Somalia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Australia, Singapore and ASEAN Secretariat participated in the exercise.

India participated in the First Meeting of IORA Working Group on Maritime Security and Safety, hosted by Sri Lanka in Colombo on 8 & 9 August 2019. The two-year

workplan for activities to be undertaken by IORA in the field of Maritime Safety and Security was finalized at this Working Group Meeting.

Minister of State for External Affairs led a delegation to Abu Dhabi, UAE to participate in the 19th Meeting of IORA Council of Ministers on 7 November, 2019. India launched the first edition of IORA HADR Guidelines Booklet at the meeting. A contribution of USD 1 million was made by India to the IORA Special Fund.

As part of its IORA commitments, India hosted 17 foreign delegates for a two-day capacity building exercise on 28 & 29 November 2019 in Kochi. The exercise called Somalia Yemen Development Programme was targeted at the fisheries experts and policy makers from Somalia and Yemen, to assist them to enhance skills in artisanal fisheries.

India hosted the 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue on 13 December 2019 in New Delhi. The event was attended by delegates from all the IORA countries, its Dialogue Partners and other stakeholders. The event was preceded by the 25th Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group and the First Expert Group Meeting on Academic Science and Technology Cooperation of IORA on 12 December 2019.

Asia – Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Minister of State for External Affairs led a delegation to Madrid, Spain on 15 & 16 December 2019 to attend the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM). The meeting prepared ground for the 2020 ASEM Summit in Cambodia. The Foreign Minister came out with a wide-ranging statement covering political, economical and people-to-people relations of Asia and Europe.

India hosted for the fifth time a one-week training course for ASEM diplomats on 14-21 October 2019 in New Delhi. Diplomats from 20 ASEM countries participated in this course.

Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC)

11th MGC Senior Officials' Meeting (11th MGC SOM) was held in New Delhi on 9 July 2019 where Senior Officials from India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam reviewed the progress made in various initiatives under MGC cooperation.

External Affairs Minister led the Indian delegation at the 10th MGC Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok on 1 August 2019. The Ministers adopted the MGC Plan of Action (2019-2022) and decided to celebrate the year 2020 as the 20th anniversary of MGC in a befitting manner by organizing a host of activities including an MGC Conference on Heritage Conservation Techniques at the MGC Asian Traditional Textile Museum at Siem Reap, Cambodia; an MGC cultural event showcasing music, visual and performing arts in 2020 and joint inauguration of a Quick Impact Project (QIP) in Vietnam during the MGC Ministerial Meeting in 2020.

A Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Workshop on Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCM) was held on 22-25 October 2019 in New Delhi in collaboration with Ministry of AYUSH as a part of India's

commitment made under MGC plan of action 2019-22. Twenty-four TCM practitioners and regulators from Mekong countries participated in the Workshop. Both sides exchanged information on regulatory and best practices and discussed a host of possibilities for bilateral cooperation and strengthening of traditional medicine system.

During the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok on 3 November 2019, Prime Minister proposed a first MGC Commemorative Summit on the margins of ASEAN Summits in Hanoi to mark the 20th anniversary of MGC in the year 2020.

Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)

India joined ACMECS as a Development Partner along with Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and USA. India looks forward to identifying suitable projects from ACMECS Priority Projects drawing on the USD 1 billion Line of Credit announced by the Prime Minister at the ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015 for connectivity and digital infrastructure in the ASEAN region.

11

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

74TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) kicked off on 17 September 2019. The theme of the 74th session was “Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion”. Since the beginning of the new session, efforts in the various committees of the UN have been targeted at promoting partnerships for advancing the achievement of the SDGs, in particular Goals 1, 2 and 4 on poverty eradication, zero hunger and quality education, respectively. Accentuating inclusion, promotion of human rights, empowerment of women

and youth, enhanced multi-stakeholder partnerships in promoting international peace and security, in particular, conflict prevention continue to receive special attention.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to the High-Level Segment of the UNGA from 22-27 September 2019. He was accompanied by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan and other senior officials. On 23 September 2019, Prime

Minister Modi started his UNGA engagements by participating in three high-level meetings – *Climate Action Summit*, *High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage*, and the *Leaders’ Dialogue on Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives*.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened the UN Climate Action Summit under the theme “*A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win*,” to mobilize political and business capital at the highest levels to advance climate action that will enable implementation of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. Prime Minister Modi in his keynote address at the Summit called for a comprehensive approach to tackle climate change. He talked about the need for a new development philosophy and called for a global people’s movement to bring about behavioral change. He highlighted India’s pragmatic approach to address Climate Change through enhanced use of cleaner sources of energy including deployment of 450 GW of solar energy, increased blending of biofuels with petrol and diesel. He spoke about India’s initiative of providing clean cooking gas to 150 million poor households, launching of a \$50 billion water conservation initiative and decision to eliminate single-use plastic. Prime Minister Modi also announced the launch of the *Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)* and the initiative of the “*Leadership Group*”, an outcome of the Industry-Transition Track that India co-led with Sweden as part of the Climate Action Summit. The Leadership Group would facilitate greater cooperation between government and industry in the area of innovation and development of low carbon systems.

At the high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage, Prime Minister said that India has taken a holistic approach towards this subject and is working on the four main pillars of healthcare: *preventive healthcare, affordable Healthcare, improvements on the supply side and implementation in mission mode*. Prime Minister said that special emphasis on Yoga, Ayurveda

and Fitness and setting up of more than 125,000 wellness centers have helped to promote preventive healthcare, helping in controlling lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, depression etc. Banning of e-cigarettes, greater awareness through Clean India campaign and immunization campaigns have also contributed to health promotion. Prime Minister said that to ensure affordable healthcare, India rolled out the world’s largest health insurance scheme – *Aayushman Bharat*, under which 500 million poor have been given the facility of free treatment worth up to 500,000 rupees annually (more than USD\$7000). He also mentioned a number of historic steps taken by India to ensure quality medical education and medical infrastructure development. Prime Minister also spoke about the role of *National Nutrition Mission* in improving nutritional status of mother and child. He highlighted India’s commitment to *eliminate Tuberculosis by 2025*, five years ahead of the global goal of 2030.

India-PSIDS

The India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders’ Meeting was held on 24th September 2019 in New York on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA. The meeting was attended by the Heads of delegation of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, The Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Republic of Vanuatu. This is the first time that Prime Minister Modi met the leaders of the PSIDS on the margins of UNGA in plurilateral format. PM Modi announced allocation of US\$ 12 million grant (US\$ 1 million to each PSIDS) towards implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice. In addition, a concessional Line of Credit of US\$150 Million which can be availed by the PSIDS for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on each country’s requirement was announced.

India-CARICOM

The first-ever meeting of Prime Minister of India with CARICOM leaders in a regional format, took place on 25 September 2019 in New York. The meeting was attended by heads of delegation of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Haiti and Guyana. Prime Minister Modi emphasized on partnering with CARICOM countries in the areas of capacity-building, development assistance and cooperation in disaster management and resilience. He invited the CARICOM countries to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) initiatives. He also announced a US\$14 million grant for community development projects in the CARICOM and another US\$150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate- change related projects. He also announced the setting up of a *Regional Center for Excellence in Information Technology in Georgetown, Guyana* and a *Regional Vocational Training Center in Belize* by upgrading the existing India-funded centers in these countries. It was decided to set up a Joint Task Force between India and CARICOM to expeditiously look into possible areas of cooperation and identify the way forward.

Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary at the UN

On 24th September 2019, on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hosted a high-level event titled, "*Leadership Matters: Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World*" to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The event was attended by the Secretary General of the UN Mr. Antonio Guterres, President of the Republic of Korea Mr. Moon Jae-in, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Ms. Sheikh Hasina, PM of Jamaica Mr. Andrew Holness and Prime Minister of New Zealand

Ms. Jacinda Ardern. Participating dignitaries paid rich tributes to Gandhian thought and ideals and the influence it had on their lives. The event was attended by over 550 dignitaries, diplomats, UN officials and the diaspora community. On the occasion, the leaders jointly inaugurated the *Gandhi Solar Park* that was commissioned on the roof of the UN Headquarters. The project consisting of 193 solar panels, symbolic of the 193-member states of the United Nations, was executed by the UN at a cost of US\$1 million. A *special postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi* was also released on the occasion.

Economic and Social Issues

The 52nd Commission on Population and Development was held on 1 to 5 April, 2019. A political declaration was adopted reaffirming the commitment undertaken 25 years ago, at the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994 in Cairo. Mission co-sponsored and participated in the High-Level World Autism Awareness Day Event on "Autism: Nurturing Care Framework and Family-centered Care" on April 3, 2019. The ECOSOC Youth Forum was held on 8-9 April 2019 which provided a platform for young people from around the world to share ideas on how to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A special event titled, "Enabling Women's Economic Empowerment: Role of Laws & Policies", was organized by the Mission to commemorate the 128th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at the UN on April 12, 2019. The 10th Session of the UN General Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was held from 15 to 18 April 2019. A delegation from National Human Rights Commission of India, headed by Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson participated in the meeting in its independent capacity as national human rights institution (NHRI). The discussions focused on exchange of best practices from different Member States regarding ways to provide social protection,

investment in human capital through education and training for older persons, and to facilitate healthy ageing.

On 17 April 2019, in the sidelines of ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD Forum), Mission co-sponsored and participated in the event, “Sustainable Financing for Universal Health Coverage”. The 12th Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on the theme “Ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities in a changing world through the implementation of the CRPD” was held on June 10 to 13, 2019. Ms. Shakuntala Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities headed the Indian delegation. In her national statement, Ms. Gamlin highlighted India’s progress in the implementation of the Convention through the landmark Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act which came into effect in 2017, and other policies and programmes.

On the margins of the 12th CRPD, two side-events were organized by the Mission. One was on ‘Ensuring Access to Community Based Mental Health Services for People with Psychosocial Disabilities’ in collaboration with Permanent Mission of Israel and ENOSH (Israeli Mental Health Association) and ‘A Critical Friend: The Importance of Civil Society Engagement with Government on Disability’ with the Permanent Mission of Ireland.

In July 2019, a delegation from NITI Aayog led by Vice Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar participated in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs. On the sidelines of the HLPF, a side event entitled “*From Commitment to Achievement: India’s Experience in Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals*” was organized on 16 July, 2019. UNDP Administrator Mr. Achim Steiner was the Chief Guest and a report on “*Localizing SDGs: Early Lessons from India, 2019*” was also released at the occasion. The 9th session of the UN Committee of Experts on *Global Geospatial Information Management*

(UN-GGIM) was held at the UN Headquarters from 7-9 August 2019. Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Chair, UN-GGIM Private Sector Network and President, Association of Geospatial Industries and Dr. Kumar Navulur, President, Digital Global Foundation were among the keynote speakers at the GGIM.

UN Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina Mohammad visited India in September, 2019 to participate in the 14th Conference of Parties (CoP14) of the *United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification* which was held in Delhi, from 2-13 September, 2019. On 25th September 2019, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in association with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction organized a side event titled, “*Resilient Infrastructure: Key to the Success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” at the UN Headquarters. Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction were the keynote speakers at the event.

On 24 and 25 September 2019, Heads of State and Government gathered at the UN Headquarters in New York to follow up and comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event was the first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. The SDG Summit resulted in the adoption of the Political Declaration, “*Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”. World leaders called for a decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 and announced actions they are taking to advance the agenda. The General Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration on 15 October 2019. More than 100 acceleration actions have been announced.

On 27 September 2019, the Permanent Mission of India along with Mission of Netherlands co-hosted a

side event titled, '*Good Servant, Poor Master: Capturing the Promise and Managing the Risk of Financial technology for a Sustainable World*'. India made a voluntary contribution of US\$1 million to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the new Resident Coordinator System which came into effect from 1 January 2019. On 19 November 2019, India joined Singapore and Nigeria in organizing a side event to mark the *World Toilet Day*. The *Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing States (LLDCs)* took place from 5-6 December 2019 in New York. India actively participated in the deliberations which resulted in a political declaration. India had earlier this year contributed US\$250,000 to the Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs (OHRLLS) for hosting of the mid-term review.

Law of the Sea

India participated in the first and second sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference (BBNJ) convened under resolution 72/249, from 25 March to 5 April 2019 and 19 to 30 August 2019, and the substantive discussions which addressed issues such as the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. The President of the Conference will produce, as part of the preparations for the fourth session of the Conference, a document with the aim of facilitating focused discussions and text-based negotiations, containing treaty language and reflecting options concerning the four elements of the package.

India also participated in the 29th Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) held from 17 to 19 June 2019. The

delegations took note of the work undertaken by the institutions established under the Convention, namely, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority, and The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

India participated in the 25th session of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston which considered models for a financial payment system; draft regulations on deep-seabed mining; contractors' non-compliance issues; the possible operationalization of the Enterprise; strategic plan for 2019-2023; annual report of the SG; and the proposed budget for 2019-2020.

Other meetings relating to the Oceans and the Law of the Sea included

- 20th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea on "Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development", from 10 to 14 June 2019;
- 12th meeting of the 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 convened pursuant to paragraph 330 of General Assembly resolution 72/73 from 29 and 30 August 2019;
- 51st Session of the CLCS from 14 to 18 October 2019 - India made an updated presentation relating to the partial submission for consideration pursuant to Article 76 (8) of the UNCLOS before the Sub-commission;
- The Indian delegation contributed actively to the deliberations at the informal consultations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Omnibus) resolution during 1-4 October 2019;

India actively participated in the informal consultations on Implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions on impact of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks from 14-19 November 2019.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

The Indian delegation in New York actively participated in UNCITRAL *Working Group III* (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) from 1-5 April 2019, *Working Group IV* (Electronic Commerce) from 8-12 April 2019, *Working Group V* (Insolvency Law) from 28-31 May 2019 and *Working Group VI* (Judicial Sale of Ships) from 13 to 17 May 2019.

International Civil Aviation Organization

India was re-elected to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the term 2019-2022, at the elections held during the 40th General Assembly of ICAO in Montreal, Canada, on 28 September 2019.

International Maritime Organization

India was re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under Category 'B' for the biennium 2020-21 at the 31st Session of the Assembly of the IMO in London on 29 November, 2019.

International Narcotics Control Board

Ms. Jagjit Pavadia of India was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for the term 2020-2025. At the election held in the UN Headquarters, New York, on 7 May 2019, Ms. Pavadia secured the highest number of votes (44/54) among the 15 candidates running for the 5 seats.

World Customs Organization

Shri P.K. Das, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect

Taxes and Customs (CBIC), was elected to the post of Director (Compliance & Facilitation) at the World Customs Organization, for the term 2020-25. The elections were held in Brussels in June 2019.

UN-Habitat

First UN-Habitat Assembly was held in May 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya, during which India was elected to the 36-member Executive Board. First meeting of the Executive Board was also held during the Assembly.

South Centre

In the 20th Meeting of Council of Representatives of the South Centre that took place in Geneva in April 2019, Ambassador (Retd.) Ajit Kumar was elected by consensus amongst all member states as the Convenor of the Governing Council for a term of 3 years. Ambassador Kumar had been serving as the Vice-Convenor of the Council until his election.

UN Human Rights Council (HRC)

India started first year of its three-year term to the Human Rights Council in 2019. It continued its engagement and participation in, *inter-alia*, sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC), annual forum meetings, intergovernmental working group proceedings, and human rights Treaty Bodies reporting process. High level engagement continued with the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet on various human rights issues.

India co-sponsored one side event on Leprosy highlighting stigma and discrimination during the June 2019 Session of the HRC. India as one of the main sponsors, tabled the resolution on 'Access to medicines and vaccines' in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. India also co-sponsored 10 resolutions namely the resolutions on 'Elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport',

'Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child', 'the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health', 'Marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and programme of action (Beijing +25)', 'Promoting international cooperation to support National Mechanisms for Implementation', 'Reporting and Follow-up of Recommendations', 'Human rights and climate change' and 'New and Emerging Digital Technologies and Human Rights'. On behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India was the main sponsor for resolutions on 'Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights' and the 'Right to Development'. India also joined Joint Statements on various human rights issues particularly on 'emerging technologies' and 'death penalty' among others as well as those delivered by NAM.

India continued its participation in the ongoing Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review Process where interventions on 39 Member States out of 42 that were reviewed in 2019 were made. The initial report of India on its implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was reviewed by the Committee on CRPD in September 2019.

Secretary (West) Shri A. Gitesh Sarma visited Geneva on 1-2 April 2019 and met the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet and Executive Director of South Centre Dr. Carlos Correa.

Secretary (East) Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh led the Indian delegation to the 42nd HRC session in September 2019. She met the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet.

The Permanent Mission of India in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Germany organized an event titled 'Children in the digital age- championing children's issues in international fora' on 18 November 2019 to mark 30 years of the Convention on Child Rights.

The Permanent Mission organized an event in the UN General Assembly Hall in Geneva 'Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General WIPO and Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO in conversation with Sadhguru' on 27 June 2019 to mark the International Day of Yoga.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, led the delegation to the 108th Centenary Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva from 10-21 June, 2019. Prominent Employer and Worker Groups representatives from India also attended the ILC. On the sidelines, the Minister participated as a keynote speaker in the ILO high-level centenary event 'Together for a brighter future without child labour' held to commemorate the world day against child labour.

Throughout the year, India participated in the deliberations of various ILO technical committees and expert level meetings including the 5th meeting of the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM-TWG), the Meeting of Experts to Adopt Guidelines on the Promotion of Decent Work and Road Safety in the Transport Sector and the Global Dialogue Forum on Decent Work in the World of Sport.

India actively participated in the 335th, 336th and 337th Sessions of the Governing Body (GB) of ILO held in March, June and October-November 2019 respectively. India remained engaged in the ongoing reform process in the ILO including those related to its Governance structures, the review of ILO Supervisory Mechanisms and the Standard Review Mechanism as part of ILO's centenary (year 2019) initiatives and the final outcome documents, namely the Centenary Declaration and the Convention and Recommendation concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

India played an active role in Programme Coordination Board (PCB) selection of a new Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and in its meetings focusing on the issue of governance reforms which was also included in the biennial ECOSOC resolution on UNAIDS. India, being the endorsed candidate from the Asia-Pacific Group, got elected to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) for the term 2020-2022 by acclamation.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

The 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) session took place in Geneva from 20-28 May 2019 in which India participated actively and shaped key resolutions and decisions. The 72nd WHA appointed the Comptroller & Auditor General of India as the external auditor of WHO for the four-year period 2020-23. On the eve of the 72nd WHA, the health delegation participated in the 31st Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting with the theme of "Universal Health Coverage: Reaching the unreached, ensuring no one is left behind" in Geneva on 19 May 2019.

The 3rd World Conference on Access to Medical Products - Achieving the SDGs 2030' was held at New Delhi on 19-21 November 2019. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India with the support of the World Health Organization. India has taken leadership on this issue and hosted the previous two versions of this annual conference.

Migrants and Refugees

India actively participated in various meetings of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as a member of its Executive and Standing Committees as well as of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), most notably the 2nd Special and 110th Annual

sessions of its Council held in June and November 2019 respectively. This year was critical for the operationalization of the two global compacts for Refugees and Migrants that were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2018 and India remained actively involved in the process through its engagement in the UNHCR and IOM.

India continued to take part in the Colombo Process and other Regional Consultative Processes on Migration to shape the regional agendas.

India also remained actively engaged with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as a member of its Steering Group and participated in the Steering Committee and Friends of the forum meetings held during the year.

World Intellectual Property Organisation

India's relations with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) continued to progress further in 2019. In June 2019, India acceded to three more WIPO governed treaties namely, (i) The Nice Agreement concerning the International classification of Goods and Services for the purposes of registration of marks, (ii) The Vienna Agreement establishing an International Classification of the figurative elements of marks, and (iii) The Locarno Agreement establishing an International classification for industrial designs. The 2019 launch of the Report of the Global Innovation Index, a flagship event of WIPO took place in New Delhi in July 2019. This was the first time that the report was being launched in a developing country since its inception. India's global ranking further improved in the GII to 52 this year, a jump of 29 places since 2015.

UNCTAD

India continued to engage actively and constructively in all UNCTAD meetings in 2019. Permanent Representative of India to the UN in Geneva gave a presentation on the India-UN Development Fund

during the meeting on Financing for Development which was well received and appreciated by member states and other stakeholders. India was among the top 10 FDI inflow destinations in both 2017 and 2018, as per the UNCTAD Investment Report 2019.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

The delegation of India was led by Hon. Lok Sabha Speaker during the 141st Session of the IPU held in Belgrade from 13-17 October 2019. During IPU-141, for the first time in the IPU General Assembly, an emergency item proposed by India on the theme 'Addressing Climate Change' was unanimously adopted by all member states of IPU.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum was held in Geneva, from 8-12 April 2019. The theme of the event was "Information and Communication Technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

An Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Shri. Justice Shiva Kirti Singh, Chairperson, Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), Ministry of Communications, Govt. of India participated in the event. The Forum provided an opportunity for information exchange, sharing of best practices and identified evolving trends in Information and Knowledge Societies.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The 18th session of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress was held in Geneva, from 3-14 June 2019. During the meeting, Dr. Mrityunjay Mohapatra was elected as the Indian representative to the Executive Council of WMO.

United Nations System for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

The fourth World Reconstruction Conference (WRC4) themed as "Inclusion for Resilient Recovery" was held in Geneva, from 13-14, May, 2019. The Conference sought to promote inclusion in disaster recovery and reconstruction processes.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019)

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019) organised by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Geneva, from 13-17 May 2019. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial multi-stakeholder forum to review progress in reducing disaster risk.

An Indian delegation led by Dr. P.K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister participated in the event. A meeting was organized along with UNDRR on "Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)".

Dr. P.K. Mishra was also given the prestigious "United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019", in recognition of his initiatives to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to floods and drought and for his personal commitment to social inclusion.

Food and Agriculture Organization

India continues to participate in Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as a member of the FAO Council. India has been elected to the FAO Council for another term from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023. India also continues to serve as a member of various committees such as the Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry, Committee on Food Security, Committee on Commodity Problems and Committee on Agriculture.

India's proposal for International Year of Millets in 2023 was approved by the 41st Conference of FAO held in Rome from 22-29 June 2019.

46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security was held in FAO from 14-18 October 2019. India has been elected as a member of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Bureau from Asia.

India won the bid for External Auditors of FAO and will start the audit from November 2020.

India has also been elected as a member of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health to be celebrated in 2020.

India chaired the Commission II of 41st FAO Conference held from 22-29 June 2019 at Rome after a gap of 30 years. This Commission II deals mainly with the approval of Budget of FAO and the policy related to finances.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, participated as Chief guest for 8th Governing Body meeting of International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) on 11 November 2019 at FAO Rome. He also interacted with the Agriculture Minister of Italy and Director General, FAO. India announced holding of 9th Governing Body meeting of ITPGRFA in New Delhi in 2021.

World Food Programme

At the World Food Programme, India will take over as the Executive Board member from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2021. India was an active observer member of WFP in different meetings.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

India continues to be an active member of the Executive Board of IFAD. India's strong commitment and involvement in IFAD was reflected in IFAD 11th Replenishment with a total pledge of US \$ 60 million. India is a member of the Evaluation Committee of IFAD. India was also a member of the Executive Board's country visit to Cameroon in July 2019.

Executive board 206th session.

The 206th session of the Executive board was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 03rd to 17th April, 2019. Prof J S Rajput, India's representative to the Executive board attended the session and delivered his speech in the plenary session on 9th April, 2019. The focus of the speech was the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, commending the efforts of the Director General in the strategic transformation of UNESCO and India's pledge to constructively engage in the effort and the importance of UNESCO work in its core mandate of Education, science and Culture and India's positive contribution in the area.

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Baku Convention Centre from 30 June to 10 July 2019. The Walled City of Jaipur got inscribed in the representative list of the World Heritage site during the Session taking the total number of Indian sites inscribed to 38.

UNESCAP

Ambassador and Permanent Representative (PR) of India to UNESCAP, Ms Suchitra Durai led the Indian delegation at the 75th Commission Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) held from 27-31 May

2019. India organized a side event on 'India: Assuming a leadership role in SDGs and developing a unique monitoring framework'. Elections of Governing Council of the Statistical Institute of Asia and Pacific (UN-SIAP) and Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) were held in May 2019 and India was re-elected to both these bodies.

Ambassador led the Indian delegation at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Beijing +25 Review held at UNESCAP from 27-29 November 2019. "Asia Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review" was adopted as an Outcome document by the Conference.

Indian delegation from Ministry of Finance participated in the second session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development of UNESCAP held from 6-8 November 2019.

The Embassy jointly with UN-ESCAP organized the International Day of Non Violence in United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) on 4 October 2019.

UNODC

India continued active participation in all the important conferences of Commissions and Conventions which are organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC). Indian delegations participated in the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) held in Vienna from 18 -22 March, 2019, and in the 28th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) held from 20-24 May, 2019. Indian experts also attended meetings of the Working Groups of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

INPUTS FROM UNP DIVISION FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 (FROM 1 APRIL 2019)

74th Session of the UN General Assembly

In his address in the General Debate of UNGA on 27th September 2019, PM made development agenda as the central focus of his speech presenting India's actions on Swachh Bharat, Jan Dhan Yojana, Har Ghar Jal Abhiyaan and Jan Bhagidari. He underlined Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence for global peace, development and progress. PM also spoke about initiatives to establish International Solar Alliance (ISA) and setting up of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and invited countries to join the coalitions. On the margins of the visit, PM held bilateral meetings with 17 Heads of Delegations (Qatar, Niger, Italy, Namibia, Maldives, US, Belgium, Armenia, New Zealand, Estonia, Iran, Cyprus, Mauritius, Mexico,

Bhutan, Bangladesh, Colombia) as well as the Executive Director of UNICEF.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, PM participated in several High-Level Meetings, including the UN Climate Action Summit, High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage and the Leader's Dialogue on Strategic responses to terrorist and violent extremist narratives. A commemorative event to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was organized at the UN on 24th September 2019 in which besides PM, President of the Republic of Korea, Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, Jamaica, New Zealand, Singapore and Bhutan and, UN Secretary General participated and delivered speeches. PM also inaugurated the India funded Gandhi Solar Farm installed at the rooftop of the

UN building. PM was conferred the Global Goalkeeper Award by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his leadership in realizing sanitation goals in India through the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

In a first, PM hosted two major plurilateral engagements, namely meeting with the leaders of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) on 24th September 2019 and meeting with the leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on 25th September 2019.

External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India at several Ministerial level multilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the UNGA Session, namely, India-GCC Troika Ministerial Meeting, G-4 Foreign Ministers Meeting, Quad Ministerial Meeting, BRICS Ministerial Meeting, SAARC Council of Ministers Informal Luncheon Meeting and Ministerial Meeting of the 'Alliance for Multilateralism'. On the sidelines, EAM held bilateral meetings and pull-asides with his counterparts from 44 countries (Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Maldives, Nepal, Netherlands, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, Uganda, Uzbekistan, as well as US Special Envoy for Afghanistan and European Union High Representative).

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan represented India at several Ministerial meetings on the sidelines of UNGA, namely, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia Ministerial Meeting, NAM Ministerial Meeting, Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting, G-77 Ministerial Meeting and SAMOA Pathway meeting. He also participated in the UN Security Council Debate on Cooperation between the

UN and regional organizations like SCO, CIS & CSTO in combating terrorism

Visit of President of the UN General Assembly

Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th session of UNGA, visited New Delhi from 1-4 September 2019. During the visit, he called on the Prime Minister and held delegation level talks with EAM. He also met Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and interacted with students at IIT Delhi. He visited TERI School of Advanced Studies and participated in a speech-cum-interactive event at Indian Council of World Affairs.

India and Peacekeeping

8. As the largest cumulative contributor of UN Peacekeeping troops, India continued its multifaceted contribution to the UN Peacekeeping. As on 31 October 2019, India has deployed 6,183 personnel in 9 peacekeeping missions including women officers. As part of India's commitment to increasing the number of women peacekeepers, we have deployed a Female Engagement Team (FET) in the Rapid Deployable Battalion (RDB) in MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

9. India also continued its support for capacity building of other countries for UN peacekeeping. The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi conducted several international courses, including the United Nations Staff and Logistic Officers Course (UNSLOC), United Nations Military Observers Course (UNMOC) and United Nations Military Contingent Officers Course (UNMCOC). The CUNPK also held the 4th UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) (10-28 June 2019) in association with the United States. India also co-hosted an event at the UN on Improving Peacekeeping performance along with

USA, Portugal, Senegal, Uruguay and Vietnam on 6th December 2019.

UN Counter-Terrorism action

10. During the period, India continued to highlight the need for International community to strengthen the global counter-terrorism efforts; especially by finalizing the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. India also called for 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.

11. PM Modi, in his speech at the 'Leaders' Dialogue on Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives' during the 74th UNGA on September 23, 2019, mentioned that 'our efforts and narrative against terrorism and extremism can be successful only if it gets public support and recognition. Rejection of terrorism by ordinary citizens is the biggest failure of terrorism'. He highlighted that terrorism is the biggest violator of the basic fundamental right like right to life.

12. India worked closely with the UNSC'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. After sustained efforts for several years, on 1 May 2019, Masood Azhar was finally listed under the UN Sanctions regime.

Hindi at United Nations

13. During the year, the volume and frequency of Hindi content produced by the UN Secretariat increased. Hindi website of the UN was started. The UN also launched social media sites in Hindi, including Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram and Blog in Hindi. The UN broadcasted Weekly Hindi news bulletin on

Soundcloud as well as launched Hindi extension of UN News mobile app.

Non-Aligned Movement

14. Vice President (VP) Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu led the Indian delegation at the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 25-26 October, 2019. In his address, VP pointed out that NAM must keep pace with the changing times and refocus itself to remain a useful and influential grouping that can promote the interests of its member countries on emerging global challenges. On the sidelines of the Summit, VP held bilateral meetings with the Heads of Delegation of Vietnam, Afghanistan, Cuba and Venezuela and had pull-aside meetings with President of Iran, and Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Nepal.

15. EAM participated in the NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 23-24 October 2019. In his statement, EAM said that a democratic, effective, flexible, credible, transparent and representative multilateral order - 'reformed multilateralism' is a 21st century imperative. On the sidelines, EAM held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Bahrain, Cameroon, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Yemen as well as with NSA of Afghanistan.

16. The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin led the Indian Delegation to NAM Ministerial Meeting held in Caracas, Venezuela during 21 July 2019.

The Commonwealth

17. EAM participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) held in London on 10 July 2019. Minister of State for External Affairs participated in CFAMM held on the sidelines of 74th UNGA in New York on 26 September 2019. India

also played an active role in the High Level Group (HLG) that was constituted to review the governance arrangements of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

18. A cricket coaching camp for boys and girls under 16 years of age from Commonwealth countries was held in the National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru from 1-30 October 2019. 35 participants, including 18 boys & 17 girls from 16 Commonwealth countries attended the camp. The camp was organised pursuant to the

announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the CHOGM in April 2018 in London. As per enhanced support for the Commonwealth countries announced by PM, India paid additional contribution to the Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), Commonwealth Small States Offices in New York and Geneva as well as funded projects in partner countries through the 'Commonwealth sub window' of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

12

MULTI-LATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

BRICS [BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA, CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA]

ELEVENTH BRICS SUMMIT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation to the Eleventh BRICS Summit that was held on 13-14 November 2019 in Brasilia under the theme “BRICS: Economic Growth for an Innovative Future”. The Summit proceedings were presided over by President of Brazil Mr. Jair M. Bolsonaro. President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping, President of Russia Mr. Vladimir Putin and President of South Africa Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa led their respective delegations to the Summit.

At the Summit, the Leaders discussed global financial and security situations, countering terrorism, climate change, sustainable development, reform of the multilateral system, reform of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and institutions of international governance, ways to promote Intra-BRICS cooperation including in science & technology, trade, health, information and communication technology, people-to-people exchanges. BRICS Business Council and the New Development Bank also presented their reports to the Leaders at the Summit.

A large business delegation from India attended the BRICS Business Forum on 13 November 2019 along with the business community from other BRICS countries. Prime Minister attended the closing ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum along with other BRICS leaders.

The broad outcomes of Brazil's BRICS Chairship in 2019 have been the establishment of innovation BRICS Network (iBRICS) and BRICS Women Business Alliance (WBA), the adoption of the New Architecture on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), finalisation of Terms of Reference of the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform. In addition, a seminar on BRICS Strategies for Countering Terrorism, a Workshop on Human Milk Banks, and BRICS Meeting on Asset Recovery was also organised. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS Trade and Investment Promotion Agencies (TIPAs), and a MoU on Private Investment mobilisation were also signed in 2019.

The outcomes of the Summit included the Brasilia Declaration in which BRICS Leaders reaffirmed their fundamental commitment to the principle of sovereignty, mutual respect and equality and to the shared goal of building a peaceful, stable and prosperous world. BRICS Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Recognizing the primary role of States and their competent authorities in preventing and countering terrorism, the Leaders urged for concerted efforts to fight against terrorism under United Nations (UN) auspices in accordance with international law.

Recognizing significant challenges currently facing multilateralism, BRICS Leaders reiterated the urgent need to strengthen and reform the multilateral system, including the UN, the WTO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organizations. Highlighting the importance of

sustainable development, BRICS Leaders reiterated their commitment to implementation of: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, outcomes of Conference of Parties (COP) 14 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) with an aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.3 by 2030 to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

BRICS Leaders expressed serious concern over persistent threats to international peace and security and committed to work for lasting peace for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and all applicable international obligations. They underscored the importance of and support for Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and to the preservation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Other elements in the Brasilia Declaration include (i) exploration and peaceful use of outer space in accordance with international law, (ii) open, secure, peaceful, stable, accessible and non-discriminatory environment for information and communications technologies (ICTs), (iii) cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), (iv) greater participation of developing countries in global value chains, (v) a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF (vi) WTO reform (vii) investments in productive sectors, e-commerce, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), infrastructure and connectivity.

BRICS Leaders welcomed the opening of New Development Bank (NDB) Regional Office in Brazil and appreciated the role of the NDB in infrastructure and sustainable development financing. Leaders also welcomed approval of 46 projects worth USD 12.8

billion by NDB in BRICS countries. They also noted the progress achieved in establishing a BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund and expressed satisfaction on the steps undertaken to ensure the preparedness of the

Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA). The efforts of the BRICS Business Council (BBC) in promoting trade and investment among its members were also acknowledged in the Declaration.

BRICS LEADERS' INFORMAL MEETING ON THE MARGINS OF OSAKA G20 SUMMIT

A customary informal Meeting of BRICS Leaders, chaired by the Brazilian President Mr. Jair M. Bolsonaro, was held on 28 June 2019 on the margins of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping and South African President Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa participated in the meeting. 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. A Joint Media Statement was released at the Meeting.

BRICS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

The meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs / International Relations under the leadership of Brazil was held on 25&26 July 2019, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the representation of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa. The Ministers exchanged views on key issues on the international agenda. They also reviewed

with satisfaction the progress of BRICS cooperation featuring mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation. The Ministers agreed to further deepen BRICS three-pillar-driven cooperation in the areas of economy, peace and security and people-to-people exchanges.

BRICS FOREIGN MINISTERS ON UNGA MARGINS

External Affairs Minister Shri S. Jaishankar attended the customary meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the margins of 74th UNGA on 26 September 2019 in New York. Russia, as incoming BRICS Chair

for 2020, Chaired the meeting. BRICS Cooperation and preparations for upcoming BRICS Summit were discussed. Russian side also briefed delegations on the plans for Russia chairing BRICS 2020.

G20

THE FOURTEENTH G20 SUMMIT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led India's delegation to the Fourteenth G-20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28-29 June 2019. The themes of G20 Summit were "Global Economy", "Trade and Investment", "Innovation", "Environment and Energy", "Employment", "Women's empowerment", "Development" and "Health", to Ensure Global Sustainable Development.

During the Summit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made intervention in the session on 'Addressing inequalities, realizing an inclusive and sustainable world'. Prime Minister highlighted 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' and how this spirit underlies all our policies. He underscored some of the initiatives of Government of India including - Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, construction of toilets in India, Mudra Scheme under which 78% of the beneficiaries are women. He emphasized that India's huge demographic base will

make a contribution to the achievement of SDGs at the global level.

During his interventions in other sessions, Prime Minister emphasized on the need for quality infrastructure, digital economy, the Society 5.0, open and resilient financial system, anti-corruption measures at global level to fight against corruption, Women Empowerment, Tourism, Agriculture, Inclusive and sustainable growth, inclusive quality education, Global health, and Global environmental challenges.

G20 Osaka leaders' declaration focused on united efforts to address major global economic challenges and to foster global economic growth, while harnessing the power of technological innovation, in particular digitalization, and its application for the benefit of all. The declaration included references to: (i) strong,



Group Photo of Heads of G20 Summit 2019 Member States in Osaka, Japan (June 28, 2019)

sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth (ii) Global current account imbalances (iii) Demographic changes (iv) a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment (v) reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) (vi) Digitalization, Data Free Flow with Trust (vii) Quality Infrastructure Investment (viii) strengthening the global financial safety net with a

strong IMF at its centre (ix) fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system (x) fight against corruption (xi) promoting an healthy and active ageing society (xii) Gender equality and women's empowerment (xiii) Tourism (xiv) Agriculture (xv) Sustainable Development implementation of the SDGs (xvi) Global Health (xvii) Global Environmental Issues and Climate Change (xviii) Energy security (xix) Migration and Displacement.

G-20 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, NAGOYA, JAPAN

External Affairs Minister Mr. S. Jaishankar participated in the G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nagoya on 22-23 November 2019. At the meeting, the G20 Foreign Ministers deliberated on issues of international importance viz. Multilateralism, global governance,

sustainable development, and Africa. External Affairs Minister made remarks on India's efforts towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and India's engagement with Africa.

GROUP OF SEVEN (G7)

G7 SUMMIT, BIARRITZ, FRANCE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led India's participation at the G7 Summit Outreach Sessions in Biarritz, France

on 25-26 August 2019, as 'Partners of Goodwill - Biarritz Partner'. The Summit was held under the



Prime Minister attends the dedicated session of G-7 Summit on 'Biodiversity, Oceans, Climate' in Biarritz, France (August 26, 2019)

overarching theme of “Fighting Inequality” with Women’s Empowerment & Gender Equality, Climate change, Digital Transformation, Security & Terrorism as priority areas. Prime Minister participated in the two outreach sessions viz. on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, and Digital Transformation.

As lead speaker in session on Digital Transformation, PM referred to India’s efforts in putting digital technology to use to fight social inequalities through empowerment and inclusion. He also highlighted the power of transformative technology, furthering

innovation and how India is using technology to promote digital payments.

In the session on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, Prime Minister announced the call for a mass movement against single use plastic. He also referred to the increase in numbers of tigers and lions in India as concrete evidences of a successful approach to the conservation of biodiversity. PM also reiterated the need for reformed multilateralism to ensure that global challenges are meaningfully addressed.

IBSA (INDIA, BRAZIL & SOUTH AFRICA)

IBSA FOREIGN MINISTERS’ MEETING

External Affairs Minister Shri S. Jaishankar presided over the IBSA Foreign Ministers meeting on the margins of UNGA on 26 September, 2019. Foreign Minister of Brazil Mr. Ernesto Araujo, and Minister

of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Ms. Naledi Pandor attended. At the meeting the Ministers issued the IBSA Joint Statement on the Reform of the Multilateral System.

ORGANISATION 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 twice during the year.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

India continued its engagement in various UNCTAD meetings.

13

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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 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 Territorial Divisions in the Ministry, which continues to be the principal interlocutors with partner countries in identifying their developmental needs and

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 responding to as many 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). The focus

of development assistance has been the countries in India's neighbourhood and Africa, though India is also expanding its development assistance reach to South

East Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Mongolia, Pacific Island Countries, etc.

LINES OF CREDIT

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.

LoCs are governed by the IDEAS Guidelines which were revised and issued by Government of India on

7 December 2015. Several areas of improvement have been introduced in the LoC implementation process including mandatory Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Pre-qualification (PQ) process for selection of Consultants and Contractors, institutionalization of a detailed monitoring mechanism, and empanelment of Indian Consulting firms and EPC contractors.

NEW LINES OF CREDIT

Following new LoCs have been extended by the Government of India in the current year (April-December 2019):

1. LoC of US\$ 56.82 million extended to the Government of D. R. Congo for Installation of 15 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Project at Tshilenge (Mbuji-Mayi)
2. LoC of US\$ 26.64 million extended to the Government of D. R. Congo for Installation of 10 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Project at Manono
3. LoC of US\$ 56.82 million extended to the Government of D. R. Congo for Installation of 15 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Project at Gemena
4. LoC of US\$ 2.01 million extended to the Government of Ghana for the Completion of Foreign Policy Training Institute
5. LoC of US\$ 150 million offered to the Government of Ghana for Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization Service Centres
6. LoC of US\$ 30 million extended to Ghana for Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Potable Water System in Yendi, Ghana.
7. LoC of US\$ 20.22 million extended to the Government of the Republic of Guinea for Solar Projects
8. LoC of US\$ 170 million extended to the Government of the Republic of Guinea for the Project for strengthening the drinking water supply of Grand Conarky-Horizon 2040
9. LoC of US\$ 80.72 million extended to the Government of Madagascar for the Irrigation, Farm Mechanization and food processing plant in Bongolava, Menabe and Analamanga region
10. LoC of US\$ 22 million extended to the Government of Mali for Setting up of sustainable Village and use of solar Photo-Voltaic Technology for irrigation of 2500 hectares of agricultural land in Mali
11. LoC of US\$ 60.65 million extended to the Government of Mali for the 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at Fana, Mali
12. LoC of US\$ 100 million extended to the Government of Nigeria for the Establishment of a National Rural Broadband Network (NRBN)
13. LoC of US\$ 50.48 million extended to the

- Government of Nigeria for the acquisition of Training ship from Goa Shipyard Limited
14. LoC of US\$ 70 million extended to the Government of Nigeria for the procurement of one Landing Ship Tank from Goa Shipyard Limited
 15. LoC of US\$ 122 million extended to the Government of Rwanda for the two Solar Projects
 16. LoC of US\$ 310 million extended to the Government of Zimbabwe for the Re-powering of Hwange Thermal Power Station
 17. LoC of US\$ 236 million extended to the Government of Mongolia for the Petrochemical Refinery Project of Mongolia
 18. LoC of US\$ 400 million extended to the Government of Sri Lanka for Development and Infrastructure Projects
 19. LoC of US\$ 1000 million extended to the Government of the Russian Federation for Infrastructure and other Development Projects
 20. LoC of US\$ 40 million extended to the Government of Uzbekistan for financing procurement of defence equipment
 21. LoC of US\$ 100 million extended to the Government of Bolivia for Development Projects
 22. LoC of US\$ 35.80 million extended to the Government of Suriname for the Rural Electrification through solar DG hybrid PV systems in 50 remote villages of Suriname
 23. LoC of US\$ 150 million to Mozambique for improved quality of power supply.
 24. 24. LoC of US\$ 100 million to Seychelles for Defence Supplies Project.

COMPLETED LOC PROJECTS

1. Electricity Interconnection Project between Cote d'Ivoire and Mali under LoC of US\$ 94 million.
2. Construction of a new water supply system from Likhubula river in Mulanje to Blantyre under LoC of US\$ 23.50 million to Malawi(inaugurated on 18 October 2019).
3. Supply of 500 buses by M/s Tata Motors Ltd. under LoC of US\$ 26 million to the Government of Senegal
4. Supply of 500 trucks to Bangladesh under LoC of US\$ 8.79 million.
5. Supply of 600 buses to Bangladesh under LoC of US\$ 46.61 million.
6. Commission of diesel driven pumps (converting to electric) and upgradation of electric pumps at Savannakhet and Vientianein Lao PDRworth US \$ 7.35 million financed under LoC of US\$ 30.94 million to the Government of Lao PDR.
7. Supply of equipment from India for building two electric substations to Nicaragua under LoC of US\$ 10 million
8. Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park (inaugurated in June 2019), Cote d'Ivoire under LoC of US\$ 25.50 million
9. Rural Electrification in Guinea Bissau under LoC of US\$ 20 million.

OTHER LOC PROJECTS LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED IN 2019-20

1. Up-gradation of Rift Valley Textiles (RIVATEX) factory under LoC of US\$ 29.95 million to the Government of Kenya. It is likely to be completed by March 2020.
2. Rural Electrification Project under LoC of US\$ 27.50 million to the Government of Senegal.

3. Extension of Lake Victoria Pipeline to Tabora, Igunga and Nzega under LoC of US\$ 256.87 million to the Government of Tanzania.
4. Supply and Installation of Secondary and Tertiary Irrigation Distribution Network from Tegeta to Bagamoyo and Mbezi to Mlandizi being financed under LoC of US\$ 178.13 million under LoC of US\$ 32.51 million to the Government of Tanzania.
5. Procurement of Laboratory equipment for Circle laboratories of RHD in completely built up condition and related services in Bangladesh for US\$ 0.78 million.
6. 10 Spot Mixing Asphalt Plants in Completely built-up condition with 10% Spare parts and related services in Bangladesh for US\$ 0.30 million.
7. Supply of buses to Burkina Faso for US\$ 10 million.
8. Upgradation of Dornier DO-228 aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for US\$ 7.75 million under LoC of US\$ 46 million to the Government of Mauritius.

OTHER LOC INITIATIVES

- 16th India-Bangladesh Bilateral Review Meeting for Gol LoCs extended to the Government of Bangladesh was held on 25-26 November 2019 in New Delhi. Gol has extended LoCs worth US\$ 7.862 billion to Bangladesh for 46 projects spanning across various sectors such as railways, ports, roads, power & transmission lines, shipping, hospitals etc. The meeting helped both sides to monitor the progress of critical projects, identify potential bottlenecks in project implementation and resolve outstanding issues.
- 8th India-Nepal Bilateral Review Meeting for Gol LoCs extended to the Government of Nepal was held on 02 December 2019 in Kathmandu. Gol has extended LoCs worth US\$ 1.650 billion to the Government of Nepal for projects sectors such as Roads, Power & Transmission lines, Heritage buildings, post-earthquake reconstruction etc. Critical issues regarding the progress of all projects under the four LoCs were discussed during the meeting. Site visit to key project sites were also undertaken to monitor their progress and to address the bottlenecks being faced by these projects..
- As part of the monitoring of on-going LoC projects, bilateral reviews were conducted with several countries on rotation basis. Status Reports on the progress of ongoing projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America were also received from Indian Missions and Exim Bank of India.
- **Defence Lines of Credit:** Seven new Defence Lines of Credit were also announced this year such as the LoCs to Nigeria (US\$ 70 million), Vietnam (US\$ 500 million), Sri Lanka (US\$ 50 million), Bangladesh (US\$ 500 million), Mauritius (US\$ 100 million), Seychelles (US\$ 100 million).
- **Russia:** An LoC of US\$ 1 billion to Russia for undertaking 'Infrastructure and Other Development Projects' in the Russian Far East Region was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Russia to take part in the 20th India-Russia Annual Summit in Vladivostok and the 5th Eastern Economic Forum on 04-05 September 2019. Sectors like coal, mining, power, petroleum, manpower, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, health-care, IT, artificial intelligence, ship building and technical education have been identified as the leading areas of potential interest for India in Russian Far East region.

PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY (PPF)

A mechanism called Project Preparation Facility (PPF) has been set up by India to assist its development partner countries towards preparation of Project Formulation Reports (PFR) for viable projects that can be considered for concessional financing under Lines of Credit in 2018. The PPF fills the capacity gap in identifying a need, conceiving a project and preparing a proper proposal.

The PPF would provide consultancy support on grant basis to requesting Governments for project formulation. It is a demand-responsive mechanism and a quick access facility to address priority needs of requesting governments.

The Project Formulation Reports submitted under PPF during the current financial year 2019-20 are as follows:

- Setting up a sustainable village and use of Solar Photovoltaic Technology for irrigation of 2,500 HA

of agriculture land in Mali. This project is to be taken up under LoC of US\$ 22 million to Government of Mali.

- 50 MW Solar Power Plant at Fana, Mali. This project is to be taken up under the LoC of US\$ 60.65 million to Government of Mali.
- Rural Electrification through Hybrid Solar PV systems (solar and diesel based) in 50 remote villages of Suriname. This project is to be taken up under LoC of US\$ 35.80 million by the Government of Suriname.
- A Road Project under Bali Infrastructure Project for US\$ 382.78 million in Liberia.
- State-of-the-Art General Hospital at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- Rehabilitation of Project on Limestone and completed under LoCs of US\$ 20 million to Central African Republic.

SOLAR PROJECTS

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a major initiative of Prime Minister in contribution towards the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. The Founding Conference of the ISA jointly hosted by Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in New Delhi on 11 March 2018 represents a high water mark in the journey that aims to bring all countries together for cooperation on solar energy. It may be recalled that during this Founding Conference, Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced India's commitment to extend nearly US\$ 1.4 billion worth of lines of credit (LoCs) to cover 27 projects amounting to US\$ 1.29 billion in 15 countries, especially in Africa.

These include 6 Solar Projects amounting to US\$ 500 million under EBID (ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development) and rest 21 Solar projects amounting to US\$ 790 million. Under this, LoCs amounting to US\$ 200.92 million have been extended to Bangladesh and US\$ 100 million have been extended to Sri Lanka for various Solar Projects. In this year, new LoCs of US\$ 140.33 million (3 Separate LoCs) to Democratic Republic of Congo, US\$ 35.80 million to Suriname, US\$ 122 million to Rwanda, US\$ 20.22 million to Guinea, US\$ 22 million and US\$ 60.65 million to Mali were extended. These Solar projects are under various stages of implementation

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH GRANT ASSISTANCE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The development projects being undertaken with GoI grant assistance in neighbouring countries cover a range of sectors from infrastructure development, including construction, roads & bridges, waterways

and transmission lines as well as power generation, agriculture, capacity building, education, health, rural development etc.

SRI LANKA HOUSING PROJECT UNDER GRANT ASSISTANCE

India's development partnership with Sri Lanka is based on a consultative approach, factoring in the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka. The ongoing housing project involving construction of 50,000 houses for resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka has progressed well:

- The construction and repair of 46,000 houses under an owner-driven process in the Northern and Eastern provinces has been completed.
- The construction of 4,000 houses in the Central and Uva provinces for the Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs) employed in the plantation sector has commenced following the completion of the process of identification of land for 1134 houses by the Sri Lankan Government. The construction of

the first lot of 1134 houses was taken up first and began in October 2016. Construction of houses in the second lot of 2866 houses was also started in phases. As on 30 November 2019, 2243 houses out of 4000 have been completed and 1550 houses are under construction.

