



# INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2011 DOCUMENTS

Introduced & Edited by  
**AVTAR SINGH BHASIN**

PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH  
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**GEETIKA PUBLISHERS**

# INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2011

This is the tenth volume in the series INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS published annually in cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Foreign policy of a country today plays out in the vast arena of global politics. Foreign relations are no longer just an instrument for interaction at diplomatic level but are now a means for procuring sinews for development and progress in trade and commerce, science and technology, education and agriculture and various other fields like energy, climate change, etc. Foreign policy is influenced by the domestic politics of a country, level of economic development, progress in science and technology and ability to compete in promoting trade and investment. In short foreign policy is the product and interplay of multiple forces impinging on and promoting the country's national interest.

The seven hundred and ninety-nine documents reproduced here are intended to make it easier for others to understand and assess India's initiatives in various fields of bilateral, regional and multilateral relations and possible reactions to developments in a given situation.

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## ABOUT THE EDITOR



AVTAR SINGH BHASIN (b. 1935). BA (HONS); MA in History. Initially he had short stints of service in the National Archives of India and the Ministry of Defence. In 1963 he joined the Ministry of External Affairs where he served for three decades, retiring in 1993 as Director of the Historical Division. He was posted in Indian missions in Nepal, Bonn, Vienna, and Lagos. He travelled to several other countries in the discharge of his duties in the Ministry. Some of the countries visited were USA, China, South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary, etc. He was member of several ministerial and official delegations for discussions with various countries both in India and abroad.

Since retirement he has taken to academic research. He was Senior Fellow of the Indian Council of Historical Research from 1994 - 96. He was Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library from 1997 to 2001. He has edited and authored several books on South Asian affairs. He also contributed many articles in newspapers on developments in the neighbouring countries. His 75 pieces on Partition and Freedom were published in the Asian Age consecutively from June 1 to August 14, 1997 coinciding with the Golden jubilee celebrations of the Indian independence.

**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS-2011  
DOCUMENTS**

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## PREFACE

This is the tenth Volume in the series “India’s Foreign Relations” starting with the volume for year 2002. Published annually in cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, it seeks to put together all the official documents bearing on India’s foreign relations.

Given the enlarged scope of foreign relations in the globalised world in which we live today, several Ministries and Departments of the Government of India besides the Ministry of External Affairs contribute to the conduct of foreign relations. While the Ministry of External Affairs determines the broad framework and contours of the Foreign Policy and Diplomacy and is also the principal player in that field, several other Ministries and Departments complement its efforts in their respective spheres of activity. Foreign relations are no longer an instrument merely for interaction at diplomatic level. They are now an instrument for procuring the sinew for development and progress in trade and commerce, science and technology, education and agriculture, and various other fields, like energy, climate change, etc. Foreign policy of any country is influenced by its domestic politics, level of its economic development, its progress in science and technology, and ability to compete in promoting trade and investments. In short foreign policy is the product and interplay of multiple forces impinging on and promoting a country’s national interests.

Since foreign policy must play out in the vast arena of global politics, each country is interested in studying the foreign policy of the other to assess possible reactions to developments in a given situation. Therefore to understand the foreign policy of a country, the importance of documentation needs no emphasis. The need to make them available for easy access is obvious. The purpose of this exercise, being undertaken for the last ten years in the present form, is to make it easier for others to understand India’s actions and reactions in its dealings with other countries either bilaterally or multilaterally on issues confronting them.

As has been pointed out in previous volumes, the increased interaction among nations both bilaterally and multilaterally, at regional or intra-regional levels generate a plethora of documents, thus adding to the bulk annually. To take care of the bulk, we have experimented with electronic technology successfully in the last two years. The same pattern is being followed for the 2011 volume too. The printed volume provides the text of the selected and frequently used documents, along with the reference to all other documents, the full texts of which have been placed in the accompanying CD. It is our expectation that the users would find the arrangement convenient and practical.

The documents, as in the past, have been first arranged thematically and region-wise and then put across chronologically. Those which do not fall in any particular

category or deal with multiple subjects/countries have been placed in the general list with cross referencing where considered necessary.

I have used the facilities of the Library of the India International Centre extensively and found the Librarian Mr. Majumdar and his able staff led by Shafali very helpful and cooperative which greatly facilitated my work. I remain grateful to them for their helpful attitude. In the selection of documents that have gone in the making of this volume, or in adding footnotes to them or for the introduction, I have been guided by the experience gained during the three-decade of my service in the Ministry of External Affairs. However, I remain fully responsible for the views expressed or for any deficiency that may be found in the volume.

**New Delhi,  
April 30, 2012.**

***Avtar Singh Bhasin***



## INTRODUCTION

In the emergence of Asia-Pacific as the centre of Global politics in the first decade of the second millennium, India found itself in the locus of international competitive politics. The changing nature of global economic and financial order and emerging geo-political dimensions, enjoined upon India to sharpen new tools to meet the emerging challenges. Greater engagement with Asian centres of power both in the east and west was a natural corollary. Another centre of greater activity was the region of Africa, where India's involvement since independence has matured into a full-blooded relationship. India's neighbourhood calls for priority attention and provides no less challenge. India cannot also ignore the challenges emerging from the fast developing architecture of global powers for which it seeks to work with various regional and intra-regional groupings since the diplomacy today transcends the frontiers of bilateralism and the problems of the world need global solution whether it is climate change, nuclear or conventional energy security, or food security or financial crisis which engulfed the world a few years ago or even control of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

2. The message is clear. While conventional approach to international relations continues to be valid, the challenge of the globalised world can only be effectively met by working closely with regional and intra-regional groupings spread across the globe. This idea may not be new since there are already in existence such groupings like NAM for some decades. But such groupings were mostly of a political character to promote international understanding. The idea that has now emerged in the new *avatar* is of promoting economic and social wellbeing to uphold peace. The new trend gave birth to inter-continental gatherings like the RIC, BRICS, and IBSA, EAS, G-4, ASEM, G-20, etc. which promote economic and social wellbeing. Closer institutional interaction with successful groupings like the ASEAN, EU, GCC, G-8, Africa's Regional Economic Communities like COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS and EAC etc., has been strengthened. Carrying the same idea a little further, New Delhi hit upon the strategy of interacting with the countries of Africa at large through the regional African forums on the platform of India – Africa Forum Conference.

## II AFRICA

3. In the realm of India's foreign relations Africa has been the toast of the year. Even otherwise right since the independence and even before India had developed substantial and substantive interaction with Africa in several areas. To give a fillip to this relationship India took a major initiative in 2008 to turn the existing relationship into one of partnership and organised the India – Africa Forum Summit. It used the various platforms on which the African countries

were interacting among themselves to launch its initiative. The Indian approach has been one of strengthening South – South linkages and promoting self-reliance through transfer of technologies appropriate to the needs of African partners. In monetary terms India has spent over a billion dollars on its technical cooperation programme for Africa and continues to provide training annually to almost 1000 officials in various capacity building programmes. This is apart from the hundreds of African students who join Indian universities and colleges every year. In a major initiative India has shared the benefits of satellite-based technology with the African countries. India's Space Research Organisation developed, installed and operationalised an ambitious plan which linked 53 countries of Africa through a net-work that used satellite fiber optic and wireless links. It has joined learning centres, universities and hospitals in every African country with the counterpart institutions in India. It is in the background of this existing relationship that the initiative for the India – Africa Forum Conference has to be seen. It was attended by the leaders of 14 African countries and heads of the continent's regional economic groupings. The joint declaration issued at the end of the first New Delhi Conference identified food security, high oil prices, and climate change as the top concerns of the developing world. At the Summit New Delhi pledged easier access to African exports to the Indian market. The India – Africa Framework of Cooperation agreed at the Summit pledged to boost trade and investment and share expertise in agriculture, science and technology, water management and education. India agreed to provide preferential markets to the 34 "Least Developed" African nations, besides committing 500 million US dollars as grant assistance to projects in Africa during the next five years.

4. The success of the first conference propelled India to launch another initiative in the same direction and hold another similar conference this time in Africa itself and chose Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia and headquarters of the AU for the venue. The Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, the National Security Advisor along with the Foreign Policy establishment travelled to Addis to underline the importance New Delhi continues to attach to its relations with that continent. This comprehensive paradigm of cooperation is premised on Africa's own aspirations for development.

5. The Summit held on May 24 – 25, 2011 was preceded by the Foreign Ministers' meeting on May 23 and a Senior Officials' meeting on May 20-21 also in Addis Ababa. The President of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union, co-Chaired the Summit along with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Fifteen African countries participated in the Summit on behalf of the African continent. The choice of the countries was decided by the African Union on the basis of the Banjul format adopted by the African Union for the participation of African

countries in Summits. The countries that were asked by the African Union to participate in the Summit were: Algeria, Burundi, Chad, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Swaziland. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, also took part in the Summit.

6. It was for the first time that Indian leaders joined so many African leaders at the African soil and it was indeed an historic occasion. Taking partnership between the peoples at the core of the India-Africa relationship, a number of outreach events were organized before or concurrently with the Summit. Some of these were:

- A trade exhibition called the India Show and a Business Conclave,
- An India Africa Media Partnership Symposium
- Handcrafting Hope – a programme for interaction amongst Indian and African craftspeople,
- Rhythm of Life – a series of joint cultural performances by Indian and African artistes showcasing fusion of Indian and African cultures,
- From Tradition to Innovation, a multimedia exhibition tracing the long journey of our partnership; and
- A film festival showcasing the best of Indian commercial cinema.

7. Significantly for the first time ever India-Africa Academic Conference was held on May 11-12, 2011 also in Addis. The Indian and African Scholars discussed different aspects of India-Africa relations with a view to enhancing them further.

8. It will be recalled that the First Summit adopted two far-reaching documents, the Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation. These served as the contours for India's systematic engagement with Africa.

9. At the Second Summit, Prime Minister in his address announced significant programmes of economic cooperation which will take the bilateral relationship to greater heights. These are:

A line of credit of 5 billion US dollars for the next three years to help Africa achieve its development goals. An additional 700 million US dollars to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

- (a) Under the first line of credit offered in 2008, New Delhi had sought to specifically promote regional integration through infrastructure development. On the advice of the African Union President, India announced support for the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway line to the tune of 300 million US dollars.
- (b) Following the success of the Pan-African E-Network Project, the Prime Minister now proposed the establishment of an India-Africa Virtual University to help meet some of the demands in Africa for higher studies in Indian institutions. He also proposed 10,000 new scholarships under this proposed University for African students.
- (c) To make education in India an enriching experience for the African students, Prime Minister announced a substantial raise in the number of scholarships and training slots for African students and experts, including under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. It was announced that total commitment for the next three years by way of scholarships to African students will stand at more than 22,000.
- (d) The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of the following new institutions at the pan African level:
  - (i) An India-Africa Food Processing Cluster - This would contribute to value-addition and the creation of regional and export markets;
  - (ii) An India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster - This will support the cotton industry and its processing and conversion into high value products;
  - (iii) An India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting - This will harness satellite technology for the agriculture and fisheries sectors as well as contribute towards disaster preparedness and management of natural resources;
  - (iv) A request to support the establishment of an India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences. India would be happy to support this important venture;
  - (v) An India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development.
  - (vi) To overcome the deficiency in air connectivity between India and Africa, Prime Minister agreed to accord priority in this direction and said New Delhi will be happy to increase the access of African airlines to Indian cities in a significant manner over the next three years.



- (vii) Taking note of the strong regional organizations in Africa, the Prime Minister said India will play an important role in supporting development activities by working with Regional Economic Communities to establish at the regional level, Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Regional Farm Science Centres, Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centres, and Material Testing Laboratories for Highways.
  - (viii) To promote human resource development at the bilateral level he proposed the establishment of institutes for English language training, information technology, entrepreneurship development and vocational training. As part of the new initiatives in the social and economic sectors he announced the establishment of Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Laboratories, Food Processing Business Incubation Centres and Centres on Geo-Informatics Applications and Rural Development.
  - (ix) Prime Minister said that to encourage trade and investment flows as well as transfer of technology, the private sectors should be fully involved in the efforts to integrate the economies of India and Africa and proposed the establishment of an India-Africa Business Council to bring together business leaders from both sides.
  - (x) India has consistently supported the development of African capacities in the maintenance of peace and security. As a token of India's commitment to supporting Africa's endeavours for seeking African solutions, India offered to contribute 2 million US dollars for the African Union Mission in Somalia.
10. At the political level the significant outcome of the Summit was that while India took note of "the common African position and the aspirations of the African countries to get their rightful place in an expanded UN Security Council as new permanent member with full rights as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus," Africa too took "note of India's position and its aspirations to become a permanent member with full rights in an expanded UN Security Council."
11. India's major concern on terrorism found the fullest expression in the Addis Ababa Declaration which "unequivocally" condemned "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations", and accepted the Indian contention that "an act of terrorism anywhere is a threat to the entire international community."
12. A new form of terrorism on the high seas in the shape of piracy was accepted as of equal concern. The declaration accepted the need to address the threat "posed by piracy off the coast of Somalia and suffering caused by

taking of hostages”, and called on all States to cooperate in combating and eradicating the menace of piracy. In this context, the Summit welcomed India’s support to efforts to safeguard shipping in the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean from piracy.

13. With Africa there were a very large number of visits exchanged during the year. The Prime Minister after the India – Africa Forum Summit made a bilateral visits to **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania**. The President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil made a visit to **Mauritius** and Vice President attended the independence ceremonies of newly formed country **South Sudan** at Juba in July. On the way he made a visit to **Kampala**. The Prime Minister of **Rwanda** came at the beginning of the year in January. President of **Uganda** came on a private visit to New Delhi in September. The First Lady of **Mozambique** Mrs. Maria da Luz Guebuza visited New Delhi in November and the Defence Minister of the country came earlier in June and interacted with the Defence Minister A. K. Antony. Commerce and Industry Minister of Mozambique was in New Delhi in March. The Foreign Minister of **Eretria** visited New Delhi in June, a 5-Member delegation from **Lesotho** came in July. The Joint Commission meeting with **Nigeria** took place in New Delhi in March, and the Joint Commission meeting with **South Africa** took place in Pretoria in July. The Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Gurjit Singh made a first visit by an Indian official to **Comoros Island**.

14. This to and fro visits kept the traffic between India and Africa quite hectic and relationship warm and cordial.

### III SOUTH ASIA

15. South Asia despite the SAARC has some distance to go to integrate in comparison to other regions. This is not surprising when we go back a little into history, when South Asia was a single unit of geography. The subcontinent of India out of which emerged the three largest members of the SAARC was an integrated whole. Partition was a disintegrating process that cut linkages built over the centuries. Separated by political differences, integrating them into SAARC has not been easy. India’s initiatives to build network of interdependencies in the region has slowly been showing some positive results. The countries of this region need peace, security, education, healthcare and sustainable development in equal measure. India, being the largest of the countries both in area, population and resources has always demonstrated its willingness to go the extra mile for the sake of peace and security, even on a non-reciprocal basis. This has created an atmosphere of trust and confidence among the neighbours enabling to expand the dialogue on cooperative security. However, there is the need to change the

mindset of the peoples and their governments before the region could really reap the benefits of mutual cooperation.

16. There is of course, the problem of asymmetry among countries in South Asia but does it need to stand in the way of regional cooperation? Asymmetries in size, resources and military capabilities must be used as building blocks to enhance cooperation and not block the much needed cooperation to create the area of shared prosperity.

17. It is this spirit that animates India in its relations with the countries in its neighbourhood comprising the SAARC region. Relations with **Afghanistan** are the shining example of this policy. External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna while attending the two international conferences on Afghanistan in Istanbul (November) and Bonn (December) and another ASEM in Hungary (June) sought to send out this message to the international community at large by extending support to the objectives of the conferences which he identified as bringing regional countries together on an inclusive platform to address the common challenges facing the region and working towards cooperative confidence building measures and solutions. That there is reciprocal trust in Afghanistan's leadership in Indian approach was underlined by the two visits of President Karzai to India (in February and November) and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Kabul (in June) to enable interaction between the top leadership of the two countries on a regular basis. The high watermark of this relationship has been the conclusion of a Strategic Partnership Agreement between them in October.

18. To strengthen Afghan capabilities to face the challenge of internal conflict, India reiterated its commitment to the Afghan Defence Minister when he came calling in June that India was committed to building the defence capabilities of the Afghan security forces besides assisting Kabul in its development efforts.

19. Since the return of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League to power in Dhaka, there has been a marked cordiality in the relations between India and **Bangladesh**. There has been a series of visits from the Indian leaders to Dhaka starting with the Vice President's in May, followed by External Affairs Minister's in July and finally Prime Minister's own visit in September. In between Foreign Secretary too made his visit to Dhaka. The Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh and signing of a clutch of agreements including the Boundary Agreement and the broad-based Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development were marked by great bonhomie between the leaders of the two countries. Both the countries are motivated by the shared values of democracy, secularism and social justice and the two prime ministers availed the opportunity to reiterate them. It is hoped that the agreement on the sharing of the Teesta waters, which could not be finalised during the PM's visit, would also be signed soon.

New Delhi also assured Dhaka on several occasions and at several levels including at the level of Prime Minister that it would make sure that in pursuing the Tipaimukh project, India would not take steps that would adversely impact Bangladesh. To further promote Bangladesh's trade with Nepal, India readily agreed to amend the existing MOU to further facilitate overland transit traffic between those two countries. Another goodwill gesture that marked the Prime Minister's visit was the announcement to open the access route of Tin Bigha for visits to Bangladesh's enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota round the clock. To express her happiness at this gesture, Sheikh Hasina herself made a visit to the enclaves through the Tin Bigha corridor on October 19, where she was received by Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and Minister of State for Home Affairs Jitendra Singh.

20. Both Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna visited **Maldives** during the course of the year. The Prime Minister during his visit in November was accorded a unique distinction by the Maldivian Government when he was invited to address the People's *Majlis* (Parliament) of the country. In its 78 years' history, no foreign head of state or government had ever been shown this honour. The geographical contiguity and ethnic, historical and cultural ties create an abiding faith between the two countries highlighted in their commitment to democracy, development and peaceful co-existence. Their shared values give the two countries the confidence that "cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region and South Asia." The visit provided the opportunity for the two countries to enter into a series of agreements/MoUs like Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development, Combating International Terrorism, Trans-national Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation in Capacity Building, Disaster Management and Coastal Security. India has extended US\$ 100 million Stand-by Credit Facility to finance several infrastructural projects for accelerated development. The July visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Male was predicated on a high trajectory with both sides embarking on comprehensive, forward looking, pragmatic and mutually beneficial initiatives.

21. India expressed its happiness while welcoming the 7-point agreement among the political parties on the settlement of the Maoist combatants' rehabilitation issue, power sharing and constitution framing which it is hoped would end the long drawn stalemate in the constitutional process in **Nepal**. External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna as well as both the current and the former Foreign Secretaries visited Kathmandu. The Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai visited New Delhi in October. He is an alumni of several

educational institutions in India including Jawaharlal Nehru University and has very close links with India.

22. Since the end of the ethnic war in 2009, **Sri Lanka** has been beset with the controversy regarding the violation of human rights by the Sri Lankan security forces towards the concluding phase of the war and at the time of the surrender of the Tamil militants. Apart from the report of the UN panel, video-graphic evidence by various voluntary organisations has surfaced to indict the security forces. This evidence has of course been challenged by Colombo. Sri Lanka on its own also appointed a Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) to look into the various aspects of the ethnic problem and conduct of the war against the LTTE. The LLRC has in December submitted its 400-page report to the Government. The Government of India welcomed the publication of the report and took note of the assurances of the Sri Lanka Government that its recommendations would be implemented. The LLRC recommended various measures for addressing the issues relating to the healing of the wounds of the conflict and fostering the process of lasting peace and reconciliation in the country. The Government of Sri Lanka has expressed its intention to set up a mechanism to carry out further investigations relating to instances of illegal human rights violations and incidents involving loss of civilian life. The Government of India felt it important that “an independent and credible mechanism is put in place to investigate allegations of human rights violations, as brought out the LLRC, in a time-bound manner.” It was in this spirit that India chose to vote for the Resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in March 2012 calling on the Island country to implement the LLRC report to create a sense of reconciliation and amity in the Tamil community which was alienated during the years of its struggle for constitutional rights leading to a political solution to the ethnic problem. While Government of India remains concerned about violations of human rights, it has also concentrated its energies on the rehabilitation of the IDPs.

23. The relations with **Pakistan** which remained in a state of suspended animation during most of the year 2010, started looking up in 2011, thanks to the initiatives of Prime Minister. The ice was broken at Thimphu when the two foreign secretaries met there in February. The Prime Minister’s initiative in inviting Prime Minister Gilani to Mohali to watch the Semi-final cricket match between the Indian and Pakistani teams in the World Cup series was a gesture which received all round appreciation. The match provided the opportunity to the two Prime Ministers to talk and Mr. Gilani had no hesitation in congratulating Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for his initiative and resuming the composite dialogue. Mr. Gilani was quite emphatic that he wanted “both

countries (to) resolve their problems themselves". Dr. Manmohan Singh describing cricket as "uniting factor", said whatever the differences between the two countries "we have to find pathways to resolve them".

24. The appointment of Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar as the Pakistani Foreign Minister was a welcome message from Islamabad that it was interested in burying the rancorous approach of the past and "achieving the common goal of establishing friendly and cooperative bilateral relations" with New Delhi. When the two Foreign Ministers met in July the External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna affirmed to her India's desire to work with Pakistan "to reduce the trust deficit and move forward in a friendly manner." He assured her of India's "desire for a stable and prosperous Pakistan, acting as a bulwark against terrorism and at peace with itself and its neighbours". While Mr. Krishna was full of optimism, no less was Ms. Khar who sounded upbeat with her remarks that Islamabad was willing to bend backward to improve relations with its neighbours. The New Delhi talks were fruitful in that they created a positive atmosphere at the working level.

25. Since then a lot of water flowed down the Yumana and the Indus. The dialogue process has stayed on course, which enabled Prime Minister to say in November, when he met again Mr. Gilani in Maldives on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit, that "I have always regarded Prime Minister Gilani as a man of peace. Every time I have met in the last three years, this belief has been further strengthened." Talking of the people he said "I have always believed that the destinies of people of India and Pakistan are very closely linked".

26. A breakthrough has occurred and it is in the realm of trade following the mandate of the two prime ministers in Maldives that the two sides work on enhancing preferential trading arrangements as part of the shared vision to significantly expand bilateral trade. The Pakistani Cabinet not allowing the grass to grow under its feet mandated the Pakistani Commerce Ministry to achieve complete normalisation of trade with India.

27. On November 15, the commerce ministers of the two countries met and reminded themselves that, already in September, they had asked their commerce secretaries to lay down specific timelines for full normalisation of trade relationship, dismantling of remaining non-tariff barriers and full implementation of the legal obligations under the SAARC Agreement on SAFTA. All these jargons were euphemism for MFN trading relationship, a status which India had granted to Pakistan for several years. India welcomed the Pakistani decision to move towards the MFN regime in bilateral trade which will be to the benefit of both their peoples. According to Indian Commerce Secretary Mr.

Khullar without the MFN regime, while the formal bilateral trade is around 2.5 to 3 billion US dollars, the informal trade is at least twice that amount. With the MFN regime restored the informal trade would almost vanish and the bilateral trade can straight away jump to \$ 8 billion.

#### IV

### SOUTHEAST, EAST ASIA and PACIFIC

28. The southeast Asian region has emerged as the hub of Asia – Pacific security paradigm in the last decade. The emergence of China as the second largest economy replacing Japan, and its assertiveness in its dealings with the international community, has shifted the centre of gravity of international politics to Asia as never before. China's claim to the entire South China Sea to the exclusion of the interests of other littoral states does not bode well for the future of the region. New Delhi with its Look-East policy is now firmly gravitated to the region's economic and political fortunes. Its relationship with other institutions of the region like the ASEAN and EAS enjoins upon it to stay committed to the region. New Delhi is fully conscious of its new role and responsibility that comes with it.

29. **Australia** is an important country of the Pacific region and India – Australia relations are gathering the warmth of closer relationship. Australia's decision to lift embargo on sale of Uranium to India was a landmark decision and recognition of India's non-proliferation record. The visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Australia at the beginning of the year, greatly contributed to better understanding between the two countries. Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith's visit in December helped to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries. The Defence Minister A. K. Antony described the relationship as "an important milestone in the evolution of India – Australia partnership". However, New Delhi did not react positively to Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd's observation that India was positive towards joining in the trilateral cooperation in seeking to contain China in the Asia-pacific region. India looks at its role in the region as one of promoting peace along with other countries of the region than as a tool to promote any strategic interest of a third country.

30. India has developed active economic relationship with Australia. There is the mechanism of the Joint Commission to promote deeper economic relationship and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) as an instrument of a "high quality, truly liberalizing" pathway to close economic integration between India and Australia. To deepen cultural relations between the two countries, the Indian Council of Cultural Relations has set up a Chair of Indian studies at the University of Sydney. To service the Western Australian region, and to increase the reach of Indian missions in that country, New Delhi has decided to set up a new Consulate General at Perth.

31. India's relations with **China** are two pronged, as a neighbor in north and a stakeholder in East Asia region. In 2010 certain wrinkles had developed in the relations between the two countries over issues like denial of visa to senior Indian defence officers, issue of staple visa, or patrolling along the Sino – Indian border. But following the visit to China by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to attend the BRICS Summit in April and his meeting with the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines, a thaw appeared in the bilateral relations. The desire on both sides to iron out the difficulties paved the way for the successful and productive visit of an eight-member military delegation under the leadership of Major General Gurmeet Singh to Beijing, Shanghai and Urumqi (Xinjiang) in June. The Chinese quietly withdrew their practice of issuing staple visas to some Indian from certain areas. Message was clear that China was not keen on a fractured relationship and intended to mend fences. Toning down the rhetoric on the South China sea issue after the EAS summit in Bali raised the hopes in New Delhi that the ONGC prospecting of the oil in that region along the borders of Vietnam would go through without any hitch.

32. The Line of Actual Control along the Sino – Indian border, despite occasional misunderstandings hyped by the media, remained more or less peaceful and tranquil. The China – India agreement ensuring that heavy military equipment stay away from the border along with the agreement prohibiting military exercises very close to the LAC contributed a lot in this direction. Prime Minister's steadfast refusal to share the apprehension articulated by an opposition member in the Lok Sabha on December 13 that China was making all-out efforts to attack India, speaks of the confidence that the leadership of the two countries have built between them.

33. The launch of the Year of India – China Exchanges in 2011 at Sanya by Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was the high water mark of the year in the relations between the two countries. The first India – China strategic dialogue on economic relations opens a new avenue to promote deeper and multi-faceted relationship between the two neighbours.

34. Apart from the meeting that Prime Minister had with Premier Wen in Sanya in April, he had another meeting with Wen on the sidelines of the ASEAN and EAS Summits in Bali in November. These two meetings created a fund of goodwill and generated the warmth in the relationship between the two countries. It was not without significance that Wen recalled Prime Minister's observation at Bali that there was enough space in the world to accommodate the developmental aspirations of both the countries and went on to add that there were enough areas where India and China could enhance mutually beneficial cooperation, terming the 21<sup>st</sup> century as an Asian century beckoning the two to work hand in hand to



promote economic development and growth. There was satisfaction at the robust economic interaction that had catalyzed in attaining the trade turnover of 70 billion US dollars which could the 100 billion mark by 2015.

35. In March 2011 **Japan** suffered the most unfortunate double whammy in a devastating earthquake and a Tsunami. In a letter to the Japanese Prime Minister Kan, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, expressed shock at the devastation caused by the earthquake and extended on behalf of the people of India the most heartfelt condolences and sympathies. In his statement to the Parliament while expressing deep shock at the loss of life and property, he acknowledged Japanese contribution to India's development and said "we can never forget that India has been the largest recipient of Japan's overseas development assistance". In April Foreign Secretary travelled to Tokyo and offered personally India's condolences and reiterated India's offer to assist Japan in any way required. The Japanese Government expressed their appreciation for the assistance already provided by India for relief and rehabilitation including the sterling efforts of the 46-member team from the National Disaster Response Force of India. The consultations that the Foreign Secretary had with the Japanese Foreign Office during the visit, however, resulted in the agreement to establish an India-Japan-United States trilateral dialogue on regional and global issues of shared interest.

36. Following the commitment made by the Prime Ministers of India and Japan in October 2010, the two countries signed in February "the most ambitious agreement by India so far," — the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) covering trade in goods, services and investment under its ambit.

37. The bedrock of India-Japan relations is formed by several levels of mechanism for dialogue apart from the annual summits between the two prime ministers since 2006. These are annual strategic, security and policy dialogues between the foreign ministers and defence dialogue between the defence ministers. There is also a high level policy and strategic dialogue on economic cooperation between finance ministers and planning agencies of the two countries. Another area where synergy in policy is being developed is Africa where both India and Japan have their wide ranging programmes of cooperation. Two rounds of such dialogues took place at the official level during the year.

38. This year's Summit meeting in December between the two prime ministers also marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and it was an occasion for them to note that in the last six decades the relations between the two countries have been marked by "deep mutual understanding and vibrant people-to-people contacts based on universal values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law, as well as wide-ranging strategic and economic interests".

39. The relations between India and **Indonesia** had an auspicious start with the presence of President Yudhoyono and his wife as Chief Guests for the 2011- Republic Day celebrations. It is significant that when India proclaimed itself a Republic on January 26, 1950, it was honoured with the visit of the Indonesian President Sukarno and Mrs. Fatmawati Sukarno as the State Guests. Both the countries have been quite eager to provide greater economic contents to their two millennia old relationship and are now working towards concluding a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) so as to achieving a bilateral trade target of \$25 billion by 2015. The investment by Indian companies have touched \$3.50 billion and another \$25-billion worth of investments are in the pipeline. It is hoped that the proposed CECA will not only break tariff walls on merchandise trade but also enable professionals from the two countries to take up short-term business assignments in each other's markets. There is already a steady growth of bilateral relations in the political, security, economic, science and technology and cultural sectors

40. There is already an active cooperation through numerous frameworks governing defense, science and technology, space cooperation, agricultural science, culture, tourism, and youth affairs & sports. There is the emerging cooperation in education, media, air services, energy resources including oil, gas, coal, and renewable energy, prevention of smuggling, prevention of illegal trade in narcotics, disaster management, cooperation in the area of small and medium enterprises, meteorology, climatology and geophysics including climate change, health, marine and fisheries. The common desire for accelerating the implementation of cooperation in these areas and monitoring such cooperation through the mechanism of Action Plan on Implementing the New Strategic Partnership drawn up during the Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in June 2007 together with the proposed CECA would take the relations between the two countries to new heights.

41. President of **Korea** had visited India in January 2010 as a Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. In July 2011 President Pratibha Devisingh Patil made a State Visit to the Republic of Korea as part of the growing Indian integration with the Asia-Pacific region, the new hub of not only Asian but global activity. The visit gained particular significance with the signing of an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy by the two countries. There is already a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with South Korea which is under revision to enhance its benefits. Trade with South Korea which stood at \$7.1 billion in 2006 was propelled by CEPA to \$17.5 billion in 2010 — an increase of 46 per cent over the previous year, with growth rates of exports being the same for both countries. As a result of the

CEPA Indian IT companies are getting a foothold in South Korea. There is already a defence cooperation and social security agreements with South Korea.

42. As part of her tour of East Asia, the President Mrs. Patil also visited **Mongolia** to give impetus to the growing economic partnership with that country. The 20 million dollar Line of Credit for establishing an IT education and outsourcing centre in Ulaanbaatar is an endeavour to assist that country in creating new business and job opportunities. India is committed to helping Mongolia in capacity building and human resource development in all sectors required by them. The MoU between the Planning Commission of India and the National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia will enable our two countries to share experiences in Plan formulation and implementation. The Indian – Mongolian Business Forum is accelerating the process of economic and commercial cooperation. The Agreement on Cooperation in Defence matters signed during the President's visit will strengthen security cooperation between the two countries and add depth and substance to their ties.

43. **Myanmar** with its 1600 KMs long common border with India provides not only India's Northeast an important linkage to the Southeast Asian region, but is also emerging an important alternative route for linking the northeast with the rest of India. The Kaladan Multi-modal route when operational will provide the much needed alternative linkage. It is a new paradigm of development where foreign policy initiatives blend seamlessly into national economic and commercial initiatives. The high water mark of the relations between the two countries was the visit to India of Myanmar's President U Thein Sein in October and the transition of the regime to an open and democratic framework, resulting in freedom for Aung San Suu kyi and her election to the Myanmar parliament. India offered the new-look regime all necessary assistance in further strengthening the democratic transition in an inclusive and broad based manner. In June the External Affairs Minister Krishna had visited Myanmar for an interaction with the new regime in the new political environment and prepared the groundwork for the Myanmar President's visit. The visit offered him an opportunity to further vitalize the multi-faceted relationship in enhancing security cooperation as well as collaboration in the fields of Connectivity, IT, Energy, Agriculture, Power, Telecommunications and Infrastructure.

44. The visit of **New Zealand** Prime Minister John Key in June was an occasion to highlight Commonwealth ties, shared democratic values, people to people and sporting links which underpin the vibrant relationship between the two countries.

45. **Singapore** has emerged the focal point for southeast Asia. Both the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister visited this important country. The EAM was there in April and Prime Minister in November. Prime Minister

had wide ranging discussions with his counterpart covering international, regional and bilateral issues. To underline the importance of Singapore to India's southeast Asian policy, he emphasized to his interlocutor Singapore's pivotal role in India's Look East Policy. While there is a fruitful interaction with the island country in the economic field since the signing of the CECA in 2005, to make it more meaningful and forward looking a review of the same is underway. There is a MoU with Singapore for cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration and an Executive Programme on Cooperation in the fields of Arts, Heritage, Archives and Library. The Parliaments of India and Singapore have also agreed to establish respective Parliamentary Friendship Groups. Both Prime Ministers took note of the strong intergovernmental links between the two countries that provide platforms for regular high level institutional exchanges such as the Foreign Office Consultations, Ministerial Meetings, the Defence Policy Dialogue and the Security Round Table.

46. In April the **Thai** Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva accepting the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh paid a visit to New Delhi. In their discussions the two prime ministers accepted the need to energize bilateral institutional mechanisms, to enhance cooperation in security matters and to upgrade the bilateral dialogue on defence matters. Through the instrumentality of the joint commission the two countries have substantially enhanced their connectivity as well as bilateral trade and investments. The two countries also have rich interaction through the mechanism of ASEAN and BIMSTEC. The bilateral trade turnover which was about US\$ 6.7 billion in 2010, as agreed to by the two prime ministers is to double by 2014. There are also ongoing negotiations on a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement that would promote trade in goods and services, and investments.

47. The visit of the **Vietnamese** President to India in October was preceded by the visit of External Affairs Minister to Hanoi in September to co-chair the meeting of the India – Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological cooperation. The Second India-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue and the Fifth Foreign Office Consultations had given the opportunity to the two countries to exchange views on current bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. External Affairs Minister while in Hanoi inaugurated the India – Vietnam Advanced Resource Centres, financed by India at a cost of more than \$ 2 million. This is a quality IT training centre.

48. Vietnam has always been a steadfast supporter of India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

## V WEST ASIA

49. The West Asia region is home to a large body of Indian diaspora, with historical, civilizational and cultural links and is a source of energy. The region is pulsating with new winds of change which are ushering in a new “spring”. While siding with the people of the region in their search for democratic aspirations, New Delhi is opposed to any imposed regime change from outside. The Government of India believes that “it is the responsibility of sovereign States to respond to the aspirations of its people through administrative, political, economic and other measures. At the same time, it is for the State to decide on the best course of action to maintain internal law and order and to prevent violence”. This policy has been appreciated by the countries of the region and India continues to maintain high level of interaction with them.

50. **Bahrain** Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalidin Ahmed visited New Delhi in March, **Egyptian** Foreign Minister came in May, **UAE** Foreign Minister came calling in June. The **Syrian** Foreign Minister’s visit provided an opportunity to discuss the situation first hand in Syria. The Special Envoy of **Palestinian** President came in August. New Delhi welcomed the agreement between Hamas and Fatah and expressed the hope that this would lead to the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and lead to peace and stability in the region. Secretary General of the **Saudi** National Security Council visited New Delhi in March and briefed New Delhi of the situation in the West Asian region.

51. The mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations helped to exchange views with countries in the region. Such consultations were carried out with **Armenia**, **Iran**, and **Azerbaijan**. The extension of the India-**Oman** Military Cooperation MoU signed in 2005 to 2015 underlined its utility to both the countries.

52. The visit of **Uzbek** President Islam Karimov in May provided an opportunity to renew and establish strategic partnership with Uzbekistan. The strategic partnership would encompass active cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas including political, economic, counter-terrorism, education, health, human resource development, science and technology, tourism and culture. This is an additional mechanism to the already existing ones to promote a wide range cooperation in diverse areas including Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Standardization, Small and Medium Enterprises, Coal gasification, Oil & Gas, Science & Technology, Textiles and Banking.

53. India too has strong and friendly relations with **Kazakhstan**. In 2009 the Kazakhstan President was Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. In 2010, External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna visited Astana and in 2011 the

Prime Minister paid an official visit to Kazakhstan, to strengthen India's partnership with the all important country of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has also entered into an agreement with India for the supply of all important element in our civil nuclear energy programme, Uranium. There is convergence of views with Kazakhstan on political and global issues. As Prime Minister said India would like to give added thrust to its relations with Kazakhstan in the field of energy and hydrocarbons as well as atomic energy and space.

54. Another country in this region with which India has developed close interaction is **Kyrgyzstan**. The scope of India – Kyrgyz cooperation was widened in July when Defence Minister A. K. Antony led a high powered defence delegation to Bishkek and offered India's cooperation to his counterpart Major General Abibilla Kudayberdiev in this sensitive area. As a first step, India offered to send a team to train Kyrgyz Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Operations and impart English language skills to them. There is already a joint working group on counter-terrorism between the two countries. India has also set up a Kyrgyz – India Mountain Biomedical Research Centre in Bishkek which was inaugurated by the Kyrgyz President during the visit of Defence Minister in July. India's contribution to the project is Rs 6 Crores. As part of the annual foreign office consultation mechanism, this year the consultations took place in New Delhi in August.

## VI AMERICAS

55. The high point of India – **US** relations was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Dialogue held in June in New Delhi at the level of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Besides pledging to continue and strengthen their cooperation in the already agreed upon areas, the two ministers agreed to initiate new areas of dialogue to expand their existing cooperation and consultations. The new areas identified were West and Central Asia and dialogue on UN matters. It was also agreed to initiate the dialogue process between India, the United States and Japan. The two Ministers reaffirmed their commitment for consultations, coordination and cooperation in Afghanistan and continue and strengthen their economic cooperation to promote capacity building and human resource development.

56. The Prime Minister had a one to one meeting with President Obama on the sideline of the East Asia Summit in Bali in November. Earlier they had talked on telephone in May to continue the process of dialogue and consultations between them. When Prime Minister met the President in Bali both reassured each other their commitment to continue with the programmes agreed upon during the President's visit to New Delhi in November 2010. Dr. Singh conveyed

to the President that it was a “privilege for India to find you and your administration as deeply invested in ensuring that India makes a success of its historic journey to have the social and economic transformation carried out in the framework of an open society, a democratic polity, committed to the rule of law, and respect for full human freedoms.”

57. In May the two countries launched the Homeland Security Dialogue, agreed upon during President Obama’s visit. It was a significant step considering India lives closest to the epicenter of terrorism and has been the victim of cross border terrorism for many years on the hands of groups operating from across the border in Pakistan, where the society has become highly radicalized, economy weakened and the state structure fragile.

58. New Delhi welcomed the elimination of Osama bin Laden as a “significant step forward” and Prime Minister in his message to Obama hoped that it would “deal a decisive blow to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups”.

## VII EUROPE

59. With the countries of **Europe** India has since independence worked out active and multifaceted relationship. Apart from trade and commerce, there is high level of technological relationship, which has contributed substantially to India’s progress in scientific and technological fields. These relations have found expression in many other areas like culture, tourism, education and last but not the least political. Active relations in all these fields naturally calls for maintaining contacts at several levels including the highest. The Indian and the European leaders frequently exchange visits between them. It was in the same spirit that the President Pratibha Devi Singh Patil in 2011 made a State Visit to two of the Central European countries—**Austria** and **Switzerland**. Both these countries shares with India their core values as well as strong historical ties of friendship.

60. With **Russia** since 2000 there is an institutionalised arrangement of annual summits. This year it was the turn of the Russian Federation to host the summit and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made his journey to Moscow in December. Through these summits both the countries have not only maintained momentum in their relations but have infused greater contents in their robust relationship. Preceding the Prime Minister’s visit, the External Affairs Minister had visited Moscow to hold talks with his counterpart to prepare for the Summit. During the year bilateral visits and talks with Russia took place at several ministerial levels, Home, Defense, Commerce, Health, Tourism, Steel and Power Ministers. In November the External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna

had led a delegation to Moscow for the Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting.

61. The March 2010 Inter-Governmental Agreement had laid down the broad roadmap for partnership in the area of civil nuclear energy. The construction of Kudankulam 1 and 2 nuclear power plant units have been completed with Russian technology. Techno-commercial discussions for Units 3 and 4 of Kudankulam are almost complete. In June, India and Russia signed an MoU for setting up the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which will undertake advanced studies in the field of nuclear research. India's defence cooperation has for long been a vital facet of this multi-faceted relationship, which has now matured well beyond a buyer-seller relationship to co-production through transfer of technologies. Cooperation in the space sector has matured into the Chandrayan-2 mission and manned space flight programmes, as well as adoption and applications of GLONASS technologies.

62. The annual summit helped in the conclusion of agreement on "the terms and conditions for the Russian credit for Units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam nuclear power project". Speaking of the similarity of views between the two countries Prime Minister said "We share similar views on threats to international security from terrorism, piracy and drug-trafficking. Our aims and objectives with regard to Afghanistan's reconstruction and nation building efforts, and its ability to decide its own future without external interference are very similar. Both India and Russia have a strong interest in promoting stability and prosperity in the region, and we agreed to work closely toward this objective". The Defence cooperation between India and Russia was reviewed in October when the Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation met in New Delhi. In short, India – Russia relations were described by the Prime Minister himself as "among the most substantive we have with any country".

63. There have been a number of high level visits between India and **Turkey** in recent years. In November 2008, Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited India. The Turkish President came in February 2010. In continuation of this trend Vice-President Hamid Ansari visited Turkey in October when the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues was discussed by him with the Turkish leadership. To promote business relations between the two countries a business delegation had accompanied him and a meeting with the Turkish businessmen was held in Istanbul.

64. The Indo-Turkish Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation is Co-Chaired by the Commerce Ministers of the two countries to give direction towards further consolidation and development of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Both India and Turkey also have signed an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation as also an Agreement for



Reciprocal Protection and Mutual Promotion of Investments. Agreements for development of Science and Technology and for cooperation in the IT sector also exist between the two countries. A Joint Study Group has also been commissioned to examine the feasibility of setting up a Free Trade Agreement between India and Turkey. Cooperation in the cultural and education sectors has also been fairly active. Since 1995 an Indian Professor has been on deputation to the Indology Department in the Ankara University to teach Hindi. Similarly, two Turkish language Professors have been deputed to the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Jamia Millia. MoUs for cooperation have also been concluded between Universities in Turkey and India. Indian culture, including films, dance, yoga and Ayurveda and Indian cuisine obviously, have been drawing attention in Turkey.

65. India and **United Kingdom** had an institutional arrangement for dialogue on economic and financial matters and in pursuit of this arrangement Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited London in July for the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the dialogue which was established in 2005. As a result of these interaction the two countries have identified a number of issues for joint collaboration.

66. The Chancellor of **Germany** Angela Merkel was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding and she came to New Delhi in May to receive it. The visit coincided with the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany and it was a fitting tribute that German Chancellor, an ardent advocate of India – German strategic partnership should be receiving this prestigious award.

67. Prime Minister of **Slovenia** visited New Delhi in June. There was active interaction with other European countries too. The Foreign Ministers of **Ukraine, Poland, Netherlands** and **Cyprus** visited New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visited **Hungary** in June and Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur **Lithuania**. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations set up Indian Chairs in several European universities, Czech Republic (Charles University), Germany (Leipzig), Poland (Crakow) and Lithuania.

## VIII

### MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

68. As pointed out in the beginning, not only has the world become globalized, the problems too have become globalized and therefore need cooperation on a wider scale. While bilateralism will continue to be important mechanism to resolve specific problems peculiar between two countries, regional and intra-regional problems like terrorism, security, climate change, energy, etc would need wider mechanisms to resolve them. Even trade which has purely a bilateral

character has under the WTO regime, become a multilateral problem to be resolved on wider considerations with its impact on other competing players and commodities.

69. In that context, membership of multilateral groupings become an important foreign policy instrument which India has fully appreciated and grasped. It is now member of wide variety of such groupings regional, intra-regional and even intra-continental.

70. Among the groups in the last category, the **BRICS** is one such group which span four continents—Africa, Asia, Europe and Americas. It has overlapping membership with two other groupings—**RIC** and **IBSA**. But each of the three is a different platform and has independent existence. India is the only common factor in all the three and therefore capable of playing a pivotal role. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the IBSA countries at Pretoria in October, while its Ministerial meeting was held in New Delhi in March, attended by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna. Another Ministerial meeting of IBSA was held in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. The first project financed by IBSA, a sports complex constructed at Ramallah, was formally handed over to Palestinian Authority in November as a gift of the peoples of IBSA countries to the people of Palestine.

71. India also attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of the BRICS at Sanya in China in April, with “Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity” as its agenda. South Africa joined in for the first time after its admission to BRIC in 2010. It is of no less significance that all the members of the BRICS are members of the G-20 and currently members of the UNSC. India has proposed creation of BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Fund for BRICS countries with a corpus of US \$10 million, announcing an Indian contribution of \$ 2 million.

72. India is also member of the **G-20** from the very beginning and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has regularly attended its summits. The last summit was at Cannes (France) in November which was held in the backdrop of the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, which has emerged as the principal source of concern for the global economy. Prime Minister felt that this crisis must be resolved since in “Europe’s prosperity lies our own prosperity”. G-20 is important for resolution of international financial issues since conducive global economic environment is important for developing and emerging economies in an increasingly interdependent world.

73. Despite some limitations as pointed out in the narrative above over the last 26 years of its existence, **SAARC** has established itself as the leading mechanism for regional cooperation in South Asia. It has enabled enhanced cooperation

within the region in a wide range of areas such as trade, connectivity, poverty alleviation, food security, women and child development, combating organized crime and terrorism, among others. It has also created new institutions to promote regional integration such as the South Asian Regional Standards Organization, the South Asian Development Fund and the South Asian University which is based in New Delhi. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh underlining the importance of SAARC to the development of South Asia believes that “the fact that the global economy is not doing too well, is a further incentive for countries of the SAARC region to learn to cooperate with one another.”

74. The South Asian University is now a functioning entity, SAARC Development Fund is a functioning entity, and slowly but steadily the SAARC is moving forward to promote the cause of regional integration and regional cooperation. The four agreements signed at the Summit held in November at (Addu) Maldives, the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Responses to Natural Disaster, SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangements on recognition of conformity assessment, SAARC Agreement on implementation of regional standards and SAARC Seed Bank Agreement are important milestones to greater economic interaction among the countries of the SAARC. But it has some distance to go to realise its full potential.

75. “Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for development of the **Least Developed Countries** (LDCs)” was the theme of the Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) hosted by India in February. It was preparatory to the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the UN-LDC Conference which was held in Turkey in May. India was represented at this conference by the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna.

## IX

76. Superannuation led to attrition at the top echelons of the bureaucratic structure of the Ministry. The Foreign Secretary and three other Secretaries superannuated during the year. Shri Ranjan Mathai replaced Mrs. Nirupama Rao as Foreign Secretary. Shri Sanjay Singh replaced Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy as Secretary (East) and Shri M. Ganapathi succeeded Shri Vivek Katju as Secretary (West). Shri Sudhir Vyas took over as Secretary (ER) on the superannuation of Shri Manbir Singh. On the appointment of Shri Jayant Prasad as Ambassador to Nepal, Pinak R. Chakravarty took over as Special Secretary (PD).

## X

77. The year 2011 has been a difficult year internationally. The economic meltdown which overtook the world in 2008 was still tormenting many economies particularly in Europe, thus impacting the emerging economies adversely in no

small measure. The Arab world has been in turmoil because of the upsurge of latent democratic aspirations among the people who ironically had never tasted democracy in their history, but found the taste of autocracy rather nauseating and cried for change. The Tsunami in Japan had a devastating impact on millions of people. The Fukushima nuclear disaster put in jeopardy the future of nuclear energy as providing energy security and clean energy at that. The fear of a Fukushima like disaster, created a sudden aversion for nuclear energy and in India too there has been public protests against nuclear energy. This creates new worries for the policy planners of nuclear energy sector as well as for those who looked up to this source as providing a guaranteed source of clean energy. This development puts a question mark on the investments that have already gone into putting up nuclear power plants and those in the pipeline for the future. One of the fundamental reasons for India securing civil nuclear energy cooperation with the United States and other countries in the last few years was to find this clean source of energy as a catalyst for rapid development in the years to come.

78. The ever deteriorating security situation in India's neighbourhood particularly AF-Pak region is a great threat to "internal and external security which altogether can be viewed as the challenge of National Security", the Prime Minister had said in his New Year message. The devastating waves of instability which unleash insecurity in the ocean of our hopes must be overpowered and not allowed to torpedo our efforts to find a secure future for our people. This is the challenge with which the Indian foreign policy planners had been grappling for quite some time. But security or insecurity is an international phenomena and not a one-country concern in today's globalised world where the forces of insecurity have assumed international ramifications. The Prime Minister in his New Year message has given a call to inherent will and skill of the people of India to remain united despite grave provocations from extremists and terrorists. "They have not lost faith in our plural, secular and inclusive democracy. Across the world the people look to India for inspiration. Our model for inclusive growth in an Open Society inspires those who seek freedom from tyranny", said the Prime Minister in his New Year message.



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The documents listed here provide ready reference to the 799 documents bearing on India's foreign relations during the year 2011. While the full text of all the documents is contained in the accompanying Compact Disc (CD), the documents with a STAR (\*) only have their full text printed in the volume.

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**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - I**

**GENERAL**

**001. New Year Press Conference by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna.**

**New Delhi, January 7, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good morning to all of you and welcome back. We start the New Year on an important and high note, with the press conference by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna. He is joined by Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao. I would like to invite the External Affairs Minister to make his opening remarks and thereafter he will be happy to take a few questions.

**External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna):** Friends from Media, Good morning to all of you.

At the outset, I would like to convey my greetings and very best wishes to you and members of your families for the year 2011.

As you are aware, 2010 was an eventful year in which Indian diplomacy scored on many fronts. We had intensive and productive high-level exchanges, to build synergies and deepen partnerships with friendly countries, both to our East and West, besides of course, our neighbourhood, which has always been a foreign policy priority. I would like to reiterate that the objective of Indian diplomacy is to foster an international environment which is conducive to our economic growth, strengthens our security and enhances our strategic options.

But MEA's activities are not restricted to external diplomacy alone. There is another and equally important dimension of looking after the interests of the common man or aam adami. Our youthful and aspirational population, representing a large and educated middle class, is taking excellent advantage of better connectivity and mobility, to travel abroad in ever increasing numbers. Over 11 million Indians travelled abroad in 2009 as against 4.42 million in 2000. They naturally expect and deserve efficient and quick services.

My Ministry's most public face is the passport office. We currently have 37 of them across the country. There are over 50 million Indian passport holders. Over five million passports are issued every year. This gives us an idea of the scale of the operations for issuing passports. In order to provide our citizens a world class service, we are in the process of completely transforming the manner in which passports are issued. Earlier in 2010, we started the Passport Seva Project which brings together the best of technology, government and the private sector. Seventy seven Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and 14 mini PSKs will be set up all over the country gradually in three phases. This will triple the number of passport counters to 1250, making the process of applying for passports convenient. PSKs in Bengaluru, Mangalore, Hubli, Chandigarh and



some other places are already operational. Site selection for over 25 PSKs has been completed for Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I have also mandated my officers to bring down the number of pending passport applications. Two main reasons for pendency of passport applications are incomplete applications and the lead time in securing police verification. My Ministry is introducing a practice of monthly Passport Adalats at all the 37 passport offices across India to speed up the process of issuance of passports. The first batch of Adalats will take place tomorrow. We are also committing additional manpower and technical resources to assist in this endeavour.

By the same token, we have now some 25 million people of Indian origin living and working abroad in the Gulf, UK, USA, Canada and Australia, among over 110 countries across the globe. They make significant contribution to the countries of their adoption, as well as to India, by building bridges in the knowledge sector and bringing investment and remittances. The cross-section of Indian community abroad includes technocrats, industrialists, businessmen, students and skilled and unskilled workers. I am happy and proud to note that the Indian diaspora is diligent, law-abiding and has seamlessly assimilated in the countries of domicile. Yet they do face occasional difficulties when they need my Ministry to provide them every possible and speedy assistance.

Take the case of unrest in Kyrgyzstan last June in which more than a hundred Indian students were affected. Our small Embassy in Bishkek rose to the occasion and arranged quick and safe evacuation of the students to Bishkek, their lodging and boarding and onward journeys back home.

On my instructions, a new Parliament and VIP Division has just been set up in the Ministry, to deal with all the important issues relating to MEA that come up in the Parliament or are raised by Hon'ble Members of Parliament with me. The Division would ensure that such issues are handled promptly and efficiently.

India is fortunate to have the second largest Muslim population in the world. Every Muslim dreams of undertaking Haj pilgrimage at least once in life time. One of the significant public responsibilities of my Ministry pertains to facilitation of this pilgrimage. In 2010 a record number of over 1,71,000 pilgrims went to Haj from India to Saudi Arabia. We managed to streamline the systems and arrangements, introduce transparency, efficiency and objectivity. Passports, accommodation, medical facilities and travel were arranged for the pilgrims. Nearly 900 flights were organized. For the first time ever, elections were held for zonal representatives of the Haj Committee. Here I would like to specially thank the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their unstinted support in facilitating Haj pilgrimage by Indian citizens.

Let me now briefly turn to some of the recent and anticipated developments in our foreign relations.

In South Asia, the 25 year old SAARC process is maturing and gaining greater salience. Discharging our responsibilities in an asymmetrical and non-reciprocal manner, India has contributed pro-actively to initiating most of the major SAARC programmes and projects. The South Asia University in Delhi began its first academic session in 2010. Such initiatives, including in the spheres of connectivity and people-to-people relations, have served to catalyze intra-regional engagement as well as our bilateral relationships. We would like to see SAARC contribute more robustly to our vision of building a peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood.

India seeks cordial, cooperative and friendly ties with all its neighbours and would remain steadfast in this pursuit. We are very clear that first and foremost, every attention has to be paid to our immediate neighbourhood, as our destinies are interlinked. I am pleased that this sentiment is amply reciprocated with most of our neighbours. In successive public opinion surveys in Afghanistan, for example, India has consistently been rated very highly by the people of Afghanistan. This is a reflection of how India-assisted projects, worth US\$ 1.3 billion, are changing the lives of ordinary Afghans. As you know, I will be paying an official visit to Afghanistan from tomorrow.

The resettlement of the Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka has been high on our priority. During my visit to Sri Lanka last November, I inaugurated the pilot project of building 1,000 houses near Jaffna for resettlement of IDPs, as also the railway line project at Medhawachiya. I also inaugurated our Consulates General in Jaffna and Hambantota which, I am confident, will greatly enhance people-to-people contacts between our two countries. We continue to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to initiate a structured dialogue with all communities, especially the Tamils and other minority communities, to address the issues that concern their future.

Our relationships with Bangladesh, Myanmar and the Maldives have witnessed an upward swing over the last several months. As a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to the successful completion of peace process and establishment of multi-party democracy in Nepal. Last year also saw a further consolidation of our traditionally strong relations with Bhutan.

With Pakistan, as the Prime Minister has repeatedly said, we stand ready to resolve all outstanding issues through a peaceful dialogue. We expect Pakistan to fulfill its repeated assurances given to us at the highest level to not allow the territory under its control for fomenting terrorism aimed against us, and to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attack to justice expeditiously. I have

extended an invitation to my counterpart to visit India and earnestly hope that we can take the process of dialogue forward.

In our quest for enhanced energy security and greater regional cooperation, we signed on December 11, 2010 at Ashgabat agreements related to Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, during the TAPI Summit. The project involving construction of the 1680 kms pipeline, at an estimated cost of US\$ 7.6 billion in 2008, is expected to be completed by 2015. Besides making available 3.2 billion cubic feet of gas daily to three recipient countries, the initiative would also become an important confidence building measure among our countries and enhance mutually beneficial economic linkages.

We will continue to pursue our 'Look East Policy' with vigour during the year, which should see finalization of our comprehensive economic partnership arrangements with Japan and Malaysia as well as a Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investments with ASEAN. I am pleased that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which was operationalized with the Republic of Korea on 1st January last year, has led to a 50% rise in bilateral trade in 2010, to about US\$ 18 billion. Early this year we look forward to welcoming President Yudhoyono of Indonesia - a strategic partner and traditional friend with which we have shared two millennia of close cultural and commercial ties. I am also pleased that the initiative to establish Nalanda University saw significant progress last year, including in the form of passage of the necessary Act by Parliament.

India will continue to actively engage China across a spectrum of issues in 2011. The high level exchanges in 2010 lent stability and ballast to one of India's most important and complex relationships. We have agreed that as strategic partners, we will enhance all round cooperation in areas including trade and commerce, science and technology and people-to-people exchanges while also tackling the areas of divergence.

The Gulf region is another major partner of India and we significantly enhanced high level exchanges last year. Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia and the conclusion of the "Riyadh Declaration" put in place "a new era of strategic partnership" between our countries. India's two-way trade with the Gulf has soared to US Dollar 107 billion making the region our largest trading partner. Some 6 million Indians live and work in the Gulf region. We will remain focused on expanding our engagement with the region.

India is not only keeping her historic links with Africa intact, but also revitalizing the relationship by adding a larger dimension of economic cooperation. We will host a Ministerial level conference of 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

which include 33 African countries. The second India Africa Forum Summit will also take place later this year in an African nation. Our African partners are undertaking a consensual decision on the timing and venue of the summit.

Looking westwards, relations with Russia remain a strategic priority of our foreign policy. Russia is our time-tested partner and we now characterise our friendship as a 'special and privileged' strategic partnership. Prime Minister should be visiting Russia this year for the traditional annual Summit meeting, which would build on the concrete and substantive outcomes in key areas achieved last year consequent to the visits of Prime Minister Putin and President Medvedev to India.

India and the United States have in the recent years built a strong global strategic partnership. President Obama's visit in November has elevated our relationship to a qualitatively new level. We attach high importance to our partnership, both in the pursuit of achieving India's national development goals and for advancing global peace, stability and progress.

Prime Minister's participation in the annual India-European Union (EU) Summit in December 2010 paved the way for broader engagement with the EU. It was agreed that negotiations for a Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement would be concluded by the spring of this year. This Agreement would increase bilateral trade from around Euro 52 billion to Euro 100 billion over the next few years. A Joint Declaration for Cooperation on International Terrorism pointed to a more diversified engagement with EU.

International terrorism has been a core foreign policy concern for India for quite some time now. We have been victims of the most vicious kind of cross-border terror for over well two decades. It has had the backing of official agencies, and continues to be used against us as a political and economic weapon. Fortunately there is increasing realization today in the international arena that terrorism threatens the peace and security of the entire planet. India is working closely with her partners in improving sharing of information, countering terror finance and building capacity in our anti-terror mechanisms. Multilaterally, we piloted the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN. We continue our efforts to encourage early adoption of this long overdue Convention.

Given our unique experience in the fight against the menace of terrorism, the UN Security Council elected the day before yesterday (on 5th January) India's Permanent Representative to the UN as the Chairperson of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established in 2001. India will work to further strengthen the international legal framework for counter-terrorism and increase international cooperation in the area by all the UN member-states.

India joined the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term (2011-2012) on 1st January 2011, polling the highest number of votes- 187 out of 190 UN members present and voting. While being actively and constructively engaged on all issues before the Council, our focus will be on our immediate and extended neighbourhood and on issues such as counter-terrorism, peacekeeping and peace building. We will also continue our efforts for the much needed UNSC reforms. The second round of text-based negotiations started in the UN in December 2010. This can be safely called a "take-off" stage for the UNSC reform process and is a significant development after many years of meandering discussions on the issue.

These are some of the thoughts I wanted to share with you in our interaction at the very beginning of this year. I stop here and will be happy to take a few questions. Thank you.

**Question:** Since India has serious security concerns on Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, what about the TAPI pipeline? Are you not concerned about the ability of Pakistani to provide security to TAPI pipeline?

**External Affairs Minister:** There are two issues whenever we look at a project of this kind. One is the cost analysis and the second is the security that is needed, especially in dealing with the countries that I mentioned. I am sure that all the countries are responsible countries and they know the kind of stakes - economic, political as well as security related - that are involved in it, and I am hopeful.

**Question:** When is your next meeting with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan? And also Pakistan has stopped export of onion on Wagha Border. Have you taken up the issue with them?

**External Affairs Minister:** Talking about the onions first, we are in touch with the Government of Pakistan. We have initiated talks. Before not too long we are hopeful that we will find a solution to this problem thereby easing the pressure within our country for onions.

With reference to the other question about the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, I have extended an invitation and the indication given to me by Foreign Minister Qureshi was that sometime in the first quarter of 2011 he would be visiting Delhi and we are looking forward to it.

**Question:** South Africa has been formally invited to join the BRIC group of countries. When do you expect it can formally become a full member? And what does India think about further expanding this group of countries?

**External Affairs Minister:** As members of the BRIC we did very carefully analyse the pros and cons of enlarging it. We needed a country from Africa

which was left out in the BRIC and we found South Africa was willing to cooperate with us. As a result of that there was an overwhelming consensus in favour of inviting South Africa to join BRIC.

**Question:** Could you say what you would like to be on the agenda when Mr. Qureshi comes to Delhi? Also, are you taking this one meeting at a time or do you hope this would be the first in a series of meetings over the course of the year? And if so, do you have any other tentative plan for that in the future?

**External Affairs Minister:** The Prime Minister is very very clear and we would like to engage Pakistan in a dialogue and there is no other alternative other than talking to Pakistan, keeping them engaged, and thereby sorting out the outstanding issues. When I was in Islamabad, there were a number of issues about which there was similarity of thinking. I am sure that that process will continue as and when Foreign Minister Qureshi comes to India.

**Question:** Sir, you talked about the passports, the new initiatives that you are taking. I just wanted to ask, when would Delhi get its new passport offices? Secondly, on the issue of Quattrocchi just yesterday the lower court observed that there seemed to be mala fide intentions in Government not letting the case go ahead against him. So, keeping the Tribunal's Order in mind do you think his extradition should be sought all over again?

**External Affairs Minister:** The issue of extradition is a decision which is taken by the concerned Ministry. Only when a request is made after a decision is arrived at by the line Ministry, it is routed through the Ministry of External Affairs for extradition. So, as and when things happen we are willing to process it.

About the Passport Seva Kendra in Delhi, I am hopeful that by about June this year we should be able to get it going.

**Question:** Sir, you are leaving for Afghanistan you said. What deliberations will you have in Kabul? Looking at the terrorism scenario and the threat to our High Commission there, what talks will you have with your counterpart there?

**External Affairs Minister:** It is a fact that our Consulates and our High Commission are under constant attack in Kabul. As a result of these attacks we have lost precious Indian lives. We are working with the Government of Afghanistan so that they give our Consulates and our High Commission enough protection so that there are not going to be any more casualties.

**Question:** Mr. Foreign Minister, it is almost a year now since our Prime Minister has visited India. What about your Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister going to Bangladesh? Is such a visit in the offing?

**External Affairs Minister:** I think 2011 is the year for such visits. For these visits we are trying to work out mutual dates.

**Question:** Sir, with regard to the visit of Foreign Minister Qureshi to India you said that he has indicated he will come in the first quarter of this year. But given how things ended last July in Islamabad, do you think that there needs to be some work done literally from scratch again? Will there be other meetings perhaps of the Foreign Secretaries or Joint Secretaries before Mr. Qureshi gets here, because you have to go back to drawing board?

**External Affairs Minister:** Let us remind ourselves that even before Foreign Minister Qureshi and I met in Islamabad there have been a number of interactions between our Foreign Secretary and the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. So, before Foreign Minister Qureshi comes into India I am sure that it is in the fitness of things that the two Foreign Secretaries meet and clear the ground for a very productive meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers.

**Question:** Sir, going back to the question on your Kabul visit, is there any current review of the kind of threat perception to the Indian Mission or the staff working in Afghanistan? And you will be meeting Mr. Baburam Bhattarai and Ms Sujata Koirala this afternoon. There were recent reports of China interfering with the parliamentary process in Nepal to the extent of actually pumping in money and buying MPs in a way. Is that an issue that concerns you that you would like to address?

**External Affairs Minister:** Yes, I am meeting Mr. Baburam Bhattarai in the next two hours. Nepal is a friendly country. We want a broad consensus for a political process there so that they would be in a position to write the Constitution. India is certainly keeping close contact with Nepal because of our civilisational and historical ties with that country. We wish them well.

On the question of review of threat perception, it is a threat which is there all the time. So, we are keeping the Government of Afghanistan informed of whatever threats that we get at our Embassy.

**Question:** Sir, Iran has said that they are ready to do business with India in Rupees. If they do it that way, then Indian exports to Iran can increase in exchange of energy. And, Sir, there is just a small question about you. Would you like to continue this work or given a choice would you like to take up bigger challenges?

**External Affairs Minister:** I think you have been very very sweet in putting that question to me. 'Bigger challenges' I like that. I think speculation is the exclusive prerogative of the ladies and gentlemen that I see in front of me. So, you keep speculating, we keep reading it, we keep watching it, and then take things as they come along. Ultimately, I think it is the Prime Minister's prerogative. As a Constitutional Law student as one who was teaching Constitutional Law, I am sure I know it.

On the question related to Iran, depending upon the banking regulations of our own country, that will be taken care of.

**Question:** Does this mean that India-Iran-Pakistan pipeline is off now completely?

**External Affairs Minister:** Did I give that impression?

Question: You did not. But you were talking about TAPI. So, I am asking will we have both or is it off?

**External Affairs Minister:** The negotiations are going on; the talks are going on; and it is in the initial process. I think we will proceed.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**002. Speech made by Special Secretary (Public Diplomacy) Jayant Prasad at the Workshop on Science, Diplomacy and Policy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies and American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.**

**Bangalore, January 12, 2011.**

Professor Ramamurthy and distinguished participants,

I feel privileged to be in Bangalore to participate in this workshop on Science, Diplomacy and Policy. The National Institute of Advanced Studies and the American Association for the Advancement of Science have done well to focus on this issue, as science, technology, and innovation have become the core themes of the India-U.S. relationship. Indeed, these were some of the key areas of potential cooperation identified during President Obama's visit to India in November 2010. These are becoming key instruments of India's diplomacy, as they already are for the United States.

I am especially delighted to find myself in the company of Dr. Paula Dobrianski, who had pioneered the global issues dialogue with India in the early years of the last decade in her capacity as the Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs. She will be happy, I am sure, with the considerable progress we have made since those days on the issues we had commenced our discussions on under her watch.



### **The link between science and diplomacy**

As in all aspects of human life, and in inter and intra-State relations, science and technology are impacting profoundly on diplomacy. They have done this in two ways: first, through the impact of scientific advances on the conduct of diplomacy; and second, through the newer tools science has made available to diplomacy to nurture more constructive relationships between and among nations.

In a recent study, *Skyful of Lies and Black Swans*, the Chief Presenter of BBC, Nick Gowing, describes how "institutions of power" - both governments and corporates - are today typically ill-equipped to handle the onslaught of the new media, with its contracted timelines of immediate public impact and the shortening of news and information cycles. The public are now aware of what is happening on the ground before or simultaneously with official agencies, leaving governments little reaction time. This, in turn, is denting public confidence, and eroding the capacity of statecraft and diplomacy to effectively deal with challenges to State authority and legitimacy. Nineteenth century practices of diplomacy cannot meet twenty-first century challenges. This, however, is not an issue I shall address in my further remarks, other than to suggest that governments have to learn new ways of shaping the public discourse, including through greater openness, transparency and accountability.

Our focus, in the workshop, is how best to make use of science, which is the Latin word for knowledge, and technology, which is a form of concentrated capital, in the daily practice of communication and negotiations between representatives of States. Science can help the art of diplomacy, to work for mutual benefit, for promoting peace, stability and prosperity, and for resolving global, regional or bilateral issues amicably, without resorting to sanctions or the use of force. Based on the postulate that scientific and technological advances increasingly shape international relations, the workshop is about how States can get together to tackle issues such as poverty, climate change, and inclusive growth and development, by leveraging instruments that simply did not exist in an earlier era.

### **The public policy challenge**

We are going to face challenges of staggering proportions in the coming decades. By 2050, the world will have 9 billion people, creating pressures on fresh water, proteins, energy, and other resources. Meanwhile, current global and national imbalances will invariably contribute to conflict and violence, manifesting around racial, ethnic or religious lines. National demands will have to be balanced within sustainable limits. How do we do this? One answer is, the same way as human beings have progressed since the European

renaissance through to the industrial revolution and afterwards, by increases in productivity, brought about by the application of science and technology to production processes. That might provide a partial answer, at best.

Another option is to lower expectations and reduce consumption. This will be difficult. Of the current world population of nearly 7 billion, an estimated 1.2 billion live on less than \$1 per day, and 3 billion on less than \$2 a day. About 44% of Indians do not have access to commercially available energy. The aspirations of these have-nots are rising. Aggregate global consumption levels are therefore unlikely to decline, and in fact, much more likely to increase substantially.

While we pursue low energy consumption growth models, our collective genius must focus on our one remaining option: a new ethic of multilateral cooperation, based on more responsive governance within and across nations. Massive commitments are required to reduce poverty and hunger and redress the impact of climate change. This needs energised international cooperation and a better balance between the surplus and deficit countries through investments in infrastructure, energy and environment-friendly technologies. It also needs a commitment to build new national and international partnerships and human resource development for delivering the required public goods at an accelerated pace. Science or knowledge-based diplomacy can play a critical role in pursuing such cooperation.

In the multilateral arena, the most interesting United Nations-led initiative for science-based diplomacy began with a mandate from its Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to UNCTAD in 2001. ECOSOC asked UNCTAD to develop special programmes and organise workshops to train diplomats, scholars and journalists in science diplomacy to assist developing countries, in particular, the least developed amongst them, in international negotiations for the evolving norms on standards setting. These programmes have helped developing country representatives in conducting negotiations on technical issues in which they have vital stakes, such as trade-related intellectual property rights, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention to Combat Desertification, resource management, and generally in the area of multilateral trade and climate change negotiations. These Conventions are also examples of how scientists and members of civil society have participated in global norm setting and rule making on important issues of global governance.

### **India's development model**

As a latecomer to rapid development, over the past two decades in particular, India has shown herself to be dynamic, flexible and innovative. She will also

remain demographically well endowed well into the twenty-first century. Favourable factors for continued rapid growth are available at this present, transient moment, but on condition that India harness the younger generation as productive members of the workforce. This will be critically predicated on India's ability both to educate and train this burgeoning young population and provide them gainful employment. The scale and rapidity of economic change have generated uneven development and inequalities. There have been exceptional rewards for those who use their capital and skills to take advantage of the new opportunities. But many, especially those outside the organised economy, have been left beyond the ambit of the transforming landscape. A very special effort is, therefore, required to make India's growth stable, sustainable, equitable, and inclusive, and bring into the development processes a fourth of the population that is currently on the periphery.

The hallmarks of India's inclusive growth and development strategy, which have a direct bearing on its foreign policy, include:

A quest for rapid growth for wealth-creation for our peoples in order to bring to them the fruits of development – particularly education, health and social security; Pursuit of a growth model that creates employment and equal opportunities, and that is regionally balanced and sustainable; Construction of a modern, knowledge and science-based society; and Achievement of the development objectives within a democratic framework and through responsive governance.

The key government initiatives have naturally followed these priorities. In education, the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and the Right to Education Act to universalise access to education; in health, the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* and the *Janani Suraksha Yojana*, to provide greater healthcare access and improved maternal and child health; the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Food Security Act for employment and nutrition for the poor; a National Action Plan for Climate Change and National Solar Mission for energy security; and the Right to Information Act and unique identity numbers to improve the reach of welfare schemes and services, including banking. These priorities are reflected also in India's emerging development partnerships.

### **India's initiatives in science and diplomacy**

How science or knowledge plays a part in India's overseas programmes can perhaps be best illustrated through our experience in Afghanistan. We have had an important role in that country's reconstruction over the past nine years. Our financial commitments are substantial for a non-traditional donor. Our expanding development partnership covers all parts of Afghanistan and the entire gamut of development activities. In response to the requirements of the

Afghan people, as conveyed to us by their representatives at the district, provincial and national levels, we are building everything from toilets to transmission lines. These activities span four broad areas: humanitarian assistance, infrastructure projects, quick gestation small development projects (SDPs), and capacity-building and skills development.

On the humanitarian side, we run five medical missions that provide free medical care and medicines to the poor. About a third of the 6.2 million children in school, of whom 38% are girls, have been getting, for the past five years, 100 grams of Indian high protein biscuits as part of WFP's Nutrition Supplement Programme, which is a big incentive to draw young children to school.

The SDPs, which are projects conceived, proposed and implemented by Afghans in the provinces and districts, lie at the heart of the Indian development model in Afghanistan. These carry a modest budget ranging generally between \$100-500,000 each, with a cap of \$1 million, and bring direct and tangible benefit to the people. While the majority of the projects supported have been in the social sector, for building schools, clinics and public health centres, of late they have included micro-hydel, small irrigation, and solar electrification projects. We have implemented 50 SDPs since 2008, from the Wakhan corridor in Badakhshan in the North to Kandahar in the South, and 50 more projects are in the pipeline.

In more recent years, our greatest emphasis has been on human resource development, predicated on the belief that only the Afghans can take care of Afghanistan. We cannot develop Afghanistan. We can only help create an enabling environment for Afghans to develop themselves.

India has the largest programme in Afghanistan to train Afghan public servants abroad in specialized institutions, in the same institutions where Indian public servants are trained, and each year 675 Afghans come to India for this. Many of them go to technical institutions for IT programmes, or for auditing, accounting, financial management, and areas of applied science and technology. And we have the biggest university scholarship programme in Afghanistan, enabling its students to obtain undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in India – also 675 a year, and of which the number of women has been steadily increasing. There are at least five Afghan women scholarship holders currently studying medicine at the prestigious Lady Harding Medical College, and a growing number of women students in universities all over India. Our role in Afghanistan, thus, goes beyond the financial aspect of expending development funds. Our unique selling proposition is building institutions and developing human resources. Our massive training and scholarship programmes have begun to provide the country with a new generation of educated and skilled workforce.

Since in this workshop we are discussing science or knowledge-based diplomacy, I would like to share with you a specific innovative Indian project in Afghanistan, whose video-satellite hub is located not far from the NIAS campus in Bangalore, managed by the Indian telecommunications firm TCIL. This is a project providing telemedicine facilities between the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health (IGICH) in Kabul and two Indian super speciality post-graduate medical institutes in Lucknow and Chandigarh. It is part of a larger project set up by India for the SAARC countries to help improve healthcare delivery and promote medical education and exchanges between doctors in SAARC countries and Indian specialists. IGICH is the largest children's hospital in Afghanistan, with 400-bed capacity. Besides tele-surgery and speciality referrals, the telemedicine applications include off-site radiological services, cardiac monitoring, and therapeutic education, particularly in the areas of public and environment health. A remarkable feature of this project is the modest expenditure incurred for what it does – just Rs. 21 million, equivalent to about \$440,000, which includes the establishment cost, equipment, connectivity, and running expenses for a year. Indian projects in Afghanistan, with purchasing power parity allowing for lower materials and consultancy costs, show much more 'bang for the buck'.

Another initiative devised by the Ministry of External Affairs with developing partner countries is the Indian Technical and Cooperation Programme (ITEC), centred on sharing experiences, transfer of technology, and capacity building. ITEC brings 5,000 professionals from our partner countries into Indian institutions for short-term training. One of the participating institutions is located not far from here, the Indian Institute of Science, which conducts an ITEC training programme on bio e-energy. ITEC also sends Indian experts to and sets up projects in developing countries, responding to their specific needs. In addition to its programme for Afghan students, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations brings in over 1,500 students from other developing countries to India on scholarship, 24% of whom are pursuing academic programmes in science including agricultural science, and engineering.

India is currently engaged in rolling out a programme that has generated remarkable resonance in Africa, the Pan-African e-Network project. This will link one major university and one major hospital from each from participating countries to counterpart Indian institutions. The connectivity has been offered to 53 countries, of which 47 are setting up or using the network. The tele-education coverage under this project will result in 2,000 students from Africa annually accessing e-courses offered by selected India universities.

### **Prospects of India-U.S. cooperation**

There is considerable scope for pursuing science or knowledge-based diplomacy between India and the United States. There are few countries in the

world with which India shares such basic identity of values and interests as with the United States. We have plural, tolerant, secular, and democratic societies. Our scientific engagement was modest in size but significant in its impact in the years immediately following India's Independence, even when our political relations were not what they are today. This cooperation resulted in the establishment of the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur exactly half a century ago, as also the National Council for Educational Research and Training and India's agricultural universities, which became the progenitors of the Green Revolution and helped India emerge from her 'ship-to-mouth' existence. The United States also contributed to the initial phase of our civilian space and atomic energy programmes. A few words, in this context, on the current India-U.S. Science and Technology agenda will not, therefore, be out of place.

The key areas of cooperation can be clustered under three broad groupings. First, are the high-technology and dual-purpose areas, nuclear, space, biotechnology, nano-technology, and defence and counter-terrorism materials and technologies. Under this cluster, the impediments to growing the partnership are being dismantled, beginning with the India-U.S. Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation. During his visit to New Delhi, President Obama indicated that the United States will now work to integrate India into the technology control regimes: the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Wassenaar Arrangements, and the Australia Group for dual-purpose chemical precursors and feedstocks. Literally, the sky is the limit for such cooperation. And an example of it is NASA's contribution to ISRO's *Chandrayan* Project to land on the moon.

A second cluster is composed of areas that directly touch the lives of the people – agriculture, education, clean energy (including clean coal and carbon capture), clean water, sanitation, climate science, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Within these, there are issues that can be simultaneously addressed in the commercial domain, such as post-harvest technologies and facilitating collaborations to develop affordable products and services suited to the scales and levels of income in developing countries, including through frugal engineering, where India has growing expertise.

And finally, there exists the so far largely unexplored potential of third-country cooperation in areas like food security, healthcare, and skills development and capacity-building. For example, India and the United States can contribute together to the regeneration of Afghan agriculture. The task at hand is not complex. It requires financial support for certain inputs like seed and fertilizers, credit facilities for the farmers, together with quality extension work to be provided by Afghan agriculture scientists. The United States could provide the physical

infrastructure for an Afghan agriculture university. India, which has faced and overcome a similar challenge in the past, and shares the agro-climatic and social conditions that prevail in Afghanistan, can provide the curriculum, the pedagogic materials, and teachers for such a project. While the new institution is being created, India can bridge the demand for expertise by training Afghan agriculture and rural credit experts, for which there is available capacity in Indian agriculture universities and rural credit institutions, such as NABARD. The basic assumption here is that, notwithstanding the differences in economic and scientific strengths between India and the United States, we are both knowledge-driven economies and our respective scientific and institutional strengths can be pooled together, with profit, in third countries.

Professor Ramamurthy conveyed to our Foreign Secretary that the aim of this workshop is to increase understanding of the power of science in diplomacy. Part of my current portfolio in the Ministry of External Affairs, in Public Diplomacy, besides increasing an understanding about India's foreign and security policies for both foreign and domestic audiences, is to provide feedback to Government to improve policy formulation. What better can I do here other than to learn from the established practitioners of science-based diplomacy who are participating in this workshop? India is not a traditional donor country, and science has never been viewed by us as a core foreign policy concern. While we have pursued science-based initiatives in our interaction with fellow developing countries, we have to learn how precisely to mainstream science and technology in our growing development partnerships and assistance programmes. We also need to undertake an exercise in strategic planning and prioritisation in this domain. Such initiatives promise good rewards, for better articulation and implementation of science-based diplomacy and development initiatives will particularly resonate, in a positive way, with our partner countries, who share problems similar to the one's faced by us.

### **Recommendations**

I have concrete suggestions for further discussion among the experts present here, many of whom are established practitioners of science-based diplomacy and have contributed to our nuclear and space programmes and our energy and defence industries:

The Foreign Service Institute could consider instituting mid-level courses on making use of science and technology-based diplomacy, both for Indian foreign service officers and for diplomats and public servants from our partner countries, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology and NIAS. We could also get valuable inputs for this exercise from experts from AAAS.

India and the United States could explore possibilities of working together in third countries, beginning with Afghanistan.

India could accelerate trans-border science and technology-based initiatives under SAARC and other regional forum where India has membership to deal with cross-cutting trans-border challenges – such as management of pandemics and fragile eco systems, a case in point being the preservation of the unique delta and mangroves of the Sunderbans, and the Biosphere, Forest and Tiger Reserve shared between India and Bangladesh.

India could greatly enlarge its current programme of skills development and capacity-building, which is a cost-effective and efficient way to help our partner countries develop themselves.

“The ascent of man”, the eminent scientist, J. Bronowski, reminded us in 1973, “is always teetering in the balance.” He said so in the context of the danger of disjunction between knowledge and ethics, between knowledge and integrity, and between knowledge and the idea of civilisational progress. Science is neutral in value: it has been the motor for innovative technologies that have transformed the world. We can use it too, more pro-actively than we have done so far, as an instrument of policy in our diplomatic practices, for forging better relationships, for the common public good and to improve the human condition. Our national leaders reflect and embrace this vision. We, therefore, have a great opportunity to harness our inventiveness to work together in this new area, bilaterally, in third countries, regionally and globally.

I thank you.





**003. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna in Lok Sabha on combating piracy.**

**New Delhi, March 11, 2011.**

The Cabinet Committee on Security met today and considered proposals with regard to conduct of anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia.

The Committee approved a series of measures which will be taken by the Government of India to address the legal, administrative and operational aspects of combating piracy. A broad policy framework covering all these aspects was approved. This would involve actions that would be taken in the medium and long term by the Ministries of Shipping, External Affairs and Defence.

The Committee also specifically considered the immediate situation arising out from holding of Indian hostages by pirates. It noted that as of now 53 Indian seafarers remain in captivity on 5 different ships. The Committee expressed its sympathy with the families of the hostages, and decided that the Government would take all appropriate action to safeguard their welfare. It approved the following immediate steps:-

- Intensify diplomatic efforts through consultations with the Governments of Egypt and the UAE where the owners of concerned vessels reside, as well as with the Governments of other nationalities who are also being held as hostages and intensifying diplomatic efforts both at the multilateral level and within the framework of the United Nations.
- Stepping up of contacts with the owners of the vessels concerned.
- Establishing of Inter-ministerial Group under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary. The Group will act as an apex forum at the Government of India level to monitor the early release of Indian ships or cargo or crew. The Group will also consider welfare measures necessitated after the release of hijacked Indian nationals.
- Formulation of suitable standard operating procedures for the Indian Navy and coordination of the Indian Navy's activities with the Navies of friendly foreign countries in the Gulf of Aden.

[A similar statement was made by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur in the Rajya Sabha]

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**On March 10, 2011 the following Press Release was also issued.**

WITH the release of the RAK Afrikana, held by Somali pirates with 11 Indian sailors among its crew, the number of Indian sailors held by Somali pirates is now 53. They have been seized during the capture of the following ships:-

MV Iceberg - Panamian Flag

MV Suez - Panamian Flag

MT Asphalt Venture - Panamian Flag

MT Savina Caylyn - Italian Flag

MV Sinin - Panamian Flag

2. The UN Security Council and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) are working on prevention, guidance, reporting and cooperation to mitigate piracy. One Indian naval ship has been deployed in the Gulf of Aden to escort Indian shipping interests since 2008. Following recent incidents of pirate attacks closer to Indian western shores, the Indian Navy has increased its vigil and neutralized two pirate "mother ships" and captured 43 pirates.