- An announcement was made by Prime Minister of India during his visit to Sri Lanka in May 2017 for construction of additional 10,000 houses for the Indian Origin Tamils in the Central and Uva provinces of Sri Lanka. The new government, after the Presidential Elections held in November 2019, is prioritizing the locations of the new lot of 10,000 houses and likely to submit the same to the Indian Mission in Colombo soon.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AFRICA

India's partnership with Africa is based on a consultative model of cooperation, sharing of development experiences and is focused 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.

A total of 204 LoCs amounting to US\$ 12.50 billion has been extended to African countries in varied sectors such as power plants, hydroelectricity, power transmission & distribution networks, dams, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, skills development, civil construction etc. New sectors such as Telecommunication have also been included under the GoI LoCs to Africa this year.

A few important LoC/ grant projects in Africa are following

- Upgradation of Entrepreneur and technical development centre (ETDC) in Senegal under grant assistance by the Government of India has been inaugurated on 25 June 2019.
- Setting up of Gandhi Mandela Centre of Specialisation for Artisan Skills in South Africa under grant assistance by the Government of India is under advanced stages of completion. Shipment of all machines was completed by M/s HMT (I) Ltd in September 2019. M/s HMT (I) Ltd has pledged to complete Erection and commissioning activities by December 2019.
- Government of India has set up Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey, Niger under grant assistance of US\$ 38.15 million. Construction of MGICC Niger has been completed by an Indian company in December 2019 within a record time of 14 months. It is proposed to be inaugurated by External Affairs Minister on 21 January 2020.
- Government of India is also supplying 27 Midi Buses (30+1) Seater to Somalia, 10+5 Ambulances to Tanzania and Ambulances to Mali and medical equipment & CT scan Machine to Liberia, under grants.

IAFS-IV

India-Africa Forum Summit IV is scheduled to take place in 2020. The IAFS-IV announcements could reflect enhanced commitment for development partnership in Africa commensurate to our increasing presence, goodwill and influence there.

Development Cooperation is an integral part of India's foreign policy. In recent years, India's development programmes in various countries have expanded substantially, both in geographical reach and sectoral coverage. This inter-alia includes Grant assistance, Lines of Credit, technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a range of capacity-building programmes including short-term civilian and military training courses. Major developmental projects identified by the host governments as priority areas are under implementation in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Maldives in areas of infrastructure, hydroelectricity, power transmission, agriculture, industry, education, health, archaeological conservation etc. In addition, various projects initiated for development and strengthening of cross-border connectivity with India's neighbors are progressing

satisfactorily. Beyond the neighborhood, bilateral projects in sectors like energy, power plants, electricity transmission & distribution, roads, railways, ports, agriculture & irrigation, industrial units, information and computer 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 Credits (LoCs) or loans on concessional terms to other developing countries. Over the years, 298 LoCs aggregating more than US\$ 30.6 billion have been extended to different countries in various sectors, of which US\$ 12.54 billion has been extended for African countries and US\$ 18.06 billion for countries in Asia, Latin America, Oceania and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). During the year under review (till December 2019), 24 LoCs of about US\$ 3.49 billion were extended to various countries. 17 LoC Projects are complete or targeted to be completed during the Financial Year 2019-20.

During 2019-20, around 12000 civilian training slots were offered to 160 partner countries under the Indian

Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. These capacity building courses also included specially designed courses and training programmes in a variety of disciplines, based on specific requests from partner countries.

A comprehensive review of ITEC programme has led to various new initiatives including introduction of new modalities like e-ITEC, ITEC-Onsite and ITEC Executive, enhanced facilities to participants, inclusion of new premier institutes like IITs & IIMs, partnership with private institutions, increased social media outreach, launch of new logo for ITEC, etc. ITEC also includes capacity building cooperation with friendly foreign countries in defence areas by offering more than 2000 slots for officers and men from their defence forces. In addition, the ITEC programme also covered deputation

of Indian experts abroad to share India's expertise and development experience in the areas chosen and requested by the partner countries.

Various projects to establish infrastructural facilities with technology and skills meeting the requirement of partner countries were undertaken, especially in the areas of capacity building such as Centres of Excellence in Information Technology (IT), Vocational Training Centres and Business Incubation Centres for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Archaeological and Heritage Conservation Project.

Humanitarian assistance was rendered by India to DPRK by supplying food and anti-TB medicine kit. Medical assistance has also been provided to other countries including Namibia, El-Salvador and Zimbabwe.

CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC)

Civilian Training

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme is a visible symbol of India's role and contribution to South-South Cooperation, which constitutes capacity building partnership with a footprint in 160 partner countries from Asia, Africa, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean as well as Pacific and Small Island countries. ITEC is one of the major pillars of India's soft power Diplomacy. It has continued to strengthen in scope and outreach, with the inclusion of new partner institutions and advance courses in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, cyber security and forensics. ITEC now includes as its partners, institutions of technical excellence like the Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Science, etc.

Following a high-level comprehensive review, on

the whole, significant systemic and policy level modifications have been made in the ITEC scheme in the last two years. The offerings under ITEC have been expanded and advanced to truly reflect an economically emergent and technologically advanced India, while also propagating our world renowned ancient knowledge such as Yoga, meditation and Ayurveda. Courses are also further attuned to the demand and requirements of partner countries.

The comprehensive review has led to inclusion of about 27 new partner institutions of technical excellence. Another 7 new private sector institutes/universities were selected for providing ITEC training through an open tender process.

ITEC norms and guidelines have been revised to provide better facilities to participants, improved feedback mechanism, enhance outreach and alumni engagement. Accordingly, a number of changes have

also been introduced in the online ITEC portal which is the interactive digital interface to MEA, Missions, ITEC Institutes and applicants/beneficiaries of the programme.

As South-South cooperation is demand driven, greater focus has been given to special courses, which are customized for the specific areas of training on the request of Governments of partner countries. In the year 2019 itself, 38 special courses have already been conducted while another 18 special courses are to be conducted during December 2019 to March 2020. These courses include programmes ranging from mid-career training programme in the field of administration for civil servants and special training programmes for judicial officers, customs officers, to areas like Cyber Security, Yoga and Museology.

During 2019-20, 11400 civilian training slots were offered under the ITEC Programme to 160 partner countries for various short-term and medium-term courses in institutions spread all over India. The civilian training programme, fully sponsored by the Government of India in 89 premier institutions conducting over 334 courses for working professionals in a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines such as Agriculture, Food and Fertilizer, Banking, Insurance, Finance, Accounts and Audit, Cyber Technologies, AI and Emergent Technology, Education, Engineering and Technology, English Language, Environment and Climate Change, Government Function, Health and Yoga, Human Resource Development and Planning, Irrigation and Water Resources, IT and Telecommunication, Management and Leadership, Media and Journalism, Oceanography, Petroleum and Hydrocarbons, Power, Renewable and Alternative Energy, Project Management, Quality Management, Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation, SME and Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Development and South-South Cooperation, Textile, Trade and International Market, Urban Planning, Women Empowerment,

etc. The updated list of the courses, institutions and partner ITEC countries is available on the ITEC Portal (www.itecgoi.in).

As in previous years, the programme drew large numbers of participants to the training courses conducted by institutions in India, both in the Government and 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 created a large network of alumni across the continents, who have become ITEC torch-bearers in their respective countries and, in the process, developed a powerful cultural bridge between India and the country concerned. ITEC has acquired a strong brand name in the field of development partnership.

In order to expand the outreach of ITEC, on the occasion of 55th ITEC Day, celebrated 7th October 2019, External Affairs Minister launched new derivatives of ITEC, namely, e-ITEC, ITEC Executive and ITEC Onsite. A new logo reflective of the evolving nature of the ITEC programme was also launched.

e-ITEC

e-ITEC is a modality of ITEC programme wherein training is imparted in partner countries by Indian Institutes online in real time. The first e-ITEC course on 'Big Data analytics with Apache Spark in Python' was conducted for trainees of four partner countries (Myanmar, Laos PDR, Morocco and Vietnam). The course was conducted by IIT Madras under the e-ITEC initiative.

ITEC Onsite

Under ITEC On-site customized capacity building programmes are provided to our partner countries by shifting training to the country itself by deputing our trainers for a short duration. Several strength areas that have been identified to provide trainings include Fertilizer technology; Fisheries Technology; Agriculture and allied sectors; Teachers' Training and Research; Open Education Resources; Securities Markets; Wind Energy; Rural Electrification; South-South Cooperation etc. In addition, Indian Mission have been advised to continue seeking the capacity building requirements of partner countries.

ITEC Executive

ITEC Executive is an exclusive programme for policy makers, senior level functionaries and professionals of partner countries which covers conferences, workshops, study/ exposure visits with an aim to provide an understanding of best practices/systems in India etc. This programme also aims at a higher level of learning in cutting-edge areas of technology and policy areas.

During 2018-19, visit of a six member delegation from Uganda was organized to have an interaction with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and to get an exposure on Pradhan Mantri Karishal Vikas Yojana, Mahila Gram Udyog and other similar projects. On the similar lines, three delegations from Uganda Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACA) are scheduled to visit tea, coffee and cotton farms in India to share our experience, expertise and best practices in farming, processing and marketing of tea, coffee and cotton farms. Several other visits from Lao PDR, South Sudan are scheduled to be held in coming months for exposure to our best financial practices and our established institutions as RBI. While special workshops for leadership, e-Governance

and local governance has been organized for senior functionaries from Cambodia, Tunisia, Mongolia, apan-Africa conference of policy makers on e-Governance with the theme "Digital Africa: Empowered Citizens" is being planned.

Defence Training

During 2019-20, 2342 defence training slots were allocated to partner countries. The courses were both of general and specialized nature, which included security and strategic studies, defence management, electronics, mechanical engineering, marine hydrography, counterinsurgency and jungle warfare, Maritime Law and Ops course by Coast Guard Headquarters, and also foundation courses for young officers in three services . Courses at premier institutions like National Defence College, New Delhi and Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, continued to be immensely popular and also attracted officers from developed countries on self-financing basis.

Deputation of ITEC experts

Deputation of experts to partner countries based on their requirements has served a very important role in sharing Indian expertise with the developing world. For creation of a readily available pool of domain experts, various Ministries of Government of India have been consulted to prepare an SOP and map their expertise with various countries/regions and share it with MEA, so that our Mission could be appropriately informed.

Up to November 2019, 47 experts in various fields are on deputation to partner countries in areas of health, Agriculture, Disaster response, Archaeology, Ayurveda, Legal experts, English teachers and Ayurveda. Several Defence training teams have also been deputed to Uganda, Tanzania, Vietnam, Myanmar, Seychelles, Namibia, Lao PDR.

Grant Projects in other developing countries

In other Development Projects, India is extending its expertise 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 and Preah Vihear in Cambodia, My Son in Vietnam and Wat Phou in Lao PDR. Efforts have been made to streamline the procedure for expansion of temple restoration projects by engaging experts from a wider pool for assisting the restoration work. Similarly, India's strength in the field of Information Technology is being shared with partner countries through establishment of various centres of excellence in Information Technology and imparting training to partner countries including Morocco, Guyana, Namibia, Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Argentina and Pacific Island countries viz. Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Nauru, Cook Islands, Niue and Vanuatu. A Business Incubator Centre at Malawi has been established and an Indo-Belize Centre of Engineering

at Belize and a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Zanzibar are being established.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

[Cooperation on the humanitarian front is being extended by India to the countries affected by disaster or on humanitarian grounds. US\$1 million aid each of anti-TB medicine kit through World Health Organization (WHO) and supply of wheat assistance through World Food Programme (WFP) is being provided to DPR Korea. In an effort to streamline the procedures on provisioning of medical assistance to countries Ministry has prepared a Standard Operating Process in assistance with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which has helped in smoother supply of medicines and medical equipment to various countries including Namibia, El-Salvador and Zimbabwe through respective territorial divisions of MEA.

INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Development partnerships hold an important place in India's external engagement, particularly with reference to our immediate neighbourhood under the Government's 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' policies. While India's development cooperation initiatives have a long and enduring history, the nature and spread of such development assistance has, in recent years, expanded both geographically and sectorally. India's development cooperation aligns with the development priorities of the partner countries.

Eight years after the creation of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) wing of the Ministry of External Affairs, greater institutional coherence and focus has been brought to the Government's development initiatives with foreign countries including in project delivery and implementation. India's

development assistance model that gives primacy to the needs and priorities of the host country has made India a valuable partner in their developmental growth journeys. The focus of India's developmental assistance is on sharing the Indian experience, building capacities, investing in people, creating critical infrastructure and enhancing connectivity with our extended neighbourhood. Indian grant assistance includes infrastructure creation that span various sectors such as railway links, roads & bridges, waterways, border-related infrastructure, transmission lines, power generation, hydropower etc. Capacity building, education, healthcare, agriculture and community development are some other sectors where India is partnering with neighbouring countries.

Afghanistan

India's developmental assistance to Afghanistan is a key pillar of the close strategic partnership with that country. India has endured security challenges to continue providing development assistance focused on reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. The new Parliament Building in Kabul inaugurated on 25 December 2015, and the Afghan India Friendship Dam (earlier known as Salma Dam) inaugurated in June 2016, are key symbols of India's commitment to the rebuilding of a united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. Under the 'New Development Partnership' heralded by both countries in September 2017, India is committed to taking forward its wide-ranging development assistance to Afghanistan.

India has been quick to respond to calamities faced by Afghanistan by providing humanitarian assistance. Following the assistance given in 2018 to supply 1.7 lakh tonnes of wheat and 2000 tonnes of pulses, India is preparing to supply more wheat as humanitarian assistance in 2020. Over 140 High Impact Community Development Programs (HICDPs) under three phases with an outlay of USD 120 million are under active implementation in Afghanistan covering areas like agriculture, education, labour, rural development and public health. These community-based small projects are being funded by India with local participation and help to bring quick impact development to the grassroots. Both countries are also preparing to transition to the fourth phase of this programme for USD 80 million (HICDPs Phase IV) in line with Prime Minister's commitment of December 2015 during his visit to Afghanistan.

Investing in the people of Afghanistan through education and capacity building assistance programmes are important on-going areas of India's development partnership with Afghanistan. An Afghanistan-focused Special Scholarship Scheme offers university-level education to 1000 Afghan beneficiaries every year. In

addition, another 500 scholarship slots are extended for children/dependents of Martyrs of Afghan National Defence and Security Forces and 614 scholarship slots for Agricultural studies, administered through the Department of Agricultural Research and Education/ Indian Council of Agricultural Research, are being utilised by Afghan citizens. India is also supporting Afghanistan in the establishment of the first of its kind Afghanistan National Agriculture Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) in Kandahar.

Myanmar

Key connectivity Projects in Myanmar such as the Trilateral Highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand and the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project aim to enhance regional connectivity. The Kaladan project, once operationalised, will provide connectivity between ports on India's eastern seaboard and Sittwe Port in Myanmar, and thereafter to the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram. As part of the Trilateral Highway initiative, India is implementing two projects in Myanmar for construction of sixty nine bridges in the Tamu - Kyigone - Kalewa road section and for upgradation of 120 km road in the Kalewa-Yargi section.

Apart from connectivity projects, India provides on-going institutional and capacity building support to Myanmar through projects such as the establishment of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) in Mandalay and the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) near Naypyidaw. These projects are helping the local people to improve capabilities in key sectors and expand their livelihood opportunities.

Nepal

India has made progress in taking forward and completing key infrastructure projects in Nepal in 2019. After completion and inauguration of the Integrated Check Post in Birgunj in April 2018, the

second ICP under Indian assistance at Biratnagar has also been completed in end-2019. These ICPs will help ease the movement of people and goods between India and Nepal. Following the success of the ICPs under Phase I, work in Phase II will begin next year (2020). Implementation of the ICP at Nepalganj will begin in 2020. The cross border rail links with Nepal linking Jyanagar in Bihar to Bardibas in Nepal and Jogbani in Bihar to Biratnagar in Nepal are under construction. The construction of the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Polytechnic Project has also commenced this year. India will also be assisting Nepal to construct its Nepal Police Academy, for which project development is currently underway.

Sri Lanka

The construction of a modern state-of-art Cultural Centre at Jaffna, which includes 2-storied museum, 12-storied learning tower, an auditorium block, a public square and a floating stage for cultural performances is set for completion by January 2020. Following the success of the phase I of the Emergency Ambulance Services, the Island wide Emergency Ambulance Services with a total of 209 ambulances were launched in the remaining seven provinces of Sri Lanka in phases starting from July 2018 to July 2019, which has attended more than 1.5 million calls till end of November 2019.

Maldives

Development projects in Maldives have picked up pace since late last year and substantial new commitments are also in the pipeline under both grant and LoC

assistance. At present, India is, inter alia, providing grant assistance for construction of additional facilities at the Composite Training Centre at Mafillaafushi Island in the Maldives. The main Training Centre was completed in August 2015 and construction of some additional facilities, on Maldives Government request, commenced in July 2019 with Indian grant assistance. India will also be assisting in the construction of a new Ministry of Defence building for Maldives that is scheduled to commence next year. The construction of the Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Studies (ISLES) is proceeding at a good pace and is expected to be completed in 2020.

Mauritius

India has joined hands in the infrastructure building of Mauritius under development assistance. Projects such as Metro Rail transit infrastructure, New Supreme Court Building, education-Tablets for primary school students up to grade 3, Special Housing for Poor and New ENT Hospital are being implemented under Indian assistance. Construction of the Supreme Court Building has been completed. The phase I of the Metro Express project linking up the capital, Port Louis, to Rose Hill and the state of the art paperless ENT hospital were completed and video-inaugurated by the two Prime Ministers jointly in October this year. Under the 'Early Digital Learning Program' completed earlier this year, customized smart tablets were provided to primary students up to grade 3 and their educators in two phases in all the 278 primary schools in Mauritius.

14

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY & STATES

The ED & States 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 2019-20. The Division's efforts were to ensure greater coordination between the MEA, GOI line ministries / departments, State governments, business and industry chambers and Missions / Posts abroad with the objective of enhancing 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 promote FDI into India.

To enable the Indian Missions / Posts to intensify their economic engagement with the countries of their accreditation, ED & States Division under its "**Market Expansion Activities**" budget has extended funding to the tune of *Rs. 10 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.

The Division facilitated external economic engagement of states through the network of Missions and Posts abroad and Branch Secretariats and Regional Passport Offices in India. Missions and posts conducted state facilitation activities through State Facilitation Abroad fund. Liaising with the state and UT governments through regular interactions with their Resident Commissioners continued and progress was made on the initiative of allotment of states to IFS officers, in collaboration with state government authorities. Facilitation of MoUs between state governments and cities with their foreign counterparts to establish sister-state and city partnerships was also done by the division.

1. INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)

The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by the Indian Prime Minister and the French President during COP21. It aims to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. ISA also contributes to the 12 commitments of the One Planet Summit. The ISA aims to bring together countries to provide a collective response to the main common obstacles to the massive deployment of solar energy in terms of technology, finance and capacity. The aim is to raise the trillion dollars needed to develop 1 TW of solar energy capacity by 2030. As an action oriented organisation, to date, the ISA has established five key programmes of action:

- scaling up solar applications for agricultural use
- affordable finance at scale
- scaling up solar mini-grids
- scaling up solar rooftop
- scaling up solar e-mobility and storage.

As on date, **85** countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA, while **64** of these countries have also ratified the Framework Agreement. During

the First General Assembly of the ISA, held on 3 October 2018, the Assembly of the ISA considered and adopted the proposal made by India for an amendment to the Framework Agreement for opening up of ISA membership to all Member countries of the UN. The amended Framework Agreement will come into force upon ratification by *two-thirds* (30) of its member countries. As on date, 20 countries have accepted/ratified the amended Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance.

The Division in coordination with the nodal Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), helped organise the Second General Assembly of the ISA which was held on 31 October 2019 in New Delhi. Around 23 Ministers from ISA countries participated in the Second General Assembly. The Second General Assembly discussed the work and progress of the Alliance, and the methods to strengthen the implementation of the five programmes. The Assembly also adopted a sixth programme of the ISA which will focus on large scale solar power projects to be developed under the solar park concept in clusters of ISA Member countries.

2. SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT (SSA)

Social Security Agreements, broadly defined, are bilateral agreements between India and other countries which are designed to protect the interests of cross border workers, that is, Indians working abroad, as well as nationals of those contracting countries working in India. The main aim of the SSA is to provide for avoidance of 'no coverage' or 'double coverage' and equality of treatment of the workers of both countries.

Bilateral social security agreements protect the interests of Indian professionals, skilled workers working abroad by providing three benefits- Avoiding

making double social security contributions; Easy remittance of benefits (Exportability); and Aggregating the contribution periods (in two countries) to prevent loss of benefits (Totalization). The Ministry of External Affairs, GoI, is the "competent authority" for negotiating the SSAs. EPFO has been designated as the Liaison Agency to operate the provisions of the SSAs and for issuing Certificates of Coverage (COC) to the employees of establishments covered under the Act. Till date, India has signed and ratified social security agreements with a total number of eighteen countries.

Ongoing negotiations

i. Taking forward the spirit of the Goa Declaration at the 8th BRICS Summit, and outcomes of the meetings of BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers held on 9 June 2016 in Geneva and on 27-28 September 2016 in New Delhi, India and Brazil held the negotiations on SSA from 13-16 March 2017 in Brasilia and initiated the finalized text of the Social Security Agreement. The 2nd round of negotiations on Administrative Arrangement was held from 13-16 November 2017, New Delhi and the draft text of Administrative Arrangement was finalized. The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing the Agreement on Social Security between India and

Brazil, which is due to be signed in January 2020.

ii. The first technical meeting on India-China SSA was held on 28-29 May 2018 in Beijing, China, while the first round of text based negotiations between the two sides were held from 13-15 November 2019, in New Delhi. The Ministry of External Affairs is also involved in the formal negotiations on the Agreement on Social Security between India and the Philippines, and is planning to enter into SSAs with several other countries like South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Cyprus etc. Informal consultations on SSA/Totalization are also ongoing with the United States of America.

3. CIVIL AVIATION

ED & States Division worked closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation on bilateral air services negotiations. MEA also extends inputs on these issues and on requirement of flight operations or code share to promote tourism, economic engagement and to strengthen bilateral / multilateral relations. The Minister of Civil Aviation had written letters to counterpart ministers of ICAO

member countries seeking their support for India's Candidacy for the Council Seat during the ICAO elections held in October, 2019. The Division, with the help of our Missions, had followed up with all ICAO members seeking their support. The Division also participated in negotiations held with UK, Israel, Bangladesh, Japan, UAE, Saudi Arabia.

4. BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATIES (BITS)

ED & States Division is working closely with the Department of Economic Affairs on the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT). The Division participated in various rounds of negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty based on India's new Model Text approved by the Cabinet in December 2015. In the current year, the ED & States Division has taken part in these negotiations with Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, and Russia. Substantial contributions were

made by this Division in terms of inputs and facilitating the talks and follow-up action. **The ED & States Division is also a part of the UNCITRAL Working Group-III on reforms to Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). The Division along with L & T Division represents the Ministry and provides substantial inputs in all the Inter-Ministerial Meetings on arbitration cases related to BITS.**

5. INVESTMENT PROMOTION & PUBLICITY AND INDUSTRY OUTREACH

- i. The Division provided financial assistance and logo support for the second edition of Indusfood 2019, organised between 14-15 January 2019, by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI). The TPCI successfully organised B2B dialogues on the side-lines of second edition of Indusfood on 14-15 January, 2019 with 20 countries namely the US, Russia, Belarus, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Canada, Qatar, UAE, Malaysia, Israel, Vietnam, New Zealand, Egypt, Armenia, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Singapore, with the main objective to increase India's exports to these countries in F&B Sector. The conclave aimed at informal interaction with a view to iron out the matters of concern to the foreign buyers and Indian exporters and to discuss the issues such as regulatory mechanisms, NTBs(non-traffic barriers) and TBT (Trade Barrier Tariffs) etc.
- ii. The Division facilitated the organisation of the IETF 2019 – 23rd edition of International Engineering & Technology Fair from 3rd to 5th February, 2019 at PragatiMaidan, by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi.
- iii. The Division provided financial assistance to Embassy of India, Guatemala City for participating in Apparel Sourcing Show being organised in Guatemala City from 14-16 May, 2019.
- iv. Coinciding with the State visit of Hon'bleRashtrapatiji, Embassy of India, Manila was also provided with financial support and assistance for the 4thASEAN-India Business Summit held in Manila on 19thOctober, 2019.
- v. The Division coordinated with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Airports Authority of India and the CII in organising a Roundtable Discussion on Regional Cooperation "Neighbourhood" first, in New Delhi on 13th August 2019. The division was also a part of the Organising Committee meetings and extended required assistance from the MEA for success of the event.
- vi. The Division supported the "Passage to Prosperity-India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show" conference organised by USAID between 24-26 September 2019 in New Delhi. It also assisted the All India Association of Industries for organising the 8th edition of 'Global Economic Summit' from 06-08 March, 2019 in Mumbai. The division also provided support for the India International Security Expo 2019, held from 3-5 October 2019 in New Delhi.
- vii. The Division coordinated and supported the organisation of the India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF), held in New Delhi between 11-13 October 2019. The event was organised by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). It was India's first international cooperatives fair organised with an objective to promote co-operative-to-cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.
- viii. The Division provided financial assistance to our Missions for the India-Southern Africa Regional Conclave held in Lusaka from 14-15 October, 2019. Similarly, the Division also provided hospitality to dignitaries from five countries for the Regional Conclave on West Asia North Africa (WANA) from 6-7 November, 2019 at Cairo, Egypt.
- ix. The Division organised a briefing for Resident Missions in New Delhi on 23 September 2019, for the "Summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India", held in Mumbai from 11-12 November 2019. The Summit was organised

by the D/o Chemicals and Petrochemicals with support of the FICCI. The division also coordinated with the Indian Missions abroad for overseas publicity for the event, as well as, visa facilitation.

- x. The Division organised the World Food India, 2019 in New Delhi between 1-4 November 2019. In this regard, the division organised a briefing for the foreign resident missions of 35 countries, under the chairmanship of Minister of Food Processing and Industries, and sought participation from the respective countries at the event.
- xi. The Division provided **financial assistance to Indo-Canadian Business Chamber for ICBC Annual Convention held in Delhi on 19th November, 2019.**
- xii. The Division in association with the CII and the Central Europe Division of MEA organised the 5th India Europe 29 Business Forum from 20-21 November 2019 in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Shri. Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry and Railways. It saw the participation of some 400 delegates from 29 European countries. The focus sectors for this edition of forum were Smart Cities, IT & ITES, Renewable Energy, Pharma and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- xiii. The Division in association with the Ministry of AYUSH, organized a Symposium on "Scope of Science of Ayurveda in Global Health", on 11 December, 2019, in New Delhi. The objective of

the symposium was to create awareness among the audience regarding the potentials & efficacy of Ayurveda and other systems of AYUSH. The event was also meant to help familiarize the audience with the robust infrastructure and regulatory provisions governing Ayurveda in India, as well as, make aware of the opportunities in education & skill development in the field. The event was attended by Diplomats from the Resident Missions of countries in New Delhi. EAM and MoS for AYUSH chaired the event.

- xiv. **The Division provided financial assistance to Madras Development Society (MDS) for organizing the Chennai Global Economic Summit 2019 from 28th -30th December, 2019.**
- xv. The Division is involved in the process of organising the "International Geological Congress 2020" scheduled to be held from 2-8 March 2020, in New Delhi. The event will be held under the aegis of International Union of Geological Congress, the scientific sponsor of the IGC. The division, in coordination with the Ministry of Mines, is facilitating visa/permission/approval etc. related to the participation of the foreign delegates for the various meetings, field tours and the main event in India, and is the nodal agency for providing information/clarification on the same. The division is also reaching out to the resident foreign missions and Indian Missions abroad for robust publicity and visa facilitation.

7. BUSINESS DELEGATIONS DURING VVIP VISITS

The ED & States Division, in association with the business chambers, constitutes business delegations and organizes business forums for the incoming and outgoing VVIP visits. In 2019, the division organized business delegations and forums for the following visits:

- i. In March 2019, the Division organised business delegations to Chile & Bolivia in connection with the visit of Hon'ble President of India. The Division also organised delegations and business forums in Costa Rica and Paraguay during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India in March 2019.

- ii. The Division organised Business Delegations to Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia, accompanying the Hon'ble Vice President in August 2019. Business Forums were organised in these countries in connection with the VVIP visit.
- iii. The Division also helped organise the Business delegations and Forums during the visit of Hon'ble President of India to Iceland, Slovenia and Switzerland in September 2019.
- iv. The Division in coordination with apex business chambers organises Business Forums during

incoming VVIP visits; some of them are as below:

- India-Zambia Business Forum held during the state visit of Hon'ble President of the Republic of Zambia in August, 2019.
- India-Mongolia Business Forum held during the State visit of President of Mongolia in September, 2019.
- Indo-Bangladesh Business Forum during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on 4 October 2019

8. CONDUCTING STUDIES/MARKET SURVEYS AND ASSESSMENTS

- i. The division provided financial assistance to CII for leading the Australian Economy Strategy Report. The Draft report was taken up by the Division for an inter ministerial discussion with the concerned Line Ministries. Another meeting on the report was conducted by the DPIIT on 17 December 2019, in which the ED Division had participated. The recommendations proposed to the draft report were communicated to the CII. The Report is currently under further examination by the MEA

and the DPIIT.

- ii. The division provided financial assistance to the Centre for Studies in International Relations and Development (CSIRD), Kolkata for conducting a study to assess the market prospects and industrial landscape of Myanmar and its investment potential for Indian businesses. The draft report has been taken up by the division for discussion through an Inter-Ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in January 2020.

9. WEBSITE AND GLOBAL MAPPING OF RESOURCES

Economic Diplomacy & States Division has been in the process of renovation of its website "indbiz.gov.in". The website of ED & STATES Division aims to be a one-stop source of all information on Indian economy and business environment in India for foreign enterprises, as well as Indian businesses going abroad and for Indian Missions and Posts. It will also provide an overview on advantages of India, a general, economic, political and demographic profile of India, information on Indian States and Union Territories, Sectoral opportunities and Success stories, Key State Advantages, State Investment Promotion Agencies, Foreign Direct

Investment updates, and the rankings of India and the States in Ease of Doing Business.

A section of the website is dedicated to the Resources Platform which would provide detailed information on World Resource Endowments and Opportunities in three areas:

- i. Mineral resources: The platform will serve as a global atlas for locating global reserves of minerals strategic to India.
- ii. Opportunities for agri-exports: The platform will map the Indian agricultural products with the

centers of their demand in countries across the world, thus, helping exporters to identify potential opportunities for agri-exports.

iii. overseas employment opportunities for our citizens: Keeping in view India's growing

demographic dividend, the platform will help identify employment opportunities available for skilled/semi-skilled labor in countries abroad.

The website will be ready for launch in the first quarter of 2020

10. INPUTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS/COMMITTEES

The Head of ED & States Division is a part of several Boards/Committees as a Member such as Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES) (Ministry of Commerce & Industry), Project Exports Promotion Council (PEPC), India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Invest India, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC),

WAPCOS. Other officers of ED & States Division also represent MEA on Committees such as Fisheries subsidies, Coal Preparation Society of India (CPSI), Group constituted on Cartelisation/hoarding of pulses, Market Access Initiative (MAI). As part of these Boards/Committees, ED & States, necessary inputs and guidance of MEA is provided.

11. ENERGY

ED & States Division coordinates India's engagement with the International Energy Agency (IEA). ED & States Division has contributed to the biennial work programs developed between India and the IEA, including the Joint Statement and the Schedule of Joint Action (JS& SJA) for 2015-17, the statement of Intent (SOI) between NITI Aayog and the IEA, as well as the Joint Program of Work 2018-2021 between the IEA and

the Government of India. ED & States Division is also the primary coordinating agency facilitating Indian line ministries engagement with the IEA. Besides facilitating India's energy engagements at the multilateral forum, ED & States Division is also a part of the group of line ministries, involved in pursuing the bilateral energy dialogues with various countries.

12. MARKET EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

To enable our Missions/Posts abroad to effectively respond to the growing demands of Indian industry and business, the Ministry has a budget Head entitled "Market Expansion Activities" initially started in 2010. Funds are allocated under the Budget Head to our Missions/Posts abroad based on the volume of bilateral trade handled by them (discounting oil imports). The budget enables our Commercial wings to respond effectively and in a time bound

manner to the expectations of Indian private sector in not only handling of routine trade and investment enquiries, providing information on economic and business climate in the countries of their accreditation but more importantly in identifying new business opportunities by undertaking promotional activities such as market surveys, seminars, workshops, outreach activities targeting Chambers of Commerce, Industry Associations etc. The Expenditure by Missions/Posts

under the head is governed by “Expenditure Guidelines for Market Expansion Budget”

This year ED & States Division has allocated Rs. 10Cr to various Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

STATES OUTREACH

The Division facilitated external economic engagement of states through the network of Missions and Posts abroad and Branch Secretariats and Regional Passport Offices in India. Missions and posts conducted state facilitation activities through State Facilitation Abroad fund, such as The Next Phase- Singapore organized by High Commission of India, Singapore from 09-10 September 2019 in which state delegations from Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Odisha participated.

The division held events like Diplomatic Outreach Event focused on Economic and investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh (held on 09 August, 2019 at Vijayawada) and the second edition of Deccan Dialogue (held on 31 August, 2019 at Hyderabad) to facilitate diplomatic outreach of states and promote economic diplomacy dialogue at the state level, using State Facilitation and Knowledge Support Fund. The division partnered with Government of Himachal Pradesh in organization of Rising Himachal-Global Investors’ Meet at Dharamshala from 06-08 November, 2019. Also, a curtain raiser to the Rising Himachal Global Investors’ Meet was organized by the division in New Delhi on 10 July, 2019.

Liaising with state and UT governments through regular interactions with their Resident Commissioners continued and progress was made on the initiative of allotment of states to IFS officers, in collaboration with state government authorities. Facilitation of MoUs between state governments and cities with their foreign counterparts to establish sister-state and city partnerships was done by the division.

I) Facilitating Diplomatic Outreach by States

- i. ED & States Division through Branch Secretariat, Hyderabad organized ***Diplomatic Outreach Event in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh*** on 9 August, 2019. More than 40 diplomatic representatives from Delhi and other Indian cities, including many Heads of Missions participated in the event, where they were addressed by Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy on Economic and Investment Opportunities in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Ministers and senior officials from the Government of Andhra Pradesh as well as Ministry of External Affairs made presentations and interacted with the diplomatic community present and the participating business leaders. Hon’ble Chief Minister also held separate meetings with about 20 Ambassadors who participated in the event.
- ii. ***Deccan Dialogue-II “Economic Diplomacy in the Age of Disruptions”***: ED & States Division through Branch Secretariat, Hyderabad organized Deccan Dialogue-II “Economic Diplomacy in the Age of Disruptions” in collaboration with Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on 31 August, 2019. The Hon’ble Vice-President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu addressed the inaugural session of Deccan Dialogue-II. Hon’ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V Muraleedharan, State Ministers from AP and Telangana, Diplomatic Community, business leaders and other dignitaries were also present in the event. The event in Hyderabad received a very encouraging response with more than 600 participants attending it.

- iii. ED & States Division facilitated *Rising Himachal Global Investors' Meet 2019*, a flagship business event of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh at Dharamshala on November 7-8, 2019. The event showcased the policy and regulatory environment, investment opportunities in eight focus sectors to boost manufacturing and employment generation in the State and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Over 1700 Business delegates including 200 International delegates from UAE, Netherlands, PIOCCI, Russia, Vietnam, Germany etc. participated in the event. Ambassadors from 10 countries attended the event. As a run up to the investors meet, a Curtain Raiser was also organized by ED & States Division which was attended by Resident Ambassadors and chaired by Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS.

II) State Facilitation activities by Missions/ Posts

Missions and Posts abroad conducted state facilitation activities abroad to promote investments and tourism from their country of accreditation to states and UTs, enhance economic, cultural and people to people engagement. Funds made available by the division under the budget head 'State Facilitation Abroad' were used for these activities.

The division facilitated participation of the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Goa and their accompanying delegations to Vladivostok, Russia for India-Russia Cooperation in the Russian Far East from 11-13 August, 2019 organised in the run-up to Eastern Economic Forum. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal led the delegation and about 140 Indian companies participated. MoUs were signed between the five states of India and regions of the Russian Far East to expand and strengthen cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, investment, scientific and technical cooperation.

III) Liaising with State and UT Governments

Acting as a bridge connecting MEA with state and UT governments, the division coordinated incoming and outgoing visits of high-level trade delegations, participated on behalf of MEA in inter-ministerial consultations on issues of North-Eastern States and facilitated signing of MoUs by state and city authorities with their foreign counterparts on various areas of governance. ED & States Division conducted a meeting of Resident Commissioners of States and UTs with Senior Officials of Indian Foreign Service at Foreign Service Institute under Mid Career Training Program on 01 November 2019. The division participated and contributed for a meeting of Resident Commissioners of States organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on 13 November, 2019 for promoting FDI in states.

IV) Facilitation of MoUs with foreign city/states

During the year 2019-20, Economic Diplomacy and States Division facilitated the signing of following MoUs with various foreign entities, cities and state Governments:

i) Sister-State Partnerships

- i. Agreement on Cooperation and Development of friendly relations between Jeollanam-do-Province, Republic of Korea and the State of West Bengal, Republic of India.
- ii. Agreement on Cooperation and Development of friendly relations between Gyeongnam-do-Province, Republic of Korea and the State of West Bengal, Republic of India.
- iii. MoU between the Government of Sakhalin Oblast of the Russian Federation and the Government of Haryana State of the Republic of India on Business Cooperation.
- iv. MoU between the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) of the Russian Federation and the Gujarat State of the Republic of India on Business Cooperation.

- v. MoU between the Republic of Buryatia of the Russian Federation and the Maharashtra State of the Republic of India on Business Cooperation.
- vi. MoU between Zabaikalsky Krai of the Russian Federation and Uttar Pradesh State of the Republic of India on Business Cooperation.
- vii. Extension of Twinning Agreement between the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Fukuoka Prefectural Government(FPG), Japan.
- viii. Sister-State partnership agreement between the State of Gujarat, Republic of India and the State of New Jersey, USA.
- ix. Establishment of a Sister State partnership agreement between The State of Telangana, Republic of India and The State of New Jersey, United State of America.
- x. MoU between Kamchatka Kray of the Russian Federation and the Goa State of the Republic of India on Business Cooperation.

ii) Sister-City Partnerships

- i. Sister City Agreement between Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh & Nottingham City Council.

iii) Other Agreements

- i. MoU between Swiss e-Bus manufacturing firm HESS and Transport, Fisheries and Revenue Department, Govt. of Kerala for assembly and manufacture of e-Bus in Kerala.
- ii. Memorandum of Cooperation between Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding between Govt. of Meghalaya and University of California, Berkeley, USA for an award for implementing Smart villages in the State of Meghalaya.

15

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Global peace and security is hinged upon a robust disarmament, non-proliferation and international security architecture. India has been actively engaged in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security and has developed a strong and credible narrative based on its experiences and engagements in various regional and multilateral forums. India's stand on disarmament issues was guided by its national security interests and tradition

of close engagement with the international community to promote cooperative efforts in dealing with global challenges in an evolving geostrategic environment.

In 2019, 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.

FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

India reiterated its commitment to the goal of global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament at the 74th session of the First Committee of the UN General

Assembly, which was held in New York during 7 October–8 November 2019.

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 this year. The resolution calls 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.

India’s resolution on the “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.

India’s resolution on “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.

India’s resolution on the “Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament” was adopted by consensus. The UNSG’s

Report, mandated by Resolution last year, highlighted current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts. The Resolution encourages Member States to organize events such as conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions, at the national, regional and international levels. In order to facilitate multilateral dialogue as well as dialogue among relevant stakeholders on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts.

India together with Germany, Switzerland and Qatar supported the organisation of the first annual “Innovations Dialogue” by UNIDIR, on 19 August 2019. The Seminar was organised in accordance with the decision taken in the General Assembly Resolution 73/32, tabled by India, to hold a seminar on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. The theme of Innovations Dialogue was “Digital Technologies & International Security.”

UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION (UNDC)

The UNDC was held only in informal settings in 2019 from 16 April to 29 April 2019 due to lack of consensus on convening the formal session. India

actively participated in the informal discussions on the two agenda items (nuclear weapons and outer space) adopted for the current three-year cycle.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT (CD)

The CD was in session from 21 January to 29 March, 13 May to 28 June and 29 July to 13 September 2019. Throughout the 2019 Session, successive Presidents of the Conference conducted intensive consultations with a view to reaching consensus on the CD’s programme of work, which remained elusive. India shared its perspective on the four core issues on the CD’s Agenda, including nuclear disarmament, Fissile Material Cut-off

Treaty (FMCT), Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) and Negative Security Assurances (NSA). India called for adoption of a Programme of Work by the CD in order to resume substantive negotiations. India also expressed its support for the commencement of negotiations in the CD of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable FMCT in line with India’s commitment to achieve nuclear disarmament.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

India has been coordinating with the UN 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.

India has been submitting National Reports on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 since 2004. India submitted its National Report update to the United Nations in August 2019, highlighting the activities undertaken in the area of export controls and implementation of UNSCR 1540, since the last National Report of June 2017.

BIOLOGICAL & TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC)

India actively participated in the five Meetings of Experts (MXPs) held in Geneva from 29 July - 8 August 2019 as well as the Annual Meeting of States Parties (MSP) from December 03-06, 2019. India also organized a side event on 'Emerging Landscapes of Science and Technology: New Frontiers and Challenges in Bio-threat Detection and Mitigation', on the sidelines

of the Meeting of Experts.

India has presented two Working Papers – (i) with the USA on “Strengthening implementation of Article-III of the BWC” and (ii) with France on “Proposal for establishment of a database for assistance in the framework of Article-VII of the BWC”.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

As a member of the Executive Council (EC) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), India contributed to the issues of 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 States Parties during various sessions of EC throughout the year and the

annual Session of the Conference of State Parties (CSP) held during 25-29 November 2019.

Under the OPCW National Authority Mentorship/Partnership Programme, India invited Afghan authorities to share its knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the Convention. The first round of the Programme was held in New Delhi from April 29 to May 03, 2019.

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

India participated in the Meetings of Experts of Amended Protocol-II, a Group of Experts (22 August 2019); Protocol V, Meeting of Experts (23 August 2019) and the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS (25-29 March and 20-21 August 2019). India also

participated actively during the Annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW from November 13-15, 2019 as well as the Annual Conferences of Amended Protocol-II and Protocol-V on November 12 and November 11, 2019 respectively.

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION (APMBC)

India participated as an Observer at the 4th Review Conference of the APMBC held in Oslo from November 25-29, 2019. Even though India is not a party to the

convention, India complies with the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, in accordance with the CCW Additional Protocol II.

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 a comprehensive set of national, regional and global measures to achieve

its goal. India continued to make progress towards implementation of the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument. India actively participated in the third Review Conference on SALW in New York from 18-29 June 2018.

PARTICIPATION IN GROUPS OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS (GGE)

India participated actively in the Group of Governmental Experts on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) which concluded its session in March

2019. India also participated in the three sessions of GGE on United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) in March, April and June 2019.

EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (CERN)

India became an Associate Member of CERN in 2017. India participated in the sessions of the CERN Council,

the Finance Committee and Scientific Policy Committee during 2019-20.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

India participated in the 63rd session of the IAEA General Conference held in Vienna during 16-20 September 2019. India launched NCG Vishwam Cancer Care Connection 17th September 2019 in Vienna on the sidelines of 63rd General conference of the IAEA. By virtue of this, National Cancer Grid (NCG), established and managed by Tata Memorial Centre

(TMC), which has 183 participating stakeholders from India, has been made open to the cancer hospitals and other relevant institutes from foreign countries. As in previous years, India continued to play an active role by engaging with States Parties during Board of Governors meetings held in March, June, September, and November, 2019.

MARITIME AFFAIRS

India, in 2019, held annual Maritime Security Dialogues with Vietnam, United States, Myanmar, France, Japan, European Union and Australia. The dialogues covered issues of mutual interest, including exchange of assessments of the developments in the maritime security situation in the Indo-Pacific Region as well as the prospects for strengthening bilateral and regional maritime cooperation.

India has signed White Shipping Agreements with a number of countries taking the tally to 17 in order to enhance cooperation in Maritime Domain Awareness. In addition, India also signed an Ascension Agreement to the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN), a multilateral construct comprising 30 countries.

STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE (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 International Maritime Organization's (IMO's) "Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes" initiative. Building on the earlier contributions, India participated in the 22nd and 23rd meetings of Aids

to Navigation Fund (ANF) Committee held in Malaysia in April and September 2019. India also contributed a sum of Rs 30 lakh for the ANF, which acts as a treasurer for Cooperative Mechanisms and provides a budget for planned maintenance of identified aids to navigation.

CONTACT GROUP ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA (CGPCS)

India participated in the 22nd Plenary Session of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held in Mauritius on 20 June 2019. India, along with UAE

and Seychelles, co-chaired the Working Group on "Operations at Sea".

CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA)

India actively participated in CICA events throughout the year. External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, led the Indian delegation to the 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 14-15

June 2019. The theme of the summit was "Shared Vision for a Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region".

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan participated in an informal ministerial conference of CICA at the sidelines of the 74th UNGA.

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) AND ADMM PLUS

Keeping in line with India's 'Act East' policy, India actively participated in the Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) and the Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) held under the aegis of ARF. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar attended the 26th ARF Ministerial Meet in Singapore on 02 August 2019.

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, led the Indian

delegation to the annual ADMM Plus dialogue held in Bangkok on 18 November 2019. India along with Myanmar is co-chair of the ADMM Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine and undertook its responsibilities at the Inter Sessional Meeting (ISM) while simultaneously participating in various workshops and events organized under the aegis of ADMM Plus.

NUCLEAR SECURITY CONTACT GROUP (NSCG)

The NSCG is an outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit process and India actively participated in the meetings of the Group in 2019. India participated in

the NSCG Plenary meeting in Budapest, Hungary on 23 May 2019.

EXPORT CONTROLS

Multilateral export control regimes, which brings together, on a voluntary basis, like-minded countries, have contributed to the goals of non-proliferation by issuing guidelines for export controls and lists of specific goods and technologies whose exports should be regulated. India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016, Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) in December 2017 and the Australia Group (AG) in January 2018. India's application for membership of NSG is under consideration.

Multi-agency delegations from India participated in the various meetings of the three multilateral export control regimes viz. WA, AG, MTCR, including the Plenary meetings of the WA in December 2019, the AG in June 2019 and MTCR in October 2019.

During the year, India's export control list of Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) was updated on 24 April 2019

(effective from 24 July 2019), to harmonise it with the 2018 guidelines and control lists of the four multilateral export control regimes.

Ministry of External Affairs worked in close cooperation with Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence to streamline export control licensing procedures, such as Global Authorisation for Intra Company Transfers (GAICT) and Open General Export License (OGEL).

The MEA, together with its Governmental partners, including DGFT and industry partners, remained engaged in outreach activities as an integral part of implementation of export control system. These included a programme on India's Export Control Framework in the context of Aerospace and Defence Industry on 23 February 2019 in Bangalore, an industry interaction to discuss Intangible Technology Transfer (ITT) on 5 March 2019 in Bangalore, an awareness

programme for the chemical industry held on Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and SCOMET on 25 March 2019 in Surat. Further, the third National Conference on Export Controls was held on 17 July

2019 at New Delhi. The 2nd International Workshop on 'Product Security and Safeguarding the International Supply Chain for Commercial Grade Explosives (CGEs)' was held at Nagpur on August 19, 2019.

THE HAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

India joined/subscribed to the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) in June 2016. In compliance with the commitments on transparency and confidence building measures, India regularly notified the HCoC of pre-launch notifications of India's ballistic missile and space launches.

India participated in the 18th Regular Meeting of HCoC, which was held in Vienna from 3-4 June 2019. India also submitted its annual declaration for the year ending 31 March, 2019.

OUTER SPACE

India continued to actively participate in the meetings of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in Vienna. Consequent to the adoption of UNGA Resolution 72/250 entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space" on 24 December 2017 a Group of Government Experts (GGE), with a membership up to 25 member states was formed and tasked with considering and making recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the

prevention of an arms race in outer space, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. India participated actively in two Sessions of the GGE, which were held in August 2018 and March 2019.

The inaugural India- Japan Space Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 07 March 2019. The third round of the India-U.S. Space Dialogue was held on 12 March 2019 in Washington.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ON DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

As part of India's commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and in order to equip the young diplomats with the necessary knowledge and skills, Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, in collaboration with Disarmament and International Security Affairs (D&ISA) Division of Ministry of External Affairs, is organising the Second Disarmament and International Security Affairs

Fellowship for foreign diplomats from 13-31 January 2020.

India's initiative fulfils the mandate of UNGA Resolution 71/57 "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" and is in line with the focus on 'Disarmament Education' in UNSG's Disarmament Agenda 'to Secure our World and our Future'.

16

LEGAL AND TREATIES DIVISION

UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly

The Sixth Committee of the United Nations is an important body of the General Assembly, provides an opportunity for the UN member States for the consideration of legal questions. Like the previous years, the Legal and Treaties Division followed the work of the Sixth Committee and actively participated in its deliberations.

The Sixth Committee met during the Seventy-fourth Session of the General Assembly, from 07 October-14 & 20 November 2019. During the Session, following Resolutions and decisions were adopted by the General Assembly on items allocated to the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):-

- Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts
- Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission
- Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-second session
- United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
- Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-first session
- Diplomatic protection
- Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of

loss in the case of such harm

- Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
- The rule of law at the national and international levels
- The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction
- The law of transboundary aquifers
- Measures to eliminate international terrorism
- Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly
- Programme planning
- Administration of justice at the United Nations
- Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- Observer status for the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Union

in the General Assembly

- Observer status for the Community of Democracies in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the Global Environment Facility in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the International Organization of Employers in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the International Trade Union Confederation in the General Assembly
- Observer status for the Boao Forum for Asia in the General Assembly

India actively participated in the discussions and made statement on few of the topics.

INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEK

International Law Week is scheduled every year on the sidelines of the UNGA Session. During this period, the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) of the United Nations General Assembly reviews the work of International Law Commission and discussion takes place on the report/s of the International Court of Justice on its work during the past year/s. The International Law Week was observed from 28 October- 1 November 2019 at the

UN Headquarters during the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Ms. Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary and Legal Advisor of the MEA participated in the events during the International Law week and discussed international law issues of contemporary relevance.

During the International Law Week, the Sixth

Committee deliberated upon the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its 71st Session submitted by Mr. Pavel Sturma, in his capacity as the Chair of the 71st Session of the ILC. During the period under review (71st Session), the Commission considered several important topics in its programme of work which include codification of fundamental norms of international law (jus cogens), crimes against humanity, immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, protection of environment and rise of sea-level, etc.

India, in its interventions, offered critical analysis on the draft Articles prepared by the Commission (ILC) including the Commission's recommendations to the General Assembly for elaboration of possible Convention/s by the General Assembly on these issues, in particular, the

Commission's attempt to codify/define crimes against humanity (murder, torture, enforced disappearance of persons, extermination, forced pregnancy, etc.) in its draft Articles for a possible Convention, which are not based on empirical analysis of international practice, but are largely made by analogy or deduction from the provisions of other international conventions and have not acquired universal character.

During this period, the Sixth Committee debated on the report of the International Law Commission. India participated in the debate, examined the International Law topics considered by the ILC and commented thereupon in statements on the topics such as: India's position on jus cogens, immunity of State officials, 'Sea Level Rise and its Implications etc.

On the sidelines of the Sixth Committee deliberations, the Informal Meeting of the Legal Advisers was also held. This is an initiative which was undertaken in 1989 by the Legal Advisers of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Canada, India, Mexico, Poland and Sweden to bring

together the Heads of the Legal Departments of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs to discuss international law issues of contemporary relevance/interest to the Members. During the current UNGA Session, Mexico coordinated the informal discussions. Members reflected upon issues such as prohibition of use of force against non-State actors, the challenges, limitations as well as the role of UNSC and, use of Veto in cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity, etc.

During the International Law Week, the Legal Advisers of the BRICS Member countries also informally meet to deliberate upon international law issues in general and of particular interest to BRICS Member States. Brazil being the Chair of this year's informal BRICS Legal Advisers' meeting, took the initiative. The delegates informally exchanged views on topics before the International Law Commission such as cyber security, rule of law, multilateralism as well as the projects undertaken by UNCITRAL such as possible reforms to the Investor State Dispute Settlement Mechanism

OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

Representative of Legal & Treaties Division was a member of Indian Delegation which attended the meeting with the sub-commission of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) held in New York from 14-18 October, 2019. The Sub commission is established to examine the information

submitted by India in respect of the western offshore region of India in the Arabian Sea. The sub-commission examined the Indian claim submission submitted under Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. A legal body with universal membership specializing in commercial law reform worldwide for over 50 years,

UNCITRAL is mandated to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade, in particular, to codify and harmonize the current and evolving issues of international trade law at the global level. India as a Member of UNCITRAL since its

inception has been participating in its Sessions and contributing towards growth of international trade law. India has participated in the select Working Groups meetings during the year 2019-20. Various working groups under UNCITRAL are:

- The Working Group I on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.
- The Working Group II on Arbitration and Conciliation / Dispute Settlement
- The Working Group III on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform.
- The Working Group IV on Electronic Commerce.
- The Working Group V on Insolvency Law The

Working Group VI on Security Interests

India has joined the drafting committee for working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform mandated to reform the investor state dispute settlement mechanism). India also nominated its national correspondents for UNCITRAL CLOUT.

52nd annual session of UNCITRAL (held from 8-19 July 2019, in Vienna) accounted for providing an update on the progress made so far in the UNCITRAL through its working groups. India participated and exchanged views on various working groups mentioned above.

ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (AALCO)

Legal & Treaties Division represented India in the 58th Annual Session of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 21-25 October 2019. Twenty-five Member States of AALCO participated in the Session. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary and Legal Adviser, Legal and Treaties Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. Vice-President of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was the chief guest, inaugurated the Session.

The session discussed the following topics: Topics on the Agenda of the International Law Commission; Law of the Sea; International Trade and Investment Laws; International Law in Cyberspace; Peaceful Settlement of Disputes; Extra Territorial Application of National

Legislations; and Violations of International Law in Palestine. Additionally, the organizational and financial matters of the Organization were also discussed.

Apart from the General Statement, Indian Delegation delivered statements on Topics on the Agenda of the International Law Commission; Law of the Sea; International Law in Cyberspace; Peaceful Settlement of Disputes; and International Trade and Investment Law.

The Legal & Treaties Division also participated in the 63rd Constitution Day celebration held in Delhi on 15 November 2019. Ms. Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary and Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs also delivered a special address on this occasion.

INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE ADJUDICATION INVOLVING INDIA

a. *Enrica Lexie case (Italy and India)*: Italy had instituted arbitration proceedings by serving on India a "Notification under Article 287 and Annex VII, UNCLOS, in June 2015. The final oral

hearing was held from 8 - 20 July, 2019 before the Arbitral Tribunal facilitated by the Permanent of Court of Arbitration, The Hague, The Netherlands. During the hearing, India and Italy presented

their arguments addressing the jurisdiction of the Arbitral Tribunal as well as the merits of Italy's claims and India's counter-claims.

- b. **Kulbhushan Jadhav Case (India v. Pakistan):** In Jadhav's case, before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), final oral hearing on the merits was held from 18 to 21 February, 2019 at The Hague, The Netherlands. The Court pronounced its judgment on 17 July, 2019. In its Order, the Court concluded that it had jurisdiction to entertain India's claims based on alleged violations of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR). Further, on the merits, the Court *inter alia*, upheld India's claim that Pakistan had acted in violation of its obligations under Article 36 of VCCR, by failing to inform India, without delay, of Mr Jadhav's detention.
- c. **Hyderabad Nizam Funds case (Pakistan v. India and Others):** The main trial before the High Court of Justice in London, United Kingdom was held from 10-19 June, 2019 to determine a partition era dispute between India, Pakistan and successors in title to 7th Nizam of Hyderabad. Having found that the 7th Nizam was beneficially entitled to the Nizam Fund, the UK High Court, in its judgment dated 2nd October, 2019, while dismissing Pakistan claims, concluded that those claiming in right of the 7th Nizam - India, Prince Muffakham Jah and Prince Mukarram Jah - were entitled to have the Fund.
- d. **Investment related Arbitration Cases:** In the

Arbitration proceedings initiated against Republic of India under various investment treaties administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), following developments took place during the current year (2019-20).

- **Tenoch Holdings Limited (Cyprus), Mr. Maxim Naumchenko (Russian Federation) and Mr. Andrey Poluektov (Russian Federation) [Claimants] and the Republic of India [Respondent],** under the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of India for the promotion and mutual protection of investments, and the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for the mutual promotion and protection of investments in the favour of the Respondent, Republic of India, the Tribunal ruled in favour of India, dismissing all the claims of the investors.
- **Nissan Motor Co. Ltd** under the India-Japan CEPA; the tribunal ruled on the preliminary objections to jurisdiction in favour of the Claimant (i.e. Nissan Motor), dismissing the Republic of India's jurisdictional objections on all counts except on the question of tax matters being covered under the ambit of the CEPA. This question is subject to the next round of hearing in February, 2020.
- **Vedanta Resources,** the final hearing in the case by Vedanta under the India-UK BIPA concluded in May, 2019 and the arbitral award is expected in 2020.

EXTRADITION

During the year 2019, the Legal & Treaties Division examined as many as 60 extradition requests from

India and abroad including some of the very sensitive cases involving fugitives.

HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW (HCCH)

Sixth Meeting of the Experts Group on Parentage/ Surrogacy Project of Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) took place from 29th October to 1st November, 2019 in Hague, Netherlands to discuss on the possibility of accepting foreign public documents on legal parentage; possibility of recognizing legal parentage established abroad where there is no judicial decision; discussing on whether it is

possible to reach agreement on uniform applicable law rules on legal parentage, including how any such rules might operate together with public documents; refined provisions regarding the cross-border recognition, by operation of law, of foreign judicial decisions concerning legal parentage. India actively participated in the session and contributed to the Project.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The 9th South Asian Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 11-13 November, 2019, was organized by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The theme of the conference was, "Bringing IHL Home: A Narrative of Prevention and Protection". The delegates exchanged views on the proposed thematic resolutions

of the 33rd International Conference such as, Bringing IHL Home; Climate- smart disaster laws and policies; Restoring family links; and Addressing mental health and psychological needs. Indian delegation delivered intervention speech on 70 years of the Geneva Convention.

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Legal & Treaties Division actively participated in bilateral and multilateral negotiations pertaining to various subject matters of national and global importance. Most notable multilateral negotiations among them are,

- 3rd Substantive Session of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group Towards a "Global Pact for the Environment law", held in Nairobi;
- United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security. The first session of the OEWG was held in September and the First session of the GGE was held in December.
- 58th session of the Legal Sub-Committee on the

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in Vienna, held from 1 - 12 April, 2019.

- 5th UNODC Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to conduct comprehensive study on cybercrime, held in Vienna from 27-29 March, 2019. In accordance with the work plan, the Expert Group discussed the topics of Law and Enforcement and Investigation and also Electronic Evidence and Criminal Justice.
- Bilateral investment treaty negotiations between India and ten other countries (viz., Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, Mexico, UAE etc.).
- Preparatory Meeting for Legal Scrubbing of (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) RCEP, held in Jakarta from 28-31 October 2019. The Meeting set up guidelines and

procedures on legal scrubbing of various chapters of the RCEP Agreement (India opted out of the same, later on).

- Besides above, the Legal & Treaties Division

actively participated in various areas such as trade, civil and criminal laws, environment, information technology matters etc.

ONLINE TREATY DATABASE

Agreements/Treaties concluded on behalf of Government of India with its foreign counterparts are indexed and uploaded into the **Indian Treaties Database** which is maintained and constantly updated by the Legal & Treaties Division. The Treaty database

(web link: <https://www.mea.gov.in/TreatyList.htm?1>) comprises of the treaties covering the period from 1950 till 2019. Currently there are more than 3,200 such treaties in the database which can be accessed by general public.

EXAMINATION/VETTING OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Legal & Treaties Division has examined a number of international law instruments including MoUs, treaties/agreements as well as Cabinet notes and rendered legal opinion. The Division, inter alia examined and provided its views on treaties, agreements, MoUs in the areas including defence co-operation, agriculture, railways, SAARC, Health, bio-technology, outer space, 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), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), 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 cooperation, road transport, trade and investment, projects to be implemented in foreign countries, 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, etc.

LEGAL OPINIONS AND LEGAL RESEARCH

Legal & Treaties Division rendered legal opinion on various subject matters involving international law and domestic legal matters such as, UN matters, ICJ Cases, Immunity and Privilege issues, local employees

cases, human rights issues, humanitarian law matters, international criminal law and legal assistance matters, space and air law issues, court cases, tender documents etc.

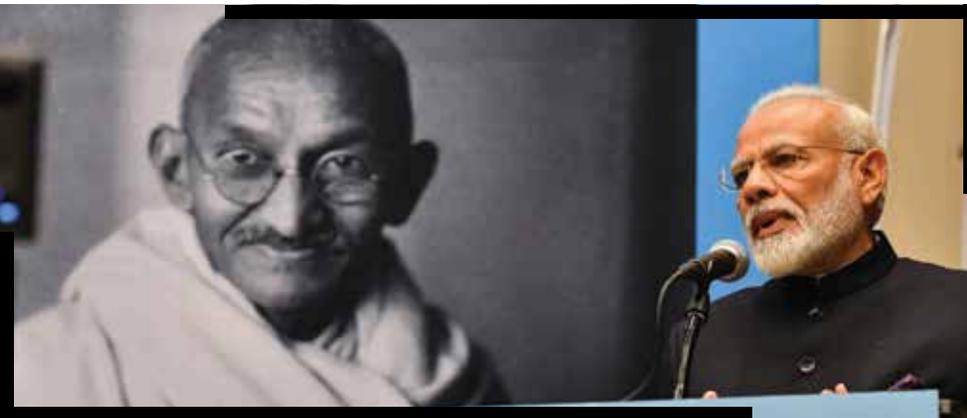
LIST OF TREATIES

India has signed/ratified a number of multilateral/bilateral treaties/agreements with foreign countries and International Organizations during the year 2019. A comprehensive list of such Agreements/Treaties is placed at **Annex-I**. The list of Instruments

of Ratification/Accession issued during the year 2019 is at **Annex-II**; and the list of Instrument of Full Powers issued during the year 2019 is at **Annex-III**. It can be seen that India has signed/concluded more than 200 bilateral and multilateral Treaties during 2019.



Prime Minister delivers his remarks on the occasion of Gandhi@150 Event in UN (September 24, 2019)

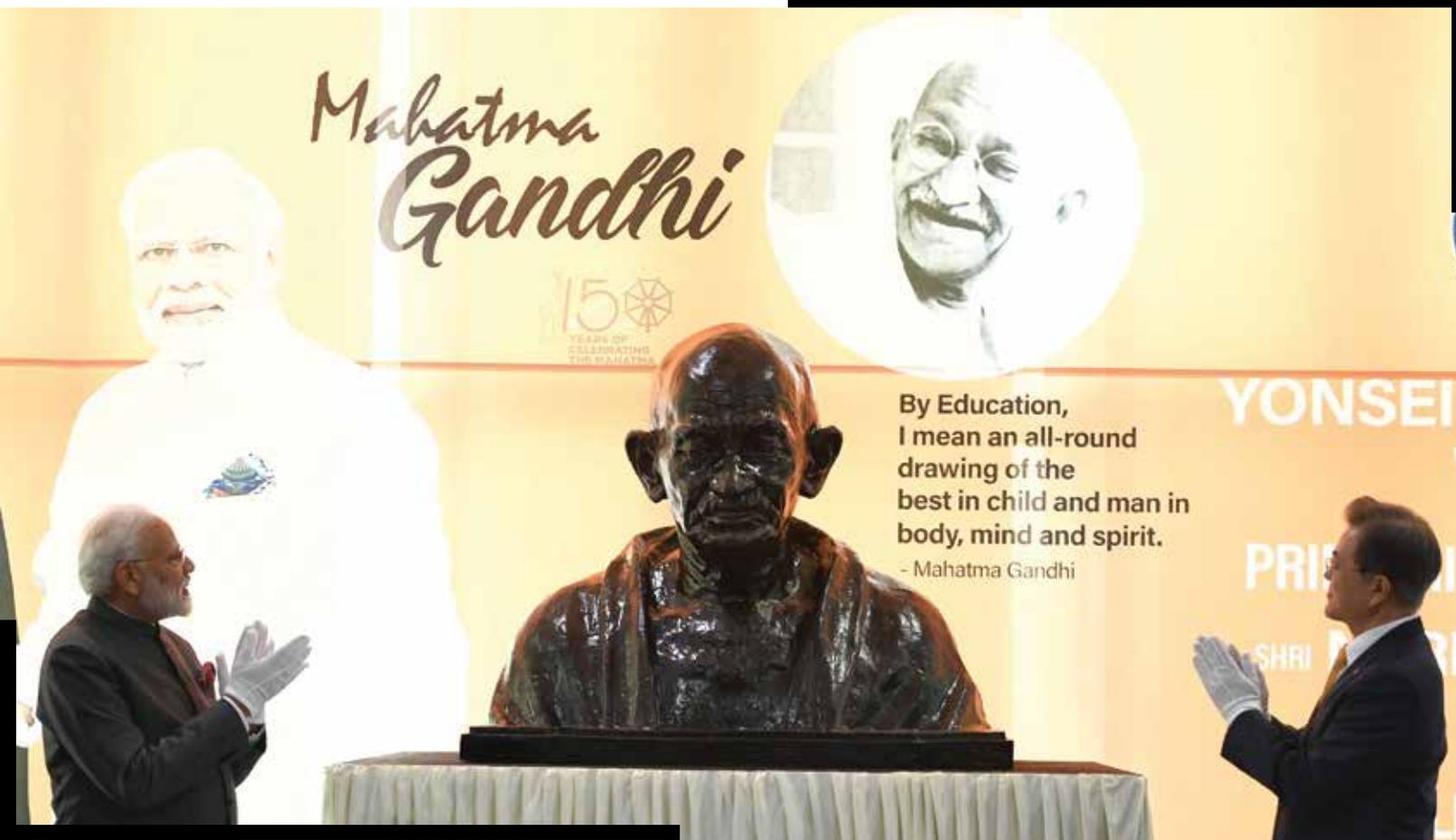


Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa delivers The First IBSA Gandhi-Mandela Memorial Freedom Lecture in New Delhi (January 25, 2019)



Minister of State for External Affairs at the unveiling of statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Canary Islands during his visit to Spain (December 17, 2019)





António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal attends the 2nd Meeting of National Committee for commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi (December 19, 2019)



External Affairs Minister offers floral tribute at the Mahatma Gandhi Statue in Sofia (February 17, 2019)



17

POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION **(INCLUDING BOUNDARY CELL AND LIBRARY)**

The Policy Planning and Research Division is the nodal division for the Ministry for the organising of flagship conference initiatives, interactions with international and India-based strategic community, and for conducting in-house policy analysis for the Ministry on a regular basis. The division also leads the Ministry's efforts in cross-cutting initiatives especially those which involve coordination with other ministries in the Government of India. The division is also the administrative division for matters pertaining to ICWA and RIS - two autonomous bodies which function under the Ministry. The PP&R Division is also administratively in-charge of the MEA Library and the Boundary Cell.

As part of its mandate, the PP&R Division continued to organise flagship conferences both in India and abroad in partnership with prominent think tanks

and academic institutions. These conferences focus on the themes of geo-politics, geo-economics and public policy pertaining to emerging technologies, and are structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral conclaves which engage decision-makers at the level of Ministers and high-level government officials as well as policy practitioners; leading personalities from business and industry; and members of the strategic community, media and academia. The full list of themes on which flagship conferences have been organized by PPR Division is annexed for reference.

The Fifth Edition of the Raisina Dialogue was organized on the theme of "21@20 Navigating the Alpha Century" on 14-16 January 2020. It was extremely successful, with the 2020 iteration attracting more than 700 delegates from 103 countries, compared with the



Prime Minister attends the inaugural ceremony of Raisina Dialogue 2020 in New Delhi (January 14, 2020)

2019 iteration of the Dialogue which attracted nearly 600 speakers and delegates from over 93 countries.

Other flagship conferences organized by the Division in 2019 included the highly successful third edition of the

India-US Forum (16-17 August 2019) in New Delhi; the fourth edition of the Indian Ocean Conference (3-4 September 2019) in Maldives on the theme of 'Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges'; and the third edition of the Global Technology Summit on the theme of "the Future of Data"(05-06 December, 2019) held at Bengaluru. The final flagship conference of the year, a geo-economic conference on the theme of Asia and the Emerging Trading System"- is due to be held in the month of February/March 2020 at Pune.

Apart from these flagship conference initiatives, the Division also organized several special thematic conferences, Track 1.5 Dialogues and academic seminars on international relations and foreign policy issues in partnership with universities. A full list of these events is annexed. The Division also provided financial support towards specific projects undertaken by think tanks on India's neighbourhood.



External Affairs Minister in conversation at Raisina Dialogue 2020 (January 15, 2020)

POLICY PLANNING DIALOGUES

The Division has a system of engaging with the counterpart policy planning units in the foreign ministries of other countries. In 2019, PP&R Division conducted extensive PP Dialogues with Russia (New Delhi), Germany (Berlin) and Indonesia (Jakarta), in

addition to participating in a multilateral Policy Planners' Forum organised by the French Foreign Ministry on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum. In the first quarter of 2020, a PP Dialogue was held with the US in New Delhi and one will be held with China in Beijing.

EMERGING INTER-MINISTERIAL INITIATIVES: THE CDRI

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is a novel initiative of the Government of India to set up a global partnership of national governments and other stakeholders like multilateral banks, regional organizations and the private sector in order to develop a global platform for sharing of knowledge and capacity in the field of disaster resilient infrastructure. In the short time since its official announcement by PM Modi at the United Nations' Climate Action Summit, New York city in September 2019, the Coalition has garnered a significant number of positive responses to our request for endorsement of its Charter.

The PP&R Division has been designated the nodal division in MEA for matters pertaining to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. In 2019, PP&R Division was instrumental in preparation of the Charter of the CDRI and circulating it to various countries for endorsement, eventually leading to the establishment of the Coalition. In 2020, the CDRI will be formally brought into existence by means of the meeting of its first Governing Council, tentatively scheduled for 18

March 2020. PP&R Division is also assisting NDMA in organising the third International Workshop on DRI in New Delhi (March 2020), and outreach conferences of the CDRI in Fiji (May 2020) and in Barbados (July 2020). PP&R Division provides policy guidance to NDMA/CDRI in terms of engaging with other countries on infrastructure-related initiatives as well as projecting India's policy agenda in important International platforms like BRICS and G 20.

In 2020, the Coalition will formally come into existence by means of the first meeting of its Governing Council. In the meantime, the National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India (NDMA) has already moved ahead to establish interim administrative arrangements which will oversee the commencement of substantive work under the CDRI by means of organizing the third international workshop on DRI and region-specific technical workshops focused on Pacific Island States and Caribbean Small Island States.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISION

ICWA: The Division is the administrative division for processing the grant in aid for ICWA as well as for administrative matters pertaining to the governance of ICWA. For FY 2019-20, the grant for ICWA was Rs.15 crore. The Division is also responsible for tabling the

annual report of ICWA in the Parliament.

RIS: The Division is the nodal division for processing the grant in aid for RIS as well as for administrative matters pertaining to the governance of RIS. One of

the matters pending implementation is strengthening the working of the ASEAN India Centre, which is administratively located within the RIS. Chairman, RIS has been directed to amend the bye laws of RIS to ensure that AIC has an independent DG with equivalent powers to the existing DG, and to establish separate funding mechanism for the AIC distinct from the RIS budget. For FY 2019-20, the grant for RIS was Rs.12 crore. The Division is also responsible for tabling the annual report of RIS in the Parliament.

Library and Boundary Cell: MEA Library is administratively handled by AS (PP&R). The MEA Library, apart from maintaining a holding of rare books, current books and journals, is also in charge of providing the subscriptions to international newspapers, journals and data bases.

The Boundary Cell is administratively handled by PP&R Division. Boundary Cell deals with the vetting of International Boundary (IB) on the maps received by Survey of India and other agencies; sending the same to territorial division for their no objection/comments after duly checking the alignment of IB; interaction with territorial divisions on boundary-related matters; compiling and processing the requests related to funds for Boundary related tasks along India-Pakistan border and issuing the sanction for the same; and handling the complaints and grievances related to incorrect depiction of International Boundary of India on maps. In 2019, Boundary Cell participated in numerous bilateral meetings on boundary matters relating to the India-Nepal, India-Bhutan, India-Myanmar and India-Bangladesh borders.

18

COUNTER TERRORISM

In view of the increasing terrorist activities worldwide, the issue of terrorism found prominent mention in various bilateral and multilateral meetings at all levels during the year. During all such interactions, India reiterated its commitment to combating the menace of global terrorism and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. India's call for rejection of any justification for any act of terror, de-linking terror from religion, zero tolerance to terrorism and the need for all countries to unite in the fight against terrorism found greater acceptance in the international community and is reflected in a number of outcome documents issued after bilateral summits and other meetings with various countries and at regional and multilateral fora.

India continued to hold structured consultations through Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism (JWG-CT) with various partner countries. India

currently engages with senior interlocutors of 24 nations and 3 plurilateral groupings through the mechanism of JWG-CT. During the year 2019-20, India held bilateral counter terrorism consultations through the mechanism of JWG-CT with Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Israel, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan. India also participated in the Meeting of BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group held in Brasilia in August 2019. The JWG-CT meetings provide a useful forum for counter-terrorism cooperation enabling sharing of information, experience and assessments regarding global terrorism including cross border terrorism, training and capacity building, inter alia in relevant technologies and equipment, strengthening of multilateral efforts in the fight against terrorism and terrorist financing, expediting mutual legal assistance requests, facilitating agency-to agency cooperation and emphasizing the importance of early adoption of a

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) under the auspices of the UN.

India has been in the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts and has taken part in all major global initiatives against international terrorism. Hon'ble Prime Minister attended the Leader's dialogue to discuss strategic responses to terrorists and extremist narratives on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2019. A delegation led by Minister of State for Home Affairs participated in the 2nd 'No money for Terror' Ministerial Conference held on 7-8 November 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. India supported the Christ Church Call to Action for sanitizing cyberspace from contents which promote and eulogize terrorism, hate and violence.

As a founding member of Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), India regularly participates in its meetings. India participated at a senior official level in the 16th meeting of GCTF Coordination Committee and the 10th meeting of GCTF Ministerial Plenary held in New York from 23-25 September 2019. India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since 2010. During 2019-20, India participated in the FATF Plenary meetings held in Orlando and Paris. Indian delegation also participated in the Plenary meetings of Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) held in Canberra and the Eurasian Group (EAG) on Money laundering and Terror Financing held in Moscow. Indian representatives also regularly attended meetings of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Regional Anti-Terrorist structure (SCO-RATS). India participated in the Conference on 'Countering

Terrorism Through Innovative Approaches and The Use of New and Emerging Technologies' organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in Minsk on 3-4 September 2019 and in the Second International Conference on Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking held in Moscow on 5-6 September 2019. Indian representative also participated in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)'s experts meeting on promoting South South Cooperation in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism on 20-21 November 2019 in New York.

India hosted the first meeting of BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Counter Radicalisation on 11 June 2019 in New Delhi and a Counter Terrorism Table Top Exercise with participation of the the US, Australia and Japan on 21-22 November 2019. A round table meeting with the UK on preventing terrorist use of internet was held in New Delhi on 9 January 2019. An India-EU counter terrorism workshop on "Investigating ISIS networks" was organized from December 3-4 in New Delhi.

During the year, India's premier Counter Terrorism Force, National Security Guard (NSG) held Counter Terrorism exchanges including Joint Training and exercises with special forces of several countries including the USA, the UK, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Uzbekistan etc. NSG also conducted counter terrorism capacity building courses for officials of neighbouring countries. Capacity building courses on Counter Terrorism were also organized for Indian agencies at Central Academy for Police Training (CAPT)-Bhopal, NSG Manesar and Central Detective Training School (CDTS), Hyderabad, in collaboration with USA's anti-terrorism agencies.

19

GLOBAL CYBER ISSUES, E-GOVERNANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

E-GOVERNANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

EG&IT Division consistently pursues a focused approach to optimize Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) initiatives for harnessing the dividends of Digital India. During the period the Division worked towards proportionate growth of IT assets in the Ministry.

EG&IT Division carried out system studies, development, testing and maintenance of e-governance applications in coordination with National Informatics Centre, Govt. of India and Ministry of Electronics and Information

Technology. EG&IT Division took 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 Digital India Programme) namely *e-office*, *e-procurement*, *Immigration, Visa, Foreigners registration and Tracking System (IVFRT)* and *Passport Seva Projects (PSP)* were made operational in the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad.

The Division initiated a number of e-governance

upgradation projects in consonance with aim and objectives of Digital India which includes, *inter alia*, e-Political clearance system, Integrated Missions Accounting System (IMAS), portal for scholarship programme for Diaspora children, Admission to Alumni (A2A) ICCR scholarships programme, Know India Programme, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Alumni Portal, Performance Evaluation Monitoring System, Diplomatic Identity Card Registration and Issuance System, e-Sanad. ASEAN-India commemorative summit website, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) website, Videsh App (Stationary, Conference room booking, File Management System). In addition to development of these e-governance projects, EG&IT Division has consistently pursued a focused approach to monitor, manage and periodically revamp the applications based on the latest technologies and mitigate over growing challenges of Cyber Security.

for Bureau of Security, Annual Performance Appraisal System, Digitalization of Vigilance documents, property Management Website or ParvasiBhartiya Kendra, Global Estate Management Portal etc.

External Affairs Minister launched “MEA Performance Monitoring Dashboard” on 14 August 2019 which was developed under the supervision of EG&IT Division. This dashboard is created on three target areas capturing all major schemes programmes and initiatives of Ministry with many major indicators sliced and diced across five clusters (Diaspora Engagement, Development partnership, International engagement, Trade & Commerce & Citizen services).

The security architecture has been reviewed in the Ministry and existing IT infrastructure has been upgraded with new generation networking and threat management devices to meet the ever growing challenges of cyber security.



Screenshots of MEA dashboard

Further, EG&IT Division has developed numerous projects that help in improving the internal working of the Ministry. These projects are of the nature of infrastructure management software, personnel management software etc. Some of these projects are Online Inventory Management System for Establishment Division, Personnel Management System

Since 2016, the Division Has organized Four (4) Online Courses annually on the *fundamentals of Cyber Security* for the Ministry officials to increase awareness about the cyber security and enable them to manage and mitigate cyber threats.

Apart from implementing e-governance services

projects, EG&IT Division has also given several lectures and trainings on *Cyber Security, Safe & Secure Computing and other related topics at Foreign Service Institute (FSI) to the Foreign Diplomats and Officer Trainees.*

The following development work is in progress handled by EG&IT Division:

- Engaging Indian Diaspora abroad: A portal and App is being developed which envisages to connect with the Overseas Indian Community (NRIs, OCI & PIO) by facilitating and connecting them to various new and existing Govt. schemes benefiting them in various areas of interest. This portal and App will also assist during any crises management and lend a helping hand to the Indian Diaspora.
- Engaging students studying abroad: A portal is being developed which will have information regarding various courses and schemes offered by the Foreign Universities.
- A website is being developed by EG&IT Division based on India's initiative to facilitate MGC member countries which will provide an overview of Mekong Ganga Cooperation and contain useful information on the various collaborative programmes and activities undertaken by the MGC member countries. This website also envisages to contain information on important events under the priority areas of cooperation, and also provide links to the MGC points of contact from the member countries.

GLOBAL CYBER ISSUES

Work of the Division

(i) Analytical note and India's overall relations

India has been actively participating in and contributing to Cyber Dialogues/Conferences and Conventions to voice its views, shape global Cyber policies and strengthen its Cyber security. In Keeping with its commitment to a multi-stakeholder model of governance, India has been engaged in activities with the private sector, civil society and academia to shape and strategize cyber policy. Further 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-IANA Transition Session of ICANN 57 in Hyderabad in November 2016.

India act as one of the 25 members of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation under Commission on Science and Technology for Development(CSTD) in UN from 2014-18 where deliberations are underway on the ways and means to enhance cooperation among nations to implement the mandate under Clause 69-71

of the Tunis Agenda for the information Society.

(ii) Bilateral relations with Individual countries

The Cyber Diplomacy Division is instrumental in proposing and initiating cyber dialogues with more than fifteen countries so far including United States(US), European Union(EU), Russia, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom(UK), Republic of Korea, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand and Egypt. In 2016, India signed the Framework for India-US Cyber Relationship for enhanced cooperation in the field of ICT and Cyber Security and the signing of an Intergovernmental Agreement on cooperation in the field of security in the use of ICT with Russia. In the year 2019, India held cyber dialogues with USA, France, Russia, Japan and Australia.

(iii) Regional and Multilateral cooperation in the area of cyber issues

In 2015, India made contribution in the review of the progress made in implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

This contribution was reflected in the UNGA Report.

In 2015, in its efforts to have a wider interaction with the global community on cyber issues, Deputy NSA led an Indian delegation to the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2015 held at The Hague from 16-17 April 2015. Further, India participated in the consultations on the Second Tallinn Manual 2.0 at The Hague in February 2016.

India also acted as a co-chair of Global Conference on Cyberspace and hosting of the Global Conference on Cyberspace in November 2017 and as a member for the next Working Group for Enhanced Cooperation under United Nation Committee on Science and Technology under World Summit for Information Society (WSIS).

India delegation led by MEA participated as one of the select twenty-five countries in the 5th United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) discussion held in 2016-17. The UNGGE is mandated to discuss norms of responsible behaviour of states in cyberspace, capacity building, Confidence Building Measures, International law, Existing and Emerging threats etc. India is one of the select twenty-five countries in the current 6th UNGGE which will deliberate on contentious issues of cyberspace during the period 2019-2021. The first session of the 6th UNGGE was held on 9-13 December, 2019 in New York.

India also actively participates in ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meetings on cyber issues. The last such meeting was held in June, 2019 in Singapore. India also actively participates in meeting of BRICS, SCO etc.

India is also participating in Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings which will deliberate on cyber related issues during the period 2019-20. The last substantive meeting of OEWG was held on 09-13 September, 2019 in New York.

India became a Founder Member of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) which was launched during

GCCS and actively participates in the meeting of GFCE. The last meeting of GFCE was attended by MEA representative in October, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Cyber Diplomacy Division keeping its objective of dealing with international cyber issues, engaged with countries at bilateral levels, regional as well as at multilateral levels in 2019-20. India has been actively participating in and contributing to Cyber Dialogues/Conferences and Conventions to voice its views, shape global Cyber polices and strengthen its Cyber security. In keeping with its commitment to a multi-stakeholder model of governance, India has engaged in activities with the private sector, civil society and academia to shape and strategize cyber policy.

2. In the year 2019, India held Cyber Dialogues with USA, France, Russia, Japan and Australia. Joint Secretary (eG&IT and CD), MEA Shri Upender Singh Rawat led the third Indo-French Cyber Dialogue in Paris on 20 June 2019 and the third India-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue in New Delhi on 04 September 2019. A delegation led by the Deputy NSA Shri Rajinder Khanna participated in the India-USA Cyber Dialogue in New Delhi on 30 September 2019.

3. Indian expert on cyber issues led by MEA participated, as one of the select twenty-five countries in the ongoing 6th United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) during the period 2019-2021. The first session of the 6th UNGGE was held on 09-13 December 2019 in New York. Indian expert is also participating in Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings which will deliberate on cyber related issues during the period 2019-20. The last substantive meeting of OEWG was held on 09-13 September 2019 in New York.

4. India participated in ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meetings on cyber issues. The last such meeting was held on 25-26 June 2019 in Singapore. The fifth meeting

of the BRICS Working Group on Security in the Use of ICTs took place on 21-22 August 2019 in Brasilia, Brazil. SCO Experts Group Meeting on International Information Security was held on 12 November 2019 in Moscow. MEA supported and participated in the International Conference on Cyberlaw, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity held in New Delhi on 20-22 November 2019.

5. India became a Founder Member of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) which was launched during The Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS) and actively participates in the meeting of GFCE. The last Annual Meeting of GFCE was held on 08-10 October 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It focused to further strengthen the structure for international cooperation on cyber capacity building.

6. The following two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on cooperation in the area of Cyber Security were signed by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of the Republic of India in 2019:

MoU between CERT-In and The Information System Authority of The Republic of Estonia was signed on 21st August 2019 in Estonia.

MoU between CERT-In and The Korean Computer Emergency Response Team and Coordination Center (KRCERT/CC) of Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA) of the Republic of South Korea was signed on 28th November 2019 in New Delhi.

20

CONSULAR, PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES

The Passport Seva Programme (PSP) Division of the Ministry provides passport services in India and abroad. The issuance of passports has emerged as one of the most noticeable statutory and citizen-centric services rendered by the Ministry. The Ministry has been making quantitative and qualitative changes so that passports can be delivered to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner and in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and by a committed, trained and motivated workforce.

Indian passports (together with other travel documents such as Certificate of Identity to Stateless persons,

Emergency Certificates for returnees to India, Police Clearance Certificates, Surrender Certificates, Line of Control Travel Permits in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir) are issued by the Ministry of External Affairs through the Central Passport Organization (CPO) and its all-India network of 36 Passport Offices, the CPV Division (only Diplomatic and Official passports) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. This network has been vastly expanded by adding 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 424 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK) (in association with the Department of Posts) as extended arms of these 36 Passport Offices. The total

number of Passport Seva Kendras functioning in the country was 517 as on 31 December, 2019 including PSK and POPSK. For Indians living abroad, passports

and Emergency Certificates are being rendered by 192 Indian Missions/ Posts abroad.

PASSPORT SEVA PROGRAMME (PSP)

The Passport Seva Programme (PSP), a Mission Mode Project, being implemented in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode with M/s Tata Consultancy

Services (TCS) as the Service Provider, has completed seven and half-years of its successful operations since it went "Live" on 12 June, 2012.

PASSPORT SERVICES IN INDIA AND MISSIONS/POSTS ABROAD

During January to December 2019, the Ministry processed nearly 1.18 crore passport and passport-related applications in India, as compared to 1.12 crore in the corresponding period during 2018. The 36 Passport Offices, Headquarters and the Office of the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands received 1,18,54,498 passport and passport-related applications, including for issuance of Police Clearance Certificates (PCC), against which 1,17,04,641 passports and related documents were issued. In the year 2019,

1,11,15,315 passports and 5,89,326 passports-related documents such as PCCs etc were issued.

The Indian Missions/Posts abroad received 12,00,706 passport and passport-related applications and issued 11,38,363 lakh passports, Emergency Certificates (ECs) and other passport-related miscellaneous documents. Thus, the Government of India, issued more than 1.28 crore passport and passport-related documents during 2019.

REVENUE EARNED

The revenue of the Government on account of passport fees was Rs. 1030.58 crore in 2011-2012. The total revenue generated from all passport services

till December 2019 is Rs. 1885.59 crore as compared to Rs. 1957.64 crore during corresponding period in 2018.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PASSPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

There has been noticeable improvement in passport service delivery in the country with the implementation of the PSP and continuous efforts being made by the Ministry. Quality service being provided to the people from the Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) established with good amenities across the country in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Under this system,

the applicants are required to apply for their passports online, upload relevant documents, make the payment online through debit/credit card or State Bank of India (SBI) net banking/ SBI Challan, schedule an appointment and then visit the designated PSK/ POPSK. A user friendly portal has been made available. When an applicant visits the PSK/ POPSK, an Electronic Queue

Management System (EQMS) working on the principle of First-in First-out is available at all PSK/ POPSK to monitor the flow of applicants. The applicants can track the status of their applications themselves through portal and also SMS services. In the current system of

passport issuance, there is no manual intervention at any stage, and the complete process is digitally flown with re-engineered process through a single visit clearance.

MPASSPORT SEVA MOBILE APP

The mPassport Seva Mobile App with additional facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services is available both in Android and iOS platforms. In the year 2019, 3.94 lakh applications were filed using the mPassport Seva Mobile App. Citizens would not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services. The mPassport Seva App will now support enhanced set of passport services such as:

- i. New User Registration
- ii. Sign In to Registered User Account
- iii. Application form filing to apply for Passport and Police Clearance Certificate
- iv. Pay for Passport Services
- v. Appointment Scheduling
- vi. Application Availability Status
- vii. Document Advisor
- viii. Fee Calculator

APPLYING FROM ANYWHERE IN INDIA

An applicant can now apply for passport from anywhere in India. This initiative enables applicants to choose the Passport Office (PO) and thus the desired Passport Seva Kendra (PSK)/ Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) under the PO where they wish to submit their application irrespective of whether the present residential address specified in the application form lies within the jurisdiction of the selected PO or not.

Police verification would be conducted by the Police Station in whose jurisdiction the address mentioned in the form falls and the passport will also be printed and dispatched at the same address by the PO selected for application submission by the applicant. Nearly 9 lakh applications were submitted under this scheme during the calendar year 2019.

APPOINTMENTS

The Ministry releases nearly 78,000 appointments per day, including nearly 19,500 appointments at the 424 POPSK. Securing online appointments for submission of passport applications at PSK has been simplified. The current provision is allowing applicants to choose any appointment date from the earliest five available dates (working days) for scheduling/ rescheduling an

appointment for passport related services. It has made the process of issuing passport easy and quick.

As on 31.12.2019, appointments were available the next working day at 355 Passport Kendras, between 2 and 7 working days at 104 Passport Kendras, and beyond 7 working days at 58 Passport Kendras.

VOLUME OF APPLICATIONS

Top five states in terms of number of passport applications received were Maharashtra (13,56,903), Kerala (12,89,709), Tamil Nadu (11,15,725), Uttar Pradesh (10,65,996) and Punjab (10,35,439), accounting for nearly half of the total applications received (1,18,54,498) country-wide till 31 December 2019.

Top five Passport Offices in terms of number of applications received in the year 2019 were Mumbai (8,37,846), Bengaluru (7,95,980), Chandigarh (7,15,153), Ahmedabad (6,91,794) and Delhi (6,64,215) till 31 December, 2019.

PASSPORT SEVA CAMPS AND MELAS

Passport Seva camps are organized at locations to cater to the demand for passports and to reach out to people located far away from the PSK/ POPSK. Seven camps were organized in the year 2019, including to facilitate submission of passport applications by pilgrims visiting Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan. 1655 passport applications were processed during such camps.

The Passport Offices also organized Weekend Passport Melas to address difficulties faced by citizens in obtaining appointments and to meet increased demand for passport services. Up to December 2019, 159 Passport Melas were organized during which a total of 61,123 passport applications were processed.

STUDENT CONNECT INITIATIVE

“Student Connect” initiative is aimed at getting more students to apply for their passports in time, and at the same time, make them aware of e-Governance initiatives. As part of this initiative, joint MEA and teams from the Service Provider continue to spread awareness through presentations and Q&A sessions

with students of various educational institutions across India. The initiative has been welcomed and praised by several educational institutions for providing a platform to young generation for getting their passport in an easy and convenient manner.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Passport Seva Project has received recognition at the highest levels in the Government, has been the subject of case studies, and has won several awards, including the following conferred in the year 2019:

(i) On 21 June 2019, Passport Seva Project was certified with triple ISO certification by

Standardization Testing & Quality Certification, STQC Directorate, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY):

- ISO 9001-2015 - PSK Operations for Delivery of Passport Services to the Citizens
- ISO/IEC - 20000-1:2011 - Information Technology Service Management System

- ISO/IEC - 27001: 2013 - Information Security Management System
- (ii) On 6 November 2019, the Ministry received the “Digital Transformation Award, 2019” for the

Passport Seva Project in the category “Special Achievement - G2C Services Award” from GovernanceNow.



OUTREACH OF PASSPORT SERVICES

A. Passport Seva Kendras (PSK)

The Ministry has taken steps to simplify the procedure for getting passports by the general public. These involve simplification of the passport rules and outreach to the people in the delivery of passport related services. The objective of the Government has been to cater to the demand for passports and to reach out to the people located far away from the Passport Offices. Towards this end, the Ministry has opened 16 PSK since May 2014 which includes all the States in the North East of India. There are 93 PSK functioning in the country as on 31 December, 2019. The list of the 36 Passport Offices is at **Annexure-I** and these 93 PSK is at **Annexure-II**.

B. Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK)

The Ministry, in association with the Department of

Posts (DOP), announced an innovative initiative on 24 January, 2017 to open Passport Seva Kendras at the Head Post Offices (HPO)/ Post Offices (PO) in the country called ‘Post Office Passport Seva Kendra’ (POPSK). The Ministry has functionalized 424 POPSK till 31 December 2019 as per list at Annexure-III.

The POPSK are functioning like the other existing PSK. The process of issuing passports has not changed after the opening of the POPSK. Applicants, who apply for their passports online through the passport portal, can 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. The photographs, biometrics and the supporting documents would be electronically captured at the POPSK and the applicant will not have to revisit them prior to the issue of the Passport.

More than 21.82 lakh passport applications have been processed at these POPSKs during 2019.

C. Integration of Indian Missions/ Posts abroad into the PSP

The process of integrating the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad into the PSP commenced in October 2018 and is continuing today. The aim is to provide a centralized passport issuance platform and application for the Indian citizens living abroad and seeking Passport-related services. The Ministry has successfully integrated the passport issuance systems in 50 Missions and

Posts in 25 countries, viz., Australia, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, UAE, UK, USA, Vietnam into the PSP. The list of the integrated Missions/ Posts is at **Annexure-IV**. These Missions/ Post issue more than 90% of the total passports abroad. The Ministry is working to complete the integration of all Indian Missions/ Posts abroad at the earliest.

POLICE VERIFICATION

Police Verification plays an important role in the timely issuance of passports. The Ministry engaged closely with the Police Departments across States/Union Territories (UT) to speed up police verification. The all-India average for the number of days taken to complete the police verification is now 16 days and about 87% of the PVs get completed within the desired time limit of 21 days.

Some States/UT have consistently maintained low Police Verification processing times. For example, Andhra Pradesh completes police verification in just three days and Telangana & Haryana in four days on an average, followed by Kerala & Tamil Nadu (five days each), Gujarat (ten days) and Chandigarh & Himachal Pradesh (eleven days). Constant and concerted efforts by the Ministry have resulted in increasing number of Districts switching over to the preferred District Police Headquarters (DPHQ) Verification Model. So far, 741, out of the 764 Police Districts, have adopted the new system and are working on the District model.

The Ministry has launched Android-based **mPassport Police** app for end-to-end paperless digital flow. The app has the capability to capture passport applicant's personal particulars and photograph and transmit the

same electronically to concerned stakeholders. The app would also capture the location co-ordinates of the applicant's place of residence ensuring the authenticity of the field verification by police. 196 DPHQs are using **mPassport Police application**. Till 31 December 2019, a total of 63,37,649 applications have been submitted through mobile app since inception of the police app.

Functional Enhancements/Simplification of Procedures for realizing Minimum Government Maximum Governance

- (a) Signing of passports with 'Ink Signature' has been replaced with 'Stamped Signature' at Indian Missions/Posts abroad working on Global Passport Seva Project (GPSP). This will reduce the manpower engaged in manually signing the passports.
- (b) Passport Issuing Authorities will accept educational certificates of recognized International Education Organizations such as International Baccalaureate Certificate or Middle Year Programme, International Baccalaureate Diploma, IGCSE/GCSE Certificate, Cambridge International Systems (O & A Level); for issue of Non-ECR (Emigration Check Not Required) passport.

- (c) Comprehensive review has been done of provisions relating to issue of passport to applicants facing criminal proceedings and issue of guidelines on how such applications need to be processed.
- (d) The application form of Police Clearance Certificate has been revised to provide specific purpose and name of country for which Police Clearance Certificate is required by the applicants.
- (e) For issue of passport under the Tatkaal scheme, the rules/ requirements have been amended as under:
 - (i) Aadhaar Card, which was earlier an essential document for obtaining passport under Tatkaal scheme, stands listed now as one of the optional documents.
 - (ii) Aadhaar letter will not be acceptable as documentary proof for issue of passport.
 - (iii) Last passport (for re-issue only) and PAN Card have also been prescribed for applicants below the age of 18 years, for the purpose of obtaining passport under Tatkaal scheme.
 - (iv) Submission of Annexure 'E' for obtaining passport under Tatkaal scheme has been done away with.
 - (v) The scheme "Out of Turn Issue of Fresh Passport under Normal Scheme without paying any additional Tatkaal fee" has been discontinued.

PASSPORT SEVA DIVAS AND PASSPORT OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2019

The 7th Passport Seva Divas and the Annual Passport Officers Conference was organized by the Ministry on 24-25 June 2019 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan, New Delhi. This is celebrated annually in commemoration of the enactment of the Passports Act, 1967 on 24th June 1967. External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr. S. Jaishankar, presided over the high-level segment of these events on 24 June, 2019. Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, interacted with the Passport Officers on the eve of the Passport Officers Conference.

In his Keynote Address, EAM said that the last five years of passport services delivered by the Ministry constituted a "Passport Revolution", adding that the mandate of the Ministry was to ensure good governance and a transparent, efficient, timely, effective, reliable, assured, and an accountable public service delivery system. While thanking the Hon'ble

Minister of Communications and the Department of Posts for enabling MEA in opening of several Post Office Passport Seva Kendras since 2017, EAM said that the partnership with the Department of Posts was indeed a wonderful example of the best practices in citizen-centric governance.

EAM felicitated all the Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad for striving to ensure transparent and efficient passport delivery systems for the benefit of our citizens. In recognition of the outstanding services rendered to citizens, EAM gave away Passport Seva Puraskars to the best performing Passport Offices, the officials of the Department of Posts and the personnel of the Service Provider. Awards were also given to the Police Departments of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana in recognition of their efforts in providing speedy police clearances.

PUBLIC GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM

Under the Passport Seva Project, MEA 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 handled approximately 15,000 calls per day in the year 2019 (out of which 55% were in Hindi, 25% in English and 24% in regional languages). 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 PSP Division under the supervision of Joint Secretary (PSP) & CPO, 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 and Central Vigilance Commission, etc. In addition, all Passport

Offices (POs) handle public grievances through the CPGRAMS website of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (<https://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 PO and PSK to assist applicants and to attend to grievances/ complaints expeditiously. The name, address and phone number of the Public Grievance Officer are also displayed in the PO/PSK and on the website of the PO. There is a Public Grievance redressal mechanism in all POs to enquire into and redress any complaints from citizens in a timeframe.

Under CPGRAMS, 13,034 grievances were received during the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (inclusive of pending 633 of 2018) out of which 12,617 grievances have been disposed off. During this period, 58,580 public grievance petitions (inclusive of 44,479 received by email, post, fax, related to grievances/inquiries and CPGRAMS as mentioned above) were received out of which 58,101 grievances have been disposed off. The latest position on their application, along with directions for further action, is posted on the website, which can be accessed by the public.

PASSPORT ADALATS

Passport Offices hold Passport Adalats regularly to redress the grievances of passport applicants. These Adalats have been very useful in disposing of some

7000 old and complex cases through direct interaction with the applicants in 2017.