3. The Directorate General of Shipping, Government of India has issued numerous advisories, circulars and notices on the recommended traffic corridors, protocol with Indian naval ships, precautions to be taken and areas to be avoided. It is also necessary for flag States to be accountable and persuade the ships owners to expedite conclusion of negotiations with pirates so that seafarers are released quickly.

4. The safety and security of Indians remains the priority of the Government. The nodal Indian agencies/Ministries dealing with the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia are Ministry of Shipping [Director General, Shipping] and the Ministry of Defence [Indian Navy and Coast Guard]. The main point of contact with the ship owners is Director General, Shipping, who remains in constant touch with the owners/management of the ship in order to secure the release of Indian crew members. The Ministry of External Affairs comes into the picture where the ship owners/management is based in a foreign country. MEA in such cases has assisted by taking up the matter with local governments to expedite negotiations between the owners/management of the ship and the pirates.

5. As a result of such efforts, 21 Indian nationals held on merchant ships were released in 2008, 34 in 2009, 56 in 2010 and 13 in 2011 bringing the total number of sailors that have been released to 124. 53 Indian sailors who were crew members of hijacked ships seized by pirates are presently held in captivity.

6. In most cases, ships on which Indian crew members are held in captivity have crew members of other nationalities also. For instance, MV Iceberg has 9 Yemenis, 6 Indians, 1 Filipino, 4 Ghanians, 2 Sudanese and 2 Pakistanis, all held by the pirates. MV Suez has 6 Indians, 11 Egyptians, 4 Pakistanis and 1 Sri Lankan, all held by pirates.

7. In the case of all five ships that are presently held by pirates with Indian crew members, our Missions and Posts concerned have been in regular touch with the ship owners and with the Governments of countries, where these ship owners are based, to secure the release of our nationals. Director General, Shipping has continued his efforts to expedite steps by the owners of the ships to secure the release of our sailors from the pirates.

8. Our Ambassador in Cairo and Consul General in Dubai are also working energetically with their counterparts from other countries whose crew members have been held by the pirates in order to intensify efforts to secure the release of crew held in these ships, expeditiously.

**New Delhi**  
**March 10, 2011**



**004. Speech of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari delivering the "Annual Lecture-2011" of the Association of Indian Diplomats.**

**New Delhi, March 11, 2011.**

#### **The Challenges to Indian Diplomacy in the 21st Century**

"This is one of those occasions when pleasure and apprehension come together: happiness at being with members of one's own tribe, and misgivings about the responsibility assigned. Ambassador Satish Chandra and his colleagues on the Executive of the AID had something to do with it but, as the saying goes, from the hands of a friend a stone is an apple!

I am required to speak on the challenges to our diplomacy in the twenty first century. The difficulty I confront is with the audience! How do I lecture to a group most of whose members know as much about the subject as I do; some, in fact, know much more.

There is yet another problem that I have at times encountered in the recent

past. It is summed up in an Iraqi proverb: 'When you speak, do not fear; when you fear, do not speak'. In what manner then do I speak and yet observe the etiquette and the ritual emanating from what a philosopher, in another context, called 'My Station and its Duties'?

Within these constraints, I shall endeavour to be as coherent as possible. I would focus on the next four decades till about the middle of the century since no projections can realistically be made beyond it now nor can we predict the impact on society and politics of scientific or technological innovations that may surface later in the century.

Diplomacy is the conduct of relations among political entities aimed at reconciliation and accommodation of viewpoints and interests. It is both a function and a determinant of international order. The task of the diplomat, to use a blunt 15th century expression, is to seek the preservation and aggrandizement of his own state.

Many in this audience would recall Bismarck's remark that players on the world stage travel on the stream of Time which they can neither create nor direct but upon which they can steer with more or less skill and experience. They would also remember the words of another realist, Henry Kissinger, who recommended 'patient accumulation of partial successes' as a desirable methodology.

Both dicta have relevance. Our own experience of over six decades as a player in the international arena would sustain it in good measure.

It is our stated objective to seek a global order that assures our interests, safeguards the autonomy of our decision-making, and is conducive to the achievement of rapid, sustained and inclusive development of the country. This necessitates policy that combines 'firm commitments to our core national values with dynamic adaptation to changes in the international environment'.

What then are our interests as a people and as a state? Primacy has to be accorded to social cohesion and territorial integrity. The post-independence decades have witnessed political, emotional and market integration in great measure. The much apprehended Balkanisation did not come about. Challenges nevertheless remain and in places have become acuter. A certain 'Balkanisation of the mind' has surfaced. It emanates from regionalism and pursuit of identity politics in the wake of the deepening of the democratic processes; it also arises out of non-inclusive development. Our inability to address these in sufficient measure allows space for sub-national, sectional and non-state actors with agendas that pose threats to social cohesion and national security. These in turn detract from our ability to perform in a fuller measure on the global stage.

The world today recognises our emerging role. Our assets are considerable; so are the expectations. Demography and the demographic mix give us an advantage over most others. By the year 2050 we would have a population of 1.8 billion, a labour force of one billion, and the second largest economy of the world. Our defence capabilities would grow proportionately. These together would position us for being a significant player in the multi-polar international system that is now taking shape.

The typology of threats faced by us since independence shape perceptions and may be viewed in three broad categories: (a) internal and ideological threats emanating from attempts to challenge the Constitution, its functioning, or its core values; (b) threats principally from neighbours and relating to territorial or water disputes; and (c) threats emerging from the global order and arrangements that threaten or could threaten our security, political or economic interests and thereby constrain our policy options.

It is evident that of these, the second and the third fall squarely in the domain of foreign policy and therefore of diplomacy. They would, nevertheless, be impacted upon by the dynamics of our societal forces, the strength of our economy, and our technological capability to meet increasing requirements in areas of food production, public health and energy in step with the imperative of inclusive development and human security. A quality deficit in performance, low levels of accountability in governance, and what has been called the 'malpractice of democracy', are handicaps that can and must be overcome. Diplomacy cannot overlook these domestic impulses.

Let us now look at the foreign policy challenges that are likely to confront us in the foreseeable future.

In the first place and in terms of geography, our immediate neighbourhood would be critical for regional stability and cooperation and the accretion of comprehensive national power by India. Asymmetry is a fact of life in South Asia and the history of conflict and animosity is deep and scarring. Our emergence as a global player is dependent in some measure on our ability to resolve or manage contentions to ensure a peaceful and secure neighbourhood, with meaningful economic, cultural and political ties. Would we be able and willing to give a stake in our development and growth to our neighbours, thereby helping them consolidate their state structures and ward-off centrifugal and destabilizing forces of terrorism, aggressive nationalism, secessionism and poor governance?

The need for unconventional policy options in implementing such an agenda need hardly be over-emphasised, especially while dealing with amorphous state and elite structures, pursuing ambiguous and opaque security objectives.

The second challenge would be the emergence of Asia, as probably the most important locus of global power. This has been called the Asian Century and the first decade has given ample evidence of the changing nature of global economic and financial flows and emerging geo-political dimensions. Indian diplomacy will have to deal with the architecture, mechanics and the implementation of Asian economic and security cooperation that is likely to bring together regional organisations such as ASEAN, Asian powers such as China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Russia and outside powers such as the European Union and the US.

Our "Look East Policy" must transform into a "Move East Policy" of our economic, political and cultural engagement resulting in intense exchanges of goods, services, peoples and ideas. As we move to complete the noodle bowl of FTAs and CEPAs with the region, the next challenging phase would be to realise the vision of an Asian Economic Community with seamless connectivities. Community building and partnership in Asia through a transparent, inclusive and open process would best lead to an Asian awakening that benefits all constituents of the continent and all stakeholders.

The third challenge would be to create an enabling international environment for unhindered economic development and growth, including through mutually beneficial arrangements concerning raw materials and markets for goods and services. The hunt for resources - mineral, energy, agricultural and human - would only intensify in the years to come and would necessitate resource diplomacy focused on maintenance of stable international resource markets, their efficient regulation and safety of related transport and shipping lanes. It should reasonably insulate functioning resource markets from intervention of state actors. Indian economic diplomacy would also be called upon to manage political risks involved in international trade, business and investments for Indian business; facilitate the movement of Indian human resources across business and sovereign jurisdictions; and attract foreign investments, technology and expertise to the country.

The fourth challenge is to foster a rule based international order underpinned by strong and functioning multilateral institutions. Security, economic development, stability and public welfare would increasingly be indivisible in a globalising world. An effective multilateralism premised on intense engagement and dialogue between a plurality of actors is the best institutional guarantee in an increasingly multi-polar world beset with global problems - whether on terrorism, natural disasters, global warming and environmental issues, pandemics or financial and economic crises.

The institutional architecture of global governance, however, is still an anomaly reflecting post-World War II and Cold War perceptions. Indian diplomacy is

actively involved in initiating the process of making the international order reflective of contemporary realities through reforms in the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. It would be called upon to manage this process in tune with our interests and take the process to fruition, carefully balancing power and principle.

The fifth challenge is to evolve a consensual approach, along with all major and minor powers, of dealing with the regimes regulating global commons. We would need to articulate our role in fashioning, maintaining and implementing these regimes in accordance with our national interests. The global commons of the sea, air, space, Polar Regions and the cyber world are global public goods and our willingness and capability to contribute to their security, growth and stability, as per common but differentiated responsibilities, would only grow in future.

A sixth challenge is the requirement to respond in real time to unanticipated happenings, political, economic or environmental and to have at hand the intellectual and organisational resources to do so adequately.

Our diplomacy would have to maintain our strategic autonomy of action and policy while dealing with the accretion of national power and the calls by other state and non-state actors for "responsibility" in exercising it. It would, by its actions, pronouncements and conduct, have to carefully meander through the twin banks of state sovereignty and global order, of recognised multilateralism and selective coalition building, of universal equity and hard national interest.

This audience knows only too well that the practice of diplomacy is characterised by continuity and change: continuity of some aspects of its methodology amidst an ever changing content. On methodology, Richelieu's dictum about the need 'to negotiate continuously, directly as well as in more devious ways and in all places' would hold good for all times.

Representation is central to the process of diplomacy. The world of the 21st Century would increasingly be poly-centric and multi-layered, necessitating diplomatic representation at various levels and with the state, multilateral and non-state actors of relevance. As this process gathers momentum, our Foreign Office and diplomats would need to deal with two distinct stakeholders:

- Internally, with a multitude of other state and sub-state agencies with external interests, wishing to exercise diplomatic and quasi-diplomatic functions;
- Externally, with new non-state actors engaged in diplomacy-like functions.

The first problem of representation is the need for the external competencies

of different government departments to be well integrated with our bilateral and multilateral diplomatic structures and mechanisms. This is particularly true of Ministries of Defence, Finance, Home, Commerce and Industry, Petroleum, Coal, Mines, Agriculture, Water Resources, Human Resource Development, Atomic Energy and Space. The same would hold for the state governments that are looking for enhanced international exposure and official presence outside India, with unique branding for purposes of attracting tourists, capital, technology and expertise.

States that are in border areas have a natural cultural and economic interest in our foreign policy orientation towards our neighbours. Furthermore, changes in the international situation are impelling state governments to seek some form of diplomatic representation. Policy areas that fall within their jurisdiction such as environment, agriculture, public health, transportation, law and order, and culture are increasingly coming under the ambit of multilaterally negotiated conventions and regimes. Thus, for example, state governments would be called upon to devise and implement the bulk of the adaptation and mitigation strategies under Climate Change related Environmental Agreements. Likewise, FTA and CEPA agreements entered into with other nations or regional organisations, or commitments made under WTO agreements, impose obligations and constraints in areas of jurisdiction of state governments.

Thus, Indian diplomacy would have to creatively deal with the pressures for such sub-State Diplomacy and devise means to address the concerns and facilitate achievement of the objectives of our state governments. While the Ministry's institutional response has been to open Branch Offices in a few State Capitals, a more robust institutional and systemic response rooted in mandatory dialogue and consultation mechanisms with sub-national territorial units might need to be crafted for the purpose.

The second problem of representation, in its external dimension, is more problematic. Classical diplomacy has been the exclusive preserve and domain of nation-states. As we survey the practice of diplomacy worldwide, we observe that the departure from the classical definition is very definitive. A range of new non-state actors have emerged on the global scene to engage in diplomatic or quasi-diplomatic activities to further their objectives. These include NGOs focused on environment, human rights and labour issues, international sports bodies, professional federations, business and multinational corporations and academic institutions.

Our diplomacy would have to find means of representation with, and access to, these new actors and engage with them to defend and promote our national interests. Traversing these uncharted waters would be tricky and would have to be carefully calibrated in view of the strong linkages of many of them with



Indian civil society and NGOs, Indian business and industry, our Pravasi Bharatiya Community, and our polity and economy.

In a delectable quote, the late Mr. Y.D. Gundevia cited Jawaharlal Nehru's remark that that India's foreign policy 'was so simple that even an Ekkawala in Lucknow could claim to understand it'. Mr. Gundevia added, more substantively, that India was not in any country's orbit but was rotating on its own axis as part of the great galaxy of nations.

Interestingly enough, a report on Global Trends 2025 published in 2008 by the National Intelligence Council of the United States had this to say about India:

"India's growing international confidence, derived primarily from its economic growth and its successful democratic record, now drives New Delhi towards partnerships with many countries. However, these partnerships are aimed at maximising India's autonomy, not at aligning India with any country or international coalition."

As in the past, it will be the job of Indian diplomacy to explain our axis to the world and to our citizens. Our Ambassadors, true to their calling would remain, in the words of Nizam ul Mulk, 'generally censorious and always on the look out to see what faults and what virtues there are' in the nations to which they are assigned.

I thank Amb. Satish Chandra and the Association of Indian Diplomats for inviting me today."



**005. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on 'Women in Public Service' at the DRDO Workshop on "Worldwide Women's Leadership and Critical Success Factors for R&D".**

**New Delhi, March 16, 2011.**

Dr. Arun Kumar, Outstanding Scientist and Director, Personnel

Ms. Akila Krishnakumar, Country Head & COO M/s Sungard Technology Services

Dr. V.K. Saraswat, SA to RM, Secretary, Defence R&D and

Ms. Alka Suri, Chairperson, Women's Cell, DRDO Hqrs

I am extremely pleased to be present here at the inaugural session of the workshop on "Worldwide Women's Leadership and Critical Success Factors for Research and Development" organized by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Let me briefly speak about the importance of DRDO in developing comprehensive military capabilities before I move to the subject of 'women in public service' in view of the theme of this years' workshop.

The country is proud of the contributions made by our scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Through individual brilliance and outstanding team work they have come up with products of great scientific and technological distinction, often achieved against considerable odds given the international restrictions that were in place for several decades.

DRDO has over the past five decades made its mark in diverse fields, from the development of our Integrated Missile Development Programme, the Main Battle-Tank, the Light Combat Aircraft, the BRAHMOS Missile to a number of other systems essential for the country's strategic deterrence capabilities. Our armed forces are better poised to defend our country in diverse terrains, be it mountain or desert warfare, due to equipment designed and developed by DRDO. A number of the products developed by DRDO have also found commercial use in the civilian sectors of our economy.

While India is committed to building an environment of peace and cooperation with all our neighbours and we have no desire to engage in any arms race that would divert resources from the developmental priorities, it is important for a large country like ours to develop comprehensive military capabilities. The DRDO has played a crucial role as part of our indigenous efforts on critical

technologies of strategic value where the country has no option but to rely on its own efforts.

The DRDO is a centre of national excellence with over 30,000 scientific and technical personnel, of which about 14% are women. It brings together our best scientific minds. I am confident that it will rise to the challenges of the future to make our nation truly proud of its achievements.

Let me now turn to the issue of women in public service. A few days back on 8 March, we celebrated the first centenary of the International Women's day. Debates on the level and progress in empowerment and advancement of women have been held regularly by the government, media and civil society alike.

When we consider the issue of women empowerment we realize that it commences from the basic unit of human life - the family itself. The role of women in the family, their decision-making capabilities, the level of their education, respect for their rights and their dignity, care of their health are all building blocks or enablers for the larger role that they can play in a nation's development. It was Gandhiji who said that women are mentally, spiritually and intellectually, equals of men. That fundamental premise should guide our endeavour to permit the role and the space for women as equal partners in the progress India is making today.

Some estimates have put the number of women at around 8% in the top ten civil services. This is certainly not commensurate with the profile of a rising and developing India where 50% of the population are women. While women are largely underrepresented in the civil service, few sectors can compare with the impact and influence of the rising role of women in public service. We have seen them challenging the concept of the glass ceiling, breaking gender barriers and stereotypes and rising to the top through their sheer hard work and dedication.

Women in public service play an important part in bringing their voice and talent to shape the issues that guide our development. And as their voices become heard and their contributions acknowledged they can inspire their younger sisters to enter the workplace in even larger and larger numbers. Gender sensitivity in formulating policies that encourage the participation of women in public service, and in business and industry is a vital requirement in this process. Empowered and self-confident women serve as role models to many others who look upto them for inspiration and motivation. There is this multiplier effect as they become the driving force for many others.

There remain barriers for women seeking elected office or hoping to climb the ladder in the public service. But these barriers are not as high as many assume

and are certainly not insurmountable. The government has also taken a number of measures to address discrimination against women, strengthen existing institutions which include the legal system, provide better access to education, health care and other services, equal opportunities for women's participation in decision-making, and mainstreaming gender concerns in the development process, etc. With the amendments to the Constitution allowing for political empowerment of women through 33% reservation of women in rural and urban local bodies, there are today more than one million elected women representatives in panchayats in India. Another bill, already passed by Rajya Sabha, is presently under consideration of Lok Sabha, and if passed, will provide 33% reservation for women in parliament and State Legislatures, and will be a significant step in ensuring greater political participation of women at national level.

Speaking of India, we see before us a number of eminent women who have distinguished themselves in various professions - in social work, in education, in science, in administration, in law and, of course, in politics. With the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, leader of the ruling party, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, all being women, this is certainly a positive development and provides impetus to the cause of women empowerment. I must also mention here the praise and admiration that has come the way of the all-female contingent of women police from India who were engaged in UN Peacekeeping Operations in Liberia. They have done the nation proud. I also recall the exemplary courage and selflessness shown by Major Mitali Madhumita, a serving officer of the Army Education Corps and the first woman to be awarded the Sena Medal for her gallantry during the terrible attack by Taliban terrorists on a guest house in Kabul in February 2010 in which nineteen persons including seven Indians were killed and when she rescued several injured comrades.

Right from the times of Ms. C.B Muthamma, whose brilliance shone right through her work and who we all fondly remember as the first woman career diplomat of India, the history of women in the Indian civil services is replete with inspirational accounts of women who performed to the best of their abilities with steadfast commitment and dedication. Their life stories tell how they brought about transformational change both at home and abroad and when we remember their contribution to this nation, we do so with a sense of immense pride and respect.

The position of women in the Foreign Service has seen a sea change since the days of pioneers in the field such as Ambassadors Mutthama and Rukmini Menon. Miss Mutthama's was a story of how a woman with strong determination and the courage of her conviction can challenge the whole system, setting in motion the wheel of change.

Today, women comprise almost 11-12 per cent of the Indian Foreign Service. This increase is reflected not only in numbers but also in career profile and service conditions. Today there is no country or posting which is considered out of bounds for a woman officer in the Foreign Service. Coincidentally, the two most recent cases of evacuation of Indian nationals from Libya this year and Lebanon in 2008 were very ably handled by women Ambassadors.

In the world of diplomacy, one is reminded of what Madeleine Albright said when discussing the differences between women and the men as diplomats. The greatest difference she felt was that the women diplomats paid greater attention to the context of a particular problem while their male counterparts tended to look exclusively at the problem in hand. She also felt that the women's aptitude for developing relationships was an important factor in furthering diplomatic relations. This is an interesting observation coming from an extremely well-regarded contemporary woman diplomat and international relations specialist.

A greater participation by women in the civil service would definitely bring in the much needed balance in terms of gender representation. When women increasingly participate in the execution and implementation of issues of concern to them, and to the nation both at home and abroad, they become agents of change and transformation. They will inspire others to join in and replicate such efforts. This will be the touchstone of gender empowerment in the true sense of the term. It will reflect well on India's democracy to allow its women an even greater voice in the times to come.

Turning to the DRDO, I am aware of the stellar contributions being made, by our women scientists who are joining the Organization in larger numbers. The role of women in science is to be particularly prized and celebrated because they are pioneers in every sense - innovators, inventors, and initiators of new paths and areas of scientific development and discovery - whether in basic research, life sciences, aeronautics, computer science and armaments and missile technologies. The nation salutes their achievements.

I will conclude by quoting our former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi who said that "to be liberated, woman must feel free to be herself, not in rivalry to man but in the context of her own capacity and her personality. We need women to be more interested, more alive and more active not because they are women but because they do comprise half the human race. Whether they like it or not, they cannot escape their responsibility nor should they be denied its benefits".

I wish you all happiness, and higher and higher achievement, in your efforts to build a modern, progressive and developed India. Thank you



**006. Keynote Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the India Today Conclave.**

**New Delhi, March 18, 2011.**

Thank you Arun for inviting me to speak at this important gathering of intellectuals that brings together a wide range of issues, opinions, ideas and insights into contemporary affairs.

The subject of this year's Conclave is indeed, thought provoking. Looking around us, not just in India but at the world around us as well, it is clear that the balance of power has indeed shifted, both within and between states.

If there is one defining characteristic of the changes that we see in India and the world, it is the shift in power towards the ordinary citizen.

In India, we have seen rapid economic change and growth since 1991. What is less evident but equally significant is the fundamental deepening of our democracy that has been brought about through the empowerment of local institutions, broadened civil society action and a policy of inclusive social and economic growth. This has led to a shift in power from the institutions of state to the citizens of our country.

In 1991, we unleashed the entrepreneurial energies of our people by dismantling the license-permit raj. This released individual creative energies to produce the wealth that we need for fulfilling our responsibility of offering a life of equal opportunity and dignity to our citizens.

The policies of the Government in recent times have sought to remake the democratic state of India, to make processes of social and economic change more inclusive and thereby empowering over a billion people, one sixth of humanity. It is in fact a mandate that derives from our Constitution.

We have sought to make political democracy meaningful through social democracy by addressing the specific needs of excluded or marginalized sections of our society like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and women. We are committed to providing reservation to women to the extent of 50% in local bodies and up to a third in the state legislatures and in our Parliament.

We have sought to bridge several divides in our country simultaneously: the infrastructural divide through Bharat Nirman, the educational divide through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education, the health divide through the National Rural Health Mission and exclusion through targeted affirmative action programmes for minorities, Scheduled Castes and by restoration of the

rights of indigenous people or Scheduled Tribes over forests and forest produce. We are moving towards providing broadband connectivity to all our 2,50,000 panchayats so that modern technology is harnessed for the empowerment of our citizens.

We have introduced landmark legislations that provide citizens the Right to Information, the Right to Education and the Right to Work through the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

We have intensified our efforts for the emancipation of our women. Our efforts to create equal educational opportunities through targeted programmes for girls' education and specific economic programmes focused on women particularly through self-help groups are all gradually bearing fruit. Our major challenge going forward is to give our women political voice and to work out and implement effective strategies for gender equality.

We have sought to capitalize on the opportunities that come in the way of decentralization of power. It is heartening to see that the modern sectors of our economy are also beginning to understand the value of operating at the bottom of the pyramid and combining public welfare with the pursuit of profit.

The focus is to create a skilling revolution in our country that touches every nook and corner. This needs everyone to collaborate - the Central and State Governments, the private sector, developers of technology, NGOs and others. Through the Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development we have been working on this and now that the recession is behind us, and we are coming out with a blueprint for the skill revolution in the next two months.

We have in our country not yet evolved a fully satisfactory system for reconciling harmoniously the demands of growth and environment. We need to move away from seeing the environment-development debate as a zero-sum game and instead devise win-win combinations. A lot of intellectual effort is needed to operationalize the concept of sustainable development. This should challenge the imagination of our environment and development planners. The tragic nuclear incidents in Japan in the aftermath of the recent earthquake and tsunami should make us revisit strategies for nuclear safety, learning lessons from these experiences. I have already ordered a thorough review by the Department of Atomic Energy.

We live today in an age when science and technology and the growth of human knowledge are becoming major determinants of the power and wealth of nations. India's ability to carve out a place for itself in the evolving comity of nations will be determined by our ability to use science and technology in accelerating the processes of social and economic change.

What we have attempted in India is, of course, specific to Indian conditions. But the human desire for more freedom and for citizens to decide their own future is universal. The shift of power to citizens is today a global phenomenon.

As a democracy we are happy to see our brothers in West Asia and North Africa taking an increasing role in determining their own future. These are decisions for countries and their citizens to take for themselves, free of outside interference or coercion. India will do what it can to support the decisions that the people and countries of the region take about their own future. As close neighbours and historical friends, we have a major stake in their peaceful, orderly evolution. Over 6 millions of our citizens live and work in this area.

India's trade, economic and human ties with the countries of South Asia, East Asia and West Asia are deep and historical. We have to find new pathways of cooperation with these countries to create new opportunities for growth and development.

The balance is also shifting between states in the global system. The old order is clearly changing. A new order however is yet to be born. No country has a greater interest and stake than India in a rule-based and predictable international system within which we can grow and develop.

Our existing institutions of global governance need to change to reflect today's shift in balance. To some extent, this is already happening in regard to the global economy. India, today participates fully and meaningfully in international economic institutions, particularly the G-20 which has emerged in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2008 as the preferred and primary forum for global economic issues. We seek a similar evolution in the international handling of political, security and other issues and a democratization of institutions like the United Nations Security Council to bring them in line with present day realities.

It is important that all major powers work together to address the major economic and political challenges that face us, including those involving non-state actors. Cooperation to deal with cross border terrorism is very important.

Problems such as piracy require cooperative solutions by several states, acting together both to prevent piracy on the high seas and to eliminate the causes which make these possible. India has a strong interest in the security of the sea lanes. Our Navy has done a commendable task in foiling attempts at piracy in the Arabian Sea and it is working with international navies of the Horn of Africa.

The shifts in the balance of power and its implications suggest that we need to adapt ourselves. In many ways, India is well placed to take advantage of the changes in the balance of international forces. We can contribute to the world's



recovery from the recent financial and economic crisis. We can become a pole of political stability in an uncertain world. But for all this we will need to show innovation and flexibility in our approaches. Some inadequacies have become apparent in our systems of functioning. We have to deal squarely with the malaise of corruption. We need to reform and improve governance at all levels.

I am sure that your deliberations in this conclave will contribute to a more informed debate on all the issues that this important topic raises.

With these few words, I wish your conclave every success.



**007. Interaction of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the senior journalists of the *Indian Express* in the "Idea Exchange" programme.**

**New Delhi, March 20, 2011.**

**Shubhajt Roy:** Leaked US diplomatic cables refer to an alleged attempt by the Congress to buy MPs before the 2008 no-confidence motion. Do you think that the end justified the means?

**Mrs. Rao:** We have no means to verify the authenticity of what is contained in that particular document. Cables from a diplomatic mission anywhere in the world, regardless of which Embassy is sending them to their central headquarters, are privileged communications and fall within the category of diplomatic immunity. Even in the legal sense, the content referred to is hearsay and you cannot take it as evidence. The Indo-US civil nuclear deal is of benefit to the country. It enhances and enlarges the scope of opportunity for India to access technology for the generation of electricity through nuclear technologies that will now become available. After the nuclear deal was concluded with the US, negotiations on civil nuclear cooperation are on with a number of countries. So I think history will make the right judgment and I think the judgment will be that India did benefit.

**Shubhajt Roy:** Given the crisis in Japan, is evacuation of Indians living there on the government's mind?

**Mrs. Rao:** Some countries have announced their decision to encourage the evacuation of their nationals. We are in touch with the Department of Atomic Energy and with an Indian scientist who is posted in Tokyo with the World

Association of Nuclear Operators. We are looking at the data which is coming out from the Japanese side and we are making our assessments on that basis. If electricity is restored and they can ensure that the reactors cool properly, the situation will naturally improve. At this moment, one doesn't have any surety on that.

**Amitabh Sinha:** When a diplomat sends a cable back home, how much of it is mere reporting of facts and how much of it is a value judgment, an assessment of the situation?

**Mrs. Rao:** Diplomatic cables, by virtue of their security classification, will contain not only facts and figures but also an analysis—that is why a security classification would be given to a diplomatic cable. Such communications are not supposed to be leaked to the public.

**Amitabh Sinha:** Who is authorised at a mission to send cables?

**Mrs. Rao:** Technically, any diplomatic officer can send a cable but since we function in hierarchies, it would have to be authorised by the head of the wing. It could be the deputy chief of mission, it could be the ambassador.

**Coomi Kapoor:** Are Indian diplomatic cables as indiscreet and as well-written as American cables?

**Mrs. Rao:** I can assure you they are extremely well-written and they offer candid assessments. A great deal of care is taken over what you write in a cable.

**Dilip Bobb:** After WikiLeaks, is there any other way of sending cables back to the country?

**Mrs. Rao:** I don't think telepathy functions as a means of diplomatic communication as yet!

**Smita Aggarwal:** Could you give us a sense of what went on behind the scenes during the evacuation of Indians from Libya?

**Mrs. Rao:** There were an estimated 18,000 Indians in Libya. The decision to evacuate them was taken at the end of February. Libya is a fairly big country, almost half the size of India if you go by area. Our people were scattered all over the country. People said the Chinese were quicker than us in evacuating their people. In Libya, the Chinese were basically workers in Chinese projects without their families and were easy to take out. We had a mix of people, from blue-collared workers to professionals like doctors, teachers and engineers—many living with their families. We had to plan carefully to ensure nobody was harmed and everybody was evacuated. We had to get clearances for movement

of our planes and our ships into trouble areas. As for the Libyan government, when it came to clearances for evacuation, they were quite forthcoming. The Indian community organised itself and they helped with the evacuation. So far, 16,200 Indians have been evacuated. There was excellent coordination between the MEA, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Ministries of Defence, Civil Aviation and the state governments. I must also commend Air India for rising to the occasion.

**Anubhuti Vishnoi:** You and the MEA have embraced social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Now we have WikiLeaks exploding in the face of the world. What's your view of WikiLeaks? Have they done something criminal? Or is this a wake up call for transparency?

**Mrs. Rao:** Social networking sites and WikiLeaks are very different. With Facebook and Twitter, you want to access the medium because you want to put out perfectly legitimate messages-about your work or a certain policy decision. You use it to expand outreach and for advocacy. Diplomats today can't be involuted, they have to reach out. As far as WikiLeaks is concerned, these are cables that have security classifications. In WikiLeaks, certain codes were broken-a code of diplomatic practice and convention. Regardless of advancements in modern communications, certain communications will always stay outside the public domain, and should, if national security is to be protected. Certain channels must remain restricted.

**Anubhuti Vishnoi:** Indian students-from Australia to the UK and USA-are facing difficulties. How much is it an issue of concern for you?

**Mrs. Rao:** It's an issue of great concern. We have about 100,000 Indian students studying in the USA today. Generally, they have faced no substantive difficulty. As for the Tri-Valley case, it was clearly an illegal operation and 1,500 of our students were innocent victims. Our effort after this scandal broke was to reach out to students to provide legal advice and to work with the Department of Homeland Security, with the State Department. On the radio tagging incident-out of 18 students, there is only one who has a radio tag and I hope that would be removed shortly. Some students are still being questioned by US authorities. In the case of a large number of students who everybody believes are innocent, we are trying to see how they can adjust their visa status after they obtain admission to bonafide universities. Those who want to come back should be allowed to come back. That's the kind of involvement we have and that's why I say diplomacy is a service industry today. You have to be able to reach out and be accessible.

**Pranab Dhal Samanta:** What is your prognosis of how things are evolving in Pakistan? We face a Sino-Pak nexus on various issues, we have our problems with China that get complicated by the day.

**Mrs. Rao:** We have commenced the process of re-engagement with Pakistan. Later this month, the Home Secretary will meet his counterpart. This will be followed by a dialogue of the Commerce Secretaries. We have a sequence of meetings that will lead up to the meetings of the Foreign Secretaries just before our Foreign Ministers meet, hopefully in July. Through this, we seek to demonstrate that despite the complexity of the problems that populate our relationship, the best option is to engage with Pakistan and see how we can reduce differences, reduce the trust deficit between the two countries. Now Pakistan has been assuring us that it is equally concerned about terrorism and that it is as much a victim of terrorism today as any other country in the region. We have to see whether these assurances will translate into a permanent stoppage of terrorism against India and we want to hold them to that assurance. Meanwhile, we have begun this process of re-engagement because to keep the relationship in a state of complete non-communication is not good for the two countries or for peace and stability in the region. It's a modest attempt. We are not going in with inflated expectations. But we want to approach it with an open mind.

With China, there is a certain way in which we have managed the relationship over the years despite the fact that we have many complex issues that remain unresolved. Over the last decade, we have had many rounds of discussions on how to resolve complicated issues, like the boundary issue, on which differences still persist. But we have put mechanisms in place to maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas. We have engaged with China across a whole spectrum of issues at various levels. At the defence level too, until the deceleration in contact occasioned by the difficulties in the proposed visit of our Northern Army Commander to China. We are trying to resolve these differences. It was also tied to the issues of stapled visas to residents of Jammu and Kashmir on which we have had a very strong position and we have told the Chinese that this is not acceptable to us. The Chinese have assured us that they are working on a solution. We will have to verify this assurance. In recent weeks, there has not been an instance of a stapled visa being issued to a J&K resident, although we had this issue with Arunachal Pradesh.

**M K Venu:** There are some concerns at the highest level of government that the Chinese are funding massive infrastructure projects in India and funding private sector companies to build infrastructure of such a magnitude that nearly 20 per cent of India's power capacity will be hypothecated to Chinese. How do you look at this?

**Mrs. Rao:** It's under the scanner at the moment. We are aware of the involvement and increasing presence of Chinese companies, especially in infrastructure, particularly in the power sector, and that funding is being provided

to some of our companies for the purchase of machinery from China. The point is how do we deal with it? The long-term measures include building up capability within the country and building our own domestic manufacturing capabilities. In the short term, we have to embed the Chinese in a rule based system. We have to build more areas of reciprocity. If they are going to be coming in such a big way, then we should be able to demand similar access for our companies and businesses.

**Amitabh Sinha:** Will the Japan crisis impact our plans to expand the nuclear sector in any way? Also, we have high value collaborative projects like Posco or Jaitapur which have run into environmental obstacles. Do these become irritants in our relations with countries who are stakeholders in such projects?

**Mrs. Rao:** There are two aspects to the nuclear issue, one is development and the other is the issue of safety. The DAE has been very categorical in affirming that our safety standards rank among the best in the world-we are not talking about using 40-year old technologies, we are talking about the latest technology. And nuclear energy is part of the energy mix that we want to provide to this country for clean energy, green energy. Events in Japan should be an opportunity to be even more vigilant about the safety aspects of the plants that we build. I think we should trust the atomic energy establishment on this.

On the question of business, investors come with full knowledge of the fact that being a democracy, there will always be a lively debate about these issues-this is not the only country where there have been protests about a site or a certain location, and there is an environment lobby that wants to make its point on this. As for being an irritant in our bilateral relations, I think by and large the record that manifests itself in the last few years is of increasing investor confidence in India.

**Prajakta Hebbar:** The Chinese programme similar to Google Earth had shown parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as Chinese territory. How do you react to this?

**Mrs. Rao:** We do not react favorably to such reports. The way they represent the border with India, we don't accept that, we have not accepted it in the past and we do not intend to accept it in the future. Similarly, they don't accept the way we represent the border. So what is the solution to that? Obviously we need the negotiations to move forward and come to some mutually satisfactory settlement.

**Coomi Kapoor:** What is the percentage of women in the IFS now?

**Mrs. Rao:** It is about 13-14 per cent. But the numbers are going up. And the quality of the jobs we are doing has completely transformed from what it was

30 years ago. My generation of women diplomats has certainly been able to take on very challenging assignments and there has been no discrimination between genders when it comes to posting you somewhere and giving you sensitive assignments.

**Ritu Kant Ojha:** Whenever Indians face any harassment in a foreign location, the response of the Indian government has been slow-that is the perception. Take the case of piracy and the Indians held hostage.

**Mrs. Rao:** Not a single Indian ship has been taken hostage ever since our Navy started patrolling the international maritime transit corridor in the Gulf of Aden. In the last four-five years, a number of foreign flagged ships with Indian sailors have been taken hostage, and a number of ships have been released; not a single Indian life has been lost. At the moment, there are five foreign ships held by pirates and there are Indian sailors among the hostages. The perception here is that the Indian government should move in and somehow rescue them, but it does not work like that in any country. The ship owners deal with the pirates who want a ransom; the government does not intervene in negotiations. Media hype on these issues is not helping the negotiations and nobody is focusing on the pirates, and the crime of piracy. I think we need a certain course correction here.



**008. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the release of 'India's National Security - Annual Review 2010'.**

**New Delhi, April 19, 2011.**

Ambassador Rasgotra, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Foundation for National Security Research,

Prof Satish Kumar, Editor of India's National Security Annual Review (INSAR) 2010,

Distinguished Members of the Governing and Editorial Boards,

Distinguished scholars, experts and guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to have released a short while ago India's National Security Annual Review 2010, brought out by the Foundation for National Security Research. In the past decade or so, the Review has established its usefulness for those who wish to understand security challenges we face and the responses we need, evolve and implement. The Review brings to its readers valuable views of leading security experts.

As I say this, ladies and gentlemen, I think I must pause to pay homage to one such leading expert, Mr K Subrahmanyam, commonly referred to as the doyen of the Indian strategic affairs community. His sterling contribution greatly helped our understanding of our national security challenges and shaped responses to many of them. He was and will be an inspiration to generations of strategic thinkers and security experts. The void created by his demise in February this year will be difficult to fill. I will personally miss his deep analysis and well-thought prescriptions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I began my public life about five decades ago, the concept of security was more or less akin to military prowess. And then, I remember that about two decades later, when I participated in the UN First Committee as a Member of our Parliament, the thought was beginning to gain ground that the world will be a safer place with fewer weapons, including fewer weapons of mass destruction.

However, in a matter of a few more years, in a geo-politically altered post-Cold War world, a host of new challenges to our individual and collective security - terrorism, environment, economic downturn, energy and cyber security - to name a few, had acquired a new and threatening enormity. These have today

become central to the discourse on national security in a manner which a few decades ago was perhaps the sole domain of armed territorial aggression.

In less than a lifetime, the imperatives of national security have changed radically.

In case of our own country, immediate challenges before us at the time of Independence were defending our unity and territorial integrity, and generating enough in the economy to meet the needs of a growing population.

In the course of about sixty five years, our country has emerged stronger through armed aggressions imposed on us. Our GDP has increased from low double digit in billion US Dollars to over a trillion US dollars. Even as the population has grown about four times, we produce more than four times food grain than we produced in 1950. And yet we have managed to relegate the share of agriculture in national economy. Hundreds of millions have been pulled out of poverty and illiteracy and the resultant death and disease. Sustained high growth since economic reforms and liberalization introduced in early 1990s has put India as the fourth largest economy in the world, behind EU, US, China and Japan, on Purchasing Power Parity.

As a result of these historical achievements, which are underpinned by the strength of our democratic institutions, we are, in general, better prepared today to comprehend the security challenges we are faced with, and to respond to them effectively.

At the same time, changes in the global security, geo-political and economic landscapes have entailed new challenges, which I just referred to. They have also introduced nuances in the more traditional ones. I am happy that INSAR 2010, which has just been released, provides deep analytical insights into them.

Although making the distinction between 'internal' and 'external' challenges in today's enormously interconnected world is meaningless beyond a point, yet, I think this is a useful categorization to understand the direction and the thrust of the effort to address them. I agree with Prof. Kumar that our biggest internal challenge is with regard to economic security of the country. In my view, the mantra to meet this challenge is 'inclusive growth'. It is the surest way to address the threats posed by left wing extremism. Innovative public-private partnership will play an increasingly important role in meeting our socio-economic objectives.

Our external environment is very different from what prevailed towards the end of the last century. The multipolarity of today's world implies less of stability and predictability. In addition, there are: shift in the world's economic centre of gravity away from the US and Europe, the global economic crisis, and



competition among fast growing economies for resources to meet their developmental and economic challenges.

Our foreign policy seeks to address challenges arising from beyond our borders so as to secure an enabling external environment for the pursuit of our national objective of development. While, it may not be possible for me to speak of each and every challenge or task in external policy domain, I would touch upon a few briefly.

Terrorism is perhaps the single biggest challenge rooted in our external environment. It is an extremely complex challenge. India has been victim of cross-border terrorism for decades. After 26/11, we have, on one hand, sought to improve our counter-terrorism capabilities, and on the other reached out to the world in an unprecedented manner to stress the need for bringing to justice expeditiously all those responsible for the Mumbai terrorist attack.

With Pakistan, we have pursued the path of dialogue to reduce the trust deficit and to resolve all outstanding issues in a spirit of openness and in the hope that we can build a better future for the peoples of both countries. At the same time, we have never abandoned our concerns about the need to eliminate cross-border terrorism.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan had a wide-ranging conversation when they met in Mohali to witness the cricket match between India and Pakistan. We won the match despite our traditions of being gracious hosts.

The meeting of the two leaders once again reaffirmed our intention to take forward the process of dialogue through which we can resolve outstanding issues.

As you would be aware, the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan met last month and had a very positive round of discussions. The Commerce Secretaries of the two countries will meet this month in Islamabad. There will be a series of other meetings, leading to the meetings of Foreign Secretaries, and Foreign Ministers of the two countries. As the Prime Minister said recently, the aim of this process is normalization of relations with Pakistan. Hopefully, this normalization will take into account India's vital concerns. On our part, we shall be always ready to address Pakistan's concerns as long as the mechanism is dialogue.

China is our largest neighbour and we have sought to structure our relationship with that country based on the principles of mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and the need to peacefully resolve outstanding issues through painstaking negotiations. This is a path that we have pursued with careful

deliberation, conscious always of the need to defend our security interests and to carefully monitor Chinese activities in our neighbourhood.

Last week, Prime Minister had a very productive, warm and friendly meeting with President Hu Jintao on the margins of BRICS Summit at San Ya. Among the understandings reached is an agreement in principle on establishing a working mechanism for consultation and coordination on border affairs. This will handle important border affairs relating to maintaining peace and tranquility. We would hope that this mechanism would allow the two countries to take their relationship in a positive direction.

India is engaged closely with and in global and regional cooperation structures, such as ASEAN, ARF, IBSA, G-20, SCO and EU. Last week's Summit of the BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -confirmed that these emerging countries have almost the same views on major issues that confront the world. Whether it is the question of establishing a more equitable and a fair world, or coordination of macroeconomic policies, BRICS has emerged as a major voice in the world.

A seminal development of last year was India's election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member with a record 187 out of 190 votes. Our Membership provides us an opportunity to contribute to the decision making affecting peace and security in various regions of the world, including our own. This we are doing with a voice of reason and moderation, as would be clear from our active and constructive role in the Council's deliberations, beginning with discussions on the UN Mission in Nepal in January, the Sudan referendum, the Ivory Coast situation, developments in Middle East, including Libya and the issue of piracy involving Somalia. India is also chairing two important committees, namely, the Counter-terrorism Committee, and the Committee concerning Somalia and Eritrea.

As you would be aware, with over 8,700 personnel, India is the third largest contributor to UN Peace Keeping. This reflects our commitment to global security and peace, and also our faith in the words that peace and security are indivisible.

India has to remain alert for responding to the developments in the Middle East and the Gulf, regions with which we have traditionally close ties. About 6 million Indians live and work there. The regions provide over two-thirds of our oil imports. Our effort is directed at ensuring safety of our nationals and securing our interests in the widest sense of the word.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I would like to briefly touch upon another area which has security dimensions. We see with great sorrow the death and devastation

wrought by natural disaster, most recently in Japan. After the Tsunami of 2004, we took a number of steps to significantly enhance warning and disaster relief capabilities. A recent indication of the efficacy of these measures came in the form of the touching appreciation for our 48-strong National Disaster Response Force team, which carried out rescue and relief work in the worst affected Miyagi prefecture for over two weeks. However, no level of development is defence enough against the vagaries of nature. We must be prepared, to our best, and always.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our age and times, national security is not an esoteric pursuit indulged in by a few grey or white haired scholars peering through their thick glasses over thicker jargon and producing even thicker articles. The growing multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral understanding of our national security issues and responses will benefit further from introduction of security in more institutions of higher learning in the country.

I am aware of the respect that our security scholars and research institutions command worldwide, and the camaraderie they enjoy with their international peers. I would advocate strengthening these institutional partnerships, and deepening the channels of communication between our strategic community and policy makers in the times to come.

As for the future, I recall that the February 2010 issue of the Quadrennial Defence Review of the US Department of Defence has been quoted in INSAR 2010 as follows:

"India has already established its worldwide military influence through counter piracy, peace keeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. As its military capabilities grow, India will contribute to Asia as a net provider of security in the Indian Ocean and beyond." Unquote.

The revised National Security Index, an analytical tool developed to understand where we stand on various security parameters, points to India emerging as the fourth most powerful nation of the world by 2025. I recollect what the captain of India's World Cup winning cricket team said a few days ago about his team's One Day International rankings: If we keep playing well, the rankings will take care of themselves.

With these words, I thank the Foundation for National Security Research for giving me the honour to launch INSAR 2010. I would like to compliment its Editor Prof Satish Kumar, and all the distinguished contributors.

The support to INSAR from National Security Council Secretariat, the

Confederation of Indian Industries and the publishers has been for a worthy cause, and I hope, will continue.

With the hope that the Review will contribute to wider debate and deeper understanding of a large number of issues that straddle the security horizon of our country, I thank you all for your attention.



**009. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the call by IFS Probationers on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.**

**New Delhi, May 11, 2011.**

The Prime Minister today met the probationers of the 2009 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. In his remarks to the probationers, the Prime Minister recalled the vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about an India that was free from poverty and hunger and the role of the civil service in contributing to national goals and meeting societal aspirations.

The Prime Minister observed that in an increasingly inter-dependent and uncertain world, the Indian Foreign Service had an important role to play in steering the country towards the path of socio-economic development. The Prime Minister highlighted some of the contemporary issues requiring special focus. These included issues of environmental security, the role of the international trading system and regional trading arrangements in overcoming the limitation of natural resources in the country, the question of international terrorism, national security, which requires particular attention to relations with India's neighbours and extended neighbourhood (South East Asia, Gulf and West Asia, Central Asia, Africa) and the importance of maintaining productive relations with the world's major powers. The Prime Minister noted that foreign policy should enable the release of resources from defence to achieve our development goals.



**010. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the Address of Defence Minister A. K. Antony at the Unified Commanders Conference on the Security in the Post-Osama Scenario".**

**New Delhi, May 20, 2011.**

The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony today asked the top brass of the Indian Armed Forces to continuously assess the security situation in our strategic neighbourhood in the aftermath of the elimination of Osama Bin Laden and remain prepared for any eventualities. Describing the US operations in Pakistan as 'a watershed in the global war on terror', Shri Antony said the event has 'internationally stamped' Pakistan's position as the core of terrorist activities in the region. Addressing the Unified Commanders Conference here, he said the ripples of this event will have wide ranging impact on our strategic neighbourhood.

Shri Antony said the security situation in Pakistan continues to be a cause for concern. He said despite supporting the war on terror, China continues to remain its main strategic partner. The Defence Minister said if any real progress is to be made in improving bilateral relations, Pakistan must take concrete action to dismantle terrorist infrastructure on its soil.

The two day annual conference was attended among others by the Minister of State for Defence Dr MM Pallam Raju, the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal PV Naik, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma, Chief of Army Staff Gen VK Singh and the Defence Secretary Shri Pradeep Kumar.

The Defence Minister said India has always desired friendly relation with all its neighbours. He said though we are not unduly concerned over China's moves to modernize and upgrade its military capability, we must on our part, keep up the ongoing process of upgrading our military structure. He expressed the hope that progress will be made in discussion with China on border dispute.

Dwelling on the ground situation in Jammu & Kashmir shri Antony said it has shown improvement over the past few months. The violence level has declined and the political processes have come to the forefront, due in a large measure, to the sustained efforts of our security forces. He, however, said that the armed forces need to keep up the vigil to ensure that the levels of violence are kept to the minimum. 'This calls for a lot of restraint and upholding the human rights of the local people, without compromising over all our preparedness to meet any evil designs'. Shri Antony said the summer months will be a crucial test of our response mechanism.

Referring to modernization in the armed forces shri Antony called upon the top brass to adopt a change in world view. "just as the old brick and mortar economies have given way to the new economic architecture across the world, so too modernization of our armed forces must chart a new path. The thrust for modernization and change has to be necessarily top driven and that is where your role assumes a crucial significance".

Turning to the welfare of the armed forces shri Antony said we have taken all possible steps to ensure that the soldiers and their families are cared for and looked after well. However, the onus of translating the government's intentions into reality lies with the commanders as the best of schemes and mechanisms can fail due to lack of proper and effective implementation, he said.

The Defence Minister informed the gathering that to address the issue of existing shortage of officers in the armed forces, an additional squadron is being raised at National Defence Academy. This squadron will have a capacity of 120 cadets and the total authorized capacity of NDA would be enhanced from 1800 to 1920 cadets.

Shri Antony complimented the armed forces for the quick rescue and relief operations during floods and mud slides in Leh and the delivery of aid to the affected people.



**011. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister Anand Sharma to Paris to address the OECD Ministerial meeting and attend various other engagements connected with trade development.**

**New Delhi, May 27, 2011.**

The Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma, visited Paris from 24-26 May to address the OECD ministerial meeting. During his visit he also participated in an informal meeting of trade ministers convened by Australia to take stock of progress of negotiations in WTO. He expressed satisfaction with the meeting, which was convened in a complex backdrop where negotiations had come to a near standstill with sharp differences between developed and developing world. Mr Sharma said that the meeting saw a unanimous resolve emerging among the ministers that a package of deliverables which had at its heart the interests of Least developed countries be accorded priority and efforts made to fast track negotiations in those areas for conclusion by end December. LDCs have a key interest in Duty free quota free market access as well as the issue of phasing out of cotton subsidies.

Earlier yesterday, he held substantive bilateral meeting with French Finance minister Christine Lagarde to explore opportunities of trade and investment cooperation between India and France. Shri Sharma identified joint technology development with a shared IPR regime as a key area of priority specially in high end technologies. He also mentioned energy, infrastructure, fashion, skill development and design as major priorities. They reaffirmed commitment of reaching bilateral trade of Euro 12 billion by 2012.

During his visit Shri Sharma also met EU trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht to take stock of progress of negotiations on India EU BTIA and expressed optimism for a conclusion of negotiations in 2011. He also held bilateral meetings with Argentinian trade minister Hector Timmerman and Australian trade minister Craig Emerson, apart from meeting DG WTO Pascal Lamy.

Shri Sharma also addressed leading business chambers of France seeking greater participation for foreign investment in India. In his discussion with French higher education minister, he expressed his strong support for the IIT Rajasthan project being supported by the French government.



**012. Inaugural Address of External Affairs Minister at the Haj Conference.**

**New Delhi, June 13, 2011.**

Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of Haj Committee of India,

Senior leaders and Hon'ble Members of Parliament,

Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs,

Honourable Members of Haj Committee of India,

Dr. Shaik Shakir Hussain, CEO, Haj Committee of India,

Honourable Chairpersons and Members of the State Haj Committees,

Distinguished Religious Scholars, Members of Media

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I consider it a singular privilege to be participating in the Annual Conference for Haj 2011. The Conference is an important occasion which provides an opportunity for stakeholders from all over the country to make a positive contribution to the preparations for the Haj pilgrimage, keeping the interests of our Hajis in mind.

I extend a very warm welcome to each one of you and hope that the deliberations of the Conference would be constructive and result in practical suggestions for improving the management of the Haj.

At the outset, I would like to express the Government's firm commitment to extend all possible assistance for successful Haj this year too, as has been done in previous years. The pilgrimage to the Holy places of Makkah and Madinah is both a cherished and life-long dream, and a sacred duty for millions of our brothers and sisters in India. We shall leave no stone unturned for making the fulfillment of their dream and duty as comfortable as we can.

You would be aware that a record number of one lakh seventy one thousand six hundred and seventy one pilgrims from our country performed Haj last year. The success of the operations was despite late start due to several court cases challenging various aspects of Haj policy and practice. This success could not have been possible without collective efforts of all stakeholders. I congratulate everyone concerned.

When I visited Saudi Arabia in March this year, I conveyed to the Saudi Government our Government's gratitude for the support extended to the Haj



Mission of India, and congratulated them on successful organization of Haj 2010. The Saudi Embassy in New Delhi and the Consulate in Mumbai deserve our sincere thanks for the support extended to us, including through the timely issue of Haj visas. I would like to thank specially His Excellency Mr. Faisal Hassan Trad, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for all his cooperation.

Given the fact that there has been a significant increase in the number of intending Haj pilgrims from India, the Government has requested the Saudi Government for an enhanced additional Haj quota. During my visit to Jeddah for the conclusion of the Bilateral Haj Agreement with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on March 26, 2011, I personally handed over the request for additional seats to the Saudi Minister for Haj.

Active preparations are underway for Haj 2011 and Review Meeting for Haj 2010 has been held in February 2011 in Jeddah.

Last year, a decision was taken to allow those Haj pilgrims who have applied unsuccessfully of three consecutive years to be automatically given a seat without having to participate in the draw of lots or Qurrah. This has already been implemented. Further, as part of our efforts to continuously improve Haj management, it has been decided to allocate confirmed seats to all the intending pilgrims over 70 years of age along with a companion, with effect from this year.

Among the many measures and reforms in the Haj process undertaken in the recent past are elections of zonal representatives, held last year. As members of the Haj Committee of India, these representatives make a valuable contribution. Other measures include increasing the number of embarkation points from 19 to 21; setting up an inter-Ministerial committee on charter flights for Haj pilgrims in order to provide better facilities; and opening a Helpline by our Consulate General in Jeddah for our pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

We are constantly monitoring the flow of passport applications and issuance of passports to Haj applicants with a view to ensuring that they get their passports in time to complete all other formalities. I am pleased to inform you that the Government has decided to give all the pilgrims selected by the Haj Committee of India passports with validity of eight months without police verification. Regional Passport offices have been advised to hold special passport adalats for the purpose.

I understand that the Haj Committee of India is making efforts to introduce standardized baggage system Haj.

I have also been informed that the Haj Committee of India is taking all necessary steps to hire accommodation for the pilgrims well in time. Over one lakh twenty

five thousand units have already been approved for hiring. Process is on for signing of agreement with the landlords.

I am happy to note that an important component of the Haj preparations, viz. training, is to be undertaken in several cities of India soon after this Conference. There is indeed need for proper orientation and training of pilgrims through the Haj Committee as well as the PTOs.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

In an exercise as gigantic as Haj, which involves many agencies outside our Ministry, outside the Government of India, and outside of our country, there would always be room for improvement.

Many of you would recall that three months ago, on March 7, a meeting of Members of Parliament belonging to the Muslim community was organized by us to elicit suggestions for improvements in management of Haj. Valuable suggestions received from Hon'ble colleagues meeting will go a long way in further improving facilities for Hajis and overall Haj management.

Before I conclude, I would like to assure all the distinguished participants that my Ministry is committed to solemnly carry out its constitutional responsibility for "Pilgrimages to places outside India", in consultation and coordination with other stakeholders.

I wish you all success in your deliberations. Thank you.



**013. Announcement by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs about the appointment of next Foreign Secretary.**

**New Delhi, June 27, 2001.**

The Ambassador of India to Paris Shri Ranjan Mathai who is an IFS officer of the 1974 batch, would be the next Foreign Secretary of India. He would have a two-year term. He assumes office on the 1st of August 2011.



**014. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on 'Key Priorities for India's Foreign Policy' at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.**

**London, June 27, 2011.**

It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to be back at the IISS on this warm Monday afternoon. India and the UK share a special and unique relationship- there are shared values and ties that bind us – with the ideals of democracy, the rule of law, inclusiveness and pluralism informing the political systems in both our nations. Our multi-faceted bilateral relationship with the UK was infused with further strength after its upgradation to the level of a strategic partnership in 2004. Importantly, the visit of Prime Minister David Cameron to India in July 2010 saw these relations elevated to an 'Enhanced Partnership for the Future'. You sense from all this that the partnership between our two democracies is going to further strengthen and deepen in the years to come.

As open, pluralistic societies, we understand well that respect for freedom and human rights must inform the emerging world order. We also take great pride in the fact that along with giving importance to our political, economic and commercial ties we emphasise our educational, scientific, tourism and cultural cooperation.

In global affairs, India holds as its lodestar the values and the ideals of multilateralism, peaceful coexistence, justice, freedom, equality and fraternity, which are required for an equitable and sustainable world order in the 21st century. With our vision firmly rooted in these values, we seek to engage the international community in essential reforms of the international governance system so that its much more tuned into the atmospheric space of the twenty first century.

Today, it is normal to speak of the dynamic Indian growth story despite the ravages of the global economic crisis. But to put your arms around the Indian experience, you must understand the nation as it has evolved and acquired its current attributes.

Our Republic is sixty one today, and, the course of our foreign policy also covers almost the same period. As the country has grown, so also our foreign policy has evolved, innovated and adjusted to changed global circumstances, in accordance with the national interest. A fundamental goal of India's foreign policy is to promote our economic growth targets and ambitions in a conducive and a peaceful, stable, external environment.

India is placed in an extremely complex neighbourhood which has seen rapid and often, turbulent, change in the last thirty years. A peaceful periphery is a

an irreducible requirement for the success of our efforts to accelerate domestic economic development. This thread runs through our foreign policy.

With our largest neighbour, China, we have consciously practised a policy of engagement that has yielded positive dividends. Although there is an unresolved boundary question between our two countries which should be settled on mutually acceptable terms, we have not held the rest of the relationship hostage to this complex issue. We have also collaborated usefully on a variety of multilateral issues.

With Pakistan, we have consistently made efforts to go back to the negotiating table to solve difficult issues. We have striven to promote better relations with Pakistan. Naturally, such relations can only grow in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The trajectory of our relationship over the last few decades has been distorted and adversely impacted by the factor of cross-border terrorism. A stable Pakistan which acts as a bulwark against terrorism and extremism is in its own interest and also in the interest of our region. I have just returned from a productive and positive round of talks with Foreign Secretary Bashir in Islamabad.

We help Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts with the aim of bringing peace and stability in that country. During his recent visit to Afghanistan (May 12-13, 2011), our Prime Minister announced an additional assistance of US \$ 500 million, over and above India's existing commitments of US \$ 1.5 billion. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. It places particular emphasis on capacity building and human resource development.

With Bangladesh, with whom we share the longest border among any of our neighbours, relations have improved significantly over the last two years. Our dialogue has yielded benefits for both countries, in a people-centred manner that stresses trade, connectivity, easier transit, development, and the enhancement of mutual security cooperation against insurgency and terrorism. There is enhanced trust and mutual confidence that oxygenates our relationship.

With Sri Lanka, the end of the civil war, has brought historic new opportunities for reconciliation between the Tamil and Sinhalese people and for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and economic development of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Mahatma Gandhi called India, Sri Lanka's "nearest neighbour". It is through that prism that we see our ties with this island nation.

The satisfactory conclusion of the peace process and constitution drafting are eagerly awaited goals in Nepal, both for the people of that country and for India because of the symbiotically close relations we share.

We have articulated a policy in our neighbourhood that emphasises the advantages of building networks of inter-connectivity, trade, and investment so that prosperity can be shared and so that the region can benefit from India's rapid economic growth and rising prosperity. We want to create an environment with our neighbours that enables us to work together to fulfill our common objectives of economic development.

In this context, I sense a new vigour and dynamism in the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which has completed 25 years of existence in 2010. This has been generated as a result of initiatives taken by the Member States in recent years that herald the move of the Association from a hitherto largely declaratory phase to an implementation phase. India's enhanced profile in SAARC in recent years is based on an asymmetrical and non-reciprocal approach where we are willing to go the extra mile in order to strengthen regional cooperation.

Our 'Look East' Policy enunciated in the early nineties, represented India's vision of the changing dynamics in international relations. It was meant, at a fundamental level, to reconnect and reach out in the civilizational space we share with our near neighbours in Southeast Asia, and catalyse the sharing of capacities and opportunities to improve the economic well-being of our peoples. Our relationship with ASEAN was the natural pivot in this deepening collaboration. It is a fact little recognized that India is as much a Southeast Asian nation as a South Asian nation, given the rich linguistic and ethnic mosaic of our Northeast, and the fact that we share borders with a large ASEAN nation – Myanmar. Our Andaman and Nicobar islands chain are also in the very close vicinity of Southeast Asia.

Two decades of India's Look East Policy have, therefore, seen India's quick integration with Southeast & East Asia at the strategic, political, economic, cultural and people-to-people levels. This to me also represents the renewal of the rich civilizational contact expressed in India's contact and interaction with this region in the annals of history.

India has strongly supported the process of reform and restructuring of the UN to make it better equipped to effectively respond to an era of transformational change in global affairs. India along with Brazil, Germany and Japan (together known as G-4 countries) have proposed expansion of the Security Council membership from the current fifteen to twenty-five members, with the addition of six permanent and four non-permanent members. The G-4 efforts have helped launch the text-based inter-governmental negotiations in the UN on the Security Council reform issue in July 2010. This was a significant development after many years of meandering discussion. The effort is an ongoing one, and support for reform and expansion from member countries is growing in a substantive manner.

India joined the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member on 1 January 2011 for a two-year term after winning a record number of votes. In these six months, our focus and effort has been concentrated on the need for resolution of conflict through reasoned negotiation and diplomatic means rather than the use of force. We have also supported the greater involvement of regional organizations like the African Union in the resolution of disputes within their regions.

India is one of the oldest, largest and consistent contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations. It is currently the third largest troop contributor with 8,691 personnel deployed with nine UN Peacekeeping Missions. The high standards of performance maintained consistently by the Indian troops and policemen, including our women personnel I might add, deployed on UN Missions under challenging circumstances have won them high regard.

As the chair of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism (1373) Committee (CTC), and the 1566 Working Group, we are committed to taking global counter-terrorism efforts forward.

We also consider the 1267 regime against Al Qaeda and Taliban as a core instrument available to the International community in our fight against terrorism. The challenge before the 1267 regime is to ensure complete commitment to eliminating the scourge of terrorism, and to resist the dilution of such efforts for reasons that may seem compelling today but may not withstand the test of ground realities.

Adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), a draft for which was proposed by India way back in 1996, is a key objective for us. We feel that with some modifications, the text currently being discussed in the Working Group [of the Sixth Committee of the UNGA] could find acceptability with the majority of Member States

India has committed its full support to international anti-piracy efforts. An Indian naval ship deployed in the Gulf of Aden has successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escort to several merchant ships in these waters. As a founder member of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), India actively participates in its deliberations and anti-piracy efforts. The Indian Navy also coordinates and shares operational information with other Navies under the Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) mechanism.

India has welcomed efforts for countering piracy by the enhancement of regional cooperation and capacity building of littoral states. India also

supports determined action against the kingpins, financiers and facilitators of piracy through tracking of financial flows. A key issue for India is the welfare of hostages in the custody of pirates.

India remains steadfast in its commitment to the goal of global, universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament, as outlined in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament in a verifiable manner. India is willing to engage in a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. India supports negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament towards a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable FMCT that bans the future production of fissile materials for weapons purposes.

Over the recent years, our Civil Nuclear Initiative has resulted in international civil nuclear energy cooperation with various international partners, including the US, France, UK, Russia, Canada, etc. This has reflected recognition of India's impeccable non-proliferation record and its contributions to global non-proliferation objectives. We have in place strict and effective controls over the export of sensitive items in line with the best international standards. India has expressed interest in the full membership of the four multilateral export control regimes which we believe will be mutually beneficial. We are engaged with the regimes and regime members and hope to make progress in that direction with the support of our partners, including the UK.

The tragic incident at the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan has raised world wide concerns about the safety aspects of nuclear power. The lessons learnt from the Fukushima incident will be useful for the global nuclear power industry. At the national level, India is taking measures to reassure our people about the safety of our nuclear power plants, including technical review of safety of our plants and strengthening the safety regulatory framework. We also participated in the recent IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in Vienna.

Climate change is an extraordinary global challenge facing humanity today and requires an urgent, collective and coordinated global response. For the developing countries, the issue of climate change goes beyond environmental sustainability and directly impacts on their developmental aspirations. The global effort to address climate change must be anchored to the basic principles of "equity" and "common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) and respective capabilities." Equitable burden sharing that provides for an equal sharing of the resource of the atmosphere for all human beings is a natural expectation

we have from the on-going negotiations. Talks in Bangkok and Bonn this year have shown that for a successful outcome at COP-17 in Durban, it would be important to maintain a balance between the operationalization of Cancun decisions and working on the unresolved issues under the Bali Action Plan. This, and urgent implementation of commitments by Annex-I parties for a 2nd Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol would be the key to a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced outcome in Durban. For a country like India, with one of the smallest carbon foot-prints in the world, the first and overriding priority is to pursue economic development, to alleviate poverty and to address our severe energy deficit. Half a billion people in India still need to be given access to commercial energy. Any international agreement will, therefore, have to be sensitive to the enormous challenges we face in bringing the benefits of growth to the poorer sections of our population.

In conclusion, I would like to reassert that India's Foreign Policy is an amalgam of national interests, our conviction that inclusive structures of dialogue and cooperation to address the new dimensions of security threats are necessary, that the institutions of global governance including the United Nations should reflect current realities, and that the dynamism and energy of the Indian economic growth story must be shared with our region, and that to sustain our growth trajectory we need an environment that is free from transnational threats like terrorism. I thank you.





**015. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Indirani Bagchi for the *Times of India*.**

**New Delhi, July 17, 2011.**

**(Interview of Foreign Secretary by Indrani Bagchi for Times of India)**

[Nirupama Rao doffs one hat only to don another. Wrapping up a successful two-year stint as foreign secretary, Rao, 60, is to be India's new envoy to the United States. During her last week in office, she will be conducting two big foreign policy dialogues with the US and Pakistan. She speaks to Indrani Bagchi about life in the foreign office, the Pakistan dilemma and her tweets.]

**What are your expectations from the upcoming India-US Strategic Dialogue. Would you agree with the perception that India-US relations have plateaued or are adrift?**

**Ans:** We're looking forward to welcoming Secretary Hillary Clinton to Delhi. This will be the second strategic dialogue. We have one day, July 19, set for meetings. I don't agree that India-US relations are adrift. Since the visit of President Obama to India last November, we have accelerated the level of engagement. There is progress on a number of areas and there is a very broad based bilateral agenda.

We've just launched a dialogue on West Asia this week. Defence cooperation has grown. The Homeland Security dialogue has been launched, which supplements ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation. The quality of the non-proliferation dialogue is also completely changed. The level of communication and the chemistry that I have been able to establish with my counterparts, like Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher is positive.

Beyond political and economic meetings we're trying to harness the power of science and technology, agriculture, health, clean energy and education. We're partnering each other in food security as well as jointly working in other parts of the world, including Africa.

**The US says they will stand by the nuclear deal, yet it appears that their obligations to the NSG's new guidelines on ENR are in conflict with their commitment. Your comments.**

**Ans:** Lets look at the US statement of 23rd June, which states clearly that the US remains committed to the "clean exemption" accorded to India in the 2008 NSG decision. We have told them this is sacrosanct and cannot be diluted. The US stated that it is committed to "full civil nuclear cooperation" with India. These are the exact words they've used. And the kind of feedback we've got

post the ENR decision is that they're committed to taking forward the nuclear relationship on the basis of full implementation of mutual commitments. And that is something that we regard as the bedrock.

India will implement its commitments but we expect our partners - US, France, Russia - to fully implement their commitments as well. France and Russia have also clarified their national positions.

**Were we too slow in pushing against the ENR restrictions which have been building up for the past couple of years?**

**Ans:** We spared no effort in putting across our viewpoint within the NSG and with individual countries. A lot of work went into that. And in the three rounds of the Security dialogue that we've had since 2009 we've been very clear on the matter. In fact, the US statement of 23rd June is actually a response to the concern we've expressed on the ENR issue. Let me say something else: I'm quite confident that long term trends in the global nuclear architecture will move in India's favour. And systems that exclude India will give way to those that see India as an indispensable partner.

**Its another July, and another round of India-Pakistan talks. In the context of the Mumbai attacks on Wednesday, is this another jinxed dialogue?**

**Ans:** Every time there is a terror attack in India, being Indian, we tend to freeze a little. Its very natural for us to think of all that has happened in the past. So much of this issue has complicated our relationship with Pakistan. I am convinced of the need for India and Pakistan to discuss such issues of vital importance for the future of this region, if we want a stable future. I know the extent of pain and suffering that we as a country have to deal with, and has been inflicted upon us by cross-border terrorism, I don't think the memories of that can fade so easily. But because we share borders, we will always have to deal with them. I don't think unadulterated confrontation or speaking the language of conflict can help us or Pakistan.

**What are your expectations from the Krishna-Hina round next week?**

**Ans:** There are no miracles that we can expect, just from the fact that we have sought to engage Pakistan. Particularly on terrorism, the kind of feedback I got from my last interaction with my counterpart Salman Bashir was that they wanted also to make this a primary issue in the discussion between the two countries, to sit down and work out how we can tackle this more effectively. We have to build on that and see how it goes forward. I have no readymade prescriptions that I can offer but I certainly think we have to make an honest effort. I don't believe stopping talks is the answer.

**What about China?**

**Ans:** Our bilateral relationship is one of India's most important foreign policy relationships. We have a very long border.

The nature and content of the bilateral relationship has evolved significantly in the last few years. From both sides, I think we've been able to manage this relationship despite the complexities and difficulties - in a manner that has ensured tranquility on our border, that has ensured regular dialogue across a number of issues for mutual benefit.

I think we've been able to establish a sort of equilibrium in the relationship. Our dialogue has kept going despite the manner in which the media sometimes have tended to give an impression to the contrary.

Communication is good and this relationship has matured over the years. There are still issues that need to be solved. The boundary question, the issue of China's relationship with Pakistan, which crops up constantly.. but the level of candour with which we have been able to discuss these issues with China is also very noticeable.

**You are starting the first India-Japan-US trilateral dialogue. What's on the menu?**

**Ans:** The trilateral is a new exercise at the official level, and adds a new dimension to our relations with two important strategic partners. They've been very keen. Our three countries have done naval exercises together. We have shared interests including economic development of the region, having an open, balanced, inclusive, architecture for discussions of issues that concern our region, security of sea lanes of communication, issues like terrorism, non-proliferation. We will discuss the changes taking place in our region, since we're part of many regional forums together. Let me emphasise its not some kind of exclusive arrangement, not like we're creating some kind of exclusive club, but its part of our growing breadth of engagement in the region.

**You have just finished a successful stint as foreign secretary? How did you make a difference?**

**Ans:** That's not for me to judge. But every bit of my last two years have been wonderfully exciting, fulfilling, challenging.

The job description of the foreign secretary has been redefined in a manner that you would never have conceived of a few years ago\_\_ the scope of the issues being covered, immediacy of many of the subjects we are handling especially in our neighbourhood, have all changed. I did try to make a difference and I believe I've made an honest effort.

**Give us a flavour of your last couple of years\_\_ what did you feel, what were challenges you thought were unique to you, and what were your unique advantages that you brought to the job?**

**Ans:** It was exactly 10 years ago I became the first woman spokesperson for this ministry. I remember the Agra Summit. It was an action-packed period. The Agra Summit was followed by 9/11 and I watched the world change before my very eyes. The attack on Parliament and everything after that. I went on to do administration and I learnt valuable lessons about the ministry itself. My work in Sri Lanka and China was fulfilling. I was in Sri Lanka during the tsunami, in China during the Olympics. You could say I've had a ringside view of history.

I realised when I was in administration that the service in terms of its human resources had to be augmented if we wanted to rise to the challenges India was facing. We need more people in the junior and middle levels. We are doing some of that. There is a cabinet decision to increase cadre strength. This year, we're taking over 30.

You have to look at recruitment differently. Once you recruit it takes years to bring that officer to the level of experience that is needed. It takes over 10 years. In the interim we're taking people from other ministries, mainly economic ministries. We are in the process of structuring the work of the ministry in a way that focuses on development cooperation.

**Any regrets, any advice you want to leave behind for your successor?**

**Ans:** Time has a velocity we cannot escape. But I've learnt to manage the energy and time quotient as well as I could. When I look back at the last two years, I haven't seen any high points of tension in my personal life. I haven't got stressed out. That I'm thankful for.

I would have liked to spend more time with the younger officers in the ministry. I've tried my best not to abandon the human side of what we all are as people. I've tried to humanize the work situation, rather than dehumanize it.

I'm sure my successor, Ranjan Mathai will do wonderfully well. He comes to the job with very impressive accomplishments and experience.

**Which accomplishments are you particularly proud of?**

**Ans:** When I look back I think the Libya evacuation was a demanding but fulfilling experience. Our missions in Tripoli, Cairo and Tunisia did a wonderful job.

I created about 300 posts for the passport and visa division. That aspect concerns our dealings with the public. The public diplomacy division acquired

a positive profile. We've created a database of international relations scholars in India, and we're hoping to have the first international relations conference for Indian scholars in September.

The next step is how to augment the research and historical department in MEA. We had a historical department until about 15 years ago. We'll have to get people from outside, who will work with the ministry, there has to be something like a cross-fertilization of official stream and scholars. It won't be the classic structure of old where you could have recruited a few people. We need area specialists.

**Much has been said about you and social media...**

**Ans:** I now have 20000 followers on Twitter. I find its very useful in correcting erroneous information and contra-factual reporting that may come up from time to time.

Almost 30-40 of our overseas missions are now on Facebook. The one in Cairo is bilingual. We've set up a Facebook page for our ITEC fellows over the years. They're all coming in and sharing experiences. We're using it just to bring people back into the ministry's fold, communicate better. So much work has gone into building these relationships, creating stakeholders for India.



**016. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on  
“Maritime Dimensions of India’s Foreign Policy”.**

**New Delhi, July 28, 2011.**

**Speech by Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao  
on “Maritime Dimensions of India’s Foreign Policy”  
organized by the  
National Maritime Foundation  
at India Habitat Centre**

Admiral Arun Prakash, Chairman NMF

Commodore C Udai Bhaskar, Director NMF

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Young students, dear friends from the diplomatic corps and the media

It is a pleasure to be invited to speak at the National Maritime Foundation, which, under the stewardship of Admiral Arun Prakash and his team, has emerged as the premier institution in the country working on matters relating to the nation’s maritime interests and policies.

The question posed by the title of my talk today is what are the maritime dimensions of India’s foreign policy? The answer is not far to seek. With any policy that has an outward orientation, as does foreign policy, the overlap with security, land, and maritime frontier dimensions is difficult to ignore. For Peninsular India, the lure of the sea around it, has moulded and set the course of the history of the people who inhabit it. The ocean also brought traders and colonizers. Our vantage location with the Indian Ocean literally at our feet, became in those early times, also a source of vulnerability, laying bare our unpreparedness to face external threat. Learning lessons from the broad sweep of history, Pandit Nehru concluded: “We cannot afford to be weak at sea. History has shown that whoever controls the Indian Ocean has, in the first instance, India’s sea-borne trade at her mercy and, in the second, India’s very independence itself.” We forget this lesson of history at our own risk. All the more reason, therefore, that our engagement and interaction with the world, should internalize awareness of these risks and vulnerabilities and prevent their return, in new forms, to haunt us again and threaten our development and wellbeing.

India is naturally a maritime nation- a coast line of over 7500 kms; the Lakshwadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar chains stretch over 600 islands, with southernmost tip just 90 nautical miles from Indonesia and the northern most tip less than 10 nautical miles from Myanmar. Our EEZ is more than 2.5

million square Kms. The mining areas of over 150,000 sq Kms allotted to India under UNCLOS are about 2000 kms from our southernmost tip. We have significant interests in Antarctica as well. Our inseparable bonds with the Indian Ocean region are not merely geographical but of deeper civilizational significance. Historical, cultural economic and political linkages have been forged between India and the Indian Ocean over millennia.

India is almost an island as far as trade is concerned. In the absence of good regional land connectivity, the bulk of our trade is seaborne. India's global mercantile trade has grown phenomenally and now constitutes 41% of our GDP. 77% of our trade by value, and over 90% by volume is carried by sea. India is now projected to become the fourth largest economy in the world by 2020, after China, Japan and the US. Our dependence on sea borne trade is expected to expand exponentially. The maritime dimension is also vital for our energy security. India's oil consumption is expected to rise to 245 million tons annually by 2020, with the country likely to be the world's single largest importer of oil by 2050. Our economic growth would continue to be critically depended upon unhindered flow of oil. The sea borne terrorist attacks on Mumbai- 26/11, focused the need for strengthening maritime and coastal security against threats from sea. Clandestine proliferation networks also use seaways for proliferation activities. It follows that our foreign policy has to focus on these critical aspects for our national development and security.

India has a vision of the Indian Ocean region unshackled from historical divisions and bound together in collective pursuit of peace, and prosperity. As a mature and responsible nation, one of our foreign policy interests is to evolve a regional architecture based on the twin principles of shared security and shared prosperity. India is well poised to play a substantive and formative role in this regard.

We have friendly and productive bilateral relations with almost all the states in the Indian Ocean region. Our bilateral relations with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mauritius, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Oman, Mozambique South Africa and others facilitate access to a wide swathe of the Indian Ocean. Maritime Security is an important dimension of our relations with ASEAN countries, in particular Singapore and Vietnam. Many of these are territorial neighbours but all are our maritime neighbours. We have historical and civilizational ties with many of these countries. Some of these countries have large Indian communities. The broad spectrum of our ties with these countries has a strong economic and socio-cultural dimension. The Indian Navy has contributed towards expanding our diplomatic engagement in the region and beyond. An active Indian naval presence is welcomed in many waters, near and far from our shores. In cooperation with the Indian Navy, we are looking at ways of long term engagement with many of these countries in capacity building

including training assistance, refit of ships joint exercises, coordinated patrols, supply of hardware and product support. We are also prepared to assist countries to conduct EEZ surveillance.

Maritime Security is emerging as an important element of our dialogue architecture with various countries, including with the United States. This includes periodic bilateral exercises, information exchanges through maritime domain awareness, sharing of best practices in areas such as search and rescue, maritime safety, pollution control, maritime law enforcement that could cover counter narcotics and counter piracy, training, exercises and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and exchange of views on promoting a regional security architecture that enhances maritime security.

In addition to bilateral interactions, we are actively engaged with almost all regional bodies that are either based in or border the Indian Ocean region-ranging from SAARC, BIMSTEC, EAS, ARF, ASEAN, GCC, SADC to the AU. Prime Minister's participation in the second India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa on May 25 2011 was indeed a milestone. Our aim is to build a web of cooperative relations that brings together all the stakeholders based on mutual interest and benefit. India's 'soft power' attributes give us an advantage that few countries have.

The scourge of piracy off the Somali coast poses a serious problem for safety of maritime traffic as well as the well-being of crew members. The Gulf of Aden is a major trading route for India. Approximately US \$ 110 billion of our trade passes through it. India contributes around 7% of the world's merchant mariners and thus has an abiding interest in their safety and security. In the UN and other multilateral fora, India has urged greater international cooperation in anti-piracy efforts, including welfare of the hostages. It was at India's specific instance that the UN Security Council, vide resolution 1976 of April 11, 2011, for the first time strongly condemned the growing practice of hostage-taking by pirates operating off the coast of Somalia, expressed serious concern at the inhuman conditions hostages face in captivity, recognized the adverse impact on their families, called for the immediate release of all hostages, and called upon States to cooperate, as appropriate, on the issue of hostage-taking. On India's intervention, the Contact Group in its Communiqué, issued at the latest (9th) Plenary Meeting on 14 July 2011, expressed outrage at the suffering of innocent seafarers held hostage by pirates, including reports of increased violence and even torture, and called for continued international focus on comprehensive counter-piracy efforts and sustained contribution to them. In addition, India is engaged with other countries on capacity-building and consultations in the area of anti-piracy to devise measures for keeping open access points to avoid choking international trade.



The Indian Navy commenced anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden from October 2008. Since then, 25 Indian Navy ships have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden to provide point to point escort to merchant vessels passing through the 490 nautical miles(nm) long and 20 nm wide Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. In addition to escorting Indian flagged vessels, ships of other countries have also been provided protection. Since October 2008, Indian Navy ships have escorted more than 1500 ships, including more than 1350 foreign flagged vessels from different countries. Indian ships thwarted more than 26 piracy attempts; no ship under Indian escort has been hijacked by pirates. Indian Navy and Coast Guard through their effective vigilance have successfully thwarted attempted piracy attempts in our EEZ.

With increased presence of naval forces off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, pirates have moved to other areas and increased pirate activity has been witnessed in the larger Indian Ocean area outside the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), including close to the West Coast of India. As the piracy prone area has expanded eastwards, the Indian Navy has made additional deployments off the Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea.

India, as a founder-member of the 'Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia' (CGPCS), established in January 2009, has been fully engaged in the efforts of the group to share information, coordinate actions of navies in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden, raising public and merchant marine awareness and, examining legal and criminal justice issues with respect to apprehended pirates. Further, the Indian Navy has proactively cooperated with other navies through the SHADE (Shared Awareness and De-confliction) mechanism and otherwise. Our Navy deserves high commendation for the professional manner in which it has conducted anti-piracy operations.

Questions have been asked as to the judicial process for handling captured pirates. In principle India does not support establishment of any international judicial tribunal under Chapter VII as such action would interfere with the national legal sovereignty of States. On basis of legal opinion, India is inclined to support the establishment of a special chamber within the national jurisdiction of a State or States in the region, with UN participation. This option is considered suitable besides being cost effective, as it would strengthen the existing jurisdiction with the established procedures. It also provides opportunity in capacity building for countries in the region. Further, this arrangement provides proximity for the purpose of transfer of suspects by patrolling naval states and also the transfer of those convicted to third States for imprisonment. We in MEA are also at an advanced stage of drafting a new bill on piracy that would help in the prosecution of captured pirates.

Let me turn to some of the multilateral initiatives which are of significance for maritime security.

The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was launched in February 2008 as a cooperative maritime security initiative following a meeting of Chiefs of Navy of nearly all littoral States of Indian Ocean in New Delhi. The Charter of Business of IONS is to provide a framework to promote shared understanding of maritime issues facing the littoral States of the Indian Ocean region; enhance regional maritime security and stability; establish and promote variety of cooperative mechanisms and develop inter-operability in terms of doctrines, procedures etc. IONS, an inclusive and consultative regional forum provides a platform for all IOR littoral navies to periodically and regularly discuss issues that bear upon regional maritime security.

As per the charter the membership of IONS will be open to any country whose territory abuts or lies within the Indian Ocean. Other countries can become Observers if they meet the agreed criterion. The Chairmanship of the IONS initiative will be rotated every two years. The text of Charter of Business has incorporated suggestions by various countries including India, Australia, France etc. Member States are expected to approve the Charter during next meeting of IONS scheduled in 2012 to be hosted by South Africa. It would then come into force and guide the future activities of IONS initiative. The Navy and MEA have worked closely on the IONS initiative.

In our diplomatic engagement with the ASEAN, the ARF has recognized that maritime security is an indispensable and fundamental condition for the welfare and economic security of the region. India is supportive of international and regional cooperative efforts in this regard. We are already working with ASEAN and other ASEAN Regional Forum members to ensure security of sea lanes against threats posed by piracy and other transnational crimes, and also to build capacity in the field of maritime security. Maritime security issues are one of the core focus areas of our navy in bilateral and multilateral interactions with other navies. The Indian Navy has been hosting the Milan series of biennial exercises since 1995 for building friendship and mutual understanding among participating navies of ARF countries. Cooperation and exchange of best practices on the maritime security issues were the core theme of Milan 2010 held at Port Blair in February last year.

India and ASEAN trade relations have expanded in recent years to over 46 billion dollars. Nearly 50% of India's sea borne trade is east bound- heading towards markets in ASEAN (with which we have an FTA in Goods that came into force in July 2010), East Asia, the United States and Canada. India has also invested in off shore energy development projects in partnership with Petro Vietnam. The South China Sea is an important shipping route. India

supports the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. At the recent ARF meeting in Bali, India noted that the parties concerned were engaged in discussions to address the South China Sea issue and welcomed the recently agreed guidelines on the implementation of the 2002 Declaration of the Conduct of Parties between China and ASEAN.

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional Government to Government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia. To date, 15 states have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. The ReCAAP initiatives have contributed significantly towards maritime security in the region. The ReCAAP has been recognized as a model organization by IMO for cooperation of regional governments to combat piracy and armed robbery. India is a founding member of ReCAAP and contributed financially towards the running of the Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the ReCAAP ISC. Our contributions in ReCAAP have contributed towards enhancing our stature as responsible maritime state in the region. In addition, it has also helped our ongoing regional engagement initiatives.

The ASEAN+8 Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM Plus) Plus is a significant milestone in the evolving security architecture in the Asia Pacific region. The ADMM Plus has identified five areas of cooperation – maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), military medicine, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations. India is seen as an important stakeholder in the ADMM Plus activities.

We expect maritime security to be an important issue that would be discussed in the context of the East Asia Summit which will be held later this year. During my visit to Japan, it was agreed to establish an India-Japan-United States trilateral dialogue on regional and global issues of shared interest. Maritime security would be one important issue that will be discussed in this Initiative. In fact, the evolution of the Asia-Pacific Security architecture will depend to a large measure how states are able to pull together interests and capabilities to address common threats and preserve and protect the Global Commons, including maritime security.

A word about neighbourhood policy particularly with maritime neighbours. Issues like coastal security consolidation and fisheries cooperation are also very much within the domain of our foreign policy concerns, as any analysis of neighbourhood policy would indicate. The salience of creating a fisheries management policy in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar through cooperation between India and Sri Lanka is receiving considerable focus of late. This involves close coordination with the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the State Governments concerned. The issue of maritime boundary delimitation

with our neighbours is also dealt with in the Ministry of External Affairs. Competing demands for natural resources, including energy sources, can come into play. The challenge is to find solutions that are mutually acceptable. Conserving and protecting precious marine biology and the oceanic environment through cooperation between littoral states is another important aspect of this maritime dimension. The effects of global warming and climate change on sea levels can have critical human security related repercussions on low lying countries, and the small island developing states. All this falls within the ambit of foreign policy concern.

The development of port and harbour infrastructure both on our coastline in order to improve our global trade turnover, cannot be divorced from the steps being taken in our neighbourhood to develop ports or modernize them with foreign assistance. The economic and security repercussions of such moves have been the subject of intense scrutiny and analysis by our strategic and security experts. The naval outreach and capability of a number of countries has been growing in the Indian Ocean region. Our own capability to be infrastructure builders in our immediate neighbourhood and region needs to be enhanced significantly. Our naval cooperation in the neighbourhood needs further stepping up. Capacity building, training, equipment and vessel supply are all areas that need further attention. With the region, we need to build a common vision of maritime security, conflict prevention, the unhindered passage of trade, counter terrorism and piracy, disaster prevention and humanitarian relief, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in a balanced and inclusive manner that safeguards these regional and global commons.

It goes without saying that our ability to shape our maritime security environment will require the development of a credible naval presence with adequate assets commensurate with our defence and security interests as well as those required to discharge the role and responsibility expected of India by the international community. As a diplomatic instrument, the Navy has key attributes- access, mobility, reach and versatility. We need to embed these attributes within the larger vision of India's role in the global arena. A flexible but proactive maritime doctrine is essential to safeguard and project our national interests overseas. The Navy and our foreign policy establishment need to establish closer coordination in this regard. I am confident that the National Maritime Foundation will continue to play a leading role in shaping such a doctrine. I wish Admiral Arun Prakash and his team the very best in their endeavors.

Thank you.



**017. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on Headlines Today TV Channel.**

**New Delhi, July 29, 2011.**

**Interviewer (Mr. Saurabh Shukla):** Foreign Secretary, good to... (Unclear)... with you on your dream project the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan. In fact, the MEA is finally getting a home of its own.

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** Well, I am very happy to see the project having come up in this fashion. I have seen it grow before my very eyes and I get an enormous sense of satisfaction because a lot of hard work has gone into this and we worked as a team - the Ministry of External Affairs, the CPWD, the people involved with the art work. It has been a project of our dreams and I am very happy to see it come up this way.

**Interviewer:** I believe it is a green building and a lot of special features have been added.

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes, it is a green building, and in terms of energy conservation, in terms of building materials that we have used it is very ecologically sensitive. If you come in the evening at twilight or dusk and you see the facade lighting also you get an idea of the lighting having been specially designed and used in a way that we spend as little energy as possible but at the same time ensure a beautiful effect.

**Interviewer:** Yes, it looks quite beautiful. What would you say the highlight of your career as the Foreign Secretary has been?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think it has been a marvellous journey, very exciting and full of discovery. Even though I have spent many years in the service, every moment I think you are learning. It is an education, it is a quest, intellectual quest. Professionally, it has been very fulfilling. It has been an action-packed period. And the work of the External Affairs Ministry as a whole I believe has expanded in many ways and it has become much more encompassing than before, especially when we deal with issues concerning the neighbourhood. It is very natural and essential that we focus on relations with neighbours. So, I have tried to spend a lot of time trying to look at these relationships.

**Interviewer:** What was the most challenging assignment for you?

**Foreign Secretary:** I was very happy and privileged to work on the process of recommencement of dialogue with Pakistan. I get a sense of satisfaction from the fact that we have been able to carry out the directions of our Prime Minister and translate his vision into the first steps that are needed to be taken to begin

to connect once again, to talk, to open dialogue in various fields. That I think is something that I look back on with a lot of professional satisfaction and fulfilment.

**Interviewer:** You have just finished an important round of dialogue with Pakistan. The Foreign Ministers met. You met your counterpart. Are you satisfied with the Pakistani response and the 26/11 investigations, or do you think they need to do much more?

**Foreign Secretary:** Obviously you need progress on the Mumbai terror trials. You need the culprits to be brought to justice. This is what we have been emphasising all along to Pakistan.

**Interviewer:** Were you satisfied with their response this time when you met them?

**Foreign Secretary:** The point that has been made, the Home Minister has made this point and we have also made this point, is that Pakistan needs to accelerate its efforts. We need to see more concrete outcomes, most importantly the culprits to be brought to book. At the same time the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan have started a dialogue on issues relating to counterterrorism including progress on the Mumbai trial. So, this is an ongoing process. It is too early to express satisfaction. But I do not want you to make it your headline because I think the headline has to be the fact that India and Pakistan are talking to each other, understanding full well what the problems are, how difficult the issues are. But we have begun to deal with these issues I think in an intelligent, problem-solving way.

**Interviewer:** The Foreign Minister of Pakistan told us that India's approach to this whole Mumbai 26/11 investigation is dated. What do you have to say to that?

**Foreign Secretary:** I said it before also there is no use by date advice on this whole issue of the Mumbai terror attack. It is something that is of deep concern to India, to the Indian people; and we can hardly afford to be insensitive to the feelings of our people on this issue of Mumbai.

**Interviewer:** But do you really feel that by taking incremental steps like confidence-building measures on the Line of Control you can settle difficult issues like Kashmir and terrorism because Pakistan says that Kashmir is the core issue? India says Kashmir is an integral part of India. So, how do you reconcile those differences?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think you and the people in the media, I say it in a friendly way, are as much Indian as we are. And you should be as much focused on the need to craft and normalise our relationship with Pakistan. I think it is your

responsibility as much as it is ours. You must understand that there will be no dramatic breakthroughs. This is not something like you get an instant coffee rush about. It is not that. Relations between India and Pakistan should not be seen on the basis of the headlines that you generate.

**Interviewer:** It is not fast food diplomacy?

**Foreign Secretary:** It is not an issue of getting instant satisfaction from this. This is not about emotional highs and lows. You have to be very very realistic and understand the nature of the terrain that is involved and take incremental, graduated steps. Now on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, the CBMs across the Line of Control, what do they do? They help people connect with each other. They help traders to do business with each other. They make it easier for people on both sides of the Line of Control to engage with each other in a peaceful way. I think that is a very important measure that you need to put in place to create that climate of confidence and to reduce the trust deficit. Obviously we will have to, and the structure for resolving the Jammu and Kashmir issue is really a bilateral structure, India and Pakistan have to sit down and discuss this. And it is my hope that as the dialogue progresses, as the future opens up before us we will get down to discussing these fundamental issues also.

**Interviewer:** China is one area you have been closely associated with the boundary negotiations. You were an Ambassador in Beijing. What is the problem? What is the sticking point there? We have been meeting for so long but nothing seems to be opening and nothing seems to be working. What is the problem there?

**Foreign Secretary:** Again, I do not believe there are quick fixes. This is a longstanding issue, the boundary question between India and China. We have a mechanism in place. We have the forum that has been created by the Special Representatives. They have had 14 rounds of meetings so far and that just illustrates the complexity of the problem. But let me also tell you that the border between India and China has remained peaceful for many decades now. I think that in itself is a concrete achievement. Let us not underestimate the importance of that. And we have to understand there are pockets of difference also in interpretation of the Line of Actual Control between the two countries. How do you minimize tensions? How do you ensure that there are mechanisms in place to deal with transgressions when they happen? You hear of transgressions happening from time to time. So, we are very much on track, India and China, in focusing on these issues and trying to see how we can create even better mechanisms to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas while at the same time we move forward with the discussions to resolve the boundary question.

**Interviewer:** But are you not concerned that they gave an assurance, that too from the Chinese Prime Minister when he came here, on the stapled visa issue but that has not been followed up, or has not been kept so far?

**Foreign Secretary:** Our people, our nationals, our citizens from Jammu and Kashmir, I think there has been some change in the situation. Now, I do not want to sound completely as if the problem has been solved. But I think there has been some sort of a transition, some sort of a change in the situation from as it existed a few months ago. We will have to see, we will have to evaluate, we have to assess whether this is a fundamental change or whether this is just something that is transitory. But let me say that I believe and this is what I am told by the Chinese Ambassador and the Embassy there that people are being given visas, not stapled visas, residents of Jammu and Kashmir are being given visas to travel, and that many such people have travelled to China in the last two months.

**Interviewer:** But they have not told you explicitly that they have discontinued with the policy of stapled visa.

**Foreign Secretary:** The point is, it is not expressed in such a stark fashion. It is not like ticking a box to say yes or no. It is not like that. Diplomacy does not work like that. You have to see that things change. There is a gradual shift or there is a sort of a change of hues, a change of colours. That is how it happens. I think you should be patient. I think you should allow for these processes to take root and to become stronger. I think you must be patient, you must understand that with differences of this nature. It is not like bringing the other side, even India can never be brought to its knees and I presume China also looks at it that way. I think you must understand in relationships of this nature as important as they are, we will have to deal with each other constantly to see how we can sort out problems and make things better, and then gradually make them as best as they can be.

**Interviewer:** If you were to turn back the clock, what is one decision you feel you could have done differently as India's top diplomat?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think I have really any regrets when I look back. I think I look at the work that we did in the Ministry in these last two years, I mentioned Pakistan, the Libya evacuation for instance was a very very huge operation.

**Interviewer:** That is a big one, yes.

**Foreign Secretary:** I look at the building behind us today, the kind of work that went into it. I look at the posts that we created in the Central Passport Organisation for the first time, I believe my colleagues tell me, since 1947. We



have done a cadre review for the IFS-B which is before the Finance Ministry at the moment. So, I think there has been a lot of good work that all of us...

**Interviewer:** But something that you felt that you could have done better on an area where you felt not much was achieved?

**Foreign Secretary:** By and large I would say that it has been a good season and it has been a time when the Ministry of External Affairs has been in the news, I hope for the right reasons, and it is not for me to assess my own performance. I think report cards have to be written by not me, there is a world outside that assesses you. I think the Indian Agency for Partnership in Development, which is going to be the development wing of the MEA, I worked on the proposal and we have it all together. I would have liked to see it approved before I demitted office. But these things are ...

**Interviewer:** Essentially to clean up the mess in the LoCs and things like that.

**Foreign Secretary:** I would not say it is a mess but I think it would streamline the procedures and it would create an expert body to assess projects, to execute them, implement them. So, we are embarking on an expansion of our role as a Foreign Ministry when you look at the development related areas of work that we are now increasingly undertaking both in the neighbourhood and in other parts of the developing world including Africa and Southeast Asia.

**Interviewer:** You have been High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. You know obviously there have been these cases of human rights violations there. Headlines Today aired a documentary. How are you going to tell the Rajapaksa regime that they need to do more on the issue of human rights because I believe you are going there as well?

**Foreign Secretary:** They obviously have to look at this very carefully. I am sure they are assessing the impact of that documentary. I believe they are in touch with western governments. And of course the last few days of the war, I call it the fog of war, and they were fighting a terrorist outfit, the LTTE, and it was the last days of the conflict. And you have seen all around the world when it comes to - I am not in any way justifying it at all, please do not think I am justifying anything that may have happened - but it was a war zone, and very often things can go very wrong in a war zone, and civilians get caught, civilians become victims of this.

**Interviewer:** But in your own way, have you expressed your concerns?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the civil war in Sri Lanka was a human tragedy. You look at not only the numbers who were killed or lost their lives or were injured or maimed, you think of the people who were displaced, people who

left the northern part of the country. And you must also think of the fact that on the government side there were many young soldiers recruited from villages in the deep south of the country who also lost their lives. So, there has been a tragedy for the country and I think you must understand that the gaping wounds from that tragedy need to heal, and we must not think of restoring normalcy in the country. We have to think of reconstruction, rehabilitation and allowing the people, the minorities to have a voice to be able to realise their aspirations to live as citizens who can contribute to the progress of the country, improve their human development, access to facilities, health, education, roads, infrastructure, connectivity. I think there is a lot of work to be done. I think for us in the neighbourhood we must focus on these issues because ultimately India and Sri Lanka are such near neighbours. Gandhiji called India Sri Lanka's nearest neighbour. And as a nearest neighbour, I think we also have certain obligations to be very aware and to look at this with 20/20 vision. We have to avoid any partial conclusions, or any jumping to conclusions based on whatever we see coming in from other sources. We have to deal directly with the Sri Lankan government on this and that is what we are doing.

**Interviewer:** You take over as the new Indian Ambassador to the US very soon. So, let us talk about your new innings inside this magnificent building. It is good to be inside this lovely new building, Madam. Let us talk about your new assignment as India's Ambassador to Washington. What are you looking forward to? What are the challenges that you think you will face when you go there as India's new Ambassador?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think it is an extraordinarily rich relationship in terms of the ground that we have been able to cover in the last few years, the manner in which the dialogue has evolved, has progressed. If you just look at the dialogue and the cooperation between India and the United States, it is a kind of a whole of government approach. Almost every Ministry of the government is playing a role in the development of this relationship. So, obviously there will be exciting challenges to deal with and I expect to be very busy in this assignment and I am greatly looking forward to going back to Washington DC where I had served earlier, reconnecting with old friends. I think it is going to be quite exciting.

**Interviewer:** What are the challenges? The relationship still needs some repair work - Hillary Clinton was here, she did some of it - be it on nuclear issues, they want market access. We have had problem regarding harassment of your diplomats. You issued a very strong statement. So, you need to do a lot of repair work in Washington. How will you do it?

**Foreign Secretary:** I look at it as a relationship on which so much good has happened in the last few years. Look at the way we interact with each other. When I go to Washington, for instance, just the variety of meetings, the nature

of the discussion, just the content and substance of the discussion, it is a very serious, substantive relationship. So, I would not use the term repair when it comes to addressing the challenges we face. Obviously there will be certain areas where we may not agree with each other entirely, but that is what relationships are about. Relationships are about being able to deal with each other in a mature way, and to talk about issues on which there is divergence, and try and see how we can fix such problems and we can chart a course ahead. So, when it comes to whatever you referred to, there will be certain occasions, certain times when a problem arises. But what is diplomacy about? Diplomacy is about trying to find solutions. And I think both India and the United States look at the relationship that way. Secretary Clinton's visit last week was an extremely good example of that. We discussed issues, we spoke candidly about all the matters that concern both countries. We spoke about the situation in the region. Beyond the bilateral, there is a regional context in which we dialogue with each other in which we are building cooperation. And multilaterally also there is so much to do and talk about.

**Interviewer:** How do you address the people-centric issues? The Tri-Valley University issue happened. You have raised it also with the US side during the recent talks. And now there is another issue of Northern Virginia University. How do you settle these issues? These are of prime concern to the people of India, especially students who are going to the US.

**Foreign Secretary:** These are not insurmountable problems. On the latest issue that you mentioned, in fact the US authorities reached out to us and told us that there are these questions that have arisen about this university.

**Interviewer:** Indian Embassy in Washington or they got in touch with you?

**Foreign Secretary:** Our Embassy in Washington. They had told them about the problem and how they intended to deal with it. They have assured us that there will be no radio-tagging and no difficulties caused to our students who in any case are innocent people. If the university has to be investigated, in no way should these innocent students be targeted. And that they have said they will not, they will allow them to transfer to other universities; those of them who want to return home, they will be allowed to do so. So, I think the problem is being tackled in a different manner from the Tri-Valley. I think many lessons were learnt from the Tri-Valley episode.

**Interviewer:** So, do you think this issue will get sorted out and the US side has assured you on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are hopeful it will be sorted out. We are very carefully monitoring the situation. We remain in touch with the Department of State in Washington and the other US Departments concerned.

**Interviewer:** Even though we have a strategic relationship with the US, there is a sense that US sometimes is not a reliable partner, be it on transfer of technology on defence. On one hand they promised us a nuclear deal, they delivered on that, but then you have these new ENR guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group which could not have come into place without being initiated by the US. So, how do you tackle such problems? What do you have to say to that?

**Foreign Secretary:** We tackle these issues by talking about them, by trying to see how we can understand each other better. I would just call this relationship a partnership. I would not attach epithets to it. I would not attach adjectives to it. It is a partnership, and it is a partnership of strategic significance, it is a partnership of economic significance, it is a partnership of political significance, because it is a partnership between two of the world's largest and best functioning democracies. So, one should not miss the larger picture when one looks at this relationship.

**Interviewer:** What about this whole ENR issue? Do you think that the Indo-US nuclear deal and some of the other agreements that we have with other countries would be undermined by these new regulations?

**Foreign Secretary:** You have to look at what the governments concerned have been saying, and they have reassured us and said it so publicly in so many words, that they intend to stick by the commitments which had been spelt out in the bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreements that they transacted and concluded with India. They have said that upfront very soon after the ENR decision. As far as we are concerned, we believe these commitments must be scrupulously adhered to, there should be no dilution of these commitments. As far as we are concerned, we have always stood by our commitments. I am not meaning to be sanctimonious about it but I believe India is a country that is a responsible country, particularly on the nuclear issue I think our reputation is unblemished and untarnished and has remained so through the decades. And that is understood by our partners, by the larger international community. As I have said earlier, the global nuclear architecture as far as we see it in the Government of India, will be changed in India's favour as time goes by and you have to watch the space.

**Interviewer:** You are not concerned about the fact that they want you to tweak your nuclear liability law?

**Foreign Secretary:** No, this is a discussion obviously that is ongoing now to frame the rules and regulations through which this law will be applied. While doing so we are in discussion with the domestic companies, with the foreign companies concerned; and we want to provide a level playing field for everybody.

**Interviewer:** Are you concerned at the US troops' pullout from Afghanistan because this may affect the strategic stability of India as well because our security interests are closely tied with what happens there?

**Foreign Secretary:** Ultimately we want everything good for Afghanistan. We want a stable, prosperous, democratic Afghanistan with non-interference in its internal affairs from any other country. When it comes to the foreign troop presence in Afghanistan, they are there obviously to help stabilise the situation and they will be there as long as the Afghan Government needs them. Ultimately this has to be an Afghan-led process and Afghan-dictated process. So, one has to look at that. As far as the region is concerned, all of us regional players have their role to play in helping Afghanistan become stronger, becoming able to improve its governance, to strengthen its institutions, and to improve its trade and economic connectivity with the rest of the region. All of us can help in that. And India's role in Afghanistan has been greatly appreciated by the Afghan Government. In fact, we have helped transform lives in Afghanistan. As I said, post 2014 it is our hope that the institutions in Afghanistan will be much stronger, that terrorism would have been overcome, that there will be in no way any regression to the situation that obtained in that country prior to 2001. I think that is the effort that we are talking of. When we have the Bonn Conference later this year, we will be talking about the economic work that needs to be done in Afghanistan, the political work. There will be talk of reconciliation. Naturally we will keep in focus the redlines that should not be crossed when it comes to such reconciliation. We will be listening carefully to what the Afghan Government has to say on these matters. So, this is a period obviously of transition and we have to help Afghanistan during this period. It is a very crucial period, it is a very sensitive period not only for Afghanistan but for the region.

**Interviewer:** Mr. Fai's arrest in the US, obviously by the FBI, does it illustrate the fact that US and India are closely cooperating? Is the Government looking into some of his contacts here, some of the money trail that was going back and forth from India and the US?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not believe you are painting the picture in a very accurate way. This is a Department of Justice matter that now they are acting against Ghulam Nabi Fai. We have known for years, for two decades, that he has been pursuing a certain agenda in Washington and that his activities needed scrutiny. So, our view on this, our approach has been very clear.

**Interviewer:** Do you think the US needs to put more pressure on Pakistan on the issue of terrorism because they are affected by it as much as India or any other civilised democracy around the world is?

**Foreign Secretary:** That is for the United States to do. I do not want to be commenting on what the United States needs to do with Pakistan. They are doing a lot. I believe there is a lot of focus on terrorism within Pakistan. I am more focused on what we and the United States do together. And there is very substantive counterterrorism cooperation. It is one of the pillars of our cooperation, of our strategic dialogue today.

**Interviewer:** Let me ask you a question on the elegance and style in diplomacy. I put it to Hina Rabbani Khar. A lot of eyes were on her. You are known for your style and elegance. Does it help in diplomacy in any way? Does it help to negotiate well? How does it help?

**Foreign Secretary:** I look at it from a different angle. I think you are representing the country and you obviously would like to represent the country in the best possible way. You place a lot of emphasis on dignity and being in control of the situation to the extent possible, to maintain your poise. These are all I think qualities that a diplomat anyway should possess, whether male or female. I think you should not have a gender based approach to these issues. I think elegance or poise or dignity should apply to both male and female diplomats.

**Interviewer:** One last question. As India's Ambassador to the US, obviously you will have some tough time in convincing the US to actually fulfil its promise of supporting India at the UN Security Council as a permanent member. How challenging is that going to be because so far there has been very little movement on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think there is a whole campaign that needs to gather further momentum within the United Nations on this issue. We are going to work very closely with our partners and within the Security Council since we are non-permanent members of the Security Council until the end of next year. So, this is the season, this is the opportunity for us to make very concerted efforts to push this campaign forward. Obviously our interaction, our outreach to the United States is a very crucial segment of these efforts.

**Interviewer:** Foreign Secretary, thank you for hosting us at the MEA's new home.



**018. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Smt. Kalyani Shankar for All India Radio.**

**New Delhi, July 29, 2011.**

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Welcome to this programme Mrs. Nirupama Rao. You are just about to complete your tenure as the Foreign Secretary. In fact, tomorrow you are, day-after tomorrow you are handing over. Looking back, are you satisfied with what you have been able to do and are you leaving behind any unfinished agenda?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, I look back at the last two years as a marvellous journey, full of excitement and full of discovery. I speak from the personal point of view and also from the professional point of view. I think it has been an action-packed tenure and the Ministry and its work have been very much in focus during this period. And when I look back I think of the various events that have concerned the Ministry, especially the re-commencement of dialogue with Pakistan which was one of the main projects that I sought to see activated and I was happy that the Ministry was able to make its contribution to the process and to be able, to help realize the vision of our Prime Minister in this regard. That was very satisfying. And I also look back at the expansion of the public diplomacy division, the Libya evacuation, the completion of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, which is the new building of the Ministry of External Affairs. The setting up of our new consulates in Jaffna and Hambantota in Sri Lanka, I see that also as a very positive achievement. And on the administrative side, the Ministry has been able to do some work to help expand the cadres and to create a better dispensation for our staff and our officials. So, I think it has been a good experience.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Any unfinished agenda, anything which you wanted to, something you wanted and you could not do it?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think I tried to do whatever I could. The setting up of the Indian Agency for Partnership in Development which is going to the development arm of the Ministry, I have been able work on that and the proposal is ready and that is something I am now handing over to my successor. But that also I see as something I really spent time on and I was happy to contribute.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Mrs. Rao, the talks at the Foreign Ministers level this week, that have just concluded, you also held talks with your counterpart. In your assessment, is there any forward movement or is it just one more photo opportunity and each side saying the same thing again and again?

**Foreign Secretary:** I believe you are referring to Pakistan.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Yes, Yes.

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, I certainly do not think of it as a photo opportunity. Nothing between India and Pakistan should be seen as a photo opportunity. You are talking serious stuff here.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** But nothing has moved forward also?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think you have to be realistic about this. We cannot be naive about this relationship. We cannot expect instant solutions or dramatic breakthroughs because there are divergences that exist between the two countries. There is a long history of contentious relations between India and Pakistan. So we must understand the nature of the terrain. In anything you undertake in life, I think, you must first grasp and understand the nature of the terrain. I think of India and Pakistan as neighbours. We have no choice but to deal with each other. I think it would be unrealistic to think otherwise. It is also unrealistic to talk the language of confrontation. I think we must engage with each other and we must take gradual incremental steps that build confidence, that reduce the trust deficit. This is going to be a long drawn out process. But the challenge and I think the focus from our side has been to keep this process going. We have been able to re-commence a dialogue process over the last few months and the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers in Delhi, two days ago, went very well. It was a positive meeting. From both sides, I think, there was a realization that we must seek to move forward that we owe it to the people of the two countries to move forward. And this is not an empty statement that I am making. I think people are at the heart of this relationship and we must be conscious of that in whatever we do for India and Pakistan. And it has to be done in an atmosphere free of terrorism and violence. So we have been very very emphatic that Pakistan must understand our very deep concerns about terrorism that has been directed against us from across the border over the years. And the Mumbai terror attack is a graphic illustration of that and our concerns about the slow pace of the Mumbai terror trial were conveyed very clearly.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Was there any assurance that it will be done sooner?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, the Pakistan side has told us that they are trying their best to see that there will be progress on this. Let us wait and see.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** At the Foreign Ministers meeting, I think we have protested to Pakistan about meeting the separatist leaders. But this is not the first time. They have met them earlier also. So, why does it happen?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, yes, it has happened in the past and it happened this time also. We told the Pakistan side clearly that this has not struck a right



note, especially on the eve of the two Foreign Ministers meeting to discuss such important issues and given the stated resolve of the two sides to reduce the trust deficit between the two countries. So our disappointment and our concern about this meeting was very clearly conveyed to the Pakistan side. This group of people that they met cannot by any definition be said to represent the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir. In a democratic society there are obviously different groups of people, different opinions but this group has espoused the cause of separatism which is not conducive to the building of good relations between India and Pakistan. And, therefore, we expressed our protest against this meeting.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Mrs. Rao there was no change in the Pakistani position during the talks either with your talks with the Pakistani Foreign Secretary or Foreign Ministers level talk. Was there any change in Pakistani position in dealing with India and particularly Kashmir?

**Foreign Secretary:** Here again you are asking me to draw, you know, black and white conclusions. I don't believe that in diplomacy it would be professional on my part to give you a 'Yes', or 'No' answer to that. There is a certain process involved here. Every meeting is a part of that process. What is the end goal of this process? The end goal is to normalize relations between the two countries, to reduce the divergences, to resolve the problems that have kept us apart. So, I say this is part of a process. It is still too early to talk about, you know, radical shifts in position and dramatic changes in attitude. It would not be realistic to talk about it. But I am happy to say that this process has gathered now a certain momentum and we had a series of meetings. This meeting between the two Foreign Ministers had been scheduled to take place by July. We have fulfilled that goal also. So a certain process has commenced. We have to take it forward. We have to continue to give it a positive direction. And there is political will, may I say, on both sides. That seems apparent from the desire of the two Prime Ministers to make an honest, concerted effort to see how we can reduce the differences between the two countries.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Mrs. Rao, are you concerned about India's gradual deterioration with its neighbours. Apart from Pakistan, ties with Sri Lanka and Nepal are also of concern. How do you view our neighbourhood?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, our neighbourhood, yes, is an extremely important area obviously our foreign policy. We spend a considerable amount of time on relations with our neighbours. And, I think, from India's point of view, our outlook, our approach has been very clear. We want peaceful and good relations with all our neighbours. We do not want contention with any of our neighbours. And we want our neighbours to share in the fruits of India's economic development because we are part of the same region. So we would like better connectivity,

regional connectivity, we would like a freer flow of trade in goods and services, we would like to provide the best possible dispensation to our neighbours to be able to export more to India, so that their economic development is also helped. We want to be able to work with every country in the neighbourhood to promote these shared goals of economic development, promoting prosperity and strengthening peaceful co-existence. So, I would not say there is deterioration in relations with the neighbours. With Sri Lanka, we have an on-going dialogue, we have very close relations because for Sri Lanka, India is its nearest neighbour, as Gandhiji said. And so there is an economic relationship, there is the very legitimate dialogue that we have conducted with the Sri Lanka government about the question of the minorities in Sri Lanka, particularly the Tamil-speaking minority. We are participating in a big way in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Northern Province and I am happy to refer to the housing programme that we have launched. Now the houses are actually coming up. I have seen the photographs of the houses coming up in the Northern Province. So, that work has also started.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** What about fishermen?

**Foreign Secretary:** Fisheries, we want to build a relationship with Sri Lanka that enables our fishermen and their fishermen also to earn their livelihoods from the sea without disturbance, without violence, without any intimidation. So, we are engaged in discussion with the Sri Lankan government to create the best management regime possible for fisheries cooperation. There are many aspects of this. There is, of course, the fishing activity from both sides. This is a very narrow stretch of water. And after the conflict ended in Sri Lanka, the fishermen of the northern province of Sri Lanka have also begun to come in larger numbers for fishing. And our fishermen had been traditionally going into the same area. So we have to find the best way to ensure that no tension is there, that there is no violence.

Recently there had been some very unfortunate cases of our fishermen, some of whom died and some of them were held in custody, for some time, you know, and we don't want that situation to continue. And that we have said to the Sri Lankan government and I believe they understand the depth our concern about this. But we want to work out a Memorandum of Understanding on fisheries cooperation. There is a joint working group that is meeting from time to time to discuss this. The Fishermen's Associations can also play a very good part in building confidence. And, with Nepal also. The situation in Nepal has been fluid for the last two years or so. But it is really the internal dynamic in Nepal that has to, you know, to settle in this regard because you have a peace process that has to be completed. The constitution drafting has to be completed. India has not been an obstacle in this and you cannot hold India

responsible for whatever is happening in Nepal. The political parties in Nepal are trying to find consensus. They are trying to see how through dialogue they can solve the differences that exist between the political parties so that multi-party democracy is strengthened in Nepal. But we are friends and well-wishers of Nepal. I want to emphasise that. We are friends and well-wishers of the Nepalese people and we have a dialogue with all the parties in Nepal. We have not excluded any party from contact and communication with us.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** The Prime Minister visits Dhaka next month. I think he is going in August.

**Foreign Secretary:** Early September.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** What would be the agenda?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, the agenda is again India-Bangladesh relations. And the fact that there is a new chapter in this relationship. The Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and our Government have very cordial relations and since her visit here in January 2010, there have been a number of positive developments in the relationship, the line of credit that we extended has been activated, discussions to resolve the remaining pockets of the border that have to be settled have also proceeded very very positively, on connectivity, on the various projects under the line of credit all that, on water related issues, there has been very good progress. So, as I said this is a new chapter in the relationship and there are enormous possibilities for strengthening this further and our Prime Minister's visit in September, we are working very hard in our preparations for the visit. And I believe there will be an extremely positive outcome from that visit.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Mrs. Rao, the Nuclear Suppliers Group had recently introduced a new paragraph (5) in its guidelines to the recipient countries must move before the NSG countries could sell ENR technology and the first condition is that they should sign NPT. India's position in this regard is very well known. Does this qualify India? What is the US position and what is our position?

**Foreign Secretary:** Obviously, you know, the position taken by the Nuclear Suppliers Group is not in consonance with our position on these matters. But the Governments of the United States, France and Russia, who are our chief partners in civil nuclear cooperation have assured us that they intend to implement all the commitments made to us on civil nuclear cooperation and the furtherance of such cooperation. And this has been said in very unambiguous terms following the decision of the NSG. So we will have to see how we take this forward. I think commitments, there should be a full meeting and implementation of the commitments from all sides concerned. That is something we have stressed. And we are confident and India is confident about the fact

that the global civil nuclear architecture is going to change in India's favour. That time will come. And I think we should be confident about our position in this regard.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Well, Mrs. Rao, Mrs. Hillary Clinton, the US Secretary of State had visited recently. During her talks with the Government, did she mention about the reservation from the US business community about India's civil nuclear liability bill. How do you propose to overcome this problem?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, we have said very clearly to the United States government that we are committed to a level playing field for all the companies that are engaged in discussion with us in the implementation of these agreements. So that has been made very clear. And the rules and regulations concerning the civil nuclear liability bill which has been passed by Parliament are in the process of being framed and in this process we are consulting with both the domestic companies and the foreign companies concerned. So, we have in a sense assured our partners that, as I said, we are committed to a level playing field and that in India, there are laws within which all companies will need to work. And that they should continue their dialogue with us on this. The intention is to take these projects forward.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** How long do you think it will take?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, this process is going on at the moment and the intention is not to delay it, I can say that. And on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation, we told them that the ratification will also be done before the end of the year. We are just going through various procedures. So everything is on track in this regard.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Mrs. Rao you are going to the United States as India's Ambassador next month. Where are Indo-US ties going now and what challenges are ahead?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, I think, the relationship is on an even keel. It is moving forward. We have strengthened and expanded our cooperation in very many ways in the last few years, particularly in the last two years. And the dialogue mechanisms, the extent of interaction all across, it is a whole of government approach if one can put it that way. So, we are interacting with each other, the strategic dialogue has moved forward, we had two strategic dialogues with the United States in the last two years. As I said, in almost every field of human endeavour India and the United States are engaging with each other as two large democracies, two vibrant democracies and as I said, we are, in a sense there is a natural affinity between the two countries. And that is in a sense powering this relationship and empowering it also.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** What are going to be your challenges?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, in a relationship of such size and dimension, the levels of activity are intense and I am also going to pay attention to business and economic cooperation and contact with the Indian community in the United States which plays a very positive role in all this, is also important. I think, I will be very busy and I am sure in this assignment there will be lots to do and I look forward to it, look forward to it very much.

**Smt. Kalyani Shankar:** Thank you, wish you all the best for your successful term in the United States and thank you very much for being with us.

**Foreign Secretary:** Thank you, it was a pleasure to be here, thank you.



#### **019. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai upon assumption of Office.**

**New Delhi, August 1, 2011.**

I am greatly honoured to be taking up this assignment which is a very complex one and full of many challenges, The Ministry of External Affairs is part of the structure of foreign policy making, since the time of the first Prime Minister of India. But we have to be scrupulous and efficient managers of the policies which are laid down by the Government and that will be my priority

We are in a world of flux and we have to be innovative and adapt to the situation as it develops, but at the same time we have to be clear eyed about what are our national priorities and interests, many of which remain permanent. Obviously in dealing with the foreign policy challenges we have to take a holistic view of our political, strategic, economic and commercial, cultural as well as, public aspects of our image, as a country.

I would also like to give considerable priority to what is called the public service dimension, of the work of this Ministry and the Embassies abroad, by which I mean, the Passport and Consular Services which we render to the citizens of the country. I think this is an area which needs particular importance.

Finally, this Ministry has to be administered in accordance with the regulations; we have a budget and a management system to be addressed. And I think this has to be addressed while keeping in mind the morale of the personnel who work in it. So this is what I intend to set out to do and I will do my best.

**Question: What are your key foreign policy challenges? ISI is trying hard to rescue Mr. Fai, your comments please?**

**Answer:** Well I would like to start with my challenges, and obviously as I said in my opening remarks, the challenges are dealing with our foreign policy and its outreach through diplomacy in a holistic way, which takes care of our political and strategic interests, combines the economic and commercial interests of the country, and keeps in mind also the cultural image of the country and the way in which we portray ourselves in the world.

Within this broad framework obviously the main challenges are maintaining an area, if I may put it, of constructive cooperation in the immediate neighbourhood, that is the main challenge, and I think that will be one of my priority tasks.

Obviously, we also will have to be in close touch with and develop the most cooperative and strong relationships with all the major global players on the international scene and in coordination with the other Secretaries of this Ministry, we need to keep in mind the need for very very strong relations with the countries of Africa, Latin America, of Central Asia, of South East Asia and the Gulf region. I think managing all these would be the major challenge.

As regards Pakistan, I think I would rather not go into the second part of your question but I would like to say that I have entered this office with a mandate, which is that we as Foreign Secretaries are expected to pave the way for a substantive dialogue with Pakistan, on all issues and I look forward to cooperating with the Pakistan Foreign Secretary on that and we have to try and work to restore trust and confidence. This is the mandate that has been given to me and in conclusion I would like to say that the Foreign Secretary is as much an institution, as an individual. So I will continue this effort, continuity will be my watchword.

**Question: Are we going to assume that composite dialogue with Pakistan is the way ahead?**

**Answer:** I think we have put it, as I said, the mandate is on substantive dialogue on all issues of common concern.



**020. Extracts from the Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the media on board his return Special Flight to New Delhi.**

**April 16, 2011.**

**Prime Minister:** Ladies and Gentlemen I have had two very fruitful meetings. One was the BRICS meeting in Sanya in China. You have seen the Sanya Declaration and Plan of Action and NSA has also briefed you from day to day. Yesterday I came to Kazakhstan, I had meeting with the President and followed the meeting with the Prime Minister and other ministers. We have discussed wide ranging political, economic, regional and international issues and there is almost complete unanimity in our desire to work together and give added meaning and thrust to our strategic partnership. The visit of mine was the first visit to Kazakhstan, and was in response to the 2009 initiative when we had invited President Nazarbayev as Chief Guest of our Republic Day. We had on that occasion agreed to upgrade our strategic partnership and my visit today was in pursuance of that objective of giving added weight and depth to our strategic partnership.

**Question:** On meeting with President Hu Jintao and whether it covered the stapled visa issue.

**Answer:** Well, we discussed... It was a very cordial meeting. We discussed bilateral economic issues, the trade imbalances. We also discussed other relevant issues relating to international situation, possibility of cooperation between the two countries in international foras of G20, in WTO and in the Security Council. With regard to defence exchanges, my expectation is that they would be continued and also there was a proposal from the Chinese side, when Premier Wen Jiabao came to India to look at a new mechanism to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border. Work is in progress. I hope some concrete results will be visible in the near future.

**Question:** After BRICS Summit, is our goal getting a permanent seat in the Security Council near?

**Answer:** Well, I think there is a growing support that the Security Council and other international organisations must reflect realities of the contemporary age, rather than being embedded in an era which is dead and gone. But I would not say that we are there, as such, it is a work in progress, there is growing support for India's permanent membership of the Security Council.

**Question:** Excess volatility to commodity prices, especially in the energy and food sectors, a grave threat has been posed to the ongoing global economy. How the BRICS would control and what would be India's role?

**Answer:** Well, the BRICS by themselves cannot control. This has to be a collective international effort. We have all agreed that the Group of 20 is the appropriate international forum to discuss global economic issues and I am confident that when President Sarkozy convenes the meeting of the G20 later in the year, issues like fluctuations and volatility of food prices and oil prices would figure high on the agenda.

**Question:** Regarding the comprehensive nuclear cooperation agreement with Kazakhstan, is India planning to sell nuclear reactors to Kazakhstan?

**Answer:** Well I think it takes two to strike a deal, we have I think a capability to produce small nuclear reactors choosing natural uranium and there has been discussion on that but no concrete decision has been taken.

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**Question:** Post Fukushima, why are we still so convinced about going ahead with nuclear power?

**Answer:** Well I think we are too close to the Japanese disaster and in the background of what has happened, there is a certain amount of nervousness about extensive use of nuclear energy even for peaceful purposes. But I am convinced that when all is said and done, when cool headed discussions take place about the future of energy, what are problems with coal, what are the problems with other hydrocarbons, in terms of their impact on climate change. I think there would be a reconsideration of the role of nuclear energy as one of the essential options which all countries must keep in order to deal with the problems like climate change and energy security.

**Question:** In one of your statements at the BRICS, you said about the shift of power to the common people, was it in the context of the ongoing international situation or the domestic context?

**Answer:** Well, I think there is both, a domestic... I think we have to take note of the fact that people's power is some thing which we have to reckon with, which is also happening internationally in the Middle East, in North Africa. I would not like to pronounce authoritatively that I have the answer on what went wrong in West Asia.

**Question:** Market access for Indian pharma products & IT in China, Dr. Reddy's US FDA approved drugs are facing problems in entering China. Has this been taken up with the Chinese?

**Answer:** Well I did raise the question of the trade imbalance. We import goods and services which give rise to the severe trade imbalances. President Hu Jintao recognised that it is the problem. I also specifically mentioned two areas,



one pharmaceutical industry and the other IT. These happen to the sectors where we feel, Chinese could do, and I can not say he said precisely this with regard to these two areas, but he did say that he did recognise that China has also the responsibility to tackle the problem of trade imbalances.

**Question:** There is a great deal of interest in your initiatives with regard to Pakistan. What are the five things that you would like to achieve in your relationship with Pakistan?

**Answer:** I think five is too much, well, if I can succeed in normalising relations between India and Pakistan, as they should prevail between two normal states, I will consider my job well done.

**Question:** Two questions, one on the possibility of induction of Indonesia in the BRICS and second on your opinion of Anna Hazare?

**Answer:** Well, as far as increase in membership of BRICS is concerned, this was not the subject matter which came up for discussion in the BRICS meetings.

As far as Anna Hazare ji is concerned, I respect him as an important leader, who had done lot of good work in rural development and that's why the whole country respects him.



**021. Excerpts from the Media Briefing by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on-board his Special Flight *en route* to New Delhi after attending the UN General Assembly Session.**

**September 27, 2011.**

**Q : On slowing down of world economy, concerns among G 20 countries about state of global economy and what could India do about it?**

Ans- Well let me say, the world economy is an increasingly inter- dependent entity. Fuel of trade and technology and capital inflows influence the growth path of a large number of countries today. And if those economies which are the locomotives economies of the world, The United States, Europe, Japan are in trouble there is bound to be some effect on us. But we have so far managed to protect our economy in a manner that has earned us the admiration of the world. In the year 2008, when the global economy bought into problems, our economy still managed to grow @ 6.7 percent. Later on we were able to raise the rate of growth to 8.1/2 percent and even in this troubled year the projection of Indian growth rate would still be between 7.8 to 8.5% and that would be a remarkable performance. Let me say that we can do more in India, if all political parties of our country work together, if Government is allowed to do its essential task, which is maintain a growth path of about 9 percent, which is possible for us to do so. Despite what is happening in the world, if only we could step up investment in infrastructure in our economy, we would be on a strong wicket, and that's what I would like Government to do.

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**Q. On global economic crisis and what can India do to insulate itself?**

**Ans:** Well, I think let me say we are not that helpless, though I would not say that we will not be affected by what happens in the outside world. We have savings rates of about 34 or 35 percent. Our investment rate in recent years has been about 37 percent of the GDP. With saving rates of even of 35 percent, we can maintain a growth rate of close to 8.5 to 9 percent. Now if we spend this savings well, if our infrastructure is well managed, if social sector programmes leakages can be curbed, I think that's the path which would keep India afloat and afloat handsomely even the world is in dire trouble.

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**Q: On change in thinking about benefits of globalization?**

**Ans:** When the world changes we have to take note of those changes. We cannot be static in a world that is fast moving and there is no doubt that there

are immense changes that are taking place. Globalization has a lot of potential to do good, but if globalization is not properly managed and if misused by big powers, it can also hurt the poorer countries in the world.

**Q: on reports and concerns about diversion of Brahmaputra waters by China?**

**Ans:** Well we have been discussing the issues relating to the trans border river system with China, for number of years. I have myself raised this issue with both the President as well as the Prime Minister of China on number of occasions. They have assured us that they are not doing anything which will be detrimental to the interests of India. And so far the evidence we have supports their statement that nothing is happening on the ground which we should be worried about.

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**Q: On foreign armed intervention in Libya and other countries?**

**Ans:** Well I was referring to the situation as it has developed in Libya. My worry is that despite what the western powers are saying about Libya, that they their success in getting rid of Gadaffi, there are still signs that Libya may well be entrapped in civil war like Somalia. And if it goes in the Somalian way it will be in nobody's interest.

**Q: On India's Permanent Membership of UNSC**

**Ans:** I think that at UNGA we can count on the support of about 120 members already. As far as the permanent members of UNSC are concerned you heard President Obama, when he came to India. You heard the Russian leadership. The Chinese leadership is somewhat hesitant but not totally unsupportive. So I am not predicting that it will fall into our lap tomorrow or the day after. But I think the climate of global opinion, is certainly in favour of a country like India being made a permanent member of the reformed UNSC.

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**Q: On Kudankulam civil nuclear project?**

**Ans:** It is my honest expectation that sooner or later the world would recognize that there is no alternative but to rely on atomic energy, as an essential component of the energy mix of a country, any country that seeks protection of its environment that wants to protect itself from excessive carbon emission. I have no reason to believe that the leadership in Tamil Nadu will be an exception to this rule. There are anxieties. Some vested interests are playing on that. I have spoken to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu myself before coming.

We will sit together with all the enlightened leadership of Tamil Nadu to find a practical and pragmatic solution because, Tamil Nadu is today the fastest industrializing state in the country. I feel very proud, when I go to Tamil Nadu, when I see the way industry is expanding. But quite honestly, this industrialization can become a casualty if Tamil Nadu is not self sufficient in the field of energy. I am sure that leadership of all shades of opinion will recognize, that a healthy mix should include an element of nuclear energy for safely and for security. We will protect all the people of India. Our safety standards will be second to none. And if we have any doubt we will be the first to tell our people that we will not move forward.

**Q: On murder of Prof. Rabbani murder, security situation in AfPak and Gen. Mullen's views on complicity of ISI.**

**Ans:** In my speech at UN, I joined the rest of the world in offering my condolences to the people of Afghanistan on the killing of Prof. Rabbani. There is now growing awareness of the groups which indulge in these nefarious activities and we have to take notice of that. And what Gen. Mullen has said with regard to the role of certain forces in Pakistan, is also something which is nothing new to us. In fact when we were the first to flag this issue earlier, the world didn't believe us. I am glad that at least the world recognizes the truth of what the government and the people of India had been saying about the activities of ISI for many many years.

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**Q. On concluding the Teesta Agreement with Bangladesh?**

**Ans.** We would seek the help of West Bengal Government and of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, to create an environment where a meaningful and viable solution to this issue can be found.



**022. Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Cariappa Memorial Lecture on "The Role of Militaries in International Relations".**

**New Delhi, October 5, 2011.**

General V.K. Singh, Chief of Army Staff,  
General Pradeep Kapoor,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured to be asked to speak on this prestigious occasion, in memory of one of India's great soldiers.

It was suggested to me that I should speak on the role of militaries in international relations. It is only appropriate that I do so in memory of independent India's first Indian Army Chief Field Marshal Cariappa. Less well remembered than his pioneering and brilliant career as a soldier is Field Marshal Cariappa's career as a diplomat. As High Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand he laid the foundations of the relations that we enjoy with that continent today. While I never had the privilege of meeting him, I do know that he took a deep interest in international relations. The official files contain an extensive correspondence between him and Prime Minister Nehru after his retirement where he expressed his views on our relations with Pakistan and its Army's increasing political role. I do hope that this correspondence will be made public one day soon. It reveals Cariappa as a concerned and informed citizen sharing his views with his government, even while as a soldier he explicitly stays away from politics. It is therefore only fitting that we consider the role of militaries in international relations as we celebrate Field Marshal Cariappa's life and achievements.

We have all heard the statement that "war is diplomacy by other means" attributed to Clausewitz. The actual statement was more nuanced but this will serve for our present purpose. We are also familiar with the corollary that "diplomacy is war by other means". Each contains enough truth to justify the cliché. That truth is that war and diplomacy, military force and international relations, are Siamese twins, joined together at birth for life.

Militaries have always provided states with an instrument for effective diplomacy, mainly through the threat of the use of force or, in the case of a militarily weaker state, the ability to withstand military attack or engage in attrition. The actual use of force in most, if not all, cases demonstrates the failure of diplomacy.

The issue is therefore not whether militaries and force are important in international relations but how important they are, and their role.

In the next half hour I would like to look at the role and utility of force in international relations, what the military can do, and our Indian experience.

### **I. The role and utility of force in international relations**

Realists believe that in an anarchic international system power rules the day. They also assume that states, like individuals, are self-interested rational maximisers. Uncertainty is rampant, information is always incomplete, and opportunism is always possible in international society. As a result, states have little choice but to defend themselves.

Force is an inescapable factor in international relations, whether through its actual use or in the threat of its use. It is much more so in international society than within the nation states in which we have organized our societies. This is because alternative forms of legitimacy are much less developed in international society than in our domestic societies with their complex systems of laws and domestic political legitimacy. International society is only now beginning to arrive at commonly accepted definitions of laws for some activities. Where such laws exist, such as the laws of war or the law of the sea, they are underdeveloped, or not universally accepted, or not always respected in practice. The biggest difference between national societies and international society is that sanctions for not respecting laws within our societies are several and multilayered, ranging from social opprobrium to judicial punishment. There is no effective international equivalent of these sanctions for those who transgress international law, such as it is. The only effective sanction is force or the threat of its use, and the willingness of those who possess it to use it.

In other words, while domestic societies have evolved or are evolving towards rule of law, international society is still much closer to primeval anarchy, where to a very great extent "the strong do as they will and the weak do as they must."

Force is today the ultimate sanction in international society, and while it may be one of several sanctions, it is clearly the most widely studied and used. Its use is not getting any less frequent despite all the attempts to develop other means of suasion and persuasion. Military power remains central to great power competition which defines the global order.

The last sixty years have seen a dramatic increase in the frequency of conflict and its intensity, between and within societies. This is a result of new technologies of force and their widespread dissemination. In fact we seem to be entering a phase of increasing militarization of international relations. Look at recent developments in the Middle East, where conventional air power, covert and Special Forces, and internet social media have been used in new tactical

combinations with old fashioned propaganda and international institutions to change regimes and create political outcomes.

Secondly, as technology has developed, newer forms of power also have increasing effect. For instance today cyber actions in virtual space have kinetic effects that were once only possible through the use of traditional military force.

In other words the spectrum of conflict, and therefore of the use of force is widening. The state no longer has a monopoly of violence, and technology has empowered small groups and individuals to the point where they can pose credible threats to society, if not the state itself. We have only to think of the recent lethality of terrorist groups and their attacks.

#### **Limits on the use of force**

Paradoxically, though military force is the ultimate and preponderant sanction in international society, and its use is more widespread than ever, it is less and less the preferred option. This is due to the paradox of conflict. The higher the effect of force, the less likely it is to be used. If the emergence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction changed international relations fundamentally, they also highlighted the use of force for deterrence rather than as an actual sanction, as a means of influencing an adversary's behaviour through the threat of force rather than its application.

Today there are limits to the utility of force in international relations. Some are classical and were recognised in the ancient world as well. As Sun Tzu said two millennia ago: "To fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting". (Sun Tzu: Art of War III.2.).

The application of force has always been the blunt edge of politics and will probably continue to be so despite the promise of technology. Political outcomes that are sought by the use of force are often circumscribed by the degree of risk which political leaders are willing to take, and that degree of risk will be weighed against the stakes at issue.

Order, justice and resolution are the normally desired outcomes of any conflict. Force has a pivotal role in restoring order. But it can do very little on its own in ensuring justice and a final resolution of the causes of conflict.

Other limits come from recent factors such as technologies and their widespread dissemination.

Taken as a whole, the experience of using military force against terrorism and extremism since September 11, 2001 reveals these limits under today's

conditions. In many cases the strategic outcomes created by the post 9/11 use of force have been the opposite of those originally intended.

It would appear that the role of military force is circumscribed in producing outcomes even though it is the ultimate sanction in international society, and much more important there than within our states and societies. We can't do without it but don't want to use it.

And in today's situation, in a world of weapons of mass destruction, it becomes essential that the basically anarchic practice of international relations with the powerful calling the shots be regulated or moderated. This could be achieved by evolving new norms of international behaviour, and by democratising international governance and its mechanisms. In fact such a process is now a compelling necessity. As experiences of 9/11, Iraq and Afghanistan show, a different approach to international relations is long overdue. As power is more and more diffused internationally, this different approach to international relations will become all the more necessary.

## **II. The Role of the Military**

These developments make it necessary to re-examine the role and utility of the conventional military as traditionally configured and organized. What is the conventional military's relevance when the spectrum of conflict is wider than ever before and when force is widely held and used in international society outside the military?

It can be argued that as traditionally configured, the militaries of most powers are irrelevant to large portions of today's broader spectrum of conflict. The traditional military is no longer the sole or major instrument to deal with the wider spectrum of conflict, a spectrum that is wider than ever before in history, in new domains like cyberspace and outer space, and extending to the economy, society and social and political psychology.

Cyberspace as a domain is an example where rigid hierarchies and structures go against the nature of the domain and the technology itself, which is best handled by small groups or individuals, often acting on their own. We have shown the capacity to adapt to such challenges before. For instance, every democracy that has a developed Special Forces capability has kept it outside the traditional military command structure and uses it to activate the sub-conventional spectrum of conflict.

The expanded spectrum requires that we seek jointedness, that much used but less practiced word, not just between services but with the other instruments of state power. Today's spectrum requires a holistic integration of all the



instruments of state power, the armed forces, the intelligence agencies, our scientific and technological resources, soft power instruments and others.

In other words we need much closer coordination between civil and military power. In my experience even minor actions by the military have foreign policy consequences. The military is therefore both an important adjunct and component of diplomacy.

There is also a need to restructure militaries to learn the lessons of a decade or more of counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. While different doctrines and theories have been applied in the last decade, their results in practice can at best be described as mixed. In fact some of the best results are those that we have developed from our own experience in India in dealing with insurgency and cross-border infiltration and terrorism.

Militaries today are faced with a choice: they can stick to what they know and do best, at the risk of reduced relevance. Or else they can reorder themselves to deal with the new challenges that face us, rethinking doctrines and practices from the tactical to the operational to the strategic and even the grand strategic level.

At this stage, I can imagine some of you thinking that this is all very well in theory but what about the use of the military in diplomacy. Should India not be doing much more military diplomacy, particularly when armed forces play such an important role in the internal politics of countries in our neighbourhood? Of course we must, and we do so where we can. The Indian armed forces increasing contacts with the world have been a very useful adjunct to our diplomacy and have brought our armed forces, and by extension the country, respect for professionalism and competence.

But we must also remember that when the military is in power in a country, as it has been for an extended period in some of our neighbours, they behave as politicians do, with their primary purpose changing to staying in power. Secondly, if they respond to your diplomatic approaches it is because of what you represent, the strength and capacity of your country, not individual brilliance or attractiveness or professional fellow feeling. When you speak for a strong, prosperous and united India you will be listened to and are effective, in or out of uniform.

### **III. The Indian Experience**

Is there an Indian doctrine for the use of force in statecraft? This is not a question that one normally expects to ask about a power that is a declared nuclear weapon state with the world's second largest standing army. But India achieved independence in a unique manner; through a freedom movement dedicated to

truth and non-violence, and has displayed both ambiguity and opposition to classical power politics. In the circumstances posing the question is understandable and legitimate.

To answer the question let us look at traditional Indian attitudes to force and the lessons India draws from its own history, and at Indian practice since independence in 1947.

### **Attitudes to Force and Lessons from History**

While India may have achieved independence after a non-violent struggle, it was a struggle that Gandhiji described as non-violence of the strong.

As far back as 1928 Gandhiji wrote, "If there was a national government, whilst I should not take any direct part in any war, I can conceive of occasions when it would be my duty to vote for the military training of those who wish to take it.... It is not possible to make a person or society non-violent by compulsion."

During the Partition riots at his prayer meeting on 26 September 1947 Gandhiji said that he had always been an opponent of all warfare, but that if there was no other way of securing justice war would be the only alternative left to the government.

Faced with the tribal raiders sent by Pakistan into Kashmir in October 1947, Gandhiji said that it was right for the Union Government to save the fair city by rushing troops to Srinagar. He added that he would rather that the defenders be wiped out to the last man in clearing Kashmir's soil of the raiders rather than submit.

In saying so, Gandhiji was entirely in keeping with a long Indian tradition which has regarded the use of force as legitimate in certain circumstances, namely, if there is no alternative way of securing justice. This is in essence a doctrine for the defensive use of force, when all other avenues are exhausted.

The lesson that comes through very clearly in both the major Indian epics, which deal with wars of necessity, is also apparent in Kautilya, the original realist, and in Ashoka, the convert to idealism. Ashoka and Kautilya were both products of a highly evolved and intricate tradition of statecraft which must have preceded them for centuries. A simple reading of the Arthashastra suffices to prove how in Indian strategic culture, as early as the third century before Christ, the use of force was limited both by practical and moral considerations. This was not a doctrine of "God on our side", (though that helped, as Krishna proved in the Mahabharata). Nor is it about just wars. In the Indian tradition the use of force is legitimate not just if it is in a good cause and its results will be good. Instead, this was a doctrine that saw force as necessary in certain

circumstances, to obtain justice, when all other means are exhausted, and which also recognised that force was not always the most effective or efficient means to this end.

The other lesson that Indian thinkers have consistently drawn from history is of the perils of weakness. The colonial narrative of India's history, stressing "outside" invasions and rulers had as its corollary the conviction that India must avoid weakness at all costs lest that history be repeated. The Indian quest after 1947 for strategic autonomy and for autonomy in the decision to use or threaten force has a long tradition behind it.

### **The Indian Practice since 1947**

Let us look at Indian strategic culture in action, at Indian practice and policy since independence.

- The defence budget has only exceeded 3% of GDP in one year of the last sixty-three.
- There have been clear limits on the use of military force internally. The use of military force for internal security functions has been severely circumscribed, limited to those cases where there is a strong correlation to inimical forces abroad such as Nagaland and J&K.
- The armed forces of the Union have only been used defensively against external aggression in the sixty-three years of the Republic.
- India has never sent troops abroad except for UNPKO or at the express request of the legitimate government of the country concerned. This was true in the Maldives in 1987, in Sri Lanka in 1987 and in Bangladesh in 1971.
- India has also never retained territory taken by force in the wars that she has fought. This is so even for some Indian territory taken back from Pakistan in the Indian state of J&K which was returned to Pakistani control after the 1965 and 1971 wars.
- India's overseas projection of power has been limited for several centuries.

### **India as a Nuclear Weapon State**

This strategic culture is also reflected in the Indian nuclear doctrine, with its emphasis on minimal deterrence, no first use, and its direct linkage to nuclear disarmament. We have made it clear that while we need nuclear weapons for our own security, it is our goal to work for a world free of nuclear weapons. We

are ready to undertake the necessary obligations to achieve that goal in a time-bound programme agreed to and implemented by all nuclear weapon and other states.

In sum, there is an Indian way, an Indian view and an Indian practice in the use and role of force.

How do we apply this approach in today's complicated situation of multiple threats, rapid shifts in the balance of power and growing Indian interests abroad? We are now in a world where the geopolitical centre of gravity is shifting to Asia and its surrounding oceans. In Asia itself, several strategic rivalries contribute to uncertainty. We are in the midst of a global shift in the balance of power and in a time of great change, far from the certainties of the Cold War or other eras. And the global power shift has immediate consequences in our immediate vicinity.

If Asia is our theatre, South Asia is our home. And the situation in South Asia is still fraught. If our partners in our region so desire we would work with them to provide and enhance security in the subcontinent, the Asian landmass and the Indian Ocean littoral.

Despite the shifting international landscape India's situation and interests remain unique. Our situation and interests are not identical to those of any other country or group of countries. It is therefore for us to work out our own solutions to our unique security dilemmas, working within and developing our own strategic culture and doctrines for the utility of force in international relations.

In grand strategic terms the primary purpose of Indian military power remains the defence of India's territorial integrity (on land, sea, air and in space), and to prepare for the threats of war that exist. This task on the Asian landmass does not change.

We should now also be leveraging our geopolitical potential to develop our maritime capabilities, fulfilling our responsibilities and contributing to maritime security in the Indian Ocean littoral, critical as this is to our ability to transform India and ensure her security.

In addition we should be shaping our military power in line with political objectives that are feasible under conditions of nuclear overhang which now apply in our immediate periphery.

And we should see how military power can contribute to increasing our security in non-conventional security areas such as energy security.

As I said before, in today's age of technology and media small powers and groups can create effects disproportionate to their physical scale or ostensible

material power. In other words we have to reckon with the changing nature of global power, as power itself is becoming much more diffused and fragmented. We need to develop the power to deal with weak states, terrorists and small groups and post-modern forms of power, a capability which is different from the conventional tasks that the military has been configured to achieve in the past.

At a time of rapid change it is essential that we continue to learn from our experience and re-evaluate it regularly. Government have recently established a Task Force to review and evaluate the effectiveness of our national security structures to see whether and how they could better serve our present needs. The Task Force will make its recommendations for the future soon, and I hope that it will enable us to move towards the holistic integration of the instruments of state power that is needed today to meet these challenges.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Let me try to sum up some of what I have said.

The role of militaries in international relations will continue to be influenced by the changing character of the threats that we face, but the essential role of the military to protect and further a country's interests is likely to endure, even as the means adopted to apply or threaten force continue to evolve.

We live in a time where international law remains underdeveloped, international governance is non-existent or weak, and international society is fundamentally anarchic. As a result the role of force in international relations has been magnified. But the age of weapons of mass destruction and newer technologies make it essential that we consider new ways of regulating the use of force in international relations.

Now that technology has made the spectrum of conflict wider than ever before, it is more than ever a political call whether and how to use force. Societies that have not followed this simple rule have suffered as a consequence. Militaries will have to strive to close the gap between their military capabilities and desired political outcomes. This will require flexibility and agility.

India as a society and nation has by and large made wise choices in the past on matters relating to the use of force, showing strategic restraint and realism. We have contributed force to internationally legitimate uses such as UN peacekeeping, while limiting its domestic deployment. Today we are in a position to make a greater contribution to global public goods in areas such as maritime security. At the same time we are moving towards an

Indian doctrine for the use of force, though this is a work in progress. But as I hope I have shown, the uses of force that we have envisaged so far are all in keeping with our strategic culture and do not conflict with our values. In today's complicated international situation we must keep it so.



**023. Excerpts from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's address at the Combined Commanders' Conference.**

**New Delhi, October 11, 2011.**

"It gives me immense pleasure once again to address the Combined Commanders Conference of the Indian Armed Forces.

You have the singular privilege and honour of leading our gallant soldiers, sailors and air warriors. Our men and women in uniform have demonstrated unflinching devotion to duty each time the nation's security has been challenged or when we have faced natural calamities.

The armed forces have played a stellar role in safeguarding our borders, in fighting terrorism and infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgencies in the North-East, pirates in the Indian Ocean and aiding civil authority in Sikkim during the recent earthquake. Our countrymen look up to the armed forces as the epitome of honesty, integrity, character and professionalism.

Your Conference is taking place at a time when the country is faced with multiple challenges. In this age of rapid information flows and explosion of technologies, one of the most important security imperatives is our ability to respond to these challenges quickly and in an integrated fashion.

We should be justifiably proud of the excellent civil-military relations that we have traditionally maintained, and which has been the bedrock of our democracy. We must, however, continuously build upon this tradition and leverage the combined will of the nation to meet new and emerging threats.

Broadly speaking, the international strategic and political environment has deteriorated from our point of view. The policies we adopt, whether internally or externally, must factor this in.

We have paid special attention to our immediate neighbourhood. This is based on our conviction that the task of India's socio-economic transformation will

always be more difficult and less likely to succeed if we do not manage relations with our neighbours properly; more importantly, if we do not give them a substantial stake in India's economic progress and stability.

Most major powers today are preoccupied with their own domestic problems. This has made the task of effective and coordinated global response to international issues that much more difficult. While we must work with the international community to address global issues, we must also strengthen our own capabilities and be ready to stand on our own feet, whenever required. We must therefore consolidate our own strategic autonomy and independence of thought and action.

The fundamentals of our economy remain strong. Despite the global slowdown, we will still achieve a growth rate of close to eight percent this year. Our short term challenge is to bring down inflation, while in the long term we have to make our growth process more inclusive, spur agricultural growth, expand the delivery of education, health and other services, protect our environment and improve our overall infrastructure.

It is equally the responsibility of the government to equip our armed forces with all the necessary means to meet all threats to our nation, including those which go beyond conventional warfare.

We have a long history in fighting terrorism. Today terrorist groups are highly networked, nimble footed and more lethal. This calls for appropriate responses. Cyber threats are emerging as a major source of worry. Cyber and information warfare could qualitatively change the concept of a battlefield. Nuclear proliferation and nuclear security remain a serious threat in our neighbourhood.

We must focus much more on maritime security, and on securing our coastline, our exclusive economic zone, our island territories and the sea lanes of communication.

Internally, we have to work assiduously to address problems in the North East and deal with left-wing extremism in a comprehensive manner. We have to be sensitive to the needs of the weaker sections of society and ensure that the fruits of our progress reach them. Issues relating to use of scarce resources such as land and water and strengthening institutions of governance require much closer attention than they have received in the past.

The Government will never fight shy of finding the funds for the modernization of our forces. At the same time we have to recognize that resources are not unlimited. I would urge upon you to optimize the use of scarce resources. You are the best judges of how this can be done, but advance and long term planning and the creation of common institutions, communication networks and

infrastructure are some examples of how this could be achieved. We should keep this in mind particularly when we build new capacities for meeting emerging threats.

The development of an indigenous defence industry is a national security objective. We have succeeded in persuading many of the advanced countries to dismantle their export control regimes targeted at us which will give us access to high technology, but we need to gear up our own efforts.

Modernisation of the armed forces should not be limited only to acquisition of foreign equipment or foreign technologies. We have to progressively reduce our dependence on external sources. This has to be a national effort, involving our armed forces, our scientists and captains of Indian industry.

We are among the world leaders in information technology and a knowledge based economy. We have a vibrant private sector. It is necessary to put in place policies to promote a viable defence industry in the country using the large industrial and skill base that already exists. Greater competition will lead to greater efficiencies and more research and development. The Defence Production Policy announced this year is a step in the right direction.

The Ministry of Defence has over the last few years taken several steps to streamline the processes of acquisition. I am glad that the Defence Procurement Procedure 2011 contains new provisions to encourage private sector participation in ship building and expansion in the scope of the offset guidelines. Procurement procedures must ensure transparency, probity and accountability. We must also constantly work towards reducing time for processing proposals. Well formulated long term integrated plans will facilitate this task.

Our armed forces must attract the best and the brightest of our youth. The skills of those who are already in the forces should be continuously upgraded and broad-based so that our forces operate at the cutting edge of technology. As Commanders, you have a special responsibility to inculcate the finest qualities of character, integrity and professionalism among your junior officers and men and women. We live in an increasingly open society characterised by instant communications and mass media. These impose greater responsibilities on all public institutions of our Republic, including the armed forces.

Ensuring the welfare of ex-servicemen is a responsibility that the nation has towards our men and women in uniform. It is necessary that the relevant plans and schemes are implemented diligently, that we ensure appropriate retraining and above all, we show compassion to those who have served our nation so well.



You are commanders of one of the finest armed forces in the world. Our nation is truly proud of your achievements and indebted to you for your bravery, for your valour and for your sacrifices. I wish you even greater success in the service of our nation in the year to come."



**024. Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on Defence Minister's address to the Naval Commanders Conference on maritime security.**

**New Delhi, October 12, 2011.**

The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony today assured India's maritime neighbours of the country's "unstinted support for their security and economic prosperity". Addressing the top brass of the Indian Navy and MoD here, Antony said the Indian Navy has been "mandated to be a net security provider to island nations in the Indian Ocean Region". He said "most of the major international shipping lanes are located along our island territories. This bestows on us the ability to be a potent and stabilising force in the region".

While acknowledging the benefits of conducting several exercises in the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Western Pacific Shri Antony also brought out the need to maintain a balance between the various responsibilities of the Indian Navy by saying "Although reaching out to our extended neighbourhood is important, you must always be mindful of the core area of your responsibility that mainly includes preserving and strengthening our shore lines and coastal security".

Talking about coastal security Shri Antony said "We have taken several measures to strengthen our coastal security, our maritime forces are capable of protecting our maritime frontiers. However, this should not lead into a feeling of complacency". He went on to say that "isolated incidents, which though directly did not pose a challenge to maritime security, highlighted the need to further strengthen our coastlines and maritime security". Saying so Shri Antony emphasised the need to replicate coastal security exercises with all stakeholders "as frequently as possible".

The Defence Minister spoke on other issues and challenges that face the Indian Navy. Describing piracy as a continuing cause of major concern, Shri Antony

acknowledged the proactive efforts of the Indian Navy but noted that, “the international community as a whole needs to do a lot more collectively”.

2 Shri Antony observed that the modernization of the Navy was going apace. He however, pointed out that indigenous shipyards must “develop and expand rapidly, as well as adopt latest best practices”. Saying that the Navy has been making satisfactory progress in indigenisation efforts, Shri Antony said that such efforts must not only be continued but also accelerated.

Talking about infrastructure development, Shri Antony said that the development of infrastructure in the island territories must be pursued in synergy with other stakeholders. He also stated that Phase II of the Karwar project must be pursued vigorously.

The Defence Minister was addressing the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma and Defence Secretary Shri Shashikant Sharma among other senior officers of the Indian Navy and MoD at the beginning of the three day Naval Commander’s Conference.



**025. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the First National Conference on International Relations organized by the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.**

**New Delhi, October 22, 2011**

I am happy to participate in this conference, claimed to be the first of its kind, of scholars and practitioners of international relations from all over the country. This initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs deserves our appreciation.

I confess I am somewhat puzzled at the characterization of today’s initiative as being part of ‘public diplomacy’. Words have meanings and concepts have connotations. Neither of the two is immutable; yet, new meanings and connotations do require explanations and justifications. Diplomacy, to be productive, cannot be conducted publicly; the public, on the other hand, has every right to be informed about its outcomes.

The dictionary meaning of diplomacy is ‘management of international relations’. Textbooks on the subject refine it to mean ‘the peaceful conduct of relations

amongst political entities'. The interest of the general public in it, as in other aspects of public policy, is evident. We thus have three categories of persons who profess to relate to diplomacy: those who are charged to conduct it, those whose pursuit in life is to analyze it from an academic or expert perspective, and those who interest themselves in a general sense in its processes and results.

It is evident that bringing together practicing professionals, academics, and interested members of the public, for a healthy exchange of views and ideas is a normal part of the business of government in all aspects of national activity. There is no reason for it to be different in regard to external relations or be given a different nomenclature.

#### Friends

India lives in a community of nations and is an active participant in it. We have a population of 1.2 billion, an economy of nearly two trillion dollars, a capacity in some measure to project power in immediate or proximate neighbourhood, as well as the wherewithal to become a knowledge society. Together they sustain the claim to have both hard power and soft power and the ability to enhance both in good measure and thereby enhance national power.

A prerequisite for these is a sound knowledge of the world, of the equilibrium of power, of the dynamics of current or anticipated changes, and of the manner they impact on India and Indian interests. Each is a function of incisive scholarship in which conceptual frameworks and micro-analysis would lend credence to the national effort.

How well are we prepared to shoulder this responsibility? How do we fare in comparison to our peers among players on the global stage?

The need for the study of international relations is self-evident; its absence, in fact, evokes questions. The harsh reality, however, is that the study of international affairs in our country is episodic, emotive and inadequate.

Three aspects of the matter need to be considered. The first relates to the need to conceptualise our own experience as a player on the global stage; the second to the requirement of in-depth study of countries and regions of relevance to us and the acquisition of analytical and linguistic tools, required for such studies; the third to the manner in which this experience and knowledge is to be related to our present and future policy options.

Record would show that our performance on each of these counts is less than adequate; given our intellectual resources, the output should have been better in terms of quality and content.

The need for correctives is thus evident. It is here that a platform like today's, where concerned scholars and researchers from all parts of the country could exchange ideas and experiences with practitioners, would be of great relevance. Its rationale is self evident; its success would lie in concrete correctives, not platitudes.

Academics analyse the conduct of international relations and diplomacy. Diplomats, on their part, put together the building blocks of diplomacy and use them for achieving national objectives in international relations. The former can choose areas of interest of their research; the latter, usually, have tasks thrust on them by the tidal waves of daily developments from all the corners of the globe.

Yet, it is vital that they interact and exchange notes. The academic has one resource that the professional does not – the time to study and analyse a problem in all its dimensions. The academic also has the option of dissent, of thinking unconventionally, suggesting courses of action that may be perceived to be risky and need not bear the weight of either history, or future expectation, that would distort decision-making.

Friends

Our understanding of countries and people that we deal with cannot be based solely on academic output of foreign institutions. We need to evolve a uniquely Indian understanding, based on the historical context of our relations with other nations and peoples, as also contemporary realities and concerns. We need our own culture of strategic thought.

A first step towards this end should be acquisition of linguistic skills. This is one area where there is an acute national shortage of skilled professionals, well versed in the languages and idiom of other countries and peoples. I would urge this distinguished gathering to deliberate on this aspect and work out the means through which we can create a national resource-base of language professionals which can be tapped not only by government, but also by academia, media, industry and business.

Another requirement is the sociological analysis of societies, particularly of countries most relevant to us and to ascertain their core concerns, interests, obsessions and inhibitions, and response frequencies.

There is another aspect that deserves closer scrutiny. Serious academic analysis in the field of international relations is not possible without access to archival records. Unfortunately, despite significant strides in transparency, especially through the Right to Information Act, archival documentation is so scanty that our researchers are forced to rely on declassified documents of

foreign governments. We do need to bring our rules on this in line with the practice of other advanced and open societies.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my sincere hope that this is not a one-off Conference and that there would be regular and institutional interaction between the two broad groups represented in this audience. This would lead to better academic research and more productive policy making.

I wish you all success in your deliberations over the next two days and thank the Ministry for inviting me to this Conference.



**026. Address by Foreign Secretary at National Defence College on “Security dimensions of India’s Foreign Policy”.**

**New Delhi, November 23, 2011.**

I was originally given the theme – India’s Foreign Policy Concerns and Strategy – but in MEA, I was advised to restrict the talk to the theme of your current study which is Strategies and Structures for National Security. The theme of foreign policy is larger and involves many different strands. In the kind of opening statement which I am making, it is better to touch on broader themes and leave other aspects to a Q&A session if they are felt necessary. Now, I was last here in 1987 and hence I know that I have been lucky with the timing. So let me go to the subject

2. India’s external environment remains complex and challenging. We are living in a world in transition, not just in geo-political terms, but also in geo-economic terms – covering trade, financial flows, financial trends, demographic changes and participation in a globalized economy. Globalization comes with its concurrent global threats – terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, piracy and other threats to maritime security, environmental challenges, threats to space and cyber security, and access to water, among others. It is hard to distinguish between traditional and non-traditional threats to security, just as the lines are getting blurred between threats that emanate from within, our immediate neighbourhood or from regions far beyond our own. Let me now start with a few basic parameters. As the Prime Minister said at the recent Combined Commanders Conference, our internal and external policies must factor in the deterioration in the international strategic and political

environment. The ability of the international community (such as it is) to respond to global security challenges has been limited by the preoccupation of major powers with domestic problems. 2012 will be a year of political transitions.

3. Our foreign and security policy guidelines flow out from the national requirements of sustained and inclusive economic growth which are politically defined as the priority for the country. External engagement has to ensure an enabling environment for national growth and development in terms of securing key variables: a periphery which is peaceful and hence permits concentration on economic development and access to material resources, energy, technologies and access to markets.

4. In a globalized world, a proactive external engagement is required to protect and promote India's national interests. We need to define strategic autonomy in a dynamic context. From a foreign policy perspective it means that we must be self reliant in sectors critical to our national security, but we should be able to use external sources to our advantage. This will require that export control regimes targeted against us are given up. Beyond the critical sectors we must actively seek participation in global networks so that we benefit from sources with comparative advantage. It is of course clear that the ability of a country to harness globalization to its benefit, depends on its own strengths – which broadly includes the strength of its institutions, its infrastructure, its military capabilities, economic dynamism and cultural vitality.

5. Our strategic and security interests and concerns are closely intertwined with those of our neighbours. The peaceful periphery I talked of earlier calls for a policy of active engagement and cooperation with these countries with a view to nurture and promote our shared destinies and expand economic complementarities and connectivity. This is an ongoing effort. We seek to ensure that our smaller neighbours are not used by elements inimical to our interests. Conversely, our neighbours have to be assured their interests are taken care of in our bilateral engagements. Giving our neighbours a stake in our own economic growth will be an investment in our shared vision of security through shared prosperity. With many of our neighbours we are also committed to assisting them in building up their own security capabilities – through training, service-to-service ties, joint exercises etc.

6. At the bilateral level, we desire peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan. We are committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence. The first round of the resumed dialogue has been completed in July 2011. We are committed to carry forward our discussions with an open mind and a forward looking approach. However, Pakistan must fulfil, in letter and spirit, its stated commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for fomenting

terrorism against India in any manner. Our vision of a peaceful, cooperative and progressive South Asia cannot be realized unless the dark shadow of terrorism emanating from Pakistan is eliminated.

7. We have a strong multi-faceted strategic relationship with Afghanistan, demonstrated by the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed during the recent visit of President Karzai to India. Our strategic relations are based on historical and cultural linkages, and cemented by a significant Indian role in the reconstruction, development and capacity-building in Afghanistan. It is in our interest to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, which develops its natural and human resources and also becomes an economic hub, linking Central and South Asia through pipelines, trade and transit routes for the common good of the people of our region and the world. In this regard, India has committed to assisting Afghanistan in its reconstruction and development process in the run up to 2014 and beyond.

8. India and China as two large, growing economies with overlapping areas of interests are bound to cooperate and compete simultaneously. On the global issues there are a number of areas where we find common ground. The nature and content of the bilateral relationship has evolved considerably since the signing of our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity and the Shared Vision Document in January 2008. We have a wide-ranging bilateral dialogue. We also have outstanding issues and discussions by the Special Representatives appointed to deal with the boundary question are set to continue. The rapid strides in economic and military capabilities of China and the manner in which China exercises its power is being followed carefully not only by us but by other neighbours in East Asia, ASEAN and beyond. Managing our relations with China, will be probably the most critical element among the security dimensions of India's foreign policy.

9. India shares open borders with Bhutan and Nepal. Open borders have facilitated people-to-people contacts and trade and commerce but they are vulnerable to misuse by forces inimical to peace and stability in the region. The security challenges posed by open borders require more intense and effective coordination between the security agencies of our two countries.

10. We are working with Nepal's law enforcement agencies to address issues such as money laundering, and financing of terrorism through mutual cooperation. The need to further strengthen cooperation at the operational levels, ensure better coordination and exchange of information cannot be over emphasized.

11. Our relations with Bhutan, whose Head of State visited India last month, are based on trust and mutual understanding, which has been sustained through

a common perception and understanding of our strategic and security interests. The operations conducted in 2003 to evict Indian Insurgent Groups in Bhutan were a milestone in our joint response to terrorist activities. India is committed towards capacity-building in Bhutan's security agencies and there is close cooperation in the training of Bhutanese police and armed forces personnel in training institutions in India. The Indian Military Training Team in Bhutan is a symbol of our cooperation in the defence and security field for over four decades.

12. During Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka in September, we made significant strides in our relations with Bangladesh, including the settlement of the long pending land boundary issues, and trade and economic cooperation. We expect to move forward on water sharing issues and road, rail and waterways connectivity which will fundamentally transform the cooperative landscape between India and Bangladesh. On security related matters we have received very good cooperation from Bangladesh and have been reassured that Bangladesh soil will not be allowed to be used for any activity inimical to our security interests.

13. India enjoys close and friendly relations with Sri Lanka and the Maldives which covers wide range of areas including trade, connectivity, power, agriculture, science & technology, capacity building, infrastructure development, education, culture and people to people contacts. We have close military-to-military cooperation with these neighbouring countries that underpins our core security concerns. There have been recent exchanges of visits at the level of the three Service Chiefs, senior officers, institutional exchanges and training programmes. More such exchanges and visits contribute to better bilateral understanding. Our relations with Myanmar continue to have a strong security dimension. The stabilization of our borders in the North-East of India requires a policy of cooperation with Myanmar. Myanmar can be our land bridge to South East Asia. It is also a significant partner in the Bay of Bengal.

14. Our extended neighbourhood in South East Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf region are an important priority in our foreign policy. These are regions that are witnessing domestic transformations which could impact on vital interests, including the presence of a large Indian Diaspora and as a source for our growing energy needs. Our strong economic and trade relations with these regions will need to grow in the coming decades. Hence their peace and stability is of vital interest to us.

15. The entire Indian Ocean region stretching from East African coast to the South China Sea remains crucial to our foreign trade, energy and national security interests. As part of our 'Look East' policy, the engagement with South East Asian states has been intensified. The Asia Pacific region is witnessing evolution of a regional economic and security architecture. We are participating



in the process of East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, ADMM Plus and other forums. An open, balanced and inclusive regional architecture is in the long-term interest of the region as a whole. Our strategic partnerships with Japan, ROK and other Asia Pacific countries also serve our long-term economic, developmental and security interests.

16. As part of our expanding interests, our relations with major powers are becoming increasingly important and extend beyond purely bilateral cooperation to areas such as regional security, economic issues, climate change, and disarmament and non-proliferation. We have established over the last decade a close relationship with the US and the US President last year described our relationship as one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. Our ties with Russia also remain of vital importance to us – and this is underlined by the leadership level summits held annually with Russia. With Japan, France, and UK too we have very close ties founded on a commonality of interests encompassing the political, defence, energy, and economic areas. With all these countries we have to leverage our relations in high technology cooperation that can boost our defence modernisation programmes. This engagement is also important for securing a place for India in the world that is commensurate with our position and our expectations. Our current two-year membership in the UN Security Council and constructive contribution in international forums also reinforces our global credentials.

17. In an increasingly integrated global economic order, the economic crisis in some EU states affects the rest of the world through financial, trade and investment linkages. The G-20 had demonstrated its value in jointly addressing the challenges of the financial and economic crises and initiating reforms in international financial institutions. It remains a key forum for us to ensure that the agenda of the international economic cooperation takes account of our concerns and those of other developing countries.

18. Through new formations like BRICS, and IBSA we are expanding our economic partnerships with what are called the emerging countries.

19. We share the long-term vision for global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. We also support global non-proliferation objectives. However, as a nuclear weapon state, nuclear weapons are an integral part of our national security and will remain so pending global elimination of nuclear weapons. The Government is committed to putting in place all the necessary capabilities in pursuit of our policy of credible minimum deterrent. The developments in Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes have been reported widely. The close military and strategic ties between China and Pakistan impacts on our security environment. Our policies and engagements

need to factor in this strategic reality and provide us options and additionalities to safeguard our national interest, beyond our own efforts.

20. India's position in the Indian Ocean gives our nation a maritime destiny. Our foreign policy has to address growing maritime challenges which call for comprehensive naval capabilities. Ninety percent of India's international trade by volume and seventy-seven percent by value is carried by sea. The maritime dimension is also vital for our energy security, as economic growth is critically dependent upon unhindered flow of oil. The sea-borne terrorist attacks on Mumbai-26/11, focussed the need for strengthening maritime and coastal security against threats from sea. The growing threat of piracy emanating from Somalia has assumed ever expanding dimensions even coming relatively close to our Lakshadweep island territories. A flexible but proactive maritime doctrine is essential to safeguard and project our national interests overseas as a net security provider to several island and littoral states in the Indian Ocean region and beyond. Obviously, this doctrine has to mesh with our overall foreign policy outreach. I am happy that as I speak, the Ministerial Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation is being held in Bengaluru. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the joint exercises carried out with partners are also of significance in this context.