HAJ PILGRIMS

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 Passport Issuing

Authorities to accord high priority to process passport applications of prospective Hajj pilgrims and ensure timely issuance of passports in such cases upon completion of requisite documentation, police verification and other formalities by means of nominating a nodal officer,

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 as well as PSK and POPSK in various States are inspected regularly with a view to improving their procedural and operational efficiency and ability to render citizen-centric services in satisfactory manner. During the year, five passport offices have

been inspected. Passport Seva Kendras, in operation all over India, were also inspected under the Non-technical Serviced Level Agreements (SLA) on regular basis.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT (RTI)

Central Public Information Officer and First Appellate Authority have been appointed in every Passport Office to provide information to applicants under the RTI Act. Central Public Information Officers have also been appointed in the PSP Division. Joint Secretary (PSP) & Chief Passport Officer (CPO) is the First Appellate

Authority for the matters related to the PSP Division in the Ministry only. From 17 June 2014, a CPIO portal has been created online in all Passport Offices. During the year 2019, a total number of 8,000 online RTI applications were received, out of which 7,542 were disposed off.

APPEALS (U/S 11 OF THE PASSPORTS ACT)

The appeal against the decisions of PIAs is a statutory right conferred upon the affected persons under Section 11 of the Passports Act. Joint Secretary (PSP)

& Chief Passport Officer is the Appellate Authority for these cases. Up to December 2019, 14 appeal sessions took place at which 98 appellants/counsels were heard.

MANUFACTURING AND PERSONALIZATION OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

All Indian travel documents are manufactured by the India Security Press, Nashik, which a unit under the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL). In order to improve the overall quality, functionality and security of Indian passports, various measures have been taken. Passport booklets

in new design and layout have been introduced in Passport Offices in a phased manner. 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 163 Embassies/Consulates 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 PSP

Division, New Delhi. CIPPS printed 1,50,094 passports up to December 2019 (inclusive of 587 diplomatic passports and 423 official passports). 3,29,369 OCI cards were also personalized during the year at CIPPS/OCI Cell and Missions abroad.

E-PASSPORT

In accordance with ICAO recommendations to incorporate biometric data in the Machine Readable Travel Documents, India has also decided to upgrade its existing passports and issue chip enabled e-passports to citizens with advanced security features and better printing and paper quality. The Government has given its approval for procurement of electronic contactless inlays for manufacturing of e-passports to India Security Press (ISP), Nashik. In this regard, ISP, Nashik, 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 with advanced security features and better printing and paper quality will commence on the successful completion of the tendering and procurement process by ISP, Nashik.

The personal particulars of the applicants would be digitally signed and stored in the chip. In case, anyone tampers with the chip, the system shall be able to identify it resulting in the failure of the passport authentication. Access of information is protected in a way that the chip cannot be read without physical possession of the passport. Thus e-passport provides greater protection against fraudulent practices and tampering.

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 participated in the 26th Meeting of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) Board held in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 29-30 October, 2019.

CENTRAL PASSPORT ORGANIZATION

The Central Passport Organization (CPO) was created in 1959 as a Subordinate Office of the Ministry and is headed by Joint Secretary and Chief Passport Officer, who also acts as Appellate Authority under the Passports Act 1967 and the Head of Department under the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules 1978.

As on 1 January 2020, the sanctioned strength of CPO was 2741 and the working strength was 1838. In addition, 15 Technical and 6 supporting staff man the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Passport Seva Project. There are presently 53 vacancies at Group 'A' level, 273 at Group 'B' Gazetted level and 577 at Group 'B' non-Gazetted & Group 'C' level, totalling to 903. The vacancies at Group 'A' level are filled up by taking officers on deputation from other Government Departments. Ministry has also deployed 370 Data Entry Operators and 60 Office Assistants (MTS) against the vacant non-Gazetted posts for smooth functioning of the Passport Offices through an Outsourced Agency to bridge the gap between the sanctioned strength and the working strength of the non-Gazetted posts. The Staff Selection Commission has been indented to fill the vacancies for the posts of 31 Junior Translators, 6 Stenographers (Grade 'D') and 24 Office Assistant (MTS) grade.

The Ministry has taken several steps to improve the service conditions of the CPO personnel by restructuring and expanding of the CPO cadre, to ensure that vacant posts available are filled by faster promotion with necessary amendments/ downgrading of posts/ relaxation in eligibility service in the Recruitment Rules. The Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme (PLIS) financially incentivizes individual performance measured against pre-set and mutually agreed upon norms. This is a unique scheme for the GOI employees. With a view to recognizing meritorious services

rendered by CPO employees and thus, contributing to improving governance in the country, Passport Seva Puraskars have been instituted. The Puraskars are given away annually to the selected employees of Passport Offices during the Passport Officers Conference every year.

Regular meetings of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) have been held in the CPO during the year. As on 1 January 2020, 17 Deputy Passport Officers from Assistant Passport Officers, 32 Senior Superintendent from Superintendent, 1 Superintendent from Assistant Superintendent, and 7 Assistant Superintendent from Senior Passport Assistants have been promoted. DPCs for the posts of Senior Superintendent from Superintendent, and Junior Passport Assistant from Office Assistants are going to be held. DPC proposals for promotion of Passport Officer from Deputy Passport Officer, and Assistant Passport Officer from Senior Superintendent have been submitted to the Union Public Service Commission. Thirty one officials of CPO were considered for MACP in different grades. Out of 31, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Stenographer, 5 Senior Passport Assistant, 4 Junior Passport Assistant and 4 Office Assistants have been given MACP.

In view of the 100% increase in the Passport applications processed by the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) from 2010 to 2019 through a network of 36 Passport Offices, 93 Passport Seva Kendras, and 424 POPSs, need has been felt for Cadre restructuring and reviewing the cadre strength of the CPO. A proposal for the physical inspection and staffing study of CPO by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Department of Expenditure has been sent to the Ministry of Finance in November 2019.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

As part of expanding its outreach, the PSP Division is bringing out a half-yearly bulletin “Passport Patrika”, containing information on various passport-related issues, in association with the Service Provider.

Interaction with local Media was also organized by many Passport Offices, whereby media was briefed on improvements in delivery of passport services.



EAM lighting the lamp at the Celebration of 7th Passport Seva Divas at JNB, New Delhi, June 24, 2019



External Affairs Ministers, Dr. S. Jaishankar, inaugurates the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra at Rajpipla Head Post Office in Narmada District, Gujarat on 14.09.2019



Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, inaugurating the POPOSK at Nenmara, Palakkad District, Kerala on 05.10.2019

VISAS

Visa Issuance by Missions/Posts abroad

The Indian Mission/Posts abroad issued 20,91,282 regular visas during April 1, 2019 to November 30, 2019. Apart from regular visas, 18,36,910 electronic Visas (e-Visas) were issued during the aforementioned period.

Visa Issuance by CPV Division- The CPV division is tasked, inter-alia, with issuance/ extension of visas to diplomats and official of foreign Missions. CPV division has issued/extended 4018 visas to foreign diplomatic and official passport holders during April-November 2019.

During the same period, 6120 Visa Notes have been issued by CPV Division to India Government officials going abroad on transfer and official engagements.

Visa -on-Arrival

Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) was introduced for Japanese nationals in March 2016 and for nationals of South Korea in October 2018. The VoA facility offers double entry visa to above nationals for a period not exceeding 60 days for business, tourism, conference and medical purposes for entry through 6 designated international

airports. In November 2019, VoA facility was extended to nationals of United Arab Emirates (UAE) who have earlier obtained e-Visa/regular visa for travelling to India at-least once.

e-Tourist Visa (e-TV)

The Government of India had launched the e-Visa scheme on November 27, 2014. Initially the scheme was open for e-Tourist visas for 43 countries and entry was allowed through five designated airports. During the last five years, the scheme has been gradually liberalized and extended to other countries. Presently, the scheme is applicable to 169 Countries/Territories. Entry/exit is allowed through 28 Indian airports and 5 Indian sea ports. The scheme is being implemented in completely online mode. In March 2019, e-Visa was extended to other visa categories including Business, Medical, Conference and Medical Attendant. In August 2019, further liberalization in e-Visa regime has been made. Duration of e-Tourist visa has been extended to 5 years and new categories of e-Tourist visa of three month duration (with stay of 30 days) at a reduced fee has been introduced. The fee of 3-month e-Tourist visa has been further reduced in off season month (April-

June). The share of e-visas with respect to normal paper visas is growing over the last few years and is around 46 % for 2019.

Visa- Exemption Agreements

India has signed visa waiver agreements in respect of diplomatic and/or official passport holders with 114 countries, out of which 101 are presently operational while the remaining are at various stages of ratification. During this period, visa exemption agreements were signed with 7 countries Benin, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Iceland, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and Comoros. Visa Waiver Agreement is also proposed to be signed with Liechtenstein, Grenada, Sierra Leone and Angola in the next 3 months.

EXTRADITION

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been actively pursuing negotiations with various countries for concluding bilateral extradition treaties to provide a legal and institutional framework to prosecute people involved in 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 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. To facilitate extradition of fugitive offenders, Government of India has signed extradition treaties with 50 countries as on date. Besides, Extradition arrangements has been entered into with 11 countries. India made an extradition arrangement with Armenia with effect from 28 August, 2019. During April to November 2019, India received 15 extradition requests, and has sent 24 extradition requests to concerned foreign countries. In the year 2019, six fugitive criminals were extradited by

foreign countries to India and three fugitive criminals were extradited by India to various foreign countries.

CONSULAR DIALOGUES

As part of the established mechanism for comprehensive review of consular matters with various countries, Consular dialogues were held with Iran, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Nigeria and Russia, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland in 2019. Out of these, Consular dialogues with Indonesia, Tajikistan, Nigeria and Canada were held for the first time. At present, India has Consular dialogue mechanism with 24 countries. *Consular Dialogue was held with the US on January 9, 2020 in Washington DC. Consular Dialogues is also proposed to be held with France and Italy in February 2020.*

CONSULAR ISSUES

Indian Missions/Posts abroad render various consular services to Indian nationals viz attestation of various documents, registration of birth and death of Indian nationals, sending of mortal remains of Indian nationals back to India, registration/solemnisation 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. Open Houses to attend to grievances and Consular Camps at different locations to provide consular services are also organized by many Missions/Posts. In Gulf countries where there are large numbers of Indian workers, our Missions and Posts have specialized Community Welfare Wings and Labour Wings.

APOSTILLE/ATTESTATION

The Attestation Cell in the CPV Division of the Ministry provides 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. Over 2,75,000 documents have been successfully processed on e-Sanad since its launch in 2017- the online paperless and contactless services for apostille/attestation provided by MEA. The details of documents apostilled/attested from April to November 2019 are: (i) Apostille - 480552 (ii) Attestation - 410483 (iii) Documents Apostilled/Attested through e-Sanad - 156162.

MADAD-CONSULAR SERVICES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In pursuance of 'Good Governance' and 'Digital India' initiative of the Government, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had launched a web portal (online Consular Services Management System) named MADAD in February 2015, to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. All Indian Missions and Posts abroad as well as the MEA' Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata are associated with this portal for consular grievance registration and resolution. Many States

have also appointed MADAD nodal officers and are sensitizing people in their state about the availability of such a grievance redressal platform.

The MADAD online portal has led to qualitative improvement in handling and resolution of consular grievances, through online registration, 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 of November 2019, more than 55,000 grievances have been registered on the MADAD Portal, out of which 48000 grievances have been resolved.

OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA (OCI) CARD SCHEME

Government of India launched the Overseas Citizenship of India card scheme in August 2005 for persons of Indian Origin. OCI card is a lifelong visa for visiting India. The erstwhile Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card scheme which was started in the year 1999 was merged with OCI scheme in 2015. Till date, more than 34 lakh OCI cards have been issued. The total number of OCI Cards issued during the period April to November, 2019 is 225522.

21

OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF INDIAN WORKERS

The steps taken by the Division towards creating necessary awareness and sensitizing migrant workers on their rights and responsibilities include:

(i) **Pre-Departure Orientation Programme** - Pre Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programme, started since January 2018, is aimed at enhancing soft skills of our migrant workers in terms of culture, language, tradition and local rules and regulations of the destination country, to sensitize migrant workers about pathways to safe and legal migration and

various government programmes for their welfare and protection.

During the course of the year, sustained efforts have been made to increase PDO training coverage of migrant workers going abroad. Presently, over 79,500 emigrant workers have been imparted PDO training across 21 centers as on 13.1.2020. Out of these 21 centers, 15 new PDO centers have been opened across various states in India in 2019. The list of PDOT Centers is as follows:-

S.N.	PDOT Center	Agency	Year of Opening
1.	Mumbai (Videsh Bhawan)	NSDC Empanelled Training Partners	2018
2.	Mumbai (Andheri)		2018
3.	Delhi (Mandir Marg)		2018
4.	Delhi (Okhla)		2018
5.	Kochi		2018
6.	Lucknow		2018
7.	Gorakhpur		2019
8.	Chandigarh		2019
9.	Chennai		2019
10.	Jaipur	RSLDC (Rajasthan)	2019
11.	Sikar		2019
12.	Nagpur		2019
13.	Hyderabad	TOMCOM (Telangana)	2019
14.	Karimnagar		2019
15.	Nizamabad		2019
16.	Darbhanga	Labour Resource Dept, Government of Bihar	2019
17.	Gaya		2019
18.	Muzaffarpur		2019
19.	Patna		2019
20.	Vijayawada	OMCAP (Andhra Pradesh)	2019
21.	Kadapa		2019

(ii) **Development of e-Manuals and e-Handbooks for PDO:** During the course of the year e-books of PDO Manuals for Master Trainers and Handbooks for emigrants workers with a standardized content have been developed in Hindi, English, Bangla, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu languages under the aegis of India Centre for Migration (ICM). These E-books have been uploaded on e-Migrate website for wider public dissemination.

(iii) **Expanding collaboration with States on PDOT and Safe and Legal Migration:** Comprehensive emphasis

was given in expanding Ministry's collaboration with States. In this context, the Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshops are being organized by the Ministry in collaboration with India Centre for Migration (ICM) and state governments. These are aimed at generating awareness as well as to sensitize participants about the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration and welfare and protection measures of the Ministry for the migrant workers. TOT programmes are aimed at capacity building of States to enable them to take the PDO programmes at the grass-root level in their major labour sending districts.

Since March 2017, twenty such workshops have been organized in nine states i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar

Pradesh and West Bengal in coordination with the concerned Departments of the State Government.

During year 2019-20, a total of 5 such workshops have been held so far:

S. No.	State	City	Partners	Partner
1.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	21-22 February 2019	ICM, NRT Commissionerate
2.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	29-30 August 2019	NORKA Dept
3.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	25 September 2019	NRT Commissionerate
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	4 October 2019	NRI Dept, UP Govt
5.	Delhi	New Delhi	24-25 October 2019	ICM, NSDC

MIGRATION AND MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS

Migration and Mobility Partnerships has been an important pillar of cooperation aimed at harnessing our demographic dividend and fostering mobility for our students, academicians, researchers, professionals, businesses etc. A Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on 10th March 2018 during the State visit of the French President to India.

This year, Statement of Intent on Key Elements of

Indo-German Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement has been finalized. Reference to this was also made in para 57 of the joint statement of 5th India-Germany Inter Governmental Consultation (IGC) held on 1 November 2019 at New Delhi, wherein it has been stated that “The leaders agreed that the two sides take forward the ongoing negotiations on a Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between the two governments with a view to finalize the agreement and conclude them at the earliest, based on the Statement of Intent.”

INDIA-EU JOINT DECLARATION ON COMMON AGENDA ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (CAMM) AND HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (HLDMM)

The Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) between India and the European Union and its Member States was signed on March 29, 2016. CAMM is largely a broad and flexible vision document on the issue of migration and mobility for both sides. India-EU High Level Dialogue on

Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) provides an overall steering mechanism for implementation of the CAMM. After signing of the Joint Declaration on CAMM, the meeting of HLDMM was held in Brussels in April 2017, which paved the way for moving forward through technical collaboration and undertaking projects in

the areas of mutual interest. Accordingly, a Technical Support Project was initiated for undertaking mutually agreed activities on the issue of migration and mobility. CAMM and HLDMM constitute important feature of India-EU bilateral partnership on migration and mobility related matters.

In the fifth meeting of India-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) held on 11 July 2019 in New Delhi, both sides reaffirmed the importance of HLDMM and Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), which shall serve as a joint framework for cooperation on migration and mobility for both sides and need to operationalise each pillar of CAMM with concrete measures under the

ongoing support project.

The main activities which have been carried out under the project this year include India-EU Seminar on Talent Mobility (June 14-15, 2019 at Pune, Maharashtra), which focused on three sectors (IT industry; automotive industry and start-ups) vis-à-vis mobility of professionals, businesses and entrepreneurs along the India-EU corridor; Seminar on Sharing of Good Practices on Migration Governance (July 10, 2019) at New Delhi; Integration handbook for Indians in Italy (English, Hindi and Punjabi) and Student Check List (for Indian students wishing to undertake higher studies in the universities of the EU Member States) were also released during this period.

COOPERATION ON LABOUR AND MANPOWER RELATED ISSUES

A Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement was signed between India and Denmark on 2009 and the first JWG was held in 2010. The third Joint Working Group meeting was held on 4-5 November 2019 at New Delhi, wherein it was agreed by both sides to explore possibilities for implementation of MOU through mutual recognition of skill qualifications and certifications; B2B collaboration between Danish employers and GOI recognised Recruitment Agencies and Training Partners; collaboration between Indian business chambers, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Danish Industry and labour market actors and associations etc.

The Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. Further, to safeguard the specific interest of domestic workers in GCC Countries, Ministry has in place Agreement on recruitment of domestic workers with Saudi Arabia, a Protocol on Domestic Workers annexed to the MoU with the UAE in the field of Manpower and MoU on cooperation in recruitment of domestic workers with Kuwait. India also actively participated in regional consultative processes notably the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Colombo Process.

ABU DHABI DIALOGUE (ADD)

ADD was established in 2008 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asian countries of labour origin and destination to facilitate regional cooperation on contractual labour mobility, sharing of best experiences and learning from one another's experience. India has been member of ADD since 2008.

Sh V Muraleedharan, Minister of State led Indian delegation in the Fifth Ministerial Consultation of ADD, which was held on 16-17 October 2019 in Dubai. During this Ministerial Consultation, Sh V Muraleedharan, Minister of State along with Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource and Emiratization

(MOHRE), UAE jointly felicitated the foreign employer from UAE (NBTC Group) and 5 Indian workers, who have travelled to UAE for employment. Their skill-set was certified by the concerned agencies in both countries, namely NSDC in India and ADQCC in UAE under the ongoing India-UAE collaboration on benchmarking of skill qualifications, assessment and certification, a pilot project under one of the thematic areas of ADD.

During the Fifth Ministerial Consultation of ADD,

Sh V Muraleedharan, Minister of State also apprised ADD Member States about ongoing integration between India's e-Migrate system with online labour recruitment system of MOHRE, UAE which would facilitate information sharing on real-time basis and enhance opportunities to strengthen joint government oversight over recruitment processes. This is also a pilot project under one of the thematic areas of ADD.

INDIAN COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND (ICWF)

ICWF, set up in 2009, is aimed at assisting Overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency in the most deserving cases on a means tested basis. ICWF stands extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. The revision of ICWF guidelines w.e.f. September 1, 2017 have provided Indian Missions and Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing to requests for assistance by Indian nationals abroad.

During the course of the year, ICWF was effectively

used in rendering assistance to Indian nationals in distress situations abroad including provision for emergency medical assistance, air passage to stranded Indians, legal assistance, boarding & lodging, assistance to Indian women facing marital issues and transfer of mortal remains to India. Since its inception, there are over 145,000 beneficiaries of the Fund. Around 100,000 Indian nationals have benefited from the Fund since 2014.

PRAVASI BHARTIYA BIMA YOJANA

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY), a mandatory insurance scheme for Indian workers falling under Emigration Check Required (ECR) category going for overseas employment to ECR countries, provide insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs in case of accidental death/permanent disability at an insurance premium of Rs. 275 and Rs. 375 for a period of two and three years respectively. The scheme comprehensively

revamped w.e.f. August 1, 2017 in consultation with concerned stakeholders, had been made simple and more beneficial for emigrant workers and is aimed at expeditious settlement of claims.

Over 3,68,000 PBBY policies were issued to ECR category workers during January to December, 2019.

INDIA CENTRE FOR MIGRATION (ICM)

The India Centre for Migration (ICM) is a research think-tank of the Ministry on all matters related to international migration. As a part of its commitment

on issues concerning international migration, the ICM organized various capacity building workshops on safe and legal migration in collaboration with State

Governments. ICM has positioned itself as a resource hub on all PDO programmes and has developed Comprehensive Manual on Pre-Departure Orientation for Migrant Workers and Handbook on Pre-Departure Orientation in different regional languages.

This year, under India-EU CAMM project, ICM in collaboration with ILO organised India-EU Seminar on Talent Mobility (June 14-15, 2019 at Pune, Maharashtra), with focus on three sectors (IT industry; automotive industry and start-ups) vis-à-vis mobility of professionals, businesses and entrepreneurs along the India-EU corridor and Seminar on Sharing of Good Practices on Migration Governance (July 10, 2019) at New Delhi with discussions on all pillars of CAMM. ICM also organised Listening Session of European Higher Education Virtual Fair (EHEVF-2019) at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi in coordination with ILO and ICMPD on 14-15 November 2019. ICM also developed e-books of the Comprehensive Manual on Pre-Departure Orientation for Migrant Workers and

Handbook on Pre-Departure Orientation. The e-books have been uploaded on e Migrate website.

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. 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. Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holders require emigration clearance when going abroad for employment to the 18 designated ECR countries.

Opening of Three New PoE Office:- Under the Hundred Days/ one-year Programme of the Ministry, three Protector of Emigrant (PoE) offices were planned to be opened at Bengaluru, Guwahati and Patna. Two officers selected for the post of PoEs in Patna and Bengaluru and have joined the offices.

TRENDS IN MIGRATION

During the year 2019 (30.11.2019), 3.34 lakh workers emigrated from India after obtaining emigration clearance. Country-wise numbers of emigration clearances given for emigration to major ECR countries during the current year are given in the table below.

Workers e-Migrated (In lakhs)

SL. No.	Name of Countries	Year-2019 (30.11.2019)
1	Saudi Arabia	1.43
2	UAE	0.72
3	Kuwait	0.42
4	Qatar	0.28
5	Oman	0.26

SL. No.	Name of Countries	Year-2019 (30.11.2019)
6	Bahrain	0.09
7	Malaysia	0.10
8	Others	0.04
	Total	3.34

States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Telangana, were the leading States in order of the numbers who emigrated. The number of persons emigrated from these States during the year 2019 (30.11.2019) are depicted in the Pie Chart below.

PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2020

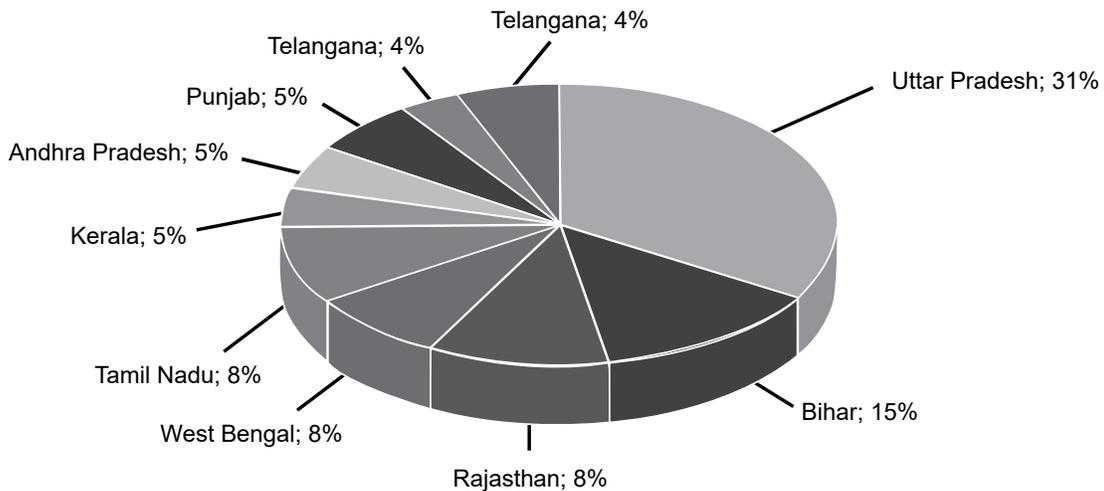
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2020 was celebrated at New Delhi on 9 January 2020. External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V.Muraleedharan attended the celebrations. Following his keynote address, EAM

interacted with Indian diaspora in Perth, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Doha, Port Louis, London, Paramaribo and New York through the medium of video conferencing.

12TH KNOW GOA PROGRAMME

The 12th Know Goa Programme as held from 4-18 January 2020. Seven Goan Diaspora Youth from Australia, Canada, Portugal and UK participated in the

programme jointly organized by Government of Goa and MEA.



22

PROTOCOL

Protocol Division comprises of seven sections viz. Protocol-I, 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 (Ceremonial) is mandated to handle incoming visits of Head of States/Head of Governments/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 representatives in Delhi and in different states of the country; finalizing 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 organizations recognized under Article 3 of the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) 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 section's work domain includes providing protocol facilities to Heads of Missions on their first

arrival and final departure; arranging Credential Ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhawan, where incoming Heads of Missions handover their Credential papers to the Rashtrapatiji; facilitating Heads of Missions and diplomats (wherever applicable) during Republic Day, Independence Day, Joint Session of Parliament, Swearing-in Ceremony of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Yoga Day etc.; processing permanent Airport Entry passes every year with respect to foreign diplomatic missions/posts in India subject to reciprocity, which is determined after obtaining and scrutinizing inputs from all our missions/posts abroad; approval for establishing new Consulates General, Deputy High Commissions, Trade Offices, Cultural Centers; appointment of Honorary Consuls, Consuls General, Deputy High Commissions (Head of Posts for Commonwealth countries) of foreign countries and preparing Exequaturs/Gazette Notification thereafter; processing approval of installation Satellite Earth Stations in foreign mission premises; processing approval regarding awards given by foreign countries to Indian Officials; appointment of Defense Attaches and defense personnel in foreign diplomatic missions; processing for approval of creation of new diplomatic or official posts in foreign diplomatic missions; arranging Chief Guest for National Days of foreign countries celebrated by foreign missions in India and ensuring protocol guidelines are maintained in the venue; forwarding messages from VVIP (President, Vice President, Prime Minister, EAM) to Heads of States and Heads of Government of foreign countries. Onward transmission of Messages from Heads of States and Heads of Government of foreign countries to President, Vice President, Prime Minister, EAM and Government of India Officials; handling court cases pertaining to payment related disputes between foreign diplomatic missions and Indian local staff and courtesy requests by HOM/HOPs.

Protocol Housing section is responsible for the maintenance of upkeep of the Hyderabad House in cooperation with the horticulture, civil and electrical wings of CPWD. This includes repair and maintenance works of electrical/civil/horticulture. In addition, this section also handles processing of payment to 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 Services (MES) and CPWD and assisting the diplomatic missions regarding services like NDMC, MCD, DDA, MTNL etc. Further, for last few years, this section has also been coordinating with various stakeholders on upcoming second Diplomatic Enclave Project in Dwarka, New Delhi.

In 2019, Protocol-I Section handled 102 incoming/outgoing visits at the level of Head of State, Vice President, Head of Government and Foreign Minister (as on 31 December 2019).

Protocol-I Section coordinated participation of 6 Foreign Ministers in RAISINA Dialogue in January 2019, 8 HOSs/HOGs in Swearing-in-Ceremony of the Prime Minister in May 2019 and Foreign Minister of Indonesia and other dignitaries in XI Delhi Dialogue in December 2019.

In addition, Protocol-I Section handled 320 entertainment functions (as on 31 December 2019) and facilitated an average of 180 requests per week for airport passes, lounges (ceremonial and reserved) and exemption from frisking.

PROTOCOL-I SECTION

CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF VISITS

Visits Head	Number
State Visits by Head of State/Head of Government	10
Official Working Visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and equivalent	16
Private/Transit visits by Head of State/Head of Government/Vice President and equivalent	4
Official visits by Foreign Minister and equivalent	26
Outgoing visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister	20
Outgoing visits of Minister of External Affairs	26
Total	102

CALENDAR OF VISITS

State Visits by Head of State/Head of Government

S.N.	Country	Dates
1.	State Visit of Prime Minister of Norway	January 07-09, 2019
2.	State Visit of President of the Republic of South Africa	January 25-26, 2019
3.	State Visit of President of Argentina	February 17-19, 2019
4.	State Visit of The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	February 19-20, 2019
5.	State Visit of President of Zambia	August 20-22, 2019
6.	State Visit of President of Mongolia	September 19-23, 2019
7.	State Visit of His Majesty King William-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	October 13-18, 2019
8.	State Visit of German Chancellor	October 31 - November 02, 2019
9.	State Visit of President of Sri Lanka	November 28-30, 2019
10.	State Visit of King and Queen of Sweden	December 01-06, 2019

Official Visits by Head of State/Head of Government /Vice President and Equivalent

S.N.	Country	Dates
1.	Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius	January 20-28,2019
2.	HSH of Monaco	February 04-10, 2019
3.	VP of Ghana (CII - EXIM Bank Conclave)	March 16-20, 2019
4.	PM of Guinea (CII - EXIM Bank Conclave)	March 16-27, 2019

S.N.	Country	Dates
5-12.	Swearing-in-Ceremony of the Prime Minister President of Bangladesh President of Kyrgyz Republic President of Sri Lanka President of Myanmar Prime Minister of Mauritius Prime Minister of Bhutan Prime Minister of Nepal Special Envoy of Thailand	29 May - 1 June, 2019
13.	Visit of Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines	September 08-11, 2019
14.	Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh	October 03-06, 2019
15.	Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Kolkata	November 22, 2019
16.	Visit of Prime Minister of Portugal	December 19-20, 2019

Private Visits by Head of State/Head of Government /Vice President and Equivalent

S.N.	Country	Dates
1.	Private Visit of Vice President of Zimbabwe	May 19 - June 09, 2019
2.	Transit Visit of President of Uganda	June 23-24, 2019
3.	Private Visit of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	July 26-27, 2019
4.	Transit Visit of Former Prime Minister of Bhutan	July 26-28, 2019

Official Visits by Foreign Minister and Equivalent

S.N.	Country	Dates
1-6.	RAISINA DIALOGUE Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran Foreign Minister of Mongolia Foreign Minister of Australia Foreign Minister of Japan Foreign Minister of Spain Foreign Minister of Nepal	January 07-09, 2019
7.	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic	January 27-31, 2019
8.	Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	30 January - 01 February, 2019
9.	Foreign Minister of Austria	February 25-27, 2019
10.	Foreign Minister of Kenya	March 04-06, 2019
11.	Foreign Minister of Gambia	March 07-12, 2019

S.N.	Country	Dates
12.	Foreign Minister of Iran	May 13-15, 2019
13.	Secretary of State of the United States of America	June 25-27, 2019
14.	Visit of FM of UAE	July 08-09, 2019
15.	Visit of UN PRs	August 18-24, 2019
16.	Visit of President-elect of the 74th Session of the UNGA	September 01-05, 2019
17.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Thailand	October 09-11, 2019
18.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Nicaragua	October 27-29, 2019
19.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Finland	November 04-07, 2019
20.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Bhutan	November 17-23, 2019
21.	Visit of Deputy PM of Bulgaria for Economic and Demographic Policy	November 19-22, 2019
22.	Visit of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan	November 30, 2019
23.	Visit of Foreign Minister of Republic of Guinea	December 02-05, 2019
24.	Foreign Minister of Maldives	December 10-14, 2019
25.	XI Delhi Dialogue and IORA VI Foreign Minister of Indonesia	December 12-13, 2019
26.	Visit of Spl. Representative of China	December 20-22, 2019

Outgoing Visits of President, Vice President and Prime Minister

S.N.	Country	Dates
President		
1.	Croatia, Bolivia and Chile	March 25-04 April, 2019
2.	Benin, The Gambia, Guinea	July 28 – August 03, 2019
3.	Iceland, Switzerland, Slovenia	September 09-18, 2019
4.	Philippines and Japan	October 17-23, 2019
Vice President		
5.	Paraguay and Costa Rica	March 04-11, 2019
6.	Vietnam	May 09-12, 2019
7.	Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia	August 17-22, 2019
8.	Comoros and Sierra Leone	October 10-14, 2019
9.	Azerbaijan	October 24-26, 2019
Prime Minister		
10.	Republic of Korea	February 21-22, 2019
11.	Maldives and Sri Lanka	June 08-09, 2019
12.	Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic)	June 13-14, 2019
13.	Osaka (Japan)	June 27-29, 2019
14.	Bhutan	August 17-18, 2019

S.N.	Country	Dates
15.	France, Bahrain and UAE	August 22-27, 2019
16.	Vladivostok, Russia	September 04-05, 2019
17.	USA	September 21-28, 2019
18.	Saudi Arabia	October 28-29, 2019
19.	Thailand	November 02-04, 2019
20.	Brazil	November 12-15, 2019

Outgoing Visits of External Affairs Minister

S.N.	Country	Dates
1.	Samarkand, Uzbekistan	January 12-13, 2019
2.	Bulgaria, Morocco and Spain	February 16-19, 2019
3.	Wuznen, China	February 27, 2019
4.	Abu Dhabi, UAE	February 28-March 01, 2019
5.	Maldives	March 17-18, 2019
6.	Kyrgyzstan	May 21-22, 2019
7.	Thimphu, Bhutan	June 07-08, 2019
8.	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	June 14-16, 2019
9.	Osaka, Japan	June 27-29, 2019
10.	London, England	July 09-11, 2019
11.	Bangkok, Thailand	July 31 - August 03, 2019
12.	Beijing, China	August 11-13, 2019
13.	Dhaka, Bangladesh	August 20, 2019
14.	Kathmandu, Nepal	August 21-22, 2019
15.	Budapest (Hungary), Moscow (Russia), Warsaw (Poland), Brussels (Belgium)	August 25-31, 2019
16.	Male (Maldives), Jakarta (Indonesia), Singapore	September 03-10, 2019
17.	Helsinki (Finland), Houston, New York & Washington (USA)	September 19-Oct 04, 2019
18.	Baku, Azerbaijan	October 23-26, 2019
19.	Bangkok, Thailand	November 02-04, 2019
20.	Belgrade (Serbia), Amsterdam (Netherlands) and Paris (France)	November 07-12, 2019
21.	Abu Dhabi, UAE	November 15-17, 2019
22.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	November 19-20, 2019
23.	Nagoya, Japan	November 22-24, 2019
24.	Rome, Italy	December 06-08, 2019
25.	USA, Canada, Iran, Oman	December 17-25, 2019
26.	Tokyo, Japan	December 28, 2019 - January 04, 2020

PROTOCOL HOUSING SECTION

Dwarka Diplomatic Enclave- The case going on for few land pockets in the proposed 2nd Diplomatic Enclave, Dwarka is disposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and judgment will be issued on 9 December 2019. A total of 85 acre land is available for allotment in the proposed 2nd Diplomatic Enclave. A Note Verbale is issued to the Foreign Missions which require land in New Delhi to send their realistic requirement and possible land use.

Air Force Station, Palam- Both the new and renovated VVIP Receptorium are fully functional. Air Force is looking after the maintenance and housekeeping services for both the Receptoriums and the expenses are borne by MEA. Also the work of laying OFC cables for internet services in the VVIP Receptorium is

undertaken by MTNL.

Hyderabad House- The works to be carried during closure period-2019 of Hyderabad House is also completed with repair and maintenance works carried out by civil, electrical and horticulture wings of CPWD.

Issues of Embassies- Civic issues of the Missions were taken up on priority with local agencies like NDMC, DDA, MCD, Jal Board, MTNL, Electricity Board etc. and most of the issues are resolved. The issues of Zimbabwe, Gabon, Spain, Cote d'Ivoire and other Missions with the owners of their rented premises are settled amicably.

PROTOCOL II SECTION

Introduction of GST and impact of diplomatic community - India is one of the biggest hosts of foreign embassies, consulates, UN and International organizations. Introduction of Goods and Service Tax (GST) by subsuming all the indirect taxes such as VAT, Central Sales Tax, Service Tax, Luxury tax, excise duty and Customs duty in gigantic country like India was a herculean task. Protocol Division ensured that the diplomatic missions based in India are least affected from the change in indirect tax system. Unlike other vendors, a single UIN for transaction done throughout India was issued to each individual Mission and multiple workshops for spreading awareness about the new tax system were also organised for diplomatic missions.

Introduction of online ID card application system- The new online application module for printing diplomatic/official ID cards with enhanced security features was recently introduced w.e.f. 01 April 2019. The salient features of new application are detailed below:

- (i) The diplomatic missions based in New Delhi shall be able to apply of the diplomatic/official ID card through online portal.
- (ii) They will get real time information about the status of their application.
- (iii) The plastic ID cards shall be printed on high-end printers with enhanced security elements.

PROTOCOL-III SECTION

Credential presentation by foreign Heads of Mission from 1st January 2019

S. No.	Country	Name of Ambassador/High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
1	Israel	H.E. Dr. Ron Malka	10.01.2019
2	Mali	H.E. Mr. Sekou Kasse	10.01.2019
3	Belarus	H.E. Mr. Andrei Rzheussky	10.01.2019
4	Lao-PDR	H.E. Bounneme Chouanghom	10.01.2019
5	Niger	H.E. Mr. Ado Leko	10.01.2019
6	Namibia	H.E. Mr Gabriel Pandureni Sinimbo	08.02.2019
7	Maldives	H.E. Ms Aisath Mohamed Didi	08.02.2019
8	Turkmenistan	H.E. Mr Shalar Geldynazarov	08.02.2019
9	Chile	H.E. Mr Juan Rolando Angulo Monsalve	13.03.2019
10	Bulgaria	H.E. Mrs. Eleonora Dimitrova	13.03.2019
11	Kyrgyz Republic	H.E. Mr. Asein Isaev	13.03.2019
12	Nepal	H.E. Mr. Nilamber Acharya	13.03.2019
13	Seychelles	H.E. Mr. Thomas Selby Pillay	13.03.2019
14	Montenegro	H.E. Mr. Zoran Jankovic	13.03.2019
15	Venezuela	H.E. Mrs. Coromoto Godoy Calderon	20.05.2019
16	Papua New Guinea	H.E. Mr. Paulias Kornj, OBE	20.05.2019
17	Germany	H.E. Mr. Walter Johannes Lindner	21.05.2019
18	Colombia	H.E. Mr. Alvaro Sandoval Bernal	21.05.2019
19	Peru	H.E. Mr. Carlos Rafael Polo Castaneda	21.05.2019
20	Ethiopia	H.E. Dr.(Mrs) Tizita Mulugeta Yimam	25.06.2019
21	Tajikistan	H.E. Mr. Rahimzoda Sulton	25.06.2019
22	Philippines	H.E. Mr. Ramon S. Bagatsing, Jr. Philippine	25.06.2019
23	Nicaragua	H.E. Mr Ronaldo Coronel Kinloch	25.06.2019
24	South Africa	H.E. Mr Joel Sibusiso Ndebele	28.08.2019
25	China	H.E. Mr Sun Weidong	28.08.2019
26	Somalia	H.E. Mrs Faduma Abdullahi Mohmud	28.08.2019
27	Greece	H.E. Mr Dionyssios Kyvetos	28.08.2019
28	Estonia	H.E. Ms Katrin Kivi	25.09.2019
29	Costa Rica	H.E. Mr Claudio Ansorena Montero	25.09.2019
30	Zimbabwe	H.E. Mr Godfrey Chipare	25.09.2019
31	Ireland	H.E. Mr Brendar Ward	25.09.2019
32	Norway	H.E. Mr Hans Jacob Frydenlund	25.09.2019

S. No.	Country	Name of Ambassador/High Commissioner	Date of Credential Presentation
33	Denmark	H.E. Mr Freddy Svane	03.10.2019
34	France	H.E. Mr Emmanuel Lenain	03.10.2019
35	EU	H.E. Mr Ugo Astuto	03.10.2019
36	Mexico	H.E. Mr Federico Salas Lotfe	03.10.2019
37	Kazakhstan	H.E. Mr Yerlan Alimbayev	03.10.2019
38	Japan	H.E. Mr Satoshi Suzuki	27.11.2019
39	Slovenia	H.E. Dr Marjan encen	27.11.2019

First Arrival Status of Foreign Heads of Missions from 1st January 2019

Sl. No.	Name of HoM	Country	Arrival Date
1	High Commissioner Mr. Gabriel Pandureni Sinimbo	Republic of Namibia	17.01.2019
2	Ambassador Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi	Republic of Maldives	18.01.2019
3	Ambassador Mr. Shalar Geldinazarov	Turkmenistan	27.01.2019
4	Ambassador Mr. Juan Angulo	Chile	31.01.2019
5	Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Yousif Mohamed Elsiddig	Republic of Sudan	29.01.2019
6	Ambassador H.E. Mrs Eleonora Dimitrova	Republic of Bulgaria	13.02.2019
7	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Asein Isaev	Kyrgyz Republic	18.02.2019
8	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nilamber Acharya	Nepal	18.02.2019
9	High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Thomas Selby Pillay	Republic of Seychelles	28.02.2019
10	Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Coromoto Godoy Calderon	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	05.03.2019
11	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Zoran Jankovic	Montenegro	11.03.2019
12	High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Paulias Kornj, OBE	Papua New Guinea	14.03.2019
13	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Muhamad Talha Hajee Hajee	Republic of Panama	20.03.2019
14	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Walter Johannes Lindner	Federal Republic of Germany	31.03.2019
15	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Choe Hui Chol	Democratic Republic of Korea	30.03.2019
16	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Alvaro Sandoval Bernal	Colombia	29.04.2019
17	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Carlos Rafael Polo Castaneda	Peru	01.05.2019
18	Ambassador H.E. Dr. (Mrs.) Tizita Mulugeta Yimam	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	15.05.2019

Sl. No.	Name of HoM	Country	Arrival Date
19	Ambassador H.E. Ramon S. Bagatsing, Jr. Philippine	Republic of Philippines	01.06.2019
20	Ambassador H.E. Rahimzoda Sulton	Republic of Tajikistan	28.05.2019
21	Ambassador H.E. Rodrigo Coronel Kinloch	Republic of Nicaragua	23.06.2019
22	High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Joel Sibusiso Ndebele	Republic of South Africa	11.07.2019
23	Ambassador H.E. Mr Sun Weidong	the People's Republic of China	21.07.2019
24	Ambassador H.E. Ms. Katrin Kivi	Estonia	01.08.2019
25	Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud	Somalia	15.08.2019
26	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Dionyssios Kyvetos	Greece	15.08.2019
27	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Claudio Ansorena Montero	Republic of Costa Rica	18.08.2019
28	Ambassador H.E. Dr. Godfrey Chipare	Republic of Zimbabwe	22.08.2019
29	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund	Norway	01.09.2019
30	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Freddy Svane	Denmark	01.09.2019
31	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Brendan Ward	Ireland	28.08.2019
32	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lenain	France	14.09.2019
33	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto	the European Union	16.09.2019
34	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Federico Salas Lotfe	Mexico	17.09.2019
35	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Yerlan Alimbayev	the Republic of Kazakhstan	23.09.2019
36	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Satoshi Suzuki	Japan	01.11.2019
37	Ambassador H.E. Dr. Marjan Cencen	Republic of Slovenia	18.11.2019
38	Ambassador H.E. Ms. Ritva Koukku-Ronde	Finland	02.12.2019
39	Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vincenzo De Luca	Italy	04.12.2019

Final Departure Status of Foreign Heads of Missions from 1st January 2019

Sl. No.	Name of HoM	Country	Arrival Date
1	Ambassador Mr. Parakhat H. Durdyev	Turkmenistan	09.01.2019
2	Ambassador Mr. Asfaw Dingamo	Ethiopia	10.03.2019
3	Ambassador Dr. Martin Ney	Federal Republic of Germany	30.03.2019
4	High Commissioner Mr. Sohail Mahmood	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	14.04.2019
5	Ambassador Ma Teresita C. Daza	the Republic of Philippines	25.04.2019
6	Ambassador Mr. Luo Zhaohui	the People's Republic of China	28.05.2019
7	Ambassador Ms Melba Pria	Mexico	04.06.2019
8	Ambassador Ms Nina Vaskunlahti	Finland	18.06.2019

Sl. No.	Name of HoM	Country	Arrival Date
9	Ambassador Ms Ebyan Mahamed Salah	Federal Republic of Somalia	31.07.2019
10	Ambassador Mr Maxwell Ranga	Republic of Zimbabwe	29.07.2019
11	Ambassador Mr Panos Kalogeropoulos	Greece	10.08.2019
12	Ambassador Mr Peter Taksøe-Jensen	Denmark	29.08.2019
13	Ambassador Mr Nils Ragnar Kamsvåg	Norway	31.08.2019
14	Ambassador Mr Alexandre Ziegler	France	30.08.2019
15	Ambassador Mr Ariel Jared Andrade Galindo	the Republic of El Salvador	06.09.2019
16	Ambassador Mr Bulat Sarsenbayev	the Republic of Kazakhstan	21.09.2019
17	Ambassador Mr Jožef Drogenik	the Republic of Slovenia	25.09.2019
18	Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu	Japan	22.10.2019
19	Ambassador Mr Ahmed Yousif Mohamed Elsiddig	the Republic of Sudan	30.11.2019
20	Ambassador Mr Enzo Angeloni	Italy	01.12.2019
21	High Commissioner Mr Bothata Tsikoane	the kingdom of Lesotho	11.12.2019

List of Resident Missions/Trade Offices/Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions/Honorary Consuls approved from 1st January, 2019

Sl. No.	Particulars	Country
1.	Resident Missions	Jamaica
2.		Nauru
3.		Nicaragua

Sl. No.	Particulars	Country	Location
1.	Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions	Saudi Arabia	Bengaluru
2.		Bangladesh	Chennai

Sl. No.	Particulars	Country	Location
1.	Consulate Generals/Deputy High Commissions	Belgium	Hyderabad
2.		Malta	Mumbai
3.		Mali	Bengaluru
4.		Korea - Republic	Ahmedabad
5.		Maldives	Bengaluru
6.		Palau	New Delhi
7.		Tunisia	Bengaluru
8.		Seychelles	Bengaluru
9.		Finland	Kolkata
10.		Kazakhstan	Mumbai
11.		Netherlands	Chennai
12.		Zimbabwe	Mumbai
13.		Kazakhstan	Chennai

Month-wise list of newly created posts in Foreign Diplomatic Missions in India from 1 January 2019 to 30 November 2019

Annual Report for creation of New Posts from 1 January 2019 - 30 November 2019	
January	01
February	05
March	04
April	16
May	12
June	06
July	20
August	11
September	15
October	11
November	10
Total	111

23

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION

External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division has swiftly adapted to India's rising global profile and rapidly evolving communications environment through responsive and focused outreach to the domestic and global audience. This has been achieved through our extensive engagement with the media and expanding India's public diplomacy footprint both at home and abroad and leveraging social media and other modern tools to maximise the outcome.

The Division promoted three special initiatives of public diplomacy – School and MEA Engagement Programme (SAMEEP) – outreach to students by the alumni of that school belonging to the Indian Foreign Service, VideshAaya Pradesh keDwaar – a focused

engagement with the regional media in different cities across India and 'Bharat EkParichay – a corner for books on India in libraries of educational institutions abroad. On the Press relations front, the Division launched a new initiative called 'India Beyond Headlines' – a familiarization programme for foreign journalists based in India with a view to providing them an understanding of India on a range of topics.

XPD Division was the nodal point for the celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. The Division supported several activities organised by our Missions and Posts abroad to celebrate the occasion. An Anthology on 'What Gandhi Means to Me' was brought out on the occasion with

contributions from high-profile personalities across the world. The Division played an important role in the celebration of the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. In a novel initiative, a LED film on Guru Nanak's teachings was commissioned and projected in different cities across the world.

These efforts played a critical role in projecting India's foreign policy as proactive, effective and people-centric, while complementing efforts to raise India's stature in the world.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MEDIA

Press Coverage

XPD Division made logistics arrangements, including setting up and operating fully equipped media centres, and organizing media briefings for incoming and outgoing visits of important dignitaries. These arrangements ensured quick dissemination of information to the people within the country as well as to the outside world.

Summits/Conferences and Outreach Activities

The Division successfully made media related arrangements for six bilateral visits of the Prime Minister to Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, besides arrangements at 7 multilateral Summits - SCO Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 13-14 June, G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan from 27-29 June, G7 Summit in Biarritz, France from 26-27 August, Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia from 04-06 September, UN General Assembly Session in New York, USA from 22-27 September, ASEAN and related Summits in Bangkok, Thailand from 02-04 November and BRICS Summit in Brasilia, Brazil from 13-14 November. XPD Division also made media arrangements for the bilateral visits by the President of India to eleven countries, bilateral visits by Vice President to six countries and one multilateral visit to Azerbaijan for the NAM summit and by the External Affairs Minister for bilateral and multilateral meetings.

The Division ensures media coverage of incoming high-level visits. The Division facilitated media arrangements for high level visits of the State Visit of President of Republic of Zambia in August, President of Mongolia in September, King and Queen of the Netherlands in October, Prime Minister of Bangladesh in September, President of China for the Second Informal Summit in Chennai in October, Chancellor of Germany in October, Prince of Wales in November and President of Sri Lanka in November. The Division also made logistical arrangements and facilitation of the media delegation accompanying the foreign dignitaries for coverage of Swearing-in Ceremony of the newly formed Government in May 2019 attended by HoS/HoGs of six BIMSTEC nations, the Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Mauritius. Media arrangements were also made for the incoming visits of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other dignitaries during the period.

A delegation of Indian media also visited Beijing and Shanghai to participate in the 3rd India China High level media forum from 12 to 16 August 2019.

EAM's Press Conference on Completion of 100 days of Government

The Division organized EAM's Press Conference on the occasion of completion of 100 Days of Government on 17th September, 2019.

Special Course for Indian Media (Diplomatic Correspondents) at FSI

A Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian media was jointly organised by the XPD Division together with the Foreign Service Institute on 16-22 October

2019. Thirty seven Indian Journalists covering the MEA beat from electronic and print media participated in the said course. The programme was useful in offering an overview of India's foreign policy and functioning of the Ministry for the diplomatic correspondents.

ENGAGEMENT WITH FOREIGN MEDIA

India Beyond Headlines

XPD Division launched a new initiative called 'India Beyond Headlines' - a familiarization programme for foreign journalists based in India with a view to provide them an understanding of India on a range of topics. First visit under the initiative was organized for a group of foreign journalists on 26-28 July 2019 to Kashmir.