21. Let me say in conclusion that our armed forces are increasingly participating in our external engagement which extend beyond UN peace-keeping, goodwill visits or joint exercises. Bilateral defence talks and service-to-service interactions have been growing. The services are integral to participation in the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and armed robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), Defence Officials Dialogue under the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) process.

22. We live in a world in transition to a new order which will not be just multi-polar but one with kaleidoscopic arrangements based on varying security, economic, technological and societal interests. This will call for greater coordination in our policy making mechanisms at home. The distinctions between internal and external security will also become more blurred calling for a constant review of our capabilities, preparedness and strategies. This NDC Course is, therefore, an important opportunity to address the strategies and structure for our national security.



**027. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister at Passport Officers' Conference 2011.**

**New Delhi, November 29, 2011.**

Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai

Additional Secretary Shri Basant Gupta,

Chief Passport Officer Shri Muktesh Pardeshi

Passport Officers

Distinguished representatives from Media

I am pleased to inaugurate the Annual Passport Officers' Conference 2011. This Conference is an important occasion for the Ministry as well as Passport Offices to take stock of the functioning of our Passport Offices in meeting the primary objective of delivering passport services to fellow citizens efficiently.

At the outset, let me reiterate that the Passport Offices are the public face of the Ministry of External Affairs. I attach very high importance to prompt, efficient and courteous manner of delivery of passport services to our fellow citizens.

With India's fast growing economy and our increasing integration with global economy, the number of Indians travelling abroad has shown phenomenal growth in recent years. Apart from business and employment reasons, more and more people are travelling abroad for education, tourism, pilgrimage and social visits. This, in turn, has resulted in a rapid increase in demand for passports and other miscellaneous services.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the number of passport applications has doubled since 2000. I understand a record number of passports numbering over 53 lakh were issued during 2010-11, in addition to rendering more than 6 lakh passport-related services. The demand on the Passport Offices would continue to grow in the months and years to come. This offers not only new opportunities but also enormous challenges.

I acknowledge the positive contributions made by Passport Officers in rendering timely Passport services, in spite of steep increase in demand and constraints with regard to infrastructure, equipment and personnel.

As a rapidly growing and modernizing nation, we are duty bound to provide services to our public that are completely transparent, prompt, user-friendly and, above all, in conformity with the best international standards and practices.

We have to strive to re-affirm our citizen-centric role by adopting measures which will facilitate greater convenience and comfort to public at large.

I wish to stress that there are still large number of complaints received by emails as well as through letters. Be it harassment of people visiting passport offices by either officials or by the agents, be it discourteous behaviour at the public interface in the passport offices, or be it difficulties in accessing information or in meeting with responsible officials. These problems should be addressed promptly.

Here, we need to constantly improve on the public grievance redressal mechanisms that have been put in place. Priority should be accorded to increase accountability within the system so that grievances/complaints are indeed attended to.

You must also ensure accessibility to citizens in your offices in a systematic manner by way of designating an 'Open Day' for addressing the complaints received from the public. It is important that these services are widely disseminated for citizens to take maximum advantage.

We must continue to facilitate faster and easier issuance of passports to Haj pilgrims as carried out this year. Next year as well, you should take measures for opening separate counters for the Haj pilgrims; holding special Passport Adalats; and liaising with police authorities to obtain police reports on priority basis.

The Passport Adalats, held once a month all over India, are disposing off long pending cases. These Passport Adalats should be mandatory for all passport officers their calendar to eliminate all pending old cases.

I understand that there is lot of pendency in passport delivery services largely due to pending police verifications. Please coordinate with the respective Commissioners of Police in your jurisdiction regularly so that the police verifications can be expedited. I also like that this pendency be eliminated, at least in those cases where police verifications have been received, by the end of the year.

To meet the ever increasing demand for passports, we embarked on an e-Governance initiative - the Passport Seva Project. This is a flagship Project of our Ministry. I am happy to note that 30 out of 77 Passport Seva Kendras have become operational. I would like to see the operationalization of remaining PSKs by March next year.

As part of the organisational reforms, the Central Passport Organisation cadre has been restructured and expanded. As part of the staff welfare and

career enhancement measures of CPO employees, the Ministry has fast tracked promotions and also instituted Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme. I am happy to note that the employees of the Central Passport Organisation and their families are offered gratis passport services. We also need to urgently address the genuine grievances of the CPO employees.

**Dear Colleagues,**

The Passport Seva Project is a venture in the overall national interest. You are the most important stakeholder in the Project and your active involvement would be critical for the success of the execution of the Project.

I am confident that with your utmost support, this transformational initiative would be a great success and become a model for other citizen-centric services in the country.

I hope that the deliberations of the Conference would be constructive and result in practical and forward looking suggestions for improving the overall management of the Central Passport Organisation.

I wish the Conference all success. Thank you.



**028. Address by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Gulf Forum 2011 on 'Global Power Shifts and the Role of Rising Powers'.**

**Riyadh, December 5, 2011.**

Professor Abdulkhaleq Abdullah,

Fellow Speakers,

Excellencies and distinguished participants,

I wish to thank the Institute of Diplomatic Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the honour of speaking at this prestigious forum on the Gulf and the Globe.

Allow me to make a few points to start off a discussion on the topic that was suggested to me, namely, Global Power Shifts and the Role of Rising Powers.

1. We live in a time of unprecedented change. No one knows this better than the sub-region where we are today. It is hard to think of another area which has been as transformed in the last fifty years as the Gulf. Often the scope and pace of change is beyond explanation or comprehension and our thinking still has to catch up with reality. This is true of the economic shift that has accelerated after the financial crisis of 2008. It is also true of the rapid shifts in regional and global balances of power. Some of the change is positive. For the first time in history 60% of mankind has been exposed to sustained growth rates of over 6% for an extended period. Balance of power shifts and technological change are creating a world where power is more widely held. We seem to be moving to a situation of multiple major powers in the international system with the ability to produce or influence outcomes.

2. Unprecedented change also brings with it unprecedented uncertainty and insecurity. This is evident around us. Globalisation has created interdependence, knitting the world together. If the centre of gravity of world politics, and soon the economy, has shifted to Asia, including the Gulf, Asia is now also the cockpit of rivalries and the stage on which international competition is played out. Uncertainty and insecurity lead powers to follow hedging strategies, each acting on their own worst fears, and thereby risking making them come true.

But the same change that creates new challenges also opens up space for creative diplomacy. There is space opening up in the international system for medium powers and others to play a more active role in this world of multiple powers, economically interlinked and embedded in a new balance of power.

3. What are the drivers of this change? They range from technology (such as nuclear fission, ICT and uses of outer space), to economics, to politics, and to new issues like climate change and the uses of soft power in an interdependent world. Technologies like information and communications technology (ICT) have empowered small groups and individuals and the state itself, opening up new domains with new rules and practices, and new forms of contention.

4. We see the effects of these power shifts all around us. Developments in North Africa, West Asia and Gulf are evidence. The epicentre of global growth shifting to Asia is another. If this transformation is to be continued, for the benefit of the global economy, energy will be the key, and the Gulf will be critical to the rest of Asia's growth and therefore to global economic health.

The flip side of common prosperity is common security. Asia's security is also interlinked across this great continent. India has therefore argued for an open, inclusive Asian security architecture to be evolved by the powers of the region itself. We face common challenges of proliferation, terrorism, and maritime security and need to find a way to ensure the peace and stability that is essential to our futures.

5. What is the role of emerging powers in this situation? First, a problem of definition. Many of these so called emerging countries are really re-emerging powers, better described as rapidly developing countries rather than as rising powers. Today the world is fortunate to have several growth poles simultaneously in East Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, the Gulf and in Africa.

The larger countries in this category, (irrespective of whether you call them rising or emerging powers), are likely to continue to have several poor people even as they accumulate power in the international system, unlike the situation in the 19th or 20th centuries when Europe and North America developed. They are therefore unlikely to behave as the older or traditional powers did, and their domestic imperatives will take priority in policy formulation.

I can only speak for India, and give you one Indian's view on the role of so-called emerging powers. We in India still have a long way to go in realising our domestic goal of transforming India to the point where each Indian has the opportunity to fully realise his potential. The scale of our domestic task is enormous, and for a long time to come our primary responsibility will be to sustain the pace of inclusive growth at home. I remember a Chinese friend

saying once that the best contribution that India and China can make to global food security is to feed themselves. There is considerable truth in that.

Over the last two decades years India has averaged over 6% growth, which has accelerated to between 8-9% in the last five years. With a domestic savings rate of 35% and investment rate slightly higher than that the economy can sustain high growth rates. India's economic prospects are good and the fundamentals are strong.

We also recognise that we live in an increasingly interdependent world and that India's own success is increasingly bound to the fate of the rest of the world. When we began economic reforms twenty years ago only about 14% of our GDP was related to the external economy. Today that proportion is closer to 40%. (That figure is almost twice that for China.) We will therefore work with our international partners, contributing within our capacity to creating an enabling external environment for the domestic transformation of India. That is what India and Saudi Arabia have attempted to do together in the G-20.

This requires an external environment of peace. It is important that our strategic partnership also extend to creating that climate of peace working together on issues of regional security.

For India Saudi Arabia and the Gulf are vital partners. Almost 6 million Indians live and work here, and our trade is now over 100 billion dollars a year. India has a stake in issues relating to peace and stability in the wider Gulf region including Iran and Iraq.

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations reflecting centuries of economic and social ties. The landmark visit of His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to India in January 2006 opened a new chapter in India-Saudi Arabia relations, which was carried forward by the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2010, giving new impetus to our strategic partnership.

One thing I can assure you. India will not be like the traditional big powers. Mrs. Indira Gandhi used to say India will be a different power, a power that works for development, peace and international understanding, in its own interest and in that of its friends and partners abroad, Asia is not Europe and our indigenous strategic cultures are strong and lasting. I am confident that, working together, India and the Gulf will be able to face the challenges that the new geopolitics are throwing up and take advantage of the opportunities that these changes are opening up.





**029. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahmad at UN Alliance of Civilizations.**

**Doha, December 12, 2011.**

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour and privilege for me to take part in the Fourth UN Alliance of Civilization Forum, here in Doha. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the First Lady of Qatar, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the Ambassador for UNAOC for her strong commitment and valuable contribution to this forum and to his Excellency Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for UNAOC, for his leadership and efforts to strengthen this forum.

It is heartening to note the increasing interest of the international community in this Forum. The significant participation of world leaders, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Representatives of Civil Society and NGOs in this Forum is testimony to the desire and abiding interest of the international community towards a genuine civilizational dialogue to enhance mutual understanding and to make the world a better place to live.

**Excellency,**

When we look around for successful models of inclusiveness, tolerance and peaceful existence, I have no doubt in my mind that India stands out as a living example of Unity in Diversity. India is a land of variety with a mosaic of geography, climate, lifestyles, religions, habits, thought processes and cultures. With a population of over 1.2 billion, it has more than 30 languages, more than 1600 dialects and hundreds of ethnic groups. India is the birth place of the great religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism. We also have one of the largest populations of Muslims in the world and our land has provided the ground for other religions like Christianity and Zoroastrianism to flourish.

And in spite of all these differences, all this diversity, the Indian civilization, from time immemorial, has been characterized by inclusiveness and by unity in diversity. India has been a living example of Confluence of Civilizations and not Clash of Civilizations. It is a place where we celebrate diversity and are enriched by differences. Each and every section of society in India has found equal opportunities for expression and for accomplishments. India is the largest democracy in the World and it has ensured for its citizens equality and dignity. Even the weaker sections of the society are provided equal status and equal opportunities.

The interaction between India and rest of world go back to centuries starting from the trade links between Indus Valley Civilization and the other Civilizations of that time i.e. Nile and Mesopotamian Civilizations. India's interaction and exchanges with the West also goes back to the time of ancient Greece. Over the centuries, India's contact with Islam produced the great edifice of the Sufi Traditions and the Indo-Islamic culture. Unlimited strains of thoughts and cultures have touched India and India has attracted travellers like Ibn Batuta, Al Baruni, Fa Yean, Hun Tsang and Magasthenese. And yet India always benefitted from these thoughts, these cultures but maintained its identity, the Indian-ness. As father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi had said, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."

**I think this is the need of the hour.**

The world is becoming a global village and it is almost impossible for any country or any nation to remain untouched by the outside influences. But what is needed is to absorb these trends, these diversities, these differences so as to produce a beautiful civilizational mosaic where all different cultures, thoughts can co- exist peacefully.

**Excellency,**

This has become even more important in the present day context where at a number of places in the world, people are becoming impatient and are yearning for change. The differences are trying to dominate the commonalities. However here I would like to say that the societies cannot be reordered from outside and any process of change should be driven by the desires of the people in the spirit of inclusiveness. It is the responsibility of the countries to create conditions that enable their people to freely determine their pathways to development. Particularly in the Middle-East, the developments over the past year again underlined ever so strongly the need for inclusive processes underpinned by dialogue, not violence, and reforms to meet the legitimate aspirations of people. It is also imperative that nations like Palestine which have been denied to play their rightful role in the international community are allowed to do so.

**Excellency**

UNAOC has been playing an important role towards civilization understanding. In the last few years the UNAOC has expanded rapidly and the number of member States and international organizations of the Group of Friends has grown further. India fully supports the initiatives of the Alliance and welcomes and supports all efforts to build bridges of understanding

between nations, peoples, religions, and cultures across the many fault-lines that exist.

**Excellency,**

Peace and development are two faces of the same coin. There cannot be equitable development without sustainable peace. We appreciate the UNAOC's role in advancing better inter-cultural relations thus creating an environment for equitable development. India also welcomes the efforts to explore the linkage between AOC's mission and aims and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at this Forum. We hope that this Forum will come out with concrete initiatives for creating peace through dialogue among all civilizations and also achievements of the developmental goals as enshrined in the MDGs.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Government of Qatar for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this meeting.

Thank you.



**030. Address by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Conference on “Economic Policies for Emerging Economies”.**

**New Delhi, December 14, 2011.**

During the deliberations today you may have dealt with definitional issues in the context of the emergence of “emerging economies”, and just how many economies fit the description. It is, therefore, not my intention to go back to the Goldman Sachs Global Economics Paper Number 66, which brought BRICS into the jargon of international discourse. But the last ten years have propelled BRICS further forward in popular imagination, as well as much as in the reality of their contribution to the global economy. Obviously Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey and some other countries may need to be added to the acronym. Or just as we have IBSA we could have further sets of emerging economies who acquire prominence when grouped together. Such groupings are arbitrary as the emerging economies are not necessarily cohesive. But whether collectively or severally the emerging economies are set to become poles of economic and political power in a multi-polar world.

Such predictions are by nature dangerous. In the 1960s Herman Kahn had more or less convinced some that by the end of the century we would all need to speak Japanese to survive. There are other examples to show that - In the long run not only are we all dead but all our predictions are dead !

Now the Financial Times of December 7 carried the headline "Brazil growth shudders to halt". The article suggests a somewhat eager anticipation of a hard landing or slowdown for all four BRICS countries. Some slowing may be inevitable over time but to draw a conclusion that the long term trends are negative is probably a case of premature *schadenfreude*. However policies have clearly to be set in place if the trend lines are to stay steady.

Evidence from the growth path of China and India show that there are some key features of the economic environment that are necessary to sustain such growth, and hence good pointers to the economic policies necessary:

- (i) The liberal open economic order built over the last sixty years with, stable trading rules, a reliable international reserve currency, protected commons through which merchandise and invisibles can be exchanged globally, has been identified by Ashley Tellis as a key enabler.
- (ii) India's case is not one of trade-driven growth. But the unleashing of animal spirits which has enabled us to leverage a 34 % savings rate, is not purely a domestically driven mechanism. The success stories of Indian software professionals were made possible through integration in global communication networks and the relatively open system of trading in services. Global success of the services sector imparted new imagination and confidence to our country, apart from financing a boom in domestic consumption, and creating a wider domestic consensus on the benefits of participation in the global economy.

Emerging countries would, therefore, do well to play their part in preserving the viability of global regimes and systems of trade and transport, tweaking them to remove distortions which deliberately work against them. But individually or as a group, emerging economies must encourage greater emphasis on trade and connectivity.

A second critical area is the policies that affect our energy choices. There is no getting away from the fact that even today sustained growth will require what Lenin called "electrification". With forty percent of the population still without access to commercial energy in India one of the greatest challenges of economic policy is to stimulate energy investments, efficiencies and innovations

As the recent Durban discussions showed, there will be continued pressure to slow down the emergence of emerging countries, through mechanisms of legally binding agreements which would curtail critical energy and infrastructure development. In our own interest, as much as in our responsibility for the planet, emerging economies have no alternative but to become Green focussed economies within one generation. This will call for a technological revolution, which points to another set of economic policies necessary.

Emerging economies will have to take account of the fact that their spectacular growth in the last 2-3 decades began at low levels of development. Most had resources that remained underemployed because of lack of opportunities or lack of what Tellis calls "catalysing mechanisms". Economic reform helped with factor accumulation, and at the same time the emerging economies benefited from the "late industrialisation" syndrome of using production techniques, technologies and processes already tried and tested elsewhere. In telecom, for example, we were able to leapfrog an entire stage of development and did not have to dig up the whole country with copper wire for a nation-wide landline network, before moving as we have to a stage where over 800 million people have telecom connectivity.

The future will depend to a much greater extent on productivity. Of course, availability of capital, technology, higher education and efficient infrastructure will be necessary. But as an ADB study looking at the year 2030 notes "what will differentiate countries is their ability to adopt technologies – the skill level of workforce, appropriate capital and infrastructure, openness to trade and FDI, and more generally the investment climate". The so called demographic dividend can be one only if productivity gains become the norm. Economic policy that drives such productivity improvements, would give us balance in the terms of engagement with countries and organisations which are major sources of technology and finance.

Any historical overview will also clarify that economic policies cannot be divorced from the existing political realities of the world. To have freedom and space for economic policy-making that seeks to increase participation in the global economy, it will be necessary for the emerging economies to have increased weightage in the global political discourse, and in the management of the global commons. The ability to pull our weight in reformed institutions of global governance (including international financial institutions), a visible capacity for self-defence with domestic capabilities in the requisite technologies, and diplomatic skills would all be essential. We have to manage the interface of economic and politico-military assets, all the while articulating policy and interests in a world of instant communication.

The economic policies of emerging countries will have to take into account the political balance in the world and make choices which are best suited for navigating a sustainable course in this complicated scenario.

As we see it in South Block our economic policies must enable us to build on India's inherent strengths and factor advantages. All development is ultimately local. But our potential is best leveraged through structures of international cooperation. The G-20 provides the emerging economies one platform which is shared with the established powers, whereas IBSA, BRICS or even the G-77 provide avenues for beneficial convergence with other emerging economies and beyond. In many areas partnerships and the task of finding interlocutors will be between institutions, corporates and organisations, not necessarily between countries. Managing such kaleidoscopic variations will not be easy, but they would be essential part of economic policy making just as much as in foreign policy.



**031. Inaugural Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the International Conference on “Economic Policies for Emerging Economies”.**

**New Delhi, December 14, 2011.**

It gives me great pleasure to deliver the inaugural address at the International Conference on “Economic Policies for Emerging Economies” organized jointly by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. The initiative by Prof Kausik Basu last year of bringing together economists, policy makers, industry captains and other stakeholders to deliberate on topical economic issues has now grown into a week-long “Delhi Economics Conclave”. I understand that this is the plenary day of the Conclave, which is a collaborative effort with seminars being hosted by the Delhi School of Economics, Confederation of Indian Industry and Indian Statistical Institute.

I welcome and support this initiative. There are eminent scholars from India and abroad, including Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen, Prof. Richard Freeman of Harvard University, well-known policy makers, leading bankers, representatives from Trade and Industry, social activists and journalists participating in this Conference. While extending a warm welcome to all of you I would like to compliment Prof. Kaushik Basu, and his able team of officers in

organizing this conference. I am sure this conference would contribute to the economic policy discourse of emerging nations including India.

The subject of today's conference "Economic Policies for Emerging Economies" is very topical. The world economy is passing through turbulent times. Recovery from the global economic crisis has been staggered because of a complex mix of real and financial challenges facing many industrialized economies. Moreover, the recovery has been two-paced, with emerging market economies like China and India leading the way followed by Latin America and Africa. Advanced economies have grown more slowly than before. Over the past months, deep and widespread economic problems have surfaced in Europe which is a further setback to the global economy.

Indeed, there is indication that even the tepid economic recovery that we have seen so far in the advanced economies is stalling. Unemployment in these economies never quite recovered from their crisis highs. The relatively robust recovery in emerging market economies is also beginning to falter. The financial markets, which had never fully recovered from the earlier crisis, are under renewed stress.

The current build-up of concerns has been incremental in nature with a series of local intermittent shocks getting transferred to the global economy. All this has happened despite the aggressive use of both fiscal and monetary policy tools and our collective resolve to keep markets open. This poses some serious problems for the policy makers. Going forward it limits our options in dealing with the emerging situation.

The heart of the problem lies in sovereign debt. John Maynard Keynes had famously observed that when you borrow 1000 pounds, you are under the thumb of your banker. But when you borrow 1 million pounds, your banker is under your thumb.

During economic slowdown in the wake of the global financial crisis, virtually all governments increased their spending as part of fiscal stimulus packages. In particular, several European governments built up large public debt. As a consequence, those who lent money to these sovereigns are in trouble. I should add that reality is a little more complex than what Keynes had said. The large debt is causing a problem for both the lenders and the borrowers.

It is possible to argue that current developments in the global economy reflect a major shift in the international economic order, where emerging economies will come to play a major role in the post-crisis world. While new opportunities await us in the near future, we must recognize that sound economic policy-

making is a must for realizing them. Our intellectual engagements in the field of economic policy analysis also need to increase. It is therefore imperative to deliberate on innovative ideas to address challenges faced by emerging economies, involving all stakeholders. In this context, the present conference assumes even greater significance.

Though emerging economies recovered quickly from 2008-09 global crises, factors including capacity constraints, rising commodity prices, uncertainties in capital flows and slowdown in external demand have impacted their growth to varying degrees. Some of them have also been experiencing inflationary pressures. Excessive liquidity from aggressive policy actions, by central banks from around the world trying to counter recessionary tendencies, spilled over onto emerging economies, resulting in excessive volatility in capital flows and inflationary pressures.

It is reassuring to note that in such a globalized environment the pause in India's growth story was brief. The Indian economy recovered with growth averaging over 8 per cent in the two years following the outbreak of the crisis in 2008.

We are presently faced with a rapidly evolving economic scenario. While the Indian economy faced excessive capital inflows in the aftermath of the global crisis leading to appreciation of the domestic currency, with the unfolding of the euro zone crisis, the matter of concern at present is reversal in such flows leading to increased currency volatility. We have witnessed sharp depreciation of the Rupee vis-à-vis the US Dollar in the last few months. Slowdown in external demand has led to deceleration in the growth of exports in recent months with the current account deficit widening to around 3 per cent of GDP.

Sustained high level of inflation that has been a major policy concern for us over the past two years is now beginning to moderate. Food inflation has seen a decline to 6.6 per cent for the week ending November 26, 2011. Growth however has slowed in 2011-12. The second quarter of the current fiscal has registered a GDP growth of 6.9 per cent following a growth of 7.7 per cent in the first quarter. Our monthly industrial growth has slowed down sharply for the month of October 2011. This is partly a reflection of global trends, but our own fight against inflation has also taken a toll on investments by our corporations. We must turn our attention now to reviving growth as quickly as possible.

We also have our fiscal challenges but our problems, whether they are measured in terms of aggregate public debt or the size of the fiscal deficit, are nowhere



nearly as large as the ones faced by many European nations. I say this not to encourage complacency in India but to place the issue in perspective. I am expecting that the present downturn will be temporary and our economy will soon revert back to high growth.

The Indian economy is, in some ways, better placed than many other nations to withstand a fresh round of global economic turmoil. India's resilience results from the fact that the bulk of India's GDP is domestic demand driven. A calibrated approach to capital account convertibility has, to a significant extent, prevented rapid surges and reversals of debt creating capital flows. India's external commercial borrowings policy that places end-use, all-in-cost and maturity restrictions, has been successful in maintaining external debt at sustainable levels. India's banking sector is robust and export basket is increasingly diversified with developing countries being our largest export market. We can also boast of optimal regulatory mechanisms in place that check unsustainable financial practices, thus ensuring the robustness of the financial sector.

I understand that a plenary panel in this conference will dwell on issues concerning social justice and inclusive development. I am happy that Professor Amartya Sen, who is a world authority in these matters, is with us today.

In a globalised world, macroeconomic disturbances will come up from time to time to challenge policy makers in economies like ours. However, problems of poverty and inequality pose continuing challenges for us. Our growth story is now an accepted fact, but many people in this country are yet to receive the full benefits of our rapid economic expansion. Our commitment to 'inclusive growth' is an endeavour to include those at the margins into the mainstream of India's growth story through micro and macro level initiatives. We are seeking to strengthen institutions and delivery mechanisms that take the benefits of high growth to the poor. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is one such example. Our emphasis on inclusive development in the 12th Five Year Plan that focuses on agriculture and crucial social sectors including education and health is in keeping with this objective. While I am not personally familiar with the work of Professor Richard Freeman, I know that he has written extensively on labour rights and the welfare of workers. I am sure he will have useful advice to give us.

Let me conclude by saying that we need to further our understanding of issues where greater and coordinated policy actions are needed to sustain growth and create inclusive outcomes for the people. I am confident that this conference would contribute to that end. Let me once again compliment the organizers of the Conference for this great effort. I look forward to benefiting from the outcomes of your deliberations.



**032. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the Conference on “Global Economic Situation: New Order Emerging?” in Delhi Economic Conclave.**

**New Delhi, December 15, 2011.**

I am very happy to be here today at the inauguration of this CII event. I understand this conference, which is being organised as a part of the Delhi Economics Conclave, to dwell on contemporary economic issues and challenges before us, would be an annual feature from this year. I welcome this initiative.

The world economy is facing renewed challenges on several fronts in the aftermath of the global financial turmoil of 2008. The persisting Euro zone sovereign debt crisis has continued to fuel uncertainty in the financial markets, undermining business sentiments globally. Post-financial crisis, the world saw a two-paced recovery with advanced economies growing more slowly than before, while emerging economies like China and India leading the way.

After the initial phase of harmonising the use of macro-economic policy and keeping markets open, countries in the developed and the developing world adopted revival strategies, in keeping with the needs of their respective contexts, though with varying degree of success. Thus, in recent months, while recovery in the advanced economies is showing signs of stalling, there is slowdown in the emerging economies. This does not augur well for the global economy. Indeed, it is becoming one of the most challenging periods for policy makers the world over.

It is in time like these that the need for putting our heads together to come up with practical policy options in addressing the challenges before us becomes vital. Emerging economies including India have a prominent and ever increasing role in the global economic and financial system. Consequently, their intellectual engagement in the field of economic policy analysis also needs to increase. A realignment of how the world integrates various human dimensions, across social, political, and economic spheres, for an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving needs to emerge. Fortunately, we now have the tools of technology and communication to assist in this process. I would like to believe that the idea of having a Delhi Economics Conclave is a step in that direction. India has to make progress as a centre for intellectual discourse and knowledge creation in the fields of economic, financial and social policy-making, to complement its growing economy and role in global policy matters.

As you dwell on some of the policy challenges before us, particularly in the emerging market economies, it is important for us to strike a fine balance

between the short run and the long run policy issues and options to help restore market confidence. Post-financial crisis, as the global recovery was taking root our attention was on rebalancing of the global economy, to make the recovery stronger and sustainable in the medium to long-term. In retrospect, perhaps we did not pay adequate attention to internal imbalances i.e. shifting demand back from the public sector to the private. The present indicators show that both private consumption and investment sentiments have weakened. It is this weakening of sentiments that makes it necessary to shift some of our focus back to near term issues even as we recognize that some structural imbalances remain to be addressed.

The economic restructuring process of troubled nations is going to be protracted and would throw up many more challenges over the medium term for the rest of the world. Likewise, the world's largest economy the US is also struggling with high debt levels and continued balance sheet troubles for firms and households. In fact, the OECD has recently cut its growth forecast for advanced economies over the coming two years. The conditions in the advanced economies have inevitably transmitted to developing economies through various channels including loss of demand volumes, volatile fund flows, fluctuating commodity prices, and others. All nations have become vulnerable to lesser or larger extent. India is no exception although the impact has been relatively muted and macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong.

It is necessary in this context for policy makers to send clear signals, mindful of the fact that our options today are much more limited. On the one hand, markets are wary of mounting public debt in the absence of strong growth, which is a long-term issue. On the other hand, strong injections of liquidity by Central Banks seem to have done little to stimulate lending and borrowing, so far. Instead we are witnessing damaging spillover consequences, especially on asset and commodity prices and more recently in the foreign exchange markets that have strengthened inflation in some emerging markets.

The real danger to the global economy lies in the rapid contagion possible through today's globally integrated financial markets. Imbalances even in relatively small economies can be magnified by integrated financial markets, especially through mechanisms such as the currency unions. We cannot afford to have a piecemeal stop-go approach. A concerted and coordinated response is the need of the hour for the collective global well-being.

The global economy is perhaps better positioned today than what it was in the 1930's. At the time of the Great Depression, global growth was entirely dependent on industrialized countries fed by raw material producing colonies. The latter were entirely dependent on demand in the former. Both advanced economies and their colonies therefore went down together. The situation today

is different. Former colonies are now emerging markets undergoing their own industrial revolutions and with their own endogenous sources of rising demand. Although emerging markets cannot be entirely decoupled in an integrated world, nevertheless this is the main reason why the world continued to grow even as advanced countries went into recession. It is important not to weaken the growth impulse in the new nodes of demand, but should indeed strengthen it.

One way of doing that is to leverage global imbalances to address developmental imbalances. If we need to add demand to the global economy, to offset the moderation of demand in industrialized countries, a good way of doing that is to expand infrastructure investment in developing economies. This suggestion may well be extended to increasing investment in infrastructure generally, and a more liberal flow of technology to developing countries, which in turn could spur output and productivity growth in both advanced and developing countries.

Let me turn to the Indian economy. The challenges facing the country are daunting. The primary challenge is of human development, where India still ranks low in global terms, particularly in critical areas such as infant and maternal mortality, nutrition, and literacy. India cannot afford to relax on its efforts to promote growth and to leverage the fruits of that growth for fostering more equitable and inclusive development. Domestically, the struggle against inflation and tightening interest rate regime has contributed to lowering of growth in demand and investment. The slowdown in industrial growth is of particular concern as it impacts employment.

Despite declining trend, inflation is at unacceptable levels. There are also immediate concerns related to fiscal deficit and current account deficit. Over the medium term, employment creation is a key challenge as some 250-300 million new entrants to the workforce are expected over the next decade or so. Skill development and training efforts will need to be stepped up. Financial inclusion and reforms are high priority and so is infrastructure across all sectors. Challenges of land availability and environmental sustainability have to be also addressed effectively over a longer time horizon.

Innovative remedies would be required to address these challenges simultaneously. The options for fiscal steps as well as monetary measures are increasingly limited. However, there is potential for policymaking in other areas. In recent months, the government has sought to unlock economic bottlenecks through initiatives such as the National Manufacturing Policy, permitting greater FDI in retail sector, Direct Taxes Code, Goods and Services Tax, and various legislations including in the financial sector. We hope that greater consensus on these initiatives will help speed up their implementation.

In today's context, macroeconomic management can no longer be confined only to economic issues. Economists must also be adept at addressing political and social outcomes of policy decisions. In a complex and interconnected world, it is no longer enough to merely state the desirable steps – we need to go beyond the 'what' to also lay out the 'how'. The success of our navigation through a complex multi-layered environment is what will determine future economic growth and development.

No nation can afford to be insular in its decision-making process. Democratisation demands globally acceptable solutions within the interest matrix of each nation. We need to work together for building consensus within domestic and international communities. For this, a new form of communication and dialogue is needed, between nations, between communities, between political entities, between social classes and economic stakeholders.

Let me conclude by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to share some thoughts. I greatly look forward to the discussions at the Delhi Economics Conclave and await its outcomes with anticipation."



**033. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the inauguration of Passport Seva Kendras in Andhra Pradesh.**

**Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), December 23, 2011.**

Hon'ble Minister Shri Raghuvveera Reddy,

Hon'ble Minister Smt. Galla Aruna Kumari,

Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Shri K. Bapi Raju,

Hon'ble Member of Parliament of Tirupati Dr. Chinta Mohan

Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh Shri Chiranjeevi,

Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh

Additional Secretary Shri B.K. Gupta,

Joint Secretary and Chief Passport Officer Shri Muktesh Pardeshi,

RPO Hyderabad Dr. K. Srikar Reddy,

Friends from the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be in the holy city of Tirupati on the occasion of the inauguration of seven Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Andhra Pradesh - one each in Tirupati, Nizamabad, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam and three in Hyderabad.

The launch of Passport Seva Kendras is part of the Government of India's firm commitment to provide timely delivery of passport services to our fellow citizens. I take this opportunity to re-affirm the citizen-centric role of passport offices, by adopting measures which facilitate speedier service, greater convenience and comfort to the public at large.

With India's rising international profile, fast growing economy and our increasing integration with the global economy, the number of Indians travelling abroad has shown phenomenal growth in recent years. Apart from economic and employment reasons, more and more people are travelling abroad for education, tourism, pilgrimage and social visits. This, in turn, has resulted in rapid increase in demand for passports and other miscellaneous services. The number of passport applications at the national level has doubled since 2000.

In Andhra Pradesh, the demand for passport services has been growing rapidly in the recent years. It is at a much higher rate than at the national level. The Regional Passport Office in Hyderabad, together with the Passport Office in Visakhapatnam, has been coping up with the demand for issue of passports in Andhra Pradesh. These two Passport Offices have processed about six lakh passport applications till November this year, which is an increase of about 25% compared to the same period in 2010.

I am aware of the pendency in issue of passports in our passport offices. I have directed the Passport officials to dispose those passport applications where police verifications have been received in an expeditious manner. Coordination between Passport officials and the local police authorities will be improved to obtain speedy police clearances to reduce pendency in issue of passports.

Andhra Pradesh is a pioneer in launch of various e-Governance initiatives, such as e-Seva and e-Procurement. In a similar vein, the Passport Seva Project launched by the Ministry of External Affairs is a flagship initiative of the Central Government under National e-Governance Plan to improve delivery of public services and overall governance. The Project incorporates the best of global practices in the passport issuance system including the

establishment of PSKs. Through this Project, the Government of India is aiming to deliver all Passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, manner and a more accessible and comfortable environment.

I am happy at the progress achieved so far in the implementation of this ambitious Project. In a short time, we moved from Pilot Project mode to commencement of nation-wide rollout of Passport Seva Kendras in June this year, with the joint efforts of the Ministry and the Service Provider – the Tata Consultancy Services.

I am satisfied with the progress of launch of Passport Seva Kendras - 30 out of 77 planned PSKs have been made operational. The States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, National Capital Region and West Bengal have been covered by the Project so far. Nine more Kendras will go live by the end of this month in Gujarat, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, thus crossing the halfway mark in our rollout journey. The Ministry will strive to accomplish the launch of all PSKs by March next year.

Here, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Tata Consultancy Services, the Service Provider and our partner, for their earnest efforts in speedy implementation of the Project.

I am privileged to dedicate today seven PSKs in Andhra Pradesh. We have thus fully implemented the Passport Seva Project in respect of Andhra Pradesh. I am also happy to announce that we have agreed in principle to open a mini-PSK at Bhimavaram, West Godavari district, and it would be launched shortly.

I am confident that the comprehensive overhaul of passport delivery system through the Passport Seva Project undertaken by us will help in bringing 'Public Services Closer Home' in Andhra Pradesh and in other States.

I would like to felicitate the people of Andhra Pradesh on this momentous occasion of launch of seven PSKs across the State. We also acknowledge the whole-hearted support that we have received from the Government and people of Andhra Pradesh in the timely execution of these transformative initiatives.

Thank you.



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - II**

**CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY**



**034. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Commissioning of the Power Reactor Fuel Processing Plant.**

**Tarapur, January 7, 2011.**

"I am delighted to be present at the historic occasion of the commissioning of the second Power Reactor Reprocessing Plant at Tarapur.

This is a significant milestone in our country's three-stage indigenous nuclear programme. I heartily congratulate the scientists and engineers who were involved in the design, construction and commissioning of this unique complex and state of the art facility. This is yet another instance that once we make up our mind, India can do anything.

We have come a long way since the first reprocessing of spent fuel in India in the year 1964 at Trombay. The recycling and optimal utilization of Uranium is essential to meet our current and future energy security needs. The vision of the founding fathers of our nuclear programme, Jawaharlal Nehru and Homi Bhabha, was to achieve the mastery of the complete fuel cycle, thus enabling India to use our vast and abundant thorium resources in advanced nuclear power reactors. The reprocessing of spent fuel is therefore the key to our three stage indigenous nuclear power programme. Reprocessing is essential in the transition to the second stage of fast breeder reactors which we have begun, and in the subsequent third stage using thorium in advanced reactors.

Reprocessing spent fuel will also ensure that we are better able to manage the wastes which are by-products of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Tarapur, itself is an outstanding example of nuclear energy's capacity to provide the clean, safe and economical energy that our nation requires for its development and growth. This site is home to the oldest boiling water reactors in the world. Here we have built our own reactors as well. And we have subsequently added the entire range of facilities covering the entire fuel cycle from fuel fabrication to reprocessing and waste immobilization.

Taken together, the atomic energy programme of India represents a very important and significant step towards technological and energy self-reliance and security. That we have done so by the efforts of our own scientists and engineers is tribute to the vision of the founders of our atomic energy programme. Given the advanced status of our indigenous programme and the capabilities of our scientists and engineers we can now confidently utilize the new opportunities that have been created with the opening up of international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

As we move forward in the years to come to realize the potential of atomic

energy to contribute to our nation's development I would urge that we pay greater attention to capacity building, training and nurturing young and fresh talent which is in abundant supply in our country.

I once again congratulate all those who have played a role in this important landmark and who have contributed to the development of our capabilities in atomic energy. In their own way, each one of our scientists and engineers engaged in this very important national projects are nation builders. I commend you all for your dedication and your hard work and your commitment to the goal of our national development. I wish you even greater success in your service to our nation. I think each one of you on this historic occasion."



**035. Meeting of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with IAEA Director General.**

**Vienna, June 14, 2011.**

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao met Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano in Vienna today. They reviewed cooperation between India and the Agency. Recalling his visit to India in January this year DG said he was deeply impressed with India's achievements in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. DG also praised India's excellent nuclear non-proliferation record. FS briefed the DG regarding India's plans for expansion of nuclear energy in the coming decades, as a clean and sustainable energy source, to meet India's developmental needs and contribute to energy security. DG agreed with FS that nuclear energy would continue to be an important energy source for a number of countries.

The DG outlined some nuclear safety issues that have arisen after the nuclear accident at Fukushima Daiichi. A report by an International Fact Finding Mission is expected to be submitted to the Agency. FS said that India welcomes DG's initiative to host a ministerial conference on nuclear safety which will be held in Vienna next week. India has taken a number of measures to review and strengthen nuclear safety at its nuclear power plants. Government was also planning to introduce a bill in the next session of Parliament to establish an independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority of India.

DG spoke of his efforts in promoting role of IAEA in agriculture, industry and health which was important for developing countries. DG also thanked

Government of India for its generous donation of Bhabhatron to Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

FS mentioned that India would like to cooperate with IAEA on the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established in India as a follow up to PM's announcement at Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010.



**036. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to participants of Global Zero Summit.**

**New Delhi, June 22, 2011.**

I have great pleasure in conveying my greetings to the participants of the Global Zero Summit and to extend my support for its noble goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

India has been steadfast in its support for global, non-discriminatory verifiable nuclear disarmament. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented a visionary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order. This Action Plan sets out a roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. We are glad to note that the Global Zero Action Plan is based on similar principle and that, like India, it has supported the global elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound framework.

The goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. Progressive steps are needed for the delegitimization of nuclear weapons. Measures to reduce nuclear dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons, de-alerting of nuclear weapons are essential steps. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

This campaign can be taken forward by forging a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Public awareness and support is vital to generate and sustain an irreversible momentum until we reach our cherished

goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Transforming this vision into reality is a task worthy of the distinguished participants of the Global Zero Campaign.

I extend my best wishes for a successful conference.

(Manmohan Singh)

New Delhi



**037. Extract relevant to Nuclear issue from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Karan Thapar for Devil's Advocate.**

**New Delhi, July 2, 2011.**

(The earlier part of the interview related to Pakistan for that Please see Document No.287)

**Interviewer:** (Mr. Karan Thapar): Hello and welcome to Devil's Advocate. Where do relations with Pakistan stand and has the Nuclear Suppliers Group betrayed India? Those are two of the critical issues ...(Inaudible)... in an exclusive interview with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

\* \* \* \*

**Interviewer:** Foreign Secretary, let us come to the recent decision taken by the Nuclear Suppliers Group not to sell enrichment and reprocessing technologies to countries that have not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Would you accept that in effect this has nullified the clean waiver India got in 2008?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think we are very clear about this development. There are two points that I would like to make. First of all we have consistently underlined, and this is a fact well-known to our partners, that the sanctity of the clean exemption that India was granted in the September 2008 NSG decision must be maintained, must be upheld.

**Interviewer:** That is your position. But they do not share that position.

**Foreign Secretary:** I am coming to it. The second point is that full bilateral civil nuclear cooperation commitments that have been entered into between

India and its various partners must be taken forward. And both these points let me mention have been recognized by our chief partners in this regard - by the United States, by France, by Russia.

**Interviewer:** I will come to the United States, France and Russia in a moment's time. Let us first pick up on your point that the sanctity of the waiver must be retained and preserved. That is your position. But the NSG has introduced a new paragraph 6 in its guidelines which stipulates the criteria that recipient countries must meet before any NSG country can sell ENR technology. And the first criteria is membership of the NPT. That criteria alone disqualifies India.

**Foreign Secretary:** First of all let me say that these guidelines have not been published in open text as yet. We need to study that more fully and we need to draw our conclusions from that. I am not saying that these developments are welcome. I am not in any way suggesting that this is something that we have not known and we have not fought all this time. We knew that there was a process under way and we ...

**Interviewer:** And we tried very hard to prevent and we failed to prevent as well.

**Foreign Secretary:** It is not a question of failure. You have look at this as a dynamic process. Let me say one thing very clearly, and I will repeat myself on this, that the international nuclear order will change in India's favour. And I am sure of that.

**Interviewer:** That is a hope. ...(Inaudible)... But let me put it like this. When India got the clean waiver in 2008, it did so on the basis of certain specific commitments it made. It agreed to put several of its nuclear facilities under international safeguards. It publicly endorsed a whole set of nonproliferation conditions. It agreed to pass a nuclear liability law. India fulfilled all its commitments but now, almost three years later, the NSG was wavering, it is diluting its waiver. Do not you think they ...(Inaudible)... ?

**Foreign Secretary:** Karan, nothing is set in stone here. I think you are jumping to very hasty conclusions. As I said, this is a dynamic process. We have to study these guidelines, there is no doubt about it. But let us look at the statements that have come out of the United States, France and Russia post the NSG decision.

**Interviewer:** On the point on France and Russia let me quote to you ...(Inaudible)... He was the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission when that waiver was obtained. He has gone on record to say this is a betrayal.

**Foreign Secretary:** I would not use similar terminology. As a professional engaged in this process, I think the latest NSG decision is not the end of the road. It is not set in stone. Let me say that.

**Interviewer:** How can you say that? You ... (Inaudible) ... member of the NSG. How can you say that?

**Foreign Secretary:** Definitely I am basing that on the knowledge of the situation as it exists. There is a balance of interest, there is a balance of commitments, there is mutual reciprocity involved. There are leverages that we can exert from our side also.

**Interviewer:** What are the leverages we have?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not going to go into details. The whole issue of full bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, the fact that India has the potential to develop 60,000 MW of electricity from nuclear energy by 2030. So, this is a dynamic process. We have an expanding nuclear industry. This is a great attraction to the rest of the world.

**Interviewer:** Are you saying that India would not buy reactors from any country that refuses to sell ENR technology as well. Is that the leverage you have in mind?

**Foreign Secretary:** We will defend our interests to the hilt.

**Interviewer:** Let me put it like this. You have great hope that countries like France and Russia would continue to sell ENR technology to India. The truth is that at the moment you do not have agreement with either that permits the sale of ENR technology. Both countries have committed themselves to reaching a further agreement. That further agreement has not been reached in either case. Now, with the NSG changing its guidelines, there is a real danger that France and Russia will never conclude an agreement that permits sale of ENR.

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not going to draw a doomsday scenario from this. As I said, this is a dynamic process. Nothing is set in stone. This is not the end of the road. And as I said, there is a balance of interest and commitments involved. There are questions of reciprocity.

**Interviewer:** Is this just hope and brave talk.

**Foreign Secretary:** No, certainly it is not.

**Interviewer:** You are sure it is not just diplomatic bluster to use a colloquial term.

**Foreign Secretary:** No. I do not believe in bluster. I believe in being diplomatic definitely, but this is neither diplomatic bluster nor non-recognition of reality.

**Interviewer:** Let me tell you what people believe is your real hope. The Hindu says, between 2009 when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh went to Paris President Sarkozy made a personal pledge that Paris would not be bound by any decision of the G8 or the NSG not to sell ENR technology to India. Does that pledge still hold today?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think pledges deserve to be honoured and everything we are hearing from the French, from the Americans, from the Russians would suggest that their commitment to full bilateral civil nuclear cooperation and keeping in mind, and let me say this, the clean exemption that was given to us in September 2008, will be taken forward.

**Interviewer:** But that is the past. You say pledges should be honoured. Will this pledge be honoured? Have you had confirmation from Paris that they stand by their pledge?

**Foreign Secretary:** I have confirmation from both the United States and from France and from Russia that they stand by the commitments made to India in this regard and that there is no dilution of these commitments.

**Interviewer:** But the problem is that the commitments they made in their bilateral agreements do not include sale of ENR technology. That is something that both countries had said that they would negotiate later. And the problem is that in Paris's case you have a pledge which we do not know whether it is reconfirmed or not, in Russia's case, Russia has actually passed something called Decree 992 which they re-endorsed and renewed in December 2010, which does not permit sale of ENR to any country which is not an NPT signatory. So, if Russia ... (Inaudible)... Russia is being only duplicitous with us.

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not believe Russia is being duplicitous. Russia is a long time strategic partner and I think the strategic interests in this relationship, the fact that this is a relationship that is rock solid, will prevail.

**Interviewer:** You are confident on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am very confident and very clear about the strengths that we have. I think people seem to think that this is the end of the road. It is not the end of the road. I think we have a tendency to proclaim defeat at every such turn. I think that is not the way. In situations such as this which are dynamic situations, nothing is set in stone. Nothing is set in stone. Interests prevail, reciprocities prevail, commitments prevail.

**Interviewer:** And you are also saying that India's strength and leverage will prevail.

**Foreign Secretary:** Absolutely.

**Interviewer:** Foreign Secretary, a pleasure talking to you.

**Foreign Secretary:** Thank you so much, Karan.



**038. Suo Motu Statement in Lok Sabha by EAM on Nuclear Enrichment and Reprocessing Technology.**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2011.**

**Madam Speaker,**

I rise to inform the House of the issue of nuclear Enrichment and Reprocessing Technology.

2. Several Members have raised the issue of the adoption of new guidelines by the Nuclear Suppliers Group at its Plenary meeting in the Netherlands from June 23-24, 2011 relating to transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies.

3. Concerns have been expressed about its implications on our existing agreements with other countries on civil nuclear cooperation, whether the revised guidelines are targeted at India and where do they leave us with regard to the scope of our civil nuclear cooperation with the rest of the world.

**Madam Speaker,**

4. In this context, I wish to make the following clarifications :-

i) We are absolutely clear that as far as India is concerned, the basis of our international civil nuclear cooperation remains as contained in the special exemption from the NSG guidelines given to India on September 6, 2008. The "Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India" issued on September 6, 2008 after an Extraordinary Plenary Meeting of the NSG spells out the scope of our cooperation. That statement contains reciprocal commitments and actions by both sides relating to international civil nuclear cooperation.



- ii) The September 2008 exemption accords a special status to India. It was granted knowing full well that India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Honourable Members would recall that on August 17, 2006, Prime Minister had indicated that one of our main objectives of the Civil Nuclear Initiative was the removal of restrictions on all aspects of cooperation and technology transfers pertaining to civil nuclear energy, covering all aspects of the complete nuclear fuel cycle. We see this as the surest guarantee of India's acceptance as a full and equal partner of the international nuclear community. As PM had informed this august House on July 29, 2009, we were successful in securing a "clean" exemption from the NSG in September 2008 i.e. the NSG members had agreed to transfer all technologies which are consistent with their national law.
- iii) As far as we are concerned, the September 2008 decision is the basis and overarching framework that governs cooperation in civil nuclear matters between India and the NSG. The issue is the full implementation of that understanding. This is what we expect and our major partners are committed to.
- iv) We must take note of the fact that the NSG Public Statement of June 24, 2011 makes a specific reference to cooperation with India. It says that the NSG "continued to consider all aspects of the implementation of the 2008 Statement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India and discussed the NSG relationship with India".
- v) The agreements reached for permitting international civil nuclear cooperation with India contain commitments on both sides. We expect all NSG members to honour their commitments as reflected in the 2008 NSG Statement and our bilateral cooperation agreements.
- vi) The Guidelines of June 23-24, 2011 are a decision by the NSG. India is not a member of the NSG as yet and therefore not a party to this decision.

**Madam Speaker,**

5. Following the NSG Plenary of June 2011, several of our partners have clarified their positions:

- i) The US Department of State in a Press Statement has stated that the "Obama Administration fully supports the 'clean' Nuclear Suppliers Group exception for India and speedy implementation of the US-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. Nothing about the new Enrichment and Reprocessing (ENR) transfer restrictions agreed to by the NSG members

should be construed as detracting from the unique impact and importance of the US-India Agreement or our commitment to full civil nuclear cooperation". The Press Statement further states that the "NSG's NPT references, including those in the ENR guidelines, in no way detract from the exception granted to India by NSG members in 2008".

- ii) A Communique issued by the Ambassador of France in New Delhi on July 5, 2011 has stated that the NSG exemption "reflects the unique situation of India and constitutes a historical achievement. Therefore, in the French view, nothing in the existing and future guidelines shall be interpreted as detracting from that exemption or reducing the ambition of our bilateral cooperation".
- iii) The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman on July 14, 2011 stated that the NSG decision "does not affect in any way the September 2008 decision of the Group to unfreeze peaceful nuclear cooperation with India".

6. In so far as enrichment and reprocessing technology is concerned, I would like to reiterate to Honourable Members that India has full mastery of the entire nuclear fuel cycle, and this includes enrichment and reprocessing technology. We have a well-developed indigenous enrichment and reprocessing infrastructure. Government is committed to taking forward our domestic three-stage nuclear power programme. India is among the handful of countries that has developed fast breeder technology. Access to enrichment and reprocessing technology from abroad, as part of international civil nuclear cooperation, is only an additionality to accelerate our three-stage programme.

7. The transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology has no bearing whatsoever on India's upfront entitlement to reprocess foreign origin spent fuel and the use of such fuel in our own safeguarded facilities.

8. Not every NSG member has the ability to undertake transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology to other countries. We expect that those that do and have committed to do so in bilateral agreements with India, will live up to their legal commitments.

9. I would also like reassure Honourable Members that we will not accept pre-conditions for transfer of enrichment and reprocessing items and technology. There is no question of India joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon State.

10. India is engaged with the four multilateral export control regimes, namely the NSG, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group and the

Wassenaar Arrangement for full membership. We have noted with appreciation the expressions of support from a number of our partners towards this objective.

**Madam Speaker,**

11. I am confident that the international nuclear order will continue to evolve in India's favour. We are poised to emerge as one of the major nuclear countries in the world, with a large and diversified nuclear industry. India is committed to full international civil nuclear cooperation for the development needs of our country and is engaged in discussions with foreign companies to expand our nuclear energy programme. We expect that our international partners will fully honour their commitments in this regard.

Thank you.



**039. Information supplied by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office V. Narayanasamy on Nuclear Liability Law with reference to the Protests against it by energy companies.**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2011.**

Several global atomic energy companies have registered their protest against the Nuclear Liability Law of India.

Following the passage of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, some potential suppliers have raised certain issues mainly relating to application of 'operators right of recourse' as provided in Section 17 and 'Act to be in addition to any other law' as provided in Section 46 of the Act.

The government is taking necessary action to implement India's nuclear energy programme, including nuclear power projects in technical cooperation with other countries on the basis of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. The Government is also in the process of framing rules as provided under said Act.

Shri V. Narayanasamy, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and in the Prime Minister's Office gave this information in a written reply to a question by Shri Arjun Ray and Shri Anant Kumar Hegde in Lok Sabha today.



**040. Statement by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Nuclear Safety and Security.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

Please see Document No.671.



**041. Rules notified by the Department of Atomic Energy under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010.**

**New Delhi, November 11, 2011.**

**Department of Atomic Energy  
Notification**

New Delhi, the 11th November, 2011

**GS.R.** 804(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 48 of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (38 of 2010), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

**Chapter I  
Preliminary**

1. Short title and commencement. -
  - (1) These rules may be called the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Rules, 2011.
  - (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. Definitions. —
  - (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -
    - (a) "Act" means the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (38 of 2010);
    - (b) "Form" means a form appended to these rules;
    - (c) "insurer" means the insurance company with which a nuclear

installation involved in a nuclear incident was insured at the time of the occurrence of such incident and includes the person who has provided financial security to cover the operator's liability under the Act;

- (d) "legal representative" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (11) of section 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908);
  - (e) "claims adjudication authority" means the Claims Commissioner or the Commission having jurisdiction under the Act over the nuclear incident.
- (2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Act shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

## **Chapter II Insurance and Financial Security**

3. Insurance policy and financial security. -
- (1) The operator shall take out an insurance policy or financial security or a combination of both in accordance with section 8 of the Act.
  - (2) The financial security referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be irrevocable and shall continue till removal of all spent fuel from the spent fuel storage pool of the nuclear installation after removal thereof from the reactor core.
  - (3) Shares the or bonds or instruments constituting financial security shall be pledged to Central Government and remain so pledged till decommissioning of the plant and a security margin of 1:1.33 be maintained during pledge and in the event of any shortfall in security so calculated shall be immediately made good by the operator by providing insurance or additional financial security to the extent of shortfall.
  - (4) Nothing in this rule shall prevent a group of operators to enter into a joint arrangement of financial security providing for contribution towards such security in proportion to their individual installed capacity in thermal megawatts.
  - (5) The provisions of this rule shall not apply to a nuclear installation owned by the Central Government.

### **Chapter III Report of Nuclear Incident**

4. Report of nuclear incident. -
  - (1) The operator shall report immediately the occurrence of a nuclear incident in his nuclear installation or during transportation of nuclear material to
    - (i) the Central Government;
    - (ii) the insurer where the nuclear installation is insured under section 8 of the Act; and
    - (iii) the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board where such nuclear installation is under its jurisdiction, in the manner as the Board may, by order, specify in this behalf.
  - (2) The Central Government shall, on receipt of the report under sub-rule (1) from the operator of a nuclear installation, which is not under the jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, make a review of the report and forward its observations and report to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
  - (3) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board shall review the report received under this rule and notify the nuclear incident in accordance with section 3 of the Act .
5. Report of licensing authority. –
  - (1) The claims adjudication authority shall, as soon as a claim arising out of a nuclear incident notified under section 3 of the Act is filed, issue direction in Form A to the licensing authorities as applicable under sections 14, 16 and 17 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962).
  - (2) The licensing authorities to whom a direction under sub-rule (1) is issued, shall within a period of ten days of the receipt of direction, submit to the claims adjudication authority a detailed report in Form B regarding a licence of the operator.

### **Chapter IV Adjudication of Claims**

6. Application for compensation. – (1) An application for claim for compensation for nuclear damage shall be made in Form C by -
  - (a) the person who has sustained injury; or
  - (b) the owner of the property to which the damage has been caused; or

- (c) the representatives of the deceased; or
- (d) any agent duly authorised by such person or owner or legal representatives:

Provided that where all the legal representatives of the deceased have not joined in any such application for, compensation, the application shall be made on behalf of or for the benefit of all the legal representatives of the deceased and the legal heirs who have not so joined shall be impleaded as respondents to the application

- (2) Every application for compensation for nuclear damage shall be accompanied by as many copies equal to the number of the respondents, as may be required, to the claims adjudication authority having jurisdiction to adjudicate upon it

- (3) There shall be appended to every such application, -

- (a) an affidavit of the applicant to the effect that the statement of facts contained in the application is true to the best of his knowledge or belief and further if the applicant has earlier preferred any claim application with regard to the same cause of action, and if so, what was the result thereof;
- (b) all the documents and affidavits for the proof thereof, and affidavits in support of all facts on which the applicant relies in the context of his claim, entered in a list of documents and affidavits prepared in that behalf;

Provided that the claims adjudication authority may not allow the applicant to rely in support of his claim, on any document or affidavit not filed with the application, unless it is satisfied that for good and sufficient cause, he was prevented from filing such document or affidavit earlier;

- (c) the proof of identity of the applicant to the satisfaction of the claims adjudication authority, unless exempted from doing so for reasons to be recorded in writing by it;
  - (d) passport size photograph of the applicant duly attested by the advocate;
  - (e) medical certificates of injuries, or the effect thereof
- (4) The claims adjudication authority may also require the applicant to furnish the following information to satisfy itself that spurious or a collusive claim has not been preferred, namely:-

- (a) full particulars of all earlier nuclear incidents in which the applicant or the deceased person, as the case may be, has been involved;
  - (b) the amount of compensation paid in such earlier nuclear incidents, name and particulars of the victim, and of the person who paid the damages; and
  - (c) relation of persons mentioned in clause (b), if any with the applicant.
- (5) The claims adjudication authority may return any application, which is found defective on scrutiny, to the applicant for re-submission after removing defects within a specified period not exceeding fifteen days.
- (6) The claims adjudication authority shall register every application for compensation separately in appropriate register maintained for this purpose.
7. Notice to Opposite Parties.- The claims adjudication authority shall on receipt .of an application under rule 6 unless it has been found defective under sub-rule (5) of that rule, send to the opposite parties, a notice of the date on which it will hear the application and call them upon to file on that date a written statement.
8. Supply of copies of documents. -The claims adjudication authority shall along with the notice of hearing furnish the opposite parties, free of cost, a copy of each of the following, namely.-
- (i) the application for compensation;
  - (ii) the documents and affidavits filed by the applicant under rule 6; and
  - (iii) all the documents produced before it on which the applicant is relying:
- Provided that if the claims adjudication authority is satisfied that any such document is voluminous, it shall instead of furnishing the opposite parties a copy thereof, make an endorsement on the bottom of the notice that they only be allowed to inspect it either personally or through their authorised person.
9. Examination of applicant- The claims adjudication authority may, on receipt of an application under rule 6, examine the applicant on oath, and the substance of such examination, if any, shall be recorded in writing.
10. Appearance and examination of the parties. -
- (1) The opposite party shall at or before the first hearing, or within such further time as the claims adjudication authority may allow, file a written



statement in reply to the claim raised in the application, and any such written statement shall form part of the record.

- (2) The opposite party shall file along with his written statement, all the documents and affidavits for the proof thereof and also affidavits in support of all facts on which he relies in the context of his defence, duly entered in a properly prepared list of documents and affidavits and shall give to the applicant copies of the written statement, documents and affidavits.
- (3) The claims adjudication authority shall not allow the opposite party to rely in support of his defence on any document or affidavit not filed along with the written statement, unless it is satisfied that, for good and sufficient cause, he was prevented from filing such document or affidavit earlier.
- (4) The claims adjudication authority may, if the opposite party contests the claim or if no written statement has been filed, it shall, proceed to examine him upon the claim and shall reduce the substance of the examination to writing.
- (5) The claims adjudication authority may require the opposite parties to furnish the following information, namely:-
  - (a) full particulars of all other nuclear incidents in which such party may have been involved, and in which the claims have been awarded in full or in part;
  - (b) the amount of compensation paid in such earlier accidents, the name and addresses of the victims and of the persons who paid the damages, and
  - (c) relation of persons mentioned in clause (b), if any, with the opposite party.

11. Summary procedure by claims adjudication authority. - The claims adjudication authority, in a case pending before it, may adopt the procedure relating to summary trial of the cases as laid down in Order 00kVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) while trying a claim for compensation.

12. Power to direct for medical examination.- The claims adjudication authority may, if it considers necessary, direct, in Form D, any medical officer or any board of medical Officers in a Government or Municipal hospital to examine the injured person and issue certificate indicating the degree and extent of the disability, if any, suffered as a result of the nuclear incident,

and it shall be the duty of such medical officer or board to submit the report within a period of seven days of receipt of direction.

13. Framing of issues.- The claims adjudication authority shall, after considering the application, the written statements, the examination of the parties, if any, and the result of any local inspection, if made, proceed to frame and record the issues at the first hearing of the application upon which the decision of the case appears to it to depend,

14. Determination of issues. -

(1) The claims adjudication authority shall proceed to decide the application after framing an issue if it is tried and allow both the parties to cross examine each other and the deponents whose affidavits have been filed by the parties, on such affidavits filed with the application and the written statement and in doing so, it shall follow provisions of Order XIX of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908).

(2) The claims adjudication authority may, if it appears to it to be necessary for just decision of the case, allow the parties to adduce such further evidence as each of them may desire to produce: Provided that no such further opportunity shall be permitted unless it is shown that the affidavit of the witness sought to be examined at such stage could not be obtained and filed earlier, despite exercise of due diligence by, or that such evidence was not within the knowledge of the party relying on it.-

15. Expenses for attendance of witnesses.- The claims adjudication authority shall direct the operator to bear the expenses of the witnesses summoned.

16. Method of recording evidence.- The claims adjudication authority shall, as examination of witnesses proceeds, make brief memorandum of the substance of the evidence of each witness and such memorandum shall be written and signed by the claims adjudication authority and shall form part of the evidence:

Provided that evidence of any expert witness shall be taken down word by word.

17. Obtaining of supplementary information and documents.- The claims adjudication authority shall obtain whatever supplementary information and documents, which may be found necessary from the medical and other authorities and proceed to adjudicate upon the claim whether the parties who were given notice appear or not on the appointed date.

## 18. Award of compensation. -

- (1) The claims adjudication authority, in passing orders, shall record concisely in a judgment, the findings on each of the issues framed and the reasons for such findings and make an award specifying the amount of compensation to be paid by the opposite party of parties and also the person or persons to whom compensation shall be paid.
- (2) The procedure of adjudicating the liability and award of compensation may be set apart from the procedure 'of' disbursement of compensation to the legal heirs in a case of death, and where the claims adjudication authority feels that the actual payment to the claimant is likely to take some time because of the identification and determination of legal heirs of the deceased, the claims adjudication authority may call for the amount of compensation awarded to be deposited with it, and; then, proceed with the identification of the legal heirs for disbursing payment of compensation to each of the legal heirs equitably.

## 19. Securing interest of claimants. -

- (1) Where any lump-sum amount deposited with the claims adjudication authority is payable to a woman, such sum may be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with for the benefit of the woman in such manner as the claims adjudication authority may direct to be paid to any dependent or the heirs of such woman . welfare of the whom the claims adjudication authority thinks best fitted to provide for the woman or the heirs of such woman.
- (2) Where any lump-sum amount deposited with the claims adjudication authority is payable to a person under legal disability, such sum may be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with for the benefit of the person under legal disability in such manner as the claims adjudication authority may direct to be paid to any dependent or the heirs of such person under legal disability whom the claims adjudication authority thinks best fitted .to provide for the welfare of the person under legal disability or the heirs of such person.
- (3) Where the claims adjudication authority, on an application made to it in this behalf or otherwise, is satisfied that on account of neglect of the children on the part of the parents, or on account of the variation of the circumstances of any dependent, or for any other sufficient cause, an order of the claims adjudication authority as to the distribution of any sum paid as compensation or as to the manner in which any sum payable to any such dependent is to be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with, ought to be varied, the claims

adjudication authority may make such further orders for the variation of the former order as it thinks just in the circumstances of the case.

- (4) The claims adjudication authority shall, in the case of minor, order that amount of compensation awarded to such minor be invested in fixed deposits till such minor attains majority:

Provided that the expenses incurred by the guardian or the next friend may be allowed to be withdrawn by such guardian or the next friend from such amount before it is deposited.
- (5) The claims adjudication authority shall, in the case of illiterate claimants, order that the amount of compensation awarded be invested in fixed deposits for a minimum period of three years, but if any amount is required for effecting purchase of any movable or immovable property for improving the income of the claimant, the claims adjudication authority may consider such a request after being satisfied that the amount would be actually spent for the said purpose.
- (6) The claims adjudication authority shall, in the case of semi-literate person follow the procedure specified in sub-rule (4) for the deposit of award amounts unless it is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded in writing that the whole or part of the amount is required for the expansion of any existing business or for the purchase of some property referred to in that sub-rule in which case the claims adjudication authority shall ensure that the amount is invested for the purpose for which it is prayed for and paid.
- (7) The claims adjudication authority may in the case of literate persons..... follow the procedure specified in sub-rule (4) and (5) for deposit of award amount if having regard to the age, fiscal background and state of society to which the claimant belongs and such other considerations, the claims adjudication authority in the larger interest of the claimant and with a view to ensuring the safety of the compensation awarded, thinks it necessary to order.
- (8) The claims adjudication authority, in case of personal injury, if satisfied that further treatment is necessary for which reasons to be recorded in writing, may permit the withdrawal of such amount as is necessary for the expenses of such treatment.
- (9) The claims adjudication authority shall, in the matter of investment of money, have regard to a maximum return by way of periodical income to the claimant and make it deposited with public sector undertakings of the State or Central Government which offers higher rate of interest.

- (10) The claims adjudication authority shall, in investing money, direct that the interest on the deposits be paid directly to the claimant or the guardian of the minor claimant by the institutions holding the deposits under intimation to the claims adjudication authority.
20. Persons Associated with adjudication of claims.-
- (1) The claims adjudication authority may for the purpose of deciding any claim filed before it, choose one or more persons having expertise in the nuclear field or such other person possessing special knowledge of any matter relevant to the claim under inquiry to assist in holding such inquiry and adjudicating the claim.
- (2) A person associated with the claims adjudication authority under sub-rule (1) shall be paid such remuneration as the claims adjudication authority may by order, fix.
21. Appearance of legal practitioner The claims adjudication authority may, in its discretion, allow any party to appear before it through a legal practitioner
22. Adjournment of hearing - If the claims adjudication authority finds that an application cannot be disposed of at one hearing, it shall record the reasons which necessitate the adjournment and also inform the parties present on the date of adjourned hearing.
23. Receipt of compensation the claims adjudication authority shall, obtain a receipt from the claimant in duplicate, one copy to be issued to the person who makes the payment and the other to be retained on the record while handing over the payment

#### **Chapter V Right of Recourse**

24. Right of recourse
- (1) A contract referred to in clause (a) of section 17 of the Act shall include a provision for right of recourse for not less than the extent of the operator's liability under sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Act or the value of the contract itself, whichever is less.
- (2) The provision for right of recourse referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be for the duration of initial license issued under the Atomic Energy (Radiation) Protection) Rules, 2004 or the product liability period, whichever is longer.

*Explanation 1* -For the purposed of this rule, the expression,-

- (a) "product liability period" means the period for which the supplier has undertaken liability for patent or.....tent defects or sub- standard services under a contract.
- (b) "supplier" shall include a person who-
  - (i) manufactures and supplies, either directly or through an agent, a system, equipment or component or builds a structure of the basis of functional specification or
  - (ii) provides build to print or detailed design specifications to a vendor for manufacturing a system, equipment or component or building a structure and is responsible to the operator for deign and quality assurance, or
  - (iii) provides quality assurance or design services

*Explanation 2*-For the removal of doubts it is clarified that an operator's claim under this rule shall in no case exceed the actual amount of compensation piad by him up to the date of filing such claim

#### **Chapter VI Miscellaneous**

#### 25. Registers.

- (1) The claims adjudication authority shall maintain the following registers namely;
  - (a) Register of applications for claim for compensation for nuclear damage;
  - (b) Register for notices to be issued to the parties by the claims adjudication authority;
  - (c) Register for applications for interim award;
  - (d) Register for deposit of payments in the claims adjudication authority; and
  - (e) Diary of day to day proceedings to be called as ' A Dairy'.
- (2) Applications for compensation on the ground of death, permanent disability, injury and damage to property shall be entered in a separate register to be called the "Register for applications for compensation on death, disability, etc".

26. Custody and preservation of records. The documents and records relation to the applications for compensation cases shall be preserved in the record room for a period of thirty five years from the date of occurrence of the nuclear incident.

27. Staff. - The claims adjudication authority shall be provided with staff similar to that provided to the court of an Additional District Judge.

28. Conditions of service and salary and allowances of officers and other employees of claims adjudication authority.-

- (1) The chairperson of the Commission appointed under sub section (2) of section 20 of the Act shall be entitled to the pay and allowances in the scale of pay equivalent to that of a Judge of a High Court during his service as such chairperson of the Commission.
- (2) The Members of the Commission appointed under sub-section (2) of section 20 of the Act shall be entitled to the pay and allowances in the scale of pay equivalent to that of the Additional Secretary to the Government of India during his service as such Member of the Commission.
- (3) The Claims Commissioner appointed under sub section (2) of section 9 of the Act shall be entitled to the pay and allowances in the scale of pay equivalent to that of the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.
- (4) The other officers and employees shall be entitled to pay and allowances in the scale of pay equivalent to that of the officers and employees of the Central Government holding equivalent posts in their respective cadres during their service under the claims adjudication authority.
- (5) The other conditions of service \_of the officers and employees of the claims adjudication authority in the matters of age of retirement, post-retirement benefits. and entitlements and disciplinary matters, shall be the same as are for the time being applicable to the officers and employees of the Central Government holding equivalent posts.
- (6) The officers and other employees of the claims adjudication. authority shall be entitled to such other facilities, allowances or benefits as may be specified by the Central Government from time to time.

29. Repatriation or transfer of officers and other employees on dissolution of Commission.-

- (1) On dissolution of the -Commission by the Central . Government under section 38 of the Act, the officers and other employees who are on deputation to the Commission from any authority office of the Central

Government or a State Government, the deputation of such officers and other employees shall be deemed to be terminated immediately on such dissolution and they shall be repatriated to their parent organisation.

- (2) The officers and other employees other than those referred to in sub-rule (1) may be transferred by the Central Government to any other authority or office of the Central Government; as the Central Government may, by order, decide.

30. Annual Report. -The claims adjudication authority shall prepare and submit an annual report in Form E to the Central Government on the duties carried out by it at the end of each financial year giving full account of its activities during that financial year containing details of its accounts, the claims pending before it, the claims disposed of during the year under report and the claims pending at the end of such year.

**FORM A**

**[See rule 5(1)]**

**BEFORE THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER/NUCLEAR DAMAGE CLAIMS COMMISSION**

(Presided by \_\_\_\_\_ Case No \_\_\_\_\_)

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ Vs \_\_\_\_\_

Subject (i) verification of Registration Certificate of Licence No \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in respect of \_\_\_\_\_ valid up to  
 \_\_\_\_\_ issued by Licensing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

To,  
 Licensing Authority

\_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER**

Whereas the claim application mentioned above seeking payment of compensation has been Preferred before this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission in connection with a nuclear incident allegedly involving the nuclear installation, particulars of which are captioned above;

And whereas, the nuclear installation is stated to have been licensed by office under your control/ the licence aforesaid to be maintained by said officer under your control under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962);



And whereas, requisite details relating to the documents aforesaid are required by this Claims Commissioner/ Nuclear Damage Claims Commission for the Purposes of Inquiry under the provisions of section 16 of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (38 of 2010) and which information you are bound to furnish.

Now, therefore, you are hereby directed to furnish to this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission full particulars regarding the licence aforesaid, with copies of documents in support duly attested under your personal signatures and bearing your official Seal within ten days of the receipt of this communication.

Given under my hand and seal,

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_

**Claims Commissioner/Chairman, Nuclear Damage  
Claims Commission  
FORM B  
[See rule 5 (2)]  
Report of Licensing Authority**

To

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sir,

This is with reference to the order/application dated \_\_\_\_\_ in Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ The requisite information is given below:-

1. Particulars of the operator: Government / other ,
  - (a) If Government, name of the concerned Department / Ministry:
  - (b) If other, particulars thereof
    - (i) Registration No
    - (ii) Full name and address of the operator of the nuclear installation.
    - (iii) Particulars of insurance:
2. Particulars of Licence:

- a) Licence No
  - b) Date of issue/expiry:
  - c) Name and address of license holder.
  - d) Particulars of issuing Authority:
3. Particulars of financial security

(Licensing Authority)

Verified that the contents of above report are correct as per records of this office

Date:

Place

Seal of  
Licensing  
Authority

(Licensing Authority)

**FORM C**

**[See rule 6(1)]**

**Application for grant of compensation under the Civil Liability for  
Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (3S of 2010)**

BEFORE THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER/NUCLEAR  
DAMAGE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(Presided by \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_Applicant

Vs.

Photograph  
of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_Respondents

Sir,

The undersigned makes this application for grant of compensation as per the provisions of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 on the basis of the following facts and information :-

1. Name and Father's name of the person injured/dead

(Husband's name in the case of married woman and widow):

2. Full address of the person injured/dead
3. Age of the person injured/dead
4. Occupation of the person injured/dead:
5. Name and address of the employer of the injured/dead:
6. Monthly income of the person injured/dead:
7. Does the person in respect of whom compensation is claimed pay income tax? If so, state the amount of the income tax (to be supported by documents):
8. Brief particulars (Place and date) of the nuclear incident and reference of notification by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board:
9. Name and address of the Medical Officer/ Practitioner
10. Period of treatment and expenditure, if any incurred:
11. Name and address of the operator of the nuclear installation:
12. Has any claim been lodged with the operator/ Insurer if so, with what result
13. Name and address of the applicant:
14. Relationship with the deceased/injured:
15. Title of the property of the deceased/injured:
16. Amount of compensation claimed and basis thereof:
17. Whether affidavit of the applicant as per rule is annexed: (give details)
18. Whether documents mentioned in rule 6 are being annexed duly Indexed (give details):
19. Any other information that may be necessary and helpful in disposal of the case:  
(To be filled if prayer is made for the interim award)
20. Amount of compensation claimed as interim award:
21. Reasons for claim of interim award:
22. Prayer

Name and signature of applicant

**Verification**

Verified \_\_\_\_\_ at this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20—  
 \_\_\_\_\_ that the contents of the above application are true and correct  
 to my knowledge and belief.

Name and signature of applicant

**FORM D**

Direction for Medical Examination  
 (See rule 13)

**BEFORE THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER/NUCLEAR  
 DAMAGE CLAIMS COMMISSION**

Claim Application No. \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ Vs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph  
 of  
 Claimant

To, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER**

Whereas the claim application above mentioned seeking payment of compensation has been preferred before this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission In connection with a. nuclear incident, and the claimant

\_\_\_\_\_ S/o, D/o, W/o \_\_\_\_\_

Aged \_\_\_\_\_ r/o \_\_\_\_\_  
 whose photograph bearing his specimen signature/thumb impression is affixed above, is alleged to have suffered injuries .34 a result of the said incident, which are stated to have been recorded in Medico- legal Certificate No \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_ issued by \_\_\_\_\_ (name of hospital), \_\_\_\_\_

And whereas for the purpose of inquiry into the claim application, this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission considers it necessary

to ascertain the degree and extent of disability, if any suffered as a result of the said nuclear incident by the said claimant;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers vested in this Claims Commissioner Nuclear Damage Claims Commission, the undersigned directs you to get the said claimant examined by a Medical Officer/Board of Medical Officers in your Hospital and submit report on above aspects to this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission within seven days of the receipt of this direction. , Given under my name and seal of this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission, this day of the receipt of this direction.

Given under my name and seal of this Claims Commissioner / Nuclear Damage Claims Commission, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

**Claims Commissioner/Nuclear Damage Claims Commission  
Form E  
(See rule 30)**

**Annual Report of the Claims Commissioner/Nuclear Damage  
Claims Commission**

- (1) A statement of the duties carried out during the year to which the annual report pertains.
- (2) A statement of claims pending at the beginning of the year to which the annual report pertains -
  - (i) death cases and amount involved
  - (ii) injury cases and amount involved
  - (iii) damage to property cases and amount involved A statement of claims filed during the year to which the annual report pertains-
    - (i) death cases and amount involved
    - (ii) injury cases and amount involved
    - (iii) damage to property cases and amount involved
- (4) A statement of claims disposed of during the year to which the annual report pertains -
  - (i) death cases and amount involved
  - (ii) injury cases and amount involved
  - (iii) damage to property cases and amount involved
- (5) A statement of claims pending at the end of the year to which the annual report pertains -

- (i) death cases and amount involved
  - (ii) injury cases and amount involved
  - (iii) damage to property -cases and amount involved
- (6) A statement of accounts for the year to which the annual report pertains.
- (7) Any other information as the claims adjudicating authority deems fit.

**VIJAY BHUSHAN PATHAK**  
Jt. Secy



**042. Notification issued by the Department of Atomic Energy notifying the date for coming into effect the the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010.**

**New Delhi, November 11, 2011.**

**DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 11th November, 2011

**S.O. 2526(E).**—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section 5 of Section 1 of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (38 of 2010), the Central Government hereby declares that the provisions of that Act shall come into force on the 11th day of November, 2011.

[No.4/4/1/2010-ER]

**VIJAY BHUSHAN PATHAK**  
Jt. Secy.



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - III**

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**043. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on India's commitment to move ahead with Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.**

**New Delhi, February, 10, 2011.**

Minister for Environment, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests said that India is well placed to lead the way in incorporating the value of nature into national, regional and local policy making. Speaking at 'Stakeholder Consultations on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in India' (I-TEEB) here today, he said India soon will launch a scheme in three states, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra and introduce a market based system for control of air pollution. We introduce legal changes. For the first time in last December, the Ministry promulgated the rules for ecological functions. We created regulatory authority also. The protection, preservation and regeneration of living beings will be central in biodiversity maintenance. Good Quality of forest cover will help primary stakeholder, i.e. people. Livelihood opportunities will be sustainable with this. Green India Mission will also contribute towards maintaining quantity of forests.

The Minister informed that India is one of the recognized mega-diverse countries of the world. With an area of about 329 mha, India is 7th largest country in the world. India has wide range of ecosystems and habitats such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems, and deserts which in turn have contributed to immense biological diversity with large variation in species of plants, animals and microbes. With only 2.4% of world's land area, India accounts for 7 to 8 % of the recorded plant and animal species of the world. Talking about diversity in biodiversity of India, the Minister of State said, "India has ten bio-geographic zones and also four global biodiversity hotspots. India is endowed with vast forest resources. The total forest and tree cover of the country is estimated at 23.39% of the geographic area, of which forest cover accounts for 21.02% (69.09 mha)'.

TEEB Study leader and UNEP Special Adviser and Head of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, Shri Pavan Sukhdev said, "The loss of biodiversity and the ecosystem services impacts us all, but in India the rural poor are the first to be adversely affected by these losses. Defining the economic value of nature's contribution to the human well-being of both rural and urban communities, and the costs to these communities if we allow the continued degradation of this natural capital is essential if India is going to be able to sustain the human-wellbeing of its population moving forward."

Sh T.Chatterjee, Secretary, Environment & Forests, briefed about India's policy, institutional and legal initiatives and strengths for conservation and sustainable



use of biodiversity and future leadership role in the International Decade of Biodiversity.

Stakeholders consultations on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity in India aims to recognize, demonstrate, capture and optimize the value of biodiversity and ecosystem service and targets policy actions at national and state levels, improvements in business assessments and disclosure, and improved citizen awareness of the issues involved. A framework will be developed for strengthening biodiversity conservation programs and initiating action for assessing the economic value of India's natural capital. The study will enable to take in to account the valuation and economics of biodiversity also to ensure enhanced transparency, effectiveness and sustainability in utilization of natural resources, consistent with the needs of the country to achieve accelerated economic development. The study will also facilitate to meet the objective to adopt an open, transparent and competitive mechanism for allocation, pricing and utilization of biological resources.

Based on the recommendations of the study of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) hosted by UNEP, the 'India TEEB' consultations will pilot assessments in some of the States and will be showcased at the 11th Conference of Parties Meeting on the Convention of Biological Diversity to be held in India from 1st -19th October 2012.

Experts from the Indian Government, State Governments, Academic community and NGOs, members from the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, Government of Norway and other international partners are participating in these deliberations.



**044. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on the Speech of Minister of State for Environment and Forests at the Basic Countries Conference.**

**New Delhi, February 27, 2011.**

Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests said it is highly regrettable and most unfortunate that even after 14 months of Copenhagen Accord, under the so called Fast Finance Track window, there is hardly any significant disbursement. Giving his opening remarks in a press conference here today at the end of two-day 6TH Meeting of BASIC Ministers on Climate Change, Shri Ramesh said, " All of us welcomed the Cancun Agreements. It was a positive step forward and Cancun Agreements provided a stage for resolution of some outstanding political issues. We were equally convinced that the Cancun Agreements are not a substitute for the 'Bali Road Map' that are not present in the Cancun Agreements. Basic growth of countries will make every effort to bring these issues back in the main stream of global climate change negotiations."

Shri Ramesh said that in particular three issues were identified, namely, the issue of equity, the issue of intellectual property rights and the issue of trade. Adding to this he said, "There are three very important issues for BASIC quartet . With help of 77 Group we will bring these and other Bali Road Issues back into the Mainstream of negotiating agenda." Giving details about the negotiations , Shri Ramesh informed, "We need to continue the negotiations in 2011 leading up to Durban in a spirit of inclusiveness and transparency. Many issues on which we need further clarity. Two most critical issues are of second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol and the issue of Fast Track Finance. It is highly regrettable and most unfortunate that even after 14 months of Copenhagen Accord, under the so called Fast Track Finance (FTF) window there is hardly any significant disbursement. This was a commitment of 30 billion dollars, over a 3 year period. Fast Start Finance was meant for South Africa, small island states and for the LDCs. It is a matter of great regret that the FSF which was the key element of bargain at Copenhagen, is a contradiction in terms. Unless countries begin to see money flowing, the atmosphere at Durban would continue to be clouded by doubts and suspicion."

Giving details of a meeting of Basic Group of Experts Shri Ramesh said they also met on non-government issues yesterday and discussed the issue of equitable access to sustainable development . It has been decided that this group of independent academics will prepare a synthesis paper on our approach to the issue of equity which is a key vision of shared global concern ."

Mr Zhenhua Xie, Vice Minister of the National Development and Reform

Commission and Special Representative on Climate Change, People's Republic of China, said, "We are going to safe guard the interests of developing countries to promote over all climate change negotiations' process. The BASIC group will play a very active and constructive role in promoting over all process."

Ms Izabella Monica Viera Teixeira, Minister of Environment, Federative Republic of Brazil, said in her opening remark, " We will work together to support our agenda. Next two years will be very crucial for sustainable development agenda."

Ms Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Republic of South Africa, said, "We had good discussions as BASIC group and regarding Agreements arrived at Cancun our emphasis will be on the issues of finance, technology and capacity building etc. We have to emphasis on finance to avoid some challenges which might arise at Durban."

India has invited Ministers/Ambassadors from three other countries - Argentina, Algeria and Maldives -to the Delhi meeting. These countries represent important regional groups within the "G-77 and China" bloc in the climate change negotiations, and will participate in the meeting as Observers. This is in keeping with the BASIC tradition of involving major regional groups within G-77 and China in order to enrich discussions and represent the interests of developing countries. Maldives is a member of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in addition to being a neighboring country from South Asian region. Algeria represents the developing countries in Africa, while Argentina is the current Chair of the Group of 77 and China. The participation included Argentinean representative at United Nations, Environment Minister of Maldives and special representative of the Environment Minister of Algeria, representing this Africa Group

The Basic Group's meetings started in 2009 in Beijing, followed by New Delhi, Cape Town, Rio de Janeiro, Tanjein, China and again in New Delhi for 6th meeting.



**44A. Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of Sixth basic Ministerial meeting on Climate Change.**

**New Delhi, February 27, 2011.**

The BASIC Ministers exchanged views on the outcome of the Cancun Conference and the approach to be taken to the future work in the run-up to Durban. The Ministers appreciated the role played by Mexico as President of COP-16 in achieving the outcome and noted several positive elements of the outcome. While agreeing that the Cancun Agreements were a step forward in the global action on climate change and provided the space to address some of the outstanding issues, the Ministers stressed that the Cancun Agreements were not a substitute for the Bali Road Map. The Bali Road Map must, therefore, continue to be the template for future work of the parties. The statement is as follows:

“The BASIC Ministers exchanged views on the outcome of the Cancun Conference and the approach to be taken to the future work in the run-up to Durban. The Ministers appreciated the role played by Mexico as President of COP-16 in achieving the outcome and noted several positive elements of the outcome. While agreeing that the Cancun Agreements were a step forward in the global action on climate change and provided the space to address some of the outstanding issues, the Ministers stressed that the Cancun Agreements were not a substitute for the Bali Road Map. The Bali Road Map must, therefore, continue to be the template for future work of the parties.

The Ministers stressed that the final decision text should accurately reflect the agreements reached by parties on specific issues at the end of the Cancun Conference. To this end, the draft unedited version of the Cancun Agreements appearing on the UNFCCC website needs to be brought in concordance with the Presidency’s text adopted at Cancun.

Ministers discussed the provisional Agenda for the meetings of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP at Bangkok and emphasized that the agenda should be anchored in the overall framework of the Bali Road Map. They stressed that the agenda of AWG-LCA, in particular, should follow the structure of the Bali Action Plan in order to ensure that the agenda is comprehensive and places equal importance on all issues under negotiation. The Ministers encouraged the Group of 77 and China to engage with the AWG Chairs to have the agenda revised accordingly in time before the Bangkok meeting.

The Ministers exchanged views on several key issues such as global goal and equity, 2nd Commitment Period for Annex-I parties under the

Kyoto Protocol, international assessment and review including comparability and accountability of commitments of Annex-I parties, and international consultations and analysis of developing country actions.

The Ministers stressed the need to maintain a balance between the obligations of the developed countries vis-a-vis those of developing countries. They emphasized the need for clear elaboration of a process to convert their pledges into economy-wide emission reduction obligations and rules to account for both mitigation and finance by Annex-I parties, in particular for accounting and compliance to be done in balance with the work on the guidelines for international consultation and analysis. Ministers also agreed that the guidelines for MRV for developing countries should be less onerous than the rules for enhanced MRV for developed country parties.

Ministers agreed that the 2nd Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol is critical to achieving the global goal of ambitious emissions reduction and global peaking of emissions. The effective operationalization of the mechanisms for providing financial and technological support to developing countries was equally critical in enabling them to contribute to global efforts for addressing climate change. They also stressed that the decision on 2nd Commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol should be taken at Durban to ensure that there is no gap between the first and the second commitment periods.

The Ministers observed that issues like equity, intellectual property rights and trade, which are very important for developing countries, were not adequately addressed in the Cancun Agreements and should form part of the future work of the parties. After discussions, the Ministers decided that the experts of the four BASIC countries will exchange views on rules for accounting for Annex-I countries and also prepare a synthesis document on the issue of equitable access to sustainable development to be considered in the next BASIC meeting.

The Ministers agreed that the adaptation issues should be accorded equal priority and the financing of adaptation actions should include a mechanism for loss and damage. They noted that there was an imbalance between the modalities for deciding on adaptation related issues and the modalities for decision in other areas. They stressed that the adaptation and REDD Plus related issues should be addressed in a defined timeframe.

The Ministers discussed the issue of financial support for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. They were of the view that the decision to convene a meeting of the Transition Committee even before many

regional groups of countries have nominated their members, was premature and stressed the need to respect the rules regarding convening of meetings and ensuring accountability, transparency and inclusiveness. They urged that the Transition Committee should take guidance from and report to AWG-LCA in respect of its work. The Ministers noted that, despite the declarations at Copenhagen and Cancun, actual disbursement of funds is lacking even to SIDS, Africa and LDCs, who most needed adaptation finance. The Ministers urged that sizeable flow of funds under the Fast Start Funds should begin before discussions on the Green Climate Fund gain momentum.

The Ministers noted the success of the creation of a Technology Mechanism at Cancun and felt that the Mechanism should go beyond providing technical assistance and capacity building to enable acceleration of the development and piloting the technologies that are appropriate for the developing countries. Further actions should be taken to address the issue of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and eligibility criteria in order to enhance and accelerate the development and transfer of mitigation and adaptation technologies. It was stressed that there was a direct link between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism.

The issues relating to HFCs were discussed. HFC gases are not ozone depleting substances but some of these have high global warming potential. The Ministers felt that the issue of phase down of HFCs with high global warming potential required in-depth examination.

In preparing for future work in 2011, the Ministers expressed their strong support and solidarity with South Africa as the incoming COP Presidency to organize meetings in the run up to COP 17. They called for South Africa to deepen Mexico's efforts of last year to strengthen the multilateral process in an inclusive, party-driven and transparent manner.

The Ministers noted that the three key events with significant inter-linkages are taking place over the next eighteen months, namely, the UNFCCC COP 17/CMP 7 at Durban, Rio+20 Summit at Rio and CBD COP 11 at New Delhi and decided that the BASIC countries will work together in mobilizing political support for the success of these events.

The Ministers reiterated the commitment of the BASIC Countries to continue to work to strengthen the unity of the Group of 77 and China and thanked Argentina as Chair of G77 and China and the representatives of Algeria and Maldives for their presence and valuable contribution.

Ministers welcomed the offer of South Africa to host the Seventh BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in May 2011."



**045. Address of Minister of Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the India Today Conclave: "THE WAY TO A GREEN GDP".**

**New Delhi, March 18, 2011.**

**I. Introduction**

Thank you, Madhu Kishwar. I didn't know if you were introducing me or writing my epitaph. Friends, it gives me great pleasure to be here on the tenth anniversary of the original conclave. I am also very happy that for the first time in ten years the environment figures in a session, even though it's billed as a luncheon session. I'll do my best to ensure that you keep your date with your culinary destiny.

I am supposed to speak on the way to a green GDP. Let me begin by recalling one of the most famous literary essays of all times by the philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin, called "The Hedgehog and the Fox". It is derived from an ancient Greek dramatist, Archilochus, who says that the fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing. The way to a green GDP, is to ensure that it is not hijacked by one type of hedgehog— the enviro hedgehogs who know nothing but maintaining the environment in its pristine form or the growth hedgehogs who can't see beyond their GDP noses. All of us will have to become foxes. The characteristic of the fox, as Archilochus reminded us, is that the fox knows many things. Unless we are foxes we will not move to a green GDP. The issue of a green GDP is important for four reasons that have assumed special significance in India.

**II. Livelihood**

Increasingly, environmentalism in this country is not a matter of lifestyle but a matter of livelihood. All I can do is to recall here, contemporary India's first environmental movement – the Chipko movement of the mid 1970s where the women of Utrakhand hugged the trees of the hills to ensure that their forests were protected from rapacious contractors. Thus was born modern India's environmental consciousness. We are increasingly seeing this expand to central and western India. The livelihood concerns of tribals, forest dwellers, small farmers, and small landowners who depend on the land for an occupation are increasingly finding a voice. Their concerns are increasingly coming in to conflict with the economic objectives that we have set for ourselves.

**III. Public Health Concerns**

The second reason is a public health concern. Increasingly environmental consciousness or environmental issue is not a middle class elitist issue, but an

issue of a large number of people, including the poor and the marginalized. The fact that Bhatinda has now become one of the most serious cancer epicenters is not coincidental. In places like Chembur, Bhopal and Chandrapur – the problems of the environment are not just environmental issues per-se but also public health issues. Ordinary people, who may not speak the language of environmentalists, speak the language of respiratory diseases, cancer and leukemia. In the 1960s the incidence of respiratory diseases in Bangalore, India's most dynamic city, was less than 7% amongst children. Today independent surveys have shown that the incidents of respiratory diseases are around 25% amongst children in Bangalore. Public health should drive the way to a green GDP.

#### **IV. Climate Change**

The third reason is climate change. We don't have to be climate evangelicals but we shouldn't be climate atheists either. Climate change is here and is a reality and there is no country in the world as vulnerable to it as India. Our economy is still dependent on the monsoon. An indifferent southwest monsoon and an indifferent northeast monsoon will wreak havoc on our economic performance. We have a large coastline with a population of about 300 million people, vulnerable to tsunamis and rise in mean sea levels. We have a population of about half a billion people living in the north Indian region dependent on water security and on the health of the Himalayan glaciers which are under retreat. And we have this large mineral wealth, which we want to exploit rapidly, from the most forest rich areas of our nation. So there is no country in the world – not Maldives, Bangladesh or any African country that is going to be as affected by climate change as India.

#### **V. Sustainability**

And finally, the sustainability argument. We have to recognize that our demographic karma will be 1.7 billion people by the year 2050. In the next 40 years we are going to be adding 500 million people. Just the sheer base on which India's population is growing is propelling India's population to a region of about 1.6-1.7 billion people by the year 2050. Therefore it is incumbent on this generation to ask ourselves what is the natural resource base that we want to bequeath to future generations. In many countries there is no future generation to think of, as their populations have begun to decline. India is one of those few countries where the population is not only increasing but the population is also going to get younger.

#### **VI. Road to a Green GDP**

Now, let me turn to the second point of where we are on this road to a green GDP. Have we any idea what this animal called green GDP means? I'm afraid



that question is more difficult to answer because economists have not really grappled with this in any meaningful way. Last year the World Bank brought out a publication called "The Changing Wealth of Nations". They defined a concept called 'adjusted net savings' which takes the macro economics saving rate as conventionally defined by economics and adjusts it for environmental pollution, resource depletion and a whole host of environment related factors. For the year 2008, the conventionally measured savings rate for India was 38% of our GDP and according to the world banks estimates; the adjusted net savings rate for environmental factors is 24% of GDP. So then, what does this 14% difference mean in simple English? It translates roughly into a GDP growth of about 2.5 – 3% points. If India is reporting a normal, real GDP growth of 9% per year, according to the adjusted net savings it is actually 6% a year, if you were to take into account all environment related factors. There is another estimate that is being done by the world's most distinguished environmental economist – Professor Partha Dasgupta from Cambridge University. He published a paper in which he estimated that between the year 1970 and 2000, India's per capita GDP (as economists measure) grew by 3% per year, but net per capita wealth which he defines as growth that takes in to account environmental factors as well, only grew by about 0.3% per year. Normal GDP growth does not measure well being. So, the point I want to make is that there is a very substantial gap between the economic growth of India, as measured by GDP, and the real well-being of the country as measured by economic performance after being adjusted for environmental factors.

## **VII. Way Ahead**

Let me now move to the final part of my presentation. What are the next steps we need to take? What are the milestones on the way to this green GDP? First and foremost– we need to measure. I believe if you can't measure something, you can't monitor it and manage it. So if you want to manage you need to monitor and if you want to monitor, you need to measure. The measurement of where we are is absolutely crucial. I'm happy to say that Professor Dasgupta has agreed to chair a high level group to work out a road map for national resource accounting for India. By the year 2015, we hope to be amongst the few countries in the world that will report both conventional economic growth and also adjusted economic growth. The G of GDP doesn't stand for gross but green. The second important aspect to the way to a green GDP is to simply enforce the laws of the land. India is fortunate enough, (almost entirely thanks to the political vision of Shrimati Indira Gandhi), to have the most progressive legislation on the environment- these include the Forest Conservation Act, the Environment Protection Act, Coastal Regulation Zone, Wildlife Protection Act, or legislations to deal with hazardous waste and pollution control. Unfortunately Indians delight in passing laws but take greater delight in bypassing them later.

Therefore it is no surprise that even though we have the best laws of the land even from an international perspective, they have been characterized by non-observance. In no country in the world would a minister who is enforcing laws be drawing headlines. He would be regarded as doing his normal day-to-day activities. Here I am made out to be Frankenstein, hell bent on destroying an economic system that has been built so assiduously over the last few decades. All I am doing is asking a very simple question – here are the laws, are they being observed or not? Now if the laws are outdated it is my responsibility, it is the government's responsibility to make sure that laws are modernized. To the consternation of many people, we said that the Coastal Regulation Zone of 1991 is outdated because it is choking Mumbai city. The new Coastal Regulation Zone, 2011 recognizes the reality of India. We cannot have one coastal law for our 7,500km of coastline. So we treat Goa, Mumbai, Kerala, Andamans and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep differently, but we have a law. Where laws are outdated or need to be modernized lets change the laws, but we have to enforce laws too. We have to enforce laws in an accountable and transparent manner. India needs more regulations but could certainly do with fewer regulators. India needs more laws but could do with fewer lawyers. The trick is to find a way to implement these laws in a market friendly manner that does not lead to harassment, or rent seeking on the part of the government. We are trying to do this but with limited success, as we have a complicated federal system. I hope in the next couple of years, we can put in place a clear, rule based enforcement mechanism for the laws at a central and state level. The third aspect to the way to a green GDP is that we have to make choices. The time has come for us to recognize that we have to make some choices. It's good if we can have a 9% growth and do all kinds of wonderful things. That is the ideal solution and that should be our objective. But we must recognize that there will be situations where we will have to exercise choices. Those choices must be exercised publicly, democratically and as part of the political discourse. It cannot be done unilaterally. I think the trade-off between growth and conservation should be made explicit. Let these trade-offs be made explicit in the public domain and then let's exercise those choices. In a majority of cases you will have a yes, in some cases you will have a yes but (like the Navi Mumbai Airport), and some cases it will be a simple two letters – 'NO'. Now, that no is unacceptable and an anathema to us. A 'No' to the other person is acceptable to me, but a 'No' to me is unacceptable. I think we havereached a situation where if we have to achieve our growth objectives, we will be called upon to make some tough choices. I think the sooner we recognize the need for these choices, the better off we will be. Finally, on the way to this growth turnpike, we have to recognize there are certain limits. We can deal with environment issues through improved technology and safeguards but we cannot deal with the destruction of forests that have taken centuries to evolve. We

cannot say that a eucalyptus plantation will have the same ecological value and impact. There are limits to this growth. Is it going to be a 9% growth that destroys forests, pollutes rivers and displace livelihoods or is it going to be a 7% growth that protects forests, cleans up rivers and conserves livelihoods? I know where my choice lies; it has to be the latter. We should try for the 9% growth in a manner that protects forests, ensures clean rivers and protects our natural resources. But if it is not possible, ladies and gentlemen, I submit to you we have to make these choices. So, we have to chart out a way to a green GDP as no one else will do it for us. We have to do it as part of our political, industrial and media discourse. If we have a road map in the next decade or so, India can truly claim a leadership role in green GDP. Rather than see it as a cost that we have to incur, we should see it as an opportunity and grasp the opportunities that lay ahead.

Thank you very much.



**046. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on the Cabinet approval of the signing of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.**

**New Delhi, April 20, 2011.**

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) by India.

The Nagoya Protocol would also contribute to the other two objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relating to conservation and sustainable use, since benefits accruing from utilization of genetic resources would act as incentive to biodiversity-rich countries and their local communities to conserve and sustainably use their biodiversity.

India would be hosting the next Conference of Parties (CoP) to the CBD in October 2011. This will give India an opportunity to consolidate, scale up and showcase its strengths and initiatives on biodiversity before the world. As the incoming Presidency of CoP, India would be involved in setting the global agenda on biodiversity for the next few years.

The ABS Protocol is open for signature from 2nd February 2011 to 1st February 2012. So far six countries have signed the Protocol including three megadiverse

countries (namely Brazil, Mexico and Colombia). As the incoming President of CoP-11, it is expected that India would be one of the early signatories to the ABS Protocol.

India is one of the identified megadiverse countries rich in biodiversity. With only 2.4% of the earth's land area, India accounts for 7-8% of the recorded species of the world. India is also rich in associated traditional knowledge, which is both coded as in the ancient texts of Indian systems of medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani and Sidha and also non-coded, as it exists in oral undocumented traditions.

The genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge can be used to develop a wide range of products and services for human benefit, such as medicines, agricultural practices, cosmetics etc.

India is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which is one of the agreements adopted during the Rio Earth Summit held in 1992. One of the three objectives of the CBD relates to ABS, which refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and benefits resulting from their use shared by the users with the countries that provide them. The CBD prescribes that access to genetic resources is subject to national legislation. Accordingly, India after extensive consultative process had enacted Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD. However, in the near absence of user country measures, once the resource leaves the country providing the resources, there is no way to ensure compliance of ABS provisions in the country where it is used. Towards this, a protocol on access and benefit sharing has been negotiated under the aegis of CBD, and adopted by the tenth Conference of Parties (CoP-10) held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. India has participated actively and contributed meaningfully in the ABS negotiations which formally started about six years back. The objective of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS is fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies.

It is expected that the ABS Protocol which is a key missing pillar of the CBD, would address the concern of misappropriation or biopiracy of its genetic resources.



**047. Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Seventh Basic Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change.**

**Zimbali, Durban, May 29, 2011.**

The seventh BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change took place at Zimbali, near Durban from 28 to 29 May 2011. The Ministers who participated in the meeting were H.E. Minister Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs from South Africa, H.E. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and H.E. Liu Zhenmin, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs from China, H.E. Francisco Gaetani, Deputy Minister for Environment from Brazil, Mr JM Mauskar, Special Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests from India. The incoming COP President, H.E. Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane also attended. In line with the "BASIC-plus" approach, Argentina as chair of the G77 and China was invited to the meeting and was represented by Mr J Fernandes.

Ministers discussed the work required to achieve a comprehensive and balanced outcome in COP17 and CMP7 in Durban. Ministers indicated that COP17 and CMP7 must continue to work within the framework agreed in Bali, and in this context address the work programme agreed in Cancún, following the agenda agreed in Bangkok, with a view to complete the mandate of the Bali Road Map.

They considered the challenges and possible priority elements on the road to COP17 and CMP7 in Durban. The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to constructively engage with others to develop an ambitious and realistic outcome, urging Annex 1 Parties to fulfill their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to demonstrate this in concrete terms. Ministers emphasized that the environmental integrity of the climate regime was of critical importance to all, particularly for developing countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In this regard, they stressed that unilateral approaches, such as the inclusion of emissions from the aviation sector in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme or establishing unilateral carbon accounting rules are inimical to multi-lateralism, and clearly not in line with the provisions and principles of the Convention, particularly the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Issues with regard to maritime and aviation emissions, agriculture and HFC's should also be addressed in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention.

Ministers reaffirmed the centrality of the negotiations under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, recognising that parallel and informal processes can also contribute to the formal negotiations in a supplementary manner, without

however, undermining the transparent and inclusive multilateral process under the UNFCCC. Ministers strongly supported the South African proposals for a transparent, inclusive preparatory process to ensure that Durban takes a major step forward in working towards the perspective of a comprehensive, ambitious, fair and effective outcome. Ministers encouraged South Africa to explore with Parties in Bonn how this preparatory process could efficiently inform the negotiations.

The Kyoto Protocol, including its multi-lateral definition of commitments and rules, is critical to environmental integrity of the climate change regime. Given that the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will end in 2012, they expressed the view that the second commitment period is central to a comprehensive and balanced Durban outcome.

Ministers emphasised that the perspective of developments under the UNFCCC, respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, will depend first and foremost on the political willingness of all Annex I Parties to undertake commitments in an appropriate legal form.

Recognising the urgent need to support developing countries in adaptation, particularly SIDS, LDC's and Africa, Ministers emphasised that the balance between adaptation and mitigation needs to be guaranteed. The costs of inactions are huge, and the impacts will be felt most by poor countries and communities. Adaptation should be as central to negotiations as mitigation, and this has to be reflected in the structures being designed for financial and technology transfer support.

Ministers considered work by experts on the need for rigorous, robust and transparent accounting for finance by Annex I Parties. A common reporting format for funding must be considerably enhanced. This will require further work by negotiators and experts, in order to ensure that accounting for finance by all developed countries is consistent, complete, comparable, transparent and accurate. Ministers identified the need for work on MRV at expert and negotiator level. A proposal was made to consider the possibility of creating a fund between BASIC countries to stimulate research providing evidence on climate change issues. This analysis could be developed by institutions from BASIC countries and other countries from G77 and China.

Solutions on disbursement of finance are urgently required to enhance trust. Ministers were of the view that the UNFCCC Secretariat should publish information on funding already disbursed under fast-start finance provided by developed countries, since it is a commitment made under a multi-lateral agreement. They also reiterated that the Transitional Committee should interact with, and be guided by the AWG-LCA.

Ministers received presentations on a document by experts from BASIC countries on “a framework for equitable access to sustainable development” as requested at the 6th BASIC Ministerial Meeting. This work will be refined and published, as contribution to the body of scientific knowledge informing policy development.

Ministers emphasised the need for early operationalisation of all the institutions established in terms of the Cancun agreements, including the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Executive Committee, Centre and Network, the registry, the work programme on the Response Measure Forum and the Green Climate Fund.

The work programme on the road to Durban entails a high volume of work. Ministers heard a report from negotiators that identified the need for 35 to 40 technical and operational decisions or guideline under the COP and CMP. Ministers emphasized that a negotiating session in September/October is essential, and that it should include a short programme of the Subsidiary Bodies as a significant amount of work was mandated to these bodies in Cancun. They noted India's submission of three items to be added to the provisional agenda of the COP (equity and sustainable development; trade measures and climate; mitigation, adaptation actions and IPR technology). Ministers also noted the submission made by Saudi Arabia relating to the provisional agenda of upcoming session of the SBI and SBSTA and stressed the importance of following the rules and procedures for the inclusion and removal of agenda items. Ministers expressed their complete support for the programme and timetable for informal consultations by the incoming COP Presidency.

Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of BASIC countries to continue working to strengthen the unity of G77 and China and thanked Argentina as chair of the Group for its presence and valuable contribution. The importance of rebuilding trust and strengthening the multilateral system was emphasised. Ministers re-emphasised that an agreement on the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is absolutely critical for the success of the Durban Conference.

Ministers welcomed the offer of Brazil to host the 8th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in August 2011.



**048. Press Brief issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the 5-Pronged Approach to fast track climate talks held in Berlin on July 3-4, 2011.**

The second Petersberg Dialogue on climate change was held in Berlin on 3-4th of July 2011, to evolve political consensus on key deliverables for success at Durban and the outcomes of the Cancun climate conference. The conference was organized by the Government of Germany and the Government of South Africa, which will be hosting the 17th Conference of Parties (CoP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban this year.

In the first political-level discussion on climate change after the Cancun negotiations, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Environment and Forests, participated in the Petersberg Dialogue, and had several bilateral meetings with Ministers and representatives from the United States, China, the United Kingdom, European Commission, Sweden and South Africa.

Underlining the five key issues that need to be addressed before Durban, Mr. Jairam Ramesh said, "in order to generate forward momentum for progress at Durban, we need to ensure actual disbursement of fast start finance that was promised at Cancun; preserve the structure of the Kyoto Protocol and its second commitment period; work on content before deciding legal form; agree on the modalities of the Review (of a global goal) based on the process of monitoring reporting and verification; and resolve pending issues from Cancun such as equity, IPRs and trade."

Issues of operationalizing the Cancun Agreements, and finance occupied a large part of the discussions. Ministers and Delegates agreed that there needed to be a step-by-step approach to deliverables promised at Cancun – especially the Green Climate Fund (GCF), technology mechanism and the adaptation committee, as also on transnational in the post-2012 period. On finance, discussions focused on the importance of a structure and modalities for the GCF emerging from Durban, as well as the sources of funds being enumerated.





**049. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on India - US Dialogue on Climate Change.**

**New Delhi, July 19, 2011.**

Minister Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of state for Environment and Forests (Independent Charge) said that it is important to remain engaged on issues such as equity, accelerated transfer of technologies and trade measures at and beyond Durban and the crucial role of Indo-US programmes regarding science of climate change to further strengthen the bilateral engagement. During a meeting with a high level US delegation led by Special Envoy for Climate Change Mr. Todd Stern here today, Smt Natarajan brought out the Indian perspective about the balanced outcome on both the LCA and KP tracks under the Bali Road Map.

During the meeting, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries on issues relating to climate change, both present and future, were deliberated upon. Both sides exchanged their views, in a cordial atmosphere on bilateral issues and the ongoing climate change negotiations in the multilateral fora under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both sides agreed that operationlization of the Cancun decision in a balanced manner should be the goal for the meeting of the Conference of Parties under UNFCCC at Durban in December 2011.

Mr. Stern conveyed his view on transparency arrangements, i.e. International Assessment and Review (IAR) for developed countries and International Consultations and Analysis (ICA) for developing countries, the principles and approaches for functioning of the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism, the Financial Mechanism and the legal form of the Agreed Outcome of the LCA process.

At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed that the Indo-US dialogue on Climate Change issues would be continued at the scientific level, the negotiators level and the Ministerial level.

India and the USA have a long history of cooperation on environmental and forestry issues and the present meeting was in continuation of that engagement. In the technical level meeting which met yesterday, the US and the Indian officials discused climate change issues of mutual concern under the leadership of Mr. Todd Stern and Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Sh T Chatterjee, Secretary, Sh J M Mauskar, Special Secretariy, Sh R R Rashmi, Joint Secretary, Sh Jagdish Kishwan, Additional Director General, Forests, Dr Subodh Sharma, Adviser and Sh T S Trimurthi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs took part in this discussion.



**050. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council on “Impact of Climate Change”.**

**New York, July 20, 2011.**

Please see Document No.740.



**051. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the International Seminar on Environment and Disaster Management.**

**New Delhi, July 21, 2011.**

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests (Independent Charge) said, “The poor are more vulnerable towards possible impact of environmental degradation, and they pay disproportionately greater price. They are also affected due to ill-designed policies at some time which do not mitigate properly environmental degradation and climate change. Creating awareness about environment, with disaster management and climate change issues is very much integrated with the issue of human rights and environment justice. We believe that poverty eradication is extremely important.” Addressing at the curtain raiser function on the eve of the International Seminar on ‘Global Environment and Disaster Management: Law and Society’ here today she said, “ The efforts of Governments will help to think in a holistic manner to revisit our priorities in dealing with environmental disasters. Deliberations of concerns, views and processes at such seminar will help in guiding our orient institutes towards playing a positive and meaningful role in this regard.”

The Minister said, “Environment as well as natural disaster do not have geographical boundaries, its effects disturb the world causing immense damage. There is a huge difference between need and greed. We often forget what unmanageable scale of the disaster is we face. So our efforts and resources should be towards building disaster management rather than constructive development. Without a concerted international participation, it is impossible to restore environmental sustainability and peace and harmony.” She hopes that participants will take initiative and direct

discussions to redefine the progress in a constructive environmental sustainability.”

Sh Salman Khurshid, Minister of Law and Justice said, “The responsibility is of everybody to maintain justice and success of generations to come. This is a significant milestone for us to have an international seminar. This is the age of convergence and specialized persons from specific fields will discuss together on one platform. We will revive our institute in a targeted way. The government has to respond to convergence. Our methodology and our attitudes towards functions have to change. This conference is taking place at such a time where remarkable inputs will be received. The Message from here is that we have to move in a particular direction when industrial and technological revolution has taken place. The rapid industrial growth which bring pressure on natural resources should be reduced which looks more difficult.”

Earlier Sh T Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests said that the world is less prepared today to respond to man-made disasters than natural disasters. It is strange that natural disasters are predictive more accurately than chemical accidents and explosions in industrial estates. He said, “In India we are very much aware about chemical accidents those have taken lives almost on monthly basis all over the country. We have very strong framework to deal with this matter, but did not connect between informative agencies and the law makers which is a major problem. In the Ministry of Environment and Forests, we will ask existing organizations to take industry’s problems. Natural disasters can not be prevented as in the case of Fukushima and Leh. This seminar is very important in the context of how to make us prepared for man-made disasters.”

This seminar is jointly organized by the Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Delhi, the Indian Law Institute, the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Ministry of Law and Justice. Its objectives are to nurture discussion on the useful linkages between the disciplines of law, disaster management, natural sciences, environmental conservation and anthropology and human rights law, to identify and understand legal and technical issues of contemporary significance in relation to the environment and to share the best local, regional and international practices and / or experiences in combating climate change and successful disaster management.

The international seminal will provide a platform for academicians, policy makers, the judiciary, lawyers, civil society and other stakeholders to deliberate on topical issues like climate change , natural resource

management, disaster management, legal responses to natural and man-made hazards, the role of the judiciary in strengthening law and policy on environment and disaster management. The focus of the seminar is to collectively seek solutions that are not only environment friendly but support all-inclusive growth that sustains not just the environment but human life and livelihoods. Recommendations and suggestions that emerge unanimously from the deliberations and discourse of the seminar shall be compiled in a report to be submitted to the Government of India for study and implementation.

Participants from 80 countries will deliberate on various subjects including biodiversity and natural resource management, Law, Environment and Climate Change, Nuclear and Chemical Accidents, Disaster Management and Legal Responses to Natural Hazards, Law, Policy and Environment, Environment friendly and Inclusive Growth: Role of Stake Holders, overview of Global Environment and Disaster Management etc.



**052. Valedictory Address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the International Seminar on Global Environment and Disaster management.**

**New Delhi, July 24, 2011.**

I indeed happy to be present here at the valedictory session of this very important International Seminar on Global Environment and Disaster Management. I compliment the Supreme Court and the co-sponsors for organizing a seminar on such a contemporary and highly relevant issue.

In the past fifty years or so we have come face to face with unusual climatic occurrences, weather changes and environmental disasters. These are a corollary of the global pursuit of rapid growth in particular rapid growth of industrialization and, very often, the mindless and predatory exploitation of natural resources to sustain such patterns of development and industrialization. These have happened across the world, without distinguishing between rich and poor nations. There have been unprecedented heat-waves in the United States and Europe, devastating floods in China and tsunamis in South East Asia and more recently in Japan. All of these have highlighted the vulnerability and helplessness of human beings confronted with the wrath of nature.

The United Nations Conference held at Stockholm in 1972 marked the first major international event to deal with environmental issues. But securing global cooperation for the protection and preservation of the environment has proved quite difficult, as each country has sought to protect its own perceived national interest. There has also been a divide between the north and the south, which the international community has failed to bridge thus far. Protecting and preserving the environment is not a divisible task, as the acts of omissions and commissions of one nation or one set of people impinge on the others and vice-versa. Therefore, all countries, both rich and poor, developed and developing, countries of the north and countries of the south need to cooperate in this sort of global effort.

In general, in the increasingly integrated world that we live in, we have to devise cooperative solutions to deal with the pressing emerging global challenges and concerns. Environment and climate change certainly belong to this class of issues. In this context the development of new environment friendly technologies is going to play a very important role. The task ahead, as I see it, is to design a system of intellectual property rights which provides adequate incentives to invest in the development of new environment friendly technologies and at the same time ensuring that these technologies become available to poor countries at affordable cost.

Sustainable development has been accepted widely as the strategy that marries the aspirations for growth and development with preservation of the environment. Perhaps, it has been interpreted somewhat narrowly as the ability to meet efficiently the needs of the present generation, without imperilling the ability of the future generations to do so. The concept of sustainable development, however, appears to be larger than just a nation's ability to produce enough to meet its needs. It is about how we collectively address the growing concerns regarding climate change, resource management and what we bequeath to our future generations in terms of knowledge, skills and life-style that they can use to protect the environment, while they pursue their objectives of growth and development. Only then would we have contributed to the advancement of civilization and given an enduring legacy to the forthcoming generations.

In the public mind, there has always been a trade-off between economic growth and environmental sustainability. But, this view is changing slowly as more and more people are reviewing their notions of what constitutes growth. In fact, the very definition of growth has been enlarged to accommodate environmental and related concerns. There is now general agreement that environment cannot be protected by perpetuating the poverty of developing countries. Their basic concern is with development and this is as it should be.

But it is also no longer acceptable to take as given that a certain degree of environmental degradation and over-exploitation of natural resources in the cause of promoting growth is inevitable. It is no longer possible to treat the environment with passive disregard. And it is no longer tenable to pretend that these are concerns only for the other or wealthier nations.

In the last four years our government has formulated a national agenda for environmental protection to meet the challenges of disaster management and climate change. We have a target for greening 10 million hectares of forest land to increase incomes of the poor through a national Green India Mission. Action for generating over 20,000 MW of solar energy by the year 2020 is underway. Our mission for enhanced energy efficiency will reduce substantially need for capacity addition. Our mission for sustainable habitat will develop standards for green buildings which we intend to make integral to our municipal laws. Our missions on sustainable agriculture and water conservation will increase productivity of dry land agriculture as well as increase efficiency of water use. All these steps will cumulatively lead us to a low carbon growth path. These are steps that we have decided to take on our own as responsible global citizens. We are not waiting for an international consensus to evolve through ongoing negotiations on global climate change.

In recent years we have also accelerated efforts to enhance our capability to manage disasters. The enactment of the Disaster Management Act in 2005 enabled the setting up of institutional mechanisms for disaster preparedness and mitigation. We have also tried to share our expertise and experience with the other countries of the world. As a signatory to the International Charter on Space and Major Charters, India extends its space capabilities to acquire data of the location of disasters anywhere on the globe and share the same with the affected country or countries on a priority basis. We also provide training in disaster management to personnel of other countries, especially those in our neighbourhood.

We believe that the cause of environment cannot be furthered merely by exhortation. It also needs the strength and conviction demonstrated by concrete national legislation. We, in recognition of our commitment to this cause, have enacted a comprehensive law establishing and empowering a specialized tribunal for the settlement of a broad spectrum of environmental cases of civil nature. We have joined a handful of forward looking countries to have such a dedicated mechanism. This tribunal has started functioning and I expect it will help to reduce the workload of our courts.

We also hope to establish an independent regulator - the National Environment Appraisal and Monitoring Authority soon. This authority could lead to a complete change in the process of granting environmental clearances. Staffed by

dedicated professionals, it will work on a full time basis to evolve better and more objective standards of scrutiny.

I must also mention that but for the enduring wisdom of our judiciary, we would not have the bulk of what we proudly call 'environmental jurisprudence'. The nineties witnessed remarkable changes in India. Rapid growth and industrialization were underway as a result of the newly liberalized economy. At times like this, many nations might have chosen to bear silently the depletion of the nation's natural resources as the cost of doing business but we did not compromise on these concerns. Our judiciary enforced laws passed by a farsighted legislature to ensure that these concerns were neither diluted nor dismissed. Our safeguards are now far more stringent and well defined than they were two decades ago. But for these to be effective they need continuous support from a strong executive and the oversight of a wise judiciary. Over all, a major challenge ahead is to put in place a legal and regulatory framework which is effective in protecting the environment but without bringing back the hated license permit raj of the pre-1991 period.

Any discussion on the environment would be incomplete if we in India do not look inwards to our own cultural heritage and local practices. Our people have coped with adversities of nature by nurturing practices that were environmentally wise and sound. We have looked upon Nature as a source of nurture rather than a dark force to be conquered and bent to our will. Today, we have a great deal of understanding from global experience and best practices in environmental management. We need to complement this understanding with our own Indian way of looking at nature to get the most acceptable outcomes.

I am sure that the deliberations you have had in this seminar will contribute to deepen our understanding of how important issues relating to environment and disaster management can be tackled and resolved. I once again compliment all those who have been associated with the organization of this highly creative seminar. I wish all of you all the very best in your personal and professional lives.



**053. Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Eighth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change.**

**Inhotim, Minas Gerais (Brazil), August 26 – 27, 2011.**

The eighth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on climate change took place in Inhotim, Minas Gerais, on the 26th and 27th of August 2011. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Minister of External Relations of Brazil, Izabella Teixeira, Minister for the Environment of Brazil, Maite Nkoana- Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa as incoming COP President, Edna Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa, Xie Zhenhua, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China, and J.M. Mauskar, Special Secretary for Environment and Forests of India attended the meeting. In line with the “BASIC-plus” approach, Argentina as chair of the G77 and China was invited.

**Durban outcome**

Ministers reiterated the importance of achieving a comprehensive, balanced and ambitious result in Durban in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and the Bali Road Map. This result must fully cover negotiations under the two tracks of the UNFCCC: the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA). They emphasized that Durban must advance all aspects of the negotiations, including the establishment of Annex I commitments for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and comparable commitments by non-Kyoto Protocol Annex I parties, the operationalization of Cancun decisions and resolving pending issues not concluded in Cancun. Ministers emphasized the centrality of adaptation and means of implementation as part of a balanced and comprehensive outcome. These are elements needed to ensure balance in the completion of the Bali Road Map and Bali Action Plan. Ministers underlined that agreeing on the second commitment period is the central priority for Durban, as failure in this regard would generate a challenge to multilateralism and would undermine the rules based multilateral response to climate change under the UNFCCC. Ministers reiterated their support for a transparent and inclusive preparatory process to ensure that Durban takes a major step forward in working towards the perspective of a comprehensive, ambitious, fair and effective outcome, ensuring the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.



### **Kyoto Protocol**

Ministers reaffirmed that the Kyoto Protocol is a cornerstone of the climate change regime. They underscored the role of the Kyoto Protocol in ensuring deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from developed countries commensurate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments and the 2°C goal recognized in Cancun. They stressed that the continuation of the flexibility mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), is contingent upon the establishment of quantified emission reduction commitments by Annex I Parties under the second commitment period. They urged Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to work constructively to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment periods. Ministers emphasized that the perspective of Annex I Parties leaving the Kyoto Protocol to present their mitigation contribution under the AWGLCA can only be the reflection of reduced political will to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. It is hardly conceivable that a country would leave the Kyoto Protocol to do more.

### **Pending issues to be concluded**

Taking note of India's submission of items to be added to the provisional agenda of the COP, Ministers underlined the importance of addressing pending issues which must be advanced in Durban. This is essential to generate the necessary balance in the climate change negotiations.

### **Cancun operationalization**

Ministers also called for the early operationalization of all the institutions agreed to in Cancun, including the registry for nationally appropriate mitigation actions and international support; the Adaptation Committee; the Technology Executive Committee, Centre and Network; and the Green Climate Fund, which must provide significant means of implementation for immediate action to tackle climate change. They highlighted that the extent to which developing countries can implement their actions is dependent on the extent to which developed countries fulfill their commitment to provide sufficient financing, technological support and capacity building for both mitigation and adaptation.

### **Green Climate Fund**

Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring appropriate oversight of the Green Climate Fund by the Conference of the Parties, in order to ensure its adequate management and timely disbursements to developing countries. They emphasized that the Transitional Committee should interact with, and be guided by the AWG-LCA.

### **Financing**

Ministers considered work by BASIC experts on a common reporting format for rigorous, robust and transparent accounting of finance by Annex I Parties. A common reporting format for finance is a priority for Durban to enable accounting of performance against the delivery of the quantified finance target of US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020. Ministers also underlined the importance of ensuring the scaling up of financing up to and beyond 2020. They reiterated the need to ensure that accounting of finance by all developed countries be consistent, complete, comparable, transparent and accurate. Ministers also stressed the importance of detailed and comprehensive information on fast start financial flows provided by developed countries, which should be made available officially. They reaffirmed their view that the UNFCCC Secretariat should publish information on funding already disbursed under fast start financing, as this relates to a multilateral commitment.

### **MRV**

Ministers also reflected on BASIC expert discussions on measuring, reporting and verifying Annex I mitigation. They underscored the need for stringent common accounting rules, with a view to ensuring transparency and comparability of mitigation commitments by all developed countries. They stressed that the rules of the Kyoto Protocol are the reference for the efforts undertaken by all developed countries in this area. They expressed the importance of operationalizing the transparency arrangements by developing countries, based on existing provisions under the Convention. They pointed out the robust contribution already offered by developing countries in emission reductions, which demonstrates a higher level of effort in comparison to mitigation by developed country Parties.

### **Equitable access to sustainable development**

Ministers welcomed the work undertaken by BASIC experts on “a framework for equitable access to sustainable development”, as requested at the 6th BASIC Ministerial Meeting. This work will serve as a valuable contribution to the body of scientific knowledge informing policy development.

### **Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)**

Ministers recognized the importance of enhancing action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, enhance removals by forests and sustainable forestry management practices, on the basis of scaled up international financing and technology transfer. They also underlined important additional benefits that REDD+ can offer to sustainable development in areas such as biodiversity protection.

**Dangers of unilateralism**

Ministers expressed their concern with unilateral climate change measures, planned or implemented, which generate negative impacts on other countries. They expressed their strong concern with the decision of the European Union to include the aviation sector in the EU Emission Trading System, including flights to and from its territory by noneuropea companies

**G77 and China**

Ministers emphasized the importance of G77 and China unity and its key role in climate change negotiations. They noted the clear demonstrations by the G77 and China of leadership and willingness to contribute to a strong global effort. They decided to maintain the "BASIC-plus" approach, in order to enhance the transparency of its meetings. They also praised the role played by the South African incoming COP Presidency and its efforts to organize inclusive, high-level consultations on climate change, which will contribute to a successful and ambitious outcome in Durban.

**Rio +20**

The Ministers also had an opportunity to discuss the perspective for the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. In this regard, they stressed the important role of BASIC countries in ensuring success of Rio+20, as well as the Durban Conference on Climate Change and the New Delhi Conference on Biodiversity. This is a clear sign of their firm commitment to advance multilateral solutions to global problems.

**Ninth Meeting of Ministers**

Ministers welcomed the offer of China to host the Ninth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change on the 31st of October and the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. A meeting of experts will be held alongside this Ministerial meeting.



**054. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on Green Economy and Inclusive Growth.**

**New Delhi, September 27, 2011**

The main challenge facing the international community today is to sustain and accelerate the process of poverty eradication and ensure food and energy security, particularly to developing countries while shifting gradually to a Green Economy. Agriculture plays a critical role in determining food, water, ecological and livelihood security. Integrating the strategies and policies for a green economy into agriculture has to proceed with an absolute imperative of ensuring these and not forgetting the differentiated needs of subsistence agriculture and market-oriented crops. Also, transitioning to a greener model of agriculture will depend on the expeditious provision of green technologies and financial support to developing countries for productivity enhancement, improved resilience and diversification of production systems. Sustainable development and management of agriculture would benefit from sharing of best practices including farm and non-farm development, improved post-harvest management, integration of supply chains and strengthening of public distribution systems.

Eradicating poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. A major cause aggravating poverty is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production. Poverty eradication remains an overriding objective of governments in developing countries, and efforts to build green economies should contribute substantially to realizing that objective. A green economy approach to development holds the potential to achieve greater convergence between economic and environmental objectives.

Integrating green economy strategies and policies into poverty eradication, food security and energy security is an imperative for sustainable development. The issues to be addressed at the two-day 2011 Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth' include sustainable management of sectors like agriculture, industry, energy and transport, urgent adoption of sustainable life styles and consumption patterns through reduction in per capita ecological footprint, appropriate population policies, equity concerns, poverty eradication and developmental imperatives. Designed properly, green economy policies and programmes can directly contribute to poverty eradication. Successful examples can offer lessons and possible models for replication. For instance, India's rural employment guarantee programme is at one and the same time an anti-poverty programme and an ecosystem restoration programme. This and other important examples of aligning environmental and social objectives would be ALSO presented and discussed at the Dialogue.

Food security and access to affordable clean energy are both crucial to eradicating poverty and promoting social development. The main challenge facing the international community now is to sustain and accelerate the process of poverty eradication and ensure food and energy security, particularly to developing countries while shifting gradually to a Green Economy. Agriculture plays a critical role in determining food, water, ecological and livelihood security. Integrating the strategies and policies for a green economy into agriculture has to proceed with an absolute imperative of ensuring these and not forgetting the differentiated needs of subsistence agriculture and market-oriented crops. Also, transitioning to a greener model of agriculture will depend on the expeditious provision of green technologies and financial support to developing countries for productivity enhancement, improved resilience and diversification of production systems. Sustainable development and management of agriculture would benefit from sharing of best practices including farm and non-farm development, improved post-harvest management, integration of supply chains and strengthening of public distribution systems.

The issue of energy security and universal energy access is intricately linked with economic development and growth, and rising energy needs to meet it. Energy poverty coexists with inefficient energy use in much of the world, which – given continued heavy dependence on fossil fuels – has been a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Understanding the flexibility or lack of flexibility of each country to change this energy mix and devising innovative methods to secure energy security are the need of the hour without compromising on the need for high economic growth to meet the aspirations of the people, especially in developing countries.

Energy security is a multi-faceted concept. In the current context, the primary focus is on poor people's securing adequate energy supplies to raise their living standards, including through improved income generation, health and education. Renewable energy should be considered as an integral part of the solution to the energy needs of the poor, but that will only be feasible if it is affordable and technologically accessible. As affordability is a function in part of large-scale deployment and learning, the strategy to address energy poverty needs to be linked to a broader alternative energy strategy as part of a green economy.

With respect to energy security, rural energy access remains seriously deficient in many developing countries, with well over a billion people lacking access to electricity and clean cooking and heating fuels. At the same time, even in urban areas, electricity is often underprovided and unreliable, especially for urban poor communities. This exacerbates poverty and closes off escape routes by limiting income generation opportunities as well as educational opportunities especially for girls.



**055. Address by Minister of State for Environment and Forests  
Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan at the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on  
'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'.**

**New Delhi, October 3, 2011.**

**Excellencies, Mr. Sha Zukang, Secretary-General for the UN Conference  
on Sustainable Development,**

**Dr. Ashok Khosla, Mr. Maurice Strong,**

**Mr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary to Government of India,**

**Distinguished Representative of Argentina on behalf of the Chair of G-77  
and China,**

**Distinguished Representative of Poland on behalf of the Presidency of  
the European Union,**

**Distinguished delegates, UN officials, eminent experts,**

**Ladies and gentlemen.**

2 It is a pleasure and privilege to have you here at Delhi and I extend a warm welcome to all of you. The Delhi Ministerial Dialogue has been organized by the Government of India in partnership with the UNCSD Secretariat, and is expected to facilitate a greater understanding of the architecture of green economy in the context of key development goals like poverty eradication, food security and access to energy. We have a platform for free and frank deliberations on the theme, 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth' in the next two days as part of the preparatory process for the Rio+20 Conference next year. In order to secure a global consensus and cooperation to address economic and social concerns of the developing countries, along with a sustainable management of global commons, we must work together collectively. Rio+20 Summit must succeed.

3. India has been actively engaged in the Rio+20 process. As part of our preparations, we have constituted four Inter-Ministerial Working Groups in specific domains to look at the question of sustainable development as a whole. These Working Groups are being facilitated by renowned technical organizations, who have provided researched inputs. In addition, consultations with the corporate sector and civil society representatives have also been undertaken.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

4. India is committed to improving the quality of life of its people through an inclusive and broad based growth trajectory. India has explicitly recognized

inter-linkages of growth with social aspects as well as environmental concerns. The twelfth five year plan for the period 2012-2017 will be aimed at faster, more inclusive and sustainable development of India. I would like to highlight three dimensions of our development process.

5. Firstly, rapid economic growth with emphasis on infrastructure and livelihoods. Indian economy has recorded a high growth rate since 2003 averaging around 8.5 per cent per annum, before the global financial crisis in 2008, which reduced the growth rates to around six per cent. Despite the slow global recovery, India's economic growth is expected to be strong and is projected to record around eight per cent for the year 2010-11. The economic growth has also been accompanied with a decline in poverty.

6. Secondly, focus on plurality and reduction of disparities. India has made significant strides in the direction of human resource development. Major health and demographic indicators and literacy rates have shown significant improvement in the last two decades. A democratic, secular and inclusive approach has been the hallmark of Indian polity.

7. Thirdly, the mainstreaming of environmental concerns in the Sectoral Policies and Programmes. India in its drive for sustainability has given high priority to environmental protection. India was among the first countries in the world to enshrine environmental protection in its Constitution. We may recall that the late Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi was the only Head of State, apart from that of the host country, to attend the landmark Stockholm Conference in 1972. Since then, a series of legislative, policy and institutional measures have been taken by the Government of India to integrate environmental concerns in our developmental process. In the realm of legislation, whereas the Right to Information Act, 2005 ensures greater transparency and access to public information, the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 provides for a specialized green tribunal to promote access to environmental justice. The National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in the year 2008, which encompasses eight thematic Missions covering areas such as solar energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture and strategic knowledge. As a mark of its commitment to biodiversity conservation, India will host the 11th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity in October, 2012.

8. We are also conscious of some ground realities. Although we have achieved a great deal, considerable challenges remain in the area of poverty eradication. 55% of population of rural India today does not have access to electricity. The challenge of scale up of cleaner energy solutions gets further compounded by limited access to green technologies at affordable cost. These continue to remain major concerns for India.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

9. Rio Principles talk of human beings as the centre of concerns of sustainable development. It is a matter of concern that nearly 1 billion people on the planet are suffering from chronic hunger and 1.2 billion people have no access to modern energy services. Multiple crises of energy, food and water have been further compounded by the global financial meltdown. In this context, Rio+20 provides us an opportunity to foster a common approach on addressing these issues successfully.

10. Greening of economy has to be directed towards achieving the overriding objectives of sustainable development and poverty eradication. I mention a few guiding principles, which could be followed towards achieving global consensus and action: One, reaffirm the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Two, strike a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. Three, allow policy space for the countries to define their sustainable development strategies as per their national priorities and respective stages of development. Four, build institutional capacities at all levels – global, regional and local. Five, prioritize programmes for the inclusion and upliftment of socio-economically weaker sections of the society, women and youth. Six, promote access to green technologies at affordable cost, including through greater financial assistance for R&D in the public domain. Seven, strengthen global partnership for sustainable development, including for access of developing countries to additional financing. And finally, avoid green protectionism in the name of green economy.

11. The Delhi Ministerial Dialogue is based on the premise that promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns is the key to lasting economic growth and prosperity. It has been rightly said that poverty is the biggest polluter. On the other hand, conspicuous consumption in many parts of the world has also resulted in tremendous pressures on natural resources and environment. Both the issues have to be addressed in tandem. A renewed political commitment on green economy has to be viewed in the context of its meaningfulness for the overarching goal of equity and poverty eradication.

12. The themes of the individual Plenary Sessions in the Dialogue relate to integration of Green Economy with key concerns of Inclusive Growth like Poverty Eradication, Food Security and Energy Security. This is indeed very topical. How do we ensure universal access to modern energy services without disturbing the planetary ecological boundaries? How do we operationalize the Nagoya Protocol on Access Benefit Sharing so as to protect the rights and interests of the local people? What are the policy and programme options, at all levels, to ensure access to food and sustainable livelihoods? A shared vision on such basic issues is expected to be the main outcome of this Dialogue.



13. The Dialogue has brought together ministers, policy-makers, representatives from UN bodies and eminent experts from various fields and, I am sure, you will offer fresh perspectives on the challenges to sustainable development, which the world faces today. I am equally confident that guidelines for new partnerships between stakeholders will emerge and these in turn will result in more efficient ways of combating these challenges. Most importantly, I expect that the exchange of ideas and possible solutions shall promote the achievement of consensus on key issues related to green economy and inclusive growth, encompassing the concerns of both developed and developing countries.

14. I thank you all again for your gracious presence and look forward to a successful Delhi Dialogue.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.



**056. Press Release on the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'.**

**New Delhi, October 3-4, 2011.**

More than hundred high level representatives from 41 countries, including ministers and senior officials, representatives from nine international agencies and leading experts on sustainable development came together at the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue between 3-4 October 2011.

The Delhi Ministerial Dialogue takes place at a time when preparations are on for the Rio+20 Summit. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, popularly known as 'Rio+20', will be held in Brazil next year where Heads of States and Governments are expected to participate to renew their commitment to sustainable development under the rubric of Green Economy and Sustainable Development. It is in this context that the theme of this Ministerial Dialogue 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth' assumes special significance.

Minister of State for Environment and Forest, Smt. Jayanti Natarajan, in her inaugural address urged for collective action amongst all countries towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. Outlining India's commitment

to improve the quality of life of the people through an inclusive and broad based growth, she emphasised the interlinkages between economic, social and environmental issues. In this context, she outlined eight key principles for securing global action. In particular, she highlighted that the developing countries must be allowed to have appropriate policy space to define their suitable developmental strategies in their quest for poverty eradication. She also mentioned that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is crucial for a global partnership. She cautioned against use of Green Economy concept for green protectionism. Access to energy, food security and poverty eradication are of paramount importance in India's development process, the Minister said.

Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Secretary General for the Rio+20 Conference, emphasised that Rio+20 must be about three aspects namely implementation, integration and coherence. He appreciated India's role in taking the lead in formulating responses in the areas of food and energy security. Eminent experts Mr. Maurice Strong, Dr. Ashok Khosla, Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Dr. Thomas C. Heller, Mr. Martin Khor, Prof. Jorge Alejandro Nadal and others participated in the dialogue.

The Minister also released a publication 'Sustainable Development in India: Stocktaking in the run up to Rio+20'.

The two day dialogue threw up several options and ideas relating to the issue of inclusive growth and food and energy security. Poverty eradication was acknowledged as the benchmark for formulating Green Economy policies. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth was necessary for poverty eradication. There was acknowledgement that there was no one-size-fit-all solution and that national priorities will define the nature of strategies adopted by each country to green their economies. Development was seen as an empowering process. Sustainable management of natural resources and access to these resources for the poor and the vulnerable groups was seen as essential. In strengthening international partnership, substantial finance assistance, particularly from developed countries, would be necessary. Technology transfer at affordable prices was considered equally crucial for developing countries. Importance of sustainable practices in agriculture including productivity enhancing technologies, reduction of pre and post harvest losses, strengthening of agri-governance and improvement of dry-land farming was discussed. Universal access to sustainable energy and promotion of the use of renewable energy were to be explored.



**057. Chairs' Summary of Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'.**

**New Delhi, October 3 – 4, 2011.**

1. The Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth' was organised by the Government of India with the UNCSD Secretariat, which was held at Hotel The Ashok on 3-4 October 2011. 144 delegates participated in the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue (DMD), which included Ministers and high level representatives from 41 countries, besides delegates from nine international organizations and eminent experts in the field.
2. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests (I/C), Government of India, delivered the inaugural address. Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Secretary General of the UNCSD, Dr. Ashok Khosla, President, IUCN, Mr. Maurice Strong, former Under Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary to Government of India, Mr. Ernesto Carlos Alvarez, Ambassador of Argentina in India on behalf of G-77 and China Dr. Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Environment also spoke in the inaugural session.
3. Plenary and Breakout sessions were held covering various aspects of food security, poverty eradication, and energy security in the context of Green Economy, besides a plenary on Country statements. The DMD provided a platform for free and frank deliberations on key developmental goal such as poverty eradication, food security, and access to energy and towards a greater understanding of the architecture of Green Economy.
4. The Plenary on Country Statements (Plenary 1) was co-chaired by Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan Minister of State for Environment and Forests (I/C), Government of India, and Mr. Sha Zukang, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Secretary General of the UNCSD. Representatives of 30 countries, besides European Commission presented their views, concerns, challenges, and achievements in the context of Green Economy, poverty eradication and sustainable development. They were: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Columbia, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, UK, US.
5. There were four more Plenary sessions which dealt with the poverty eradication, food security and energy security issues and concerns facing the planet and also various regions/ countries. They were the following:

- a. Plenary 2 - 'Integrating Green Economy with poverty Eradication',
- b. Plenary 3- 'Integrating Green Economy with Food Security, Considering Means of Financing and Implementation',
- c. Plenary 4 -'Integrating Green Economy with Energy Security Mix, Considering Means of Financing and Implementation' and
- d. Plenary 5 - 'Formulating an Approach to Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'

The breakout sessions were held in smaller groups for more intensive discussions and interactions.

6. Dr. Martin Khor, Executive Director of South Centre, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman MSSRF, Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Director General TERI, Prof. Thomas C. Heller, Dr. Leena Srivastava, Executive Director TERI addressed various Plenary sessions. Mr. Vijai Sharma, Member National Green Tribunal, India, Dr. Kirit Parikh, former member of Planning Commission India, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary CBD and others participated and gave their valuable suggestions.

7. The Delhi Ministerial Dialogue addressed various issues pertaining to sustainable management of sectors like agriculture, industry, energy and transport, urgent adoption of sustainable life styles and consumption patterns for reduction in ecological footprint, equity concerns, poverty eradication and developmental imperatives. The Dialogue laid a particular focus on how green economy strategies and policies can be integrated with poverty eradication, food security and energy security objectives. It held that Rio+20 need to consider how best to integrate green economy strategies and policies into these priority concerns. The following key points and views emerged in the two-day Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on various issues related to an approach to Green Economy and inclusive growth, poverty eradication, food security, and energy security.

#### 8. **Green Economy and Inclusive Growth**

- a. Any outcome at Rio+20 should be based on the Rio Principles and there should be no rewriting or renegotiations of the above Principles. The reaffirmation of Rio Principles and reinvigoration of Agenda 21 was espoused. It was mentioned that the foundation of the GE approach was based on the Principle of Equity. The concept of equity encompasses intra-generational equity, inter-generational equity as well as equity across countries. A transition to GE should not lead to greater disparities. The Principle of 'common but differentiated

responsibilities' (CBDR) was considered by many as crucial in this context. Similarly multilateralism was held to be important.

- b. It was held that the Rio+20 needed renewed political commitment of countries which should culminate in concrete actions, beyond political rhetoric. The crisis and challenges facing us included, inter alia, risk of new global recession, increasing food prices, food and energy deficiencies and natural disasters. It was expressed that the time had come to bring definite ideas, options and practical action plans agreed by all countries for the 3 negotiation tables for Rio+20. It was said that Rio+20 must be about three things integration, implementation and coherence.
- c. The concept of Green economy was interpreted in various ways by different countries. There was apprehension that the debate on the Green Economy may distract attention from sustainable development. There was a growing consensus that GE should be seen as one of the means to attain sustainable development and it is not an alternative to sustainable development.
- d. Preserving natural resources and making efficient and sustainable use of them was considered essential to making the transition to a greener economy. Sustainable management of these resources and sustainable use of the ecosystem would make crucial contribution to poverty eradication. Early operationalisation of Nagoya protocol was considered important in promoting conservation of biological resources.
- e. Rio+20 could facilitate collective action and development of a common understanding and consensus about the Green Economy approach and a possible Green Economy Roadmap accompanied by a tool box of flexible policies, instruments and best practices. A win-win economic and environmental arrangement ensures that economic and environmental synergies prevail over trade-offs and project and programmes are co-beneficial, bringing in revenues from both environmental and economic investments. In this context it was pointed out that it was not only important to know what is a Green Economy, it was also important to know *what is not a Green Economy*. This would help in delineating a Roadmap for Green Economy and identifying relevant policy tools.
- f. The approach to GE could include a menu of policy options, so that countries can choose nationally appropriate policies as per their needs and national circumstances. Green economy approach should be mainstreamed into national plans. National leadership was required for

an effective transition to GE. Green economy should make economic sense to be sustainable and practical and people oriented solutions were necessary.

- g. It was held that one size does not fit all and that there should be recognition that national priorities and conditions would define the nature of the policies and strategies adopted by each country to green their economies. Rio+20 should allow flexibility to States to adopt nationally appropriate policies to pursue national priorities and objectives.
- h. There were references to a proposal for a set of SDGs. (Sustainable Development Goals) in the line of MDGs in the post-2015. This was advocated as a tool to guide and provide priority to SD agenda at international and national level. However the need for further consideration in this regard and the apprehension that it can subvert the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) were raised. It was felt that setting of restrictive quantitative targets needs to be eschewed.
- i. It was said that poverty eradication remained the daunting and foremost objective, so long as human development and human dignity is not universally enjoyed, not only for the developing countries but for the entire planet. A need was felt for strengthening the social pillar, for gains of development to reach all sections of the society, to help the poor and vulnerable so that all sections of the society could grow and progress. Development was seen as an empowering process.
- j. There was a need to strike a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. economic, social and environmental pillars, which required integration and coordination. Neglecting any one pillar would defeat the purpose of attaining sustainability and efforts should be made so that all the pillars reinforce each other.
- k. For Green Economy to become truly sustainable, there was a case to reject green protectionism. A Green Economy approach also accompanied associated risk and costs which needed to be studied and addressed. The costs of green economy and its and costs on States at various stages of development and nationally on various sections of people should be studied and mitigated, so that benefits from a GE approach could be maximized.
- l. Water was considered another vital sector with critical implications for sustainable development, including agriculture, food security and economic development. Water security was essential for efficient food

production and sustainable agriculture. Rio+20 could be an opportunity to highlight the need for good water governance and efficient water use as key elements of sustainable Ocean development, sustainable use of marine resources could have significant implications for economic development, food security and social well being of many States particularly the small island States and in the context the concept of 'blue economy' was mentioned.

- m. The unsustainable production and consumption pattern had resulted in rising demands on natural resources, ecological scarcities and many environmental crises. Therefore there was an urgent need for change in the unsustainable consumption and lifestyles. A strong commitment to follow the green economy strategies should come from the national governments. Political will, commitment and partnership with civil society and other stakeholders was considered important for transition to a green economy.
- n. Developing countries would need a supportive international financing system and technological support and enhanced access to market opportunities for a transition to Green Economy. In strengthening international partnership, developed country financing was seen as crucial for developing countries to undertake and implement policies for sustainable development. These would supplement domestic resources. The developing countries should not be burdened with the costs and risks of transition to a GE. In the context of dematerialisation of growth and competition for resources, it was considered important that developed countries should not relieve themselves of their responsibilities.
- o. While public financing should take the lead in this direction, private sector could also play a proactive role in mobilising additional finance required for a transition to GE. A greater and innovative role for private sector was envisaged. The need for creation of a sustainable development fund to enable transition to a Green Economy was also mentioned.
- p. Access to clean technologies at affordable prices and removal of barriers to technology transfer were considered crucial for transition to GE. It was emphasised that technology innovation and investment in Science and Technology should be factored in to leapfrog towards sustainable development. Centres of excellence as nodal points for technology research and development in developing countries might be identified and provided appropriate resources so that appropriate and affordable technology solutions could be available in public domain.

- q. It was held that traditional knowledge should be documented and applied; however, decisions regarding appropriate technology options should be taken up in the context of national priorities and choices.
  - r. Special efforts should be made to ensure participation at the Rio+20 Conference of civil society including NGOs, business and trade unions, especially NGOs from developing countries. It was highlighted that NGOs from developing countries were usually underrepresented in international fora because of their financial constraints. Therefore financial assistance to civil society of developing countries to participate in Rio+20 and augmenting the trust fund for the purpose of assisting NGOs to participate in the conference should be supported.
  - s. It was mentioned that the existing international institutional framework lack coordination, coherence and work in silos. Weak institutional framework was considered one of the reasons why the world has not made adequate progress in strengthening and integrating the three pillars of sustainable development. There was a need for building and improving global partnership and institutional capabilities at international, regional, national and local level for sustainable development. The role of private sector and other stakeholders was recognised. There was a view that the existing arrangements of global governance needed to be strengthened including ECOSOC and UNEP reforms. It was felt that there was a need to narrow down these options without trying to create another superstructure.
9. **Integrating Poverty Eradication with Green Economy**
- a. Poverty eradication should be the benchmark for formulating GE policies. Sustainable and inclusive growth was considered important for poverty eradication, which in turn has to create opportunities for all, irrespective their levels of development. It was felt that the Poverty eradication agenda had to consider its strong inter linkages with food security, energy security. Food security was in turn related to land and water management.
  - b. Poverty eradication with a Green Economy approach would be affected by the global economic downturn, environmental degradation and the social crisis germinating from the economic and environmental crises. In addition to the above, the world was to cope with the challenges emanating from increasing food prices, food and energy deficiencies, and natural disasters. Development had to reach the poor, the vulnerable and the people at the margin, i.e. growth had to be inclusive. In this context, the concept of inclusive growth was even more relevant so that



socio-economically weaker sections and women and children, could be protected from change and adversity. The challenge was to bring the poor and the vulnerable groups into the ambit of Green Economy and give them access to resources.

- c. There were different views on the role of market, while one view envisaged a limited role for the government and free play of market forces, another view raised the concern that free market could lead to dominance by a few big players. A constructive and proactive role for public sector and government was seen in the developing countries in the context of green economy.
  - d. A GE approach should be well designed to generate employment and sustainable livelihood for poverty eradication. Social protection programmes, worker retraining should ensure that the poor and vulnerable are protected. GE had to result in job creation, address unemployment and in this context the continuing role of SMEs was highlighted to create jobs.
10. Integrating Food security with Green Economy
- a. The various challenges for food security were rising demand for food, increasing degradation of resources and competing users for land, climatic risks, unstable global supply and prices for agricultural products. Food security was also to be examined from various aspects such as availability, access, absorption and appropriateness of food.
  - b. Price volatility of food which has severe implications for food security can be addressed at the international level by following measures: slowing down or eliminating speculation, building stocks at global, regional and national level, restoring confidence in international trading system, investment in agro-ecological agriculture, and reducing food waste and pre and post-harvest losses by developed countries.
  - c. It was felt that to address food security, improving productivity of agricultural inputs, sustainable agricultural practices, prevention and reversal of land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity was essential. Land degradation was considered a major challenge because agricultural production, thus food security, depends on the health of the soil. Half of world's livestock and 40 percent of world's food production were from dry lands. As a large proportion of population lives on dry lands, it was important that issues of land degradation, desertification should have prominence in green economy discussions. The cost of fixing a degraded land was far more than that of preventing land degradation. Prevention and reversal of land

degradation was considered to be a cost effective strategy to enhance food security, with co-benefits in climate change management, biodiversity conservation and livelihoods.

- d. The special sensitivities of subsistence agriculture, indigenous people and the peasant economy were emphasised. Traditional farming had the characteristics of minimum tillage, environment friendly pest management, risk management by better agro-biodiversity, and involved mainly the small farmers and poor and contributed more to employment. On the other hand large scale farming were heavily subsidized, used more nutrients, and damaged the environment and biodiversity. Investment in water management, improving organic farming and traditional farming would be crucial in meeting the joint challenges of food crisis and related environmental problems. Organic agriculture, low pesticide management practices, soil fertility management through use of natural resources, improved biodiversity can have substantial livelihood and environmental impacts. However, the concerns of small and marginal farmers had to be respected. It was to be understood that greening of agriculture had limitations in the realm of de-chemicalization. Accordingly, there had to be a judicious mix as per the capabilities of countries to adopt nationally appropriate strategies.
- e. There was a need to connect farmers to markets to capture larger share of value along the supply chains, to give them access to micro-finance and to create non-farm employment to supplement farm incomes and mitigate risks.
- f. Incentives to scientific intensification of agriculture with resource conservation, reduction of pre and post harvest losses, use of a regionally differentiated approach, stronger agri-governance including land reforms, water management, research and extension and adoption of a rights-based approach and improving dry-land farming would help in attaining food security.
- g. The time was ripe for a move to a second green revolution or what one of the speaker christened as 'evergreen revolution'. This entailed sustainable intensification of agriculture with conservation or what FAO had described as 'save and grow'. The new green revolution should be technology intensive not resource intensive.
- h. A global soil partnership in the line of a global water partnership was mentioned.

- i. Attention was drawn to the need for water conservation and mitigation of climate change impacts. The ecological foundation of the planet could be strengthened through water and land management which was considered vital for food security. Removal of agricultural subsidies was an option to be considered.
- j. Policies to promote climate resilient agriculture should be developed and promoted considering the new risks brought in by climate change.

**11. Integrating Energy security with Green Economy**

- a. It was mentioned that three billion people in the planet do not have access to energy and 1.4 billion people do not have access to electricity. Universal access to sustainable energy was seen as essential. Providing universal energy access by 2030 was one of the biggest challenges that needed to be resolved in Rio+20 summit because energy was the basis of achieving other MDGs.
- b. Universal access to modern energy services at a sustainable basis was recognised as an imperative for economic growth and human development. The sustainability, reliability, and affordability of energy supply were also recognised as a need and a challenge to be met for improving the lives of a large proportion of population on the planet. Aspects relating to enhancing energy efficiency, changing of the energy mix and policies to promote use of renewable energy were required to be looked into.
- c. Governments could have a greater role in providing widespread energy access, building infrastructure and policy interventions could be done more efficiently by it. Thus, Government's role was important in the initial stages. A top down approach had to be amalgamated with a bottom up approach in this sector.
- d. It was felt that price support and micro finance were required to make cheap credit available to poor, involvement of local institutions, rapid expansion of rural electrification with grid infrastructure, technology transfer to SMEs could be some of the measures to improve access to energy. In the context of technology transfer to SMEs sector, the burden of initial costs of new technology, the importance of knowledge networking and skill development was discussed.
- e. Renewable energy was seen as a clean alternative to other energy services. Switching to renewables could lead to high socio-economic

costs and appropriate policy intervention was required. Renewable energy sector required large investments, particularly in the initial stages and sophisticated technology and this could prove to be a restraint to its proliferation. The burden of the initial costs of new technology would be prohibitive on developing countries. Enabling environment for investment in renewable energy was necessary.

- f. It was said that Africa and Asia together account for roughly 75% of the world's population but their per capita energy consumption level was much lower and their historical contribution to emissions was also low. The developed world should reduce its consumption to reduce price and create space for developing countries to pursue growth and improve the lives of their people. Some drastic measures would have to be taken to change the business as usual situation which has high dependence on fossil fuel. In this context access to greater international financing was considered critical besides policy intervention. It was mentioned that reduction in subsidies to fossil fuel could lead to more efficient and cleaner energy mix. However, it was also noted that many countries have limited capabilities to change their current energy mix and in the absence of cost effective renewable technologies, the dependence of developing countries on fossil fuels for economic growth was expected to continue for some time. Clean coal technology options needed to be adopted.
- g. Sustainable energy for all should incorporate quality and quantity of energy supply issues. Additional energy demand for universal energy access would not put major pressures on energy demand and or climate security, provided developed world changes its current unsustainable consumption and lifestyles. It was also pointed out that universal access to energy would require multi fold enhancement in investment in energy. Developed countries needed to supplement the domestic mobilisation of finance and new and additional sources of funding for developing countries were needed.
- h. Development and access to clean affordable energy solutions, establishment of technology innovation centres to respond to the specific needs of developing countries, investments in clean energy infrastructure were some of the measures needed to ensure universal access to energy.
- i. Reliable data collection was a key to formulate meaningful policies. Information on the current magnitude of use, requirement and how much

the country could afford, would help in planning. Rio +20 could be an opportunity to help countries modernize their data collection.

- j. Availability of clean and affordable energy for cooking could have significant environmental and social implications in terms of improving health of the household from indoor pollution, saving labour used in collection of biomass fuels. Energy access and microfinance for cooking can improve lives of millions.



**058. Press Release issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests on 'Neglected Issues for Durban Discussions'.**

**New Delhi, October 10, 2011.**

Indian Proposal on Neglected issues for Durban Discussions

The Indian Government has submitted a proposal to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to include three contentious but very important issues on 'unilateral trade measures', 'intellectual property rights' and 'equitable access to sustainable development' for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the 17th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 17) to be held in Durban, South Africa in late November this year.

These issues have been neglected and not properly addressed in the 2010 Cancun decision on the outcome of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (decision 1/CP 16) despite being raised by India and a large number of developing countries prior to and in Cancun.

India requested that the 3 issues be included in the COP 17 provisional agenda and developing countries in the Bonn talks that ended on 17 June objected to attempts to have these items addressed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) that has no mandate to provide guidance (thereby influencing) the COP agenda.

The Indian proposal is for the inclusion of these issues as follows: (i) under the agenda item 'Development and transfer of technologies', a sub-item on 'Mitigation and adaptation actions and technology related Intellectual Property Rights'; (ii) under the agenda item 'Review of implementation of commitments

and other provisions of the Convention', to include 'Equitable access to sustainable development' and 'Unilateral trade measures'.

The Indian submission provided the explanatory notes in respect of each additional agenda item as proposed.

On the intellectual property rights (IPRs) issue, the Indian explanatory note states that "at Cancun, Parties to UNFCCC agreed to set up a Technology Mechanism and Networks of Climate Technology Centres with a view to promote cooperation amongst Parties for development and transfer of technologies. While the Technology Mechanism will help build capacity for deployment of existing technologies and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies, there is a need to augment this arrangement in form of removal of constraints at the global level on the development and availability of climate friendly technologies. An effective and efficient global regime for management of (IPRs) of climate friendly technologies is critical to the global efforts for development, deployment, dissemination and transfer of such technologies. In the absence of such an arrangement, the objective of advancing the nationally appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions at the scale and speed warranted by the Convention cannot be met effectively and adequately. Such a regime should promote access to (IPRs) as global public good while rewarding the innovator and enhance the capacity of developing countries to take effective mitigation and adaptation actions at the national level. Conference of Parties should urgently decide on addressing the issue of treating and delivering climate technologies and their IPRs as public good in the interest of the global goal of early stabilization of climate and advancing developing country efforts aimed at social and economic development and poverty eradication."

On the issue of 'equitable access to sustainable development'<sup>1</sup>, the explanatory note states that 'at Cancun, Parties agreed to a global goal for climate stabilization with a view to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2 degree C above pre-industrial levels and decided that urgent actions be taken to meet this long term goal consistent with science and on the basis of equity. Parties also decided to work towards identifying a time frame for global peaking of green house gas emissions based on the best available scientific knowledge and equitable access to sustainable development. The decisions at Cancun imply that the global goal of climate stabilization in terms of limiting the temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels should be preceded by a paradigm for equitable access to sustainable development. The achievement of the global goal must not compromise the sustainable development imperatives of developing countries and must fully take into account the overriding priority of social and economic development and poverty eradication in such countries. Keeping in mind the objective of

identifying the suitable timeframe for reducing the global emissions on the basis of equitable access to sustainable development, the principle of equity must be defined so as to recognize that the global atmospheric resource is the common property of all mankind and each human being has equal entitlement to use of this resource in the interest of meeting the overriding priorities of developing countries.'

On the issue of "unilateral trade measures", the note states that, "at Cancun, Parties agreed to promote a supportive and open international economic system. Parties decided, inter-alia, that measures taken to combat climate change including unilateral ones should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral Trade Measures (UTMs) include tariff, non-tariff, and other fiscal and non-fiscal border trade measures that may be taken by developed country Parties, against goods and services from developing country Parties. Recourse to UTMs on any grounds related to climate change, including protection and stabilization of climate, emissions leakage and/or cost of environment compliance would be tantamount to passing mitigation burden onto developing countries, and would clearly contravene the fundamental principles and provisions of equity, common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities, and the principle enshrined in Article 3 of the Convention. Parties should expressly prohibit use of unilateral trade measures on such grounds, as they will have negative environmental, social and economic consequences for developing countries and compromise the principles and provisions of the Convention."

Attempts were made to negotiate and amend the elements of the provisional agenda for COP 17 that included the new issues proposed by India, under the discussions on 'arrangements for intergovernmental meetings' (AIMs) in a contact group of the SBI. Developed countries, especially the United States, are of the view that these issues have been settled in Cancun. However, most developing countries are of the view that not all the issues were addressed in Cancun and are still unresolved.



**059. Joint Statement Issued at the Conclusion of the Ninth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change.**

**Beijing, November 1, 2011.**

1. The Ninth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Beijing, China from 31 October to 1 November 2011. H.E. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of China, H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, H.E. Mr. Francisco Gaetani, Deputy Minister of Environment of Brazil, H.E. Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests of India, and H.E. Ms. Bomo Edna Edith Molewa, Minister of Water and Environment Affairs of South Africa, as well as H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation in her capacity as the incoming COP president attended the meeting. In line with BASIC-plus approach, representatives of Argentina (as chair of the G77 and China), Egypt (as representative of the Arab Group) and Grenada (as chair of Alliance of Small Island States) were invited and participated in the meeting as observers.

2. The BASIC ministers reaffirmed their continued full support to the government of South Africa to make Durban Conference a success in an open, transparent, inclusive and party-driven process. They agreed that Durban should achieve a comprehensive, fair and balanced outcome to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and fulfilling the mandate of Bali Roadmap in the two-track process of negotiation. Ministers emphasized the need to implement the Cancun decisions as well as to address the unresolved issues from the Bali Roadmap. They called upon the Conference to clearly establish the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol where the developed country parties to the Kyoto Protocol shall undertake quantified emission reduction commitments. They called for the Durban Conference to accomplish the Bali Action Plan where developed country parties that are not Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to undertake comparable quantified emission reduction commitments under the Convention and for developing country parties to implement enhanced mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development and enabled and supported by finance, technology and capacity building. Ministers stressed the need for early and effective operationalisation of the procedures and mechanisms for adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building and transparency.

3. Ministers emphasized that the Kyoto Protocol is the cornerstone of the climate regime and its second commitment period is the essential priority for



the success of Durban Conference. Ministers underlined that the continuation of the flexibility mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol is contingent upon the establishment of quantified emissions reduction commitments by Annex I Parties under the second commitment period. Ministers reiterated their support to work towards the perspective of a comprehensive, ambitious and fair outcome, ensuring the full, effective and sustained implementation of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

4. Noting that while sustainable development and poverty eradication remain urgent challenges and overriding priorities for them, the developing countries, in particular the BASIC countries have dged ambitious actions to reduce emissions at substantial cost to their economies. Ministers called upon the developed country parties to rise up to their historical responsibilities and undertake ambitious and robust mitigation commitments consistent with science and in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Ministers recalled the robust contribution already offered by many developing countries in emission reductions by which these countries have become the active leaders of the global effort against climate change. This has come about despite the responsibility, established under the Convention, that developed countries “take the lead”.

5. Ministers recalled that parties were working under the mandate of the Bali Roadmap to agree on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012 and reaffirmed the need to focus on this mandate.

6. In this connection, they stressed that deliberations and discussions for the further implementation of the Convention beyond 2020 must be firmly based on the principles and provisions of the Convention and consistent with the latest findings of science as per the forthcoming 5th Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In this context, they noted the importance of the Review process which is to be completed by 2015.

7. Ministers reaffirmed that any outcome on shared vision needs to be firmly based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

8. Ministers underscored that financing is one of the pressing priorities at the Durban Conference. Ministers welcomed the work of the Transitional Committee and envisaged the consideration and approval of its draft report by the COP. Ministers agreed that the Durban Conference should decide to initiate the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund with accountability to and under the guidance of COP, ensuring adequate financial support for developing

countries. Therefore, they urged developed countries to capitalize the Green Climate Fund from their public financial resources as soon as possible.

9. Ministers were of the view that developed countries should fulfill their commitment of providing US\$ 30 billion as fast start funding, ensuring new and additional funding and transparent information of its performance. Ministers reiterated the importance of ensuring the accounting of finance on the fast start funding is transparent, measurable, reportable and verifiable. They requested developed countries to submit information on the fast start funding to the UNFCCC secretariat in a common and comparable format to strengthen mutual trust between developed and developing countries. This could serve as the first step in more accurate reporting on long-term financing, generating information to assess progress towards the collective financial commitments by Annex I Parties.

10. Ministers urged developed countries to honor their commitment to provide US\$100 billion per year by 2020 in a predictable manner with specific measures and clear roadmap to be adopted in Durban, ensuring that there is no funding gap from 2013 to 2020. This funding should mainly come from public financial resource and private and other alternative resources of funding should only be supplementary.

11. Ministers emphasized that adaptation is the most urgent task in developing countries and supported the African Group's position on prioritizing this issue in Durban. They called for immediate operationalisation of the Adaptation Committee, which should contribute to adaptation policy development and implementation of adaptation actions in developing countries following the requests of developing countries and respecting a country-driven approach. Ministers highlighted that the Adaptation Committee should establish effective links with the finance and technology mechanisms to support adaptation actions for all developing countries, particularly SIDs, LDCs and Africa.

12. Ministers welcomed with appreciation the functioning of the Technology Executive Committee and the progress on the set-up of the Technology Centre and Network. They urged a clear definition of the relationship between the two bodies and the link between the technology mechanism and the finance mechanism. Ministers highlighted the need to address the IPR issue properly and the early operation of the technology mechanism to advance climate-friendly technology transfer to developing countries.

13. Ministers stressed that the Review must be conducted in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention itself. They stressed that the Review must include a review of the adequacy of global temperature goal

and effectiveness of ambitious quantified emission reduction commitments by Annex I Parties and the provision of finance and technology support by developed countries to enable developing countries to implement enhanced mitigation and adaptation actions under the UNFCCC.

14. Ministers underlined the importance of the Indian proposal to include the issues of equity, trade and intellectual property right (IPR) in the provisional agenda of the COP17. They agreed that discussions on these important issues which are crucial to many developing countries, would contribute to a comprehensive and balanced outcome at Durban.

15. Ministers emphasized the need to address emissions from international aviation and maritime transport in a multilateral context and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They highlighted that unilateral measures on climate change, such as the inclusion of emissions from international aviation in the EU-ETS, would violate the principles and provisions of the Convention and jeopardize the effort of international cooperation in addressing climate change.

16. Ministers received reports on the progress made by the BASIC experts group on *Equitable Access to Sustainable Development* and supported the publication of the paper as a contribution to the scientific body of knowledge. They also received reports on common accounting rules for emission reductions by Annex I Parties, lower carbon development strategies and common reporting format for accounting of finance by Annex I Parties. Ministers considered their work would usefully inform the negotiations under the Bali Roadmap. Ministers decided that the BASIC experts group would continue to meet in parallel with BASIC ministerial meetings.

17. Ministers stressed their dedication towards consolidating and strengthening the unity of G77 and China and decided to continue to enhance transparency and inclusiveness through the BASIC-plus approach. Ministers appreciated the role played by South Africa as the incoming Presidency and its efforts to achieve a successful outcome in Durban. They reaffirm their determination to work with all parties to *Save Tomorrow Today*.

18. Ministers welcomed the offer of India to host the Tenth BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in the first quarter of 2012.



**060. Statement by Minister of State for Environment and Forests  
Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan at the High Level Segment at the  
17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP-17).**

**Durban, December 7, 2011.**

Madame President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to the international community on an issue of such a great importance.

India shares a great historical bond with South Africa. We gave you Mohandas Gandhi, the attorney. But you gave us the Mahatma, the Great Soul. We are proud of him and also the country that turned him into what he eventually became. I am sure, that same spirit will continue to inspire our common journey in future to address climate change. We are fully behind you to ensure that Durban CoP becomes a successful CoP for climate change.

We are a large country but with a very small carbon footprint. Our per capita emission is only 1.7 tonnes per annum. Our modeling studies show that, even in 2030, with a growth rate of 8-9 per cent per annum, our per capita emissions will not exceed 3.7 tonnes. Our Prime Minister has already stated that we will follow a growth path that will help us remain sustainable and not emulate the fossil fuel-intensive growth path followed by developed countries in the past.

We are a developing country that has large unmet energy needs. But we are moving fast towards using all possible avenues of generating cleaner energy. We have a National Action Plan on Climate Change. We have a target of generating 20,000 MW of solar power in 2020. We are doing this in phases, so that the market develops and costs come down. We are implementing ambitious energy efficiency programmes. In 2003, it used to take about 190 grams of oil to produce a dollar of GDP. Now, we need only about 140 grams in 2009 – a sharp decrease of about 30% in 6 years. This is because of a number of policy measures that we have taken. We have a cess on coal. We follow a regime of high energy prices, mandatory energy efficiency standards, and an innovative trading mechanism for energy efficiency.

As a developing country, India faces many challenges. Despite these we have been engaged very constructively in these negotiations. We are conscious of our responsibilities and have, in that spirit, taken new and additional mitigation actions in a regime of international transparency. We are fulfilling these

obligations. It is time the developed countries stepped up to fulfill their part of the commitment under UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol as laid out in the Bali Roadmap.