Familiarization Visits for foreign journalists

In order to enhance awareness about India amongst friendly countries and to encourage media exchanges, XPD Division organizes familiarization visits by foreign journalists to India. A total of 169 journalists from 21 countries [Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Maldives, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Morocco, Bhutan, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia,

Czech Republic, Romania and Russia] have visited India so far under the programme. Journalists from the UK, IOR countries and African countries are scheduled to visit this Financial Year.

Professional Training Courses for Foreign Diplomats

XPD Division organised a day long training module on Media and Public Diplomacy for around 194 Foreign Diplomats from almost 90 countries in total 9 batches during the period April-November 2019. As part of the module, visit to two reputed media organisations (print and electronic media) was also arranged for each batch. The same was also organised for 39 IFS Officer Trainees of 2018 batch on 23-24 April 2019, including holding a Mock Press Conference.

DIGITAL OUTREACH

MEA Website

MEA's website is embodiment of India's foreign policy articulation and a repository of all information related to India's bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral relations. The website is bilingual, user friendly, scalable flexible, consistent and compliant to standard specifications. Knowing the impact it has on information

dissemination, the website has been designed uniformly for headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad. MEA website is also accessible to visually and hearing impaired. Since its formal launch in September 2012, the web portal has registered more than 5 crore hits with more than 1 crore hits since January 2019 alone and has completely transformed the digital image of the Ministry.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

MEA has been the pioneering ministry in the country to embrace a robust social media personality and digital identity with consistently growing numbers of followers.

- a) MEA has a total of 3.4 million followers on Twitter with @MEAIndia having 2.02 million followers and @IndianDiplomacy having 1.4 million followers. Mission and Posts have also continued to increase engagement with the diaspora and the population of the host country through actively using social media platforms. Today, around 179 Indian Missions/Posts have a presence on Twitter and Facebook and around 51 Missions have a presence on Instagram. As the social media taste around the world changes, newer platforms have come into sharper focus. Standardization across social media platforms of Mission/Posts have been adhered to, with all accounts being verified on the platforms on priority by the Ministry. This all-round digital outreach by the Ministry has enabled faster, direct and concise conveying of information on Ministry's and Mission/Posts' activities to people not just in India but all across the world.
- b) Twitter is a critical medium for immediate dissemination of significant information for the Ministry. The Official Spokesperson's handle (@MEAIndia) and the Public Diploamcy handle (@IndianDiplomacy) saw an increase of around 150,000 and 100,000 followers over the last year. @MEAIndia is now the third most followed handle among all Foreign Ministries across the world. The platform is used to tweet updates on India's foreign relations. During bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral engagements Twitter is updated on a real-time basis. Both twitter handles have actively used video formats of Twitter especially short video during out going visits and a video recap after the conclusion of an outgoing visit of the Prime Minister have garnered most engagements and impressions on Twitter.
- c) MEA's YouTube channel has a total of 7,093 subscribers as of November 2019, an increase of 72% over last year with a total of 5.7 million views. Indian Diplomacy's YouTube channel has 83,861 subscribers as on November 2019, an increase of 42% over last year, with a total of 15.2 million views.
- d) MEA has made a phenomenal increase in its followership on Instagram which is aimages-rich platform. With a growth of 158% over last year MEA now has a followership of 399,000 followers. Instagram appeals more to the younger generation and the content is especially curated for the young.
- e) MEA Flickr account (MEAphotogallery) continues to serve as a repository of photos for all of MEA's major events, in India and abroad, with a photo bank of 41,142 HD photos as of November 2019.
- f) MEA's Soundcloud account (MEAIndia) is a useful database for accessing audio clips of all media briefings. Video Clips of all media briefings are also uploaded on YouTube.
- g) MEA has also registered a significant growth in the number of followers on LinkedIn with a total of 11,850 followers over last year an increase of 620%.
- h) The Ministry has also been proactive in marking important occasions across social media platforms such as 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi, InternationalDay of Yoga, 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji, Constitution Day etc. The popularity and success of MEA's efforts in

expanding digital outreach and branding itself as a 'digitally forward' Ministry is demonstrated by the

continuous growth of its followers across social media platforms.

VISUAL OUTREACH – FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES

To project the positive image of India abroad, MEA has been commissioning documentary films on various subjects, including on Indian culture, politics, economy and other social issues since 1981. In addition, suitable Indian feature films are purchased with non-commercial screening rights to leverage the goodwill Indian films enjoy abroad.

Four documentaries on the subjects of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar(Mooknayak), Rescue operations by Government of India, KailashMansarovarYatra and Development Cooperative Initiatives were completed and released on various platforms. Three special short films on Indian elections (India Ink), Mahatma Gandhi and Guru Nanak Devji were also commissioned for specific use.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Distinguished Lecture Series

Under this public outreach initiative, senior serving and retired diplomats deliver lectures on foreign policy at India's premier academic institutes. The initiative has been well received by the academic community and has expanded steadily since its inception in 2010. The lecture series has now brought under its ambit 253 education institutions including 45 Central Universities,

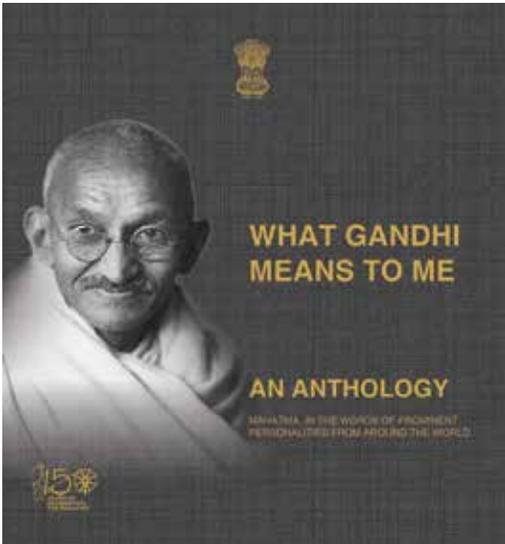
IITs and IIMs, NITs, IIITs, National Law Universities and as well tri-services as training institutions such as Indian Military Academy, National Defence Academy and Defence Staff Service Commission. The lectures covering diverse foreign policy related topics span the length and breadth of the country. 44 lectures have been held in 2019 and 297 lectures since the launch of this initiative.

SAMEEP – STUDENTS AND MEA ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

SAMEEP is an outreach initiative of the Division to engage to the student community in different cities and towns across India, with an aim to familiarise school and college students with the role and functions of MEA, key elements of India's foreign policy, success stories and achievements on the foreign policy front. This programme involves visits of Ministry's officers

to schools and colleges in their hometown/state during their leave to interact with the students and to share with them their experiences of working with the Ministry of External Affairs. So far forty four such programs have been organised since its inception in 2018.

WHAT GANDHI MEANS TO ME: AN ANTHOLOGY



As part of celebrations to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an anthology of articles on 'What Gandhi means to Me' contributed by globally renowned personalities has been published. The anthology brings out how people the world over have been influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and philosophy.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

Book Committee

The Book Committee was established in 2003 as a public diplomacy tool to select books for the Missions' library as well as for presentation purposes. The 41st meeting of the Book Committee selected 343 titles from categories such as Indian Classics, Foreign Policy & Affairs, Technology & Popular Science, Hindi & Sanskrit, Art & Culture. An online portal has been created this year for seamless processing of requests from Missions.

India Perspectives

The flagship magazine of the Ministry is now available in a digital format in 16 languages. The web version of the magazine allows customisation of the content and option to download and electronically disseminate through social media by the Missions and Posts. It can be read online at www.indiaperspectives.gov.in and www.mea.gov.in.

24

ADMINISTRATION, ESTABLISHMENT AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Administration Division's endeavour is to optimize manpower utilization by managing and deploying efficiently the human capital of the Ministry both at Headquarters and 193 Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Towards this, the Division oversees cadre management which involves recruitment, training, postings/transfers, deputations and career progression policies and processes among others. The Division also calibrated its personnel policies through formulation, revision and implementation of relevant GOI rules and regulations including for Indian personnel posted and local employees serving in Indian Missions and Posts. The organization structure and procedures are evolved to meet the changing demands and expected delivery

by the Ministry and its offices.

The current sanctioned strength of the Ministry is 4261 (Annexure IX) with around 53% of these posts being in Missions and Posts abroad. The total strength is distributed across different cadres of the Ministry such as the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), IFS General Cadre Branch B, Stenographers Cadre, Interpreters Cadre, Legal & Treaties Cadre, among others. As part of cadre management, the Ministry augmented its manpower by recruiting personnel at various levels through Direct Recruitment (DR) and Departmental Promotions (DP) in the Recruitment Year 2018-19. The Ministry also reorganized its divisions and their responsibilities to

account for new developments and functional priorities such as creation of Indo-Pacific Division, rearranging territorial allocations in India Ocean region etc.

In pursuance of the Cabinet approval in March 2018 for the opening of 18 new Missions in Africa during 2018-21, the opening of six Missions in the first phase - Rwanda, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso and Guinea and three Missions in the second phase - Eswatini, Eritrea and Cameroon - was completed. Preparatory administrative and establishment related measures were initiated towards setting up new Missions in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sao Tome and Principe.

The Ministry focused due attention to training of all its cadres along with specialized modules on economic

diplomacy, international law, cyber security, gender budgeting, accounting, consular and passport services, effective use of social media, etc. Special attention was paid to the development of foreign linguistic skills of officers, including at interpretation level. Over time, this has resulted in the creation of a reasonably large pool of officers with quality foreign language skills within the Service (Annexure X).

The Division actively utilized technological tools such as the e-Samiksha portal, an online interface between Headquarters and the Missions/Posts as an effective platform for idea-exchange, digitized procedures, information gathering and effective monitoring of functional areas of Missions/Posts.

GLOBAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Significant progress was achieved on all fronts including acquisition/construction/redevelopment/renovation of properties abroad and in India. Acquisition of a plot of land in Nairobi and two residential apartments in Tokyo was concluded. Allotment of much larger plots of land in Tashkent and Maldives was successfully negotiated for construction of Chancery-cum-residential complexes for respective Missions. A plot of land in New Delhi, measuring approx. 2.5 acres, was allotted for construction of another office of MEA. Acquisition of properties at Vladivostok (Chancery), Tel Aviv (Chancery), Munich (Chancery), Berne (Chancery), Rome (Chancery), Milan (Chancery & CG Residence), Manila (Chancery) and Bishkek (Chancery) was actively pursued. Allotment of suitable plots of land in the Capital cities of Indian States, for setting up VideshBhawan, was pursued with the State Governments.

Among the noteworthy achievements was the completion of construction projects in Port Louis (Chancery & Residences), Addis Ababa (Chancery &

Residences) and Nicosia (Residences). Substantial progress was made in respect of construction projects at Islamabad (Residences), Kathmandu (Chancery-cum - Residential complex), Port of Spain (Cultural Centre) and Wellington (Chancery & Residences). New construction projects commenced in Bangkok (Residences), Kabul (Residences & Barracks) and Phuentsholing (Chancery & Residences). Major renovation projects including VVIP Receptorium at Palam, Ambassador's Residence at Seoul and Chancery at Dublin were completed. Ongoing renovation projects at Paris (Cultural Centre), Helsinki (Residences), Dar-es-salaam (Ambassador's Residence) and Yangon (Cultural Centre) progressed satisfactorily. Renovation of the Videsh Bhawan Complex at Bhubaneswar and Lucknow also made progress.

The designs for redevelopment of a new ICCR Headquarters, MEA Residential Complexes at R. K. Ashram Marg, New Delhi and K.G. Marg, New Delhi, Residences & Embassy Residence at Amman, Chancery

& Residences at Jeddah, Cultural Wing & Residences at Rabat, Chancery & Residences at Singapore, Chancery Annexe at Canberra, Residences at Moscow, Chancery

& Residences at Shanghai and Videsh Bhawan at Chennai

VIGILANCE UNIT CNV DIVISION

Brief snapshot of the work pertaining to the Vigilance Unit of the CNV Division is as follows:

- No. of cases pending as on 31.03.2019 : 88
- No. of cases received for examination during the period 01.04.2019 to 13.12.2019 : 32
- Number of cases closed with imposition of formal penalty during the period : 9
 - from 01.04.2019 to 13.12.2019
- No. of cases closed without penalty, on account of death, VRS, other reasons : 19
 - during the period from 01.04.2019 to 13.12.2019
- Total No. of cases as on 13.12.2019 : 92
- Vigilance awareness week was observed from 28.10.2019 to 02.11.2019. The integrity pledge was administered to all the officials in the Ministry, its attached officers in India and all Indian Mission/ Posts abroad.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI)

During the year, the Ministry continued efforts towards full implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005. In keeping with instructions of Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) on suo-motu disclosure, uploading of RTI applications/appeals/responses & monthly RTI figures on public domain has been implemented. The system of online acceptance & disposal of RTI applications has been implemented in 192 Missions/Posts abroad by aligning them with the RTI web portal.

A total of 2008 RTI applications and 140 First Appeals seeking information under the RTI Act 2005 have been received in the Ministry during the above-mentioned

period and have been disposed off satisfactorily. Applications, in general, covered subjects such as foreign relations, administrative issues, bilateral visits and expenditure incurred on the same.

All CIC hearings have been attended to by the concerned CPIOs and a representative of the RTI Cell. Quarterly return have been filed with CIC as required, on schedule.

In collaboration with Foreign Service Institute, implementation of online suo moto disclosure (transparency audit) by all the CPIOs in the Ministry in a time bound manner, as per the instructions of CIC, has been commenced.

25

IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE POLICY AND PROPAGATION OF HINDI ABROAD

Implementation of the Official language Policy of the Government of India continues to be a priority for the Ministry. A comprehensive scheme has been put in place 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 promotional activities. Hindi teaching material is supplied to Missions & Posts abroad for presentation to educational institutions and organizations involved in the teaching and promotion of Hindi. In addition to Hindi, Ministry is undertaking promotion of Sanskrit and other Indian languages.

World Hindi Conference is organised every three years by the Ministry. In addition, Regional Hindi Conferences are organised by our Missions abroad in association with local institutions involved in the propagation of Hindi and Indian culture abroad. During the year 2019-20, a Regional World Hindi Conference was held at Lisbon. Besides, World Hindi day is celebrated in all our Missions & Posts abroad as well as Headquarters on 10 January every year. The Ministry coordinates work relating to grant of scholarships to foreign students to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. This year 98 scholarships have been awarded. 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.

Hindi Pakhwara was organised to mark Hindi Diwas 2019. Regional Passport Offices as well as our Missions abroad organised various Hindi competitions on the occasion. Special grants were sanctioned to Missions & Posts abroad for organising these activities. In the Ministry, Hindi Essay writing, Hindi Noting & Drafting, Hindi Typing and Official Language General Knowledge writing competitions were held during the fortnight. The response from the officials was overwhelming. Prize distribution ceremony of Hindi Pakhwara competitions was organized on 08th November 2019 at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan was the Chief Guest and gave away prizes to the winners. Regional Passport Offices (RPO) of Ranchi, Kolkata, Bhopal & Jalandhar under the Ministry were notified

under sub rule 10 (4) of Official Language Rule 1976 this year. Thus total 18 RPOs have been notified under this rule.

The Ministry has instituted Atal Bhashantar Yojana (ABY) for training language experts, with the objective of creating a pool of Specialised Interpreters for interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish languages. The First batch of 3 candidates, one each in Arabic, Chinese and Russian languages, is pursuing Post Graduation program in Interpretation and Translation in universities in USA.

An International Regional Hindi Conference is scheduled to be held in Suva, Fiji on 25 January 2020. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muralidharan will take part in the conference which will serve as a curtain raiser for the 12th World Hindi Conference proposed to be held in Suva, Fiji in the year 2021.

The reconstitution of Hindi Advisory Committee to MEA is likely to be completed by the end of March.

26

FINANCE AND BUDGET

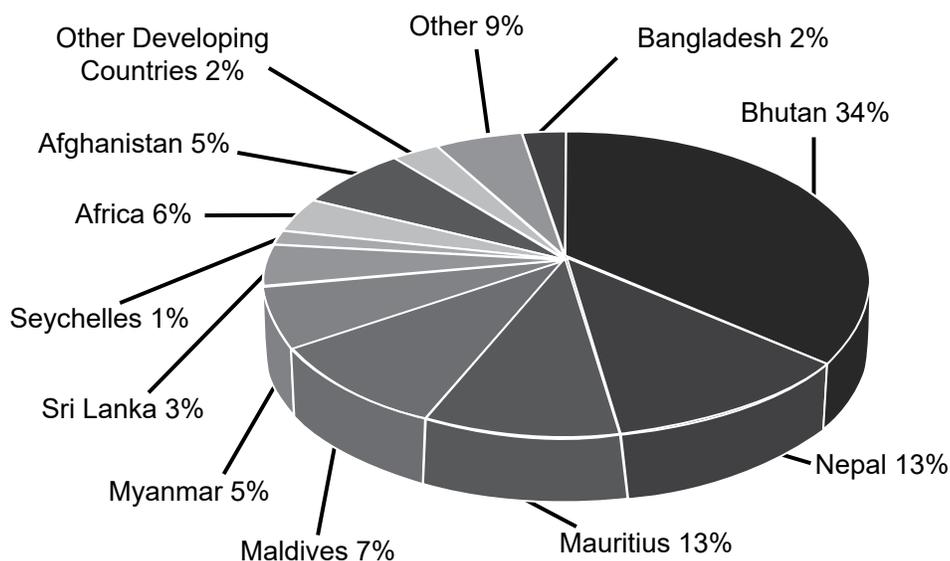
The total budget allocated to the Ministry of External Affairs for Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 is Rs. 17,884.75 crores in the Budget Estimates (BE) stage.

2. The budget's sectoral distribution for major allocations, is given below:

Sector		Allocation (In ₹ Crores)
Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries	Grants	7333.79
	Loans	842.00
	Total TEC	8175.79
Indian Missions and Posts abroad		2748.05
Special Diplomatic Expenditure		2663.01
Passport and Emigration		1620.95
International Cooperation		986.19
Capital Outlay on Public Works and Housing		531.55
MEA Secretariat		459.93
Grants-in-Aid to Institutions		281.22
Others		418.06
Total BE for FY 2019-20		17,884.75

3. The largest allocation in the Ministry's budget is for Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) with foreign countries through assistance as grants and loans. In FY 2019-20, of the total budget of Rs. 17,884.75 crores, the TEC outlay is 45.71% or Rs.

8175.79 crores, of which Rs. 7333.79 crores (41%) is for grant programmes and Rs. 842 crores (4.7 %) is for loans. The head-wise distribution of the TEC outlay in FY 2019-20 is given below:

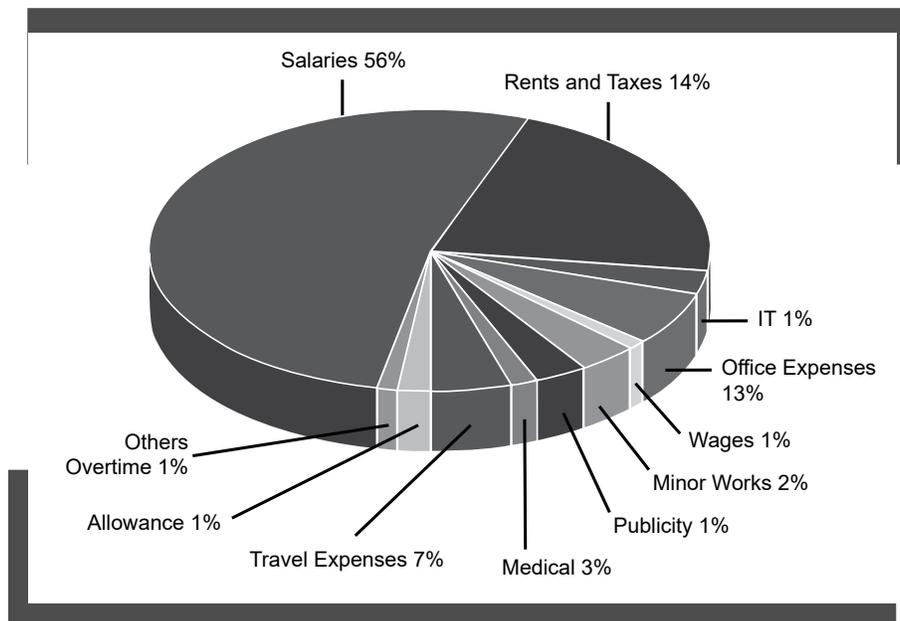


Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) Heads		Allocation (In ₹ Crore)	% of Total TEC Allocation
Aid to Bangladesh		175	2.14%
Bhutan	Grant	2135.79	34.26%
	Loan	666.00	
	Total Bhutan	2801.79	
Aid to Nepal		1050.00	12.84%
Aid to Mauritius		1100.00	13.45%
Aid to Afghanistan		400.00	4.89%
Aid to Seychelles		100.00	1.22%
Aid to Myanmar		400.00	4.89%
ITEC Programme		220.00	2.69%
Aid to African Countries		450.00	5.50%
Aid to Sri Lanka		250.00	3.05%
Chahbahar Port, Iran		45.00	0.55%

Technical and Economic Cooperation (TEC) Heads		Allocation (In ₹ Crore)	% of Total TEC Allocation
Aid to Maldives	Grant	400.00	7.04%
	Loan	176	
	Total Maldives	576	
Aid to Other Developing Countries		150.00	1.83%
Investment Publicity & Promotion Programme		300.00	3.66%
Indo-Pacific Cooperation		45.00	0.55%
Aid to Eurasian Countries		45.00	0.55%
Multilateral Economic Relations Programme		20.00	0.24%
Aid to Latin American Countries		15.00	0.18%
Aid for Disaster Relief		20.00	0.24%
SAARC Programmes		8.00	0.09%
Aid to Mongolia		5.00	0.06%

4. The second largest allocation in the Ministry's budget is for maintenance of the more than 190 Indian diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad. In FY 2019-20, the allocation for all Missions and Posts

5. Of the total budget for FY 2019-20 of Rs. 17884.75 crores, the bifurcation of allocations between establishment heads and non-establishments heads is 27% (Rs. 4852 crores) and 73% (Rs. 13,032



together is 15.63% or Rs. 2748.05 of the total budget of the Ministry, the head-wise distribution (percentage wise) of which is given below:

crores) respectively. Ministry has consistently maintained its expenditure on Establishment heads within 30% of its total budget.

6. The Ministry has been optimally utilising the funds allocated to it in the Revised Estimates (RE) stage

of a financial year, as given below for the past ten FYs:

FY	BE Allocation	RE Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Utilization as % of BE	Utilization as % of RE
	<i>In Rupees Crores; Rounded Off</i>				
2009-10	6293	6333	6291	100 %	99 %
2010-11	6375	7120	7154	112 %	100 %
2011-12	7106	7836	7873	111 %	100 %
2012-13	9662	10062	10121	105 %	100 %
2013-14	11719	11794	11807	101 %	100 %
2014-15	14730	12620	12149	82 %	96 %
2015-16	14967	14967	14541	97 %	97 %
2016-17	14663	13426	12772	87 %	95 %
2017-18	14798	13690	13750	93 %	100 %
2018-19	15011	15582	15,526	103%	99%

7. The Ministry has revenue receipts of Rs. 3039.72 crores till 31 October 2019 in FY 2019-20, from passport services (Rs. 1487.46 cr), visa fees (Rs.

1078.51 cr) and other receipts (Rs. 473.75 cr). The revenue receipts for the last five financials years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20 is given below:

Year	Heads	Amount	Percentage
2015-16	Passport	2240.42	47%
	Visa	1890.82	39%
	Others	684.34	14%
	Total	4815.58	
2016-17	Passport	2285.85	45%
	Visa	2018.04	40%
	Others	717.07	14%
	Total	5020.96	
2017-18	Passport	2479.08	47%
	Visa	2152.15	41%
	Others	668.38	12%
	Total	5299.61	
2018-19	Passport	2679.75	44%
	Visa	2688.9	44%
	Others	680.06	11%
	Total	6048.71	

Year	Heads	Amount	Percentage
2019-20 (* figures upto 31 Oct 2019)	Passport	1487.46	49%
	Visa	1078.51	35%
	Others	473.75	16%
	Total	3039.72*	

8. In January 2018, the Ministry had only one Para pending from Report No.12 of 2017 of the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG). 5 more paras were included in C&AG's Report No.4 of 2018. The status of submission of Action Taken Notes (ATNs) for these five Paras is given below:

Year	C&AG Report	Total No. of Paras	Final ATNs Submitted	ATNs Under Process
2017	Report No.12 of 2017	4	3	1
2018	Report No.4 of 2018	5	5	Nil
Total		9	8	1

The details and status of these C&AG Para is as below:

C&AG Report No.	Para No.	Subject	Status
12 of 2017	9.3	Receipts and Expenditure outside Government account in Eol Tokyo	The PAC process for this para started even before the C&AG process could be complete. In its hearing on 13 Oct 2017, the Hon'ble members of the PAC instructed the Ministry to carry out their recommendations on various aspects of this Para. The same were carried out and thereafter, to fulfil the requirements of the C&AG process, the First ATN was submitted to C&AG on 03 Dec 2019. Audit's vetted comments on the ATN is awaited.
4 of 2018	7.1	Construction of Campus for South Asian University	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para settled
	7.2	Loss of revenue in consular services in Missions and Posts	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para settled
	7.3	Cost escalation and avoidable expenses in property management	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para settled
	7.4	Courier fees overcharging by outsourced Service Provider in USA	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para settled
	7.5	Contingency staff hiring in CGIs Vancouver, Houston, San Francisco	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para settled

PAC Paras

Year	PAC Report No	Total No of Paras	ATNs Submitted	ATNs Due	Remarks
2018	PAC Report No. 112	7	7	-	Audit's vetted comments awaited on 3 Paras

Details and status of Outstanding PAC paras are as under

Lok Sabha No.	Report No.	Para No.	Subject	Status
16	112	1	Committee's observations on certain shortcomings in the functioning of the Ministry with regard to Paras 7.1 ("Incorrect Adoption of Exchange Rate in Ottawa and its Consulates") and 7.2 ("Undue benefit to the Service Provider in HCI London") of C&AG Report No.11 of 2016	Draft ATN submitted in Dec 2019
		2	Laxity in following laid down procedures/rules	Draft ATN submitted in Nov 2019 Audit's vetted comments awaited
		3	Internal Audit	Draft ATN submitted in Nov 2019 Audit's vetted comments awaited
		4	Visas on Urgent Basis/Short Notice	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para settled
		5	Administrative control over Missions	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para Settled
		6	Due Diligence/Detailed Study before finalising Contracts	Final ATN submitted accepted by Audit – Para Settled
		7	Computerisation	Draft ATN submitted in Nov 2019-12-12 Audit's vetted comments awaited

27

PARLIAMENT AND COORDINATION DIVISION

Parliament and Coordination Division consists of the following divisions:

- (a) Parliament Division
- (b) Coordination Division
- (c) Education Section
- (d) Monitoring Cell

PARLIAMENT DIVISION

The Parliament Division is the Ministry's interface with Parliament and the 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.

During April-December 2019, three meetings of the Ministry were held with the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on External Affairs - (i) Examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the FY 2019-20, (ii) Examination of the Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019 and (iii) India's Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy: Prospects and Limitations.

Anticipated during January-March 2020 are Consultative Committee meeting and Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs meetings.

COORDINATION DIVISION

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, conversion of Student visa into Research visa with respect to foreign students studying in India and foreign scholars coming to India for field visits/ training/inspection etc. in various institutions.

The Division coordinated Ministry's responses for the Cabinet Secretariat's e-Samiksha Portal and Ministry's participation in Prime Minister's PRAGATI videoconference on grievance redressal and review

of programmes and projects. The Division also coordinated work relating to various awards including Padma Awards, Gandhi Peace Prize, Tagore Award, Presidential Award of Certificate of Honour to Scholars of Indian Classical Languages, etc. Nominations for these awards are obtained by the Divisions from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and the recommendations of the Ministry conveyed to nodal Ministries. The Division also coordinated observance by Missions/ Posts of important events including Anti-Terrorism Day, Sadhbhavana Diwas and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. The administrative control of the ICCR rests with the Coordination Division.

During April-December 2019, the Coordination Division issued 2403 political clearances for visits abroad, 1718 political clearances for conferences & conferences in India, 423 clearances for foreign non-scheduled military flights, 47 clearances for visits of foreign naval ships, 176 clearances for participation of Indian sports persons/teams in international events abroad and visits of foreign sports persons/teams to India.

EDUCATION SECTION

The Education Section of the Ministry dealt with the selection, nomination and admission of foreign students from 57 friendly neighbouring and developing countries for MBBS, BDS, MD/MS, B. Arch., BE, B. Pharmacy, and Diploma courses in Engineering in various institutions in India under the Self Financing Scheme against seats allocated to this Ministry by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development. Persecuted religious minority migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan based in India are also offered seats under this scheme.

During the Academic Year 2019-2020, 59 seats were allotted for engineering courses and 49 seats were allotted for medical courses. During April-December 2019, the Education Section processed 360 cases of political clearances in respect of foreign students for elective-training, observerships, short/long term training and research projects, 1037 cases of political clearances for foreign students appearing in various PG entrance examinations and 102 cases for foreign students for admission at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra.

MONITORING CELL

Monitoring Cell has been tasked with coordinating the review of MOUs/Agreements signed with foreign countries with Ministries/Departments concerned from the angle of their continued relevance and status.

3126 MOUs/Agreements have been uploaded on the E-Samiksha portal. So far, 2995 MOUs/Agreements have been reviewed and 477 MOUs/Agreements have been identified as inactive.

28

CONFERENCE DIVISION

Conference Division provides all logistical arrangements to various Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs in organizing meetings/event/seminar/conferences including international & multilateral involvement of foreign Ministers/delegates in India and abroad. In view of specific nature of organizing events involving protocol, security of delegates and highest degree of precision, Conference Division has empanelled 08

Event Management Companies (EMCs). Selection of EMC for the event is done as per requirements of the concerned division of the Ministry. During the period 01st April 2019 to 15th December, 2019, **Conference Division has provided all logistical support for the following 12 conferences/events/meetings of the Ministry of External Affairs:**

S. No.	Conference/Summit/meeting	Venue City	Date	Level of Event
1	21st ASEAN India Senior Official Meeting (AISOM)	Delhi	11-12 April 2019	Secretary
2	India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Sherpa's Meeting	Kochi	3-5 May 2019	Secretary
3	Draw of lots for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2019	Delhi	15th May 2019	Foreign Secretary
4	Training Session of Yoga Day	Delhi	15-20 June 2019	Resident HOMs
5	Celebration of 05th International Day of Yoga	Delhi	21 June 2019	EAM
6	11 th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)	Delhi	09 July 2019	Secretary
7	Launch of MEA Performance Smart Board	Delhi	14 August 2019	EAM

S. No.	Conference/Summit/meeting	Venue City	Date	Level of Event
8	Launch of portal for opening of fellowship for various IIT Students to ASEAN Countries	Delhi	16 September 2019	EAM
9	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day Celebration	Delhi	07 October 2019	EAM
10	Run for Unity	Delhi	31 October 2019	HM
11	Celebration of Constitution Day	Delhi	26 November 2019	EAM
12	Indian Ocean Rim Associan (IORA) Academic Group Meeting, IORA Expert Group Meeting on Sceince and Technology (EGMAST), Indian Ocean Dialogue-06 and Delhi Dialogue-XI	Delhi	12-14 December, 2019	EAM

2. In addition, Conference Division also acts as nodal agency for Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra(PBK) which was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India on 02nd October, 2016. PBK has now emerged a premier reputed convention centre and a venue for official events, seminars, conferences, conventions, workshops etc. organized by various Ministries/Departments and

other government organizations. Since inauguration of PBK, President has attended 3 events, Vice President has attended 09 events and PM has attended 15 events as Guest of Honour.

The year wise number of events held at PBK is given below: -

S.No.	Period	Number of Events
1	Oct, 2016 to March, 2017	45
2	April, 2017 to March, 2018	144
3	April, 2018 to March, 2019	210
4	April, 2019 to 15 th December, 2019	50
	TOTAL	449

The organization wise total number of events held at PBK is as follows:

S.No.	Event organized by	Oct, 2016 to March, 2017	April, 2017 to March, 2018	April, 2018 to March, 2019	April, 2019 to 15th December, 2019	TOTAL
1	Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)	23	69	89	15	196
2	Other Ministries/Department	16	59	95	27	197
3	Other Government Organization	0	10	3	6	19
4	Others organization	6	6	23	2	37
	TOTAL	45	144	210	50	449

Total number of events reflects only the events, and not the number of days the facilities were used, which is much higher since many events were spread out for two or more days.

29

ARCHIVES

Archives & Record Management Division of the Ministry of External Affairs deals with all the matters related to archives and record management. Upgradation of Record Management Software (REM), replacement of existing software and replacement of existing server with new server as well as old desktops which are being used for accessing data through the Record Management Software is being undertaken regularly.

During the report period, 2315 old records/files pertaining to various Divisions/Sections were destroyed on receipt of due approval from concerned HODs in the Ministry. Lists of 703 old files have been sent to various HODs for their approval prior to destruction. On receipt of approval from the HODs these files will also be destroyed. The lists of 685 old

classified files have also been sent to different HODs for declassification approval. 1000 non-current public records/files more than 25 years old were segregated and handed over to the appraisers from National Archives of India for their appraisal. On receipt of their approval, the appraised records (1000) of permanent nature were transferred to National Archives of India for preservation and permanent custody. As and when retired Ambassadors, research scholars and visiting academics from abroad approached A&RM Div. For accessing the old files, access was given to them with due approval from the concerned Head of Divisions.

'Swachhta Hi Sewa 2019' was observed from 11 September 2019 to 2 October 2019. Six compactors with 282 racks with total (Approx 1,50,000) files were cleaned by record sorters. In addition to this awareness

was created among the staff members regarding phasing out of single use plastic by promoting sustainable alternatives and proper disposal of plastic waste.

This Division will be shifted shortly to a new modern location at CGO Complex from current location as soon as renovation work is completed there. All stored /archived files (Approx. 1,50,0000 in number) will also be shifted to this new location.

30

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

The scope and number of training programmes at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) continued to expand in 2019. New training courses such as for officials of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) were introduced. Indian journalists underwent an orientation programme to give them exposure to foreign policy issues. Comprehensive promotion-related training

programmes and Stenography Test were started for MEA officials of the level of Section Officer and below. On the training vertical for foreign diplomats, a record number of approx. 750 foreign diplomats were trained this year. New initiatives of FSI included a quarterly newsletter *Videsh Sewa*.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR GOI OFFICERS/OFFICIALS

I CADRE TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE (IFS) OFFICERS

i. Induction Training Programme

After completing their Civil Services Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, the IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2018 batch joined FSI on 10 December 2018 for a

six-month long induction training programme, which ended on 31 May 2019.

The Induction Training Programme of OTs at FSI consisted of Orientation module, Phase-I and Phase-II. The Orientation module comprised of modules on International Relations and India's Foreign Policy, Administration, Finance, Accounts, and Establishment. Phase-I covered Bilateral and Multilateral Relations,

Defence and Security, Consular, Passport & Visa matters. Phase-II focused on Trade and Economic Diplomacy, International Law, Official Language Policy, Protocol & Hospitality, Reporting and Communication Skills, Cultural diplomacy, Media Management and Public Diplomacy.

The OTs had one weeklong Mission Orientation attachment in neighbouring Indian Missions to familiarize themselves with the work of Indian Missions abroad. A one weeklong Bharat Darshan tour was organized for OTs to acquaint them better with the rich cultural diversity, heritage, and tourism potential of the country. The training programme also included State Attachment in various States across the country where the OTs got an opportunity to learn about the State and an understanding about facilitating the linkages of the State with outside world. The OTs had one-week attachment with the Indian Army to build a better perspective about border management and interaction with army officers in the field.

The 2018 batch of OTs were deployed on special protocol attachment with Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention and Kumbh Mela (1 week). They also attended the Raisina Dialogue (2 days) as delegates.

Training was delivered through interactive lectures, panel discussions, simulation exercises, role play, case studies, success stories, workshops, and hands-on sessions.

A Valedictory function was organized on 16 May 2019, presided over by former External Affairs Minister. EAM's Gold Medal for the Best OT of the 2018 Batch, MoS Silver Medal for esprit de corps, Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Dissertation, trophy for best committee and trophies for best sportspersons were awarded on the occasion.

The 2019 batch of IFS Officer Trainees are currently attending the Foundation Course at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. 30 IFS Officer Trainees will begin their training at FSI on 09 December 2019.

ii. Mid-Career Training Programme-I

Mid-Career Training Programme-I for 32 Deputy Secretary (DS)/Under Secretary (US) level officers was conducted from 16 September-4 October 2019 as per the following schedule:

S.No.	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1	16-20 Sept 2019	Foreign Policy	Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi
2	23-24 Sept 2019	Domestic Policy	Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi
3	26-27 Sept 2019	State visit	In the allotted State
4	30 Sept - 04 Oct 2019	Management	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

iii. Mid-Career Training Programme-II

Mid-Career Training Programme-II was conducted for 22 IFS officers of 2004 & 2005 batches from 9 September-4 October 2019 as per the following schedule:

S.No	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1.	9-13 Sept 2019	Diplomacy	Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA
2.	16-20 Sept 2019	Management	Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
3.	23-24 Sept 2019	Cyber Security	Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar

S.No	Period	Module	Name of Institute
4.	26-28 Sept 2019	State visit	In the allotted State
5.	30 Sept-4 Oct 2019	Foreign Policy	Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi

iv. Mid-Career Training Programme-III

Mid-Career Training Programme-III for 22 IFS officers of 1992-1995 batches was conducted from 29 October - 12 November 2019 as per the following schedule:

S.No	Period	Module	Name of Institute
1.	29 Oct-01 Nov 2019	Foreign Policy	Foreign Service Institute
2.	4-8 Nov 2019	Management	Indian School of Business, Hyderabad
3.	11-12 Nov 2019	State Visit	In the allotted State

II FUNCTIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

v. Training Programmes for Commercial Representatives

A one week training programme for Commercial Representatives (CRs) from Africa and Americas region was conducted from 08-12 April 2019. 19 CRs participated in the programme at FSI.

vi. Workshop on online RTI

Two Special Workshops on online RTI were organised for the officials of the Ministry on 09 July 2019 and 21 August 2019 at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan and Foreign Service Institute respectively.

III Specialized Training Programmes

vii. Training Programme for Defence Attaches

A one week training programme was conducted for 15 Defence Attaches from 10-14 June 2019.

viii. Training Programme for Directors of Indian Cultural Centres abroad

A two-day training programme was conducted for 34 Directors of Indian Cultural Centres abroad from 1-2 May 2019 at FSI.

ix. Special Course on Foreign Policy for Indian Media

A special familiarization programme on Foreign Policy for Indian Media was organized at FSI from 16-22

October 2019. The training programme was attended by 36 persons from the media.

x. Special Course for Performing Arts Teachers of Indian Cultural Centres abroad

A one week training programme was conducted for 29 Performing Arts Teachers of ICCR from 18-22 November 2019 at FSI.

IV NON-REPRESENTATIONAL GRADE (NRG) TRAINING PROGRAMME

The following training courses were organised as part of the training for NRG officials.

- Promotion Related Training Programme for SSAs, JSAs and Stenos from 8-12 April 2019 attended by 20 participants.
- Promotion Related Training Programme for PSs from 27-31 May 2019 attended by 12 participants.
- Promotion Related Training Programme for SOs from 27 May - 10 June attended by 45 participants.
- GEM Workshop on 4 June 2019 attended by 38 participants.
- Accounts Training Programme from 14-17 June 2019 attended by 95 participants.
- Promotion Related Training Programme for MTSs and Staff Car Drivers from 17-21 June 2019 attended by 28 participants.

- 73rd IMAS Training Programme from 18 June-15 July 2019 attended by 99 participants.
- 73rd IMAS Re- Test on 23 July 2019 attended by 14 participants.
- IVFRT Training Programme from 29 July-2 August 2019 attended by 106 participants.
- Quarterly Typing Test for ASOs on 16 August 2019 attended by 12 participants.
- Accounts Training Programme from 19-20 August 2019 attended by 64 participants.
- 74th IMAS Training Programme from 21-27 August 2019 attended by 59 participants.
- 74th IMAS Re-Test on 23 September 2019 attended by 10 participants.
- IVFRT Training Programme from 5-8 November 2019 attended by 78 participants.
- English Stenography Test for the PAs and Stenos on 21 November 2019 attended by 10 participants.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

FSI conducted following training programmes for Foreign Diplomats in 2019:-

- 67th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats from 13 March-12 April 2019 which was attended by 48 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Moroccan Diplomats from 15-27 April 2019 which was attended by 16 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Senegalese Diplomats from 15-27 April 2019 which was attended by 10 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Angolan Diplomats from 6-18 May 2019 which was attended by 6 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Botswana from 6-18 May 2019 which was attended by 18 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Equatorial Guinea from 6-18 May 2019 which was attended by 4 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Liberian Diplomats from 6-18 May 2019 which was attended by 20 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Sao Tome & Principe Diplomats from 6-18 May 2019 which was attended by 4 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Egyptian Diplomats from 10 -22 June 2019 which was attended by 13 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asian Countries from 24 June-6 July 2019 which was attended by 29 diplomats.
- 2nd Special Course for Maldivian Diplomats from 24 June-6 July 2019 which was attended by 8 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for League of Arab States from 22-29 July 2019 which was attended by 16 diplomats.
- 2nd Special Training Programme for CARICOM from 12-23 August 2019 which was attended by 23 diplomats.
- 3rd Familiarisation programme for Resident Heads of Missions (HoMs) from 19-23 August 2019 which was attended by 17 HoMs.
- 3rd Special Course for Iraqi Diplomats from 26 August-7 September 2019 which was attended by 29 diplomats.
- 2nd Special Course for Palestinian Diplomats from 2-14 September 2019 which was attended by 15 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Libyan Diplomats from

6-21 September 2019 which was attended by 15 diplomats.

- 68th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats from 16 September-11 October 2019 which was attended by 55 diplomats.
- 5th Special Course for ASEM Diplomats from 14-21 October 2019 which was attended by 20 diplomats.
- 13th Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats from 14-26 October 2019 which was attended by 12 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Mongolia from 28 October-9 November 2019 which was attended by 25 diplomats.
- 3rd Special Course for Maldivian Diplomats from 28 October-9 November 2019 which was attended by 5 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Dominican Republic from 28 October-9 November 2019 which was attended by 8 diplomats.
- 2nd India-China Joint Capacity-Building Programme for Afghan Diplomats from 11-23 November 2019 which was attended by 10 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Beninese Diplomats from 25

November-7 December 2019 which was attended by 7 diplomats.

- 1st Special Course for Gabonese Diplomats from 25 November-7 December 2019 which was attended by 13 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Democratic Republic of Congo from 25 November-7 December 2019 which was attended by 11 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Côte d'Ivoire from 25 November-7 December 2019 which was attended by 10 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Cameroonian Diplomats from 25 November-7 December 2019 which was attended by 10 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Kenyan Diplomats from 25 November-7 December 2019 which was attended by 10 diplomats.
- 1st Special Course for Namibian Diplomats from 30 November-13 December 2019 which was attended by 20 diplomats.
- 4th Special Course for Bangladeshi Diplomats from 9-22 December 2019 which was attended by 24 diplomats.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS)

FSI signed MoUs with the following counterpart institutions abroad:

- Zambia Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Zambia on 21 August 2019.
- The Institute of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Lao People's Democratic Republic on 6 September 2019.
- The Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand on 10 October 2019.
- Prince Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 29 October 2019.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Republic of Sierra Leone on 13 October 2019.

KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP) AND OTHER PROGRAMMES/ VISITS

In addition to the training programmes for Indian officers/officials and foreign diplomats, FSI also conducted orientation programme for the participants of KIP:

- 54th KIP on 2 August 2019 attended by 40 participants; 55th KIP on 24 September 2019 attended by 35 participants.; 56th KIP on 17 October 2019 attended by 30 participants; 57th KIP on 6 November 2019 attended by 40 participants; 58th KIP on 2 December 2019 attended by 40 participants.
- 20 Journalists/Editors from five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan) visited FSI on 24 April 2019 for an orientation programme.
- 20 Journalists/Editors from Afghanistan visited FSI on 21 June 2019 for an orientation programme.
- 7 Malaysian diplomats, pursuing Diploma in Diplomacy from the Institute of Diplomacy and

Foreign Relations (IDFR) of Malaysia visited FSI on 29 July 2019.

- Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic visited FSI on 01 August 2019.
- A 7-member delegation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Malawi visited FSI on 20 August 2019.
- Executive Director of South Centre, Geneva visited FSI on 22 August 2019.
- President of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) visited FSI on 11 November 2019. He was accompanied by Director, Foreign Affairs Office of CFAU and diplomats from the Embassy of China in New Delhi. President of CFAU addressed the Afghan diplomats at the inaugural session of the 2nd India-China Joint Capacity Building Programme for Diplomats from Afghanistan.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR GOI OFFICERS/OFFICIALS

Training Programmes for IFS Officers and other GOI Officers

The Induction Training Programme (ITP) of IFS OTs commenced on 9 December 2019 at FSI. The Orientation module of the ITP has been completed and Phase-I covering Bilateral and Multilateral Relations, Defence and Security, Consular, Passport & Visa matters is scheduled during the last quarter of 2019-20.

During the last quarter of the CFY, training programmes for Interpreter's cadre, Defence Attaches and Commercial Representatives abroad have been

envisaged and are likely to be conducted in the months of February - March 2020. A Trade Workshop on Disarmament for DGFT and Customs Officers is also proposed to be held during 5-8 February 2020.

Non-Representational Grade (NRG) Training Programme

- Accounts Training Programme from 28-29 November 2019 attended by 88 participants.
- 75th IMAS Training Programme from 2 December - 1 January 2020 attended by 86 participants.
- 75th IMAS retest will be held on 8 January 2020.

- Typing Test for ASOs will be held on 16 January 2020.
- IVFRT Training Programme will be held from 10-14 February 2020.
- Induction Training Programme for ASOs will be held from 17-28 February 2020.
- Promotion-related Training Programme for SOs and PSs will be held from 16-27 March 2020.

Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

- 2nd Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme will be held from 13-31 January 2020.
- 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries will be held from 3-15 February 2020.
- 3rd Special Course for Syrian Diplomats will be held from 24 February-7 March 2020.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

- MoU between FSI and Foreign Service Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kenya signed on 3 December 2019.

Know India Programme (KIP) and other Programmes/Visits

- 59th KIP on 6 January 2020 attended by 40 participants.
- Director, Foreign Service Academy, Government of Kenya visited FSI on 29 November 2019.
- Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya led a 6-member delegation to FSI on 03 December 2019.
- A delegation from the Civil Services College of UK visited FSI on 20 December 2019.
- 59 students and faculty members of 9 Australian universities will visit FSI on 10 January 2020.
- Rector of Diplomatic Academy of the Kyrgyz Republic Kyrgyz will visit FSI on 25-26 February 2020.
- Scholars from Giessen University of Germany will visit FSI on 3 March 2020.



Officer Trainees of the 2018 batch of the Indian Foreign Service calling on Prime Minister Shri Modi

31

INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

ADMINISTRATION

The Council organised ICCR Foundation Day for the first time on 69th year of its existence on 9 April, 2019 at ICCR Headquarters, Regional Offices and by some of the Missions/Posts including an event to commemorate 131st Birth Anniversary of its founder President, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on 11th November, 2019. ICCR's new Website has been

launched on 24 Dec'2019.

The Council will observe the 62nd Death Anniversary of its founder President, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on 22 February 2020 at the Mazar of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (adjacent to Jama Masjid, Delhi).

SCHOLARSHIP

During the academic year 2019-20, ICCR offered 3940 scholarship slots to foreign nationals to pursue UG / PG / MPhil / PhD level course in Indian Universities / Institutes. ICCR introduced Admission to Alumni

(A2A) portal to receive and process application for grant of scholarship to foreign nationals who aspire to study in Indian Universities / Institutes. Against 3861 scholarship slots, 2632 provisional admission

confirmations have been forwarded to Indian Missions. Digitization of the scholarship module brought expediency, wide ranging choices to the officials while maintaining transparency.

As part of its welfare activity, Orientation Programme for newly admitted foreign students in different universities of India was organized by ICCR New Delhi on 13 November 2019 at New Delhi. Orientation Programmes in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata, Ahmedabad have been also organized in the month of October, November, 2019.

ICCR Foundation Day focusing on ICCR Alumni was organized at HQ in Delhi and 84 missions overseas on 09 April 2019. ICCR is collaborating with Laddakh Students Welfare Society in Delhi on 18th January, 2020 to organize LOSAR Festival at Shah Auditorium, Delhi to introduce ICCR's foreign students studying in Delhi NCR region to the unique Laddakhi culture.

Annual Conference on Vice-Chancellor's Conference is scheduled to be held from 28-30 January, 2020 at Pune.

CHAIRS

ICCR administered sixty-five Chairs across the globe based on mutually agreed MoUs (between the Council and foreign universities). 04 renewal of MoUs & 01 new MoU was signed for establishment of Chairs. ICCR is administering 65 Chairs across the globe based on mutually agreed MoUs (between the Council and foreign universities). One new MoU and 03 MoUs (renewal) pertaining to ICCR Chairs in various foreign universities / institutes are anticipated to be signed during the period December, 2019 to March 2020.

Conference & Seminar

03 scholars were supported with Travel Grant to visit Stockholm, Tokyo and Ankara in the month of May and June respectively to participate in different events. 03 scholars visited Mauritius to participate in commemoration of 150th Death Anniversary of Mirza Galib organized by Urdu Speaking Union in November 2019.

CONFERENCE & SEMINARS

ICCR organized (i) Second Pt. DeenDayal Upadhyay International Memorial Oration by former Chief Justice of India Sh. R.C. Lahoti in New Delhi on 21 May 2019, (ii) Second International Yoga Conference in London, UK on 22 June 2019 in collaboration with Ministry of Ayush and Knowledge Partner – SVYASA, (iii) Unveiling of Portrait of former Prime Minister late Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji by Hon'ble Vice President of India, Sh. Venkaiah Naidu in presence of Governor of West Bengal Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar on 16 August 2019, (iv) International Youth Seminar "Teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji and Sikhism Contribution in Universal

Wellbeing" organized in Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra on 6 November 2019 followed by visits to 03 Takhats to Patna, Amritsar and Nanded from 7-10 November 2019, (v) "Destination India Conference" on making India an Education Hub in 16-17 January, 2020 and 4th Indology Conference in March, 2020.