It is very important that, in Durban, a clear and ratifiable decision on KP second commitment period takes place. We hope that this legally valid agreement to which all of us are parties will not be allowed to lapse due to inaction by some parties. This will undermine credibility in any future legally binding instrument.

We must also not forget that, for a very large number of poor in the developing world, the world has not changed. They continue to struggle with the challenge of eking out their livelihoods and meeting their basic needs. They cannot be expected to be legally bound to reduce their emissions when they have practically no emissions. Eradication of their poverty and social and economic development is the primary goal. Development is the best healer for the environment.

India wants and is hopeful that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will be established at Durban. Developed country Parties who have commitment to provide resources should agree to capitalize the Fund, its legal status, and also to the structure of long term sources of finance for the Green Climate Fund.

Madame President,

We need to do substantial work in the days to come. Equity is a fundamental issue in climate change. It deals not only with Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR), but more importantly, with equity in access to global atmospheric resources. Besides, the question of unilateral measures needs to be dealt with so that such actions do not become disguised trade actions. Similarly, we need further work in the area of IPRs to facilitate the goal of technology development and transfer at affordable costs.

I have come to Durban with an open mind and a constructive spirit. And, it is my conviction that we will effectively implement and sustain the regime of climate change if the regime is anchored within the framework of the existing Convention and adheres to these fundamental principles.

Thank you.



**061. Intervention by Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jayanthi Natarajan at the Cop-17**

**Durban, December 10, 2011.**

Thank you Madam Chair. I do not know how to start. I have heard people across the room carefully. I am from India and I represent 1.2 billion people. My country has a tiny per capita carbon footprint of 1.7 ton and our per capita GDP is even lower.

I was astonished and disturbed by the comments of my colleague from Canada who was pointing at us as to why we are against the roadmap. I am disturbed to find that a legally binding protocol to the Convention, negotiated just 14 years ago is now being junked in a cavalier manner. Countries which had signed and ratified it are walking away without even a polite goodbye. And yet, pointing at others.

I was also deeply moved listening to the comments of my colleagues and friends from the small island states. Our positions may be different, but their sentiments resonate with me very strongly. India has 600 islands which may be submerged, we have deltaic region in which millions of people live. We are absolutely at the forefront of the vulnerability of Climate Change. When I talk here, I have in front of my eyes, the face of the last Indian who is affected by the effects of Climate Change.

It would be helpful if we do not talk at each other and do not prejudge each other.

As a developing country, the principles of equity and CBDR are central for us. India is asking for space for basic development for its people and poverty eradication. Is this an unreasonable demand? Former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi said that poverty is the greatest polluter and development is the greatest healer. Equity has to be the centerpiece of the Climate discussion and our negotiations should be built on it. We cannot accept the principle of CBDR to be diluted. The firewall of CBDR must not be broken. Equity in the debate must be secured.

I too raise my voice for urgency. Climate Change is the most pressing and urgent problem for us. I too have a grandson, the son of my son. Climate Change affects us too. What is important is what action we are taking to address it. We are not saying nothing should be done now, or no action should be taken. On the contrary. We are asking that the actions of the developed country parties must be reviewed.

We have taken ambitious steps in India to address Climate Change. My Prime Minister has announced that our per capita emissions would never exceed that of developed countries. Has any other country done this? We have ambitious energy efficiency targets.

We have pledged to lower our emissions intensity of our GDP by 20-25% by 2020. A recent report from Stockholm Institute has noted that the mitigation pledges of developing countries amount to more mitigation than that of developed countries.

What we demand is for existing commitments to be met. What we demand is comparability of actions. We demand that the emissions gap must be bridged.

Coming to the text you have presented Madan Chair, I have three comments.

First of all, there is an imbalance in the two texts. The KP is weak. It does not have:

- The numbers for KP parties, not till next years
- No timeline for ratification
- And no indication of how the gap in the implementation will be avoided

My biggest concern with reference to the texts is that there is no reference to the fundamental principle of equity and CBDR in the bigger picture text.

We should have clear timelines that advance the actions and ambition of parties. We in the developing world are taking very ambitious domestic actions. It is because we need urgent actions that we should urgently implement the Bali Action Plan and operationalize the Cancun Agreements.

We should have an ambitious implementation phase till 2013 and then go to the Review in 2013-15 to make an assessment based on science and commitments.

We should then begin work on the arrangements that can enhance our ambition further.

We should not confuse legally binding arrangements with ambition. We need commitments, not mere hollow promises.

Thank you.



**062. Statement by Minister of State for Environment and Forests  
Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan at the Plenary of the COP – MoP.**

**Durban, December 11, 2011.**

Madam President

We are here to find a solution to the entire issue of climate change.

In these negotiations, India has shown more flexibility than any other party. In these negotiations, the centerpiece of climate change actions should be equity. Madam, will you disagree with me on this issue? Equity is the central issue. And, the equity in burden sharing cannot be shifted.

So many people have asked me in different voices and at different times about the issue of equity. And, it is not about India. It is about climate change.

Now, there is para 4 of the paper on the big picture. I am told that the world wants a legally binding agreement. But, Madam, the options for a legally binding agreement are all there in para 4- a protocol, a legal instrument, and a legal outcome. Some people want us to drop 'legal outcome'. And, I was told that India will be blamed if there is no legally binding agreement.

Madam, I want to make one thing clear. India will not be intimidated. India will not be blamed or be subject to any threat of this kind.

Let me tell you why I am so passionate about it. We are talking of livelihoods and sustainability here. How do I give a blank cheque, to sign away the rights of 1.2 billion people of India without even knowing what this legally binding agreement is? Where will the equity and CBDR figure in this agreement?

I am not doubting any one's sincerity. But, does fighting climate change mean we have to give up on equity? We must have equity and CBDR in the options.

Madam, look at the text. Is it a weak text? There is last para 10 in the text which says that it will apply equally to all parties. Is this the text that you want to reopen.

There is this LCA text which many countries opposed and we supported. We accepted it. We will not issue any threats to anyone. Is there any multilateral process where decisions will be taken on the basis of threats?

There is pain in my heart. I feel humble and I get agitated when I see the fate of millions of people living in the vulnerable areas of my country. That is the reason why I have agreed with the idea of raising ambition levels. It is possible to raise ambitions when we take actions based on equity.



Madam, India had proposed 3 agenda items on equity, trade and IPRs. These 3 items were not taken on the centrestage but parked somewhere. Yet, we have gone along. We have walked the extra mile. We did not issue a threat. Please do not hold us hostage and force us to say final goodbye to CBDR. We can not give up the principle of equity.

Madam, in the end, I would like to say that the 'legal outcome' is just one more option. How is it wrong? What is the problem in having one more option?

If there is insistence on reopening the text, we are willing to reopen the entire Durban package. We will reopen all sections of the LCA text where we have reservations-mitigation, adaptation and others where the text does not meet our expectations.

Thank you very much.



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - IV**

**MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

## **ASEAN / EAS**

### **063. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at India-ASEAN Delhi Dialogue- III.**

**New Delhi, March 3, 2011.**

Secretary General of ASEAN His Excellency Dr. Pitsuwan

My Ministerial colleagues from ASEAN countries

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to add my words of welcome to all of you who are present here today with us as we launch the third edition of Delhi Dialogue.

I especially welcome my colleagues from ASEAN countries and their delegations, who have honoured us with their presence not only for this event but also for other activities that we in India are privileged to host this week to focus on our relations with these countries. I express my gratitude to the Secretary General of ASEAN H. E. Dr Surin Pitsuwan for accepting my invitation.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests,**

We stand at the threshold of twenty years of the launch of the formal Dialogue partnership between India and ASEAN, which started in 1992. We look forward to holding the Commemorative Summit in 2012 in India.

It is a happy coincidence, or is it a coincidence, that this two decade period has been transformational for India, as also for its engagement with South East Asia.

It has been a gratifying engagement for us - an engagement which has drawn strength from India's rapidly developing bilateral ties with individual ASEAN countries, and from our millennia-old bonds with the countries and civilizations of the region.

The words 'Look East' encapsulate our renewed focus on these ties. I wonder if we have a phrase that can capture the age-old roots, cordiality and partnership that are at the heart of our Look East Policy.

Historical ties of India with Myanmar, Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, Cambodia, Laos and with what was known as the East Indies - Sumatra, Java, Bali and Borneo - are well known. These ties are rooted in geographical contiguity and commonality of a multitude of other factors.

It is both a contemporary need and a responsibility to nurture these natural relationships. We are committed to deepening our all-round engagement with ASEAN.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

India's first Free Trade Agreement was signed with ASEAN. This Agreement will provide a further thrust to the almost twenty-fold increase in our trade with ASEAN which has been witnessed in nearly twenty years since 1990.

India has undertaken a number of initiatives in line with its commitment to the "Initiative for ASEAN Integration" which is intended to bridge the developmental gap between the older and the newer, less developed, members of ASEAN, i.e. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The shift of power to Asia in this century is almost a cliché now. While such a shift may indeed be taking place, the processes involved are far more complex than what would appear at first glance. A number of new initiatives and institutions in South East Asia are coterminous with and contribute to this shift.

On the strategic side, there is the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Eight process. India's participation in this is part of the wider paradigm shift which characterises our Look East Policy.

The second big institutional change is the continued evolution of the East Asia Summit (EAS) process. Our Look East Policy has evolved with this process, which was born in 2005. This Policy has, therefore, evolved to include the Far Eastern and Pacific regions and facilitated greater links with Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

EAS further expanded at its 5th Meeting in October last year to include US and Russia into its ambit. India welcomed this expansion, which, we believe, will add to regional peace and security. We also believe that the existing mechanisms of EAS will remain intact with this expansion and will be guided to a more fruitful benefit for the region.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With this backdrop of historical and contemporary wide ranging association, how does India look beyond the first two decades of our engagement with ASEAN?

There are a few vectors which suggest themselves for the future.

Firstly, I think we need to focus on a vision for our region which is inclusive. As

many of you know in India we have sought to embed in our developmental experience the principle of inclusivity. These principles need to form part of international efforts as that in the end is the strongest factor for the maintenance of peace and security.

Secondly, we feel that the principles of State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of others must be the bedrock of our cooperative endeavours.

Thirdly, diversity comes naturally to us in Asia. Respecting diversity and developing tolerance must, therefore, form the third prong of our approach.

Within this framework, I believe, we must focus even more sharply in our efforts to construct an interconnected economic block.

I believe that India and ASEAN can do so by concentrating even greater efforts on physical connectivity. This aspect fits very well with our own domestic priority of upgrading infrastructure. If the two can proceed in tandem, it is possible that in the space of next five to seven years we will see a dramatic flowering of India-ASEAN relations. Connectivity will enhance the potential of Merchandise Trade and Investment Agreements that have been already put into effect or are on the anvil.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Greater physical connectivity will reinforce intellectual inter-linkages that we have or will foster.

In this context, I would like to mention our joint initiative for the revival of the Nalanda University.

Similarly, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), launched in the year 2000, is a sub-regional initiative comprising India and five ASEAN countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Both the Ganga and the Mekong are not mere rivers but symbols of civilizations. This initiative is thus reflective of the cultural and commercial linkages among the member countries of the MGC through centuries. Members of MGC are working to promote cooperation in the sectors of tourism, culture, education and transport & communications.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our enterprising ancestors created through the passage of time a most wonderful matrix of mutually enriching cultures, and mutually reinforcing bonds. As we look to India-ASEAN engagement beyond 2012, we need to assiduously promote people-to-people relations. It is on the wings of these ties that the future of our relationship will soar.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before I conclude, I would like to congratulate the Indian Council of World Affairs, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the SAEA Research Group of Singapore, as well as the Economic Research Institute in Jakarta, for their fruitful partnership in restructuring the Delhi dialogue. I also compliment all the think tanks, scholars and experts involved who have worked so hard to bring this Dialogue to fruition.

I hope that our guests will have a pleasant and fruitful stay in Delhi and the Dialogue, which you are engaged in, will bring in to sharper relief the future of our path.

I wish the Dialogue all success.

Thank you.



**064. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Bali for East Asia Summit, Asean Regional Forum Ministerial and other Ministerial meetings.**

**New Delhi, July 20, 2011.**

The External Affairs Minister would be participating in the 9th India-ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference, the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Consultations and the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Bali, Indonesia from July 22-23, 2011.

2. The India-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting will review ASEAN-India Cooperation and deliberate on its future direction, particularly in the context of the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit to be hosted in New Delhi in December 2012. The Ministers will also exchange views on regional and international issues of interest to ASEAN and India.

3. India became a sectoral partner of ASEAN in 1992, and a full dialogue partner in 1996 after signing the Treaty on Amity and Cooperation with ASEAN. The 1st Summit Level Meeting took place with ASEAN leaders in 2002. India and ASEAN adopted a Plan of Action for the period 2010-15 during the 8th

ASEAN-India Summit held on October 30, 2010 at Hanoi. The Indian Parliament has Observer Status in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. India would be hosting the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December 2012 to celebrate these 20 years of partnership.

4. India ASEAN trade reached US\$ 55.21 billion in the financial year ending March 2011. We now have a target of US\$ 70 billion by 2012. India and ASEAN have signed a Trade in Goods Agreement and the notification process in respect of all signatories would be complete by the time the ASEAN-India Economic Ministers meet in Manado, Indonesia on August 13, 2011. Both sides are also hopeful of concluding the negotiations on the Services and Investment Agreement by the end of the year.

5. ASEAN-India cooperation covers a wide canvas including growing ties in trade and investment, science & technology, space sciences, transport & infrastructure, rail air & sea connectivity, education, information & communication technology, health and pharmaceuticals, energy, tourism etc. An Eminent Persons Group has been set up between India and ASEAN to submit recommendations to the Leaders on the future direction of the partnership.

6. India has been part of the East Asia process since 2005 and has seen it become an important mechanism for enhancing regional cooperation in Asia. EAS has acquired relevance even beyond the Continent as is illustrated by the inclusion of US and Russia in its deliberations. India has consistently supported the centrality of ASEAN in the EAS architecture and the ASEAN way of dialogue at a pace comfortable to all.

7. The East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Consultations will focus on the review and future direction of EAS and the preparations for the 6th East Asia Summit in November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The Foreign Ministers will also exchange views on regional and international issues.



**065. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna as Co-Chair at India-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.**

**Bali, July 22, 2011.**

Your Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Your Excellency Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia,

Your Royal Highness Princess Masna, Minister - at - large of Brunei Darussalam,

Esteemed Ministerial colleagues

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by saying that I am happy to attend this meeting in the beautiful city of Bali in the friendly Republic of Indonesia. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, for the very warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to me and my delegation. I would like to commend my Indonesian colleagues and friends for the excellent arrangements for our meetings here. Let me also place on record our deep appreciation to Cambodia for steering our Dialogue Partnership with the ASEAN with dedication and determination in their present role as our Country Coordinator. We look forward to effective support from the Country Coordinators as we prepare for ASEAN-India to commemorate their 20 years of dialogue relations and 10 years of Summit Partnership.

2. India and ASEAN have had a committed dialogue partnership since 1992. ASEAN has been central in India's Look East Policy.

3. As India and ASEAN prepare to hold the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in 2012, we look to elevating our dialogue partnership to a "strategic partnership". India and ASEAN must upgrade and strengthen their engagement in the face of the new security and economic architecture being envisaged.

4. Our countries are today facing increasing challenges from transnational non-traditional security threats. Countering international terrorism, combating drug trafficking, piracy, natural disasters and pandemics, strengthening energy security and environmental protection, arresting climate change, improving infrastructural development and meeting our requirements for education, health care, human resource development are all key areas for our common endeavour to ensure sustained economic growth in our region.



5. I look forward to good progress in the ASEAN-India Economic Ministers meeting in Manado in August 2011 and the Energy Ministers meet in September 2011 in Brunei. We have received an invitation to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly meeting to be held in September 2011 in Phnom Penh. There is a proposal for our Agriculture Ministers to meet in October 2011. We are looking at hosting the ASEAN-India Trade Ministers meet next year. We, perhaps, need to suggest that our Education Ministers Meet as well. Attention to human resource capacity building will help us to build a durable foundation for the future ASEAN-India strategic partnership.

6. The first meeting of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group will take place on August 2-3, 2011 in Phnom Penh and I hope this select group will provide useful suggestions for the future vision for ASEAN-India relations.

7. When we meet again at the Summit level in Bali in November this year, we will present details relating to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to be held in December 2012. We have welcomed the suggestion for a Car Rally to highlight the geographic connectivity between our countries. I propose that, unlike the car rally in 2004, this time the car rally begin from ASEAN countries into India and culminate at Kolkatta. We will be proposing "marker" events in each ASEAN country along the route for the car rally and I would request my colleagues here to lend support to these events by their presence and the involvement of the Indian and ASEAN Ambassadors.

8. We would be sharing with you, in the coming weeks, details of a sailing ship expedition in 2012, involving onshore events at each port of call. We have begun consultations towards the Regional Air Services Arrangement to strengthen connectivity by air between India and ASEAN countries.

9. We should also, in the run-up to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit of 2012, encourage greater connectivity between our people. We need connectivity more than ever before between our younger generations, the entrepreneurs, IT experts, scientists, diplomats, media, students, etc. We could also use virtual networks to enhance connectivity. We, therefore, envisage a year-long celebration of the commonalities and complementarities, our civilisational heritage and its current manifestations in ASEAN countries and India through an India-ASEAN Festival in 2012. We are also looking at translating literary works and books from the ASEAN region into Indian languages and Indian literary works of excellence into the languages of the ASEAN member states.

10. I look forward to an exchange of views with you as we define the celebration of two decades of partnership between ASEAN and India.

Thank you.



**066. Information provided to Lok Sabha on the Look East Policy of the Ministry of External Affairs.**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2011.**

There has been steady progress in India's ties with countries of East Asia as well as in the India-ASEAN relationship through the years. India became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN in 1992. The relationship was upgraded within ten years in 2002 to the level of an Annual Summit Level Dialogue Partnership. Trade between India and ASEAN countries has now reached US\$ 55.21 billion as compared to US\$ 7.84 billion in 2001-2002. India is today ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner and eighth largest investor. The Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation signed in 2003 is at the heart of India's economic engagement with ASEAN countries. An Agreement on Trade-in-Goods has been concluded after negotiations over six years. India and ASEAN are also intensifying cooperation in diverse sectors, including science & technology, tourism, transport & infrastructure, information & communication technology, space technologies, agriculture, energy etc. India is pursuing extensive engagements with countries of North East Asia with whom also our trade and investment ties are increasing rapidly. There are regular high level exchanges between countries in East Asia and India, including Ministerial/Summit level events.

The Government of India has built the 160 km (approx) India-Myanmar Friendship Road between Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo (TKK road) in Myanmar which connects Myanmar to Moreh in Manipur. This will eventually become part of the India-ASEAN Highway. India and Myanmar are also in discussions to undertake various other road projects including the road from Zawkhathar (Mizoram)/Rhi into Myanmar. These roads, besides providing a valuable cross border link between India and Myanmar, enhance cross border trade, tourism and economic development of the areas on both sides of the border.



**067. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visits to Bali for the India-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit.**

**New Delhi, November 16, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good evening to all of you. Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh would be leaving for Bali tomorrow to participate in the Ninth India-ASEAN Summit and the Sixth East Asia Summit. Thereafter the Prime Minister would be visiting Singapore to pay a bilateral visit

.Secretary (East) Shri Sanjay Singh would like to brief you about the two visits of the Prime Minister of India. We are also joined by two of our colleagues, to the right of Secretary (East), first Shrimati Renu Pall who is our Joint Secretary looking after ASEAN relations and multilateral economic relations; and next is Shri Arun Goel who is our Joint Secretary (South). I will invite Secretary (East) to make his opening statement.

**Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh):** Good afternoon.

Prime Minister would be embarking on a visit on November 17th to attend the Ninth ASEAN-India Summit and the Sixth East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia. The visit to Bali would be followed by an official visit to the Republic of Singapore from November 19th to 20th.

National Security Advisor, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, and Secretary (East) MEA would be accompanying the Prime Minister.

The Ninth ASEAN-India Summit to be held on the 19th of November would take stock of ASEAN-India relations which have witnessed a rapid period of growth in the past 20 years, from the time that India became a sectoral dialogue partner in 1992, a full dialogue partner in 1996 and a Summit level partner in 2002. There is a mutuality of interest in the ASEAN-India relationship. The key drivers are partnership, capacity-building, dialogue and connectivity at the civilisational, cultural, geographic and institutional levels and addressing common challenges. The pace and scope of progress has been facilitated by a Plan of Action that ASEAN and India have agreed to periodically. In recent months, we have sought to intensify our collaboration and a number of projects have been suggested to ASEAN member states through the ASEAN Secretariat.

India would be hosting a special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in India next year. We are in the process of planning a number of events as part of the celebrations next year including the Delhi Dialogue-IV in February 2012, a Car

Rally from Indonesia to India in November-December 2012, a Sail Training Ship Expedition along the monsoon trade winds route from September 2012 to May 2013, and an intensive year-long calendar of cultural activities.

The Trade-in-Goods Agreement between India and ASEAN is now fully functional. We are continuing efforts to conclude the Services-and-Investment Agreements which will complement the Trade-in-Goods Agreement. The Ninth ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations were held on August 13, 2011 in Manado, Indonesia. The total trade between India and ASEAN increased by 30 per cent in 2010-11 reaching around US\$ 58 billion. We expect that the trade target of US\$ 70 billion by 2012, announced by Prime Minister at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Hua Hin, Thailand on October 24, 2009 would be realised. The 2nd ASEAN-India Business Fair is planned to be held in December 2012, together with the ASEAN-India Business Summit and ASEAN-India Business Council. We are looking at encouraging collaboration in the MSME sectors.

The 1st India-ASEAN Meeting on Agriculture was held on October 28, 2011 in Jakarta. We expect the ASEAN and Indian Agriculture Ministers to meet again in New Delhi in 2012. In addition to various project proposals under consideration in Agriculture, we are looking to publish a news letter "India-ASEAN News on Agriculture". We are examining proposals for fellowships for higher agriculture education, exchange of young farmers, a meeting of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities, training programmes etc., in keeping with the ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2010-15.

The 1st meeting of ASEAN-India Green Fund was held on October 19, 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. India has deposited US\$ 5 million into the Fund. ASEAN and India also have an S&T Fund of US\$ 1 million and multiple projects are under implementation, including an India-ASEAN S&T Digital Centre, a Technology Information Commercialisation Portal, a Virtual Institute for Intellectual Property etc. ASEAN and India are considering projects in information and technology, space cooperation, new and renewable energy, education etc. The Indian Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas met his ASEAN colleagues at the East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting in Brunei in September 2011, and this is expected to enhance cooperation in the energy sector. We are working towards finalization of an MoU on strengthening tourism cooperation. ASEAN and India have begun informal discussions on an ASEAN-India Regional Air Services Agreement. India offers 637 scholarships to ASEAN countries, bilaterally and multilaterally. We recently hosted a group of 100 students in September 2011. The Foreign Service Institute will be holding a special month-long training course for 50 ASEAN diplomats and three officials of the ASEAN Secretariat from November 16, 2011.

In terms of our people-to-people interaction, a very important segment is the ASEAN-India Media Exchange programme. The first and second media exchanges took place in January 2009 and January 2010, and a third such exchange occurred back-to-back with the Delhi Dialogue-III in March this year. We have proposed that under this programme, 40 ASEAN journalists visit India in two groups of 20 every year, and Indian journalists visit ASEAN States in five batches of eight for the next three years. I hope some of you would be able to avail of this opportunity. Under this programme we look forward to a group of 20 ASEAN journalists visiting India in February 2012 at the time of Delhi Dialogue IV.

An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Member of Parliament Shri Ninong Ering (Arunachal Pradesh, Lok Sabha) participated as Observer in the 32nd General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) held in September 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Prime Minister would also participate in the 18-country Sixth East Asia Summit on the 19th of November which is being held against the backdrop of the increasing importance of Asia in geopolitics. The United States and Russia would be participating for the first time formally as members of this Leaders-led forum. The East Asia region comprises some of the more dynamic economies and emerging powers which lends great utility to a dialogue between its Leaders on strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity.

Leaders are expected to give direction to coordination of international effort on the five core areas of the EAS i.e. energy, education, finance, pandemics and disaster management as also connectivity and Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia (CEPEA). We view ASEAN as the driving force in this process. We are also comfortable with the ASEAN way of progress at a pace comfortable to all. India has been consistent in endorsing the centrality of the ASEAN in the ongoing processes in the East Asia region.

The Leaders are expected to adopt a Declaration on Principles of Mutually Beneficial Relations, and another on ASEAN Connectivity, which includes appreciation of the Comprehensive Asia Development Plan (CADP). The CADP is based on studies by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and is meant to create infrastructural-industrial connectivity between ASEAN and the greater East Asia region.

The Leaders would meet in a Plenary Session and also at a Retreat. They are expected to also discuss the future evolution of the East Asia Summit agenda. They would also discuss issues of regional and international interest during the Retreat session.

On the sidelines of these two Summits, Prime Minister would be holding a few bilateral meetings. These meetings are likely to focus on bilateral and EAS related issues.

**Singapore:**

Following the meetings in Bali, Prime Minister would leave for Singapore on the evening of November 19, 2011 on a two-day bilateral visit. Prime Minister last visited Singapore in November 2007 for the India-ASEAN and East-Asia Summits. The last bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister was by Prime Minister Vajpayee in 2002, and from the Singapore side by the present Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in 2005.

Prime Minister's visit aims to maintain the high-level dialogue with Singapore, our major partner in South-East Asia, and will provide an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral, regional and global developments. Our bilateral relations with Singapore, based on long-standing historical and cultural ties, are characterized by warmth and multifaceted cooperation. Singapore is an important partner in our Look East engagement. India values the key role played by Singapore in consolidation of our relations with other countries of South East Asia and with ASEAN. As pluralistic societies with market economies, the two countries share similar concerns about the challenges posed by terrorism and fundamentalism and have found it mutually beneficial to evolve a broad framework of defense and security cooperation. The two countries have recently decided to establish a Parliamentary Friendship Group in their respective Parliaments.

The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) that we signed with Singapore in 2005 was the first for India. It covers agreements on trade in goods, services, and investment. The Second Review of CECA was launched on 11th May, 2011 in New Delhi by Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma and Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Lim Kiang. It is expected to be completed by early 2012.

Singapore is India's largest trade and investment partner from the ASEAN region and now accounts for a third of our overall trade with South East Asia. Our bilateral trade has increased from US \$ 8.7 billion in 2005-06 to US\$ 17.4 billion in 2010-11 making Singapore the fifth largest destination for India's exports in 2010-11. Singapore is also the second largest investor in India, amounting to US\$ 14.67 billion in cumulative FDI till July 2011. Indian investment in Singapore has also increased many folds and is around US\$ 23 billion. There are more than 81 FIIs from Singapore which are registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Combined with a positive

enabling environment, strong air connectivity and the presence of a large Indian community, Singapore has emerged as the key offshore hub for Indian corporates. The Indian corporate presence in Singapore has also grown significantly and an estimated 3800 “Indian” companies have registered their presence there.

Singapore is also a preferred travel destination for many Indians and flight connectivity to Singapore is among the highest from India to any destination. Directly connected currently to 11 Indian cities, Singapore has perhaps the largest number of air connections to India. There are about 384 weekly direct scheduled flights which in 2010 carried approximately 2.55 million passengers.

Given the large and diverse Indian community in Singapore, around 9.2 per cent of Singapore’s population, Indian cultural activities receive considerable local support. Inter-governmental cooperation in culture is governed by a 1993 MoU for Cooperation in the fields of Arts, Archives and Heritage. This is buttressed by Executive Programmes that are agreed upon for specified periods and we signed one recently for the years 2011-14. Earlier in the year, the bust of Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled by the External Affairs Minister as a fitting tribute in the year when we are observing his 150th Birth Anniversary. Skills development, education, Infrastructure, Personnel Management and Public Administration are other areas of particular focus.

Prime Minister’s visit to Singapore will provide great impetus to an important bilateral relationship.

Thank you.

**Question:** Sir, talking of bilaterals, could you give us a sense of two important bilateral meetings Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will have with Chinese Premier as well as President Obama and also the issues likely to be on the agenda?

**Secretary (East):** Yes, there is to be a meeting between Prime Minister and Chinese Premier at Bali on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. Prime Minister has been meeting with Chinese Premier regularly and has a good working relationship with him. I cannot predict what subjects will be discussed between the two leaders. In such meetings the conversation is free flowing and each leader can take up any subject he desires. Naturally we will brief the media at Bali after the meeting.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama are to meet in Bali on the margins of the East Asia Summit on November 18th. This will be the first meeting since the visit of President Obama to India in November, 2010

although the two leaders have been in touch with each other on phone and through letters. Over the past year, the two sides have maintained a high level of engagement and have expanded strategic consultations in a substantive manner, and there has been significant progress across a broad spectrum of bilateral agenda. The meeting between the two leaders will be an opportunity for them to review the progress on bilateral relations including with regard to the decisions and outcomes from the November 2010 summit. They will also discuss a wide range of regional and global issues of mutual interest including the Asia Pacific region, East Asia Summit, our immediate neighbourhood, and other areas of mutual interest

**Question:** Sir, there are intelligence reports suggesting that Paresh Baruah, a key ULFA leader, is living in China, he sought shelter in Unan Province. Many reports have appeared to this effect. Have you taken up this matter with China?

**Secretary (East):** I would not like to talk about this particular report. I will let the Spokesman deal with it. Today's meeting can be confined to the East Asia Summit and India-ASEAN relations.

**Official Spokesperson:** The presence of Indian insurgent groups in the region and availability of arms to them, has figured in our discussions with our Chinese friends in the past. We also have seen these reports that have appeared in the Indian media in the last few days. We do not, however, have any credible information at our disposal at the moment to comment on it in any manner.

**Question:** Just a follow-up very quickly on that point. The general point about Chinese arms flowing to insurgent groups in India is a broader issue. Is that something which will continuously be raised in the India-China dialogue?

**Official Spokesperson:** I said that the presence of the Indian insurgent groups in the region and availability of arms is something that has figured in our discussions with our Chinese friends in the past.

**Question:** Can you tell us the status of progress in India-ASEAN FTA talks?

**Secretary (East):** We have been having regularly India-ASEAN discussion on taking the India-ASEAN trade in goods and enhancing it to investments and services also. This is in progress and we hope that we should be able to reach a successful conclusion.

**Question:** During this Summit?

**Secretary (East):** There will be no negotiations during the Summit on this particular issue. As you know, there are groups of negotiators on both sides which meet and take this forward.



**Question:** Secretary, can you give us a sense of how you see this description of this word Indo-Pacific which is being used now, and what is the kind of role India sees in it?

**Secretary (East):** I think this is a word that has no clear definition at the moment. If it means a region which takes us from India all the way to Pacific, this is a region where we have very strong relationship with the countries of the region, and we wish to strengthen our relationship bilaterally and the region as a whole.

**Question:** Secretary, the Philippines has suggested in ASEAN that it wants a dialogue at the East Asia Summit on the South China Sea. This happens even as we are preparing to go there. So, what is the take on this issue as the Prime Minister is heading there?

**Secretary (East):** A number of issues of interest to the region will be discussed in East Asia Summit. I do not want to speculate on what will be discussed and how and the form that they will take. We will brief you as and when they take place.

**Official Spokesperson:** I take it there are no more questions.

Thank you very much.



**068. Statement by Prime Minister Dr, Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Bali for the India-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit.**

**New Delhi, November 17, 2011.**

I am leaving today on a tour of South East Asia during which I will visit Indonesia and Singapore.

I will attend the 9th India-ASEAN Summit and the 6th East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia.

Partnership with ASEAN is an essential component of our "Look East" policy. The level of our engagement with the ASEAN as a group and with individual ASEAN Member States has gone up qualitatively in the last few years. This is reflected in the areas of trade and investment, capacity-building, connectivity, people-to-people and institutional linkages. We have agreed upon an ambitious India-ASEAN Plan of Action for 2010-2015. I will review the implementation of the Plan of Action with the ASEAN Leaders.

Next year, we will host the India-ASEAN Summit for the first time to commemorate 20 years of our dialogue partnership with ASEAN. I will have the opportunity to share our ideas for the Commemorative Summit with ASEAN Leaders in Bali.

The East Asia Summit is the principal forum to devise an open and inclusive architecture of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. This year's Summit will see the formal entry into the East Asia Summit process of the United States and Russia. As a founding member, India is part of several initiatives taken by the East Asia Summit to create an economic community in the region such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA).

Increasingly, political and security issues are becoming part of the East Asia Summit agenda. There are concerns among the countries of the region over issues relating to disaster management, maritime security, terrorism and other non-traditional threats to security. I look forward to an open, frank and productive discussion on all these issues.

On the margins of the India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits, I will have the opportunity to meet other world leaders, including the President of Indonesia who is hosting the Summit, the President of the USA, Premier of the State Council of China and the Prime Minister of Cambodia.

I attach great importance to my first bilateral visit to Singapore as Prime Minister. Singapore is a key partner for us in the region. India's "Look East" policy started with our engagement with Singapore, and that country has been among the strongest advocates of greater cooperation between South East Asia and India.

Singapore is our largest trading partner in ASEAN, and the second largest investor in India. It was the first country with which we signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005. Currently we are in the process of a second review of this Agreement to make it work better for both of us. There is a large and vibrant Indian community in Singapore, including several Indian companies and students. I look forward to holding wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and other distinguished leaders of Singapore on deepening our economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people relations. I particularly look forward to unveiling a Marker and Bust of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in Singapore.



**069. Media briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's engagements in Bali.**

**New Delhi, November 18, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and welcome. Really appreciate your patience, and sorry to keep you waiting. You know that Prime Minister has had a number of bilateral interactions, and Secretary would like to brief you about these interactions.....

**Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh):** I apologize for keeping you away from lunch.

In the morning, Prime Minister had a warm and friendly meeting with President Obama lasting over an hour. As you know, this meeting took place after a year after President Obama's visit to India in November 2010 which he described in his words as extraordinary. He also mentioned that we have continued to strengthen our bonds, commercial, security and strategic, as between the two democracies. He said that there is a great amount of progress on all the issues and that he expressed the hope that we would work together bilaterally, regionally and in the multilateral fora specifying the East Asia Summit where he identified issues such as maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Prime Minister recalled President Obama's historic visit to our country, that we have made progress in every direction since the visit, in innovation, economy, investment, higher education, clean energy, strategy and defence. He underlined that there are no irritants in working together bilaterally, on regional matters, and globally. We have strengthened in many ways the paths set out during the visit whether in civil nuclear cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime issues, on which we can cooperate and engage. We have a strategic dialogue that covers a number of areas. He expressed that we welcome US to the East Asia Summit.

He also emphasized that we envisage that EAS should respect the centrality of ASEAN countries, and it should be ASEAN-led. He said that we look toward greater integration of the region and we wish to participate in the new architecture that is being developed. Both called for greater cooperation in trade and investment and for its facilitation.

Prime Minister referred to the recommendations of the CEO Forum which has been set up between India and the United States as being very useful. He invited US companies to invest in the opportunities being created by the infrastructural expansion in India in which over one trillion dollars will be invested in the next five years. He spoke of the Indian growth story of 8.5 per cent over

the last five years, the prospects for the future based on our high savings rate of 35 per cent and investment rate of 37 per cent. He underlined our Government's desire for inclusive growth and for participation of every Indian in it and for every Indian to have a share in it. The two leaders also discussed regional developments among other things.

Prime Minister also met thereafter Premier Wen Jiabao. It was a very good meeting covering a range of bilateral, regional and international issues; and that lasted 55 minutes. They recalled Premier Wen's landmark visit to India in December 2010. Premier Wen also recalled Prime Minister's observation that there was enough space in the world to accommodate the developmental aspirations of both India and China. Premier Wen added that there were enough areas where India and China could enhance mutually beneficial cooperation. He termed 21st century as an Asian century beckoning India and China to work hand in hand to promote economic development and growth.

Both of them recognized our robust trade, economic and business ties constituted the core of our bilateral relationship. They expressed happiness that trade had crossed US\$ 60 billion in 2010, and was likely to touch US\$ 70 billion this year, and was expected to attain US\$ 100 billion target by 2015. Prime Minister welcomed greater Chinese economic engagement with India and mentioned that China was among India's partners which were executing a large number of projects in India. Prime Minister also underlined the need for balanced trade to create a more conducive environment pertaining to the realisation of the considerably untapped economic potential.

Premier Wen and Prime Minister welcomed the holding of the first Strategic Economic Dialogue between Indian and China in Beijing last September led by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission from our side, who had been received by Premier Wen. They called for greater people-to-people contacts as well as a continued and closer dialogue on regional and international issues. Premier Wen recalled with considerable warmth his interaction with the Indian youth delegation which had visited China earlier this year. The two also noted the convergence of views on a number of global issues such as climate change.

Premier Wen valued India's role at EAS and spoke for closer coordination between the two sides. He also welcomed India's interest to enhance cooperation with the SCO. They also exchanged views on global economic situation agreeing to keep in touch on a regular basis. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the relationship based on mutual respect and equality was on a firm footing and that was in the interest of both countries.

Foreign Minister Yang, and NSA and Principal Secretary were present. In the meeting in the morning with President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton was present.

The third meeting that Prime Minister had was with Prime Minister Hun Sen who, as you know, visited India in 2007. They discussed our bilateral cooperation. As you know, India has assisted in setting up Entrepreneurship Development Centre; it is helping with water resources management, information technology, English language training, etc. Prime Minister especially thanked Cambodia which has been the ASEAN coordinator for India and would be continuing with this work leading up to the commemorative year next year, which would mark the 20th anniversary of our dialogue partnership with ASEAN and the Tenth anniversary of our summit level partnership with ASEAN. They also discussed the programme for the commemorative year.

Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed that he was grateful for India's assistance in various areas including in the renovation of the Ta Prohm temple. Prime Minister assured him of continued cooperation and assistance. Another issue which came up was possibility of direct flight connectivity between the two countries and promotion of tourism.

Thank you.

**Question:** How long was the Prime Minister's meeting with Premier Wen?

**Secretary (East):** Fifty five minutes.

**Question:** The Prime Minister told us after his meeting with President Obama about what he conveyed on the issue of nuclear liability. I just wanted to know what the President had to say and how he reacted to the liability rules and if anything in particular was said by the US side. And in the meeting with China, given the backdrop of what is happening in the South China Sea and some of the statements we have seen on troop deployment on the border, was any of that discussed between the two leaders?

**Secretary (East):** I think I cannot add anything more to what Prime Minister told you directly on the concerns on the nuclear liability law etc. I will leave it at that.

On the South China Sea, this matter did come up in the context of the East Asia Summit.

**Question:** With Wen?

**Secretary (East):** Yes. And Prime Minister observed that exploration of oil and gas in the South China Sea by India was purely a commercial activity, and that the issues of sovereignty should be resolved according to international law and practice.

**Question:** Sir, there was a demand from the Americans that Indian nuclear

liability law should be vetted by the IAEA. Is it their stand still? Secondly, the Prime Minister's statement says that India has done within the four corners of the law of the land. Is there anything that India specifically can do to close the deal with supplier liability?

**Secretary (East):** I would not like to add to what the Prime Minister has clearly expressed as his view.

**Question:** Sir, was there any issue of Iran that was raised in the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** Yes, there was an exchange of views in the context of the recent IAEA report.

**Question:** With whom? Both leaders or only with President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** President Obama.

**Question:** And, what was said?

**Secretary (East):** Prime Minister reiterated the view that the matter needs to be dealt with diplomatically.

**Question:** What issues did the American side raise?

**Secretary (East):** There was a general exchange of views on this ... a passing reference to the IAEA report and Prime Minister reiterated India's stand on it.

**Question:** Only that! What were all the issues that were raised?

**Secretary (East):** On the regional issues they discussed developments in Afghanistan. Prime Minister briefed him on our relations with the country and his interactions with President Karzai who had visited India recently. And President Obama apprised Prime Minister of his appreciation for the developments taking place there.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, in the context of the talks with Premier Wen you said that the South China Sea issue came up. Was it for a proposal to discuss the South China Sea in the summit, and what has India said?

**Secretary (East):** I will repeat that the matter did come up in the context of the EAS and Prime Minister observed that Indian exploration of oil and gas in the South China Sea was purely a commercial activity and that issues of sovereignty should be resolved according to international law and practice.

**Question:** The Chinese side raised it or we raised it?

**Official Spokesperson:** As the Secretary has mentioned, they spoke about

the East Asia Summit, they spoke about the desirability of keeping in touch, talking to each other on the East Asia Summit. Premier Wen appreciated, in fact what Secretary has said exactly is, Premier Wen said that he valued the role that India is playing in the EAS. And in that context there was a mention about the South China Sea, to which Prime Minister said that our interests were purely commercial. And the rest you have heard from the Secretary.

**Question:** "I explained to him that we have a law in place and rules have been formulated. These will lie in Parliament for thirty days." This is what the Prime Minister has said. "Lie in Parliament for thirty days", there is a lot of confusion on that statement. Could you clarify what the Prime Minister has said?

**Secretary (East):** I am not an expert on this. So, I would not like to clarify on what the Prime Minister has said.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, you mentioned that in the meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao, the issue of the economy was raised ...(Inaudible)... was this issue also discussed in the meeting with President Obama earlier on the ...(Inaudible)... the next summit? Can you just share ...(Inaudible)...

**Secretary (East):** As you know, both of them had been at Cannes for the G20 Summit and they exchanged views on the present state of the global economy, the developments in Europe and in the Euro zone, and the need for concerted global action to deal with the challenges that arise.

**Question:** The basic question is the response of the US President to Indian Prime Minister's statement that everything has been sorted out in the framework of the sitting law on the nuclear liability.

**Official Spokesperson:** Mr. Chandra, can I interject? Same question, same answer.

**Question:** I think you should say something, something should come out.

**Official Spokesperson:** All right.

**Question:** Did Pakistan come up during the meeting with President Obama and what was discussed?

**Secretary (East):** Yes. Prime Minister mentioned about his meeting with Prime Minister Gilani at the SAARC Summit and the details of it, and the steps being taken by the two countries.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, there have been reports in the Chinese media. Did Premier Wen raise this issue of the military build up with the Prime Minister, were there any discussions on any of the outstanding issues as far as border talks are concerned?



**Secretary (East):** Nothing on the issue that you raised but both sides welcomed the resumption of defence exchanges. In the context of the boundary, they referred to the decision for the Joint mechanism which is to be set up and which was taken during Premier Wen's visit last year. And they also noted with satisfaction that the boundary was peaceful and tranquil.

**Question:** Just an addition to the question on the angle that the Prime Minister talked about his meeting with Gilani. Did President Obama talk about their issues with Pakistan? Did he say anything about the US-Pakistan relationship?

**Secretary (East):** Prime Minister basically spoke about his meeting with Prime Minister Gilani.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, during the meetings with President Obama and also Premier Wen, was the Prime Minister's view on increasing US military ties with Australia ... (Inaudible)... What is India's view? Was India ... (Inaudible)... increasing its partnership with ASEAN in ... (Inaudible)...

**Secretary (East):** As I said right in the beginning, we look at ASEAN as central to the East Asia Summit process which should we feel be led by ASEAN. We have, as I mentioned, a long relationship with ASEAN and we would be commemorating the twentieth anniversary of our dialogue partnership next year, and the tenth anniversary of our summit level partnership which we will be commemorating in India.

**Question:** Was South China Sea referred to in the discussion between Prime Minister Singh and President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** As I said right in the beginning, they discussed cooperation in maritime issues.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, did the question of American bases in Australia come up when Obama spoke to Prime Minister?

**Secretary (East):** No.

**Question:** In his meeting with Mr. Wen, did the Prime Minister raise the issue of Chinese activity in POK?

**Official Spokesperson:** That issue did not come up. What Secretary has mentioned is that both sides expressed satisfaction that the India-China Line of Control is peaceful and tranquil. They also welcomed the process of the SR talks and they spoke in that refrain.

Thank you very much. Have a good day!



**070. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 9th ASEAN-India Summit.**

**Bali (Indonesia), November 19, 2011.**

It is a pleasure for me to be amongst friends today. The city of Bali epitomises the age old civilisational links between India and Indonesia, and indeed between India and South East Asia.

I thank you, Mr. President, for hosting the 9th ASEAN-India Summit, and for the excellent arrangements made for our meeting.

I would like to begin by expressing India's solidarity with the people of Cambodia and Thailand as they deal with the floods that have badly effected their countries.

India is extremely pleased with the practice of annual Summits with ASEAN. Our partnership with ASEAN is one of the cornerstones of our foreign policy, and the foundation of our 'Look East' Policy.

In the relatively short span of our full dialogue partnership with ASEAN we have put in place a rich agenda of cooperation. This has benefited both of us and is contributing to the processes of integration and transformation of the Asia-Pacific region.

Since our last Summit in Hanoi, we have made concrete progress.

On the trade and economic front, the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement for Trade in Goods has come into effect in all ASEAN Member States and India following its ratification by Cambodia on 1st August, 2011.

India's trade with ASEAN has increased by 30% in 2010-2011 and has crossed the 50 billion US dollar mark. With such a rate of growth we should be able to achieve our trade target of 70 billion US dollar by 2012.

The inaugural India-ASEAN Business Fair was held in New Delhi in March 2011 along with meetings of the India-ASEAN Business Summit and Business Council. Investments from both sides are steadily growing.

The 9th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations were held in August 2011 in Manado. The Ministers have agreed to a structured private sector engagement in the five areas of pharmaceuticals, innovation and skills training, information technology, manufacturing and infrastructure.

I seek your support for the early conclusion of a commercially meaningful Services and Investment Agreement. This would create a positive atmosphere for the implementation of the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement as envisaged in our Framework Agreement of 2003.

We should endorse the decision taken at the last round of negotiations in October 2011 to conclude the Agreement by March 2012.

The first ASEAN-India Meeting on Agriculture was held in October 2011, and the first meeting of the India-ASEAN Green Fund was held in Cambodia in October 2011.

At our Summit last year, we had called for developing a long-term vision for the strategic partnership between ASEAN and India.

We have taken the first step in this direction by constituting the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group. The Group has been tasked to draft a ASEAN-India Vision 2020 document and has already held two meetings in August 2011 and October 2011.

The successful implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2004-2010 listing specific items of cooperation was followed by an 82-point Plan of Action for the period 2010-2015. We adopted this ambitious Plan in the Hanoi Summit.

India has forwarded a number of cooperative projects as part of this Plan as well as part of the 50 million US dollar ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund to the ASEAN Secretariat. We look forward to an early response from the ASEAN side.

The expansion of our cooperation in the fields of science and technology, space and information technology has generated considerable enthusiasm on both sides. So too has our cooperation in the area of training, capacity building and human resource development in various sectors.

Several projects are under implementation under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund. Based on the feedback from the ASEAN, our Department of Space has revised its proposal for a five year project for establishing a tracking and reception station and data processing facility for the ASEAN countries and training of ASEAN personnel. We will convene a meeting of Heads of Space Agencies of India and ASEAN in early 2012.

We have already offered to assist in the Master Plan on ASEAN ICT Connectivity and in particular on the establishment of an e-network in the CLMV countries for tele-medicine and tele-education.

Our experience with initiatives to promote people-to-people exchanges has been excellent.

I invite ASEAN countries to participate actively in the Nalanda University project on which work has begun.

The visa on arrival facility for six ASEAN countries is now in place. We should ensure that the Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening tourism cooperation between ASEAN and India is signed at the earliest, preferably at the meeting of the ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers planned to be held in Indonesia in early 2012.

India hosted a group of 100 students from ASEAN countries in September 2011. Based on the positive feedback, we will increase this number to 250 students per year.

We wish to institutionalize the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme for a period of three years. Under this India will be ready to host two groups of 20 ASEAN journalists each year and ASEAN countries could in turn consider hosting Indian journalists to ASEAN Member States.

Greater physical connectivity between India and ASEAN remains our strategic objective. There are several proposals under consideration with regard to land and sea connectivity. These include the India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway, its extension to Laos and Cambodia and the development of a new highway also linking Vietnam.

We also have a study on a Mekong-India Economic Corridor conducted by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia which proposes the linking of corridors in the peninsular, and possibly the north east regions of India with the East Asian region.

I would suggest that all these different proposals should be studied in an integrated manner by our officials so that we take considered decisions to optimize our resources and efforts.

India welcomes the growing cooperation with ASEAN on security issues, and our association with ASEAN led forums. These have focused on maritime security, counter-terrorism, training, exercises and disaster management.

Excellencies, it gives me great pleasure to extend a personal invitation to all of you to attend the special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in India. This will be a historic occasion for us. I wish to propose the dates of December 20th and 21st, 2012 for the Summit to be held in New Delhi.

India looks forward to working closely with Cambodia, as the incoming chair of ASEAN, and with all other Member States to prepare for this Summit. We would like the Summit to be the culmination of a year-long celebration of the India-ASEAN partnership.

The events we propose to hold in the run up to the Summit include the holding of the fourth round of the Delhi Dialogue in February 2012 and meetings of the

ASEAN-India Ministers for New and Renewable Energy and Agriculture as well as an India-ASEAN Business Fair. We also propose a year-long calendar of cultural activities

We look forward to organizing the ASEAN-India Car Rally to mark the Summit. The Rally will serve to highlight the strong bonds between ASEAN and India, and spread the message of solidarity, enterprise and creativity which are the hallmarks of our region.

We also propose to send a Sail Training Ship "Sudarshini" on an expedition to ASEAN countries along the route of the monsoon trade winds.

Excellencies, I believe that our cooperation is on the right path. Given the global economic downturn, there is today an even greater urgency to our cooperation.

I wish to place on record my deep appreciation to Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia for the role that Cambodia has played as Country Coordinator for India.

I also wish to once again thank His Excellency President Yudhoyono for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to India for this Summit. I thank you.



**071. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 6th East Asia Summit Plenary Session.**

**Bali (Indonesia), November 19, 2011.**

Your Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,  
President of the Republic of Indonesia,  
Excellencies,

I thank President Yudhoyono for his very warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this Summit meeting in Bali.

I would like to congratulate the United States of America and the Russian Federation on their formal entry into the East Asia Summit process this year. Their presence will enrich our discussions, and reflects the growing significance of East Asia in global affairs.

India endorses the draft Declaration of the Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations, and the Declaration on ASEAN Connectivity.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

India fully subscribes to the view that the East Asia Summit process must be centred on the ASEAN, and ASEAN should be its driving force. We must move at a pace and in the direction with which the ASEAN countries are comfortable, and which responds to their concerns and priorities.

The East Asia Summit is the forum for building an open, inclusive and transparent architecture of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. In a relatively short period it has taken several initiatives to promote trade, economic integration and connectivity. It has facilitated collective responses to challenges such as natural disasters, pandemics, climate change and energy security.

The global economic situation is showing several signs of stress. However, the emerging market countries in Asia are growing well and are in fact contributing to the recovery of the world economy.

I am happy to say that India is a part of this process. We have grown at an average of 8.4 percent in the past five years. Like other countries we too have slowed down in 2011, but we still expect to grow around 7.5 percent. However, none of us can prosper in isolation to the rest of the world. The most serious fault line at present is what is happening in Eurozone.

We all have a stake in an early resolution of the Eurozone crisis and I hope we can send a message of solidarity to Europe.

Against the global economic background that we are in, it is all the more important that we give full play to flows of trade, investment, services and ideas among ourselves. Howsoever complex the task, we should persevere with the project of East Asian economic integration and in our efforts towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia or CEPEA. India is working actively to integrate with this region. We are in the process of finalising a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with ASEAN.

We have concluded similar agreements with the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Japan. An agreement is already in place with Singapore. We have commenced negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.

Several useful reports and studies by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia have been produced and contain proposals which can be taken forward. These include a Comprehensive Asian Development Plan to enhance connectivity in the region.

The channelling of investible surpluses from Asia and the rest of the world into some of these projects will have a direct impact on the real economy of the region and on job creation, and will also stimulate global growth.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

Rapid economic growth is the most enduring strategy to overcome the global economic slowdown. We should keep our focus on the development agenda, make sure our growth is environmentally sustainable, find new and renewable technologies to fuel our growth and invest in education and skill development. The East Asia Summit is ideally equipped to pursue such an agenda.

I wish to inform this Summit that following the adoption of a Statement on the establishment of the Nalanda University in India by the East Asia Summit in Thailand in 2009 work on the University is in progress.

Political and security issues have increasingly become a part of the discourse in the region, whether in the ASEAN Regional Forum or the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Eight. We believe that while respecting differences and ensuring synergy between different forums, the East Asia Summit provides an opportunity to discuss all issues. It can contribute to enhancing mutual understanding and promoting peace, stability and security.

There are common challenges we face that cut across national boundaries such as terrorism, prevention and response to natural disasters, piracy, protecting sea lanes of communication and drug trafficking. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues in the East Asia Summit.

India would be happy to share its expertise in the areas of disaster management and maritime security. Specifically, we propose to host next year a EAS Workshop on disaster management and relief in the case of an occurrence of an earthquake. We are already working with several countries in combating piracy.

The East Asia Summit process is still work in progress but I believe we are on the right track. India is committed to the success of this process. The resurgence of Asia is dependent on the evolution of a cooperative architecture in which all countries are equal participants. We will work with all other countries towards this end.

I thank you.



**072. Declaration of the East Asia summit on the principles for mutually beneficial relations.**

**Bali, November 19, 2011.**

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America on the occasion of the Sixth East Asia Summit.

**Reiterating** our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other recognized principles of international law.

**Recalling** the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit and reaffirming its importance in setting the broad vision, principles, objectives and modalities of the East Asia Summit (EAS).

**Recalling also** our commitment in the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration on the Commemoration of the Fifth Anniversary of the East Asia Summit to redouble efforts to move progress and cooperation in priority areas of the EAS and other wider regional economic integration efforts including studies on East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia (CEPEA).



**Underlining** our common vision of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in East Asia.

**Desirous** of consolidating and strengthening the EAS on the basis of its established principles, objectives and modalities.

**Reaffirming** ASEAN as the driving force in the EAS, working in close partnership with the other participants of the EAS.

**Reiterating Also** that the EAS is an integral part of the evolving regional architecture which includes other mutually-reinforcing processes such as ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+). **FINAL DRAFT**

**Welcoming** the participation of the Russian Federation and the United States of America at the East Asia Summit.

**Recognizing** that the international law of the sea contains crucial norms that contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

**Desirous also** of creating a peaceful environment for further enhancing cooperation and strengthening the existing bonds of friendship among our countries in keeping with the principles of equality, partnership, consultation, and mutual respect thereby contributing to peace and stability, and prosperity in the region and the world at large.

**Do hereby declare** that the EAS participating countries are guided by the following principles for friendly and mutually beneficial relations:

- Enhancement of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity.
- Respect for International law.
- Enhancement of mutual understanding, mutual trust and friendship.
- Promotion of good neighborliness, partnership and community building.
- Promotion and maintenance of peace, stability, security and prosperity.
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of another country.
- Renunciation of the threat of use of force or use of force against another state, consistent with the UN Charter.
- Recognition and respect for the diversity of ethnic, religious, cultural traditions and values, as well as diversity of views and positions, including by promoting the voices of moderation.

- Enhancement of regional resilience, including in the face of economic shocks and natural disasters.
- Respect for fundamental freedoms, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the promotion of social justice.
- Settlement of differences and disputes by peaceful means.
- Enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation in the EAS and with other regional fora.

**Adopted** by the Heads of State/Government of the participating countries of the East Asia Summit on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia.



## **ASEM**

### **073. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Afghan situation at ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting.**

**Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.**

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor to speak on Afghanistan.

Before I do that, may I also thank Hungary, our most gracious hosts for their hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting of ASEM Foreign Ministers.

Madam Chairperson,

The situation in Afghanistan has a particular impact on the countries of the region such as ours. Past experience has shown, however, that no country, however distant, can stay immune from the challenge posed by terrorist groups and the safe havens that they enjoy. It is imperative for the international community to underline its long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as well as the importance of safeguarding the gains made in areas such as democracy and human rights.

The Kabul Conference Communiqué rightly notes the importance of ensuring that terrorists are denied sanctuaries. Continued existence of such

sanctuaries beyond Afghanistan's borders is a major impediment to restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

India has attempted to help Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts as a means to bringing about stability in that country. During our Prime Minister's visit to Afghanistan in May 2011, India announced additional assistance of US \$ 500 million, over and above our existing commitments which are almost 1.5 billion US Dollars. India's assistance projects are spread across Afghanistan and span almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities. India's assistance programme - which is Afghan owned and led - places particular emphasis on capacity building and human resource development, areas which are particularly important as the process of transition unfolds in Afghanistan.

Our vision is for Afghanistan to be a stable and peaceful economic hub linking Central and South Asia through a network of trade, transit and pipelines, for the ultimate benefit of all the countries and peoples in the region. We do not see assistance to Afghanistan's development and reconstruction as a zero sum game. Despite persistent attacks, India has reiterated its determination to fulfill its commitments to the Afghan people and Government as they build a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan.

For peace and stability to be restored in Afghanistan, it is essential that renewed efforts are made to sufficiently enhance the capacity of Afghanistan's own institutions, including the Afghan National Security Forces. This is a necessary prerequisite to achieving the ultimate goal of handing over responsibility to the Afghan side without sacrificing the gains made over the past few years. The importance of dealing with the terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens also becomes important in this context.

As our Prime Minister stated during his visit to Afghanistan, we fully respect the decisions of the Government and people of Afghanistan and recognize the need for a political process which is Afghan-led, inclusive, transparent, and adheres to the 'red-lines' which the Afghan Government and the international community have agreed to. These red lines for reintegration are crucial in the common endeavour of our countries to prevent Afghanistan sliding back to becoming a safe haven for terrorist and extremist groups.

I thank you all.



**074. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Opening Ceremony of ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting.**

**Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011**

I am delighted to be here at Godollo to participate in the ASEM Ministerial meet. ASEM has emerged as an important partnership forum for Asian and European countries, to consult and coordinate positions, on a vast array of subjects of common interest and concern. I look forward to meaningful and constructive discussions with my counterparts, over the next two days. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our gracious Hungarian hosts, for making immaculate arrangements for the Forum.



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It may be recalled that Asia - Europe partnership forum or ASEM was constituted in 1996, with the first Summit meeting at Bangkok. Since then ASEM has become an important forum of 46 Asian and European countries, in addition to two international organisations viz ASEAN and EU, for exchanging views on a array of subjects, seen as the three pillars of ASEM cooperation - i.e. political and security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. India has been participating in ASEM Meetings since 2007. Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in the 7th ASEM Summit, for the first time, at Beijing in Oct 2008. Summit and Ministerial meetings are held on biennial basis. India was represented by Vice President Mr. Hamid Ansari, at the 8th ASEM Summit in Brussels in October last year. The next Summit will take place in Vientiane (Lao PDR) in October 2012. ASEM countries represent over half of the global population and account for more than half of the global GDP. India's participation at the event underscores India's commitment to play a constructive and proactive role, in further strengthening this vital inter-regional forum.

**075. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on non-traditional security threats at ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting.**

**Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.**

Madam Chairperson,

Non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, illegal drug and arms trafficking, threat of terrorists gaining access to WMDs pose serious challenges to peace and security not only in Asia and Europe but also globally. These challenges can only be addressed through collective effort by the international community. We believe that different multi-lateral processes, including various regional forums dealing with these issues, such as, the ARF and ADMM-Plus, should consolidate international efforts to address these threats.

Terrorism is a truly trans-national menace. Recruiting, planning, financing and training for terror operations can all be done outside the borders of the country which is attacked. Sanctuaries for terror infrastructure outside of our national borders are a continuing concern. Political expediency, short-term gains, geopolitical considerations, faulty analyses, etc. blur clarity on how to address the menace of international terrorism. All terror is unacceptable and has to be tackled comprehensively. A selective approach will not work. Over the past couple of years, we have seen greater understanding amongst the members of the international community that segmented approaches to the problem of terrorism have not worked; nor has the approach of differentiating between lesser and greater evils in this context.

There has to be an international collaboration in the sharing of information, countering the financing of terrorism, building capacity in our anti-terror mechanisms, exchange of best practices and strengthening our mutual legal assistance and extradition regimes. We piloted the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN because we were convinced that existing sectoral conventions left wide gaps in the global anti-terror legal framework. We urge early adoption of this overdue Convention. India is party to all the existing international Conventions on Terrorism. In 2010, we became members of the Financial Action Task Force, the world's premier inter-governmental organisation to monitor standards in anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism. We co-chair the Asia Pacific Group, a FATF styled regional body, for the period 2010-2012 and will be hosting its plenary in Kochi in July 2011. We are fully committed to implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006. We are happy to have assumed chairmanship of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (also known as the 1373 Committee) in January 2011.

India has deep concerns about the nexus between fundamentalism, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

**Madam Chairperson,**

The maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean region continues to be fragile. Non-state threats to maritime security are also on the rise from piracy, smuggling, international terrorism, transnational crimes, drug-trafficking, maritime security and proliferation of sensitive items.

Maritime security is an issue of significant relevance to the growing economies of Asia Pacific Region. The economic growth of the region remains critically dependent on oceanic connectivity and stable maritime environment. It is a fundamental factor in ensuring the welfare and economic security of the region.

Maritime security can be enhanced by transparency, dialogue and cooperation to augment confidence for coordinated response to non-traditional maritime security threats. While addressing the threats posed by non-state actors is important, states themselves must abide by "rules of the road."

Cooperation on maritime security issues could provide the necessary trust and confidence to build a flexible and adaptable Pan Oceanic Security Order for protection of maritime commons.

On the specific challenge posed by Piracy, we feel that it not only threatens the safety and security of maritime trade, but has also brought about much suffering to seafarers and their families.

India is committed to international efforts against piracy. As a founder member of the Contact Group on Piracy, we have contributed to its efforts to counter piracy. Our naval ships deployed in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008 have successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escort to Indian and foreign merchant ships. Indian naval forces have also stepped up their vigil against pirates near our coast. They have apprehended several pirates and rescued hostages being held by them.

It, however, remains a matter of serious concern for us that more than 550 hostages, including 46 Indian nationals, continue to languish in the custody of the pirates. It is important to have greater cooperation among governments for ensuring the safety and early release of the hostages.

India also supports greater involvement of the UN in coordinating international efforts to enhance global anti-piracy efforts. In this regard, India played an important role in the framing and adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1976 (this year), particularly to include references expressing serious concern at the inhuman conditions that hostages faced in captivity, the adverse impact

on their families and calling for the immediate release of all hostages as well as noting the importance of cooperation between member States on the issue of hostage taking.

Madam Chairperson, I thank all of you for allowing me to take the floor.



**076. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the 10th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting.**

**Kuwait, October 10, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation and the excellent arrangements for holding this very important conference in the dynamic city of Kuwait.

India congratulates the State of Kuwait for assuming the Chair of ACD and also compliments the Islamic Republic of Iran for the dynamic stewardship provided during its Chairmanship.

**Excellencies,**

India has been relatively better placed in terms of the impact of the global financial crisis on account of three factors: the inherent strength of its economy, the strength of our domestic consumption and the government's effective action in terms of fiscal stimulus, growth packages and monetary policies. India was, thus, able to achieve a growth rate of 8.6% in 2010-11.

As we look to secure our economies, India would suggest that the ACD focus on energy and food security. We have amongst us here the world's most important energy producers and consumers. We must have a bearing on the global discourse on these issues, particularly since both energy and food security are fundamental to our efforts at sustained economic development. The steep rise in fuel and food prices, volatility in commodity prices and extreme climatic occurrences threaten various development schemes. ACD can be a useful forum to develop cooperative mechanisms to address such issues.

We must also encourage higher investment in agriculture and use of better technologies to meet the nutrition needs of people.

**Mr. Chairman and Excellencies,**

Regarding the second session on investment opportunities and making use of natural resources, allow me to say that the ACD member countries together constitute the biggest aggregate of natural resources in the world. Many of us have strong bilateral relationships for optimum use of our respective natural resources. However, there are many ACD members who require our assistance in terms of technology and know how. We need to cooperate further in this regard.

We should recourse to joint ventures in greater numbers to sustain long term engagement. I would like to mention here Indian private sector's contribution to the economic growth in many of the SAARC, ASEAN, and GCC countries in Asia.

**Excellencies,**

India is committed to the early functioning of the Nalanda University project. We have already received excellent cooperation from some ACD countries. I would like to welcome others to articulate their support. We would suggest that ACD countries look to granting recognition to Nalanda's degrees as a signal of support to this historical icon of Asian renaissance.

**Excellencies,**

The linkage between technology, transport and environment is becoming increasingly relevant. I hope that this session will encourage interested ACD countries to come together for the development of competencies and capacities.

India has been a strong supporter of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. The global effort must be anchored to the basic principles of "equity" and "common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities". The introduction of trade related protectionist measures in the form of carbon tariffs should be discouraged because it will only lead to "green protectionism". Further work is required for strengthening weak mitigation pledges by developed countries, preventing unilateral trade actions in the name of climate change, and constructive dialogue on IPRs for technology development and transfer.

Despite our huge developmental challenges, we have set ourselves ambitious targets through a National Action Plan on Climate Change, including through



commitments to keep the per capita emissions below the average of those in the developed countries and to reduce emissions intensity of India's GDP by 20 to 25% by 2020 as compared to 2005.

**Mr. Chairman and Excellencies,**

Finally I would like to mention here that as prime mover on transport linkages, India again requests ACD partner countries for their comments on the concept paper that was circulated by us during the 8th Ministerial Meeting in Colombo in 2009. This would enable us to take cooperation forward in this important sector.

Thank you very much.



**BIMSTEC**

**077. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Plenary of the 13th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting.**

**Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) January 22, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr.U Nyan Win,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to express my profound appreciation to our host, the Foreign Minister of Myanmar, for the excellent arrangements made for the 13th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Excellency,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the proposal to host the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in Myanmar this year. I would like to assure that India would be happy and willing to offer all support to make this Summit a success.

Mr Chairman,

I have been informed that the deliberations over the past two days have been fruitful. Significant progress has been made on various areas including on the

establishment of the permanent Secretariat. Today we would also be signing the MoA on the establishment of the BIMSTEC Energy Center in India. I would like to commend the leadership provided by you and your team in enabling us to achieve this progress and to BIMSTEC since assuming the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC.

The challenge confronting all of us today is to achieve an inclusive economic growth. The recent financial crisis has shown that such an ambitious target can be met only by enhancing cooperation amongst ourselves. Today when the countries of the region are leading the global recovery, we need to further intensify this cooperation process to harness the synergies that exist amongst ourselves for the betterment of our people.

BIMSTEC countries have a population of 1.5 billion constituting 21% of world population and a combined GDP of over US\$ 1.8 trillion. Despite these impressive figures, intra-BIMSTEC trade is less than 5%. With the increasing protectionist measures and reduction in trade as a result of sluggish growth in the developed economies, the need for re-directing and promoting trade amongst ourselves has been strongly felt. Hence I would urge the early conclusion of the BIMSTEC FTA negotiations including on Services and Investment. A need has also been felt to strengthen and support the participation of the private sector in this process.

#### **Your Excellencies,**

Recognizing the importance of the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study, the 12th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting endorsed the Study. We should now collectively work on the implementation of the action plan and expedite the meeting of the Expert Groups.

Connectivity is vital to take forward our cooperation process. Hence I am happy to inform that India hosted the sixth conference of Railways of South and South East Asia in March 2010. We also continue to train railway personnel in India at Asian Institute of Transport Development, New Delhi. I am also happy to inform that India would be expanding this training program and would be conducting a workshop cum training program on Highways and ports with emphasis on public - private partnership in the development of this key infrastructure.

We recognize the impact that oil-price volatility, over dependence on fossil fuels, and unsustainable energy consumption patterns have on climate and on our region's economies and people's well being. The potential of natural gas, hydropower and renewable energy available in the region needs to be harnessed for mutual benefit of members. In this context, I was particularly happy to note

that to expedite the establishment of BIMSTEC Energy Center, the MOA on the establishment of the Energy Center is proposed to be signed today. India is hosting the meeting of taskforce on BIMSTEC Energy Centre and Senior officials meeting on 7-8 February 2011. They would surely help early operationalisation of the Energy Centre.

### **Excellencies,**

We have to be on guard against those who are out to exploit our connectivity for their own nefarious and unacceptable ends. Terrorists and their backers, those behind illegal financial flows, trafficking drugs are some of them. They pose significant challenge to all of us and we need to act in concert to defeat these threats. Hence I would like to urge our partners to ratify the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking that was signed in the last Ministerial meeting. This would provide the legal framework to our law enforcement authorities to cooperate in combating the scourge of terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

In order to further strengthen cooperation in this critical area, I would also like to propose taking up negotiations on the Draft BIMSTEC Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and give the mandate to the Sub group on legal and law enforcement issues to initiate discussions on this important Agreement.

BIMSTEC countries share a history of common natural hazards which, more often than not, transcend geographical boundaries to affect many of us. Flood, Cyclone, drought, earthquake and tsunami have become shared risks for all countries in the region. Hence we will be happy to support capacity building in this important area in our BIMSTEC partners. We are also taking steps to expedite establishment of BIMSTEC centre on Weather and Climate. I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that India would be conducting workshops on Seasonal Predictions and application to Society and on Climate change and disasters.

Agriculture and Fisheries provide livelihoods to majority of the populations of BIMSTEC Countries. I am happy to note that the third expert group on agriculture met in Kandy, Sri Lanka in November 2010 to discuss cooperation in this area. I can hardly overemphasize the importance of cooperation in this area for the common good of our peoples.

We face increasing challenge from emerging and reemerging diseases. We need to pool together our technical and scientific knowledge to combat these challenges. India shares its experience in traditional medicine with its fellow

BIMSTEC partners in the spirit of South-South cooperation. I am happy to inform that India would be conducting a workshop on IPRs in Traditional Medicines in April this year.

In order to support capacity building and share expertise India has been offering over 450 scholarships annually to BIMSTEC Countries. I am happy to note that the utilization rate is over 80%.

For our cooperation in BIMSTEC to deepen and strengthen, it is important that it goes beyond government-to-government realms. In this context, it gives me satisfaction to note that India hosted the 1st meeting of BIMSTEC Network of Think Tanks in February, 2010. We are charting further course of action after getting feedback on the report from member countries and from partner think tanks.

Tourism is an important and growing sector in our economies. India has established BIMSTEC Information centre and contributed its share of US\$ 10,000 for BIMSTEC Tourism Fund. This Centre will help disseminate information regarding tourist destinations in the member countries to give impetus to growth of tourism. I would urge our partners in the BIMSTEC to expedite their contribution to the Tourism Fund and also provide relevant material to enable effective functioning of the Information Center.

**Mr. Chairman,**

BIMSTEC has made sure and steady progress during the last 13 years. The establishment of the Permanent Secretariat will help in implementing and monitoring the activities under BIMSTEC better. I would like to congratulate Bangladesh for becoming the host to the Permanent Secretariat. The role of the Secretary General is critical in providing dynamism to this cooperation and we would like to thank Sri Lanka for agreeing to take on this responsibility and nominate the first Secretary General.

We have taken many initiatives to enhance the multifaceted cooperation within BIMSTEC. We should task our Senior Officials to review these initiatives and suggest further course of action for their early completion.

Before I conclude, I would also like to congratulate Nepal on taking over the next Presidency of the BIMSTEC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



## BRICS

### **078. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the meeting of Ministers of BRICS countries.**

**Paris, February 19, 2011.**

At the outset let me extend a very warm welcome to our South Africa Colleague to our platform. The BRIC platform has demonstrated to the world that although the BRICS are located in different continents, and have vastly different economic structures, they can come together and cooperate to enhance global economic outcomes. And now with South Africa joining us, we are further enriched further and enabled to take a more cohesive policy stance in various forums.

**G 20 Framework and mutual assessment:** The global recovery is still fragile and uneven. We are faced with significant downside risks arising from tensions in the euro area periphery spreading to other regions, high commodity prices and inflationary conditions in our countries. Policy coordination is critical for sustaining the economic recovery. The crisis showed us the fruit of working together for policy cooperation. This is just as true for the recovery.

International economic policy coordination through the G20 framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth holds the key to sustaining the global recovery. The Leader's Declaration at Seoul clearly focused on 'promoting external sustainability' within the spirit of multilateral cooperation. Our Leaders were careful enough to recognise that such an exercise should focus on persistent and excessive imbalances. As co-chair, we are concerned that the task of preparing guidelines and the ensuing MAP process should not be seen as one that would be used to shape country specific policies in a manner that one size fits all. The objective is clearly of framing a set of 'indicative' guidelines that all G 20 countries will agree upon in the interest of reducing excessive external imbalances that stand in the way of raising global growth on a sustainable basis.

Most members have agreed to a 2 stage approach in the Working Group. However, a G 20 style consensus is yet to be arrived at. Some outstanding issues regarding agreeing on indicators also remain. At the same time we need to proceed keeping in view the spirit of cooperation within a multilateral framework and recognizing that this is needed not only in the interest of the global economy but also in the interest of individual economies regardless of their size or their current rate of growth.

We also need to be cognizant of another kind of glaring developmental imbalance, including the sheer lack of physical and social infrastructure in developing countries and LICs. The Multilateral Development Banks have a

wealth of experience and expertise in the area of infrastructure financing. The high level panel on infrastructure financing being set up under G20 Development agenda could, inter alia, focus on the manner in which global surpluses could be productively channeled into financing infrastructure investment in developing countries through the modality of Multilateral Development Banks. We should stand committed to ensure sufficient resources for MDBs.

**BRIC Study:** Friends, a decision was taken in the Meeting of 'BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' in London on September 4, 2009, wherein the BRIC Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors resolved to commission a study by their Finance Ministries and Central Banks regarding where the world economy will be in the near future and the role of the BRIC countries. To take this special relationship further forward, I propose to include South Africa in this study.

The report is a joint and concerted effort by BRIC countries. So even though India is anchoring and is in charge of compilation and writing the report, inputs and comments have been sought from all the BRIC countries in every stage of the study. However, I am informed that greater cooperation from our Russian Colleagues is desired in the drafting of the report. I sincerely expect that the report will bring BRICS countries to work together for stronger cooperation and provide the platform for sharing best practices and challenges. Having agreed on the design of the report during the first workshop held in New Delhi in September, for which the first draft of the report was circulated in December 2010, we should start working on the final stage of the study by actually finalizing the draft report and providing comments to the anchor, which at present have been given only by Brazil working group members.

Friends, for completing the task by March end 2011 and its final release in April 2011 during the BRICS Summit in Beijing, we need your cooperation. Finally, I would like to appeal to the Working Group members of each country to produce a quality document that our Leaders should be proud of.



**079. Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh and Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visit to China for the BRICS Summit and Kazakhstan for the Bilateral Summit.**

**New Delhi, April 11, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you and let me extend you a warm welcome to the Media Hall. Good to see you here in numbers.

I am particularly happy and delighted to have our media friends from nine African countries with us here. They are in New Delhi on a familiarization and training programme. On behalf of all my colleagues in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian media, let me accord you a very warm welcome. Thank you for being with us. And also a warm welcome to Prof. Shrivastava, the Course Director from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, who has been a steadfast friend of MEA and has been conducting training programmes for visiting media teams on a regular basis.

You are aware that the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, would be leaving tomorrow for Sanya in China for the third BRIC Summit. Thereafter, he would be travelling to Astana for the India Kazakhstan bilateral summit meeting. We have Mr. Manbir Singh, Secretary (Economic Relations) to my right here, who will give you a perspective on Prime Minister's visit to Sanya. To his right is Secretary (East), Mr. Sanjay Singh, who would next like to brief you about the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Astana. Let me also introduce two of my other colleagues who have joined us. To the right of Secretary (East) is Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia), who inter alia handles Kazakhstan. And to my left is Mr. Charanjit Singh, Director (MER). I would request Secretary (ER) to speak to you about Prime Minister's visit to Sanya.

**Secretary (Economic Relations) (Shri Manbir Singh):** Thank you, Vishnu. Let me at the outset thank all of you for coming here this afternoon for this briefing on the Prime Minister's visit for the BRICS to Sanya and for his visit to Kazakhstan. Like JS(XP), I would also like to welcome specially our African friends. And it is very appropriate that they are over here today because the BRIC for the first time would be having South Africa as part of their BRICS conference in Sanya.

To begin with let me say that the Prime Minister is visiting Sanya, China from 12th to 15th April, on the invitation of His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of China. He will be accompanied by Shrimati Gursharan Kaur. The other senior members of the delegation would include Commerce and Industries Minister, Mr. Anand Sharma; Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; National Security

Advisor; and other senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office and from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Prime Minister will also be accompanied by a media delegation, a business delegation including representatives from the FICCI and the CII, and they will be attending the BRICS Business Forum separately. The forthcoming BRICS Summit is the third in a row. The first one took place in Yekaterinburg in Russia on June 2009, the second took place in Brasilia in April 2010, and now Sanya. All BRIC Summits are important but this is particularly so. And I will say that for two reasons. Firstly, we will have an additional member from Africa, which is South Africa; and also we have four members of the BRICS who are members of the Security Council. Sorry, I said four. All five members of the BRICS are members of the Security Council.

The programme which will begin on the 14th starts with a Group Photograph. The Prime Minister and the other BRICS leaders will be there. Then there will be a restricted session. In the restricted session there are four main topics that the Chinese hosts have underlined for discussions. These are: (1) the international situation at the present time, (2) international economic and financial issues, (3) the development issues, and (4) the cooperation amongst BRICS countries. This restricted session would be for about 80 minutes and then they will go in for the plenary. Plenary will be open to the press and the Plenary theme is, "Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity". Each of the BRICS leaders would be expected to speak for about six or seven minutes on this particular subject - Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity.

Thereafter there will be a Joint Press Conference. And at the Joint Press Conference again each of the BRICS leaders will be expected to make a short statement of how he has viewed the various agenda items and the discussions that have taken place. There would be a welcome banquet hosted by the President Mr. Hu Jintao. And in the evening there would be a cultural programme.

During this BRICS Summit, the Prime Minister will have bilateral meetings with all his counterparts - China, Brazil, South Africa and the Russian Federation. There are some accompanying events for the BRICS Summit. The BRICS Trade Ministers will be meeting. Mr. Anand Sharma will be accompanying the Prime Minister and he will participate in the BRICS Trade Ministers meeting. As I already mentioned, there will be a delegation of businessmen from the FICCI and the CII. They will be attending the BRICS Business Forum.

Then there is a track II. Meetings also take place before or after the BRICS summit. In this particular summit, a BRICS track II meeting took place in Beijing on the 24th and the 25th of March, 2011. A six-member Indian delegation had



participated in it. The six-member Indian delegation came from the Observer Research Foundation, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, and Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations. The theme for the Business Forum as well as that of the think tanks is how to take stock of the international trade and commercial situation and how to promote economic interaction between the BRIC countries.

As far as the outcome is concerned, there will be a Sanya Declaration. And of course this declaration will depend on the discussions that take place between the leaders of the BRICS countries. The Trade Ministers are likely to issue a Joint Press Release on the 13th of April. And there will be a second edition of BRICS statistical publication which would be released in Sanya. There is also a proposal that the BRICS Business Forum would sign an MoU on establishment of BRICS contact points so that amongst the BRICS countries there are contact points where they can pass on information in regard to trade, investment, etc.

As far as the BRICS background is concerned, everybody knows and I do not have to repeat that, it was first used in 2001 by Goldman Sachs as part of an economic modeling exercise to forecast global economic trends over the next half century. BRICS is important by itself because together it commands about 26 per cent of world's geographic area, 40 per cent of the global population of the world, and 22 per cent of the global GDP. BRICS countries have also been amongst the fastest growing economies in the world with tremendous potential.

Over the last three years since the summit meetings have begun we have seen that there has been a very intensive interaction amongst the BRIC countries. You have had the Foreign Ministers meeting almost on a yearly basis on the sidelines of the UNGA in September in New York; you have had meetings of the National Security Advisors; you have had meetings of the Agriculture Ministers; you have had meetings of the Finance Ministers and the Chiefs of the Central Banks; you have had interaction between the statistical institutions; you have also had meetings of the mayors from one country each from the BRICS and the Mayor of Mumbai has been representing India. The Mayors are talking about how to promote education and commerce between their main towns, and also they are talking about science and technology.

The Track II is also proceeding very well as I told you. They just had a meeting. They are also trying to see how the BRICS can be consolidated and what sort of work chart or what sort of programme they should have.

The other issues that the BRICS has been dealing with have been issues before the G20, Brettonwood Institutions, trade protectionism, and the Doha Development Round, international terrorism, achievement of Millennium Development Goals, support for multipolar, equitable and democratic world

order, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action, and collective decision-making of all states.

The Prime Minister had said that the BRICS Finance Ministries should get together and make a study of the world economy and see how the BRICS countries together can help in the growth and development of the world economy and what kind of a charter they would have within the world economy. So, the Ministry of Finance has had some meetings with representatives of all the BRIC countries and the report was ready. But now since South Africa is also going to join in Sanya, they will wait for the report for the next year after including the inputs from South Africa as well.

**Official Spokesperson:** Can I request Secretary (East) to kindly make his opening statement?

**Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh):** Good afternoon. At the outset let me also recognize the presence of our friends from Africa and specially recognize the presence of the press delegation from Kazakhstan which is here with us this afternoon on that side.

On the second leg of his tour, Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Kazakhstan on 15-16 April at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. This would be the Prime Minister's first visit to Kazakhstan and his second to Central Asia after his visit to Uzbekistan in 2006.

President Nazarbayev is a long standing friend of India. He last visited India as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations in 2009. He had previously visited India three times in 1992, 1996 and 2002.

Apart from bilateral visits, the two leaders have met on several occasions on the margins of multilateral events. In recent times, they met on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Yekaterinburg in June 2009, and on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit exactly one year ago on 11th April 2010 in Washington.

President Nazarbayev has recently been re-elected in Presidential elections on 3rd April and has been inaugurated in his new term on Friday, 8th April. Prime Minister has sent a letter congratulating President Nazarbayev on his latest electoral victory.

The programme on Saturday, 16th April, will be that after an official welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace, the Prime Minister will have a restricted meeting with President Nazarbayev followed by delegation-level interaction. The two leaders will then interact with the media before attending an official luncheon. PM will also meet Prime Minister of Kazakhstan His Excellency Mr. Karim K. Massimov. Some agreements are expected to be signed. The Prime

Minister will be accompanied by the National Security Advisor and other senior officials.

Kazakhstan is a key regional country in Asia with a global role and has been playing an important part in promoting regional peace and stability. Kazakhstan was the first Chairman from Central Asia in 2010 of the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe). It is the current Chair of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) and has been a major driver of the CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia). CICA, as you may know, is an important Central Asia-led forum in which India is a full member. The then Indian Prime Minister had attended the CICA Summit in 2002 in Almaty.

I would like to now give some background on India-Kazakhstan relationship. We have had historical linkages with Central Asia, which is a part of our extended neighbourhood in the north, and Kazakhstan is a key partner in this region, and in 2009, India and Kazakhstan elevated their relationship to a strategic partnership.

India's relationship with Kazakhstan in fact goes back to antiquity. Kazakhstan is sometimes referred to in India as the land of the Sakas. During the period between the 12th and 3rd century BC, nomadic Saka tribes are said to have reached India from southern Kazakhstan. India returned the favour in the second century AD when Buddhism first travelled from India to Central Asia during the reign of the Kushanas. Since then, the Silk Route has led to a vigorous exchange of not just commodities but also ideas and knowledge. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru accompanied by Shrimati Indira Gandhi had visited Almaty in 1955.

India was one of the first countries to recognise Kazakhstan after it became an independent country in 1991 and opened an Embassy in 1992 in Almaty. Subsequently, the capital of Kazakhstan shifted from Almaty to Astana in 1997, and the Indian Embassy also moved there in 2007.

Our relationship has been marked by a robust exchange of high-level visits and also by an effective bilateral institutional mechanism. We have a large number of bilateral agreements in place in a range of sectors.

Kazakhstan has been supportive of India's candidature to the expanded UNSC. We have a convergence of views on key issues like counterterrorism and coordinate closely in multilateral bodies such as the United Nations. Our political dialogue is likely to deepen in the years ahead.

We have also been a development partner of Kazakhstan and have assisted in capacity-building in Kazakhstan. Since 1992, over 800 Kazakh officials as also defence personnel have received training in various fields under the ITEC

program. Over 120 students have studied in India under other Government scholarship schemes. The areas of interest for Kazakh students are English language proficiency, IT, banking, and small business.

Energy is another important sector of cooperation with Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is one of the largest oil producing nations in the world with substantive proven reserves in the Caspian Sea basin. In recent years, ONGC Videsh Ltd, has been in discussion with its counterpart, Kazmunai Gaz (KMG) for an equity stake by OVL in the Satpayev Oil block in the Caspian Sea. We also cooperate in the area of civil nuclear energy.

Bilateral trade at around US\$ 300 million in 2010 is well below potential. A key constraint to the development of trade is connectivity, and we hope to discuss ways of overcoming this problem by focusing on the International North South Trade Corridor. This is a multi modal route which would connect Kazakhstan to India through Turkmenistan and Iran. We will be discussing this issue with the Kazakh side.

Punjab National Bank has acquired controlling stake in a local Kazakh bank, Dana Bank, and three out of five branches have already started functioning. This is likely to be named PNB Kazakhstan. Other areas of promise include information technology, pharmaceuticals and agriculture, to name a few.

We also look at further enhancing people-to-people contacts by holding Days of Kazakhstan in India this year and Days of India in Kazakhstan next year. Prime Minister's visit will place our strategic relationship on a firmer footing and qualitatively expand the scope of our cooperation. Thank you.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Sir.

Secretary (ER) and Secretary (East) will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** My question is addressed to Secretary (ER). What are the agenda items for India in BRICS?

**Secretary (ER):** The key agenda items, as I already mentioned, are the international situation, and India would like to discuss the international situation and understand the viewpoints of the other countries from the BRICS. We also had a recession in 2008 and the countries are coming out of it. There is some problem with regard to inflation in many countries the world over. There is volatility in commodity prices. Therefore, international and economic and financial issues are , a second agenda item but it is an agenda item that is important which India would like to discuss. Then there are the development issues. We are a developing country. So, the Millennium Development Goals, the climate change programmes, these are the issues that will come up. Also

the trade, the Doha Round and also cooperation amongst the BRIC countries. I had mentioned to you that over the last three years how rapidly we have moved in having various meetings and exchanging views and arriving at understandings on the world issues. So, these are all very important agenda items in which India would participate very actively.

**Question:** This was in general terms. But are you going raise to any specific issue? Is India going to make any specific proposal?

**Secretary (ER):** These agenda items were discussed by the Chinese hosts with all the big countries in advance. They have sent their Sherpa here to Delhi and these agenda items have been finalized after intensive discussions.

**Question:** In Kazakhstan, which exactly are the documents you are hoping to have signed there, in which areas?

**JS (ERS) :** Yevgeny, as you know we do not talk of outcomes that are expected from the visit. We are working on a number of documents. Discussions are going on, as Secretary mentioned, in a wide range of areas. And you will know of the outcomes on the 16th once we discuss them.

**Question:** There are a number of international economic fora in which the west especially America have asked Beijing, China to revalue its currency citing that the current Yuan regime gives Beijing an unfair advantage in trade. Once the BRICS summit starts, is it also an issue that you are going to raise against China?

**Secretary (ER):** That is not an issue that we are going to raise. It is for the China to decide what they want to do with their currency and how it is place in the world economic order and how it is valued with other currencies and what are its pros and cons.

**Question:** The Track II meeting in Beijing has suggested that BRICS should now consider having a regular Secretariat. Right now it functions without Secretariat. Is a Secretariat likely to be established? If so, where is it likely to be? Is India going to offer to host it?

Secondly, I think BRICS summit correspondents seem to suggest that the Chinese came up with an idea that the BRICS countries should have their own exchange arrangement as an alternative to the US dollar. What are India's views on the subject?

**Secretary (ER):** As far as the Secretariat is concerned, the issue if it comes up will be before the leaders and it is for them to take a decision on this. You are very right, the BRICS has functioned without a Secretariat. It has functioned

very satisfactorily so far. And we have to see what is the future course for this organization and whether the Secretariat will be useful. But to answer your question, no decision has been taken on this yet.

As regards the exchange arrangement, yes the EXIM Banks of all the BRICS countries have been talking to each other and they have been looking at how to promote trade between two countries. We have not looked as an alternative to any currency because as you know that dollar or the euro or the yen, these are freely exchangeable currencies, and the currencies of the BRICS countries are yet to reach that stage. So, it requires a lot of pros and cons to be studied. But the EXIM Banks of all the countries are focusing on it and they are seeing how that trade and economic interaction can be. Thereafter it will require to see whether all these issues are compatible with your national laws, with your central banks, etc. So, it is a process that will take some time.

**Question:** In addition to that question of a Secretariat not being established, what is the mechanism that has been evolved for these summits in order to coordinate among the member countries?

**Secretary (ER):** As I pointed out to you, apart from the summits that are taking place, there are External Affairs Ministers who are meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly. There are the National Security Advisors who are meeting on a regular basis. So, there is no dearth of fora or meetings where any issue that any particular or a group of countries feel is important, it can be raised. So, there are number of options available for raising these issues amongst the BRICS countries.

**Question:** My question is the turmoil in the Arab world and North Africa have raised the petrol prices which has a negative impact on the growth especially of the region of BRICS you are talking about. Do you have any plan, a proactive plan, to counter such measures or what is the axis would you like to see of these countries to have more diversified source of energy to tackle this problem? Or whether this problem of the North Africa and the Gulf countries will come for discussion in more active manner, as it is a priority issue at the moment?

**Secretary (ER):** Energy is a very important issue before the BRICS countries and energy security is something that the BRICS countries would like to discuss. There is a feeling of uncertainty in some of the oil-producing countries which has led to a rise in price. But these issues I am sure will be discussed by our leaders, but I cannot preempt what they will discuss. This is an important issue; this is an issue that has been flagged by a number of countries. So, I expect that it may come up.

**Question:** You said India will not talk about the Yuan. But is it not on the formal agenda, the Chinese currency? Secondly, the G20 has just finalized a

tentative deal on economic indicators in the Paris meeting. Is there going to be any progress on the economic indicators? ... (Inaudible)...

**Secretary (ER):** Both the issues that you have raised are not specifically on the BRICS agenda. But the leaders, under the various agenda items, are free to raise whatever they feel is important.

**Question:** As China is hosting this BRICS summit and India is participating with so many agenda items and you have been able to find so many areas where you can have cooperation with these countries, how will you expect that we will have some improvement in Indo-China relations with the help of the summit? And how do you view the present state of relations?

**Secretary (ER):** The BRICS is an organization of emerging countries which are doing very well economically, and they want to contribute to the world economy and also try and find out ways and means to overcome problems that arise in the financial domain, in the energy security, in the food security, etc. But, this forum also gives an opportunity for the leaders to have bilateral talks to meet each other and these bilateral talks promote understanding, promote each other's viewpoint, lead to a greater acceptance of what the other person is saying. So, I would say that though BRICS is not directly aimed at promoting bilateral ties, the bilateral ties are a spin off of all the BRICS meetings.

**Official Spokesperson:** If I can just add to what Secretary (ER) has said, China is one of our most important neighbours. This is a relationship which is very important to us. We already have a strategic and cooperative partnership with China. And the canvass of our cooperation is quite wide. We have growing convergences with China. One of the hallmarks of the relationship is regular high-level exchanges. You know that Hon. President of India had been on a state visit to China last year. Premier Wen Jiabao had been to India in December. And as Secretary (ER) has mentioned, one of the important meetings on the margins of the BRICS summit would be the one between the Prime Minister of India and President Hu Jintao. So, this is a very important relationship and we both sides have been making all efforts to try and enhance convergences between the two countries.

**Question:** You just talked about the bilateral meeting that was scheduled on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. I just wanted to ask you a question related to China's continuous assistance to Pakistan. In fact, off late what we have learnt is that they have signed a deal with Pakistan promising six submarines and four aircraft. This had raised eyebrows in South Block earlier also. Will this be on the agenda of the Prime Minister during that bilateral meeting?

**Official Spokesperson:** When the leaders meet, they have a very broad canvass of subjects that they discuss. But obviously it is not possible to prejudge what they would be discussing.

**Question:** Already BRIC has become BRICS. So, it is plural now. Can Indonesia be a new member in the near future in this group?

**Secretary (ER):** Indonesia is a very influential country. It is a fast emerging country. It exercises a very stabilizing influence in the area where it is geographically located. Such a proposal is not before the BRICS today. But Indonesia is a very good candidate. What I can say is that for the present, the BRIC is looking at ways how it can consolidate the interaction between each other, the BRICS countries, how they can promote the various sectoral dialogues, the various programmes that they have.

**Question:** How do you see the relevance of IBSA with South Africa joining BRICS?

**Secretary (ER):** BRICS member countries are fast emerging countries, economies wise. And as far as IBSA is concerned, it is a group of three countries which is democratic, plural, and has other values which are common to them. Therefore, you have one which is focusing more on economics but slowly moving to other areas as well; and there is IBSA which have, there is a common democratic principles which guide the three countries. And therefore, those values are being promoted in the IBSA forum. So, there is some difference between the two organizations and I do not think that South Africa's membership of one and then also of the second will in any way diminish IBSA in any way.

**Question:** Secretary (ER), I would like you to make a comment on our Nigeria. At a recent interaction with the Indian High Commissioner at Nigeria, Mahesh Sachdev, he said that there is a lopsided bilateral trade relationship between India and Nigeria. I would like to know if you have plans any time soon to boost this relationship with a view to achieving a balance sort of.

**Secretary (ER):** Wherever in the world you have a trade balance which is distorted in favour of one country, it is the efforts of that country which has an adverse trade balance to readdress it. And this is done by trade facilitation; it is done by sending more delegations to that country so that if the trade balance is not balanced then its exports grow. So, Nigeria is an oil-exporting country. I personally do not know what the trade balance is between Nigeria and India but I am sure that our High Commissioner is looking into it and I am sure your Government itself is sensitive to it.

**Question:** My first question is this. Considering your major goal which is to contribute to the growth of the global economy, currently 22 per cent of the



global GDP comes from BRIC countries. And looking at your goal, which is to contribute to the global GDP growth, do you think such goal can be achieved in isolation of African countries?

The second question is this. What strategic initiatives are you in India going to venture into in favour of African countries in the medium to long-term?

**Secretary (ER):** If you see the growth rate of almost all the BRIC countries, it is fairly good. They have sound economies. The criteria which brought them together was, the basis was this, their economic growth rate. Now the leaders, apart from enjoying a good economic growth rate also want to contribute to the world economy and see how that issues that come up can be resolved, how they can contribute in solving them. But if your question is that if BRICS by itself can lift the world economy, I do not know. That remains to be seen. But that there is definitely a good efforts towards that to lift the growth rates to generate trade, to generate investment, to see that the fluctuation in the foreign exchange regime is reduced, to see how inflation can be tackled, how food security, how energy security, what is the reforms of the international monetary systems, all these issues are relevant to the stability of the world economy and the BRICS definitely want to contribute towards the stability of the world economy and find solutions, solutions that are not only acceptable to them but acceptable to all the countries.

The second question on whether there can be any special criteria or strategies for growth in Africa, the United Nations itself has made the Millennium Development Goals a criteria for development, in health, in education, in poverty eradication. And the BRICS are going to focus on how much of MDGs have been achieved and if they have not been achieved, what are the lacuna, what are the shortcomings, how can these goals be reinforced, how more money can be made available. So, these are issues that would contribute towards development in Africa.

**Official Spokesperson:** I would just like to add a bit about India's relationship with Africa. Let me say at the outset that we have had civilisational linkages with Africa. There are a large number of Indian people who see Africa as their home. And we have always been a developmental partner of Africa. We are ourselves a developing country but we have been quite open to, quite ready to work with Africa, according to the needs and priorities of the African continent and the countries concerned. And I would like to emphasise that point. We are very clear in our minds that Africa as a continent, the region, and each country knows what is best for them; what are their developmental priorities. And we respond to the wishes of, the priorities of our African friends in terms of working with him especially in three areas - in capacity-building, in human resource development, and also in development of infrastructure.

Now you would recall that we had a very important event in April 2008, the first India-Africa Forum Summit that took place in New Delhi. As decided by our African friends, the second India-Africa Forum Summit would be held in Addis Ababa in May this year. During the first summit meeting, amongst others it was decided that India will extend 5.4 billion dollars as lines of credit to our African friends, in addition to providing 600 million dollars as grants for setting up centres of excellence and so on. We are well on our way to achieving each and every target. And I would again like to point out that the centres of excellence, the educational institutions, the Pan African E-Network project, all are being done according to the advice and suggestions of our African partners.

Let me just add a word here about the media relationship, and that brings me to the invitation that we have extended to all of you to visit India. We see that there is an information gap about the opportunities that India has in Africa and vice versa. And that is what we are trying to bridge. I am happy to tell you that every year we have been inviting groups of African journalists on familiarization tours and on training programmes, and also having Indian journalists go to Africa.

**Question:** Will we raise the issue of the Chinese presence in PoK and the stapled visas issue?

**Official Spokesperson:** I have already responded to that question that the Prime Minister and the President would meet. When the President and the Prime Minister meet, they have a broad canvass. So, I am not aware of what exactly would be discussed.

**Question:** What kind of view that Prime Minister will carry to Sanya for the future of BRICS summit? Does that necessary for a great country to develop a closer organization for the common interest of this country, especially under now there is the international ... like the western countries have done in the Middle-East.

**Secretary (ER):** This is a question actually which should be addressed to the Prime Minister himself. But I can only say from the Ministry of External Affairs perspective we view the BRICS grouping very positively and we are very happy that China is holding the third BRICS summit. And I know that with what pains China has drafted the programme, agenda, the side events that are taking place. We go there with a very positive viewpoint. We want to consolidate this organization. We feel that it has a very good future and it is a very good forum where the six countries can discuss various issues which are before the world. So, we take a very positive attitude and we are very hopeful for a very meaningful outcome of this summit.

**Question:** In the international chapter that will be discussed in Beijing, will the Libyan crisis be one of the points given the fact also that all the BRICS countries were abstaining on the UN resolution on intervention in Libya? Secondly, it has already been decided that BRICS in Beijing? Is it decided that the name of the group will be BRICS and not BRIC any more with the arriving of South Africa? We are saying that but it is not clear whether it would be BRICS.

**Secretary (ER):** I think with the inclusion of South Africa, the BRIC will become BRICS but formal change will happen at the summit itself because this is the first summit that is going to be attended by South Africa. As far as the other question that you had raised about Libya, I think it is an extremely important issue and it is an issue that affects everybody, all the BRICS countries. They have a viewpoint on it. India had a large number of people in Libya. Therefore, I would feel that this issue would come up to be discussed by the BRICS leaders.

**Official Spokesperson:** Just a factual bit. It was BRIC countries which had abstained, all BRICS had not.

**Question:** There have been reports for quite some time that China has started given again the normal visas for Kashmiris. Are these reports correct? Has the problem been quietly solved? And are we going back to resuming military exchanges?

**Official Spokesperson:** Let me take you back to the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao. You would recall that the issue of visas had come up during the visit and it had been agreed that both sides would be meeting, would be putting our heads together, would discuss this issue to work towards an early resolution. That is where the matter is. On the other issue also, we are looking at ways and means as always to enhance our relationship to widen the canvas of our cooperation, and that effort will continue.

**Question:** After three years it has a very wide agenda and has a slow progress. What particular does India expect from this particular summit? Is there any new idea ...(Unclear)...

**Secretary (ER):** We are expecting a very good exchange of views, a promotion of understanding between the BRICs countries, a discussion on issues that confront the world whether they be of an economic nature or political nature. As I have said two, three times already, we are looking forward to a greater cohesion, consolidation out of the BRICS summit at Sanya. I am sure that the Chinese hosts have prepared it so well, it would be a successful summit.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you verymuch.



**080. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for China for the BRICS Summit and Kazakhstan for a bilateral visit.**

**New Delhi, April 12, 2011.**

I leave today on a visit to China and Kazakhstan.

In China, I will attend the BRICS Leaders Meeting in Sanya being hosted by President Hu Jintao. This is the third Summit of the BRICS grouping since the first stand alone meeting in 2009. This meeting will see the participation for the first time of South Africa. India welcomes South Africa's membership of BRICS, which will provide an African perspective to our deliberations.

I look forward to a wide ranging exchange of views with the BRICS leaders on the state of the world economy and the contribution which BRICS can make in sustaining the process of global economic and financial recovery. The traditional sources of economic growth are still under stress, even as fresh uncertainties have emerged as a result of recent developments in different parts of the world. If we can coordinate our positions on some key areas such as sustainable development, balanced growth, energy and food security, reform of international financial institutions and balanced trade, that will be to our advantage.

Today all BRICS countries are members of the G 20 and the United Nations Security Council. Our experience of working with each other in these forums has been positive and holds promise. This gives the Sanya Summit, whose theme is "Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity", special significance.

During my stay in Sanya I look forward to my meeting with President Hu Jintao. The India-China relationship is a key relationship which has now acquired global significance. I will also have bilateral meetings with Presidents of Russia, Brazil and South Africa. Our relations with these countries are very warm and substantive.

From China, I will travel to Kazakhstan on a bilateral visit at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. This will be my first visit to Kazakhstan. It is an important partner of India in a region which has always displayed special empathy and goodwill towards India. I will build upon the successful visit of President Nazarbayev to India in 2009 and seek to expand the frontiers of our cooperation with that great country. There is immense potential for moving forward in areas such as political and security cooperation, trade and investment, energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, information technology and capacity building. My visit signals India's abiding interest in Central Asia that is rooted in the history and culture of this region.



**081. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Press Conference at the BRICS Summit.**

**Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.**

I would like to thank His Excellency President Hu Jintao for hosting the BRICS Summit in this beautiful city of Sanya. I thank the Government and the people of China for their warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements that have been made.

I would also like to warmly welcome South Africa as a member of BRICS. We have greatly benefited from President Jacob Zuma's wise counsel in our deliberations.

We have had very fruitful discussions at the Summit. We have reviewed the international situation, discussed international economic, financial and trade issues, the challenges of sustainable development, food security, energy security and climate change.

We have adopted the Sanya Declaration and agreed upon an Action Plan to deepen and broaden cooperation among our countries. This is an extremely rich and ambitious agenda. It covers the areas of security, finance, business links, agriculture, health, culture, sports and the green economy.

Our designated banks have signed a framework agreement on financial cooperation which envisages grant of credit in local currencies and cooperation in capital markets and other financial services.

In a short span of two years since our first Summit in 2009, BRICS has thus travelled a long distance.

The quality and durability of the global economic recovery process depends to a great measure on how the BRICS economies perform. We have reason to be satisfied with the management of our economies, but there is no room for complacency. The developments in West Asia and North Africa and the aftermath of the huge tragedy that befell Japan have introduced fresh uncertainties in the global recovery process. At the same time, the world continues to grapple with threats to security from terrorism and piracy.

As members of the G-20, the BRICS countries closely cooperate with the rest of the world. We will continue to do so as we prepare for the next G-20 Summit in France.

It is a unique coincidence that this year all the BRICS countries are also members of the United Nations Security Council. We have therefore agreed to intensify our consultations to address the major economic and political

challenges that face us. An important objective must remain the reform of institutions of global governance to make them truly representative of contemporary realities.

I am deeply encouraged by the consensus among us of the need for an international order that is rule based and respects the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of individual States.

I have invited the BRICS leaders to India for the next BRICS Summit in 2012, and I am happy that they have accepted my invitation.

I once again thank President Hu Jintao for hosting this Summit and for his admirable leadership in guiding it to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.



**082. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the plenary session of BRICS Leaders.**

**Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Hu Jintao,

Your Excellency President Medvedev,

Your Excellency President Dilma Rousseff,

Your Excellency President Zuma,

Distinguished delegates.

The theme of this meeting is "Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity". The Sanya Declaration and the Action Plan that we will be adopting later today outlines the contours of where we would like to be in the years ahead.

For us it is a matter of great satisfaction that a BRICS Summit is taking place for the first time in Asia. The fact that we are meeting in China is equally significant. The balance of power is shifting to the Asia-Pacific region, and China has admirably withstood the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis.

From a geopolitical perspective, the BRICS economies occupy a strategic economic position. They possess a significant percentage of the world's landmass and an even more considerable percentage of the global population. The evolution of BRICS and its broad appeal among all our peoples is a reflection of emerging realities, and full of hope.

The challenge before us is to harness the vast potential that exists among us. We are rich in resources, material and human. We are strengthened by the complementarities of our resource endowments. We share the vision of inclusive growth and prosperity in the world. We stand for a rule-based, stable and predictable global order. We respect each other's political systems and stages of development. We value diversity and plurality. Our priority is the rapid socio-economic transformation of our people and those of the developing world. Our cooperation is neither directed against nor at the expense of anyone.

We have the opportunity to give concrete meaning to the concept of sustainable and balanced development, and produce innovative models of development. We can cooperate in clean and alternative sources of energy and technologies. Nuclear safety has emerged as a major source of concern the world over after the tragedy in Japan. We should cooperate in this area, as well as in disaster relief and management.

We live in an age when science and technology and the growth of human knowledge are becoming major determinants of the power and wealth of nations. We should share our experiences in capacity building, education and skill development.

As large and diverse societies we are vulnerable to new and emerging threats to our security. It is our duty to our citizens that we cooperate in the fight against terrorism, extremism and intolerance and other non-traditional threats like piracy.

We should join hands in ensuring a peaceful and orderly transformation of the world order that reflects contemporary and emerging realities. This should be the case whether it is the reform of political and security governance structures in the United Nations or the international financial, monetary or trade system.

India reaffirms its commitment to a balanced and ambitious outcome to the Doha round of WTO negotiations. India will continue to engage with its partners to facilitate a rule-based multilateral trade regime which is fair, equitable and addresses the development agenda effectively.

We are embarked on a major enterprise of socio-economic change for our peoples. Cooperation among BRICS holds the promise of building an external environment for ourselves that helps each of us and complements our task of nation building. To that extent I would say the best is yet to come.

India stands ready to work with other BRICS countries to realize these goals. Our economy is more open and more connected to the world than it has been in the past. Our financial and capital markets are sound, and eager to absorb foreign direct investment. We have put in place ambitious schemes for the social and infrastructure sectors which have begun to bear fruit. The creative energies of our people have been unleashed. The economy is well on its way to a long term annual growth rate of more than 9%.

Our Ministers and officials must be mandated to give practical shape to our vision and take steps that bring the benefits of our collaboration to the common man.

I thank you.





**083. Briefing by Secretary (Economic Relations) Manbir Singh on BRICS Summit.**

**Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you. You are aware that the BRICS Summit this morning started with a restricted session of the leaders followed by the plenary meeting, next there was a Joint Press Conference, and President Hu Jintao also hosted a banquet lunch for the leaders and other distinguished invitees. Prime Minister addressed the plenary session and I am sure you have copies of the address of the Prime Minister at the plenary. You have also received the address of the Prime Minister at the joint media event, and you have the Sanya Declaration with you.

Secretary (ER) is here to brief you about India's participation in the BRICS Summit. He is joined by our Ambassador to Beijing Dr. S. Jaishankar. I will request Secretary (ER) to make an opening statement, and thereafter he will be happy to take a few questions.

**Secretary (ER) (Shri Manbir Singh):** Thank you, Vishnu. Thank you all for coming here and for your enthusiasm and interest in what have been happening since the morning.

As we had briefed you in Delhi and NSA and Minister for Commerce and Industries briefed you, there was a theme for the meetings and there were mainly four agenda items. These agenda items were: (1) international situation; (2) international economic, financial and trade issues; (3) challenges of sustainable development; (4) cooperation amongst the BRICS. Today morning, after the photo session of the five BRICS leaders, President Hu Jintao addressed himself first on the four issues, and gave his views. Thereafter he invited the other Presidents and our Prime Minister to give their views in the order of the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, and then India and South Africa.

The discussions and the meeting took place in an extreme atmosphere of friendliness and understanding. It was apparent that on almost all the world views, and we had a very rich agenda covering almost all political issues that face the world today, economic issues, monetary, financial issues, climate change issues, piracy, terrorism, reforms of the UN, reforms of the International Monetary Fund. So, there was a huge gamut of issues and as the leaders spoke one after another what was very apparent was that there was a complete harmony of views. I will not use the word almost but I would say the complete harmony of views because they all echoed each other's views. That is why I feel that the BRICS as a grouping is very important because all these emerging countries, major countries, almost have the same views on major issues that

confront the world. There was also a great spirit of understanding, bonhomie and support to the idea of the BRICS grouping and that we must take it forward.

You have the statements made by the five leaders before the press at the plenary, which essentially covers major part of the discussions that took place; and you have our Prime Minister's statement as well; and then we have the Sanya Declaration which goes in detail of all the issues that were covered. So, I will just mention one by one the various issues on which the leaders spoke up.

There was strong desire for peace, security, development and cooperation. I think this is a very common desire for all these countries because they are all developing countries. And what developing countries need is peace, a facilitative environment for growth and development. So, all the leaders came up very strongly that there should be peace, security and there should be cooperation for development and growth. Also, this is a time in our world situation where there are complex changes taking place. These BRICS powers are emerging, they are called emerging powers because their growth rate is very high, and they are overtaking some of our long established economic powers of the world. So, it is in their interest and it is as well in the interest of the world that most of the world institutions reflect the changes that are taking place. So, they all spoke about establishing a more equitable and a fair world.

Again peace, harmony, cooperation, scientific development, economic, financial and BRICS serves as a major platform for dialogue and cooperation, they reaffirmed it. Global economic governance should be strengthened. Democracy in international relations, voice of emerging and developing countries to be strengthened, these are the themes that I was just now talking about. All the BRICS countries affirmed the central role of the United Nations. They wanted the United Nations strengthened. It should be able to face global challenges and threats. And they spoke about comprehensive reforms of the United Nations including the UN Security Council. As all of you know, India is an aspirant for the UNSC permanent seat. We already have a temporary, rotating seat for 2011-2012. And we have been saying that the UN now reflects the realities of the post World War II and that it should reflect the realities of the contemporary world. So, earlier the BRICS formulation on this issue has been reforms of the UN, but now there is an added dimension - including the UN Security Council.

There was concern over the turbulence in the Middle East and North Africa. There was also mention of terrorism as a scourge and also cyber crime. It was felt that the major economies should coordinate macroeconomic policies. You would recall that after the recession in 2008, the G20 came into being. Previously we used to have G8 and then we had Special Invitees which included India as well. But it was felt that for the economic governance of the world, there should

be a bigger number of countries which had economic strength. So, the G20 came into being and they had a number of meetings on which they coordinated their macroeconomic policies which were very helpful in overcoming the recession. But it was felt that this recession, though it has been overcome, the growth and development is still uneven; there are areas where there would be concern, there is greater consolidation required in Europe. There are some countries which are facing very serious fiscal deficits there. Therefore, there should be more engagement, more discussions on the international monetary situation, and there should be coordination on the macroeconomic policies.

There was a great support for the Group of 20 countries. It was felt that the Group of 20 countries is very essential, it should be strengthened. The BRICS gave their support. They said that it should become the main instrument for the economic governance of the world. They spoke about the reform of the International Monetary Fund. They also spoke about a broad-based international currency, it should be examined, the idea of a broad-based international reserve currency should be examined including that of the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). They expressed concern on cross border capital flows because this is what they call hot money these days because it has become very easy to transfer large amount of funds from one country to another country. It creates volatility in foreign exchange. So, there is this gamut of issues, capital inflows, fluctuations in foreign currency, etc., this all comes under the broad rubric of international monetary and financial governance. So they felt that this needs to be strengthened.

They also expressed concern on volatility in commodity prices. The prices of food, the prices of energy products have been fluctuating very violently, going up, then slightly going down, then going up. So, it was felt that this is not conducive to good economic growth, and therefore all the countries should study how this volatility in commodity prices needs to be controlled.

Then there was some discussion on the nuclear energy and everybody felt that nuclear energy is very essential but strict observance of safety standards must be resorted to in the light of what had happened I think in Japan. Though nobody specifically mentioned Japan - everybody expressed their condolence on the loss of life there and the loss suffered by that country - but the nuclear energy discussion I want to say that the background was what has happened in Japan. And they confirmed that nuclear energy is required, is essential, but that the safety norms need to be strengthened.

There was support for South Africa's having UN Conference on Climate Change in 2011, and there was support for the Conference on Sustainable Development that Brazil is going to host in 2012. We are going to host a Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2012. That was also mentioned.

There was a very strong resonance and all the Presidents and Prime Ministers agreed that the Doha Round should have a conclusion which is comprehensive and balanced; and they felt that in the interest of the world trade which needs to be strengthened especially when there are still elements of recessionary trends that we should guard against any protectionist measures by any countries.

Then they spoke about BRICS cooperation and everybody was very keen and they felt very happy, they were satisfied, I would use the word satisfied, that since the time the BRICS has started convening regularly after Yekaterinburg, that there has been a large number of forums and meetings where they have an exchange of ideas, views and they put some more ideas on how to exchange and the cooperation, and this is included in the action plan along with the Sanya Declaration.

There was a strong sentiment for cooperation in science, technology and innovation and it was felt that for a very meaningful poverty eradication and improving the living standards of the people education, good quality education is a must, as well as research work and cooperation in science and technology.

The Prime Minister offered to host the next Summit of the BRICS in India in 2012 and the other countries welcomed this and were very supportive that India should.

There is one statement that our Prime Minister made that I want to quote to all of you. In the context of what is happening in the Middle East, North Africa, he said, "There is a shift of power towards the ordinary citizens" - which I felt sums up the situation there, it is a tragic situation but it is summed up very well by the Prime Minister - "People determining their own future. People determined to take their own decisions".

This is what I want to say in the beginning. If there are any questions, I will be happy to take them.

**Question:** In the Joint Declaration, the names of India, Brazil and South Africa are mentioned and the Declaration says that the BRICS support their aspirations to play a greater role in the UN. Since it is practically impossible for all the three countries to get a permanent seat, do you think that will slow down the process of India getting a seat in the near future?

**Secretary (ER):** You know that all the three countries are aspirants. It may well be possible to accommodate all three and perhaps even more. So, I do not rule it out. I have not seen any papers or I have not received any signals or indicators which would suggest that accommodating all three would be difficult. I think all the three countries have their merits. South Africa which is the latest

entry into the BRICS countries is also, as you know, a country with a lot of influence, with a sound political system, and in contributes towards peace and stability in Africa. It is trying to participate in peace activities in Libya, in Cote d'Ivoire. So, you cannot say that. South Africa with India with Brazil is a possibility, and all three are aspirants.

**Question:** The Joint Declaration refers to a kind of an agreement that there have to be coordinated macroeconomic policies on the BRICS countries. I assume that this is in the context of the overall view also taking the G20 and the need for a calibrated pullout or bail out of the stimulus measures that were introduced post 2008 crisis. While G20 has taken a clear stance that these stimulus policies need to be phased out over a period of time, the Declaration here does mention about economic overheating and asset bubbles. My question is that if you are talking about coordinated macroeconomic policies, are you suggesting a new timeframe for the kind of ... pullout of the stimulus packages?

**Secretary (ER):** The statement just says 'coordination on macroeconomic policies'. Coordination can only occur after discussions. So, unless there are discussions, how would you coordinate your policies? You have mentioned some of the concerns. There are other concerns as well because they are saying that because of very expansionary monetary policies it is having an adverse effect on commodity prices. Other countries say that if they have a tighter monetary policies, already the manufacturing is suffering, so it may suffer more. So, these are issues that need to be talked about. But it is important that these issues are underlined and the perspective of every country is taken on board, and then some via media can be found.

**Question:** Sir, on the issue of these...local currencies, have you achieved any final resolution on inter-currency acceptability?

**Secretary (ER):** The background of this is that at the last summit in Brasilia there was a very strong feeling. And you know at that time there were a lot of currency fluctuations that the banks of each of the BRICS countries should meet and work out some kind of a modality whereby trade, projects and loans can be encouraged. So, Exim Bank from India and the other banks have had I think two meetings over the last one year, and they have come up with what I would say a framework agreement. But in financial sector all these issues require a lot of clarity and lot of detailed work. So, the agreement which they have signed today, which is a framework agreement says it is subject to national laws. So, the national laws of each country are overriding, and they will within the national laws find out means to assist trade, investment and projects in each other's countries.

**Question:** Two questions. Talking about the framework agreement on local

currency, is it one way to diminish the importance of the dollar as a trading currency in BRICS economies? Secondly, as far as the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are concerned, what is India's position, because we do not have much clarity on that, on the inclusion of Yuan in the SDR?

**Secretary (ER):** As far as the dollar is concerned I have not heard it said by anybody that it is their desire to diminish the value or the importance of the dollar. Dollar, as you know, is a reserve currency and most of the BRICS countries - whether it is India, China and the others - are holding large amounts of reserves in dollars at present apart from other currencies as well. So, trying to facilitate trade in their own currencies should not be construed as being something that would work against the value of the dollar. But at the same time you should look at what is happening in the international world today. The reserve currency dollar has necessitated for the USA to continue to have a deficit for a long time and this deficit continues. And there is now a strong public pressure within the US Government that this deficit should be brought to a stop or curtailed. And how will you curtail the deficit without actually stringing in the reserve currency? So, these are all things that are happening and in the background people are talking that this reserve currency is fluctuating, then we must have another reserve currency which may not be a substitute but is an alternative. Substitute would mean that you replace one by the other. But the alternative means they have a choice - you have dollar, you have SDRs. But what was felt today was that these are issues which are complex issues on which there should be studies and there should be detailed recommendations because you cannot go without studying what are the implications. You do not want to do something as a palliative to a certain issue and then find that on a score of other issues you are sorry. So, the decision that they are taking is that let us explore SDRs. SDRs have been a reserve currency since a very long time but it is not being expanded. So, let us see what can be done with the SDRs.

**Question:** Was inclusion of Yuan an issue?

**Secretary (ER):** That was never an issue. That never came up.

**Question:** But what is India's position?

**Secretary (ER):** This is very hypothetical. Because this issue has never come up we have never studied this issue.

**Question:** What is India's specific position in ... What does India want?

**Secretary (ER):** We would like a very detailed study on it. We feel that the BRICS as such should do a detailed study on the implications of expanding the SDRs. We are not seeing SDRs as international reserve currency, but we

are now talking about expanding the SDRs. You cannot expand the SDRs to double the amount they are in a year or two years. It will have to be over a period of five years or six years. But what are the implications, how can it be done, what would be the contribution of all the economic powers in the strengthening of the SDRs and expanding, these studies need to be done. This is what everybody wanted.

**Question:** My question is related to what you have mentioned about the nuclear energy and the safety. Was the decision of a general nature or was any specific programme or details discussed? Can you throw some more light on this?

**Secretary (ER):** These were the leaders of the countries who are discussing this issues, the nuclear safety, nuclear energy; and they were discussing a gamut of issues, development issues, they were discussing that fluctuation in energy prices. In this context the question of nuclear energy also came up; and it was felt that nuclear energy is something which is important but also that the safety norms should be strengthened. But there was no nuclear energy expert at the meetings to discuss the great details. Probably that is what you were asking. It was a general discussion.

**Question:** There are two permanent members in the BRICS on the Security Council and you have for the first time included reforms in the UN Security Council. At the same time the Declaration does not specifically endorse the candidature of the other three nonpermanent members - India, Brazil, South Africa. Was there any discussion at all on the matter of expansion of UNSC? And in particular what was the Chinese stand in this respect?

**Secretary (ER):** The only thing I can say is that this is a consensus statement. The two permanent members - China and Russia - are part of this consensus which the statement has. This statement is satisfactory as far as we are concerned.

**Question:** That is being seen as an endorsement for the three other nonpermanent members.

**Secretary (ER):** It is an endorsement. You have to study this. They have said, "Playing a larger role in the UNSC". And if you see the previous line, they have talked about an expanded UNSC. You have to draw your own conclusions from that.

**Question:** Sir, the Action Plan mentioned that there will be a conference on security in China at the end of this year. Will this conference include the question of terrorism and cybercrime in the light of what has been mentioned in the Declaration?

**Secretary (ER):** This is a meeting of the National Security Advisors. The National Security Advisors usually include whatever is topical with regard to security. These issues of cybercrime and terrorism have been put on the agenda of BRICS. So, I have no doubt that it will come up in the NSA meetings.

There is another agreement that has been concluded today - it was separately done in the Business Forum - on the BRICS business focal points. So, the BRICS countries will have a focal point if they have any enquiries where to send it in the other country.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



#### **084. Sanya Declaration issued at the end of the Summit of the BRICS countries.**

**Sanya (China), April 14, 2011**

Sanya Declaration

(BRICS Leaders Meeting, Sanya, Hainan, China, April 2011)

1. We, the Heads of State and Government 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**, met in Sanya, Hainan, China for the BRICS Leaders Meeting on 14 April 2011.
2. The Heads of State and Government of Brazil, Russia, India and China welcome South Africa joining the BRICS and look forward to strengthening dialogue and cooperation with South Africa within the forum.
3. It is the overarching objective and strong shared desire for peace, security, development and cooperation that brought together BRICS countries with a total population of nearly 3 billion from different continents. BRICS aims at contributing significantly to the development of humanity and establishing a more equitable and fair world.
4. The 21st century should be marked by peace, harmony, cooperation and scientific development. Under the theme "Broad Vision, Shared Prosperity", we conducted candid and in-depth discussions and reached broad consensus on strengthening BRICS cooperation as well as on promoting coordination on international and regional issues of common interest.



5. We affirm that the BRICS and other emerging countries have played an important role in contributing to world peace, security and stability, boosting global economic growth, enhancing multilateralism and promoting greater democracy in international relations.

6. In the economic, financial and development fields, BRICS serves as a major platform for dialogue and cooperation. We are determined to continue strengthening the BRICS partnership for common development and advance BRICS cooperation in a gradual and pragmatic manner, reflecting the principles of openness, solidarity and mutual assistance. We reiterate that such cooperation is inclusive and non-confrontational. We are open to increasing engagement and cooperation with non-BRICS countries, in particular emerging and developing countries, and relevant international and regional organizations.

7. We share the view that the world is undergoing far-reaching, complex and profound changes, marked by the strengthening of multipolarity, economic globalization and increasing interdependence. While facing the evolving global environment and a multitude of global threats and challenges, the international community should join hands to strengthen cooperation for common development. Based on universally recognized norms of international law and in a spirit of mutual respect and collective decision making, global economic governance should be strengthened, democracy in international relations should be promoted, and the voice of emerging and developing countries in international affairs should be enhanced.

8. We express our strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy with the United Nations playing the central role in dealing with global challenges and threats. In this respect, we reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more effective, efficient and representative, so that it can deal with today's global challenges more successfully. China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status of India, Brazil and South Africa in international affairs, and understand and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

9. We underscore that the concurrent presence of all five BRICS countries in the Security Council during the year of 2011 is a valuable opportunity to work closely together on issues of peace and security, to strengthen multilateral approaches and to facilitate future coordination on issues under UN Security Council consideration. We are deeply concerned with the turbulence in the Middle East, the North African and West African regions and sincerely wish that the countries affected achieve peace, stability, prosperity and progress and enjoy their due standing and dignity in the world according to legitimate aspirations of their peoples. We share the principle that the use of force should

be avoided. We maintain that the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of each nation should be respected.

10. We wish to continue our cooperation in the UN Security Council on Libya. We are of the view that all the parties should resolve their differences through peaceful means and dialogue in which the UN and regional organizations should as appropriate play their role. We also express support for the African Union High-Level Panel Initiative on Libya.

11. We reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any acts of terrorism. We believe that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating the international action against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of the international law. In this context, we urge early conclusion of negotiations in the UN General Assembly of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and its adoption by all Member States. We are determined to strengthen our cooperation in countering this global threat. We express our commitment to cooperate for strengthening international information security. We will pay special attention to combat cybercrime.

12. We note that the world economy is gradually recovering from the financial crisis, but still faces uncertainties. Major economies should continue to enhance coordination of macro-economic policies and work together to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

13. We are committed to assure that the BRICS countries will continue to enjoy strong and sustained economic growth supported by our increased cooperation in economic, finance and trade matters, which will contribute to the long-term steady, sound and balanced growth of the world economy.

14. We support the Group of Twenty (G20) in playing a bigger role in global economic governance as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. We expect new positive outcomes in the fields of economy, finance, trade and development from the G20 Cannes Summit in 2011. We support the ongoing efforts of G20 members to stabilize international financial markets, achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth and support the growth and development of the global economy. Russia offers to host the G20 Summit in 2013. Brazil, India, China and South Africa welcome and appreciate Russia's offer.

15. We call for a quick achievement of the targets for the reform of the International Monetary Fund agreed to at previous G20 Summits and reiterate that the governing structure of the international financial institutions should

reflect the changes in the world economy, increasing the voice and representation of emerging economies and developing countries.

16. Recognizing that the international financial crisis has exposed the inadequacies and deficiencies of the existing international monetary and financial system, we support the reform and improvement of the international monetary system, with a broad-based international reserve currency system providing stability and certainty. We welcome the current discussion about the role of the SDR in the existing international monetary system including the composition of SDR's basket of currencies. We call for more attention to the risks of massive cross-border capital flows now faced by the emerging economies. We call for further international financial regulatory oversight and reform, strengthening policy coordination and financial regulation and supervision cooperation, and promoting the sound development of global financial markets and banking systems.

17. Excessive volatility in commodity prices, particularly those for food and energy, poses new risks for the ongoing recovery of the world economy. We support the international community in strengthening cooperation to ensure stability and strong development of physical market by reducing distortion and further regulate financial market. The international community should work together to increase production capacity, strengthen producer-consumer dialogue to balance supply and demand, and increase support to the developing countries in terms of funding and technologies. The regulation of the derivatives market for commodities should be accordingly strengthened to prevent activities capable of destabilizing markets. We also should address the problem of shortage of reliable and timely information on demand and supply at international, regional and national levels. The BRICS will carry out closer cooperation on food security.

18. We support the development and use of renewable energy resources. We recognize the important role of renewable energy as a means to address climate change. We are convinced of the importance of cooperation and information exchange in the field of development of renewable energy resources.

19. Nuclear energy will continue to be an important element in future energy mix of BRICS countries. International cooperation in the development of safe nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should proceed under conditions of strict observance of relevant safety standards and requirements concerning design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants.

20. Accelerating sustainable growth of developing countries is one of the major challenges for the world. We believe that growth and development are

central to addressing poverty and to achieving the MDG goals. Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is a moral, social, political and economic imperative of humankind and one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Least Developed Countries in Africa and elsewhere.

21. We call on the international community to actively implement the outcome document adopted by the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals held in September 2010 and achieve the objectives of the MDGs by 2015 as scheduled.

22. Climate change is one of the global threats challenging the livelihood of communities and countries. China, Brazil, Russia and India appreciate and support South Africa's hosting of UNFCCC COP17/CMP7. We support the Cancun Agreements and are ready to make concerted efforts with the rest of the international community to bring a successful conclusion to the negotiations at the Durban Conference applying the mandate of the Bali Roadmap and in line with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. We commit ourselves to work towards a comprehensive, balanced and binding outcome to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. The BRICS will intensify cooperation on the Durban conference. We will enhance our practical cooperation in adapting our economy and society to climate change.

23. Sustainable development, as illustrated by the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and multilateral environmental treaties, should be an important vehicle to advance economic growth. China, Russia, India and South Africa appreciate Brazil as the host of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development and look forward to working with Brazil to reach new political commitment and achieve positive and practical results in areas of economic growth, social development and environmental protection under the framework of sustainable development. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa appreciate and support India's hosting of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Brazil, China and South Africa also appreciate and support the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to be held in October 2012.

24. We underscore our firm commitment to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the fields of social protection, decent work, gender equality, youth, and public health, including the fight against HIV /AIDS.

25. We support infrastructure development in Africa and its industrialization within framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

26. We have agreed to continue further expanding and deepening economic, trade and investment cooperation among our countries. We encourage all countries to refrain from resorting to protectionist measures. We welcome the outcomes of the meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers held in Sanya on 13 April 2011. Brazil, China, India and South Africa remain committed and call upon other members to support a strong, open, rule-based multilateral trading system embodied in the World Trade Organization and a successful, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round, built on the progress already made and consistent with its development mandate. Brazil, India, China and South Africa extend full support to an early accession of Russia to the World Trade Organization.

27. We reviewed the progress of the BRICS cooperation in various fields and share the view that such cooperation has been enriching and mutually beneficial and that there is a great scope for closer cooperation among the BRICS. We are focused on the consolidation of BRICS cooperation and the further development of its own agenda. We are determined to translate our political vision into concrete actions and endorse the attached Action Plan, which will serve as the foundation for future cooperation. We will review the implementation of the Action Plan during our next Leaders Meeting.

28. We intend to explore cooperation in the sphere of science, technology and innovation, including the peaceful use of space. We congratulate the Russian people and government upon the 50th anniversary of the flight of Yury Gagarin into the space, which ushered in a new era in development of science and technology.

29. We express our confidence in the success of the 2011 Universiade in Shenzhen, the 2013 Universiade in Kazan, the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympics Games in Sochi, the FIFA 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the 2016 Olympic and Paralympics Games in Rio de Janeiro and the FIFA 2018 World Cup in Russia.

30. We extend our deepest condolences to the people of Japan with the great loss of life following the disasters that struck the country. We will continue our practical support to Japan in overcoming consequences of these catastrophes.

31. The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa extend our warm appreciation to China for hosting the BRICS Leaders Meeting and the Hainan Provincial Government and Sanya Municipal Government and their people for their support to the Meeting.

32. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa thank India for hosting the BRICS Leaders Meeting in 2012 and offer their full support.

**Action Plan**

We formulated the Action Plan, laying the foundation for the BRICS cooperation, with the purpose to strengthen BRICS cooperation and benefit our peoples.

**I. Enhance existing cooperation programs**

1. Hold the third Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues in the latter half of 2011 in China.
2. Hold the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs during the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
3. Hold sherpas/sous-sherpas meeting in due time.
4. Representatives to international organizations based in New York and Geneva meet periodically in an informal manner.
5. Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks meet under the G20 framework and during the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.
6. Hold the Meeting of Agriculture Expert Working Group and the second Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in 2011 in China, and cooperate in issues including establishment of BRICS System of Agricultural Information and holding a seminar on food security.
7. Hold the Meeting of the heads of the National Statistical Institutions in September 2011 in China.
8. Hold the second BRICS International Competition Conference in September 2011 in China, and explore the possibility of signing an Agreement on Cooperation between Antimonopoly Agencies.
9. Continue to hold the BRICS Think-tank Symposiums, and consider establishing a network of research centers of all BRICS countries.
10. Hold another Business Forum prior to the next BRICS Leaders Meeting.
11. Strengthen financial cooperation among the BRICS Development Banks.
12. Implement the Protocol of Intent among the BRIC Countries of Supreme Courts.
13. Release the Joint Statistical Publication by BRICS Countries.
14. Continue to hold the Meeting of Cooperatives.

**II. New areas of cooperation**

1. Host the first BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum in 2011 in China.
2. Host the Meeting of Ministers of Health in 2011 in China.
3. Engage in joint research on economic and trade issues.
4. Update, as appropriate, the Bibliography on the BRICS countries.

**III. New proposals to explore**

1. Cooperate in the cultural field according to the agreement of the BRICS leaders.
2. Encourage cooperation in sports.
3. Explore the feasibility to cooperate in the field of green economy.
4. Hold a meeting of Senior Officials for discussing ways of promoting scientific, technological and innovation cooperation in BRICS format•Including by establishment a working group on cooperation in pharmaceutical industry.
5. Establish, at UNESCO, e.g BRICS-UNESCO Group, aiming at developing common strategies within the mandate of the Organization.



**085. Proposal by India to create a special Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) fund for BRICS.**

**September 15, 2011.**

Minister of State for Science and Technology, Earth Science and Planning Commission Dr. Ashwani Kumar today announced India's support at the Summer Davas conference at Dalian, China organized by World Economic Forum and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

Dr. Ashwani Kumar said that India would be willing to contribute an initial sum of USD 2 million as its share of the contribution to the proposed 10 million USD BRICS STI Fund and also offered three key proposals.

In his Keynote address at the meeting, Dr. Ashwani Kumar emphasized the need for collectively harnessing the scientific and technological knowledge to address the challenges of this century that humankind faces in common like hunger, malnutrition, pandemics, climate change, energy, food security and many more. Talking about the potential areas for STI collaborations among BRICS countries he opined that the BRICS countries the Minister said that the BRICS countries are large in size and their energy requirements are likely to scale new proportions with the growth of their economies. New sources of clean energy based on second generation bio-fuels developed through recourse to biotechnology could form an important program for co-investment. Energy efficient transportation and civil aviation needs are also bound to increase many fold, he commented. Shri Ashwani Kumar informed about India's eight missions under National Plan on Climate Change and emphasized that the challenge to balance between the responsibilities to mitigate emission of green house gases while maintaining our GDP growth momentum is common to all BRICS nations. This is an area where BRICS countries could all cooperate and global problems could be countered best through collaborative excellence, he mentioned.

The three key proposals include various fields One, India will pursue BRICS STI cooperation activities in the areas of shared priorities such as Energy, Water, Health, Natural Disaster Management, ICT, Basic research in emerging areas of S&T, Industrial clusters especially involving MSMEs. Second, India is in favor of setting a BRICS Framework of STI Cooperation that promotes some common objectives to be overseen by BRICS STI Working Group. And the third, creation of a "BRICS STI Fund" with annual contributions from each member country for supporting cooperation activities under the BRICS STI framework. Mr. Kumar announced that to begin with, the initial contribution could be to the tune of US\$ 2 million per member country and India is prepared to undertake its share of commitment.





**086. Joint Communiqué issued by the BRICS Finance Ministers' at the end of their Meeting.**

**Washington DC, September 22, 2011.**

We, the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, met on September 22, 2011 in Washington DC, USA, amid growing concern regarding the state of the global economy.

While BRICS countries recovered quickly from the 2008-09 global financial crisis, some of us have been subject to inflationary pressures and growth prospects of all our countries have been dampened by global market instability. In advanced countries, the build up of sovereign debt and concerns regarding medium to long-term plans of fiscal adjustment are creating an uncertain environment for global growth. Also, excessive liquidity from aggressive policy actions taken by central banks to stabilize their domestic economies has been spilling over into emerging market economies, fostering excessive volatility in capital flows and commodity prices.

The immediate problem at hand is to get growth back on track in developed countries. In this context we welcome the recent fiscal package announced by USA as well as the decisions taken by Euro area countries to address financial tensions, notably by making the EFSF flexible. It is critical for advanced economies to adopt responsible macroeconomic and financial policies, avoid creating excessive global liquidity and undertake structural reforms to lift growth create jobs and reduce imbalances.

The current situation requires decisive actions. We are taking necessary steps to secure economic growth, maintain financial stability and contain inflation. We are also determined to speed up structural reform to sustain strong growth which would advance development and poverty reduction at home and benefit global growth and rebalancing. The contribution of BRICS countries and other emerging market economies to global growth is rising and will increase further. However, global rebalancing will take time and its impact may not be felt sufficiently in the short-term. We will also work to intensify trade and investment flows among our countries to build upon our synergies.

The BRICS are open to consider making additional efforts in working with other countries and International Financial Institutions in order to address the present challenges to global financial stability, depending on individual country circumstances.

We are concerned with the slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the IMF. The implementation of the 2010 reform is lagging. We must also move ahead with the comprehensive review of the quota formula by January 2013

and the completion of the next review of quotas by January 2014. This is needed to increase the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Fund. We reiterate our support for measures to protect the voice and representation of the IMF's poorest members. We call on the IMF to make its surveillance more integrated and evenhanded.

Multilateral Development Banks are considered by developing countries as important partners in helping them meet their long term development finance needs. In the current global economic environment, the Banks need to mobilize more resources to increase their assistance to low income and other developing countries including finding ways of expanding their lending capacity, so that development finance is not neglected.

In the face of a slowdown of global economic growth, it is necessary to maintain international policy co-operation and co-ordination. We remain committed to work with the international community, including making contributions to the G20 Cannes Action Plan consistent with national policy frameworks to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We shall work together in searching for a coordinated solution to the current challenges as we did in 2008-09."



## **CHOGM**

### **087. Media briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Vice-President's visit to Perth for CHOGM.**

**New Delhi, October 25, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good evening to all of you and sorry to keep you waiting.

You know that Hon. Vice-President of India would be leaving for Perth to head the Indian Delegation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit, on the 27th morning. Foreign Secretary would like to brief you about the visit of the Vice-President for the CHOGM Summit. We also have with us Mr. P. Harish, to the right of Foreign Secretary, who is the Joint Secretary in the Vice-President's Secretariat.

I would like to invite the Foreign Secretary to make his opening statement.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you.

The 54-nation Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit Meeting, or CHOGM, will be held at Perth in Australia from October 28 to 30, 2011. It will be preceded by the Pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers Meeting on October 26 and 27, 2011.

Hon'ble Vice-President of India will be leading the official Indian delegation to the Summit. The External Affairs Meeting will be heading the Indian delegation to the Pre-CHOGM Foreign Ministers meeting. The Delegation includes the Foreign Secretary, the Additional Secretary for International Organisations Mr. Dilip Sinha, other senior officials and members of the media. There will be an Indian business delegation at Perth which is headed by the CII President Designate Mr. Adi Godrej. The Vice President proposes to leave New Delhi on 27th and return on the 31st. CHOGMs have a format of: (a) Executive Sessions, where Heads of Government interact in a more formal manner and they make statements, and are accompanied by Ministers or officials, and (b) a Retreat, where the Heads of Government interact informally with their counterparts without the presence of any aides. This element of CHOGM is what makes it a unique forum for interaction among the leaders of 54 member countries.

The theme of CHOGM this year, chosen by Australia, is 'Building National Resilience, Building Global Resilience'. Australia has circulated a Concept Paper on the theme which focuses on strengthening the Commonwealth, to enable it to more effectively assist member nations in dealing with current challenges as individual states, as members of the Commonwealth, and as members of the global community. The paper focuses on issues related to economic and social development, food and energy security, and the adverse effects of climate change. Efforts are also underway to enhance the Commonwealth's role in international fora, particularly the G20 process, the 17th Conference of Parties (COP-17), and the Rio+20 meeting on sustainable development scheduled in Brazil next year.

In addition, the Heads of Government are expected to review developments within the Commonwealth and globally. They will discuss a whole gamut of issues of relevance to the Commonwealth ranging from the promotion and protection of fundamental political values in the Commonwealth, the global economic situation, international trade, the Commonwealth's engagement with the G20, climate change and sustainable development, and initiatives to deal with the concerns of the youth and women. A discussion on small states, which is particularly important here because 32 of the 54 Commonwealth countries are actually small states, will be held especially in the context of their vulnerability to economic volatilities.

In terms of the Outcome Documents, the Heads of Government are expected to issue a joint communiqué spelling out the position of the Commonwealth on

major issues including these international issues that are of importance to the Association. A stand-alone Declaration on Food Security Principles is also expected to be negotiated and adopted.

A number of Commonwealth-affiliated organizations such as Business, Youth and People's Forums will also be meeting during this period in Perth. Reports on their activities will be presented to Foreign Ministers at their meeting.

The Commonwealth Business Forum, to which I alluded earlier, would meet from the 25th to the 27th and as I said Mr. Adi Godrej would be leading the Indian Business Delegation.

As an international organization the Commonwealth has innate strengths and considerable expertise in areas pertaining to economic, social, environmental and governance issues. It has emerged as a 'one-stop shop' for many of its members to easily access a variety of assistance and support in these areas such as technical advice, financial support, consultancy, feasibility reports, managerial training and skill development. The Commonwealth is also doing important work in the areas of gender equality, education and youth. The Commonwealth has been a pillar of support for many of the geographically smaller developing countries, whom I referred to earlier, particularly in facing the challenges arising out of the global economic and financial crisis.

India is the largest member of the Commonwealth and has nearly 60 per cent of its total population. A number of Commonwealth countries also have sizeable numbers of Persons of Indian Origin in their population. India is presently the fourth largest contributor to the Commonwealth's assessed budgets and the fifth largest contributor to the voluntary Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), which is used for providing technical assistance and capacity-building to its developing member states. India has consistently, constructively and significantly contributed to various Commonwealth activities and has stepped up its engagement with the organization in recent times. We have also increased our contribution to CFTC to over one million pounds since 2009-10.

During the last CHOGM in 2009 in Port of Spain, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced several initiatives to support Commonwealth activities, including enhanced training slots, contributions to the Media Development Fund and the Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal, and support for the new Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva. All these commitments have been fulfilled and they demonstrate India's continuing commitment to the Commonwealth.

As you are aware, Mr. Kamallesh Sharma is presently the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. During his tenure, the Commonwealth has noticeably scaled up activities, particularly in its support to Small States and the efforts to influence the international debate on global economic governance. Shri Sharma's re-election for a second term would also be considered by leaders at the CHOGM in Perth.

Thank you.

**Question:** How relevant is the Commonwealth today? And is it because it is not that important that the PM has not found the time for it?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the Commonwealth retains its relevance. As you are aware, it has evolved considerably since 1949 when it came into existence. The fact that it has been, as I described it, a particularly useful grouping for assistance particularly of a technical and economic nature has been actually appreciated globally. Just to mention an example, there have been in the last few years countries which are otherwise not associated with Britain have chosen to join it. The Commonwealth when it started became a voluntary association of States which had this special connection with Britain. But even other developing countries which have no such connection have chosen to join it. To give you examples, Mozambique joined the Commonwealth in 1995, Cameroon followed a few months later, and Rwanda joined the Commonwealth in 2009.

India has, we believe, a natural partnership with the organisation. It is after all a community of English speaking nations all of whom have a common law system. The focus on South-South cooperation through the Commonwealth has been very effectively managed and used. It also deals with values of democracy, good governance, and others. But I would say in particular the ability of the Commonwealth to provide a direct interaction and a forum for cooperation and technical assistance to many of the small States, as I said 32 out of 54, particularly in small States from the Pacific islands and the Caribbean, political dialogue in an informal setting, economic cooperation and technical cooperation, this provides us a very natural platform.

As to the Prime Minister attending, as you are aware the Prime Minister has had a very heavy schedule of meetings just now and he has a couple of very heavy international commitments going forward in the next few weeks. It is in this context that the hon'ble Vice-President, and we were extremely appreciative of that, kindly agreed to lead the Indian delegation to CHOGM.

**Question:** Sir, what are our expectations so far as terrorism is concerned because it is a global issue? Is the Summit going to discuss how to tackle it?

Secondly, can the Commonwealth really provide some answer to the present financial crisis facing the West and the US?

**Foreign Secretary:** Terrorism would obviously come up in the retreat and the political level discussions. But it would come up in the context of global cooperation against terrorism and in a very general form. I do not really expect a very focused, specific attention on terrorism .

But as to the global financial system, the Commonwealth has the very special advantage of having in it countries which are in the G20 both from the industrialised world and from the developing world, and some other countries who are being marginalised because of the global financial crisis. So, it has an ability to bring together very differing viewpoints in a very informal setting as well as in the formal communiqué and to try and combine the interests, concerns and perceptions of all these three categories of countries. So, I think it would provide a forum for a very useful debate.

**Question:** There has been a push in Australia and also from the Canadian Prime Minister to have the Sri Lankan proposed hosting of CHOGM in 2013 postponed until there has been some, I think it has been said, progress on human rights and accountability there over the war and some allegations of war crimes. What is India's position on that? Secondly, with regard to the Eminent Persons Group Report that is likely to be submitted during CHOGM, there are some suggestions that India does not support the creation of a Human Rights and Rule of Law Monitor. Can you speak about that and explain what India's objections are?

**Foreign Secretary:** First of all on Sri Lanka, the decision was taken in 2009 for the next two CHOGM Summits. I think that matter has been decided already and it is not a subject which needs to be reopened.

As far as the Eminent Persons Group is concerned, we have seen the report and we had a discussion on it in New York. The Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth met. I was present at that meeting. The report is very voluminous. It has got 106 recommendations covering the entire range of activities of the Commonwealth. The report itself was prepared over a period of one year with five meetings between July 2010 and July 2011. Since that time the member governments have had only a few weeks to actually look at it and in fact to start a discussion on it. I would not like to comment on each of the recommendations. Even these 106 have been classed into 14 core recommendations and the others. There are a number of areas where we think there is need for a more careful view.

Certainly the proposal for the Commissioner for Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights is one on which we have some reservations. The responsibilities

spelt out in this would seem to undermine the role of both the Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group itself which is actually dealing with precisely those issues. Secondly, it seems to us that this particular proposal is like a duplication of what the UN is already doing through its Rapporteurs. And at a time when the organisation is facing budgetary difficulties whether it should really go that direction, is not quite clear. In fact, I raised the specific issue as to where the money was going to come from, and it was mentioned that it might involve reallocation of some of the resources of the Secretariat as of now. And when you consider that the current allocation and budget of the Commonwealth secretariat has been decided after considerable discussion and approval by the Heads, reallocation at this stage does not seem appropriate. It seems to us that the real focus of the Commonwealth should be once again on the development challenges which are uppermost in the minds of the vast majority of the members. So, while we support the important values of democracy, rule of law and human rights, we believe the Commonwealth should focus on strengthening the existing institutions rather than trying to create new ones.

**Question:** Sir, for most of the issues that have been raised during the CHOGM Summit, it almost seems that countries like Australia and Canada are kind of focusing the issues on smaller countries and of course countries like India, be it polio, human rights, many things. So, what are some of the issues that India, given the fact that India represents the voice of most of the smaller countries, might raise asking from countries like Australia and Canada? Secondly, will the issue of exports of uranium be raised on the sidelines with Australia once again?

**Foreign Secretary:** Our focus is not specific to any one or two members. I will ask the Joint Secretary to the Vice-President to comment on polio because this has just come and he has just been advised about it. But considering the focus which we have always been giving, it is for the organisation as a whole and that it should retain its very unique ability to provide for the needs of the small States and small members assist in the process of development. I think that would be our main aim. As you can see, we have been gradually stepping up our own contributions to it through economic and technical cooperation. One of the initiatives we took a couple of years ago was to create a portal for improving e-learning and through such mechanisms we think there is an ability of the organisation as a whole to really respond to the felt needs of the smaller members of the Commonwealth. I think that is the direction we would specifically go.

As to what we would discuss, the Vice-President is having a couple of bilateral meetings. Those are still in the process of being finalised. All issues in our bilateral relations would be certainly discussed. I do not know if there would be any specific focus on uranium. That is more a subject which may come up

from the Australians rather than from us. On polio would you like to add something?

**Joint Secretary and OSD to Vice-President (Shri P. Harish):** Yesterday was the World Polio Day and it was in this context that there have been Op Eds in most Australian newspapers authored by Bill Gates and the Prime Minister Gillard. I think there is also an Australian history to polio eradication. The call was given by a very eminent Australian citizen in this regard. So, I think as far as India is concerned, this is the first year where we have had only one incidence of polio and that too on the 13th of January this year in West Bengal, amounting to near polio eradication. However, I think the cause for vigilance has been highlighted by the Government of India. There have been incidents of outbreak of polio in the neighbourhood, in Pakistan and China and a few other countries. So, vigilance is continuing. I think the National Polio Eradication and Monitoring Campaign has in that sense achieved significant success.

**Question:** Sir, you spoke about climate change at CHOGM. As far as global warming is concerned, India and China and many African countries have a certain stand. It appears from reports that South Africa may be wavering and may be changing its position. If that is so, are we going to discuss this with South Africa or leave this out? The other issue, Sir, is slightly different. Senior Cabinet Minister Subodh Kant Sahai has just said that this US travel advisory is hurting and will continue to hurt travel to India as far as tourism is concerned. So, would you take this up with the Americans?

**Foreign Secretary:** On your first question, I am not aware that a specific bilateral has been scheduled with the South Africans. But certainly we have a number of fora during which we discuss matters with the South Africans and certainly we would be discussing with them before head into the COP-17.

On the travel advisories, we have noticed that these advisories have been issued by the US and some other countries. What we have been told is that these countries are obliged under their legal system to regularly advise their citizens on travel related issues to any foreign country. It is understood that these countries took on board some of the Indian media reports about the heightened security concerns and the precautions in India during the festive season and had accordingly brought this to the attention of their citizens. There have also been references to some of our own advisories from time to time which are not of the same nature. It is a combination of different sources of information based on which they make their assessment. We on our part have conveyed it certainly to the Americans, and we will do it with the others, that we feel that the language of these advisories was a little disproportionate in that the security situation in India is basically normal and tourists have nothing



to fear. The Minister for Tourism in fact spoke to me about this and he highlighted the fact that Jammu and Kashmir this year has received a record number of tourists, the highest in 25 years. And of course we will be conveying this kind of information to our interlocutors, and we will continue to convey to them that whatever they wish to do under their own legal obligations should be proportionate and carefully modulated.

**Question:** I just wanted to get a sense of bilateral meetings Vice-President may have in Perth.

**Foreign Secretary:** They are still in the process of being finalised. But those which are scheduled are the Prime Minister of Australia, the Leader of Opposition also of Australia, and the President of Seychelles. These have so far been firmed up.

**Question:** My question is about the incident just two days earlier when an Indian chopper crossed over to Pakistan. There are reports that they have taken the GPS Coordinates of many helipads in India. What is your response to what Pakistan has done? Also, do you appeal to the forces on the border on the Indian side to be more sensitive in future? This time around they are back safe, but if it recurs they may be shot down.

**Foreign Secretary:** As to media report, I would not wish to comment on it. As of now it is just a report from the media and I would prefer not to comment on it. But in all our discussions we are actually working on what are called confidence-building measures and certainly the need for vigilance and care on both sides is a part of that. But I think this particular incident was simply a matter of straying. The fact that it has been resolved quickly and amicably is a matter of satisfaction.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, what are the chances of a discussion on West Asia and North Africa, especially after Gaddafi's death? Will there also be any kind of discussion on whether there is a responsibility of the countries which have intervened in nation-building?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not see any reference in the programme as it stands to engage and to discuss specifically Libya in the Commonwealth context because usually the Commonwealth deals only with issues involving its own members. But certainly when Heads of State and Government get together and review the global situation, it is inevitable that those countries which are directly affected, and we have some Commonwealth member States from Africa and from the Mediterranean who are very close by, obviously there would be a general discussion on it. Our position as you know is very clear. We are now engaged and we are in contact with the National Transitional Council. Our *Charge d'affaires* visited Tripoli and established contact with them. But the

upsurge which has been taking place across the West Asia and North Africa is something of course we would discuss with others. Our basic point is that changes such as they are in these countries should be led by the populations of those countries by themselves. Any move towards democratisation is obviously welcome. But as we have said, for the outside world it is to be supportive but not to seek reordering of societies through military force. This is something we totally reject.

**Question:** Sir, you said India is one of the larger contributors to the Commonwealth. How much is it in numerical terms and how does it compare to the other major contributors like Australia and Canada?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, for the CFTC itself we contribute over a million pounds. There is a separate contribution we make for the running of the Commonwealth Secretariat. And there are also some individual programmes we run. For example, the ICCR handles the scholarship programme which is totally different. Our contribution to the Secretariat is about 640,000 pounds. To the Commonwealth Foundation, which does a lot of work with non-governmental organisations, it is 140,000 pounds. The Commonwealth also has joint offices in New York and Geneva the main aim of these being to provide office space and a venue for many small countries who would otherwise find it very difficult to manage office space in international organisations. To the one in New York it is about 100,000 dollars; and to the one in Geneva it is 80,000 dollars. There is a Commonwealth Media Development Fund. You would be happy to hear, we have given them 60,000 dollars as part of a 120,000 paid over two years. As I said, for the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation it is about 1.1 million pounds. The Commonwealth Partnership Platform Portal which, I referred to on the e-government and learning, it is again 100,000 pounds. For the Commonwealth Youth Programme, which is aimed at youth activities and sports, it is another 50,000 pounds. I do not have the contributions of the other members. But we will certainly get it for you.

**Question:** In Australia in the last few days there has been a bit of self reflection on the fact that the Prime Minister of India is not coming to CHOGM and whether that reflects the fact that as a neighbour we have failed to properly engage India and build the relationship that we consider very important for our future in Australia. What would you say to Australians who believe that perhaps we have failed as a nation to properly engage India? And secondly, it is an old chestnut I know, in your bilateral discussions to come with Prime Minister Julia Gillard will India be raising the issue of uranium exports to India?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think if there is any impression that the Prime Minister's participation reflects on our bilateral relations would be most unfortunate and not correct. As I said, the Prime Minister's engagements being what they are,

his commitments were very heavy indeed. In our system the Vice-President holds a position of great importance. The Vice-President is in our Warrant of Precedence in fact second highest personality of our State. The Vice-President has vast experience in international affairs. He is eminently qualified to deal with issues on the global stage. We were honoured that he accepted to lead the Indian Delegation. So, I do not think it would be appropriate to draw any kind of conclusion apart from the fact that the Vice-President leading the Indian Delegation is the right decision.

As to the bilateral, as I said the subject has come up for discussions in the past. Our understanding is that Australia has to make up its own mind on what it will do with uranium. We would welcome a discussion when it does so.

**Question:** Sir, India has increased its contribution to the IMF also. This was cleared by the Cabinet today. Can you give us a little detail on this?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am afraid anything that deals with our contribution to IMF will be announced by the Finance Ministry when it is good and ready.

**Question:** Will the issue of migration be taken up in the Commonwealth Summit? Bangladesh feels that the process has to be more humane.

**Foreign Secretary:** It is one of the issues which will be discussed. Exactly in which format and which particular segment, that I do not have right now. But certainly yes, we have seen a reference to the Bangladeshi wish to have this item also as one of the items for discussion.

**Question:** Sir, side by side with CHOGM Australia is hosting a meeting of largely small developing states on the issue of climate change. Most of these states are members of the G77. There has been some concern that developing countries have been luring them to their point of view by offering financial aid. Will India be doing any sort of negotiation or influencing of these small states in light of Durban? Secondly regarding climate change, the Environment Ministry and the positions it is putting out seem to have given more of an emphasis on equity this year than there has been in the last few years in India's position, and that has not been taken too happily among developed countries. What is the External Affairs Ministry's position on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** It is a Government of India's position. In fact, equity has been the basis of our position all along. I cannot recall an occasion when equity was not among the highest priorities for the Indian negotiators. So, I do not think it would be appropriate to say that there has been any change in the situation there. As regards the Australian meeting with the small island developing states, I do not have too much information on that perhaps because we are not a small island developing state.

**Question:** Not small island developing states, small developing states.

**Foreign Secretary:** Small developing states. No. We continue our discussions with those countries in every available forum. We meet in G77 as you said. Commonwealth is an area where we will certainly be joining in the discussions. But I do not see a separate interaction on this occasion.

**Question:** Sir, on the issue of homosexuality decriminalisation, India is one of the countries which have recently done it. Will India be urging other countries as well to take steps within the Commonwealth?

**Foreign Secretary:** Not that I am aware of.



**088. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Vice-President's engagements at Perth.**

**Perth, October 28, 2011.**

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I am basically going to be discussing the Vice-President's schedule and his meetings yesterday and today. I have with me our High Commissioner to Australia Mrs. Sujatha Singh; Additional Secretary (IO) Mr. Dilip Sinha; Joint Secretary (UNP) Mr. Pavan Kapoor; and Mr. P. Harish who is the Joint Secretary in the Vice-President's Secretariat.

Yesterday the Vice-President had basically one meeting and that was a bilateral meeting with the Leader of the Opposition of Australia Mr. Tony Abbott who was accompanied by the Shadow Foreign Minister and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Julie Bishop. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and spoke on the fast-growing engagement between our two countries. Later on I will request the High Commissioner to add a little bit on background on that, after I finish the other engagements.

The Vice-President held some internal briefings also yesterday evening. This morning his programme included the following. He attended the inaugural session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting which was a very impressive ceremony. Thereafter, the Vice-President proceeded to what was called the Executive Session-1, which was the opening you might say of the actual meeting. The one significant element in that meeting was the welcome which was accorded to the President of Rwanda. As you are aware, Rwanda

joined the Commonwealth and President Kagame was attending his first Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

Thereafter, the Executive Session took up the report of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). The report was presented by the Foreign Minister of Ghana and the main issue was that of Fiji. In respect of Fiji, the CMAG reported that they have held four meetings since the last Heads of Government meeting but there has been really no progress towards Constitutional rule and so Fiji remains suspended.

A mention was made that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had passed away. The Secretary-General, who is Shri Kamallesh Sharma, said that a new Special Representative would soon be appointed.

Thereafter, Mr. Kevin Rudd, the Foreign Minister of Australia presented the outcome of the Foreign Ministers' meetings which had taken place on the two previous days. As you aware, our External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna had represented India in that meeting. The External Affairs Minister had to leave because he is in fact going to be reaching Japan tonight where he will be participating in the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue.

In the presentation made by the Foreign Minister of Australia Mr. Kevin Rudd, three issues were highlighted. One was the process of the communiqué or the Outcome Statement of the Commonwealth. The CMAG report, on having been presented by the Foreign Minister of Ghana, was adopted. As you are aware, the Eminent Persons Group had been set up under the chair of Mr. Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia. That report has made 106 recommendations. So, there was some discussion on various items on that. Thereafter, even this discussion takes into account the broad rubric of what is called Commonwealth for the Future, planning for the future of the Commonwealth. The discussions which took place on the EPG report and the CMAG and others would be continued in the Retreat Session which starts tomorrow morning.

Prior to the presentations there were also separate reports on the Commonwealth Connect - which is a portal created with contributions from India and some contributions also from UK, Canada and Australia - which is designed to improve information connectivity within the Commonwealth.

There was also a report on the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Sustainability Panel. The Foreign Minister of Australia made a detailed presentation on that along with President Zuma of South Africa who is the Co-Chair of UN Secretary-General's Global Sustainability Panel. The issue was in the context of the Commonwealth also being involved in some of those issues relating to sustainability. The Eminent Persons Group meeting was discussed in the afternoon. Mr. Badawi presented the report himself and there was a very

lively discussion on that particular subject. Tomorrow the Retreat is likely to continue the discussions on the EPG as well as the other issues remaining on the agenda.

On the bilaterals, as I mentioned already, the Leader of the Opposition of Australia met the Vice-President yesterday. Subsequently in the evening, Vice-President met the President of Seychelles and they reviewed the fast-growing bilateral cooperation between our two countries. There was a considerable discussion on the fight against piracy. In fact it is of interest that even while the meeting was going on, the Australians had convened another meeting at Foreign Ministers' or senior officials' level on the fight against piracy which was attended by both the Foreign Minister and the Defence Minister of Australia.

In the Seychelles meeting, the President of Seychelles expressed appreciation for India's help in capacity-building, particularly under the ITEC programme, but also in the field of security. A number of issues relating to the Indian Ocean were also discussed. Seychelles is considered one of the very important tourist destinations in the world, and the potential for more Indian tourists was discussed. There was also some discussion on the marine zone cooperation.

As we speak, the President is preparing to attend a banquet which is being hosted by Queen Elizabeth II, and that will finish the programme of the day. As I said, tomorrow will be the Retreat. It is an occasion for informal discussions and it is expected that as a result of these informal discussions, any remaining issues relating to the Outcome Document, the EPG, the other issues on the agenda will get completed in a very informal setting.

That is all I really have to say. We will take a few questions. I will ask my colleagues also to share in answering those questions.

**Question:** In tomorrow's retreat Vice-President would be talking about the EPG and the other issues. Can you highlight a few of the other issues?

**Foreign Secretary:** The completion of the communiqué itself involves the final outcome on the entire gamut of issues which have been discussed both during the Foreign Ministers and during the Vice-Presidents themselves. There are two Executive Sessions - one is on global sustainability, as I said. There is the food security issue under the broad title of what the Australians have given. The entire conference is on building global resilience and building national resilience. The issue of food security and how the Commonwealth must address this issue and assist countries in need for capacity-building to handle food security, would certainly be one of the issues.

There will also be a review of global and Commonwealth developments, promotion of fundamental political values, and women as agents of change. In

fact, it is interesting that during the inaugural ceremony the Prime Minister of Australia did remark on the fact that the outgoing President was the lady Prime Minister from Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; and she was handing over to a lady Prime Minister of Australia; and this was done in the presence of the lady Head of the Commonwealth who is the Queen. The Australians have put a great deal of emphasis on this subject of women as agents of change. In fact, during one of the presentations there was a very interesting statistic that the introduction, bringing women into the work force in the last decade or two decades has been a greater contribution to world GDP than even the increase of China's GDP. I was not aware of this but this was presented as part of one of the UN statistics. So, women as agents of change will be one. There is going to be some discussion on youth. In fact, tomorrow very early in the morning some officials and some of the Heads may be attending what is called a Sports Breakfast. There is a discussion on that. And youth programmes will be another subject of discussion.

The UK Prime Minister also presented some ideas on the diamond jubilee of the Head of the Commonwealth that is Queen. This really relates mostly to those countries for whom the Queen is actually the Head of State. But broadly within the Commonwealth the other countries will be happy to hear about these initiatives also. And then they have the title 'Any Other Business', so then they can discuss any other business.

Just to mention, in the nature of these international meetings you have what are called 'pull asides' in which they meet on the margins. The Vice-President also had you might say 'pull aside' meetings with the Heads of Government of Namibia and of Malawi. As you are aware, India has placed a great deal of emphasis on increasing its engagement with African countries. The cooperation programmes, the lines of credit, issues like these were briefly mentioned in these pull aside meetings.

**Question:** Does the empowerment of the CMAG mean that you will not need a Human Rights Commissioner?

**Foreign Secretary:** The subject of the Human Rights Commissioner is in the EPG report. As I said, there was a lively discussion on it. The subject broadly has still to be finalised by the Heads. So, I do not want to presume what decision they will take. But it was mentioned and there was almost a consensus at the Foreign Ministers' level that the idea of a Human Rights Commissioner needed further study. But as I said, that was just a consensus which emerged from the first level of meetings. But this is a Heads of Government meeting. So, please do not take that as something I am announcing. It is just the fact. The Heads of Government will take a view on this.

**Question:** What were the arguments for and against the move?

**Foreign Secretary:** You have to read the entire report. It is a very voluminous document. I will be happy to share it with you at some point. It has 106 recommendations. This is one of them. This is one which goes into considerable length. This was discussed in New York also when we attended the UN General Assembly. The Canadian Senator Segal, who is one of the principle authors of the report and this particular idea, came and explained it. He said that the idea is that the Commonwealth has like a Good Offices role but Good Offices are taken up or the CMAG gets into an issue when there is a particular, if not a crisis, a change in situation somewhere and then the Heads of Government meet and take note of it; or if a particular government chooses to put in a request on the issue. But a Commissioner for Human Rights would be like a permanent body all the time monitoring human rights situation, assisting with capacity-building, assisting with research - in fact this is one of the issues they have mentioned at some length - on the subject of human rights, governance, democracy and these kind of issues.

This is the way it has been presented. The argument against - this was mentioned in New York, so it is not anything secret - was that the UN already has the system Rapporteurs; it already has systems by which human rights are monitored on a very regular basis; secondly that within CMAT you have a mechanism; and further what would be exactly the relationship between this Commissioner and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth who is actually supposed to implement all these decisions of the Commonwealth; and finally the issue of where do we get the money from for running this kind of a Commissioner. This was a question which was asked even in Delhi. I raised it in New York and there was some talk of reallocation of resources. Today there was a mention that there were some programmes which have outlived their utility and so on, so those could be satisfied and the Commissioner could be set up. I think the whole tenor of the discussion finally did reveal that there are a lot of areas which still need clarification. How this will fit in, whether we can afford it, whether decisions which have been taken in the past and the budget can be just overturned by just one decision, all these issues will take a lot of discussion. So, a consultation process is necessary. This is what a lot of people argued. The Heads of Government will review this and decide on their own and finally they will tell us what they have decided.

**Question:** I would supplement Mr. Rakesh on this human rights issue. For your information, there were some very strong demonstrations held near this hotel. Some 2000 activists demonstrated in favour of the Human Rights Commissioner to Lanka and India especially. Do you find any hidden hand or



hidden agenda for these people to get organised in such a manner and to raise slogans on their own?

**Foreign Secretary:** Since I did not see the demonstrations, I cannot talk about what hand they have hidden behind their back. Broadly speaking, as you aware, there is a strong demand for this. Certainly as a country which values good governance, human rights, and democracy, the subject per se is not a problem for India. The issue is, whether these kinds of accepted values, which we accept as fundamental values, are really primarily an issue for domestic debate, domestic consultations, and for the international community to be of assistance when required in capacity-building, in assisting people, in engagement. So, I think that is the nature. I do not know? What were the demonstrators saying?

**Response:** The demonstrators were raising slogans against India and Lanka and asking that this Human Rights Commissioner be sent to these countries, that the war criminals be put to trial in the court, that third degree methods should not be there, that detention centres should be closed, and all sorts of things. There were almost 2000 people. It must have been funded by someone.

**Question:** Sir, on the issue of this Special Commissioner thing some amount of hype has been generated as you know in our media back home. So, to be on the right side of reporting I just wanted to know how many countries supported our point of view because ultimately what matters is the numbers on any issue in the international community. Secondly, this evening just a little while ago the Secretary-General has announced a set of indicators to ascertain conformity to the core values of the Commonwealth by the Member States. Has our delegation endorsed the entire set of indicators, or are there any one or two issues on which we have some reservations? Reasonable restrictions on media and civil society activism is one of the indicators. In a throbbing democracy like ours, some of our own people can make an issue out of it and take it the Commonwealth. How would it impinge upon our approach and action on this?

**Foreign Secretary:** I have not actually seen those indicators. If I could get back to you on that a little later, we will do that. On the Commissioner, I start with the caveat that this is a debate which is going on. So, I hesitate to try and give you numbers and so on. As I said, this is a matter on which the Heads of Government will take a view. Generally speaking, I think when the Australian Foreign Minister presented his summing up, at the Foreign Minister's level there was certainly a very large majority which did not see that the Commissioner for Human Rights was necessary in the form it has been presented at this stage. The majority basically was saying that we need further discussion on the issue, we need a process of consultation. It is not strictly against or strictly for. It was just that the subject needs much further examination.

**Question:** Sir, you said that there was lively debate about the EPG and much of that of course was about the Human Rights Commissioner. But were there other issues, other recommendations that have also been a matter of debate or disagreement of any sort? And the other question is, in the press conference especially the one with the Secretary-General and the Australian Prime Minister, a number of questions seem to be on Sri Lanka. Like the demonstration on the streets, it has a major target and attention during this. Within ...(Unclear)... has any allegations regarding Sri Lanka's human rights record? Has that come up? Has it been brought up by any country?

**Foreign Secretary:** In addition to the EPG, there was a discussion on the proposed Charter of the Commonwealth. That is another issue. Actually in the EPG report itself there is a charter which has been appended. Though the report per se does not go into the charter in any detail as far as I recall, in effect the EPG report is also presenting this Charter of the Commonwealth. This is again another issue on which there was some lively debate as you might put it. Basically the consensus which was emerging was that the charter itself is not a bad idea, it is a good idea, but what would it do? It would in effect be putting together in one document many concepts, values, ideas, which have already been accepted in previous Commonwealth meetings or through the process of consultation which the Commonwealth has. For example, the principle one would be the document which is called the Affirmation of Principles and Values which was adopted two years ago in Port of Spain. The issues were also like when you come up with a charter which you then declare and it has all these documents, is it legally binding or is it not legally binding. The general consensus was that it should not be, it should be more of a declaratory nature even if you call it a Charter. On this issue also I think the general consensus was, we need to look at this again and go slow.

On your question about Sri Lanka, at the Heads of Government level at least I have not seen. I was present in the sessions today. There was no reference. But if there was any at the Foreign Ministers' level, maybe you can address this question. I was not here on the first day.

**Additional Secretary (IO):** Sri Lanka issue was not on the agenda except in terms of the next Summit which will take place in Colombo about two years later. And that has been reaffirmed by the Foreign Ministers.

**Question:** The strengthening of the CMAG, ...(Unclear)... was that either implicitly or explicitly discussed as a possible compromise for not having the Human Rights Commission accepted? Was that discussed implicitly or explicitly?