- (i) "GAASHTARUKH VII – THE KP IDOL (Finals)" was organised by Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch in New Delhi in June 2019,
- (ii) President, ICCR visited Mongolia in September 2019 to participate in "SAMVAD III: GLOBAL

HINDI-BUDDHIST INITIATIVE ON CONFLICT AVOIDANCE AND ENVIRONMENT CONSCIOUSNESS”,

(iii) 03 scholars were sent to Spain, Thailand and Germany to give lectures in the events organized to celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in October 2019, (iv) 02 scholars sent to Malaysia and Thailand to give lectures in the events to celebrate 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji in November 2019.

In compliance to Parliamentary assurance - a MoU was signed between AntarRashtriyaSahayog Parishad (ARSP) and ICCR in July 2019 for establishment of Roma Centre. ICCR is organizing “**Destination India - Making India the Preferred Hub of Education**” on 28-29 January 2020 in Pune in collaboration with Symbiosis International University (Venue partner) and Savitribai Phule Pune University (Knowledge partner).

4th Indology Conference “Re-Examining Indology Retrospect and Prospect” to be organized by ICCR on 13-15 March, 2020 in IIAS, Shimla in collaboration with Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla.

Sponsoring the visit of one scholar to Djibouti to take participate in the event to celebrate **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** from 18-21 January 2020.

Supported **5th Film Preservation & Restoration Workshop India 2019** from 8-15 December 2019 in Hyderabad by approving Rs.2.00 lakh with regard to expenditure incurred on foreign participants.

Supported **International Conference on Vedic-Mathematic 2019** by providing one travel grant to foreign participant. (22-24 December 2019).

Supporting **International Hindi Sammelan** to be organized by Hans Raj College by providing three travel

grants to foreign participants (10-11 January, 2020).

Supporting one day conference on 21 January, 2020 in Ayodhya on “**Sri Ram: Global Governance Model**” to be organized by India Think Council by providing two travel grants to foreign participants.

Supporting **2nd Ramayana Conference in Jabalpur** by providing six travel grants to foreign participants (26-28 January 2020)

Award

The Gisela Bonn Awards for the year 2018 and 2019 respectively were conferred upon Ms. Antje Stiebitz and Prof. Dr. Heike Oberlin on 9 December, 2019 by President, ICCR for their unparalleled contribution towards the deepening of Indo-German friendship.

The **ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award 2019** is to be held on 28 January 2020 at Symbiosis International (Deemed University) Campus, Lavale, Pune, Maharashtra.

ICCR World Sanskrit Award 2019 and the Distinguished Indologists Award 2018 and 2019 award ceremony is to be organized. The dates have not been finalized for the holding of both award ceremonies.

Hindi

Hindi Pakhwada (16-30 September 2019) was organized at ICCR Headquarters comprising of various competitions - Essay, Hindi typing, General Hindi, Hindi commentary, letter writing, speech, quiz and dictation competitions for MTS employees. On 26 September 2019, under the scholarship program a Hindi poets Conference was held at Azad Bhavan. Poems in Hindi were presented by foreign students studying in Delhi and officials and staff members of the Council. The Hindi Pakhwada closing ceremony and award distribution ceremony was organized by the Council on 30 September 2019.

Air travel for 07 poets was sponsored by the Council for Poetry at the Virat Hindi Poets Conference held in London (UK) from 19 September 2019 to 05 October 2019 by High Commission of India, London. The Council organized a meeting of the Hindi Official Language Implementation Committee of the Council and a Hindi workshop on the topic “**Hindi Noting and Letter Writing**” at Azad Bhavan in December 2019. The Council has sponsored of three expatriate scholars to attend the **International Hindi Conference** held at Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi from 9-11 January 2020.

Hindi bi-monthly magazine ‘**Gagananchal**’ year 42 issue 5-6 (September-December) 2019 and 43 issue 01 (January-February) 2020 to be printed during February-March, 2020. A Hindi workshop and the meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee of the Council are to be organized in March 2020

Indian Cultural Centre

The primary objective of the Council is to establish, revive and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries in order to promote awareness and appreciation of India’s soft power and cultural diplomacy.

The Council has been running 37 full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) in different parts of the world. Additionally, ICCR extends support to the Indian Cultural Centres in two countries established with local support on ‘PPP’ Model (Public-Private Partnership) in Valladolid, Spain and Busan, South Korea. To promote Yoga, Veda and Sanskrit globally, the Council deployed Teachers of Indian Culture (TIC) to various Missions/ Posts/ICCs and two Assistant Professors in Yoga at YunanMinzu University, Kunming, China. The Council has also deployed India based teachers in the disciplines of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Hindustani/Carnatic Vocal, Tabla and Hindi language

etc. to its ICCs. In addition, Council has also deployed Resources Personnels as Teachers of Yoga and Indian Dance where ICCR does not have Cultural Centre. The Council facilitated the Celebration of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 in 172 countries abroad. Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 7.78 Crores was provided in 172 Indian Missions to arrange events for IDY 2019 Celebration.

Visitors Programme

The Council invited:

- 04 well-known personalities in the field of politics, art & culture, economics from Oman, Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic and Syria under Distinguished Visitors Programme.
- 07 eminent academicians from South Africa, Afghanistan, Namibia, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, Spain and Portugal under Academic Visitors Programme.
- 09 Students of Hindi Learning from DPR Korea under this Visitors Programme.
- Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Member, Royal Research & Advisory Council, His Majesty’s Secretariat, Bhutan is to visit India under the **Distinguished Visitors Programme** from 24 December 2019 - 2 January 2020.

The Following well-known personalities have been invited to India under the Distinguished Visitors Programme from January - March 2020:-

- Senator Peter Boehm, Senator, Ontario, Canada to India from 20 - 29 February 2020 or 28 February - 08 March 2020.
- Mr. N. Enkhbayar, former President of Mongolia from 07- 16 March 2020.
- Ms. Kay Coles James, President of Heritage Foundation, USA in March, 2020.
- Ms. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand during March 2020.

Prof. Qiu Yong Hui, Scholar of contemporary religion

specialized in Indian religion, Sichuan University, Chengdu is to visit India under the Academic Visitors Programme from 16 – 25 December 2019.

The following eminent academicians have been invited to India under the Academic Visitors Programme during January - March 2020:-

- Ms. Marisol Schulz Manaut, Director General, Book Fair of Guadalajara, Mexico from 21 – 30 January, 2020.
- Prof. Klaus Larres, Richard M Krasno, Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA from 03 – 12 February, 2020.
- Prof. Alejandro Garay, Guatemalan academician to speak about Mayan goddess to promote Mayan culture and beliefs, Guatemala from 10 – 18 February, 2020.
- Prof. Pham Quang Minh, Rector, University of Social Science and Humanities, Vietnam from 17- 25 February, 2020.
- Prof. O. Nyamdavva, Director, Centre for Indian Studies(CIS) and former Ambassador of Mongolia from 06 – 16 March, 2020.
- Dr. Justin Valentin, Vice Chancellor, University of Seychelles from 20 – 30 March, 2020.
- Prof. Selwyn Cudjoe, Academic, Scholar, Professor, Africana Studies, Wellesley College during March/ April 2020.

Outgoing Cultural Delegations

A total of 69 groups was sponsored encompassing different genres of art forms with 17 folk music & dance; 19 classical dance; 2 contemporary dance; 3 Qawwali music; 09 instrumental music; 04 Bollywood; 04 Fusion; 01 Jazz; 02 each of Carnatic & Hindustani Vocal music; 06 Devotional vocal music. Coming from 20 different states of India, these artistes visited 62 countries to showcase India's culture abroad. A total of 05 groups were sponsored encompassing different

genres of art forms with 02 folk music & dance groups; 01 Instrumental group; 01 Percussion group; 01 Raagi (Devotional) group. They were sent from 04 states of India to 08 countries to give cultural performances during December 2019.

16 groups from 09 states are scheduled to give cultural performances in 23 countries encompassing different genres of art forms with 04 folk music & dance groups; 04 Instrumental groups; 02 Qawwali groups; 01 Puppetry group; 01 Kathak group; 01 Bhangra group; 01 Bollywood group; 01 Bhojpuri group; and 01 Devotional group from January - March 2020."

Incoming Cultural Delegations

The Council organized 30 performances by 15 foreign groups and 8 performances by Indian artistes. In addition to its regular Ramayana and Latin America Festivals, ICCR also hosted "Egypt by the Ganga" Festival from 13-21 November 2019. The Council organized the 6th International Folk Dance & Music Festival from 2-4 December, 2019 at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. In addition to Delhi the participating groups from 11 countries also performed in 11 other Indian cities. The Council also organized a concert by Symphony Orchestra of Leon, Spain with Dr. L. Subramaniam in Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune in January, 2020.

The Council has approved the collaborative venture in organizing of World Peace Music Festival "Sur Jahan" to be held at Kolkata, Goa and Jaipur in February, 2020. ICCR has also approved to collaborate with the Embassy of Portugal to organize a flute concert on 11 February, 2020.

Exhibition

The Council organized 7 exhibitions abroad on different formats such as paintings, photographs and textiles. The Council provided travel grants to 19 artists to participate in exhibitions organized abroad. In addition, Council extended support to Ms. Gunjan Gupta for

transportation of art works for the sector Delhi-Paris-Delhi to participate in the Revelations- International Fine Craft and Creation Biennale held at Grand Palais in Paris during 22-26 May, 2019 A proposal received from Colombo, Sri Lanka for an Exhibition of Buddhist sites/ Heritage by Shri Benoy K. Behl in January, 2020.

A proposal received from Minsk, Belarus for two exhibitions i.e. "Vastram-Splendid World of Indian Textiles" and "Temples, Forts and palaces: 2000 years of Indian Architecture" by INTACH in February, 2020.

An Actors workshop is to be organized in Male, Maldives during February-March, 2020. Three experts will be participating in the workshop from NSD.

An exhibition "Jaisalmer Yellow" is to be dispatched from Suva to Willington during January-February, 2020.

Installation of Gandhi Bust & statue

Commemorating Gandhi@150, ICCR provided 29

bronze busts and 17 statues of Mahatma Gandhi for installation in 40 countries. The Council also commissioned one Stylized bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Ecuador, Colombia and a bust of Swami Vivekananda to the USA for installation in Gloucester, Boston, USA. The Council sent a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Amherst, New York in December, 2019. Other proposals in the pipeline are:

- Proposal for Commissioning of Statue of Mahatma Gandhi for Astana, Kazakhstan, (confirmation awaited) in January, 2020.
- Proposal for Commissioning of Statue of Mahatma Gandhi for Georgia (EOI, Yerevan, Armenia) confirmation awaited in February, 2020.
- Proposal for Commissioning of bust of Mahatma Gandhi for Munduk (Bali, Indonesia), confirmation awaited in February, 2020.
- Proposal received for Commissioning of Statue of Mahatma Gandhi for New York in March, 2020.

REGIONAL OFFICES SECTION

An Orientation/Workshop programme for the members of ICCR Regional Advisory Committees of 14 Regional Offices was held on 4 April, 2019 at ICCR, Azad Bhavan under the Chairmanship of President, ICCR with the aim to advice/guide its ROs for improving and strengthening RO's functioning. The Annual meeting of the Regional Directors is scheduled to be held in Pune during the period 28-30 January 2020.

In addition to the above, a MoU between the

Council and the State Government of Kerala for joint cooperation is being executed.

A meeting of Resident Commissioners of States/Union Territories was held under the Chairmanship of DG, ICCR on 11 October 2019 at ICCR, Azad Bhavan. The purpose of this meeting was to find out ways in which the State Governments/UTs can cooperate/collaborate in the Council's activities and signing of MoU in this regard.



Prof. Dr. Heike Oberlin was conferred ICCR Gisela Bonn Awards for the year 2019 by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe (President, ICCR)



Inauguration of the Concert by Shri Akhilesh Mishra (Director General, ICCR), Dr. L. Subramaniam, Ms. Kavita Krishnamurti & Director of Castile and Leon Symphony Orchestra

32

INDIAN COUNCIL FOR WORLD AFFAIRS

The ICWA continued to accord high priority to research and study of political, economic and security developments in Asia, Africa, Europe, United States, Latin America and Caribbean, and the wider global geo-strategic environment. The conclusions were disseminated in the form of Sapru House Papers, Issue Briefs, Policy Briefs and Viewpoints, Discussion Papers, ShodhLekh (शोधलेख) which were published on the ICWA website. Further, ICWA continued the process of translating its academic outputs in Hindi which are regularly posted on its website. In addition, since April

2019 has published books and Sapru House Papers. Efforts are under way to revamp the Council's website to make it more user friendly. It is now available both in Hindi and English. 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 lectures, discussions, conferences, think tank dialogues and outreach activities.

Detailed inputs are as follows:

RESEARCH

The current strength of the Research Faculty is as follows:

a) Director (Research)	1
b) Research Fellows	23
c) Research Interns (RI)	3

During the period under review, the Research Faculty of the Council produced 4 Books, 03 Policy Briefs, 30 Issue Briefs, 26 Viewpoints, and various articles in the media and other academic journals. Country specific policy studies were undertaken at the Council

on China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, USA, and Russia. Region specific studies on Africa, Latin America, Indo-Pacific and Arctic were carried out. In addition, studies on multilateral and regional groupings such as NATO, G-20, and BRICS were undertaken. The Council tried to broaden its area of Book Projects to include areas such as Science and Diplomacy, Gilgit 1947-48, Geopolitical and Environmental factors in Indian Subcontinent History, India's Foreign Aid, Development Assistance to Africa, Central Asia and Influence of India's Buddhist Sculpture on Myanmar and Central Asia.

During the period under review, 11 new book proposals have been approved under the Council's Book Project Grant scheme. 14 book projects are in various stages of progress. The Council has also tried to diversify its area of research and book projects.

ICWA Research Faculty was encouraged to write articles in Hindi and 4 such ShodhLekh (शोधलेख), including 1 policy brief and 1 special report in Hindi and have been uploaded on the Council's website. In order to reach out to a wider audience, ICWA continued to publish translated versions of its academic articles in Hindi. In pursuit of this objective, 02 Books, 03 Issue Briefs, 13 Viewpoints been translated in Hindi and uploaded on the Council's website. ICWA instituted the Foreign Policy Awareness Programme (in Hindi) and sponsored seminars in collaboration with universities/academic institutions, where it was represented by one or more Rfs.

As part of its outreach activities and to create awareness about foreign policy issues among the youth, ICWA undertook two National Level Essay writing contests (in English and Hindi) among school going students (10-12 standard), and undergraduate & postgraduate students.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL MoUs

ICWA has undertaken a conscious effort to revive the MoUs with our international and National partners. The Council has signed three new MOUs with foreign policy institutes, namely Center for International Relations under the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (CIRS), Uzbekistan; Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ISRS), Tashkent, Uzbekistan; The Asia New Zealand Foundation (the Foundation), Wellington. On National level the Council has signed

such MoUs with the institutes namely Central University of Jammu (CUJ), Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S); Asia Centre, Bangalore; Centre for Southeast Asian and Pacific Studies; Vivekananda College of Arts and Science for Women, Tamil Nadu; Kamaraj University, Madurai; UGC Centre for Maritime Studies Pondicherry University. Currently the Council has 71 such arrangements. (Total MoUs:International-53, National-18).

PUBLICATION

ICWA's flagship Journal 'India Quarterly' was brought out regularly during the period 2019-20. In addition, the ICWA has brought out the following publications

S. No.	Title	Editor/Author	Year of Publication
I Books/Booklets			
1.	India's Relations with the International Monetary Fund (25 Years in Perspective 1991-2016)	Authored by V. Srinivas Forw. By Y V Reddy	2019
2.	भारत और यूरोपीय संघ: एक अंतरंग दृष्टिकोण	भास्वती मुखर्जी	2019
3.	शक्ति की मान्यता: सयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद	दिलीप सिन्हा	2019
4.	Pakistan The Balochistan Conundrum	Tilak Devasher	2019
India Quarterly			
1.	A Journal of International Affairs Special Issue- Eurasia	Vol-75 No.-1	2019
2.	A Journal of International Affairs Special Issue- China	Vol-75 No.-2	2019
3.	A Journal of International Affairs	Vol-75 No.-3	2019

List of Book Projects under process

1. Sapru House Paper (Changing Transatlantic Partnership: A Case of NATO"- Co-Author by. Dr. Stuti Banerjee and Dr. Ankita Dutta).
2. Re-Print (Kashmir a Study in India-Pakistan Relations authored by Sisir Gupta. (First Editions -1966; Reprint-1998).
3. The South Caucasus Transition from Subjugation to Independence - Authored Achal Malhotra.
4. हिन्दी "भारत-चीन सीमा मुद्दे: विवाद निपटान की तलाश- लेखक रंजीत सिंह काल्हा"।
5. हिन्दी "अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्राकोष (आईएमएफ) के साथ भारत के संबंध के परिप्रेक्ष्य में 25 वर्ष 1991-2016- लेखक वी. श्रीनिवास"।

ICWA CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/& OTHER 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 2019 to 30 November 2019, the ICWA organized the following events -

Lectures	-	09
Seminars/Conferences	-	18
Bilateral strategic dialogue	-	09
Panel Discussions/Background briefings/ Interactions	-	16
Book Launch/Release/Discussion function	-	06
Total	-	58

Lectures

9 April 2019	Lecture by Ambassador P.S. Raghavan, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board on "National Security Institutions: Tackling Emerging Challenges" Venue: Sapru House
7 May 2019	Talk by Prof. David Newman on "Israel Elections and the future of the Israel-Palestine Peace Process" Chaired by: Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad Venue: Sapru House
14 May 2019	Lecture by Shri V. Srinivas, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, on "Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – Changing Contours of Infrastructure Financing in Asia" followed by a Panel Discussion Chaired by: Lt Gen S L Narasimhan, PVSM, AVSM*, VSM, PhD (Retd), DG, Centre for Contemporary China Studies, New Delhi Venue: Sapru House
17 May 2019	Talk by Mr. Mohammad UmerDaudzai, Chief Executive of the Afghan High Peace Council on 'Current Developments in the Afghan Peace Process' Chaired by: Ambassador Vivek Katju, Former Ambassador of India to Afghanistan Venue: Sapru House
10 July 2019	Lecture by Prof. V. Kamakoti, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Chennai; Associate Dean, IIT Chennai, and Member, National Security Advisory Board on "5G Technology from an Indian Perspective" Chaired by: Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
30 July 2019	Lecture on "Second World War and the Growth of Science and Technology in India" by Prof. Arun Kumar Grover, Former Vice Chancellor, Panjab University and Emeritus Professor (Honorary), Punjab Engineering College (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh Chaired by: Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House

<p>23 August 2019</p>	<p>Lecture on "<i>Communal Affairs Over International Affairs: IR's Arrival in Late Colonial India</i>" by Dr. Vineet Thakur, University Lecturer, Institute for History, Leiden University, Netherlands <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. Zorawar Daulet Singh, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>27 August 2019</p>	<p>Talk on "<i>Oman, the Gulf Region and India: Perspectives on Maritime-Related Activity from the Museographical Context of the National Museum – Sultanate of Oman</i>" by Dr. Jamal al-Moosawi, Director General, The National Museum, Sultanate of Oman <u>Chaired by</u> Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Research Fellow, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>2 September 2019</p>	<p>Talk on '<i>Priorities for the 74th UN General Assembly</i>' by H.E. Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President-elect of the 74th Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) <u>Chaired by</u> Ambassador Asoke Mukerji, Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Venue: Sapru House</p>

Seminars/Conferences

<p>10 & 11 April 2019</p>	<p>National Seminar on "<i>India's Security Challenges In South Asian Nations</i>" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Venue: VPO : Bahal-127028, Haryana</p>
<p>17 & 18 April 2019</p>	<p>14th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum Meeting Venue: Beijing, China</p>
<p>18 & 19 April 2019</p>	<p>National Conference on "<i>Diplomatic History of Asia: Changing Contours</i>" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Venue: Varanasi.</p>
<p>3 May 2019</p>	<p>One day National Seminar on "<i>Chinese Economy: Current Status and Prospects</i>" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA Venue: Chennai.</p>
<p>15 May 2019</p>	<p>National Seminar on "<i>Enhancing India-Myanmar Ties: The Road Ahead</i>" Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>26 June 2019</p>	<p>Conference on '<i>European Union in a Changing World Order: Prospects for India-Europe Partnership</i>' Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>12 & 13 July 2019</p>	<p>International Conference on "<i>India and the Indian Ocean Region: Dynamics of Geopolitics, Security and Global Commons</i>" Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Venue: Chennai</p>

12 & 13 July 2019	International Conference on <i>"Startup India: The Wings of Foreign Trade"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA Venue: Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu
8 & 9 August 2019	National Seminar on <i>"Taking Stock of India-Latin America and Caribbean Relations"</i> Special Address by the Chief Guest: Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India Venue: Sapru House
19 August 2019	Joint ICS-ICWA event <i>'From Sapru House Lawns to Sri Ram Raod: Commemorating 50 Years of The Institute of Chinese Studies'</i> Venue: Sapru House
29 & 30 August 2019	National Seminar on <i>"India-Sri Lanka Relations in Present Context? Is it the Time for Reorientation of Policy?"</i> Venue: Sapru House
3 & 4 September 2019	National Conference on <i>'India -Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order: Priorities, Prospects and Challenges'</i> Valedictory Address by (on 4 Sept. 2019 at 1600 hrs.) Hon'ble Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India and President, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
19 & 20 September 2019	International Conference on <i>"The Changing Politico-Strategic Dynamics of the Asian Region and How it Affects India, Area Studies (United State Studies)"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University Venue: New Delhi
20 & 21 September 2019	Conference on <i>"Engaging Asia: India's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Venue: Kolkata
23 & 24 September 2019	International Conference on <i>"India-Nepal Relations: Rejuvenation of Bilateral Ties in the 21st Century"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Venue: ICCR, Kolkata(West Bengal)
10 & 11 October 2019	ICWA-ASCON National Conference on <i>'External Dimensions of Security of the Northeast Region'</i> Venue: Sapru House
29-31 October 2019	International Conference on <i>"Navigating the idea of the Indo-Pacific: Indian and Southeast Asian Perspectives"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA: Venue: Madurai
15 & 16 November 2019	National Seminar on <i>"Reorganization of Kashmir"</i> Outreach programme financially supported by ICWA Venue: Mathura

Bilateral and Strategic Dialogue

<p>3 & 4 April 2019</p>	<p>Second Dialogue with Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) Visit of VASS delegation to ICWA and to NIAS, Bangalore (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>10 & 11 April 2019</p>	<p>Fourth Track II Dialogue between India and New Zealand [The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Asia New Zealand Foundation (ANZF) and New Zealand India Research Institute (NZIRI)] Visit of ICWA delegation to New Zealand Venue: Wellington, New Zealand</p>
<p>15 April 2019</p>	<p>First Dialogue between ICWA and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) Two-session Dialogue Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>10 & 11 September 2019</p>	<p>4th ICWA- Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) Dialogue (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Cairo, Egypt</p>
<p>13 October 2019</p>	<p>ICWA- Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) Dialogue Visit of ICWA's delegation to IPIS, Tehran (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Tehran</p>
<p>01 November 2019</p>	<p>First India-Germany Strategic Dialogue Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>7 November 2019</p>	<p>Sixth ICWA Dialogue with Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) (ICWA's MoU partner) Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>19 & 20 November 2019</p>	<p>Third Russia-India International Conference with Russia International Affairs Council (RIAC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia <i>"Strategic Visions of Russia - India Relations and Changes in the World Order"</i> Venue: Russia</p>
<p>26 November 2019- 02 December 2019</p>	<p>Fourth India-China Think Tanks Forum (4th ICTTF) and related Meetings (MoU on Establishing India-China Think-Tanks Forum was signed by MEA and Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Beijing) Venue: Beijing, Hang Zhou and Shanghai, China</p>

Panel Discussions/Background briefings/ Interactions

4 April 2019	Interaction with Dr. Marina Kaneti, Assistant Professor, NUS, Singapore <u>Chaired by:</u> Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Joint Secretary, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
23 April 2019	Interaction on 'Science and Diplomcy' with National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
24 April 2019	Meeting with the delegation from Asia and the Pacific Division, United Nations <u>Chaired by:</u> Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Joint Secretary, ICWA Venue: Sapru House
30 April 2019	Roundtable Discussion on " <i>Random Reflections on the History of the ICWA</i> " <u>Chaired by:</u> Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, ICS Venue: Sapru House
9 May 2019	Closed Door Brainstorming for a Midterm Review on " <i>India-Russia Strategic Partnership in a Shifting WorldOrder</i> " based on 2018 Annual India-Russia Joint Statement <u>Chaired by:</u> Shri P. S. Raghavan, former Ambassador to Russia and Chairman, National Security Advisory Board Venue: Sapru House
28 June 2019	Ideashala (Panel Discussion) followed by Brainstorming Sessions on " <i>5G, Huawei & Geopolitics - An Indian Roadmap</i> " & " <i>The Kra Canal (a BRI Project in Thailand): What does it mean for India?</i> " [in collaboration with the Takshashila Institution, Bangalore] Venue: Sapru House
16 July 2019	Panel Discussion on " <i>The US-Iran Standoff: Assessing the Implications</i> " <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Anil K. Trigunayat, Former Ambassador to Jordan, Libya and Malta, Distinguished Fellow at Vivekananda International Foundation Venue: Sapru House
14 August 2019	Round Table Discussion on " <i>The ICJ Judgement on Kulbhushan Jadhav Case: Looking Ahead</i> " <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Vivek Katju, Former Ambassador of India to Afghanistan Venue: Sapru House
26 August 2019	Interaction between visiting Media delegation from Turkey and Research Faculty of ICWA Venue: Sapru House

<p>13 September 2019</p>	<p>हिंदी पखवाड़े के अवसर पर परिषद् द्वारा “हिंदी में विदेश नीति विमर्श को प्रोत्साहन” विषय पर परिचर्चा का आयोजन अध्यक्ष राजदूत श्री अनिल त्रिगुणायत विशिष्ट अध्येता, विवेकानंद इंटरनेशनल फाउंडेशन Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>24 September 2019</p>	<p>Presentations on “<i>Can India Make Her Own Next Generation Network</i>” Chaired by Prof. V. Kamakoti, Senior Professor, IIT Madras and Member, National Security Advisory Board Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>30 September 2019</p>	<p>Interaction with Mr. Ernesto Antonio Davis, Sub Director General, Directorate General of Policy Planning (DGPP), of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba (equivalent rank of senior JS) Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>21 October 2019</p>	<p>Closed door lecture cum discussion by Prof. Arogyaswami J. Paulraj, an Emeritus Professor at Stanford University and the inventor and a pioneer of MIMO (Multiple Input Multiple Output) wireless technology, on “<i>Chinese Advances in Technology</i>” Chaired by Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan, former Ambassador of India to Greece and Cuba Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>14 November 2019</p>	<p>Interaction with a three member Vietnam Delegation led by Col. Le Viet Cuong, Director, Strategic Studies Division, Institute of Military Strategy, Ministry of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Vietnam Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>15 November 2019</p>	<p>Interactive Session on “<i>The Dynamics of Bilateral Engagements between India and Syria</i>” with Dr. Mohsen Bilal, Head of Higher Education Bureau of the ruling BAATH party, Syria Chaired by: Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Former Diplomat Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>28 November 2019</p>	<p>Interaction with Ambassador Galma M. Boru, Director, Foreign Science Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya Chaired by: Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar, Joint Secretary, ICWA Venue: Sapru House</p>

Book Launch/Release/Discussion event

<p>2 April 2019</p>	<p>Book Launch and Discussion on <i>“Indian Cultural Diplomacy: Celebrating Pluralism in a Globalized World”</i> by Ambassador Paramjit Sahai [An ICWA’s Publication] <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, Former Foreign Secretary of India Chairman, Kalinga International Foundation Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>29 April 2019</p>	<p>Book Launch and Discussion on <i>“India’s Eastward Engagement: from Antiquity to Act East Policy”</i> by Professor S.D. Muni and Dr. Rahul Mishra <u>Chaired by:</u> Ambassador Preeti Saran, Former Secretary (East), MEA Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>26 July 2019</p>	<p>Book Launch and Discussion on <i>“India’s Relations with the International Monetary Fund: 25 Years in Perspective 1991-2016”</i> [An ICWA publication] by Shri V. Srinivas, Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India and former Advisor to Executive Director (India) IMF (Author of the book) <u>Chief Guest</u> Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India Venue: Sapru House Auditorium</p>
<p>22 August 2019</p>	<p>Book Launch and Discussion on <i>“Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum”</i> [An ICWA and Harper Collins India publication] by Shri Tilak Devasher, (Author of the book) <u>Moderator:</u> Shri Maroof Raza, Consulting Editor, Times Now Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>26 September 2019</p>	<p>Book Discussion on <i>‘INDIA’S Lost Frontier: The Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan’</i> Authored by Shri Raghvendra Singh, Former Secretary, Government of India <u>Chaired by:</u> Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA Venue: Sapru House</p>
<p>17 October 2019</p>	<p>To Commemorate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Presentation and Book Release on <i>‘Sikh Heritage of Nepal’</i> <i>[in collaboration with the B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation]</i> Venue: Sapru House</p>

COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

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 1st April 2019 to 30th November 2019, the Council participated in the

following activities:

1. CSCAP Study Group Meeting on Non-proliferation and Disarmament held in Bali, Indonesia on 6&7 April 2019.
2. 33rd Asia Pacific Round Table Meeting held in

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24-26 June 2019.

3. 51st Steering Committee Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27 June 2019.
4. 5th Workshop for the Asia Pacific Young Scholars

held in Beijing, China from 02-10 September 2019.

5. Second Global Korea Workshop for the future Asia Pacific Leaders held in Seoul, South Korea on 4-13 November 2019

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 1,52,407 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 2020. 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 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.

33

RESEARCH & INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

NEW OPPORTUNITIES & NEW PARTNERSHIPS POST-BAPA+40

Delhi Process Fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST) and Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), RIS organised the Delhi Process fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards “Exploring New Opportunities and New Partnerships Post-Buenos Aires Plan of

Action (BAPA)+40”.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, gave the keynote address for the challenges and opportunities faced by the South in respect to financial governance, underscoring India's vision of 'reformed multilateralism'.

H.E. Dr Nomvuyo Nokwe, Secretary General, Indian Ocean Rim Association, Mauritius, delivered the

inaugural address, Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, made the welcome remarks. Mr Jorge Chediek, Director, UNOSSC; Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Chairperson, FIDC; and Professor Li Xiaoyun, Chairman, NeST made key observations on behalf of partner Institutions and Shri T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India honored the conference with special remarks. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, extended the vote of thanks and welcomed participants from over 53 countries that included 16 international institutions and major SSC stakeholders.

Experts deliberated on issues related to scaling up of SSC in the face of Industry 4.0; evolving an impact assessment framework that captures the unique features of SSC; the diversity of actors and role of institutions in actualising the aspirations of the South; the role of SSC for global financial governance and simultaneously engaged in exploring the potential of Triangular Cooperation (TrC). The discussion explored the need for sharing and co-creation of technology for strengthened cooperation and presented a space for emerging agencies of the Global South to come together to share experiences, knowledge and mechanisms for the institutionalisation of SSC.

The conference also evolved a broad consensus on

assessing SSC against the non-negotiable principles, on one hand, and the modalities with its variations in operation, on the other. The idea of 'Development Compact' as a complementary set of interdependent modalities received considerable appreciation from the participants. Furthermore, the conference opened avenues for a continued dialogue as we march towards strengthening Southern engagement and initiating triangular partnerships for the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Delhi Process Fifth Conference further took the much-needed steps to strengthen knowledge linkages initiating a Think Tanks-University Connect and a Young Scholars Forum. The Think Tanks-University Connect created a collective platform for knowledge creators inaugurated by the Professor V.K. Malhotra, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission. This new initiative aimed to further feed in teaching and research at various institutes of higher learning, bringing in the disciplines of international relations, international economics, development studies, and their interface with public policy formulation process into a collective platform.

RIS CO-HOSTS SIXTH INDIA, BRAZIL, SOUTH AFRICA (IBSA) ACADEMIC FORUM IN KOCHI

RIS was entrusted with the task to convene the Sixth IBSA Academic Forum alongside the IBSA Sherpas' Meeting on 3-4 May 2019 at Kochi, Kerala. The Forum provided the desired momentum to the IBSA process, and hence reinforced the continued relevance of this unique trilateral partnership for global governance and development cooperation. RIS is privileged to be associated with the IBSA since its inception.

The first day of Sixth IBSA Academic Forum began with welcome remarks and Context- Setting by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Sunil Lal, Former Indian Ambassador to Brazil, Chaired the inaugural session. Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, delivered the inaugural address, which was followed by a Panel Discussion on Contemporary Global

Governance and the Role of IBSA, which was chaired by Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, former Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), India.

The Plenary Session I on Strengthening South-South Cooperation (SSC) through IBSA was Chaired by Mr José Romero Pereira Júnior, Coordinator, International Relations Program, Catholic University of Brasilia (UCB) and Researcher, Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil. After this, a Special Session on 'Towards a Collaborative Academic Network among Institutions of Higher Learning in IBSA Countries - Opportunities and Potential Gains' was held.

The final declaration emanating from IBSA Academic Forum called for early convening of the impending IBSA Summit and outlined the role of IBSA with regard to its unwavering commitment to multilateralism,

democratisation of the UN, role in promoting world peace and security, and mainstreaming sustainable development. The forum reiterated that the edifice of the IBSA partnership stands on strong pillars of South-South Cooperation with plurality of approaches and convergence of modalities and highlighted the importance of IBSA declaration on South-South Cooperation. The Academic Forum called for deeper trade integration and cooperation on standards, investment and the financial sector. Finally, the Academic Forum recommended strong academic and research linkages in IBSA for strengthening Southern perspectives on the development discourse; and leveraging emerging frontiers like human security, renewable energy and green technologies, blue economy and ocean governance that hold immense significance for IBSA.

DE-BRIEFING SESSION ON G20 OSAKA SUMMIT

The G20 Leaders' Summit in Osaka, Japan was on 28-29 June 2019. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Summit and contributed to the G20 process in a substantive way. Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Minister of Commerce and Industry and was India's G20 Sherpa at the Summit. The Summit was a much-awaited event for the member countries given the growing influence of G20 in global economic and political affairs. Like previous summits, India actively participated in the Osaka Summit and contributed in the form of flagging global issues of common interests to the member states.

Since India is going to assume G20 presidency in 2022, it is important to collectively deliberate upon the road map from the Osaka Summit. In order to generate informed debate among the thinkers, policy makers, academics, businesses and other stakeholders, RIS organised a 'De-Briefing Session on G20 Osaka

Summit'. Hon'ble Shri Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa and Former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India delivered Special Address. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS Chaired the session. The Sous Sherpa Mr Suresh Reddy, Joint Secretary, Multilateral Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs also joined the deliberations. Mr Augustine Peter, Visiting Fellow, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

In his address Shri Prabhu, highlighted that since there are so many global issues which need to be discussed at the G20 platform and exclusion of any particular issues may arouse criticism, there should be continuity of issues taken up in the previous presidencies along with appreciation of new issues in the subsequent presidencies. India not only participates in G20 for its own interests, but it also tries to put aspirations of the other developing countries upfront in G20 deliberations. Moreover, India feels its own responsibility in global affairs as the largest developing country in the world

and ensures that developing world's perspectives are respected in G20.

The issue of trade at this point of time is important as higher trade can contribute to higher economic growth. But global trade cannot grow unless the WTO becomes strong and functional. India has taken a number of initiatives to ensure that WTO becomes a centrality to the global trading system. After the disappointing outcome of Argentina Ministerial in 2017, India organised a mini-ministerial on 19 March 2018 to make sure that the WTO becomes more effective. The participation of 57 countries manifested the success of this event which implies that most of the member states favour reforms in the functioning of WTO. Infrastructure can act as a catalyst for global economic growth.

Many countries benefit from investments in

infrastructure happening in different parts of the world. Infrastructure has a potential to pull economic activity globally. India has taken initiatives under the Prime Minister's leadership on International Solar Alliance (ISA), which in fact, will significantly contribute to changing global energy mix. India strongly supports the G20 stand on ocean economy and the role of oceans for economic prosperity and environmental conservation. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) framework has to be strengthened to seize the arbitration opportunities and locating the tax heavens. G20 must provide the vision to bind all the countries especially the emerging markets like Indonesia, India, Brazil and Mexico which are new actors in global governance to support coordinated actions on major global issues and promote global public goods. A large number of participants participated in the discussion.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON EXTERNAL SECTOR, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

The Government of India has been targeting on employment generation for youths through the development of appropriate skills. In this context, a brainstorming Session at RIS with a group of select experts was organised to deliberate on this and related issues on 17 June 2019.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State, Ministry of Commerce and Industry chaired the Session. The other fellow participants in the discussion were: Mr Seshadri Chari, Member, RIS Governing Council; Dr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI; Dr Nagesh Kumar, UN-ESCAP, New Delhi; Dr Sunil Shukla, Director, EDI, Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Professor Mukti Kanta Mishra, President, Centurion University, Bhubaneswar; Mr Yogesh Kumar, Executive Director,

Samarthan-Centre for Development Support, Bhubaneswar; Professor Pulak Ghosh, Chair of Excellence and Professor of Decision Sciences, IIM, Bengaluru; Ms Shruti Gonsalves, Managing Director, SEWA Grih Rin Ltd, New Delhi; Dr Gayathri Vasudevan, and Mr Rajesh; CEO; Labournet; Bengaluru; Professor Anoop K. Satpathy; V.V. Giri National Labour Institute; NOIDA; Mr Ranajit Bhattacharyya, and; Mr Anant Mani, Pratham Education Foundation, New Delhi; and Mr Harsh Singh, Senior Coordinator, UNDP.

From RIS, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Dr S. K. Mohanty, Professor; Professor Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow; Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Assistant Professor; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor; Mr Gaurav Sharma; Project Manager, GDI; Dr Durairaj Kumarasamy, Consultant; and Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee participated.

RIS AT BAPA+40 - SPECIAL FOCUS ON RIS VOLUME ON RAUL PREBISCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

RIS, as an accredited partner organisation with the UN, participated in the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) held from 20 to 22 March 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On this occasion, RIS also hosted four side-events under the auspices of the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST). The side events organised around panel discussions with eminent scholars, experts, practitioners and policy makers aimed to bring forth the facets of the Asian approach to development cooperation; showcase the plurality in South-South Cooperation (SSC); underscore the need for better access to health technology; and deliberate upon the issues related to assessment, monitoring and evaluation.

On 20 March 2019, RIS in partnership with NeST hosted a panel discussion on 'Impact Assessment and Monitoring & Evaluation vis-à-vis South-South Cooperation: The State of the Debate' at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Palacio San Martín, Buenos Aires. The monograph contains proceedings of the Seminar held on "New Perspectives in North-South and South-South Relations". It also has some important contributions by Raul Prebisch. The discussions noted

the conceptual and political differences between impact assessment and monitoring and evaluation and recognised the efforts made by developing countries such as India, Paraguay and Brazil to undertake demand-driven assessment and evaluation activities.

RIS, NeST and China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA) organised a panel discussion on 'Exploring the Asian Narrative on South-South Cooperation' held on 19 March 2019 at the University of Buenos Aires. RIS and NeST hosted a panel discussion on 'South-South Cooperation for Access to Health Technology' on 21 March 2019 at the Instituto Nacional Sanmartiniano, Buenos Aires, delved into cooperation at the sectoral level. The event began with the launching of a special RIS publication, *Together towards a Healthy Future - India's Partnerships in Healthcare*, by Mr Sanjiv Ranjan, Ambassador India to Argentina. NeST, along with country chapters from Brazil, Mexico, China, Argentina and Africa, in partnership with RIS and BRICS Policy Centre, Brazil also hosted a panel discussion on 'Plurality of South-South Cooperation' on 22 March at the Asociación de Amigos del Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2019

In continuation of RIS close association with the SDG deliberations at the United Nations, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) process and the UN Office of South-South Cooperation - Director General Professor Sachin Chaturvedi led a two-member RIS delegation to the UN that included Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor to participate in the HLPF 2019 in New

York during 13-19 July 2019. As in the previous years, RIS also organised two thematic side events on the side-lines of the HLPF 2019 in New York, jointly with prominent international organisations and agencies to contribute to the debate, understanding, and narrative on SDGs, particularly SDG 17.

Director General was invited to speak in the Session on “Effectiveness in South-South Co-operation” at the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) Senior Level Meeting (SLM) on 13 July 2019. Dr Saha was also invited to participate in the SLM. In his remarks Professor Chaturvedi highlighted distinct perspectives on effectiveness in South-South Cooperation with regard to efficiency and convergence.

The special address in this side-event was delivered by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India and the session was moderated by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, New Delhi. The distinguished panellists included Ms Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in India; Mr Jorge Chediek, Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation; Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Chair and Distinguished Fellow, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh; Dr John W. McArthur, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development program, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC and Dr Manuel F Montes, Senior Advisor on Finance and Development, South Centre, Geneva. In his special address Dr Rajiv Kumar emphasised on innovative use of resources, embedded application of technology and endogenous development models for developing countries.

The second programme was on “Strengthening SDG 17 through South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Plurality and Way Forward from BAPA+40” with NeST, UNOSSC, OECD and BRICS Policy Centre on 18 July 2019. The session was moderated by Mr Jorge Chediek, Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The distinguished panellists included Ambassador Nagaraj Naidu, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of India to the UN; Ms Ana Ciuti, Director General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina, Mr Robin Ogilvy, OECD Special Representative to the UN, Dr Paulo Esteves, Director, BRICS Policy Centre, Brazil, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, and Ms Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director for Programme and Operations, UNOSSC.

RIS also hosted a dinner meeting in Honour of Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-chairman, NITI Aayog and head of the Indian delegation to the HLPF on 16 July 2019 in New York. The meeting deliberated on the aforementioned subject and was attended by representatives of prominent philanthropic foundations based in the US, international agencies, social entrepreneurs and civil society organizations from India.

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E MS REGINAH MAKGABO MAHAULE, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SOUTH AFRICA

RIS organised an Interactive Session with H.E Ms Reginah Makgabo Mahaule, Deputy Minister of International Relations, South Africa, on 9 January 2019. Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, chaired the session and welcome remarks were made by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. During the

panel discussion on ‘India-South Africa Partnership and the New World Order’ the following experts took part: Ambassador Virendra Gupta, President, Indian Council for International Cooperation; Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, former Director General, ICWA; Dr Philani Mthembu, Executive Director, Institute For Global

Dialogue, South Africa; and Ms Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, IDSA. The panel brought forth the importance of actors in track 1.5 diplomacy towards taking cooperation initiatives and policy dialogues beyond the government. An increased cooperation between the think-tanks of India and South Africa enhance the scope of relevant, timely and applied research that can bring change on the ground. Such an effort gives impetus to the ongoing tracks of government-to-government and people-to-people cooperation.

The panel discussion was followed with an address by H.E Ms Reginah Makgabo Mhaule, Deputy Minister

of International Relations, South Africa on the theme "25 Years of Freedom in South Africa". H.E. Ms Mhaule traced the history of South Africa, its partnership with India from the times of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, as well as the growing role of the two countries towards ensuring inclusive southern development. She drew upon the existing multilateral fora's of cooperation between the two countries and detailed the scope of a deepened cooperation with the signing of MoUs between RIS and its South African counterparts, SAIIA and IGD. Mr B.J. Joubert, Chargé d' Affaires, High Commission of South Africa in India extended the vote of thanks.

APPROACHING AFRICAN CONTINENT THROUGH AAGC

The Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) is multi-country development initiative initiated by India and Japan for strengthening economic linkages between Asia and Africa. RIS, the Indian think tank for AAGC, has provided lead to the process of conceptualisation and formulating the vision document. In order to engage the Indian firms and businesses in this initiative and spreading awareness about the initiative, RIS and EXIM Bank of India jointly organised a one-day seminar on "Approaching African Continent through AAGC" at Mumbai on May 17, 2019. The seminar raised interesting issues relating to the business opportunities for Indian businesses in the African countries, role of the private sector, investment prospects and challenges, financing mechanisms, institutional facilitation and policy intervention.

A large number of representatives from the business

and industry circles, including KEC International Ltd; Larsen & Toubro Ltd; Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd; Tata Consultancy; Tata Motors Ltd; Tata Steel Ltd.; Engineers India Ltd; and Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. participated in the deliberations. Shri Keshav Chandra, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Mr Prasanna V. Salian, Dy. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, gave their valuable suggestions at the consultation meeting. The EXIM Bank was represented by Mr David Rasquinha, ED; Mr Samuel Joseph; CGM; Mr David Sinate, CGM and Mr Prahalathan S. Iyer, CGM. From RIS Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General; Mr Seshadri Chari, Member, RIS, Governing Council and General Body; Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow; Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow; and Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant, took part in the consultation meeting.

LAUNCH OF INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

RIS, jointly with the Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom, organised

the launch of an 'Initiative on Global Development' on 9 January 2019 at New Delhi. The initiative

begins a journey towards the sharing of development experiences, knowledge and technical know-how, setting forth a new trajectory for an inclusive and equal partnership. The partnership is predicated upon the recognition of a diverse development cooperation architecture and existence of a plurality of approaches among developing countries. The initiative creates a platform for the sharing of India's development experiences with fellow developing countries in Asia and Africa.

The inaugural session was chaired by Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Welcome remarks were given by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Special remarks were given by Mr Manoj Bharati, Additional Secretary (Economic Diplomacy and States Division), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr Pete Vowles, Director, Asia,

Caribbean & Overseas Territories Division, DFID; and Mr Gavin McGillivray, Head, DFID India. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS made a presentation on the 'Initiative on Global Development'.

The inauguration of the Initiative was followed by a panel discussion on 'Contours of Initiative on Global Development', chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. The panelists were Mr Philip Parham, UK's Envoy to the Commonwealth; Professor Anuradha Chenoy, Chairperson, FIDC; and Dr Rajesh Tandon, President, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). Some key perspectives that emerged in the discussion drew upon the importance of co-convening dialogues among all stakeholders in developing countries aimed towards mobilisation and systemisation of knowledge, taking local to the global. The discussion was followed by a question and answer session.

REFORM MULTILATERAL BODIES TO REFLECT PRESENT GLOBAL REALITY: AMBASSADOR ANIL SOOKLAL

South Africa has called for reforms within the UN system, the UN Security Council (UNSC), the Bretton Woods Institutions (the International Monetary Fund, IMF and the World Bank), and the WTO to make these international bodies reflect the current reality of the global community. It also wanted the leading emerging economies bloc BRICS (comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to focus on ways to address the prevailing 'semi-paralysis' in the multilateral system.

Advocating reforms within these multilateral institutions, Ambassador Anil Sooklal, the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in South Africa and South Africa's Sherpa (or emissary) in the BRICS, in IBSA and also in the G20 countries, and Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS, said: "You (now) have a UN system that is semi-paralysed. You have a UNSC that adopts resolutions that no one pays any heed to. And now you have a

permanent divide between the P2 and P3." He added: "This is the semi-paralysis that we have in the (entire) multilateral system. We have to use platforms like BRICS to constantly address these fault-lines and see how we constantly keep it on the radar, until we build enough momentum to get consensus for these views (on reforms) to prevail." The senior diplomat was addressing an audience comprising academics and students at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram.

Pointing out that the 75th anniversary of the UN will soon be celebrated (in the year 2020), the Ambassador said: "We still have P5, but how effective is this P5? There will come a time when it becomes irrelevant. You will have other major global players that flex their muscle on the global scene and with such an impact that you will have to change the structure (of the UN). Time and the changing global environment will take

care of that.” He was responding to questions after delivering a lecture on ‘Cooperation among Emerging Economies and Global Governance: Lessons from BRICS Experience’ at the CDS on January 30, 2019. The event was organised in association with the RIS. In his lecture, Ambassador Sooklal also touched upon various aspects including the need to strengthen cooperation between countries in the global South and the importance of getting more value out of meetings at the global and regional platforms including G20, BRICS and IBSA. Besides, he sought greater people-to-people interaction in BRICS countries and improving partnerships between think-tanks in BRICS countries. The Ambassador also suggested expanding BRICS outreach programs, including more points of interest of the developing world in the G20 Summit declarations.

During his India visit, he also spoke at the Pondicherry University’s UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia Regional Cooperation (UMISARC)-Centre for South Asian Studies. He delivered a lecture on the

‘Relevance of Gandhi in the 21st Century’, organised in association with the RIS. Ambassador Sooklal spoke about the commonalities in the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, and how the principles and philosophies that they stood for including non-violence, truth and sustainable development are relevant today. He also pitched for creation of a New World Order based on the principles followed by Gandhi and Mandela as well as *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family) and Ubuntu (‘I am because we are’ or the belief in a universal bond of sharing that links the entire humanity). He also delivered lectures on 2 February 2019, at Ahmedabad which was organised jointly with Gujarat Institute of Development Research and Gujarat Vidyapith on the theme “Gandhi Mandela Legacy” and on “India and South Africa in Africa,” organised by the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi on 28 January 2019.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MS ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UN-ESCAP

Ms Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UN-ESCAP visited RIS on 22 January 2019 for an interactive session. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS gave the welcome remarks which were followed by presentation on RIS work programme by faculty members. Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director, South and South-

West Asia Office, UNESCAP; Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP; Mr K. L. Thapar, Chairman, Asian Institute of Transport Development; and Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade Policy also joined the interactive session.

THE YOUNG DIPLOMATS CONCLAVE 2.0-ENERGISING INDO-ASEAN TIES

RIS, jointly with the Vision India Foundation (VIF) organised the Young Diplomats Conclave 2.0-Energising Indo-ASEAN Ties at New Delhi on 17 January 2019.

Ambassador A.K. Banerjee, IFS (Retd.) and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS made initial remarks. The First Session on ‘The role of Indo-ASEAN relationship

in meaningfully shaping the regional architecture in Indo-Pacific' was chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. In this session Mr Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, NMML spoke on 'ASEAN centrality in the dynamics of Indo-Pacific' and Professor Harsh. V. Pant, Kings College London addressed on Evolution of 'Quad' as a strategic concept. The session on 'India -ASEAN: Different but related cultures' was chaired by Ms Arunima Gupta, VIF. H.E. Mr Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador, Embassy of Indonesia gave an address on Leveraging Indo-Indonesia linkages of past for building a mutually beneficial relationship. Dr

Gautam Kumar Jha, JNU addressed on Understanding Indo-ASEAN civilizational interrelatedness. Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired the session on RCEP and the Regional Economic Architecture- Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward. Mr Pranav Kumar, Head International Trade Policy, The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) spoke on Promoting Cross-Border Trade with The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Closing Remarks were given by Mr Shobhit Mathur, Executive Director, VIF.

SEMINAR ON 'ROLE OF MACROPRUDENTIAL POLICY IN PROMOTING FINANCIAL STABILITY'

RIS, jointly with Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, organised a seminar on 'Macroprudential Policy' on 14 March 2019 at RIS. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS made the welcome remarks. Professor R. Sudarshan, Dean, School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University gave initial remarks. Mr Marek Licak, Director of the Macroprudential Policy, Department of the National Bank of Slovakia made lead presentation, which was followed by panel discussion. The panelists were: Dr

Alok Sheel, RBI Chair Professor, ICRIER; Mr Ludovik Odor, Vice Governor of the National Bank of Slovakia; and Mr Bandula Jayasekara, Visiting Fellow, RIS. H.E. Mr Ivan Lancaric, Ambassador and Ms Katarina Tomkova, Deputy Chief, Embassy of the Slovak Republic in New Delhi and Professor Biswajit Banerjee, Chief Economist, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic & Professor of Economics, Ashoka University also joined the participants on this occasion.

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON PROMOTION OF INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINES: CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES

The Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) organised a Regional Consultation on "Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicines: Challenges and Best Practices" in Bengaluru on 20th March 2019. Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH delivered the inaugural address. The eminent speakers in the inaugural session included Shri Rajeev Kher, Former Commerce Secretary and Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Dr B. R. Ramakrishna, Vice Chancellor S-VYASA

University, Bengaluru; and Shri Arvind Varchaswi, Managing Director, Sri Sri Tattva, Bengaluru.

The consultation had four sessions on separate themes like 'Product Standards and Quality Assurance: Successes and Challenges', 'Quality Services: Standardisation Mechanisms', 'Internationalisation of Indian Systems of Medicine: Sharing strategies for domestic preparedness' and 'Medicinal plants governance: Best

practices in conservation and cultivation'. The eminent panellists included, among others, Shri Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH; Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairperson and Trustee, Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE), Bengaluru, and Smt Meenakshi Negi, Commissioner, Department of AYUSH; Karnataka.

A large number of industry representatives besides government officials and academia participated in the meeting. The deliberations highlighted the challenges that the AYUSH sector is facing and suggested various steps that the government and the industry should take to promote the sector. Special focus was paid to the issues of the MSME sector. Dr Namrata Pathak, Research Associate, RIS gave the vote of thanks.

DISCUSSION MEETING ON CAN ECONOMIC MULTILATERALISM SURVIVE?

A Discussion Meeting with Mr Jean Pisani-Ferry, former founder and head of the Bruegel Think Tank set up at Brussels and also former Commissioner General for Policy Planning of the French Government, former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Council of Economic Advisors was held on 8 January 2019 at India International Centre. Mr Jean Pisani-Ferry spoke on 'Can Economic Multilateralism Survive?'

Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired. Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow welcomed the chief guest and other participants. Participants included: Dr Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, MoC&I; Dr Suman Bery, former Director General, NCAER; Dr Ramgopal Agarwala, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog; and Dr Mukesh Bhatnagar, Centre for WTO Studies.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO MEDICINES AND EVIDENCE BASED POLICY IN HEALTH

RIS had coordinated a study on the patient health adherence and monitoring, involving health workers (ASHAs) and their using a mobile app for data management. The study was conducted at five taluks in Ernakulam District, Kerala, covering a population of one lakh. From this, patients with Cardio-Vascular Diseases (CVDs) were identified, and their health and response to health communications were monitored and followed up. Findings from an earlier study, that paved the way for this study, have also been published in peer reviewed journals, including *BMJ Open*, *Indian Heart Journal* and *International Journal of Cardiology*. This study was done under REWARD Project (focuses

on Evidence Based Policy Making in Health, and, Access to Medicines and Incentivizing Innovation in Drug R&D), funded by European Research Council (ERC) with University of Calgary, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), and RIS as the partner institutions. As the study was conducted in partnership with Kerala government departments and local bodies, the findings are considered relevant for public health policy-making in Kerala and of course for other states also. In this regard, RIS had organised dissemination workshop at Thiruvananthapuram on 26 June 2019 and a Consultation Meeting at New Delhi on 28 June 2019.

RIS-DST-NIAS SEMINAR ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

RIS with the support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST) had launched a 'Science Diplomacy Programme' jointly with NIAS, Bengaluru. The programme realise the potential of the Science Diplomacy through capacity-building, developing of networks and for strategic thinking.

As part of this programme, RIS-NIAS also organised Seminar on Science Diplomacy on 22 April 2019 at New Delhi to discuss emerging narratives from India on the theory and practice of science diplomacy and also to present India's successful endeavors in the domain of space, nuclear and aerospace using science diplomacy. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS initiated the programme by welcome address. Thereafter, Special Address was given by Professor V. S. Ramamurthy, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Professor Emeritus, NIAS. Dr Sadhna Relia, Head (International Cooperation), Department of Science and Technology, gave Keynote remarks; which was followed by remarks of Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Indian Ambassador and of Professor D. Suba Chandran, Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies, NIAS and Coordinator, NIAS Science Diplomacy Initiative.

During the seminar, the distinguished speakers highlighted the role of science diplomacy in the present era and deliberated on emerging issues. The main point that emerged is: Science and Technology cooperation as a formal diplomatic tool has been a very significant

development of the twentieth century. However, it was also highlighted that such cooperations have been limited somewhat to the scientific community only with very little involvement of the state. Therefore, is a need for greater engagement of the government in leveraging the potential of science diplomacy to use it for the national development and economic growth of the nation. India's lead role in establishing International Solar Alliance (ISA) at New Delhi, has been seen as a remarkable instance of successful science diplomacy endeavour in recent times. It was also pointed out during the deliberations that India needs to engage more in S&T partnerships with other developing countries of the neighbourhood. Given India's proven strength in S&T endeavours, its utilisation for diplomatic gains in Asian region and select countries in the other regions, needs to be explored further. Ideas such as establishing an "Open University" catering to all developing countries in the neighbourhood and promoting "Telemedicine" to enable healthcare reach across the wider population across the region, can be taken up to accelerate India's efforts in science diplomacy. During the seminar, many valuable outcomes emerged towards strengthening India's science diplomacy efforts. Setting-up of a High-technology S&T infrastructure facility and of a High-tech S&T Incubation (Interface) Centre for show-casing S&T products/services, reviewing and facilitating adoption can be explored further in the future. The detailed agenda is available on the RIS website: www.ris.org.in

SEMINAR ON DIGITAL ECONOMY, E-COMMERCE AND THE WTO

The Digital Technology has acquired the center stage in the global trade discourse. It has manifested in different ways, such as the proposal on the Permanent Moratorium on Electronic Transmission and

constitution of a plurilateral group on e-Commerce in the WTO Ministerial Meeting at Buenos Aires. Lately, India has also drafted an e-commerce Policy to create a regulatory and developmental profile in a rapidly

rising sector. India had chosen not to participate in the Plurilateral Discussion on e-commerce in the WTO. Thus, there are several issues in the realm of the digital technology, which are needing apt attention of policy-makers and experts globally.

To deliberate upon some of these important issues, RIS had organised a Consultation on “e-Commerce” on 5 June 2019. Ambassador Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS, had chaired the inaugural session. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, made introductory remarks. It was followed by inaugural Address by Mr Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce. Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS, chaired the first working session on the Moratorium on Electronic Transmission and e-Commerce discussions in WTO in which Ms Rashmi Banga, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD was

the lead speaker. Ambassador Jayant Dasgupta, former Indian Ambassador to WTO and Mr A. K. Garg, Director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology were the main interveners.

The next session on Importance of Data Protection, Sharing and Processing: Challenges and Opportunities for India had Mr Kiran Karnik, former President, NASSCOM, as the main speaker. Mr Anand Krishnan, Data Security Council of India and Mr Arvind Gupta, Head, Digital India Foundation, were interveners. The concluding session was on Draft National E-Commerce Policy; in which Mr Shailender Singh, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade was the main speaker with the intervention by Mr Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies.

INDIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE

India and Africa share a long history of friendship and cooperation. While bilateral development cooperation between them is expanding both the regions are facing certain common challenges, particularly in the areas of food and nutrient security and productivity. The Indian government has been promoting many initiatives to strengthen India-Africa cooperation in agricultural sector. As efforts are being made for the next India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), many issues and opportunities are emerging. Keeping this in view, RIS has been actively facilitating discussions on various aspects of the India-Africa cooperation in the agricultural sector. In continuation of this endeavour, RIS, in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) had organised a “Roundtable on India-Africa Partnership in Agriculture” on 7 June 2019. H.E. Mr Ben Joubert, Acting High Commissioner, South African High Commission, New Delhi, chaired the inaugural session.

Session 1 on India-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture: Prospects and Challenges was chaired by Dr Suresh Pal, Director, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research. Dr Alka Bhargava, Additional Secretary (International Cooperation), Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare was the chairman for the Session 2 on India-Africa Cooperation in Agricultural R&D and Technologies. The concluding session was chaired by Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India. Dr Neena Malhotra, Joint Secretary, MEA, delivered the special remarks. Dr Nafees Meah, South Asia Representative, IRRI, presented the Takeaways from the Discussion.

Many new ideas had emerged during the deliberations, which would be very well fed into the wider work programme of the RIS connected with Asia and Africa, where possibilities of sectoral specificities are being

explored, as India prepares for the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in the next year. The first point that needs to be underlined is the significant role of SDGs in helping Africa move forward and how STI can be leveraged for addressing issues in hand. Second issue is in terms of how India's own development experience, India's own policy fabric, that can be made relevant in terms of carrying forward the partnership between India-Africa in different sectors including agriculture, blue economy, fisheries and livestock. Third key point is the need for scaling-up the successful interventions made so far by the Indian partners in African countries. The experience of Cotton-4 project carried out successfully

by Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) is a case in point. The final key point is in terms of the role of institutions. Indian institutions are getting linked with Africa, and also international institutions and Indian institutions are coming together in the form of support mechanisms, which are very important. This is what India has been emphasising in terms of engagement with Africa. To strengthen the process of institutionalization, successful example of setting-up of thirteen African Centres of Excellence by India in various African countries is a significant endeavour towards strengthening the partnership.

SPECIAL SESSION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

RIS is following closely the emerging global trends in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and governance and the challenges before the policymakers and regulators especially in India and for developing countries, in general. Keeping this in view, RIS had organised a brief brainstorming session on 23 April 2019 with an objective to map research on AI and society and to identify broad themes and concerns, and then develop a road map for further research on ethical, social and legal implications of AI and its governance.

The programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador S.T. Devare, Chairman, Research Advisory Council (RAC) of RIS, chaired the session. The prominent speakers were: Shri Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Shri Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, RIS; Professor V. Kamakoti, Department of Computer

Science and Engineering, IIT Madras; Ms Sindhushree Khullar, Member, RAC of RIS; Dr V. Siddhartha, former Secretary of Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India; Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Indian Ambassador; Dr Sadhana Relia, Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science & Technology; Dr S. R. Rao, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology; Ms Kavita Bhatia, Director, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; Shri Mayank, Scientist D, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

From RIS, Dr Ravi Srinivas, Consultant; Shri Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consultant; Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Assistant Professor; Dr Amit Kumar, Research Associate; Ms Nimita Pandey, Research Associate and Ms Geetika Khanduja, Research Assistant also attended the session.

TRILATERAL HIGHWAY AND ITS IMPLICATION ON INDIA'S NORTHEAST REGION: INTERACTION WITH TAMU BORDER AUTHORITY

RIS has been conducting a new study entitled “*Trilateral Highway and Its Implication on India's Northeast Region*”. In connection with this study, a four-member study team, led by Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, visited Tamu and met with Tamu Border Trade officials at Tamu, Myanmar on 9 April 2019. The meeting was attended by Indian Consul General, Mr Nandan Singh Bhaisora. Besides, Professor Priyaranjan Singh, Manipur University also attended the meeting.

The meeting was attended by District Collector, Tamu; Department of Trade, Customs; Trade Chambers from Moreh and Tamu, and other stake holders and business community from India and Myanmar. Deliberations were held on border trade, procedures, impediments, setting up a Joint Border Trade Committee, Rupee Trade, early completion of connectivity projects, e-visa, border pass, air and bus connectivity, Motor Vehicle Agreement and various other issues.

SEMINAR ON ACT EAST: INDIA'S TRADE AT NORTHEASTERN BORDER

RIS organised a Seminar on “Act East: India's Trade at Northeastern Border” on 3 June 2019, New Delhi. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS made welcome remarks. Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyay chaired the seminar and made opening remarks. Dr Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS made a presentation on “Act East: Trade in Northeast India”. His presentation broadly covered challenges and opportunities in trade with neighbouring countries under the Act East Policy (AEP).

In particular, Dr De talked about previous and recent field visits to Northeast India and drew several findings and policy recommendations for unlocking the potentials of Northeast region and various border connectivity projects and initiatives. Mr Vanlalruata Fanai, Assistant General Manager, Research and Analysis Group, EXIM Bank was the discussant. The seminar was attended by research scholars, government officials, diplomats and among others.

INDIA-CENTRAL ASIA: TRADITIONAL TIES AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

India has always prioritized strengthening of the development cooperation with the Central Asian Countries. Considering the need, RIS had organised a Seminar on ‘India-Central Asia: Traditional Ties and Development Partnership’ on 4 April 2019, chaired by Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow. The

programme began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. Ambassador Alok Dimri, Ambassador of India to Kyrgyzstan was the lead speaker. His exposition was followed by discussions by H. E. Mr Asein Isaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic; H.

E. Mr Shalar Geldynazarov, Ambassador, Embassy of Turkmenistan; Mr A'zamjon Mansurov, First Secretary, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Uzbekistan in

India and Dr Ram Upendra Das, Head and Professor, Centre for Regional Trade, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.

FTAS AND INDIAN ECONOMY

A Discussion Meeting on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Indian Economy was organized on 9 May 2019 at RIS. The eminent persons involved actively in the discussions were: Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I); Mr Ashwani Mahajan, National Convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch; Mr Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary, MoC&I; Dr Rathin Roy, Director, NIPFP; Dr Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT; Mr Anilesh Mahajan; and Dr Ram Upendra Das, Head, Centre for Regional Trade. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, ; Professor S. K. Mohanty; Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow; and Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow from RIS to part in the deliberations.

Regional Policy Dialogue on “Harnessing the Potential of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia”

RIS jointly with UN-ESCAP organised a Regional Policy Dialogue on “Harnessing the Potential of Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South Asia” on 20 November 2019 at New Delhi. It brought together renowned heads of Think Tanks from Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka besides, India, to discuss the key opportunities as well as challenges for leveraging the subregional and regional cooperation for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Asia. The programme began with opening remarks by Dr Nagesh Kumar, Head, United Nations ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (UNESCAP-SSWA) and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The eminent speakers included: Mr Nazir Kabiri, Executive Director, Biruni Institute, Afghanistan; Dr Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Bangladesh; Mr Sonam Tashi, Chief, Policy & Planning Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan; Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India; Mr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary-General, FICCI; Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal; and Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Sri Lanka. Earlier the delegates also visited RIS for an interactive session with RIS Faculty.

NON-TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC AND SECURITY RISK IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

RIS, in partnership with The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG) Asia Pacific organised an International Conference on ‘Non-traditional Economic and Security Risk in a Globalized World’ on Thursday, 28 November 2019 at New Delhi.

The Conference brought together subject experts from the non-traditional security and economic landscapes to deliberate on the multitude of economic and security threats confronting the global community and would come up with policy strategies and options to address

them. The programme included the following sessions: Environmental & Energy Security; Migration; Business Session; Impact of Trans-National Crime and Rise of

the Cyber World on Regional Economies and Human and Economic Security

STRENGTHENING INDIA-AFRICA ECONOMIC RELATIONS

RIS has initiated a major substantive research programme on trade, investment, technology and finance related cooperation with Africa. Considering this, a consultation was organised on 27 June 2019 for exploring way forward in identifying key priorities, key challenges and possible institutional cooperations and responses. A large number of distinguished participants took part in the deliberations were: Ambassador Satish Mehta; Ambassador Ajit Kumar; Ambassador Divyabh Manchanda; Ambassador Ajjampur Rangaiah Ghanashyam; Ambassador Radhika Lokesh; Mr G V Srinivas, Joint Secretary, MEA; Mr Mohit Yadav, Director (C&WA), MEA; Mr E. B. Rajesh, International Regional Director-Africa, CII; Dr Milan Sharma,

Head-Global Initiatives, IL&FS Clusters Development Initiative Ltd., Mr Nadeem Panjetan, Chief General Manager, EXIM Bank; Professor Ajay Kumar Dubey, JNU; Dr Shahid Ahmed, formerly Professor and Head, Jamia Millia Islamia; Professor Suresh Kumar, formerly, Dept of African Studies, University of Delhi; and Dr Ruchita Beri, IDSA. From RIS, Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Dr S.K. Mohanty; Ambassador Amar Sinha; Ambassador Bhaskar Balakrishnan; Dr P.K. Anand; Mr Krishna Kumar; Dr Ravi Srinivas; Dr Beena Pandey; Mr Arun S. Nair; Dr Sabyasachi Saha; Dr Priyadarshi Dash; Dr Amit Kumar; Dr Sushil Kumar; Ms Nimita Pandey; Dr Abha Jaiswal; Mr M.C. Arora; and Dr Namrata Pathak took part in discussion.

LAUNCH OF JOURNAL OF ASIAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS jointly with ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) and India Studies Centre at Chulalongkorn University organised the launch of Journal of Asian Economic Integration at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand on 6 June 2019. Professor Suthiphand Chirathivat, Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) made the Opening Remarks. Dr Mia Mikic, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation, UNESCAP, Bangkok gave Special Remarks. The Journal of Asian Economic Integration (JAEI), jointly published by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS and ASEAN Studies Center (ASC) of Chulalongkorn University, provides detailed coverage of a wide range of topics in economics relating to

Asia, including investigation of current research, international comparisons and country studies. There was a panel discussion on "Asian Integration: Emerging Trends and Challenges", which was moderated by Dr Piti Srisangnam, Director, Academic Affairs, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University. The panelist were: Dr Mia Mikic, Dr Charit Tingsadadh, Associate Professor and former Director, Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University; Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; and Dr Witada Aunkoonwattaka, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP. At the end Dr Prabir De delivered the Vote of Thanks.

CONSULTATION ON THE STUDY ON 'EXPORT PROMOTION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS SECTOR: STRATEGY FOR SELECT MEDICINAL PLANTS'

To discuss the issues raised by various Ministries concerned and the stakeholders before taking up the next step, a Consultation on the Study on 'Export Promotion of Medicinal Plants Sector: Strategy for Select Medicinal Plants' was held on 15 April 2019 at RIS.

The meeting began with welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, RIS. Mr Rajeev Kher, Former Commerce Secretary and Distinguished Fellow, RIS, delivered the Special Address and Dr Salahuddin Ayyub, Research Associate, RIS, made a presentation on the current status of the study. It was

followed by observations made by Mr Pramod Kumar Pathak, Additional Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH; Mr Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Mr Anil Kumar Jain, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority; Ms Amarjeet Ahuja (IAS Retd.), Chairman of Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants, National Biodiversity Authority; Mr Aswin K. Nayak, Chairman, SHEFEXIL; Prof Tanuja Manoj Nesari, CEO, NMPB; Mr Prahalathan Iyer, Chief General Manager, EXIM Bank; and Dr Debjani Roy, Executive Director, SHEFEXIL. At the end, Professor T.C. James, Visiting Fellow extended the vote of thanks.

ASEAN INDO-PACIFIC OUTLOOK AND INDIA

The 'Indo-Pacific' construct has gained significant attention in the recent years. Both, India and ASEAN, occupy important strategic positions in the region. India believes in an Indo-Pacific that is free, open and inclusive, and one that is founded upon a cooperative and collaborative rules-based order. This finds resonance not just across the region but across the entire world. Indo-Pacific is a region where several Asian powers are again rising; especially in geo-economic terms. While ASEAN centrality has been accepted, ASEAN and India can work together in building the Indo-Pacific. As maritime neighbours, sharing a common maritime domain, a common dependence on the oceans and seas and a common understanding of the importance of sustainable exploitation of ocean resources, ASEAN and India can be ideal partners in advancing Indo-Pacific partnership.

ASEAN countries had presented their respective Indo-Pacific narratives. On 20 March 2019, Indonesia had hosted a High-Level Indo-Pacific Dialogue at Jakarta. Thailand, being the ASEAN's Chair, is actively engaged in shaping the Indo-Pacific agenda, and it is important to understand the Thailand's Indo-Pacific strategy. To analyse these issues in the light of the above backdrop, Dr Suriya Chindawongse, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered a RIS breakfast talk on "ASEAN Indo-Pacific Outlook and India" on 10 April 2019 at RIS. H.E. Mr Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Thai Ambassador to India, also joined in the deliberations. The Seminar was chaired by Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. A large number of participants took part in open discussion.

US-INDIA TRADE RELATIONS

India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a “global strategic partnership”, based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. The US and India are long-standing partners in trade. RIS has been engaged in conducting research on US-India economic relations. As part of this work programme, RIS organised a Seminar on US-India trade relations on 25 July 2019 at RIS. Dr Surupa Gupta, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, USA, was the main speaker.

In her presentation, the speaker highlighted that under the Trump administration, many of the United States’ bilateral relations have seen dramatic disruptions.

Against this backdrop, strategic relation with India has stayed on an even keel. However, trade relation between the two democracies has taken a beating as a result of several of the current US administration’s initiatives including the imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum, ending the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme for India and threatening India’s interests in service sector trade. It was also argued that the trade spat is a part of a longer-term, normative battle between India and the United States over global norms on trade. At the same time, while further escalation of the trade conflict is possible, its impact on the overall strategic partnership is likely to remain small. A large number of participants took part in the discussion that followed.

FUTURE ORIENTATION OF BIMSTEC

RIS has been actively associated with the work programme of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) since its inception. Recently, there has been added emphasis on strengthening our ties with BIMSTEC member countries. In this context, RIS organized a talk by Hon’ble Mr M. Shahidul Islam, Secretary General, BIMSTEC on the theme of ‘Future

Orientation of BIMSTEC’ on 24 July 2019 at RIS. Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS chaired. H.E. Mr Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador, Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi and Shri Seshadari Chari, Member, RIS, Governing Council was the Distinguished Discussants. A large number of participants took part in the open discussion.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN SPACE APPLICATION

RIS, under its Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy (FISD), launched a monthly Lecture Series on 18th September 2019 with the lecture by Dr A Senthil Kumar, Director, Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia-Pacific (CSSTEAP) (a UN Centre), Dehradun on “Science Diplomacy and

Capacity Building in Space Applications”. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS, delivered the introductory remarks highlighting the crucial role of STI in addressing various societal challenges as well as SDGs. The invited speaker, Dr Senthil Kumar dwelled upon various facets on Indian space science and technology

education and applications. He highlighted the nine societal areas which are benefited from the space data. These are namely disasters, health, agriculture, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition, space data are very useful in city planning, transportation and communication network.

On the role of CSSTEAP, a unique regional centre set-up by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OSSA) in 1995, Dr Senthil Kumar elaborated upon the various capacity building and training programmes (including MEA's ITEC programmes) that the Centre conducts for both national and international professionals, particularly from developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. So far, 2217 participants from 36 Asia-

Pacific countries have benefited from these capacity building programmes. India has also shared its self-learning education dashboard "SWAMI" (System for Weather and Aapdaa Management Information) with its neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka and Nepal. Dr Senthil Kumar also talked about six dimensions of Indian Satellite Programme viz. Space infrastructure, applications, institutionalisation, ground segment, capacity building and international cooperation. India has cooperation arrangements with 34 countries in the domain of space. The need for science 'data' diplomacy was also stated during the lecture, so that the critical data pertaining to disasters are shared among the countries on time for effective disaster management.

THIRD ASEAN-INDIA WORKSHOP ON BLUE ECONOMY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Thailand, jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs of India, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta, the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi organised the third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy on 12 September 2019 in Bangkok. Dr Suriya Chindawongse, Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered the Opening Remarks. The Keynote Address was delivered by H.E. Ms Suchitra Durai, Ambassador of India to Thailand. The Workshop was attended by ASEAN Member States, senior officials and about 100 participants from ASEAN and India.

The workshop was divided into four sessions to facilitate an in-depth discussion on Blue Economy and to identify specific areas where ASEAN and India can cooperate and work together. The four sessions were (1) Development in the Blue Economy; (2) Sustainable Harnessing of Marine Resources; (3) Maritime

Connectivity and (4) Maritime Safety and Diplomacy. The Third ASEAN-India Workshop on Blue Economy raised an in-depth discussion on the blue economy, which is increasingly seen as a driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

In ASEAN and India, Blue Economy has been identified as a new pillar of economic activity in the coastal areas and linked hinterlands through sustainable tapping of oceanic resources. Blue Economy is knowledge intensive with expertise required from many resources, and, thus, there is a need for collaboration between India and ASEAN in terms of pooling in expertise. As maritime neighbours sharing a common maritime domain, a common dependence on the oceans and seas and a common understanding of the importance of sustainable utilization of ocean resources, ASEAN and India are the ideal partners in taking further the agenda of the Blue Economy. With a view to promoting the development of Blue Economy in the region and enhancing ASEAN-India cooperation in Blue Economy, participants suggested several policy

recommendations. Finally, Mr Asi Mamane, Deputy Director General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand delivered the Closing Remarks. Mr Nikhilesh Giri, Joint Secretary, Indo-Pacific Division, Ministry of External Affairs, India

delivered the Valedictory Address. Professor Yasuhiro Yamada, Special Assistant to the President of ERIA gave Special Address. Dr Prabir De, Professor, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

THE LAW OF THE STATE AND THE STATE OF THE LAW

RIS alongwith Nani Palkhivala Birth Centenary Celebration Steering Committee and India International Centre organised the Palkhivala Memorial Lecture on 'The Law of the State and the State of the Law' by Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to PM on 15 November 2019. Programme began with

remarks by Ambassdor (Dr) Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS and Major General Nilendra Kumar (Retd.) Honorary Secretary, Nani Palkhivala Birth Centenary Celebration Steering Committee. Mr N. N. Vohra, President, IIC chaired.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

ITEC Programme on 'Science Diplomacy'

The ITEC-RIS Capacity Building Programme on 'Science Diplomacy' was held in RIS during 7-18 January 2019 at RIS. There were 35 participants from 25 countries participated in this course. The programme covered the following module: Introduction to Science Diplomacy: Concepts and Contours; Sharing of Experience in Science Diplomacy; Biotechnology and Biodiversity; Climate Change; Cultural Trip; Digital Economy and Emerging Technologies; Technology, Trade and Science Diplomacy; and SDGs and South-South Cooperation. The programme began with Welcome Remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. Professor K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India addressed the participants. Remarks were also given by Dr Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS and Former Indian Diplomat and Dr Purnima Rupal, Director, CEFIPRA. The Valedictory Session was held on 18 January 2019, at which Mr Dinkar Asthana, Additional Secretary (DPAII), Ministry of External Affairs addressed the participants. Thereafter

the certificates were distributed to the participants.

ITEC Programme on International Economic Issues and Development Policy

The ITEC Capacity Building Programme on "International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)" was held during 11 February to 8 March 2019. Thirty participants, including middle level government officials/diplomats, policy practitioners and scholars from 20 countries participated in it. The programme covered the following key modules: Global Institutional Architecture on Trade and Finance, Regional Dynamism, Economic Integration and Development Cooperation; Infrastructure Financing: Imperatives for Developing Countries and Economy; and Society, Partnerships and Culture: Indian Perspectives. Eminent Indian experts gave a comprehensive perspective on various dimensions of these issues.

The programme began with Welcome Remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS. Mr J.S. Mukul,

Dean, Foreign Service Institute (FSI) delivered the inaugural Address. The Valedictory Session was chaired by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Valedictory Address was delivered by Ms Nagma M. Mallick, Joint Secretary (PP&R), MEA. The following presentations were made by ITEC participants: Group 1 on SDG and Public Policy: by Ms Karina Mariela Jara Tamayo (Ecuador); Group 2 on Infrastructure/ Connectivity/ Renewable Energy by Mrs Minakshi Dabee Hauzaree (Mauritius); Group 3 on Trade (Impact of FTAs on Trade Balance & Capital Flow): by Mr Mosses Lufuke (Tanzania); Group 4 on G20/BRICS: by Mr Helder Paulo Machado Silva (Brazil); Group 5 on Trade (Bargaining Power of Developing Countries in Trade): by Mr Tesfaye Ayalew Mekonen (Ethiopia); and Group 6 on International Financial Architecture, Development Finance and Global Tax Issues: by Dr Hebatallah Hanafi Mahmoud Adam (Egypt).

Fourth RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practice

RIS jointly with EXIM Bank of India had organised the fourth edition of 'RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on the International Trade Theory and Practices' during 10-19 June 2019. The programme to contribute towards capacity- building of scholars to be specialised in the international trade. The course covered the following themes – recent developments in trade theory; databases and information on International Trade, tools and techniques in trade analysis; understanding FTAs and regional trading blocs; issues of trade in technology; and trade and development: IPR and new issues. There were 49 scholars, including two from BIMSTEC Secretariat and one each from three BIMSTEC countries (Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand who took part).

The programme began with the welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, followed by remarks by Professor S. K. Mohanty, RIS. Mr Debasish Mallick, DMD, Export-Import Bank

gave the remarks and Inaugural address was given by Mr Rajeev Kher, Distinguished Fellow, RIS. Professor Deepak Nayyar, Professor Emeritus, JNU chaired the inaugural session and delivered special lecture.

The programme exposed students to deeper knowledge of quantitative skills by sharpening their knowledge base on various dimensions of trade theory with the help of eminent subject experts, including high- ranking knowledge providers from all over the country. It covered not only well-established estimation and interpretation of trade, investment and services data techniques but also enabled them to have a better understanding of evolving trade and finance global architecture. The two-day practical application workshop was also organised to give them hands on experience to deal with mega data sets for a practical dimension of the theoretical frameworks taught. The participants were engaged in group assignments on the following themes: India's Trade Performance; Investment, Finance and Exchange Rate; Technology, GVC, Competitiveness; Multilateralism and Regionalism; and Trade and Employment. The short research articles prepared by them have been brought out in the publication: "*International Trade Theory and Practice: Contemporary Issues.*"

Sustainable Development Goals

In order to create knowledge, awareness and simultaneously exploring the implementation strategies on the SDGs at the national and international level, RIS conducted the second edition of two-week training programme on SDGs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, at New Delhi on 5-16 August 2019. The programme had 33 participants from 24 countries. The group had the benefit of interaction and discourse with eminent experts from the fields of academics and policymaking. The participants also engaged in group deliberations for preparing analytical position papers reflecting on

national and global progress on SDGs. These papers were published in the Report entitled “*Localising SDGs Perspectives from Developing Countries*”.

Apart from having thematic sessions, study tours were also organised for participants to visit Parliament of India and other line ministries. They also had the opportunity to have interactive session with the Hon’ble Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr Rajiv Kumar, Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (who is also Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Shri Pravin Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Trade and Sustainability

In order to enhance capacity among officials and scholars working in the field of international trade to RIS launched a specially tailored “ITEC Programme on Trade and Sustainability” in July 2018. The second edition of the course was organized from 8 to 19 July

2019 with participation of 29 candidates from 16 countries representing South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, and the Caribbean. The programme had four broad pillars: Biodiversity and bio-safety issues including Convention of Biological Diversity, Nagoya Protocol, etc., Trade in environmentally-sensitive goods and services, non-tariff measures, etc., Financing including green finance, climate finance, regulations, business innovations, etc., and Environmental provisions in FTAs and RTAs. The participants had the benefit of attending the lectures, and engaging in group assignments on Sustainable Exploitation of Biological Resources in Developing Countries: Genetic Resources for Greater Prosperity; Environmental Good and Services: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing Countries; Green Financing in Developing Countries: Experiences from Mongolia, Kenya and Nigeria; and Environmental Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements. These were published in the Report entitled “*Emerging Issues on Trade and sustainability*”.

ITEC PROGRAMME ON LEARNING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

RIS conducted the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) on ‘Learning South-South Cooperation’ from 11 to 22 November 2019 at New Delhi. More than 30 participants, including middle level government officials/diplomats, practitioners and scholars from over 25 countries participated in the programme. The programme has been designed to orient the participants towards an integrated and multi-dimensional understanding of South-South Cooperation (SSC), exposing them to its

diversity and plurality. The programme will focus on the theoretical framework, global architecture and deliberate upon the pressing challenges faced to usher in inclusive development. The course will also cover efforts and challenges towards regional cooperation and an assessment framework for SSC. Besides in-house faculty, RIS invited eminent experts to give a comprehensive perspective on these issues for the benefit of participants.

DELEGATIONS RECEIVED AT RIS

- Visit of Delegation from Institute of Trade and Development (ITD) and Indian Study Centre of Chulalongkorn University.
- About 12 members of delegation of ITD and the Indian Study Centre of Chulalongkorn University from Thailand visited AIC at RIS on 15 July 2019. Dr Surat Horachaikul, Director, Indian Studies Center, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University was leading the delegation from Thailand. Delegation interacted with us on BIMSTEC and India's approaches to Bay of Bengal cooperation. Dr Prabir De made a presentation on "BIMSTEC: Current Status and Opportunities", followed by an interaction with the delegation members on Thailand perspectives on BIMSTEC and other global issues. Mr Mahesh Arora, Director (Finance and Administration), RIS also participated in the discussion.
- A three-member delegation from Yunnan University, China visited AIC at RIS on 9th August 2019. Visitors discussed several bilateral and regional topics of mutual interests, particularly BIMSTEC, ASEAN-India cooperation, and India-China Cooperation. Delegation was headed by Dr Li Chenyang, Professor and Vice President, Yunnan University, and other members were Dr Lu Guangsheng, Professor, Center for China's Neighbor Diplomacy Studies, Yunnan University; Dr Liu Peng, Associate Professor, Institute of Myanmar Studies, Yunnan University, Yunnan Province, China; and Mr Zhang Liang, Counselor, Head of Policy Planning Section, Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in India, New Delhi. Professor Prabir De, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS made a presentation on Indian foreign policy and highlighted the potential areas of cooperation between India and China.
- A Media Delegation from Morocco visited RIS on 14 October 2019 for an interactive session.
- A Media Delegation from Bhutan visited RIS on 19 November 2019 for an interactive session.

STIP LECTURE SERIES

As part of the STIP Lecture Series, the following programmes were organised

- Panel Discussion on Science Movements in India on 10 January 2019. Professor M Jagadesh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Chaired. The panelists were Professor V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Swadeshi Science Movement; Dr D. Raghunandan, All India Peoples Science Network; Professor Dinesh Abrol, Delhi Science Forum and Mr Jayant Sahasrabuddhe, VIBHA.
- Seventeenth STIP Lecture on "Science, Technology, and Society: The Challenge of Reaching Out" was delivered by Professor M. Sai Baba, T.V. Raman Pai, Chair Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru on 15 February 2019 at New Delhi. It was chaired by Shri Gauhar Raza, Leading Science Communicator and Former Scientist, CSIR.
- Eighteenth STIP Lecture on "Development of Solar Energy in India" was delivered by Dr Arun Kumar Tripathi, Director General, National Institute of

Solar Energy (NISE) on 12 March 2019. Dr Ashvini Kumar, Senior Director, Renewable Energy, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) was the Chair.

- Nineteenth STIP Forum Lecture on “Response to emerging infectious diseases in the context of urbanization and global warming: where is the Science gone?” was delivered by Dr Oliver Telle, Researcher at CNRS, France de Sciences Humaines, Embassy of France, India on 22 April 2019. It was Chaired by Dr Dinkar M. Salunke, Director, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi chaired.
- Twentieth STIP Forum Lecture on “Relationship between S&T and Evolution in Methods of Knowledge Production” was delivered by Professor Ravi B. Grover, Emeritus Professor and Former VC, Homi Bhabha National Institute and Member, Atomic Energy Commission on 7 June 2019. Professor Ramamurti Rajaraman, Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, School of Physical Sciences, JNU chaired.
- Twenty-first STIP Lecture on “Why India Needs to Strengthen its Quality Infrastructure?” was delivered by Shri Gauhar Raza, Leading Science Communicator and Former Scientist, CSIR on 12 July 2019 at New Delhi.
- Twenty-Second STIP Lecture on “Financing Renewable and Clean-tech” was delivered by Mr Manish Chourasia Managing Director, Tata Cleantech Capital Limited on 12 August 2019 and was chaired by Shri R. R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, TERI.
- Twenty-Third STIP Lecture on “Science, Technology & Innovation for Society” was delivered by Dr Shekhar C. Mande Secretary, DSIR & Director General, CSIR on 19 September 2019 at New Delhi. It was chaired by Dr Chandrima Shaha, Professor of Eminence and Former Director, National Institute of Immunology and President-Elect, Indian National Science Academy.
- Twenty-fourth STIP Forum Lecture on ‘Innovation and policy in the Energy Revolution: some insights from Europe’ on 3 October 2019 at New Delhi by Professor Michael Grubb, Research Director and Professor of Energy and Climate Change, University College London
- Twenty-Fifth STIP Forum Lecture on ‘IT Skills Training through Spoken Tutorials for Education and Employment’ on 18 November 2019 at New Delhi by Professor Kannan M. Moudgalya, Erach and Meheroo Mehta Advanced Education Technology Chair Professor, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. Dr Devyani Khobragade, Joint Secretary, DPA II, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India chaired.

RIS PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS/REPORTS

ITEC LSSC Report 2019

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Key Takeaways: Celebrating BAPA+40

DELHI Process - IV South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Realities

(Published Year: 2019)

The Power of International Value Chains in the Global South

ITC and RIS, Geneva, 2019

Raul Prebisch and Development Strategy

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Together Towards a Healthy Future: India's Partnerships in Healthcare

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Act East: ASEAN-India Shared Cultural Heritage

RIS, AIC, New Delhi, 2019

Southern Perspectives on Science and Technology Cooperation,

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Trade and Finance for Development: Southern Perspective

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

India's Economic Engagement with LAC Strategy for Trade and Investment

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Dynamics of IBSA Development Cooperation

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs): Evidence from ASEAN-India Trade

AIC and RIS, 2019

Sailing to Suvarnabhumi: Cultural Routes and Maritime Landscapes

Himanshu Prabha Ray and Susan Mishra, AIC and RIS, 2019

India-Central Asia Partnership: Moving for Regional Development and Connectivity

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

International Trade Theory and Practice: Contemporary Issues

RIS-EXIM Bank, New Delhi, 2019

Global Issue and Local Actions in South-South Cooperation

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Key Takeaways: Delhi Process Fifth Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

Emerging Issues on Trade and Sustainability

RIS, New Delhi, 2019

RIS DISCUSSION PAPERS**# 242 Income Convergence Experiences among Asian Economies: *An Empirical Investigation***

Sunetra Ghatak & Prabir De

241 Prospects of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Manmohan Agarwal and Adrita Banerjee

240 Sustainable Agriculture and Nutritional Security: Emerging Policy Options with Production Choices

P. K. Anand, Krishna Kumar and Shruti Khanna.

239 Monetary Policy Effect on Inflation and Growth

Manmohan Agarwal and Irfan Ahmed Shah

#238 Pathways for Country's Official Statistical System to Surmount Over Policy Midget

Krishna Kumar and P. K. Anand

#237 Trade in Local Currency: Illustration of India's Rupee Trade with Nepal, Iran and Russia

Priyadarshi Dash, Monica Sharma & Gulfshan Nizami

#236 Government's Policies and Growth of Pharmaceutical Industry in India 1947-2018: A Review

Prasanta Kumar Ghosh

#241 Prospects of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Manmohan Agarwal and Adrita Banerjee

#240 Sustainable Agriculture and Nutritional Security: Emerging Policy Options with Production Choices

P. K. Anand, Krishna Kumar and Shruti Khanna

#239 Monetary Policy Effect on Inflation and Growth

Manmohan Agarwal and Irfan Ahmed Shah

#240 Sustainable Agriculture and Nutritional Security: Emerging Policy Options with Production Choices

P. K. Anand, Krishna Kumar and Shruti Khanna

#241 Prospects of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Manmohan Agarwal and Adrita Banerjee

#242 Income Convergence Experiences among Asian Economies: An Empirical Investigation

Sunetra Ghatak & Prabir De

Journal of Asian Economic Integration

Vol. 1, No.1, April 2019, Sage

South Asia Economic Journal

Vol.20, No.1, March 2019, Sage

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE (2000-2020), RIS & IPS

Development Cooperation Review

Volume 1 No. 10-12, January-March 2019

Volume 2 No. 1 April 2019

Volume 2 No. 2&3 May-June 2019

Volume 2 No. 1 April 2019

FITM POLICY BRIEFS

#3 Medicinal Plant Cultivation for Poverty Reduction: Prospects and Challenges

Professor T.C. James and Dr Namrata Pathak.

#4 Special Wellness Zones for Wellness Tourism: Exploring prospects of creating dedicated ISM hubs

Professor T.C. James and Apurva Bhatnagar.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY NEWS ALERT

Issue 22: 16-30 September 2019
Issue 21: 01-15 September 2019
Issue 20: 16-31 August 2019
Issue 19: 01-15 August 2019
Issue 18: 16-31 July 2019
Issue 17: 01-15 July 2019
Issue 16: 16-30 June 2019;
Issue 15: 01-15 June 2019
Issue 14: 16-31 May 2019;
Issue 13: 01-15 May 2019
Issue 12: 16-30 April 2019;
Issue 11: 01-15 April 2019
Issue 8: 16-28 February 2019;
Issue 7: 01-15 February 2019;
Issue 6: 16-31 January 2019;
Issue 5: 01-15 January 2019

RIS POLICY BRIEFS**# 87 Energy Sector and Financial Markets: Opportunities for India**

Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

#88 Robotisation of Textile Sector in China: Impact and Imperatives

Amit Kumar

Science Diplomacy Review

Volume 1 No.2, January 2019

RIS Diary

Volume 15 No. 2, April 2019

Volume 15 No. 1, January 2019

Volume 15 No. 3, July 2019

ANNEXURE II



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India delivering the Keynote Address at the Plenary Session I.



Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Minister of Commerce and Industry addressing the participants.

LIST OF ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE I	LIST OF AGREEMENTS/TREATIES SIGNED BY INDIA DURING 2019
ANNEXURE II	LIST OF AGREEMENTS/TREATIES RATIFIED/ACCEDED BY INDIA DURING 2019
ANNEXURE III	INSTRUMENT OF FULL POWERS ISSUED BY INDIA DURING 2019
ANNEXURE IV	SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, ETC PARTIALLY OR WHOLLY FUNDED BY PP&R DIVISION
ANNEXURE V	REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICES – STATE/UT-WISE
ANNEXURE VI	STATE/UT-WISE LIST OF PASSPORT SEVA KENDRAS (PSKS)
ANNEXURE VII	STATE/UT-WISE LIST OF POST OFFICE PASSPORT SEVA KENDRAS (POPSKS)
ANNEXURE VIII	MISSIONS/POSTS ABROAD INTEGRATED WITH PASSPORT SEVA PROJECT
ANNEXURE IX	CADRE STRENGTH AT HEADQUARTERS AND MISSIONS ABROAD AS ON DURING 2019-20 (INCLUDING POSTS BUDGETED BY M/O COMMERCE, EX-CADRE POSTS AND POSTS ENCADRED FROM MoIA & PoE)
ANNEXURE X	NUMBER OF IFS OFFICERS WITH PROFICIENCY IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES
ANNEXURE XI	LIST OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

ANNEXURE I

List of Agreements/Treaties* Signed by India during 2019**

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
1	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN ON COOPERATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SWAYAM).	15.03.2019	AFGHANISTAN	Ministry Of Human Resources & Development
2	EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN	14.09.2016	AFGHANISTAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
3	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA ON VISA EXEMPTION FOR THE HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL / SERVICE PASSPORTS	31.01.2019	ALGERIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
4	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA	31.01.2019	ALGERIA	Ministry Of Culture
5	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	17.09.2019	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Ministry of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
6	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT OF MODERNIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND THE M/O ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF INDIA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS.	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Ministry of Communications
7	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ANTARCTIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE M/O FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND THE M/O EARTH SCIENCES OF INDIA	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Ministry of Earth Sciences
8	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND ARGENTINA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS REGULATION	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Ministry of Health
9	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ARGENTINE REPUBLIC FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A INDIA-ARGENTINA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IA-CEIT)	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Ministry of Information Technology
10	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND ARGENTINE REPUBLIC ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Ministry of Tourism
11	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP OF INDIA AND THE NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Department of Atomic Energy

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
12	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN PRASAR BHARATI, INDIA AND THE FEDERAL SYSTEM OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC CONTENTS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC FOR EXCHANGE OF AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMME	18.02.2019	ARGENTINA	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
13	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BENEFIT AND NATIONAL PAYMENTS CORPORATION OF INDIA (NPCI) FOR LAUNCH OF "RUPAY CARD" IN BAHRAIN	24.08.2019	BAHRAIN	Ministry Of Finance
14	STATEMENT OF INTENT ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDIA AND BAHRAIN IN THE AREA OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY	19.08.2019	BAHRAIN	Department of Space
15	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINAL PLANTS BETWEEN NATIONAL MEDICINAL PLANT BOARD (NMPB), MINISTRY OF AYUSH AND DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, BANGLADESH	08.02.19	BANGLADESH	Ministry Of AYUSH
16	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR BANGLADESH CIVIL SERVANTS	08.02.2019	BANGLADESH	Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
17	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH FOR THE YEARS 2020-2022	05.10.2019	BANGLADESH	Ministry of Culture
18	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LINES OF CREDIT (LOCS) COMMITTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	05.10.2019	BANGLADESH	Ministry of External Affairs
19	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC) OF BANGLADESH AND THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI) OF INDIA FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION ON PREVENTING CORRUPTION	08.02.2019	BANGLADESH	Ministry of Home Affairs
20	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	05.10.2019	BANGLADESH	Ministry of Jal Shakti

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
21	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON COOPERATION IN YOUTH MATTERS	05.10.2019	BANGLADESH	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
22	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN ON MUTUAL EXEMPTION FROM THE VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL/SERVICE PASSPORTS	29.7.2019	BENIN	Ministry of External Affairs
23	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA	29.03.2019	BOLIVIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
24	MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS	01.11.2018	BOTSWANA	Ministry Of External Affairs
25	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN COLLECTION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES	08.04.2019	BRUNEI	Ministry of Finance
26	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN INDIA AND CHILE FOR THE YEARS 2019-2022	01.04.2019	CHILE	Ministry Of Culture

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
27	JOINT LETTER OF RENEWAL FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND CHILE CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	01.04.2019	CHILE	Ministry Of Mines
28	JOINT LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN INDIA AND CHILE FOR COOPERATION IN DISABILITY SECTOR	01.04.2019	CHILE	Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment
29	PROTOCOL OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS ON IMPORTING INDIAN CHILLI SPENT BETWEEN EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL (EIC) , MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, GOVT OF INDIA AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	09.05.19	CHINA	Ministry Of Commerce And Industry
30	PROTOCOL FOR PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPORT OF TOBACCO LEAVES FROM INDIA TO CHINA BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA	21.01.2019	CHINA	Ministry of Agriculture
31	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SPORTS COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA.	12.08.2019	CHINA	Ministry of Sports
32	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EXEMPTION OF VISA DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL / SERVICE PASSPORT HOLDERS	11.10.2019	COMOROS	Ministry Of External Affairs
33	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARTS & CULTURE	11.10.2019	COMOROS	Ministry Of Arts And Culture
34	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH & MEDICINE	11.10.2019	COMOROS	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
35	PROTOCOL FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND COMOROS	11.10.2019	COMOROS	Ministry Of External Affairs
36	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE E-VBAB NETWORK PROJECT.	11.10.2019	COMOROS	Ministry Of External Affairs
37	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND COSTA RICA ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL AND SERVICE PASSPORTS	08.03.2019	COSTA RICA	Ministry of External Affairs
38	LETTER OF INTENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY BETWEEN INDIA AND COSTA RICA	08.03.2019	COSTA RICA	Ministry of Science and Technology
39	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM	26.03.2019	CROATIA	Ministry Of Tourism
40	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB AND SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA	26.03.2019	CROATIA	Ministry of Sports
41	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ICCR AND UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ICCR CHAIR FOR SANSKRIT LANGUAGE	26.03.2019	CROATIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
42	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ICCR AND UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ICCR CHAIR OF HINDI	26.03.2019	CROATIA	Ministry Of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
43	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MARITIME ISSUES BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF DENMARK.	18.01.2019	DENMARK	Ministry Of Shipping
44	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	26.08.2019	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Ministry of External Affairs
45	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN E-GOVERNANCE AND EMERGING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES	21.08.2019	ESTONIA	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
46	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN CYBER SECURITY AUGUST 2019	21.08.2019	ESTONIA	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
47	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ESTONIA ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS	21.08.2019	ESTONIA	Ministry of External Affairs
48	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INDIA AND EDUFI, FINLAND FOR COOPERATION IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING	23.01.2019	FINLAND	Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship
49	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT, FINLAND FOR COOPERATION IN TOURISM	21.11.2019	FINLAND	Ministry Of Tourism

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
50	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INDIA AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT, FINLAND FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DIGITALIZATION	22.11.2019	FINLAND	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
51	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND FINLAND ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE	10.01.2019	FINLAND	Department Of Space
52	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND FINLAND ON COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF CYBER SECURITY	10.01.2019	FINLAND	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
53	ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND YOUTH, GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR COOPERATION IN SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING	22.08.2019	FRANCE	Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurs
54	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOLAR ENERGY (NISE), MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE FRENCH ALTERNATIVE ENERGIES AND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CEA)	22.08.2019	FRANCE	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy, Government Of India

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
55	COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING (C-DAC), AN AUTONOMEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ATOS	22.08.2019	FRANCE	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
56	IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ISRO AND CNES FRANCE FOR JOINT MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS	22.08.2019	FRANCE	Department Of Space
57	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INDO-FRENCH ROADMAP ON CYBER SECURITY AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	22.08.2019	FRANCE	Ministry Of Electronics And It (Meity)
58	INDIA-FRANCE MIGRATION AND MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	2019	FRANCE	Ministry Of External Affairs
59	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND FRANCE ON THE PREVENTION OF ILLICIT CONSUMPTION AND SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND CHEMICAL PRECURSORS AND RELATED OFFENCES	2019	FRANCE	Ministry Of Home Affairs
60	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE GAMBIA ABROAD, REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA	07.03.2019	GAMBIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
61	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT OF REGARDING COOPERATION ON STRATEGIC PROJECTS	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry Of Railways

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
62	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE FIELD OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES, RE-HABILITATION AND VOCAL TRAINING OF INSURED PERSONS WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry Of Labour & Employment
63	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	2019	GERMANY	Ministry Of Skill Development
64	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL COOPERATION PROJECT REGARDING AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT	2019	GERMANY	Not Available
65	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PROMOTE, ESTABLISH AND EXPAND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH COOPERATION	31.10.2019	GERMANY	Ministry Of Science Of Technology
66	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMIC COLLABORATION IN AYURVEDA, YOGA AND MEDITATION	31.10.2019	GERMANY	Ministry Of AYUSH
67	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE) AND THE GERMAN AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY DEULA IN THE CITY OF NIENBURG ON COLLABORATION IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING	31.10.2019	GERMANY	Ministry Of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
68	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH	2019	GERMANY	Siemens Limited, India And Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
69	IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL BETWEEN ISRO AND GERMAN AEROSPACE CENTRE	2019	GERMANY	Department Of Space
70	STATEMENT OF INTENT ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE INDO-GERMAN MIGRATION AND MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	2019	GERMANY	Ministry of External Affairs
71	DECLARATION OF INTENT ON STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF START UPS	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of Commerce
72	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON CONSULTATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 2020-24	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of External Affairs
73	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE FIELD OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES, RE-HABILITATION AND VOCAL TRAINING OF INSURED PERSONS WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
74	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON INDO-GERMAN PARTNERSHIP FOR GREEN URBAN MOBILITY	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
75	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT REGARDING THE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF MARINE LITTER	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
76	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT ON COOPERATION WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SMART CITIES NETWORK	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
77	JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT FOR JOINT COOPERATION IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	01.11.2019	GERMANY	Ministry of Science & Technology

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
78	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF MEDICINE AND HOMEOPATHY	02.08.2019	GUINEA	Ministry Of AYUSH
79	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RENEWABLE ENERGY	02.08.2019	GUINEA	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
80	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN CAPACITIES OF HUNGARY FOR THE YEARS 2019-2022	26.08.2019	HUNGARY	Ministry Of Culture
81	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND INNOVATION OF ICELAND, DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT.	10.09.2019	ICELAND	Ministry Of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry And Dairying
82	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND FOR THE YEAR 2019-2022.	10.09.2019	ICELAND	Ministry Of Culture

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
83	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING, GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND INNOVATION OF ICELAND, DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT	10.09.2019	ICELAND	Ministry of Agriculture
84	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	10.09.2019	ICELAND	Ministry of External Affairs
85	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA	03.12.2019	KENYA	Ministry Of External Affairs
86	MINUTES OF NINTH SESSION OF KENYA-INDIA JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 19-20 AUGUST 2019	20.08.2019	KENYA	Ministry Of Commerce
87	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INVEST INDIA AND MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENERGY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON EXTENSION OF KOREA PLUS FOR SUPPORTING KOREAN COMPANIES INVESTMENTS IN INDIA	22.02.2019	KOREA	Ministry of Commerce
88	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND KOREA ON START UP COOPERATION	22.02.2019	KOREA	Ministry of Commerce

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
89	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND KOREA FOR ISSUING OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA- REPUBLIC OF KOREA JOINT STAMPS	22.02.2019	KOREA	Ministry of Communications
90	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND KOREA ON COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND DEVELOPING POLICE COOPERATION	22.02.2019	KOREA	Ministry of Home Affairs
91	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PRASAR BHARTI AND KOREAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM ON COOPERATION IN BROADCASTING	22.02.2019	KOREA	Ministry of I & B
92	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY GUARDS OF INDIA AND NATIONAL GUARDS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	14.6.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Home Affairs
93	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND INDIA ON COOPERATION ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	14.6.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology
94	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS OF INDIA AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF LEGAL METROLOGY	14.6.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution
95	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT OF INDIA AND OFFICE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	15.5.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Home Affairs
96	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH	14.6.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Finance

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
97	PROTOCOL AMENDING THE ARTICLE 26 OF AGREEMENT FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME SIGNED AT NEW DELHI ON 13.4.2015 (DTAA)	14.6.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Finance
98	BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY BETWEEN INDIA AND KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	14.6.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry Of Finance
99	ROADMAP ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA FOR THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD (2019-2024)	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Commerce
100	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Communications
100	PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME SIGNED AT NEW DELHI ON 13TH APRIL, 1999	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Finance
101	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Health

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
102	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARDS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY GUARDS OF INDIA ON COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARDS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY GUARDS OF INDIA	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Home Affairs
103	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARDS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY GUARDS OF INDIA ON COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL GUARDS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY GUARDS OF INDIA	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Home Affairs
104	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE COMMITTEE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	16.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of Information Technology
105	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	15.05.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	NSCS

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
106	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC (NISS KR) AND RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (RIS)	14.06.2019	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	Ministry of External Affairs
107	AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS (ASAS) DURING THE YEAR 2019- WITH LAO PDR	16.01.2019	LAO PDR	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
108	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA	06.09.2019	LAO PDR	Ministry Of External Affairs
109	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA FOR THE YEARS 2019 - 2021	20.08.2019	LATVIA	Ministry Of Culture
110	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA	17.08.2019	LITHUANIA	Ministry of Culture
111	PROCESS VERBALE CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ON EXTRADITION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA	17.08.2019	LITHUANIA	Ministry of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
112	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES ON CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH	08.06.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of Health
113	TREATY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTER (MLAT)	03.09.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of Home Affairs
114	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC & OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	17.03.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of External Affairs
115	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES & EESL ON COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY	17.03.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy
116	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT INDIA AND THE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT MALDIVES	13.12.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry of Finance
117	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES REGARDING INDIAN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HICDPS THROUGH LOCAL BODIES	17.03.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
118	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN CUSTOMS, CAPACITIES BUILDING BETWEEN THE CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS OF INDIA AND THE MALDIVES CUSTOMS SERVICE.	08.06.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of Finance
119	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PASSENGER AND CARGO SERVICES BY SEA	08.06.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of Shipping
120	TECHNICAL AGREEMENT ON SHARING WHITE SHIPPING INFORMATION BETWEEN INDIAN NAVY AND MNDF	08.06.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry Of Shipping
121	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE, GOVT OF INDIA AND CIVIL SERVICES COMMISSION, GOVT OF MALDIVES ON TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR MALDIVIAN CIVIL SERVANTS	08.06.2019	MALDIVES	Department of Administrative Reforms And Public Grievances
122	TREATY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS	03.09.2019	MALDIVES	Ministry of Home Affairs
123	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA AND THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF MALDIVES	13.12.2019	MALDIVES	Election Commission of India

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
124	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA ON COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USES OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL AND CIVILIAN PURPOSES	20.09.2019	MONGOLIA	Department of Space
125	COMPREHENSIVE WORK PLAN BETWEEN MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIGHT INDUSTRY OF MONGOLIA FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND DAIRY PRODUCTION	20.09.2019	MONGOLIA	Ministry of Agriculture
126	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA FOR THE YEARS 2019-2023	20.09.2019	MONGOLIA	Ministry of Culture
127	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA FOR AUTHORIZING THE DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION OR CONSULAR POST TO ENGAGE IN GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT	20.09.2019	MONGOLIA	Ministry of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
128	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) OF MONGOLIA AND THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NDMA) OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA IN THE FIELD OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	20.09.2019	MONGOLIA	Ministry of Home Affairs
129	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (MOHUA), GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL PLANNING, URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND CITY POLICY, GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO PROMOTE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING & HUMAN SETTLEMENT	18.02.2019	MOROCCO	Ministry Housing And Urban Affairs
130	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND MOROCCO ON SETTING UP OF A JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM	18.02.2019	MOROCCO	Ministry of Home Affairs
131	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND MOROCCO ON COOPERATION IN YOUTH MATTERS	18.02.2019	MOROCCO	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
132	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND TCIL FOR PARTICIPATION IN E-VBAB NETWORK PROJECT	07.10.2019	MOZAMBIQUE	Ministry of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
133	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (FSSAI) AND DEPARTMENT OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND QUALITY CONTROL (DFTQC), NEPAL ON FOOD SAFETY	21.08.2019	NEPAL	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
134	MINUTES OF FIFTH INDIA-NEPAL JOINT COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN KATHMANDU ON 21-22 AUGUST, 2019	23.09.2019	NEPAL	Ministry of External Affairs
135	AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT (ASAS) BETWEEN INDIA AND NIGERIA	14.01.2019	NIGERIA	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
136	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND NORWAY ON THE INDIA-NORWAY OCEAN DIALOGUE	07.01.2019	NORWAY	Ministry of External Affairs
137	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN FOR FACILITATION OF PILGRIMS TO VISIT GURUDWARA DARBAR SAHIB, KARTARPUR, PAKISTAN	24.10.2019	PAKISTAN	Ministry Of Home Affairs
138	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DIPLOMATIC TRAINING	19.02.2019	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Ministry Of External Affairs
139	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ACADEMY CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA	06.03.2019	PARAGUAY	Ministry Of External Affairs
140	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND PARAGUAY ON COOPERATION	06.03.2019	PARAGUAY	Ministry of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
141	JOINT STRATEGY FOR ENHANCEMENT OF INDIA-RUSSIA TRADE AND INVESTMENT	01.11.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Commerce
142	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA ON COOPERATION IN AUDIOVISUAL CO-PRODUCTION	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry of Information And Broadcasting
143	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA ON BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE ROAD TRANSPORT AND ROAD INDUSTRY	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways
144	MEMO OF INTENT BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Shipping
145	PLAN OF COOPERATION BETWEEN CBITC, INDIA AND RUSSIA FOR COMBATING CUSTOMS VIOLATIONS IN 2019-22	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Finance
146	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA ON THE USE OF NATURAL GAS FOR TRANSPORTATION	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas
147	PROGRAM BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA ON EXPANSION OF COOPERATION IN OIL AND GAS SECTOR	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Petroleum And Natural Gas
148	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NITI AAYOG AND RUSSIA FOR FAR EAST AND ARCTIC, FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROGRAM OF INDIAN-RUSSIAN COOPERATION IN TRADE, ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT SPHERES IN BUSINESS FAR EAST FOR 2020-25	04.09.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Commerce
149	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY AND KRYLOV STATE RESEARCH CENTRE	26.07.2019	RUSSIA	Min Of Earth Sciences

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
150	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INNOVATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	29.08.2019	RUSSIA	Ministry Of Science And Technology
151	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	10.09.2019	SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES	Ministry of External Affairs
152	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INVESTING IN THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA	20.02.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Finance
153	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION ON BROADCASTING FOR EXCHANGE OF AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMMES	20.02.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting
154	FRAMEWORK COOPERATION PROGRAMME BETWEEN INVEST INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA GENERAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (SAGIA).	20.02.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Commerce & Industry
155	AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
156	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RENEWABLE ENERGY	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of New & Renewable Energy
157	AGREEMENT ON SECURITY COOPERATION	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Home Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
158	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION AND PREVENTION OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSOR CHEMICALS AND RELATED MATTERS	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Home Affairs
159	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL AVIATION	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
160	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS REGULATIONS	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Health
161	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES IN PADUR CAVERN OF ISPRL.	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Petroleum & Natural Gas
162	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF STOCK EXCHANGES.	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Finance
163	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OVER LAUNCHING OF RUPAY CARD IN SAUDI ARABIA.	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of Finance
164	COOPERATION PROGRAMME FOR TRAINING AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES FOR DIPLOMATS.	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
165	LETTER OF INTENT FOR COOPERATION IN INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY.	29.10.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Niti Aayog
166	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INVESTING IN THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA	20.02.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry of Finance

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
167	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING	20.02.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
168	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA	20.02.2019	SAUDI ARABIA	Ministry of Tourism
169	AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SCO MEMBER STATES ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MASS MEDIA	14.06.2019	SCO	Ministry Of Communication And Information Technology
170	AGREEMENT AMONG COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE SCO MEMBER STATES ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS	14.06.2019	SCO	Ministry Of Sports
171	MEMORANDUM ON MUTUAL INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEMS AMONG THE CUSTOMS SERVICES OF THE SCO MEMBER STATES	02.11.2019	SCO	Ministry Of Finance
172	AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	2019	SERBIA	Ministry Of Civil Aviation
173	CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA FOR THE YEARS 2019-2023	2019	SIERRA LEONE	Ministry Of Culture
174	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION	2019	SIERRA LEONE	Ministry Of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
175	PROTOCOL FOR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA	NO INFORMATION	SIERRA LEONE	Ministry Of External Affairs
176	US DOLLAR 30 MILLION CREDIT LINE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA FOR IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN SIERRA LEONE	NO INFORMATION	SIERRA LEONE	Exim Bank
177	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE	13.10.2019	SIERRA LEONE	Ministry Of External Affairs
178	PROGRAMME OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF SLOVENIA FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2022	17.09.2019	SLOVENIA	Ministry Of Science And Technology
179	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SPORT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS OF INDIA AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF SLOVENIA	17.09.2019	SLOVENIA	Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Of India

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
180	PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE, ARTS, EDUCATION, SPORTS AND MASS MEDIA	17.09.2019	SLOVENIA	Ministry Of Culture
181	PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS) AND THE SLOVENIAN INSTITUTE FOR STANDARDIZATION (SIST) ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF STANDARDIZATION	17.09.2019	SLOVENIA	Bureau Of Indian Standards
182	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND SOUTH SUDAN	22.02.2019	SOUTH SUDAN	Ministry Of External Affairs
183	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND SWEDEN ON RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES PURSUANT TO REGULATION 1/10 OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCH KEEPING OF SEAFARERS 1978	02.12.2019	SWEDEN	Ministry Of Shipping
184	LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE INDIA-SWITZERLAND RELATIONS FOR THE FUTURE IN THE FORM OF AN INDIA-SWITZERLAND SCIENCE AND INNOVATION ALLIANCE.	13.09.2019	SWITZERLAND	Ministry Of Science And Technology

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
185	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND REPRESENTED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT.	13.09.2019	SWITZERLAND	Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change
186	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING MADE AND ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS AND UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ICCR CHAIR OF INDIAN STUDIES.	13.09.2019	SWITZERLAND	Ministry Of External Affairs
187	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIA-SYRIA NEXT GENERATION CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NEXTGEN-ISCCEIT)	01.10.2019	SYRIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
188	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND TAJIKISTAN	29.11.2019	TAJIKISTAN	Ministry Of Home Affairs
189	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY, INDIA AND CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY, THAILAND	10.01.2019	THAILAND	Ministry Of External Affairs
190	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NAVAYUGA CONTAINER TERMINAL, KRISHNAPATNAM PORT, INDIA AND PORT AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (RANONG PORT)	15.08.2019	THAILAND	Ministry Of Shipping

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
191	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN KOLKATA PORT TRUST AND PORT AUTHORITY OF THAILAND	07.11.2019	THAILAND	Ministry Of Shipping
192	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHENNAI PORT TRUST, INDIA AND PORT AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (RANONG PORT)	07.11.2019	THAILAND	Ministry Of Shipping
193	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN VISAKHAPATNAM PORT TRUST, INDIA AND PORT AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (RANONG PORT)	07.11.2019	THAILAND	Ministry Of Shipping
194	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE DEVAWONGSE VAROPAKARN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KINGDOM OF THAILAND	10.10.2019	THAILAND	Ministry Of External Affairs
195	AGREED MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INDIA-THAILAND JOINT COMMISSION FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 10TH OCTOBER, 2019	10.10.2019	THAILAND	Ministry of External Affairs
196	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MET OFFICE, UNITED KINGDOM ON COOPERATION IN WEATHER AND CLIMATE SCIENCES	28.01.2019	UNITED KINGDOM	Ministry Of Earth Sciences
197	FOR COOPERATION ON THE AIRBORNE SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR AIRBORNE CAMPAIGN	01.10.2019	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Department Of Space
198	IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR COOPERATION ON THE CHANDRAYAAN MISSION-2	11.02.2019	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Department of Space

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
199	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY REGARDING COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOM MATTERS	28.06.2019	URUGUAY	Ministry of Finance
200	AGREEMENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND USA	23.09.2019	USA	Ministry Of Science And Technology
201	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMBASSY OF INDIA AND PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF QUANG NINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM REG. INDIAN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS (QIP)	15.10.2019	VIETNAM	Ministry Of External Affairs
202	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMBASSY OF INDIA AND PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF YEN BAI PROVINCE, VIETNAM REGARDING FOR PROJECT "CONSTRUCTION OF INFIELD CANAL AT TAN AN WARD NGHIA LO TOWN, YEN BAI PROVINCE"	04.11.2019	VIETNAM	Ministry Of External Affairs
203	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMBASSY OF INDIA AND PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF PHU YEN PROVINCE REG INDIAN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS	14.10.2019	VIETNAM	Ministry Of External Affairs
204	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EMBASSY OF INDIA AND PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF PHU THO PROVINCE REG INDIAN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS	18.10.2019	VIETNAM	Ministry Of External Affairs

	TITLE	Date of Signature	Country/ Organization	Ministry/ Department
205	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES;	2019	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of Mines
206	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE;	2019	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare
207	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE OF INDIA AND ZAMBIAN INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	2019	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
208	.MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ELECTIONS BETWEEN THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA AND ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF ZAMBIA	2019	ZAMBIA	Election Commission Of India
209	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND ZAMBIA INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA	21.08.2019	ZAMBIA	Ministry Of External Affairs
210	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND ZAMBIA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARTS AND CULTURE	21.08.2019	ZAMBIA	Ministry of Culture
211	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND ZAMBIA IN THE FIELD OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	21.08.2019	ZAMBIA	Ministry of Renewable Energy

*List as per information available with the L&T Division as on 25-12-2019

** Sensitive Agreements have been excluded from the list.

ANNEXURE II

List of Agreements/Treaties Ratified/Acceded by India during 2019

	Title of the Agreement/Treaty	Country/ Organization	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Ministry/ Department
1	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN ON JUDICIAL AND CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS FOR THE SERVICE OF SUMMONS, JUDICIAL DOCUMENTS, COMMISSION, EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS AND ARBITRAL AWARDS	Afghanistan	15.04.2019	Ministry of Law and Justice
2	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ALGERIA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SPACE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS	Algeria	30.01.2019	Department of Space
3	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	Antigua And Barbuda	18.11.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
4	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ARMENIA ON COOPERATION IN YOUTH AFFAIRS	Armenia	28.08.2019	Ministry of Youth Affairs
5	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND BAHAMAS ON WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORT	Bahamas	15.04.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
6	TREATY BETWEEN BELARUS AND INDIA ON INVESTMENTS	Belarus	25.02.2019	Ministry of Finance
7	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN ON MUTUAL EXEMPTION FROM THE VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL/SERVICE PASSPORTS	Benin	15.10.2019	Ministry of External Affairs

	Title of the Agreement/Treaty	Country/ Organization	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Ministry/ Department
8	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN COLLECTION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES	Brunei	08.04.2019	Ministry of Finance
9	PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF THE DOUBLE TAXATION AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME SIGNED AT NEW DELHI ON 18 JULY 1994	China	01.01.2019	Ministry of Finance
10	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND COSTA RICA ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL AND SERVICE PASSPORTS	Costa Rica	08.04.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
11	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	Dominican Republic	18.11.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
12	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ESTONIA ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS	Estonia	08.11.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
13	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND ICELAND ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	Iceland	18.11.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
14	HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECYCLING OF SHIPS, 2009	IMO	25.11.2019	Ministry of Shipping

	Title of the Agreement/Treaty	Country/ Organization	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Ministry/ Department
15	FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA ON COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USES OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSE	Indonesia	06.05.2019	Department of Space
16	HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE	International Solar Alliance	29.10.2019	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
17	PROTOCOL AMENDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF THE DOUBLE TAXATION AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME SIGNED AT NEW DELHI ON 13TH APRIL 1999	Kyrgyz Republic	14.10.2019	Ministry of Finance
18	AGREEMENT ON THE FACILITATION OF VISA ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES	Maldives	07.02.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
19	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	Maldives	26.06.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
20	TREATY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS	Maldives	29.10.2019	Ministry of Home Affairs
21	EXTRADITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND MOROCCO	Morocco	18.01.2019	Ministry of Home Affairs

	Title of the Agreement/Treaty	Country/ Organization	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Ministry/ Department
22	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND MOROCCO ON LEGAL AND JUDICIAL AND CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS FOR THE SERVICE OF SUMMONS, JUDICIAL DOCUMENTS, LETTER OF REQUEST AND EXECUTION OF JUDGEMENT DECREE AND ARBITRAL AWARDS	Morocco	25.04.2019	Ministry of Law and Justice
23	MULTILATERAL CONVENTION TO IMPLEMENT TAX TREATY MEASURES TO PREVENT BASE EROSION AND PROFIT SHIFTING	OECD	11.06.2019	Ministry of Finance
24	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND OMAN ON LEGAL AND JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS	Oman	15.04.2019	Ministry of Law and Justice
25	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND PERU ON COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CUSTOMS MATTERS	Peru	18.01.2019	Ministry of Finance
26	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA FOR ESTABLISHING THE INDIAN-RUSSIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY AND MILITARY TECHNICAL COOPERATION	Russia	25.02.2019	Ministry of Defence
27	AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON THE PROGRAM FOR JOINT RESEARCH ON HYPERSONIC TECHNOLOGIES	Russia	14.10.2019	Ministry of Defence
28	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA ON MUTUAL COOPERATION IN JOINT MANUFACTURING OF SPARES, COMPONENTS, AGGREGATES AND OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO RUSSIAN/SOVIET ORIGIN ARMS AND DEFENCE EQUIPMENT	Russia	09.12.2019	Ministry of Defence

	Title of the Agreement/Treaty	Country/ Organization	Date of Ratification/ Accession	Ministry/ Department
29	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	Saint Vincent And Grenadines	18.11.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
30	SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION BUDGET AGREEMENT	SCO	27.07.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
31	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND COMOROS ON EXEMPTION OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS	Union Of Comoros	18.11.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
32	8TH ADDL PROTOCOL TO THE CONSTITUTION OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION	UPU	08.11.2019	Department of Posts
33	9TH ADDL PROTOCOL TO THE CONSTITUTION OF UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION	UPU	08.11.2019	Department of Posts
34	AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN ON EXEMPTION FROM VISA REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT	Uzbekistan	07.02.2019	Ministry of External Affairs
35	THE NICE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSES OF REGISTRATION OF MARKS	WIPO	29.04.2019	Ministry of Commerce
36	THE VIENNA AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE FIGURATIVE ELEMENTS OF MARKS	WIPO	29.04.2019	Ministry of Commerce
37	THE LOCARNO AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS	WIPO	29.04.2019	Ministry of Commerce
38	AGREEMENT BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND INDIA FOR AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME	Zambia	30.01.2019	Ministry of Finance

*List, as per information available with the L&T Division as on 27-12-2019

ANNEXURE III

Instrument of Full Powers issued by India during 2019

	Date of Issuing	Title of the Agreement	Country
1	19.12.2019	MoU between India and Finland on cooperation in the field of Production, Procurement, Research and Development of Defence related Equipment and Industrial cooperation	Finland
2	22.03.2019	Tax Inspectors without borders terms of reference between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)	Kingdom of Eswatini
3	20.08.2019	MoU between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC), Nepal on Food Safety	Nepal
4	04.04.2019	MOU between India and Qatar for employment of ex-officers/Sailors of Indian Navy in Qatar Emiri Naval Force	Qatar
5	01.01.2019	MOU between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of India on Trade in Poppy Seeds.	Turkey
6	05.04.2019	MOU between Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of India on Defence Technology and Industrial Capability Cooperation	United Kingdom
7	05.08.2019	United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) Resulting from Mediation	United Nations
8	20.06.2019	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay regarding cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters	Uruguay

ANNEXURE IV

Seminars, conferences, etc partially or wholly funded by PP&R Division:

S. No.	Seminar/conference	Partner/Collaborating Organisation	Date, Venue
1	5th Raisina Dialogue	Observer Research Foundation	14-16 January 2020, New Delhi
2	4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019	India Foundation	03-04 September 2019, Maldives
3	3rd India-US Forum 2019	Ananta Centre	16-17 August 2019, New Delhi
4	4th Global Technology Summit	Carnegie India	04-06 December 2019, Bengaluru
5	2nd India Strategy Group Meeting 2019	Carnegie India	13-15 September 2019, Lisbon
6	4th Geo-Economic Dialogue	Pune International Centre	28 February – 1 March 2020, Pune
7	18th India-Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue	Ananta Centre	08-09 November 2019, New Delhi
8	2nd India-Japan Indo-Pacific Forum 2019	Delhi Policy Group	03-04 October 2019, Tokyo
9	2nd India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue 2019	Gateway House	21-22 November 2019, Mumbai
10	India-Myanmar Conference	India Foundation	10 June 2019, Imphal
11	A National Seminar on “ India’s Neighbourhood First Policy: Emerging New Trends”	Vidya Prasarak Mandal’s Centre for International Studies (Regd)	4-25 June 2019, Mumbai
12	A 3-day International Conference on theme “Navigating the idea of Indo-Pacific: Indian and Southeast Asian Perspectives”	Madurai Kamraj University	29-31 October 2019, Madurai
13	Track 2 Dialogue on the theme “Strategic Security Threats of 21st Century”	National Institute of Advance Studies, Bengaluru	27-29 January 2020, Bengaluru

ANNEXURE V

Regional Passport Offices – State/UT-wise

S. No.	Seminar/conference	Partner/Collaborating Organisation
1	PO Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2	PO Amritsar	Punjab
3	PO Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh
4	PO Bengaluru	Karnataka
5	PO Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
6	PO Bhubaneswar	Odisha
7	PO Chandigarh	Chandigarh
8	PO Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9	PO Cochin	Kerala
10	PO Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
11	PO Dehradun	Uttarakhand
12	PO Delhi	Delhi
13	PO Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh
14	PO Goa	Goa
15	PO Guwahati	Assam
16	PO Hyderabad	Telangana
17	PO Jaipur	Rajasthan
18	PO Jalandhar	Punjab
19	PO Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir
20	PO Kolkata	West Bengal
21	PO Kozhikode	Kerala
22	PO Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
23	PO Madurai	Tamil Nadu
24	PO Mumbai	Maharashtra
25	PO Nagpur	Maharashtra
26	PO Patna	Bihar
27	PO Pune	Maharashtra

S. No.	Seminar/conference	Partner/Collaborating Organisation
28	PO Raipur	Chhattisgarh
29	PO Ranchi	Jharkhand
30	PO Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
31	PO Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
32	PO Surat	Gujarat
33	PO Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu
34	PO Trivandrum	Kerala
35	PO Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
36	PO Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh

ANNEXURE VI

State/UT-wise list of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs)

No.	State/UT	No. of PSKs	Location of PSKs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Vijayawada, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Bhimavaram
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
3.	Assam*	1	Guwahati
4.	Bihar	2	Patna, Darbhanga
5.	Chandigarh UT**	1	Chandigarh
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
7.	Delhi NCT***	3	Herald House, Shalimar Place, Bhikaji Cama Place
8.	Goa	1	Panaji
9.	Gujarat	5	Ahmedabad I&II, Vadodara, Rajkot, Surat
10.	Haryana	2	Ambala, Gurgaon.
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
13.	Jharkhand	1	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	5	Bangalore I&II, Hubli, Mangalore, Kalaburagi
15.	Kerala	13	Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvananthapuram (Rural), Kollam, Cochin, Ernakulam Rural, Alapuzha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode I&II, Kannur I&II
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore
17.	Maharashtra	8	Mumbai I,II&III, Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Solapur
18.	Manipur	1	Imphal
19.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
20.	Mizoram	1	Aizawl
21.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
22.	Odisha	1	Bhubaneswar
23.	Puducherry	1	Puducherry

No.	State/UT	No. of PSKs	Location of PSKs
24.	Punjab	5	Amritsar, Ludhiana, Jalandhar I&II, Hoshiarpur
25.	Rajasthan	4	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sikar, Udaipur
26.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
27.	Tamil Nadu	8	Chennai I,II&III, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore
28.	Telangana	5	Hyderabad I,II&III, Nizamabad, Karimnagar
29.	Tripura	1	Agartala
30.	Uttar Pradesh	6	Lucknow, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Ghaziabad
31.	Uttarakhand	1	Dehradun
32.	West Bengal@	3	Kolkata, Berhampore, Siliguri
	Total	93	

*RPO Guwahati covers five other North-Eastern States also at present.

**RPO Chandigarh covers parts of Punjab and Haryana.

***RPO Delhi covers parts of Haryana.

@RPO Kolkata covers Sikkim and Tripura.

ANNEXURE VII

State/UT-wise list of Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
1	Anantpur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
2	Bapatla	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
3	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
4	Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
5	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
6	Hindupur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
7	Kadappa	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
8	Kodur	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
9	Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
10	Nandyal	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
11	Narasaraopet	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
12	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
13	Ongole	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
14	Amalapuram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
15	Eluru	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
16	Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
17	Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
18	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
19	Vizianagaram	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
20	Yelamanchili	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
21	Changlang	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
22	Khonsa	Arunachal Pradesh	Guwahati
23	Barpeta	Assam	Guwahati
24	Dhubri	Assam	Guwahati
25	Dibrugarh	Assam	Guwahati
26	Goalpara	Assam	Guwahati
27	Golaghat	Assam	Guwahati

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
28	Jorhat	Assam	Guwahati
29	Karbi Anglong	Assam	Guwahati
30	Karimganj	Assam	Guwahati
31	Kokrajhar	Assam	Guwahati
32	Mangaldoi	Assam	Guwahati
33	Nawgong	Assam	Guwahati
34	North Lakhimpur	Assam	Guwahati
35	Silchar	Assam	Guwahati
36	Tezpur	Assam	Guwahati
37	Tinsukia	Assam	Guwahati
38	Arrah	Bihar	Patna
39	Aurangabad	Bihar	Patna
40	Banka	Bihar	Patna
41	Begusarai	Bihar	Patna
42	Bettiah	Bihar	Patna
43	Bhagalpur	Bihar	Patna
44	Buxar	Bihar	Patna
45	Chhapra	Bihar	Patna
46	Dalmia Nagar	Bihar	Patna
47	Dalsingh Sarai	Bihar	Patna
48	Forbesganj	Bihar	Patna
49	Gaya	Bihar	Patna
50	Gopalganj	Bihar	Patna
51	Hajipur	Bihar	Patna
52	Jahanabad	Bihar	Patna
53	Jamui	Bihar	Patna
54	Katihar	Bihar	Patna
55	Khagaria	Bihar	Patna
56	Kishanganj	Bihar	Patna
57	Madhubani	Bihar	Patna

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
58	Maner	Bihar	Patna
59	Motihari	Bihar	Patna
60	Munger	Bihar	Patna
61	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	Patna
62	Nalanda	Bihar	Patna
63	Navada	Bihar	Patna
64	Purnea	Bihar	Patna
65	Saharsa	Bihar	Patna
66	Samastipur	Bihar	Patna
67	Sasaram	Bihar	Patna
68	Sheohar	Bihar	Patna
69	Sitamarhi	Bihar	Patna
70	Siwan	Bihar	Patna
71	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
72	Durg	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
73	Janjgir-Champa	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
74	Korba	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
75	Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
76	Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
77	Surguja	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
78	Silvasa	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Mumbai
79	Daman	Daman	Mumbai
80	Janak Puri	Delhi	Delhi
81	Mehrauli	Delhi	Delhi
82	Nehru Place	Delhi	Delhi
83	Patparganj	Delhi	Delhi
84	Yamuna Vihar	Delhi	Delhi
85	Margao	Goa	Panaji
86	Amreli	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
87	Anand	Gujarat	Ahmedabad

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
88	Bardoli	Gujarat	Surat
89	Bharuch	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
90	Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
91	Bhuj	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
92	Chhota Udaipur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
93	Dahod	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
94	Gandhinagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
95	Godhra	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
96	Jamnagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
97	Junagadh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
98	Kheda	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
99	Mehsana	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
100	Navsari	Gujarat	Surat
101	Palanpur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
102	Patan	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
103	Porbandar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
104	Rajpipla	Gujarat	Surat
105	Sabarkantha	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
106	Surendranagar	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
107	Valsad	Gujarat	Surat
108	Veraval	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
109	Bhiwani Mahendragarh	Haryana	Chandigarh
110	Faridabad	Haryana	Delhi
111	Hisar	Haryana	Chandigarh
112	Kaithal	Haryana	Chandigarh
113	Karnal	Haryana	Chandigarh
114	Narnaul	Haryana	Delhi
115	Panipat	Haryana	Chandigarh
116	Rohtak	Haryana	Delhi
117	Sirsa	Haryana	Chandigarh

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
118	Sonipat	Haryana	Delhi
119	Yamunanagar	Haryana	Chandigarh
120	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
121	Kangra	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
122	Kullu	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
123	Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
124	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
125	Una	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
126	Kathua	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
127	Rajouri	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
128	Udhampur	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
129	Anantnag	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
130	Baramulla	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
131	Leh	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
132	Bokaro	Jharkhand	Ranchi
133	Chaibasha	Jharkhand	Ranchi
134	Deoghar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
135	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Ranchi
136	Dumka	Jharkhand	Ranchi
137	Giridih	Jharkhand	Ranchi
138	Gumla	Jharkhand	Ranchi
139	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Ranchi
140	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	Ranchi
141	Jumri Tilaiya	Jharkhand	Ranchi
142	Khunti	Jharkhand	Ranchi
143	Medininagar	Jharkhand	Ranchi
144	Sahibganj	Jharkhand	Ranchi
145	Shimaria	Jharkhand	Ranchi
146	Ankola	Karnataka	Bengaluru
147	Bagalkot	Karnataka	Bengaluru

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
148	Belagavi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
149	Bellary	Karnataka	Bengaluru
150	Bidar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
151	Chamrajanagar	Karnataka	Bengaluru
152	Channapatna	Karnataka	Bengaluru
153	Chikkballapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
154	Chikkodi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
155	Chitradurga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
156	Davangere	Karnataka	Bengaluru
157	Gadag	Karnataka	Bengaluru
158	Hassan	Karnataka	Bengaluru
159	Jalahalli	Karnataka	Bengaluru
160	Koppal	Karnataka	Bengaluru
161	Maddur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
162	Mysuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
163	Raichur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
164	Robertsonpet	Karnataka	Bengaluru
165	Shivamogga	Karnataka	Bengaluru
166	Tumakuru	Karnataka	Bengaluru
167	Udupi	Karnataka	Bengaluru
168	Vijayapur	Karnataka	Bengaluru
169	Chengannur	Kerala	Cochin
170	Kattappana	Kerala	Cochin
171	Nenmara	Kerala	Cochin
172	Palakkad	Kerala	Cochin
173	Kasargod	Kerala	Kozhikode
174	Attingal	Kerala	Trivandrum
175	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	Trivandrum
176	Kavaratti	Lakshadweep	Cochin
177	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
178	Betul	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
179	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
180	Chhindwara	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
181	Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
182	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
183	Dhar	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
184	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
185	Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
186	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
187	Ratlam	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
188	Rewa	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
189	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
190	Satna	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
191	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
192	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
193	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
194	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mumbai
195	Bhiwandi	Maharashtra	Mumbai
196	Bhusawal	Maharashtra	Mumbai
197	Dhule	Maharashtra	Mumbai
198	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	Mumbai
199	Rajapur	Maharashtra	Mumbai
200	Santa Cruz	Maharashtra	Mumbai
201	Sion	Maharashtra	Mumbai
202	Vashi	Maharashtra	Mumbai
203	Vikroli	Maharashtra	Mumbai
204	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	Pune
205	Baramati	Maharashtra	Pune
206	Beed	Maharashtra	Pune
207	Ichalkaranji	Maharashtra	Pune

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
208	Jalna	Maharashtra	Pune
209	Kolhapur	Maharashtra	Pune
210	Latur	Maharashtra	Pune
211	Madha	Maharashtra	Pune
212	Nanded	Maharashtra	Pune
213	Osmanabad	Maharashtra	Pune
214	Pandharpur	Maharashtra	Pune
215	Parbhani	Maharashtra	Pune
216	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	Pune
217	Sangli	Maharashtra	Pune
218	Satara	Maharashtra	Pune
219	Shirur	Maharashtra	Pune
220	Srirampur	Maharashtra	Pune
221	Akola	Maharashtra	Nagpur
222	Amravati	Maharashtra	Nagpur
223	Bhandara	Maharashtra	Nagpur
224	Buldhana	Maharashtra	Nagpur
225	Chandrapur	Maharashtra	Nagpur
226	Gadchiroli	Maharashtra	Nagpur
227	Hingoli	Maharashtra	Nagpur
228	Katoal	Maharashtra	Nagpur
229	Wardha	Maharashtra	Nagpur
230	Yavatmal	Maharashtra	Nagpur
231	Kakching	Manipur	Guwahati
232	Tura	Meghalaya	Guwahati
233	Aska	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
234	Balasore	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
235	Bargarh	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
236	Baripada	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
237	Berhampur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
238	Bhadrak	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
239	Bhawanipatna	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
240	Bolangir	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
241	Cuttack	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
242	Dhenkanal	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
243	Jagatsinghpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
244	Jajpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
245	Kendrapara	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
246	Keonjhar	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
247	Koraput	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
248	Nabarangpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
249	Phulbani	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
250	Puri	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
251	Rourkela	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
252	Sambalpur	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
253	Karaikal	Puducherry	Tiruchirapalli
254	Basi Pattana	Punjab	Chandigarh
255	Bathinda	Punjab	Chandigarh
256	Firozpur	Punjab	Amritsar
257	Malerkotla	Punjab	Chandigarh
258	Moga	Punjab	Jalandhar
259	Pathankot	Punjab	Jalandhar
260	Patiala	Punjab	Chandigarh
261	Phagwara	Punjab	Jalandhar
262	Ropar	Punjab	Chandigarh
263	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
264	Alwar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
265	Banswara	Rajasthan	Jaipur
266	Barmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
267	Bharatpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
268	Bhilwara	Rajasthan	Jaipur
269	Bikaner	Rajasthan	Jaipur
270	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
271	Churu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
272	Dausa	Rajasthan	Jaipur
273	Hanumangarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
274	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	Jaipur
275	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
276	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	Jaipur
277	Kankroli	Rajasthan	Jaipur
278	Karauli-Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
279	Kota	Rajasthan	Jaipur
280	Kotputli	Rajasthan	Jaipur
281	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
282	Pali	Rajasthan	Jaipur
283	Pratapgarh	Rajasthan	Jaipur
284	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan	Jaipur
285	Sirohi	Rajasthan	Jaipur
286	Sriganganagar	Rajasthan	Jaipur
287	Arani	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
288	Chennai GPO	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
289	Chidambaram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
290	Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
291	Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
292	Kallakurichi	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
293	Kancheepuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
294	Krishnagiri	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
295	Ranipet	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
296	Tiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
297	Tiruvannamalai	Tamil Nadu	Chennai

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
298	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
299	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
300	Coonoor	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
301	Erode	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
302	Rasipuram	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
303	Salem	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
304	Bodineyaknur	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
305	Devakottai	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
306	Kodairoad	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
307	Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
308	Rajpalyam	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
309	Ramathapuram	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
310	Thoothukkudi	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
311	Virudhunagar	Tamil Nadu	Madurai
312	Karur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
313	Perambalur	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
314	Sirkali	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
315	Thiruthuraiipoondi	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli
316	Adilabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
317	Bhongir	Telangana	Hyderabad
318	Kamareddy	Telangana	Hyderabad
319	Khammam	Telangana	Hyderabad
320	Mahabubabad	Telangana	Hyderabad
321	Mancherial	Telangana	Hyderabad
322	Medak	Telangana	Hyderabad
323	Medchal	Telangana	Hyderabad
324	Mehbubnagar	Telangana	Hyderabad
325	Nalgonda	Telangana	Hyderabad
326	Siddipet	Telangana	Hyderabad
327	Vikarabad	Telangana	Hyderabad

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
328	Wanaparthy	Telangana	Hyderabad
329	Warangal	Telangana	Hyderabad
330	Dhramanagar	Tripura	Kolkata
331	Amroha	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
332	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
333	Bijnaur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
334	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
335	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
336	Rampur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
337	Shahjahanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly
338	Achnera	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
339	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
340	Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
341	Baghpat	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
342	Bulandshahr	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
343	Hathras	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
344	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
345	Muzaffarnagar	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
346	Noida	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
347	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
348	Vrindawan	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
349	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
350	Ambedkar Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
351	Amethi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
352	Ayodhya	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
353	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
354	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
355	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
356	Balrampur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
357	Banda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
358	Bhadohi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
359	Chunar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
360	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
361	Farrukhabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
362	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
363	Ghazipur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
364	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
365	Goshi (Mau)	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
366	Hamirpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
367	Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
368	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
369	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
370	Kheri	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
371	Maharajganj	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
372	Misrikh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
373	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
374	Rae Bareli	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
375	Siddharth Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
376	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
377	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
378	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
379	Almora	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
380	Kathgodam	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
381	Nainital	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
382	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
383	Rudrapur	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
384	Srinagar	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
385	Alipurduar	West Bengal	Kolkata
386	Amta	West Bengal	Kolkata
387	Arambagh	West Bengal	Kolkata

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
388	Asansol	West Bengal	Kolkata
389	Ashok Nagar	West Bengal	Kolkata
390	Balurghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
391	Bangaon	West Bengal	Kolkata
392	Bankura	West Bengal	Kolkata
393	Bardhaman	West Bengal	Kolkata
394	Barrackpore	West Bengal	Kolkata
395	Basirhat	West Bengal	Kolkata
396	Beadon Street	West Bengal	Kolkata
397	Bishnupur	West Bengal	Kolkata
398	Bolpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
399	Canning Road Ferry Ghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
400	Chinsurah	West Bengal	Kolkata
401	Coochbehar	West Bengal	Kolkata
402	Darjeeling	West Bengal	Kolkata
403	Diamond Harbour	West Bengal	Kolkata
404	Dum Dum	West Bengal	Kolkata
405	Ghatal	West Bengal	Kolkata
406	Howrah	West Bengal	Kolkata
407	Jadavpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
408	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal	Kolkata
409	Jhargram	West Bengal	Kolkata
410	Jiyaganj	West Bengal	Kolkata
411	Kakdweep	West Bengal	Kolkata
412	Kanthi	West Bengal	Kolkata
413	Katwa	West Bengal	Kolkata
414	Kharagpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
415	Krishnanagar	West Bengal	Kolkata
416	Makdumpur	West Bengal	Kolkata
417	North Dinajpur	West Bengal	Kolkata

No.	Location	State/UT	Passport Office
418	Purulia	West Bengal	Kolkata
419	Raghunathganj	West Bengal	Kolkata
420	Rampurhat	West Bengal	Kolkata
421	Ranaghat	West Bengal	Kolkata
422	Samsi	West Bengal	Kolkata
423	Serampore	West Bengal	Kolkata
424	Tamluk	West Bengal	Kolkata

ANNEXURE VIII

Missions/Posts abroad integrated with Passport Seva Project

No.	Mission / Post abroad	Official 'Go Live' Date
1	United Kingdom - London	25-Oct-18
2	United Kingdom - Birmingham	27-Oct-18
3	United Kingdom - Edinburgh	30-Oct-18
4	USA - New York	21-Nov-18
5	USA - Washington DC	24-Nov-18
6	USA - Atlanta	25-Nov-18
7	USA - San Francisco	27-Nov-18
8	USA - Houston	28-Nov-18
9	USA - Chicago	30-Nov-18
10	Saudi Arabia - Riyadh	20-Feb-19
11	Saudi Arabia - Jeddah	25-Feb-19
12	Oman - Muscat	27-Feb-19
13	Kuwait - Kuwait City	12-Mar-19
14	Bahrain - Manama	17-Mar-19
15	UAE - Dubai	3-Apr-19
16	UAE - Abu Dhabi	4-Apr-19
17	Qatar - Doha	21-Apr-19
18	Singapore - Singapore	20-May-19
19	Thailand - Bangkok	22-May-19
20	Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur	30-May-19
21	Canada - Toronto	11-Jun-2019
22	Canada - Vancouver	11-Jun-2019
23	Canada - Ottawa	24-Jun-2019
24	Sri Lanka - Colombo	19-Mar-2019
25	Australia - Sydney	24-Jun-2019
26	Australia - Melbourne	7-Jul-2019
27	Australia - Perth	7-Jul-2019

ANNEXURE IX

Cadre strength at Headquarters and Missions abroad as on during 2019-20 (including posts budgeted by M/o Commerce, ex-cadre posts and posts encadred from MOIA & POE)

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	138	176
4	Grade IV	58	152	210
5	Junior Admn. Grade/Senior Scale	117	246	363
6	(i) Junior Scale	10	37	47
	(ii) Probationers Reserve	62		62
	(iii) Leave Reserve	15		15
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	19		19
	(v) Training Reserve	7		7
	Sub Total I	337	641	978
	IFS(B)			
7	(i) Grade I	118	125	243
	(ii) Deputation Reserve	6		6
8	(i) Integrated Grades II & III	359	241	600
	(ii) Leave Reserve	30		30
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	16		16
	(iv) Training Reserve	25		25
9	(i) Grade IV	214	545	759
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	54		54
10	(i) Grade V/VI	173	84	257
	(ii) Leave Reserve	60		60
	(iii) Deputation Reserve	14		14
11	(i) Grade II of Cypher Cadre	47	47	94

S.No.	Cadre/Post	Posts at Hqrs.	Posts at Missions	Total
	(ii) Leave Reserve	5		5
12	(i) Stenographer's Cadre	383	550	933
	(ii) Leave Reserve	47		47
	(iii) Training Reserve (Hindi)	10		10
	(iv) Deputation Reserve	12		12
13	Interpreter's Cadre	9	26	35
14	L&T Cadre	20	3	23
	Sub Total II	1662	1621	3283
	Grand Total(Sub total I+II)	1999	2262	4261

ANNEXURE X

**Number of IFS Officers with proficiency in various languages :
(As on 02.12.2019)**

S.No.	Language	Number of Officers
1	Arabic	118
2	Bahasa Indonesia	10
3	Bahasa Malay	03
4	Burmese	08
5	Chinese	96
6	Czech	02
7	French	108
8	German	35
9	Hebrew	08
10	Italian	01
11	Japanese	31
12	Kazakh	01
13	Swahili	02

S.No.	Language	Number of Officers
14	Korean	09
15	Nepalese	01
16	Pashto	02
17	Persian	23
18	Polish	03
19	Portuguese	27
20	Russian	113
21	Sinhalese	10
22	Spanish	98
23	Turkish	07
24	Ukrainian	01
25	Vietnamese	03
	Total	720

ANNEXURE XI

List Of Partnership Agreements

ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
1.	China	Closer Development Partnership Strategic & Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity	2014 From 2005 to 2014
2	Japan	Special Strategic & Global Partnership	2014
3	South Korea	Special Strategic Partnership	2015
4	Indonesia	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	2015
5	Vietnam	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	Strategic Partnership since 2007, elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016
6	Australia	Strategic Partnership	2009
7	Malaysia	Strategic Partnership	2010
8	Afghanistan	Strategic Partnership	2011
9	Singapore	Strategic Partnership	2015
10	Mongolia	Strategic Partnership	2015
11	ASEAN	Strategic Partnership	At ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012 in New Delhi, India-ASEAN relations were elevated unto a Strategic Partnership level

USA and Europe

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
1.	US	Strategic Partnership of Global Significance	2014
2	France	Strategic Partnership	1998
3	Germany	Strategic Partnership	2000
4	UK	Strategic Partnership	2004
5	Canada	Strategic Partnership	2015

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
6	European Union	Strategic Partnership	2004

GULF

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
1.	Saudi Arabia	Strategic Partnership Council Agreement	October 2019
2	UAE	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership	2018
3	Oman	Strategic Partnership	2008
4	Israel	Strategic Partnership	2017

CENTRAL ASIA

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
1.	Russia	Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership	Since 2000, we had Strategic partnership and raised to Special and Privileged status in 2010
2	Kazakhstan	Strategic Partnership	2009
3	Uzbekistan	Long Term and Strategic Partnership	2011
4	Tajikistan	Long term Strategic Partnership	2012

LAC

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
1.	Brazil	Strategic Partnership	2006
2	Argentina	Strategic Partnership	2019
3	Mexico	Privileged Partnership	2007

AFRICA

No.	Country	Term	Remarks
1	South Africa	Strategic Partnership	1996
2	Nigeria	Strategic Partnership	2007
3	Rwanda	Strategic Partnership	2017
4	Africa (covering all 54 states)	India Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation	2015



EAM Dr. Jaishankar unveiling the life-size bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Allotria Park, Helsinki to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Finland, and the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs is brought out by the Policy Planning and Research Division. A digital copy of the Annual Report can be accessed at the Ministry's website : www.mea.gov.in. This Annual Report has also been published as an audio book (in Hindi) in collaboration with the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) Dehradun.