**Foreign Secretary:** Implicitly to the extent that the CMAG report as it was presented did have a lot of recommendations and ideas which pointed in the direction that the CMAG has the capacity to do many of these things which are being proposed in the EPG's Commissioner concept. Would you like to expand on that a little?

**Additional Secretary (IO):** Yes, Sir. One needs to make a distinction between the EPG report and the CMAG report. CMAG is an inter-governmental body, it has Ministers in it. So, CMAG has itself been going into the question of reforming and its own working. The EPG Report is a civil society voice. It is a non-government report. There were individual members in it. So, the Governments have not yet had an opportunity to take a look at it and discuss it. So, there is a distinction between the two. The CMAG report came as a report of the Ministers of the countries that are there on the CMAG as a representative body which represents the Foreign Ministers from countries of different regions. So, there is a clear distinction between the two. The EPG report is more in the nature of the views of academics and leaders, former politicians, etc., who have given their recommendations which now have to be looked at. They have been looked at by the Foreign Ministers. The Heads will look at them. Then they will decide what further action needs to be taken on these reports before they crystallise into some kind of implementation by the Commonwealth.

**Foreign Secretary:** Would you like to add anything on the bilateral relations with Australia? Is there a meeting proposed?

**Indian High Commissioner to Australia (Shrimati Sujatha Singh):** There is a going bilateral engagement between India and Australia. The Vice-President will be having a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Gillard on Sunday. The relationship is a fast-growing one virtually in all areas, especially in trade and investment. Australia is India's eighth largest trading partner. Total trade is about 22 billion Australian dollars. Mineral resources account for 88 per cent of Australia's exports to India. Investment is growing. All our IT majors are here, 17 of them. There is a large number of software development centres. There are growing investment in Australia's mineral resources sector here in Western Australia as well as in Queensland where the mineral resource is the coal. Good cooperation in mineral resources. Several action plans for coal, for new and renewable energy, power. There is excellent cooperation also on the scientific research front. We have a large Australia-India Strategic Research Fund. Good people-to-people contacts. So, it is a good relationship growing strongly.

**Question:** Any progress on the sale of uranium to India?

**Indian High Commissioner:** Australia has a position on this which is not India-specific. When they are ready to talk to us about it, we will be ready to talk to them.

**Foreign Secretary:** We have not raised it\*.

Thank you.



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\* Media reports suggested that the Indian team during its stay in Perth interacted with the Australian leadership for supply of Uranium. Australia has a strict uranium export regime which is not India specific. The Vice President even spoke to the leader of the Opposition in Parliament who leads the Centre-right Liberal Party of Australia "If the [Australian] government was serious about reducing global emissions, they would lift the ban on selling uranium to India," Mr. Ansari told Australian TV channel ABC. Australia did realize that India's civil nuclear power programme was not dependent on Australian uranium. Mr. Rudd, the Australian Foreign Minister told the Australian media that "If you hear an argument from an Indian businessperson that the future of the nuclear industry in India depends exclusively on access to uranium, that is simply not sustainable as a proposition" since there was no problem in terms of global supply.(After this there has been change in the Australian position. Please also see Document No.340.)

**089. Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles.****Perth, October 29, 2011.**

1. Food insecurity is one of the most pressing and difficult global challenges of our time. This is a profound concern for the Commonwealth – half of the world's one billion hungry live in our nations. The global food crises of 2007 and 2008 and the ongoing volatility and uncertainty of world food markets underscore the need for sustained international engagement with the issue. The distressing humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, most particularly in Somalia, and the drought, famine and famine-like situations occurring in other most vulnerable countries in the developing world highlight the difficulties we face.
2. Population growth will have a major impact on global demand for food. Additional factors, including scarce land and water resources, the diversion of fertile land, the reduction in crop species and use of crops for non-food purposes, urbanisation, distorted markets, and climate change, are intensifying pressures on supply. The world's poor and most vulnerable suffer most from food insecurity.
3. Commonwealth countries reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.
4. Commonwealth member states affirm the important role that women, youth, farming and fishing communities, civil society, and the private sector play in sustainable development and the need for their effective involvement in driving climate-smart agriculture and the food security agenda.
5. The Commonwealth is uniquely placed to support global food security efforts through Commonwealth countries' membership in all major global and regional forums that are engaged on this issue. Commonwealth countries therefore commit to use their membership of these forums to advocate the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles to achieve outcomes that are relevant and meaningful to members. Commonwealth members further commit to use the Perth Declaration principles as a guide to support domestic efforts to build food security.
6. The Perth Declaration principles reflect our shared approach to addressing the challenge of food insecurity and are focused on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly women and children.
7. The Perth Declaration principles on food security call for:
  - a. coordinated and timely regional and global emergency relief efforts to deal with immediate crises;

- b.** undertaking decisive and timely measures to prevent crises occurring, mitigate their impact when they do and build resilience;
- c.** delivering practical measures over the medium-term to make agriculture, including irrigated agriculture, and fisheries more productive and sustainable;
- d.** strengthening support to government-led programmes and initiatives based on the spirit of effective partnerships;
- e.** development of country-led medium to long-term strategies and programmes to improve food security and ensure alignment of donor support to implementation of country priorities;
- f.** scaling up nutritional interventions, including those that target mothers and young children, and incorporating nutrition considerations into broad food security initiatives;
- g.** enhancing research and development over the longer term to build a sustainable agricultural sector, including through the promotion and sharing of best agricultural practices, in order to feed and nourish the people of the world;
- h.** strengthening fisheries and marine resource management in member states' waters to ensure sustainability of these resources for national and global food security, including through addressing illegal unregulated and unreported fishing;
- i.** improving international market access for food producers, including smallholders and women, through trade liberalisation measures such as the elimination of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and avoidance of restrictions on food exports;
- j.** addressing the impediments that are inhibiting economic opportunities for these important producers, including lack of affordable financing, local value-added and adequate infrastructure;
- k.** collaboration between international organisations, donor countries, and national governments to address production, storage, waste reduction, elimination of post-harvest losses, transportation and marketing challenges; this collaboration could include more effective ways of meeting infrastructure financing gaps that engage the private sector; and

- I. improving the institutional framework for global food security efforts, including by supporting reform of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
8. Commonwealth countries recognise that Africa has the potential not only to achieve food security but to become a significant net food exporter. Leaders commit to supporting efforts and initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), designed to realise the long term potential of Africa as a food producer and exporter.
9. To support African agricultural production, Commonwealth countries have committed to direct action through major investments in agricultural productivity.
10. Commonwealth countries recognise the critical role played by national and international agricultural research in promoting and sharing agricultural technologies for enhanced crop yields, and undertake to deepen their cooperation.
11. Commonwealth countries also underline their critical role in managing and safeguarding a large proportion of the world's fish stocks.
12. In advocating the Perth Declaration principles, Commonwealth countries acknowledge the central role played by the United Nations in global food security governance and commit to show leadership in the United Nations by supporting food and nutrition security initiatives.
13. Committed to using the collective Commonwealth voice to influence global action, Commonwealth members urge the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 to commit to an ambitious programme of action to drive increased investment to boost sustainable global agricultural and fisheries productivity.
14. The Commonwealth, through its five G20 members, further commits to advocate for strong outcomes on food security at the G20 Cannes Summit, including to increase investment in appropriate agricultural technologies and sustainable productivity, to address market volatility and other market-distorting factors, and for food security, including fisheries, to be accorded a high priority within the forward G20 development agenda.
15. Recognising the ongoing critical food security needs, the Commonwealth welcomes the substantial contributions made by Canada, the UK and Australia in fulfilment of their L'Aquila Food Security Initiative commitments, and calls on countries that have not yet fulfilled their food security commitments to do so.

16. Commonwealth countries will continue to prioritise food security and will assess progress towards implementation of these principles on food security at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2013.



**090. Communiqué issued at the end of the Conference of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth Countries (CHOGM).**

**Perth (Australia), October 30, 2011.**

Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Perth, Australia, from 28 to 30 October 2011, under the theme 'Building National Resilience, Building Global Resilience'. Reflecting on the unique nature of the Commonwealth, a voluntary association which brings together 541 developing and developed nations from six continents, Heads reaffirmed their commitment to the values and principles of the Commonwealth and agreed to a series of actions to maintain the Commonwealth's relevance, to ensure its effectiveness in responding to contemporary global challenges and to build resilient societies and economies. Given the significant challenges facing the global economy, Heads emphasised the importance of the international community working cooperatively to secure a sustainable global recovery. Heads highlighted the importance of a strong response to these challenges to provide the necessary confidence to global markets.

**(One member, Fiji, is currently suspended.)**

Heads welcomed the report of the Eminent Persons Group, 'A Commonwealth of the People: Time for Urgent Reform', and thanked members of the Group for their outstanding work. They agreed that the report provided a strong basis to revitalise the Commonwealth and its institutions and ensure its continued relevance to member states and their people – today and in the future.

To this end, **Heads agreed to the following:**

1. *Reform of the Commonwealth to ensure that it is a more effective institution, responsive to members' needs, and capable of tackling the significant global challenges of the 21st century.*

This includes:



- a) the reform of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG);
  - b) consideration of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) recommendations on reform;
  - c) strengthening the management and delivery of Commonwealth programmes, including through regular review of their efficiency, effectiveness and results, against measurable indicators;
  - d) to this end, focusing delivery of practical assistance to members through greater prioritisation and alignment of programmes to members' priorities on the basis of Commonwealth comparative advantage and, where necessary, retiring programmes that do not meet these criteria; and
  - e) undertaking associated reform of the Commonwealth Secretariat and ensuring the adequacy of resources and their appropriate use to enable it to deliver on its agreed mandates.
2. *To actively promote, uphold, preserve and defend the fundamental values, principles and aspirations of the Commonwealth.* Heads agreed to do this by:
- a) agreeing to the recommendations of CMAG to strengthen the role of CMAG, in order to enable the Group to deal with the full range of serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth values;
  - b) resolving that the composition of CMAG for the next biennium should be as follows: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Jamaica, Maldives, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu.
  - c) agreeing that there should be a "Charter of the Commonwealth", as proposed by the Eminent Persons Group, embodying the principles contained in previous declarations, drawn together in a single, consolidated document that is not legally binding.
  - d) Heads will agree to a text for the Charter in 2012, following a process of national consultations, consideration by a Task Force of Ministers drawn from all geographical groupings of the Commonwealth, and a full meeting of Foreign Ministers in New York in September;
  - e) tasking the Secretary-General and CMAG to further evaluate relevant options relating to the EPG's proposal for a Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights and to report back to Foreign Ministers at their September meeting in New York;
  - f) noting that the EPG's recommendations relating to CMAG were consistent with the CMAG reforms adopted by Heads at this meeting;

- g) responding to the remaining EPG recommendations as follows
  - i. adopting without reservation 30 recommendations;
  - ii. adopting, subject to consideration of financial implications, 12 further recommendations;
  - iii. asking the Task Force of Ministers (para 2(d) above) to provide more detailed advice on 43 other recommendations to Foreign Ministers at their September meeting in New York, as a basis for further decision by Heads; and
  - iv. deeming 11 recommendations inappropriate for adoption.
- h) strengthening the newly established Commonwealth Network of Election Management Bodies as well as election monitoring, and supporting capacity building for professional election administrators;
- i) urging the interim government of Fiji to restore democracy without further delay, to respect human rights, and to uphold the rule of law, and reaffirming that the Commonwealth should continue to remain engaged with Fiji and support efforts towards that end;
- j) urging members to consider becoming parties to all major international human rights instruments; to implement fully the rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as those human rights treaties to which they are a party; to uphold these rights and freedoms; to share best practice and lessons learned, including from the United Nations Universal Periodic Review process; and to continue to support the work of National Human Rights Institutions; and
- k) promoting tolerance, respect, understanding and religious freedom which, *inter alia*, are essential to the development of free and democratic societies.

3. *Revitalising the Commonwealth's development priorities to ensure it effectively articulates and meets the development needs of member states today and in the future.*

To this end, Heads:

- a) agreed the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles;
- b) reflected on the multiple development challenges confronting small states in the global economy as a result of their inherent vulnerabilities, and

agreed that this is having an adverse impact on their sustainable development and growth prospects; and in this context:

- i. welcomed and endorsed the outcomes of the first Global Biennial Conference of Small States held in 2010;
  - ii. endorsed the outcomes of the Commonwealth and Developing Small States meeting, which stressed in relation to Commonwealth and developing small states, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS): the importance of taking urgent action on climate change and sustainable development, particularly through the G20, the UN climate change conference in Durban, and Rio+20; the need to work towards legally binding outcomes under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) capable of avoiding dangerous climate change; the need for enhanced action on adaptation and transparent and accessible climate finance to support developing small states; the need for practical outcomes at Rio+20 on the 'blue economy' to ensure the sustainable management of our oceans as the basis for livelihoods, food security and economic development; and for Commonwealth G20 members to reflect these concerns and perspectives at the upcoming G20 summit;
  - iii. agreed that vulnerability to climate change is widespread and particularly affects small states. The Commonwealth has an important role to play in advancing the climate change priorities of Commonwealth small and vulnerable states as well as fostering mutual collaboration among Commonwealth countries in order to address such priorities;
  - iv. agreed to assist small and climate vulnerable states develop their capacity to respond in a timely and effective way to disasters and to build their national disaster response capabilities;
  - v. welcomed the establishment of the Commonwealth Office for Small States in Geneva and urged further support for it;
  - vi. considered the substantive work that the Commonwealth has done on the issue of small states, including on SIDS, and called for this expertise to be shared with other international institutions, such as the UN, which are involved in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action;
- c) recalled the *Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus* and noted the

undisputed threat that climate change poses to the security, prosperity and economic and social development of the people, as well as the impact it has in terms of deepening poverty and affecting the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards a shared vision for long-term cooperative action to achieve the objective of the UNFCCC, addressing mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building in a balanced, integrated and comprehensive manner; in this context:

- i. committed to advocate for these actions at the UNFCCC conference in Durban and beyond, for legally binding outcomes;
  - ii. committed to work together to build climate resilience and to facilitate the efficient mobilisation of funding for urgent and effective mitigation, adaptation and capacity building, prioritising the most vulnerable developing countries, including small island developing states; and recognised the importance of markets in maximising global emission reductions at the least possible cost, and the promotion of technology transfer to these countries;
  - iii. recognising the existential impact of climate change on coastal and island communities, emphasised the great importance of building national resilience to ameliorate local climate change-induced population displacement, as well as the imperative to reach strong and effective solutions to reduce global emissions and enhance multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation on adaptation;
  - iv. committed to practical action in line with the *Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan*, including efforts to facilitate immediate access to climate change finance and technology transfer, especially for mitigation and adaptation;
- d) agreed to focus on practical and ambitious outcomes at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 to address the challenges facing this and future generations, including with a view to expediting implementation of the outcomes of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; in this regard:
- i. committed to advocate urgent action at Rio+20 to assist developing states to build resilience through sustainable development, in particular by taking steps to transition towards green growth trajectories and to strengthen institutional frameworks for achieving this transition. Rio+20

- should deliver an outcome which allows progress to be measured in a meaningful way. The value of natural resources should be given due consideration in economic decision-making;
- ii. agreed to explore options for sharing best practice on resource management and promote initiatives to provide access to monitoring, research, education and training, and technical and policy expertise;
  - iii. welcomed the briefing they received on the emerging conclusions of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability;
  - iv. recognised the need to preserve the policy space of countries to frame their own national strategies to prioritise according to their national circumstances;
  - v. supported and upheld the role and place of local government, in partnership with the private sector, for promoting strategies for localism, sustainable development and economic growth, and supported the implementation of the *Cardiff Consensus for Local Economic Development in the Commonwealth*;
  - vi. recognised the valuable role clean and renewable energy will play in a sustainable future and the importance of promoting the implementation of green technology;
  - vii. recognised the importance of energy security through improved efficiency measures and the promotion of clean and affordable energy, including renewable energy;
  - viii. recognised also the need for sustainable management of oceans for livelihoods, food security and economic development;
  - ix. emphasised that poverty eradication and the provision of universal access to energy for all remain important priorities and that the green economy is a pathway to achieve these objectives on the basis of the Rio Principles of Sustainable Development;
- e) agreed to promote more effective natural resource management through greater transparency and better governance, and taking account of the values of natural capital in decision-making, build on the Commonwealth's longstanding practical contributions to member governments in this area. To that end:
- i. agreed to build capacity in and share best practice on resource management, and welcomed members' initiatives to provide access to research, education and training, and technical and policy expertise;

- ii. welcomed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative principles and encouraged Commonwealth countries to consider supporting or implementing them;
  - iii. committed to combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including through supporting the *Lusaka Declaration* of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region;
- f) agreed to promote inclusive education and to accelerate efforts to achieve quality universal primary education, in line with the MDGs and Education For All goals. They further agreed to:
- i. help children attain basic levels of literacy and numeracy by strengthening international mechanisms and cooperation, including through new technologies;
  - ii. create opportunities for skills development and quality secondary and higher education;
  - iii. call for a successful completion of the first replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education in Copenhagen in November 2011;
- g) committed to universal access to health care, and services to improve maternal and reproductive health, supporting access to safe, affordable and quality medicines, and support for all Commonwealth people by accelerating the implementation of international conventions and eradicating disease by improving domestic health strategies and immunisation systems. Heads agreed to do this by:
- i. accelerating action and financial support to eradicate polio including by improving routine immunisation systems;
  - ii. accelerating implementation of the Political Declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;
  - iii. committing to accelerating action to implement the objectives outlined in the 2011 UN Political Declaration on AIDS;
  - iv. recognising that malaria is one of the leading causes of death and a major obstacle to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty alleviation, agreeing to work proactively with key stakeholders and partners towards accelerated implementation of strategies to reduce malarial morbidity and mortality in member countries;

- v. addressing malnutrition, measles, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea as leading causes of death for children under five, as well as prevalent diseases such as tuberculosis and rotavirus, including through proven international mechanisms such as the GAVI Alliance;
- h) committed to maximise the economic and social benefits of migration to improve the resilience and prosperity of Commonwealth members, whilst addressing the challenges posed by irregular migration which undermines legal migration policies. They:
  - i. called for stronger international cooperation to manage migration effectively in countries of origin, transit and destination, in order to bolster migration's positive effects and to enhance safety nets for migrants;
  - ii. called for cooperation in the fight against irregular migration, including in particular the readmission of own nationals staying irregularly in other states, in accordance with bilateral agreements and international obligations;
  - iii. in this context, articulated the link between migration and development, affirming the importance of adopting migration strategies that would reduce the cost of migration, and create incentives for diaspora communities to invest their financial resources and expertise in the development of their countries of origin;
  - iv. noted and encouraged participation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which Mauritius will host in 2012;
- i) agreed to work together, provide financial support to, and make the policy and institutional changes needed to accelerate achieving the MDGs; and:
  - i. directed the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist members in having their priorities reflected at the special event to be organised by the President of the Sixty-Eighth session of the UN General Assembly to take stock of efforts made towards achieving the MDGs;
- j) called for renewed international commitment to the principles of aid effectiveness to achieve the MDGs by 2015, more imperative than ever in the current challenging global economic and financial environment and, in this regard, noted with appreciation the Commonwealth Statement on Accelerating Development with More Effective Aid, and expressed their desire to achieve a successful outcome at the Fourth High-Level Forum in Busan;

- k) welcomed the launch of the Commonwealth Connects portal as a contemporary platform for networking, building partnerships and strengthening the Commonwealth's values and effectiveness, and encouraged its use; and
  - l) reiterated their support for the Commonwealth Connects programme which is encouraging greater effort from member countries to harness the benefits provided by technology, through promoting strategic partnerships, building ICT capacity and sharing ICT expertise; encouraged member countries to contribute to the Commonwealth Connects Special Fund; and requested the Secretariat's continued support for the programme.
4. *Working together and with global partners to secure the global economic recovery and ensure a stronger, more sustainable and balanced global economic system that will benefit all Commonwealth countries, by:*
- a) committing to avoid trade protectionism and advocating the importance of an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system as a driver of global growth and to support development, and in this context:
    - i. congratulated the thirteen Commonwealth countries that have agreed to formal negotiations to create an African Free Trade Area, covering 26 countries from the Cape to Cairo, by 2014;
  - b) committing also to support regional economic integration, enhancing market access and building the capacity of LDCs, land-locked developing states, and other small and vulnerable economies, including SIDS, to participate in and benefit from the global trading and economic system and to further encourage pan-Commonwealth trade;
  - c) reaffirming their commitment to pursuing development-oriented and ambitious results in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Round, but noting with grave concern the impasse in current negotiations and calling upon WTO members to make substantive progress at the Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011 for an early conclusion of the Doha Round, they:
    - i. reaffirmed the role of the World Trade Organization in making rules which keep pace with demands generated by global economic shifts, help police protectionist measures, and contribute to a sustainable global economic recovery;



- ii. urged the international community to accelerate efforts to enhance market access for LDCs, land-locked developing states and SIDS at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference;
  - iii. urged support for an anti-protectionist pledge at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference;
  - iv. considered innovative approaches to drive forward trade liberalisation and to strengthen the multilateral rules-based trading system;
  - v. further reaffirmed the importance of sustained and predictable Aid for Trade in strengthening the capacity of developing country members, in particular small and vulnerable economies, to become more competitive and better able to capture opportunities created by more open regional and global markets. To this end, Heads called for continued support for Aid for Trade and improved disbursement procedures at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference;
- d) urging the G20 to take the necessary steps to address current economic instability and to take concrete steps to put open trade, jobs, social protection and economic development at the heart of the recovery. This will provide the necessary confidence to global markets and ensure a more stable global economic environment. In support of this, Commonwealth countries:
- i. committed to take all necessary steps to support the global economic recovery;
  - ii. supported ongoing high-level political engagement with the G20 chair and, in this context, welcomed the interaction of the Secretaries-General of the Commonwealth and *La Francophonie* with the Chair of the G20, as initiated in 2010;
  - iii. agreed that Commonwealth G20 members would undertake to convey Commonwealth members' perspectives and priority concerns to the G20 Summit in Cannes, France;
  - iv. agreed to launch an annual officials-level Commonwealth meeting on the G20 development agenda, building on the Commonwealth's current contributions to the G20 Development Working Group; and
- e) agreeing to reduce the cost of remittance transfers by removing barriers to remitting and encouraging greater competition in the transfer market, by endorsing the World Bank's General Principles for International Remittance Services

- i. in line with this, Commonwealth countries committed to implement practical measures at the national level to reduce the cost of remittances.
5. *Improving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Commonwealth by:*
  - a) supporting national programmes to this effect, including initiatives to eliminate gender-based violence, intensifying efforts to promote women's decision-making roles at all levels, and continuing to improve advocacy for women's leadership and the empowerment of women as leaders;
  - b) implementing international instruments and agreements on women's rights, including the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, the *Commonwealth's Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015*, and the '*Joint Statement on Advancing Women's Political Participation*' and UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325, 1888 and 1889;
  - c) applauding the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat in promoting the significance of the 2011 Commonwealth Day Theme "Women as Agents of Change" and the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women to achieving the MDGs;
  - d) directing the Commonwealth Secretariat to institutionalise the principles of gender mainstreaming, as enshrined in the Commonwealth Plan of Action; and to provide recommendations to Heads, through the Tenth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (WAMM) on steps that need to be taken to mainstream gender equality across all Commonwealth work; and to make real progress on implementation of the Plan of Action;
  - e) supporting the call made by Ministers at the Ninth WAMM held in Bridgetown, Barbados in June 2010, for a more effective response from all actors in the global community to the disproportionately negative impact of the current international and national economic crises on women; and
  - f) giving due consideration to the domestic legislation of member countries, the Commonwealth may address the issue of early and forced marriage, and consider actions to support the rights of women and children and to share its best practices to promote the implementation of measures to tackle early and forced marriage.
6. *Providing a greater voice and more effective role for youth in the*

*Commonwealth, who represent over 50 per cent of the Commonwealth population, by:*

- a) directing the Commonwealth Secretariat to undertake an assessment of the Commonwealth's progress on the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, to be submitted with recommendations to Heads, through the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in 2012, on steps that need to be taken to improve youth engagement and empowerment;
- b) enhancing communication with youth, collecting and sharing good practices, and ensuring the voice of youth is represented in Commonwealth actions at the national and international level; and
- c) recognising the important role of government, the private sector and technical and vocational training institutions in addressing youth unemployment and the vital importance of sport in assisting young people to stay healthy, contribute to society and develop into leaders of their communities.

7. *Maintaining their commitment to a stable and secure national and international environment, as a foundation for sustainable growth and resilience for Commonwealth countries and the broader international community.* Heads committed to improve international security by:

- a) unequivocally preventing the use of their territories for the support, incitement to violence or commission of terrorist acts, implementing the necessary legal framework for the suppression of terrorist financing, and preventing the raising and use of funds by terrorists, terrorist front organisations, and transnational terrorist organisations;
- b) accelerating efforts to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism;
- c) accelerating efforts to combat piracy in a manner consistent with international law and to strengthen maritime security, including through enhancing the capacity of coastal states;
- d) urging the international community to recognise that the menace of piracy in the Indian Ocean cannot be effectively tackled in the absence of political stability and security in Somalia; urging concerted efforts towards strengthening the Transitional Federal Government and other state institutions, including the security sector; encouraging the international community to mobilise additional funding for AMISOM, as appropriate; and encouraging global support in combating piracy and terrorism, including through enhanced maritime security;

- e) encouraging states to continue supporting the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in its coordination of international counter-piracy efforts;
  - f) combating proliferation and trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons;
  - g) embracing moderation as an important value to overcome all forms of extremism, as called for in the 'Global Movement of the Moderates';
  - h) encouraging participation in the 2012 Diplomatic Conference to negotiate on the basis of consensus an effective Arms Trade Treaty which is of broad universal acceptance;
  - i) improving legislation and capacity in tackling cyber crime and other cyber space security threats, including through the Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum's Cyber Crime Initiative;
  - j) affirming support for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and its Seventh Review Conference in December 2011; and
  - k) continuing to tackle the root causes of conflict, including through the promotion of democracy, development and strong legitimate institutions.
8. *Combating people smuggling and human trafficking by clamping down on illicit criminal organisations and bringing the perpetrators of these crimes to justice, while protecting and supporting the victims of trafficking.* Heads committed to:
- a) fight people-smuggling as part of their broader efforts to maintain border integrity and manage migration, including through enhancing border security and regional cooperation;
  - b) put in place the necessary legal and administrative framework to address the challenge of human trafficking; and affirmed their commitment to the principle of solidarity and cooperation between states with regard to the identification, assistance and protection of victims of trafficking; and
  - c) comply with all obligations arising under international law and urged all countries to become parties to and implement the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
9. *To promote the future of the Commonwealth through the strong and important voice of its people by:*
- a) welcoming the contribution made by inter-governmental, associated and other Commonwealth organisations, including the Commonwealth

Foundation, Commonwealth of Learning, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Commonwealth Business Council, Commonwealth Local Government Forum and the Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management;

- b) urging Commonwealth organisations and civil society to enhance Commonwealth networks and partnerships with a view to achieving the fundamental values and aspirations of the Commonwealth;
- c) relaunching the Commonwealth Foundation in 2012, while retaining its fundamental intergovernmental nature and maintaining its accountability to member states, with a revised mandate and Memorandum of Understanding so that it can more effectively deliver the objectives of strengthening and mobilising civil society in support of Commonwealth principles and priorities; and
- d) welcoming the outcomes of the Commonwealth People's Forum, Business Forum, and Youth Forum.

10. *To reaffirm previous CHOGM Communiqués on Cyprus and express full support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and the efforts of the leaders of the two communities, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission, to bring about a comprehensive Cyprus settlement, based on the UN Charter and the relevant UNSCRs for a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty, single international personality and a single citizenship, in a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality as described in the relevant UNSCRs. Heads called for the implementation of UNSCRs, in particular 365 (1974), 541 (1983), 550 (1984), and 1251 (1999) and reiterated their support for the full respect of the human rights of all Cypriots and for the accounting for all missing persons. To extend their full support and solidarity to the Republic of Cyprus in the exercise of its sovereign rights under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to explore and exploit the natural resources in its Exclusive Economic Zone.*

11. *To note recent developments in the ongoing efforts of Belize to seek a just, peaceful and definitive resolution to Guatemala's territorial claims. Heads noted that, due to the electoral campaigns scheduled in both Belize and Guatemala in the coming months, it was envisaged that the earliest date for the referenda required to submit the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) would be in late 2013. Heads expressed a high level of confidence that the dispute could be resolved through the judicial procedure of the ICJ, and urged the support and financial assistance of the international community for this process. Heads further expressed satisfaction with the ongoing Confidence Building Measures supported by the Organization of American States, which had contributed immensely to stability in the adjacent border areas of Belize and Guatemala. They*

*noted with concern the environmental problems being faced by Belize in its national parks along its adjacent areas with Guatemala due to the increasing encroachments by Guatemalan citizens for illegal logging. Heads reiterated their firm support for the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of Belize, and mandated the Secretary-General to continue to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary.*

12. *Having received a report on Guyana-Venezuela relations, to express their satisfaction that the relations between the two countries continued to grow and deepen. Heads noted that the Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Venezuela had met recently in Trinidad and Tobago to address the concerns of the Government of Venezuela over Guyana's submission of a claim to an extended continental shelf to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Heads expressed the view that the current climate in the relations between Guyana and Venezuela was conducive to the realisation of the mandate of the UN Good Offices Process. Heads reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the maintenance and safeguarding of Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty.*

13. *To welcome the interest shown by the Government of South Sudan in joining the Commonwealth, and to request the Commonwealth Secretariat to pursue the established procedures in this regard.*

14. *To look forward to the conditions being created for the return of Zimbabwe to the Commonwealth and continue to encourage the parties to implement the Global Political Agreement faithfully and effectively.*

15. *To congratulate the Head of the Commonwealth on her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Heads welcomed proposed Commonwealth initiatives to mark this historic occasion, in particular the establishment of a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, which would be funded by private donations and voluntary contributions from governments. This will support charitable projects and organisations across the Commonwealth, focusing on areas such as tackling curable diseases, the promotion of all forms of education and culture and other Commonwealth priorities.*

16. *To reappoint Mr Kamallesh Sharma as Commonwealth Secretary-General for a further four-year term commencing April 2012.*

17. *Finally, to reaffirm their decisions to meet next in Sri Lanka in 2013 and thereafter in Mauritius in 2015, as well as to welcome the offer by Malaysia to host the 2019 CHOGM.*

**Perth  
Australia  
30 October 2011**



**G-20****091. Remarks of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee made during the First Session of G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting.****Paris, February 18, 2011.**

Since 2008 the G 20 process has been driven by the objective of arriving at coordinated responses to the challenges emerging out of an unprecedented global financial and economic crisis, and more recently of safeguarding the process of economic recovery. The global recovery remains fragile, uneven and is fraught with significant downside risks arising from the volatility in exchange rates, high commodity prices, persistently high unemployment and high inflation in some economies, and difficulties in formulating medium-term fiscal consolidation plans. Nevertheless, the coordinated response in the aftermath of the global crisis, and the resultant recovery, even if it is not complete, has clearly demonstrated the merits of a coordinated approach. A new style of economic governance appropriate to a rapidly integrating global economy is being born.

Underpinning the effort to take forward the cooperation to address structural problems in the global economy has been the G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced growth. Our leaders at the Seoul summit had underscored the centrality of the MAP process and the need to enhance this multilateral process to promote external sustainability, by pursuing the full range of policies conducive to reducing excessive imbalances and maintaining current account balances at sustainable levels. Persistently large imbalances are to be assessed against indicative guidelines in terms of their nature and the root causes of the impediments to adjustment, while remaining cognizant of national or regional circumstances.

At this juncture I would like to highlight a few key words in the leader's declaration at the Seoul summit. The focus was clearly on 'promoting external sustainability' within the spirit of multilateral cooperation. Our leaders were careful to recognise that such an exercise should focus on persistent and excessive imbalances.

I welcome the progress made so far by the G20 Framework Working Group in the difficult task of working towards an agreed set of indicators and towards framing guidelines for addressing persistent imbalances. I hope that the remaining differences would be ironed out during this meeting. I would like to emphasise that the task of preparing guidelines, and the ensuing MAP process, should not be seen by members as one of fabricating an iron casket or a mould that would be used to shape country specific policies in a manner that one size

would fit all. The objective is clearly of arriving at a consensus on a set of 'indicative' guidelines that could reduce excessive external imbalances. It would be difficult to realize our objective according to the agreed timelines if we cannot agree on indicators during this meeting. Therefore, I would strongly urge my colleagues at the table to reach a consensus on the indicators during today's deliberations. I would like to emphasize that the Framework is a joint effort of the G 20 to arrive at a road map to deal with the problem of global imbalances. A positive outcome is needed to provide a signal that the G 20 is serious on ensuring strong sustainable and balanced growth for the World economy and addressing structural problems in the global economy and that it is not simply a crisis-fighting forum.

We need to proceed in a spirit of multilateral cooperation, recognising that the guidelines arrived at are not only in the interest of the global economy, but also in the interest of individual economies regardless of their size or their current rate of growth. In this context I would like to reiterate my Prime Minister's suggestion at the Seoul Summit that a way must be found of channelling global savings to regions where huge investments are required for development and infrastructure.

The position of India in this regard is that it did not (and does not) contribute either to the buildup, or to the persistence of global imbalances. Nor does it contribute to the volatility that we have been witnessing in several of the international markets, including commodity markets. According to latest estimates, the Indian economy is estimated to have grown by 8.6% in 2010-11 and the Indian growth story remains robust.

A large emerging economy like India is vulnerable to seasonal factors and their effect on the food prices. As a result of vagaries of weather, India has witnessed a high and unsustainable inflation on the food items. The food inflation has also been accentuated by structural changes in the consumption pattern thanks to our growth. Such high food inflation has a tendency to feed into general inflation throwing challenges at our macroeconomic management. The high and persisting international prices of food commodities do not give us room for comfort in tackling food inflation in India.

We are also fortunate that the current phase of growth has been more or less evenly balanced between consumption and investment on the one hand, and between domestic demand and external demand on the other. Nevertheless, we have our share of concerns arising from elevated commodity and asset prices, and economic problems of a more structural nature that underlie the uncertainties in the global economy. Some of these uncertainties also derive from the aggressive macro-economic policy response to the global crisis itself.



Despite the two-speed global recovery, we live in a world which is becoming more integrated rather than decoupled. Any sustainable recovery must necessarily be global, where trade and capital will need to flow in a stable manner and where benefits accrue across the board by creating employment and well being without destroying livelihoods.



**092. Communiqué issued by the G- 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at their Conference in Paris.**

**February 18-19, 2011.**

1. We, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, met today to address ongoing economic and financial challenges and to agree on a way forward to fulfill the mandates given to us by our Leaders.
2. The global recovery is strengthening but is still uneven and downside risks remain. While most advanced economies are seeing modest growth and persisting high unemployment, emerging economies are experiencing more robust growth, some with signs of overheating. We reaffirm our willingness to ensure a consistent and coordinated response to the challenges we face, address the root causes of the crisis and restore global economic growth on a sounder basis.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to coordinated policy action by all G20 members to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Our main priority actions include implementing medium term fiscal consolidation plans differentiated according to national circumstances in line with our Toronto commitment, pursuing appropriate monetary policy, enhancing exchange rate flexibility to better reflect underlying economic fundamentals and structural reforms, to sustain global demand, increase potential growth, foster job creation and contribute to global rebalancing. We discussed progress made since the Seoul Summit and stressed the need to reduce excessive imbalances and maintain current account imbalances at sustainable levels by strengthening multilateral cooperation. We agreed on a set of indicators that will allow us to focus, through an integrated two-step process, on those persistently large imbalances which require policy actions. To complete the work required for the first step, our aim is to agree, by our next meeting in April, on indicative guidelines against which each of these indicators will be assessed, recognizing the need to take into account national or regional circumstances, including

large commodity producers. While not targets, these indicative guidelines will be used to assess the following indicators: (i) public debt and fiscal deficits; and private savings rate and private debt (ii) and the external imbalance composed of the trade balance and net investment income flows and transfers, taking due consideration of exchange rate, fiscal, monetary and other policies. We also adopted a timetable for developing the 2011 action plan that will implement our Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth and monitor the commitments already made. As agreed in Seoul, we call on the IMF to provide an assessment as part of the Mutual Assessment Process on progress towards external sustainability and consistency of policies at our October meeting. At that time, we will also review a report on the MAP including an action plan informed by the analysis on the root causes of persistently large imbalances based on the agreed guidelines. We will also review an assessment of progress made in meeting commitments made in Seoul.

4. The international monetary system (IMS) has proven resilient, but vulnerabilities remain, which raise the need to improve it in order to ensure systemic stability, promote orderly adjustment, and avoid disruptive fluctuations in capital flows, disorderly movements in exchange rates – including advanced economies with reserve currencies being vigilant against excess volatility – and persistent misalignment of exchange rates. Today we agreed on a work program aimed at strengthening the functioning of the IMS, including through coherent approaches and measures to deal with potentially destabilizing capital flows, among which macro-prudential measures, mindful of possible drawbacks; and management of global liquidity to strengthen our capacity to prevent and deal with shocks, including issues such as Financial Safety Nets and the role of the SDR. This will also require discussions on exchange rates issues and on the strengthening of IMF surveillance. We look forward to discussing at our next meeting in April a report from the IMF on the strengthening of the IMS and reports by the World Bank and the RDBs building on experiences, on actions to strengthen local capital markets and domestic currency borrowing in emerging and developing economies. In addition, we will benefit from the work of OECD on capital flows, and from the contributions of other relevant international organizations, such as UNCTAD.

5. We discussed concerns about consequences of potential excessive commodity price volatility and asked our deputies to work with international organizations and to report back to us on the underlying drivers and the challenges posed by these trends for both consumers and producers and consider possible actions. Keeping in mind the impact of this volatility on food security, we reiterated the need for long-term investment in the agricultural sector in developing countries. We welcomed the interim report by the IEF, IEA and OPEC to improve the quality, timeliness and reliability of the Joint

Organization Data Initiative Oil (JODI oil) and call for further work on strategies to implement these recommendations to be detailed in their final report. Building on the Riyadh symposium held on January 24th, we encourage the IEF to provide concrete strategies to improve the producer-consumer dialogue at its next meeting on February 22nd 2011. Following our Leaders' request, we call on the IMF and IEF, as well as IEA, GECF and OPEC, to develop by October 2011 concrete recommendations to extend the G20's work on oil price volatility to gas and coal. We look forward to discussing at our next meeting the report of IEF, IEA, OPEC and IOSCO on price reporting agencies as well as the interim report on food security currently being undertaken by the relevant international organizations, and IOSCO's recommendations, and the FSB's consideration of next steps, on regulation and supervision of commodity derivatives markets notably to strengthen transparency and address market abuses.

6. We commit to pursuing the reform of the financial sector. Despite good progress, significant work remains. We will implement fully the Basel III new standards for banks within the agreed timelines while taking due account of the agreed observation periods and review clauses in respect of the liquidity standards. Likewise, we will implement in an internationally consistent and non-discriminatory way the FSB's recommendations on OTC derivatives and on reducing reliance on credit rating agencies' ratings. We look forward to the completion by the next Leaders' Summit of the following ongoing work on systemically important financial institutions as scheduled in the FSB work program for 2011: determination of Global-systemically important financial institutions by FSB and national authorities based on indicative criteria, a comprehensive multi-pronged framework with more intensive supervisory oversight; effective resolution capacity including in a cross-border context; higher loss absorbency measures through a menu of viable alternatives that may include, depending on national circumstances, capital surcharges, contingent capital and bail-in instruments ; and other supplementary requirements as determined by the national authorities including systemic levies. Once the framework initially applicable to G-SIFIs is agreed, we will move expeditiously to cover all SIFIs. We look forward to the 2 reports to be finalized by the BIS, IMF and FSB on macro-prudential frameworks and by the FSB, IMF and World Bank with input of national authorities on financial stability issues in emerging market and developing economies by our October meeting. We look forward to the recommendations that the FSB will prepare by mid-2011 on regulation and oversight of the shadow banking system to efficiently address the risks, notably of arbitrage, associated with shadow banking and its interactions with the regulated banking system. We call on IOSCO to develop by mid-2011 recommendations to promote markets' integrity and efficiency notably to mitigate the risks created by the latest technological developments.

We also call on the FSB to bring forward for our next meeting comprehensive proposals to strengthen its governance, resources and outreach. We urge all jurisdictions to fully implement the FSB principles and standards on sounder compensation practices agreed by the G20 Leaders in Pittsburgh and call on the FSB to undertake ongoing monitoring in this area and look forward to receiving the results of a second thorough FSB peer review midyear to identify remaining gaps. We call on the OECD, the FSB and other relevant international organizations to develop common principles on consumer protection in the field of financial services by our October meeting. We reaffirm our commitment to more effective oversight and supervision, including regular stress testing of banks building on the Basel committee's principles.

7. We reiterated our call to improve compliance with international standards and strengthen the process of identifying non-cooperative jurisdictions. We look forward to the forthcoming update by FATF of the public list of jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies and to a public list of all jurisdictions evaluated by the FSB ahead of the next G20 Leaders Summit. We welcome the 18 peer reviews issued by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information and urge all jurisdictions so far identified as not having the elements in place to achieve an effective exchange of information to promptly address the weaknesses. We look forward to the progress report by November 2011, based on the expected completion of around 60 phase 1 reviews, to address in particular the jurisdictions' quality of cooperation with the Forum, level of compliance and unsolved deficiencies. We call upon more jurisdictions to join the Global Forum and to commit to implementing the standards. We urge all jurisdictions to extend further their networks of Tax Information Exchange Agreements and encourage jurisdictions to consider signing the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

8. We discussed the way forward on implementing the Seoul Development Consensus on Shared Growth and its Multi-Year Action Plan. In particular we welcome the launch of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion last December. We also welcome the appointment of the members of the High Level Panel for Infrastructure Investment, and look forward to their recommendations by September. We discussed the report made by the UN High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing. We welcome the positive outcomes of the Cancun Climate Conference, and in particular the decision to establish a Green Climate Fund, and will pursue discussions on mobilizing sources of financing, including public and private, bilateral and multilateral, as well as innovative sources, consistent with the objective, provisions and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

9. We reaffirm our commitment to free trade and investment recognizing its central importance for the global recovery. We will refrain from introducing, and oppose protectionist trade actions in all forms and recognize the importance of a prompt conclusion of the Doha negotiations.

10. We stand ready to support Egypt and Tunisia, with responses at the appropriate time well coordinated with the international institutions and the regional development banks to accompany reforms designed to the benefit of the whole population and the stabilization of their economies.



**093. Communiqué issued by the G–20 Finance Ministers and Governor of Central Banks at their meeting at Washington (D.C).**

**April 15, 2011.**

1. We, the G - 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, met today to address the economic challenges at hand and to progress on our previous commitments. We reaffirmed that our overriding objective is to improve the living standards of all our citizens through strong economic and jobs growth. We expressed our solidarity with the Japanese people after the tragic events, our readiness to provide any needed cooperation, and our confidence in the resilience of the Japanese economy and financial sector.

2. The global recovery is broadening and becoming more self-sustained, with increasingly robust private demand growth. But downside risks still remain. We agreed to remain vigilant and to take the actions required to strengthen the recovery and reduce risks.

Events in some Middle-East-North African countries and in Japan have increased economic uncertainty and tensions in energy prices. We noted there is adequate spare capacity to meet global energy demand.

3. In order to enhance our mutual assessment process to promote external sustainability, we agreed on a set of indicative guidelines (see attached) that complete the first step of our work to address persistently large imbalances. We now launch the second step of this process with an in-depth assessment of the nature of these imbalances and the root causes of impediments to adjustment. Based on this analysis, the IMF assessment on progress toward external sustainability, as well as the other aspects of our mutual assessment

process, we will ascertain for our next meeting the corrective and preventive measures that will form the 2011 action plan to ensure Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, to be discussed by Leaders at the Cannes Summit.

4. To strengthen the international monetary system, we agreed to focus our work, in the short term, on assessing developments in global liquidity, a country specific analysis regarding drivers of reserve accumulation, a strengthened coordination to avoid disorderly movements and persistent exchange rates misalignments, a criteria-based path to broaden the composition of the SDR, an improved toolkit to strengthen the global financial safety nets, enhanced cooperation between the IMF and regional financial arrangements, the development of local capital markets and domestic currency borrowing, coherent conclusions for the management of capital flows drawing on country experiences. We also agreed on the need to strengthen further the effectiveness and coherence of bilateral and multilateral IMF surveillance, particularly on financial sector coverage, fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies.

5. We welcome the entry into force and the activation of the expanded and more flexible New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB). We will work to complete the steps required to implement the 2010 quota and governance reform by the Annual Meetings of 2012.

6. Commodity prices face increasing pressures. We welcomed the recommendations of the IEF, IEA and OPEC and committed to improve the timeliness, completeness and reliability of the JODI Oil database. We welcomed the work of international organizations on their report to address excessive price volatility in food and agricultural markets, and its impact on food security. We look forward to receiving their final recommendations, including on risk management and mitigation tools. We stressed the need for participants on commodity derivatives markets to be subject to appropriate regulation and supervision, called for enhanced transparency in both cash and derivatives markets as previously recommended by IOSCO, and asked IOSCO to finalize, by September, its recommendations on regulation and supervision in this area especially to address market abuses and manipulation, such as through formalized position management powers including the authority to set ex-ante position limits where appropriate, among other powers of interventions.

7. We welcomed the preliminary proposals of the FSB to strengthen its capacity, resources and governance including representativeness and asked the FSB to put forward formal proposals at its July meeting for review at our next meeting. We took stock of progress made to determine a cohort of global SIFIs and confirmed that the FSB will make recommendations on a multi-pronged framework with more intensive supervisory oversight, effective resolution capacities and higher loss absorbency capacity. We look forward to

public consultations on SIFI recommendations and request a macroeconomic impact study by FSB and BCBS, in cooperation with BIS and IMF, to be reviewed at our next meeting. We welcomed the FSB work on the scope of shadow banking and look forward to the recommendations that the FSB will prepare for our next meeting on the regulation and oversight of the shadow banking system. We committed to set high, internationally consistent, coordinated and non-discriminatory requirements in our legislations and regulations implementing FSB recommendations on OTC derivatives markets and stressed the need to avoid overlapping regulations. We urge all jurisdictions to fully implement the FSB principles and standards on compensation. We call on the FSB to undertake ongoing monitoring in this area and will assess the results of the 2nd peer review on compensation practices by our next meeting. We will review at our next meeting progress made by the IASB and FASB towards completing their convergence project by the end of 2011 and look forward to the outcome of the ongoing IASB governance review process. We welcomed ongoing work of OECD and FSB and other relevant international organizations to develop common principles on consumer protection in financial services.

8. We agreed to maintain momentum for action to tackle non-cooperative jurisdictions and to fully implement the G20 anti-corruption action plan. We asked the Global Forum to report to us on ways to improve the effectiveness of exchange of tax information. We tasked the World Bank, working with Regional Development Banks, and the IMF, in coordination with other relevant organizations, to conduct the analysis on mobilizing sources of climate change financing, including public and private bilateral and multilateral as well as innovative sources, drawing inter alia on the AGF report consistent with the objective, provisions and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We support the work of the transitional committee established for the design of the Green Climate Fund. We reemphasize the importance of implementing the Seoul Development Consensus on Shared Growth and its Multi-year Action-Plan. We look forward to concrete recommendations from the High level panel on infrastructure investment by September.

#### G - 20 Indicative Guidelines for Assessing Persistently Large Imbalances

1. Our aim is to promote external sustainability and ensure that G20 members pursue the full range of policies required to reduce excessive imbalances and maintain current account imbalances at sustainable levels.
2. In February we agreed on a set of indicators that will allow us to focus through an integrated 2-step process on those persistently large imbalances that require policy action. These indicators are (i)

public debt and fiscal deficits; and private savings rate and private debt (ii) and the external imbalance composed of the trade balance and net investment income flows and transfers, whilst taking due consideration of exchange rate, fiscal, monetary and other policies.

3. To complete the first step, we have agreed today on indicative guidelines against which each of these indicators will be assessed. While not policy targets, these guidelines establish reference values for each available indicator allowing for identification of countries for the second step in-depth assessment. Four approaches will be used:
  1. A structural approach, which is based on economic models and grounded in economic theory, which benchmarks G20 members against each indicator in a way that takes into account specific circumstances including large commodity producers (e.g. its demographic profile, oil balance or trend growth).
  2. A statistical approach which benchmarks G20 countries on the basis of their national historical trends.
  3. A statistical approach which benchmarks G20 country's historical indicators against groups of countries at similar stages in their development.
  4. A statistical approach which draws on data, benchmarking G20 country's indicators against the full G20.
4. Statistical approaches are based on the 1990 to 2004 period, as this is the period that preceded the large build up in external imbalances. Reference values drawn from 1990-2010 were also provided as a complement. In all four approaches, forecast figures over the 2013-15 period are compared to the values suggested by the guidelines to determine whether or not an in depth assessment should be undertaken. Those countries identified by at least two of the four approaches as having persistently large imbalances will be assessed in-depth to determine in a second step the nature and root causes of their imbalances and to identify impediments to adjustment. In carrying out this assessment, we will take due account of the exchange rate and monetary policy frameworks of members. For members of the euro area with its governance framework, this assessment will involve the appropriate authorities. National circumstances will also be taken into account. In the second step assessment, the independent IMF analysis will rely on IMF forecast data, while countries' own assessments can use national data.



5. For the identification of countries that will move into the second stage, the selection rules for G20 countries accounting for more than 5 % of G20 GDP (on market exchange rates or PPP exchange rates) will reflect the greater potential for spillover effects from larger economies.



**094. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the views of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the Agenda of G-20 countries dealing effectively with Interrelated issues of Global imbalances, Financial Regulations and the international Monetary System.**

**New Delhi, September 13, 2011.**

Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee has said that one of the central objectives of the G-20 has been to address the root causes of the global financial crisis, prevent a recurrence and, going forward, to take measures to achieve strong sustainable and balanced growth. Dealing effectively with the interrelated issues of global imbalances, financial regulation, and the international monetary system are central to this agenda, he said. The Finance Minister was speaking at the international conference on 'Global Cooperation on Sustainable Growth and Development, here today. He said that the conference had been organised around 5 broad thematic areas - global imbalances, financial regulation, international monetary system, development and commodity markets. He said that in each of these areas, the world is facing several immediate challenges and these issues are therefore the subject of ongoing discussions in the G 20. He congratulated ICRIER and its partners for organizing this timely conference and bringing together eminent academics and policymakers from across 14 countries, to deliberate on these critical issues.

Finance Minister said that the G 20 demonstrated its relevance to international policy making with the success of its coordinated response on the fall-out of the global financial crisis. He said that the economic downturn was moderated and growth resumed in the second half of 2009 in most economies, although the pace of recovery remained uneven. The Finance Minister said that it appeared that policy makers had learnt their lessons from history by honing and harmonising the use of macro-economic policy and keeping markets open. At the same time, countries in the developed and the developing world adopted revival strategies in keeping with the needs of their respective contexts, he said.

Shri Mukherjee said that developments in recent months have been less encouraging and there is widespread apprehension that even the tepid global economic recovery that we have seen so far is stalling. Growth in most advanced economies has declined in the second quarter of 2011 and emerging markets are witnessing a combination of moderation in growth and rising inflation, he said.

The Finance Minister said that advanced economies, the Euro zone and the US, are seized with sovereign debt problems which is making financial markets nervous. He stated that elevated fiscal deficits and public debt have always followed deep recessions in the past, which could be overcome with stronger recovery in output and in the present instance, the nominal output is yet to reach the pre-crisis levels. Shri Mukherjee said that there are structural constraints coming in the way of advanced economies returning to their trend growth path. As a result, their fiscal position looks increasingly unsustainable. He said that despite the aggressive fiscal and monetary policy, unemployment continues to be at its highest in many advanced countries. The question is what more can policy makers do to improve growth or to avoid another downturn, he said.

The Finance Minister said that emerging markets recovered quickly from global slowdown, but are facing elevated commodity prices, inflation, moderating growth and volatile capital flows all at once. Central banks have been forced to raise policy rates repeatedly, potentially compromising growth in the short-term. While raising rates may help stabilize growth, it may also invite more capital inflows. It is true that emerging economies are relatively better placed with regard to their public debt and fiscal deficit due to their stronger growth momentum and relatively robust banking systems. Their downside risks are on account of high oil and commodity prices and volatility in capital flows, partly due to the easy money policies in advanced countries, he said.

Shri Mukherjee said that unlike at the outset of the global financial crisis, when G 20 led policy coordination across economies could be achieved rapidly, it may be more difficult now. The advanced and developing countries are at different stages of the business cycle. It is important, therefore, to pause and think about what the G 20 agenda has been thus far and how it needs to evolve in future, he said.

Shri Mukherjee said that most observers believe that the proximate cause of the recent crisis lay in a small, sub-prime segment of the US housing market. The ultimate reasons included the growing weaknesses in financial regulation and the build up of global imbalances. Since the international monetary system does not have an effective mechanism for preventing the build up of global imbalances, the G 20 took up the issue of its reform on a priority basis, he said.

The Finance Minister stated that there is an understanding that the G 20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth may be the mechanism for adjusting these imbalances. This work-stream, in which India plays an important role as co-chair of the Framework Working Group, is vital for the success of the G 20, he said.

The Finance Minister said that strengthening domestic drivers of growth in developing and emerging economies is necessary for rebalancing of the global economy. As a result, the development agenda has become a central theme for the G 20 since the Seoul Summit. Moreover, as financial markets were seen to be destabilizing commodity markets, commodity price volatility and food security were also added to this agenda, he said.

Shri Mukherjee said that while welcoming these initiatives, we need to be cautious regarding the danger of working with a one-size-fit-all approach. Basel III is a good case in point. He said that it is quite demanding on developing country banks. Different stages of economic development require different levels and quality of support from the financial sector. If capital adequacy standards become too high, there is a danger of inefficient dis-intermediation in markets. Emerging markets should use prudential regulation and close supervision rather than merely high capital standards, he said.

The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee said that Global macroeconomic imbalances are at the heart of destabilizing sustainable economic growth at the international level. He stated that all imbalances are not bad as some of them reflect multi-paced growth, different savings-investment behaviour and productivity levels across economies and such differences may not be destabilizing per se. Shri Mukherjee said that at the same time, some imbalances reflect structural inefficiencies usually created by policy distortions relating to the external sector, trade, capital flows and exchange rate policies, financial markets, tax and subsidy regimes, which have to be addressed.

The Finance Minister said that the reform of the International monetary system is high on the agenda of the G-20 and various issues including capital flows management, financial safety nets, measuring global liquidity, composition of the SDR basket are currently under discussion, he said.

The Finance Minister emphasised upon a few specific issues for the deliberations. Firstly, he said that an issue of immediate concern for emerging economies is managing large capital flows. Large and volatile capital flows to emerging markets can be destabilising as they lead to high exchange rate volatility and in some cases make it incumbent to maintain high levels of foreign exchange reserves as an insurance against sudden or large-scale flight of international capital, he added. Large and volatile inflows are also associated

with asset price booms and encourage excessive risk taking by traders and investors and therefore threaten financial stability, said the Minister.

Secondly, the Finance Minister said that recent commodity and food price rise and their volatility have induced considerable threat to economic growth and food security in energy dependent emerging, as well as, developing economies. Factors behind recent price hikes are yet to be pin pointed. Even the G-20 is undecided on the role of speculation and global excessive liquidity on the international commodity prices. He said that though it does seem odd that commodity prices should be so buoyant even as the outlook for global growth is weak. He stated that we need more research and debate on whether speculation in currency and commodity markets has been playing a role in recent price rises.

Thirdly, the Finance Minister said that G 20 development agenda is understandably very vast and covers areas that are also being handled by a number of developmental agencies. While we are committed to concerns of 'development' and of sharing the fruits of economic growth, it is imperative to prioritize among various development needs, he said.

Shri Mukherjee said that one development issue that deserves priority is the recycling of global savings for infrastructure investment. Enhancing infrastructure investment in emerging economies and developing countries would have positive spin-off for rebalancing global demand. It would result in real investments with tangible growth. The G-20 is well placed to coordinate various stakeholders including governments, especially the ones that have large surpluses, the private sector, and multilateral development banks, for investment in developing economies, he said. He hoped that the conference can suggest innovative ways to recycle global savings and identify viable strategies to overcome the presumed hurdle of 'lack of enabling environment' for infrastructure investment in emerging and developing countries.

In his concluding remarks, the Finance Minister said that even though there are no simple answers or magic solutions to some of these issues, he did not see any reason for despair. He hoped that the deliberations would help in addressing global challenges at the current conjuncture and also the structural problems that confront us, in an innovative and cooperative framework. He said that the need of the hour is global reforms with an eye on medium to long-term sustainability of economic growth.



**095. Communiqué of the G - 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.****Washington (D. C), September 23, 2011**

We, the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G-20 are committed to a strong and coordinated international response to address the renewed challenges facing the global economy, notably heightened downside risks from sovereign stresses, financial system fragility, market turbulence, weak economic growth and unacceptably high unemployment.

We are taking strong actions to maintain financial stability, restore confidence and support growth. In Europe, Euro area countries have taken major actions to ensure the sustainability of public finances, and are implementing the decisions taken by Euro area Leaders on 21 July 2011. Specifically, the euro area will have implemented by the time of our next meeting the necessary actions to increase the flexibility of the EFSF and to maximize its impact in order to address contagion. The US has put forward a significant package to strengthen growth and employment through public investments, tax incentives, and targeted jobs measures, combined with fiscal reforms designed to restore fiscal sustainability over the medium term. Japan is implementing substantial fiscal measures for reconstruction from the earthquake while ensuring the commitment to medium-term fiscal consolidation. Heightened downside risks have also made the economic environment for emerging markets and developing economies more challenging and they are adjusting their macro-economic policies accordingly to maintain stability and sustain growth. The contribution of the emerging market economies to global growth will increase as these economies as a whole move towards more domestic led growth, including through structural reforms and enhanced exchange rate flexibility to reflect economic fundamentals. We reiterate that excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates have adverse implications for economic and financial stability.

We are committed to supporting growth, implementing credible fiscal consolidation plans, and ensuring strong, sustainable and balanced growth. This will require a collective and bold action plan, with everyone doing their part. We are working together to put in place for the Cannes Summit such an action plan of coordinated policies with both short term decisions and a medium-long term perspective.

We commit to take all necessary actions to preserve the stability of banking systems and financial markets as required. We will ensure that banks are adequately capitalized and have sufficient access to funding to deal

with current risks and that they fully implement Basel III along the agreed timelines. Central Banks will continue to stand ready to provide liquidity to banks as required. Monetary policies will maintain price stability and continue to support economic recovery.

We will review progress made in implementing the commitments made today at our next meeting.



**096. Intervention of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Dinner Meeting.**

**Washington DC, September 23, 2011.**

"Thank you for the opportunity to give a brief on the progress in the Mutual Assessment Process. Since we have had a detailed presentation by my Canadian colleague, Jim Flaherty, I will limit my briefing to raise some important issues to guide our discussion today.

First, it is worth considering whether we are giving excessive weightage to the balance and sustainable elements of the Framework, and too little to strong growth. The question of growth is particularly relevant at this juncture, when the recent developments in the global economy are cause for serious concern. The Framework exercise was initiated on the assumption that the global economy was recovering reasonably well from the economic and financial crisis, and hence the G 20 needed to turn its attention to medium to long-term issues. Rebalancing global demand would make growth more sustainable, and even stronger, going forward, especially if there has been permanent demand destruction in some parts of the global economy. However, our medium term action plan for Cannes may not seem credible unless it addresses short-term growth and stability concerns as well. For instance, how credible would commitments for medium term consolidation look if we are seen embarking on a fresh round of stimulus? Several structural reforms to boost productivity could also have an adverse impact on short-term growth. The Cannes Action Plan, therefore, may have to link the medium term to the short-term as well.

Second, Growth also needs to be made more broad based and especially strengthened in developing countries in general. The Framework exercise therefore needs to focus more sharply on the development aspect. In this

respect, I would like to underscore the suggestion made by our Prime Minister at the Seoul Summit that global imbalances should be leveraged to address developmental imbalances. If we need to add demand to the global economy to offset the moderation of demand by industrialized countries as they contract final output, perhaps a good way of doing this is to expand infrastructure investment in developing economies. Many developing countries have developed the capacity to grow rapidly but are constrained by poor infrastructure. Financing infrastructure development in these economies could contribute to sustainable global growth.

Third, the focus of the Framework on systemically important economies derived from the fact that global crises in the past, including the recent one, emanated from large economies. However, as we work to redefine elements of the MAP process in the G 20 countries we are faced with a new crisis arising from imbalances in relatively small economies in the periphery of the Euro Zone which has spread to countries which were well outside the periphery. This is because, given the highly interconnected nature of financial markets, large imbalances even in a small economy in a large currency union can destabilize global markets.

The issue arises whether, in trying to anticipate threats to the global economy, we should expand our agenda to consider the nature of the stresses in the Euro Zone and policy options for handling them. The need for doing so arises because of the highly interconnected nature of the world and to the potentially destabilizing role that expectations in financial markets can play. If expectations were always determined by what we call "macroeconomic fundamentals" - essentially the imbalance indicators identified in the MAP process - it would be one thing. However, expectations can change suddenly and when they do countries that are otherwise seen as solvent can suddenly appear insolvent. Given the importance of the Euro Zone for global financial markets it is necessary to consider whether the MAP should include some surveillance of the Euro Zone.

Fourth, we need to take stock of whether we have made substantial progress since the Toronto Summit when our leaders agreed on policy options for groups of countries, i.e. for advanced surplus, advanced deficit, emerging surplus, emerging deficit and resource rich economies. While it was not spelt out which country fell in what group, each G 20 country knew to what category it belonged, and the broad direction in which it needed to move.

Since then, what we have done is to first come out with a set of multiple indicators of measuring imbalances, on the basis of which we have identified seven countries that are seen to have "exceptionally large" imbalances and which are systemically important. The G 20 countries, including all the systemically

important ones, have presented their national projections on major indicators. The IMF has compiled these projections and given us a comparison between what they imply and what the IMF thinks is feasible based on their global models. They have concluded that the improvements in imbalances projected by the individual G 20 countries are consistent with an overall view of the world economy which is over optimistic. If that optimism now seems excessive we need to know what changes would be needed in individual country projections.

Fifth, there appear to be some difficulties involved in making forward looking commitments. The MAP national policy template submissions of G20 member countries indicate that there is a broad congruence of ideas and recommendations for directing the future course of policy coordination, including on the need to focus on seven systemically important economies. Member countries recognize the need for further cooperation to achieve the goals of strong, sustainable and balanced growth as committed by our Leaders. The Framework Working Group deliberations have also underscored the need for countries to be more ambitious in their commitments. Countries have made forward looking projections in their templates, but these are not commitments, and are subject to periodic updates like all macro-economic models. The commitments are contained in the written part of the template and are in the form of objectives and policy changes. How commitments can be measurable is an issue.

There are three related issues here. Firstly, some commitments asked for are outcomes over which governments do not have full control, such as fiscal deficits and current account imbalances. They control only specific policies, such as tax rates and expenditure, which may influence but not fully determine final outcomes which are the result of a complex interplay of several variables. It is important to distinguish between 'outcome' variables and 'control' variables in making prescriptions. Secondly, countries may be only willing to commit only what they have already made public so far. Are countries in a position to make measurable, forward looking commitments beyond what is approved by their national Parliaments? Thirdly, is there a danger of such measurable commitments leading to naming and shaming, that could be acrimonious and divisive, something that the G 20 has so far avoided? The Framework makes clear what each country is expected to do, and the extent to which this ultimately feeds into domestic policies is subject to periodic mutual assessment. How and in what manner, and should we, and can we, be more ambitious and move beyond the current path?

I know I have raised more questions than provided answers. The questions are, I think, relevant and important. I now look forward to colleagues providing the answers. "





**097. Communiqué issued by the Finance Ministers and Ministers of Development of the G-20 countries.**

**Washington (D.C), September 23, 2011.**

1. We, the G20 Finance Ministers and Ministers in charge of development and international cooperation, met today for the first time to address development challenges as part of the global economic agenda. With developing countries acting as key poles of growth in the global economy, support for development is an investment in the prosperity of all countries.
- 2.. In Seoul, the Leaders approved the Seoul Development Consensus and the Multi-Year Action Plan. The Seoul Development Consensus sets out our commitment to work in partnership with other developing countries, and LICs in particular, to help them tackle the bottlenecks to a stronger and more equitable, sustainable and resilient growth. The G20 Multi-Year Action Plan embodies this commitment and highlights several areas of actions to maximize growth potential and economic resilience in developing countries, in particular infrastructures, private investment, domestic resources mobilization, trade, food security, social protection, remittances, financial inclusion and human resources. It complements the efforts of the UN system and multilateral and bilateral donors in assisting developing countries to achieve Millennium Development Goals, in particular for LDCs as articulated in the Istanbul Program of Action.
3. G20 Leaders decided in Seoul, in the wake of the most severe economic shock in recent history, to put development as a key element of the agenda for global recovery. We reaffirm that the Development agenda will remain at the core of G20 priorities and that the G20 will continue its work to promote a strong, balanced and sustainable growth, to narrow gaps in levels of prosperity, to foster a shared and inclusive growth, to further reduce poverty, promote gender equality and contribute to job creation. We welcome the progress made by the Development Working Group in advancing the Seoul Development Consensus on Shared Growth and its Multi-Year Action Plan, and look forward to its report to Leaders for the Cannes Summit.
4. Today we reviewed the two following priority areas of actions to maximize growth potential and economic resilience in developing countries, food security and infrastructure, that will be taken forward by our Leaders in Cannes.
5. The humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa requires an international response. The international community has come together to support the people of the region but more needs to be done. This crisis highlights the urgent need to strengthen the emergency and long-term response to food insecurity. To

feed more than 9 billion people in 2050, agricultural production will have to double in developing countries. It is time to reinvest in the agricultural sector. In light of the G20 Agriculture Ministers Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture, we aim at improving global food security through a set of concrete actions, prepared on the basis of the work of international organizations which was coordinated by FAO and OECD. These actions include strengthening research, innovation and dissemination mobilizing the G20 agriculture research networks, promoting efforts to scale up responsible investments and activities related to agricultural production and food security in cooperation with MDBs and the private sector, including through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program. Other initiatives aim at improving protection for the most vulnerable against excessive price volatility through risk management strategies, tools and instruments, drawing on the work of the MDBs, enhancing nutrition and access to humanitarian food supply in the framework of country and region-led initiatives, such as the development of the pilot project led by Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) for a targeted regional emergency humanitarian food reserve, and the ASEAN +3 emergency rice reserve initiative, complementing existing national food reserves. In this context, we stress the importance of the work being done under the guidance of Finance ministers on commodity financial markets regulation.

6. The lack of infrastructure dramatically hampers the growth potential in many developing countries. We agree that this challenge needs to be addressed without delay, especially in Low Income Countries and whilst not exclusively, with a special emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa. We welcome the efforts of the Multilateral Development Banks to develop a joint Infrastructure Action Plan to address bottlenecks and constraints and call on them to present their recommendations ahead of the Cannes Summit, in particular on quality of data available to investors, incentive to support regional projects, improved assistance for public-private partnerships, transparency in the construction sector, efficiency of project preparation and harmonization of MDBs procurement rules and practices. We also welcome the proposal of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) to open its membership.

7. We welcome the contribution of the High Level Panel on Infrastructure Investment and ask it to finalize its innovative work under the three workstreams responding to its mandate, notably for promoting enabling environments, diversifying sources of funding and identifying sustainable infrastructure projects to be presented to our Leaders in Cannes. We take note of the set of criteria proposed by the HLP, in close cooperation with the MDBs, for identifying exemplary infrastructure investment projects, with due consideration to environmental sustainability, food security, trade and regional integration.

8. The global economic crisis affected disproportionately the most vulnerable people. In the context of global risks, there is a growing need to develop mechanisms to offer better protection and ensure a more inclusive growth path. In that perspective, we welcome proposals to implement and expand national social protection floors defined by the countries themselves according to their individual circumstances, to reduce the cost of remittances transfer, to promote private investment, job creation and human resource development, to enhance domestic resource mobilization and to enable a growth-enhancing regional and global trade environment. We support the implementation of the Action Plan of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion.

9. Following the presentation of the preliminary findings of the report prepared by Bill Gates on financing for development, we recognize the importance of the involvement of all actors, both public and private, and of the appropriate mobilization of domestic, external and innovative sources of finance. We look forward to the presentation of Bill Gates' final report to our Leaders at the Cannes Summit. We also look forward to receiving the joint report on mobilizing climate finance, coordinated by the World Bank Group, in close partnership with the IMF, regional development banks and the OECD, aimed at analyzing options for expanding the flow of climate change finance to developing countries in pragmatic and cost-effective ways, drawing inter alia on the AGF report consistent with the objectives, provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

10. We look forward to a successful replenishment of the Asian Development Fund and the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

11. We firmly believe that we pave new ways of cooperation through the Development Working Group sharing our diversified experience and knowledge as well as making synergies with other fora in development cooperation, including the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan in November. We will further strengthen our collective efforts for the G20 Development agenda for the Cannes Summit and beyond.



**098. Speech of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee during G-20 Session on Global Economy and Framework.**

**October 14, 2011.**

**Distinguished Chairperson and Colleagues,**

My Canadian colleague has made a detailed presentation on the Framework. We have also heard from the IMF on the state of the global economy and financial markets. The draft Cannes Action Plan has to be viewed against the backdrop of these presentations. In this context, I will limit my intervention to three important issues that I feel could help focus our discussions.

2. First, it is important for us to strike a fine balance between the short run and the long run policy issues and options to help restore market confidence. In our recent meeting at Washington DC, there was a growing sense that the global economy had slipped into a precarious phase, reminiscent of the period in the run-up to the collapse of Lehman Brothers. There is apprehension that even the tepid economic recovery that we have seen so far in the advanced economies is stalling. Unemployment in these economies never quite recovered from their crisis highs. The relatively robust recovery in Emerging Market Economies is also beginning to falter. The financial markets, which had never fully recovered from the earlier crisis, are under renewed stress. Indeed, the current crisis has been incremental in nature with a series of local intermitted shocks getting transferred to the global economy. All this has happened despite the aggressive use of both fiscal and monetary policy tools and our collective resolve to keep markets open. This is a source of great concern. Going forward it limits our options in dealing with the emerging situation.

3. The Framework was conceived at a time when the global recovery was taking root, and our attention was on rebalancing of the global economy, to make the recovery stronger and sustainable in the medium to long-term. The recovery was based on a strong dose of stimulus, both fiscal and monetary, which has been difficult to withdraw. Although concerns were expressed regarding fiscal imbalances at Toronto, the focus at Seoul was on external imbalances. In retrospect, perhaps we did not pay adequate attention to internal imbalances i.e. shifting demand back from the public sector to the private. The current indicators show that both private consumption and investment sentiments have further weakened.

4. It is this weakening of sentiments that is compelling us to shift some of our focus back to near term issues in the Action Plan, even as we recognize that structural imbalances remain to be addressed. We need to send clear signals, mindful of the fact that our options today are much more limited. On

the one hand, markets are wary of mounting public debt in the absence of strong growth, which is a long-term issue. On the other hand, strong injections of liquidity by Central Banks seem to have done little to stimulate lending and borrowing, so far. Instead we are witnessing damaging spillover consequences, especially on asset and commodity prices that have strengthened inflation in emerging markets.

5. Second, since recent global crises emanated from large economies, the focus of the Framework has so far been on systemically important economies. However, we need to recognize in our MAP process that imbalances even in relatively small economies can be magnified by integrated financial markets, especially through mechanisms such as the currency unions. The real danger to the global economy lies in the rapid contagion possible through today's globally integrated financial markets. Thus, it would appear strange if the focus of the G 20 were to remain on large economies even as the periphery of the Euro Zone is proving to be systemically more important. The Framework process will need to come to grips with the reality of large imbalances, in a small economy, in a large currency union having the potential to destabilize the global economy in today's context. Our Action Plan must find a way of addressing this issue.

6. Third, it is worth considering whether we need to lay greater emphasis on the growth element of our Framework at this stage. The World Bank's report on 'Rebalancing, growth, and development: an interconnected agenda' has suggested that the recent weakening of growth in the global economy calls for a renewed G20 focus on growth. I agree with the Bank's views and I am convinced that the desired rebalancing may be difficult to achieve and sustain in the face of faltering growth.

7. In this regard the global economy is perhaps better positioned today than what it was in the 1930's. At the time of the Great Depression, global growth was entirely dependent on industrialized countries fed by raw material producing colonies. The latter were entirely dependent on demand in the former. Both advanced economies and their colonies therefore went down together. The situation today is different. Former colonies are now emerging markets undergoing their own industrial revolutions and with their own endogenous sources of rising demand. Although emerging markets cannot be entirely decoupled in an integrated world, nevertheless this is the main reason why the world continued to grow even as advanced countries went into recession. Therefore, as we put together an Action Plan for Leaders to consider at Cannes, our recommendations on rebalancing global demand should not weaken the growth impulse in the new nodes of demand, but should indeed strengthen it.

8. In this context, I would like to reiterate the suggestion made by my Prime Minister at the Seoul Summit that global imbalances should be leveraged to address developmental imbalances. If we need to add demand to the global economy, to offset the moderation of demand in industrialized countries, a good way of doing that is to expand infrastructure investment in developing economies. This suggestion may well be extended to increasing investment in infrastructure generally, and a more liberal flow of technology to developing countries, which in turn could spur output and productivity growth in both advanced and developing countries.

9. Let me also add here that tax evasion and illicit flows have posed serious challenges to the world economy and the efforts of the countries to raise revenue for development. A strong and sustainable growth requires effective tax administration nationally and cooperation between countries. We need to start exchanging information automatically for improving tax compliance with partner countries on a voluntary basis and then urging other countries also to do so. We also need to give a call on exchange of past banking information and assistance in collection of taxes. We shall be discussing these and other related matters in the session tomorrow, but I have flagged it here since I believe it should be one of the Cannes deliverables.

Thank you.



**099. Media Briefing by Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia on Prime Minister's visit to Cannes for the G20 Summit.**

**New Delhi, October 29, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you. Welcome.

You are aware that the Sixth G20 Summit would take place at Cannes, France on the 3rd and 4th of November. Prime Minister of India would be heading the Indian delegation and would be leaving for Cannes on the 2nd. He would be assisted by Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia who is also India's Sherpa to the G20 process.

We are most grateful that Deputy-Chairman has so kindly agreed to talk to you about India's approach, outlook, and give you a sense of how we view the G20 process. I would request Deputy-Chairman to make his opening remarks and thereafter he will be happy to take your questions.

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission (Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia):** Thank you all. Actually, I might as well take questions because it is not an issue which is very India-focused. Obviously this is an annual event and it will get dominated by the issues related to management of the world economy and I guess the Eurozone crisis.

You have just had a European Summit which has given some indication, and I am sure that the leaders will be looking at what the prospects are for overcoming the Eurozone difficulties and moving on to sustainable, more robust, global growth path.

The issues connected with bringing robustness to the global economy were on the agenda. The framework for strong and sustainable growth was an exercise that was being done by the G20 countries. It was supposed to lead to something called a Mutual Assessment Process (MAP). I think India and China co-chair this. The Finance Deputies are currently working on that. Of course the idea was what we can say about the policy initiatives needed in the major G20 countries which would basically set the framework for the global economy to move ahead rapidly. All that was got over and taken by the Eurozone crisis, and obviously resolving the Eurozone crisis became an essential first step.

Now we have seen there has not been any discussion in the G20 thus far specifically on Eurozone issues.

But obviously we had a European Summit, they have taken some steps. I am

sure it is an occasion for the G20 to express a view on the importance of these attempts, what we expect out of them and given that these things have already been done, what more needs to be done particularly in the context of the Mutual Assessment Process. The Mutual Assessment Process includes four Eurozone countries – Germany, Italy, France, Spain – and of course it includes the other countries including of course China and India. So, the Mutual Assessment Process will come forth with a set of what it would regard as the policy priorities in each of these countries which will create the global conditions for a revival of global good.

Clearly the short-term growth prospects in the global economy are not very good and the main growth rates have been revised downwards. We will be getting from the IMF their assessment of what will happen on the Business As Usual basis, what would happen if more supportive policies are taken, etc. But I think we have to see that analysis before I can comment on it. There are many other issues on the agenda which have been there for some time, and of course the leaders will review those also.

In the Seoul Summit they had put development on the agenda and a couple of things were done in pursuit of that. A high-level panel was set up to look at the work programme of the multilateral development banks and to see whether that work programme was contributing adequately to development priorities. President Sarkozy had also invited Bill Gates to submit some report on sort of innovative ways of addressing development challenges, and that report also will be looked at by the Group.

**Question:** What is your initial reaction to the Eurozone plan that has been announced and agreed so far? Secondly, as part of that Europeans are looking to countries like China and Brazil and possibly India to put in funds for the stabilization of the Euro. Is it not something that India is potentially willing to contribute to?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** On the reaction to the Euro Summit, I think most people's reaction and our reaction also is positive. It makes some very important statements. It clearly says something very specific about Greece. Greece has been a problem that has been building up and it did need to be addressed, and we actually welcomed the realism that is built into the parameters that have been laid down for Greece. Of course, it involves a very large voluntary debt reduction. The details of this have not been worked out but they are hoping it will be done by December. The debt reduction is not enough. Greece will also need an EU-cum-IMF support package. That will have to be negotiated. We welcome the effort to stabilize Greece and we have to wait till the end of the year to see what specific proposals come out of it.



On the issue of contributing more generally for Europe, certainly no specific requests have been made to India. I have seen newspaper accounts that people have been talking. Our view by the way is that although this is a Eurozone problem, it is also a global problem with potential spillover effects. So, I think it is important that the international community provides the Eurozone whatever support is needed as part of a credible restoration of stability. Different things have been talked about. The Eurozone Summit actually gives a very sketchy account of that. Obviously the EFSF is going to be used.

The EFSF is going to be leveraged which is innovative departure from traditional practice. The IMF could be used, and then there is a separate idea that there may be other sources of support. That is not unusual when countries are handling crisis management and you have swap arrangements and all kinds of things. But I am not aware of what specifically is being proposed. However, in general I think the principal agency that is responsible for bringing about international stability is the International Monetary Fund. We will certainly support the International Monetary Fund providing resource support to Europe.

This will raise an issue if the IMF's own resources are not enough, how does it get other resources? There are well-established mechanisms for doing that like the new arrangements to borrow etc. None of this has actually come to a level at which one can give a governmental reaction. But I think it has to be the view of the global community that stabilising the Eurozone is an important thing not just for the Eurozone but for the global economy. And we would support any reasonable multilateral effort in that direction.

**Question:** On the question of support from emerging economies for a possible bailout of Euro, is a coordinated BRICS/Emerging Economies position possible on that because people have been approaching in fact China? The second question is on the issue of European Union per se. There has been talk that ... (Unclear)... possibly have fiscal coordination, there will be a supranational authority to supplement what is essentially a monitoring agency. What is the status of that?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** On the BRICS issue, I have been also reading newspapers but we are currently not engaged in any discussion of specific types of support, at least not India. But clearly the possibility of bilateral support always exists. The mechanics of bilateral support may vary. If it is a straight swap arrangement, then it does not create too many problems. If it is supporting a new vehicle, which is what some people are talking about, that is between the countries concerned. If it is support from the IMF, then you have to make a judgment what is the scale of resources that the IMF has and what is it that is needed. And to do that you have to take into account the leveraging that they have already built in into the EFSF.

There are a lot details. Just generally what I am saying is that we should be supportive of any reasonable multilateral effort to provide Europe with the support needed to stabilize. We have not received any bilateral request or anything so far. So, I do not have any comment on that.

The second point was about the fiscal authority. I think it is well-known that one of the basic fault lines in the Eurozone is that you have a single currency but not a single fiscal authority. Originally the fiscal discipline that is meant to accompany this sort of arrangement was supposed to come in from various Maastricht Rules etc., which obviously did not work and were in fact broken by what are not crisis countries today. I think from what I read the European Summit statement, there is a sort of recognition that you need to have mechanisms for fiscal discipline. What they have I think proposed is, it does not surrender any fiscal sovereignty but it introduces a system of fairly intrusive peer examination and pressure but with no penalties.

So, if you are in difficulties you will be looked at, suggestions will be made. If you have to pass some proposals, they will get commented on by various Eurozone observers, independent observers, etc. But there is no actual loss of fiscal sovereignty, there is no actual penalty for not doing whatever is said. So, I think it is a move in the right direction because it is generally agreed that you run too much of a danger if you surrender the flexibility that your own currency gives you and you do not put in place the sort of fiscal corrective needed to ensure stabilization. I think that is moving in the right direction. How far this move will go and whether it will be effective is to be worked out.

**Question:** What role is India expected to play as a member of the Mutual Assistance Process? Any specific suggestion from your side?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** First of all, this is a mutual process and Canada and India co-chair the process. So, we are basically talking to all the countries. Essentially the mechanism is that the International Monetary Fund makes a sort of technical assessment and says, this country should do this and the other country should do that and all the rest of it. And this becomes an input into the MAP process. So, theoretically all the participants of the MAP process, which is all the G20 countries, collectively come to a view as to what is the consensus on the policies that different countries should follow.

We are playing a very active role in that by definition almost by being a co-chair. We are obviously concerned about what it does say. We are playing an active role in responding to what the MAP process says about India. We are also playing an active role in judging whether the overall outcome, first of all whether the IMF's analysis is right or not right; and secondly if different people disagree with it, and they usually do, then have we come up with an alternative

which is credible. But we are not playing any bigger role than anyone else. I mean the whole difference between this process and the normal surveillance process is, in the normal surveillance the IMF takes a view and goes to the Board. The Board may or may not agree with it but there is an IMF view. Here the IMF is only giving us inputs. So, actually what will go to the leaders is not the IMF view but what has come out of the framework working group which Canada and India co-chair.

**Question:** How is this Summit going to change the lives of common people all over these countries? There is a perception that in these meetings most of the decisions are on the affluent sections of the society. With the Wall Street protest in the background and the high rate of inflation in India, how is it going to discuss all these issues which affect the common people?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** No government takes macro policy decisions without focusing on the implications for the common people. So, the view of the Government of India is that clearly bringing inflation under control is very important for the common man. But at the same time, we want a global economy that will support rapid growth for India. And internally we are working to make sure that our growth is inclusive. That is our objective. Now, we are not telling other countries what to do to make their growth inclusive. But their governments are doing that.

I think the principal concern in the summit is to create a global environment that is fair and which is conducive to rapid growth. Each country has its view on what that global environment should be. We certainly have ours and we would express that. I should also mention that there are many items on the agenda which are kind of more directly focused on developmental type issues. For example, agriculture is one of the issues. There is a lot of concern that why are food prices in the world rising? Is that due to demand-supply imbalances in which case you have to address them in a certain way? Or is it due to just too much liquidity fuelling speculation which has to be addressed in a different way? There are discussions on things like employment.

How do we make sure that the growth process is also going to generate employment? In the industrialized countries there has been a huge change in the level of unemployment in the last two or three years. So, that is something they are very concerned about. But we are also concerned about having a growth process that supports employment in India – open markets, access for our exports and that kind of thing. So, all of these things put together would be covered. Of course there is a traditional development agenda, development assistance, how to finance infrastructure in emerging market countries. So, all of these things will come up.

**Question:** My question is very close to the earlier question. The world leaders have worked out, have been working out how to revive the economy, but we are having crisis after crisis. The revival process is not in the correct direction it seems because or else the revival could have already taken place. Wherever there were green shoots rising, the green shoots are fading away and a winter of the global economic crisis is far from over. In this context, people are looking at India and China where the growth process is taking place. But the real thing is, growth process is taking place in India, I do admit, India has become the home of, it has a large number of ...

**Official Spokesperson:** Can you please come to the question?

**Question:** I will come to the question. At the same time India is the home of billionaires. Do you not feel that the revival process is not in the correct direction and this present capitalist system cannot deliver the goods, and capitalism has within it the seeds of its own destruction and hence socialism, rather democratic socialism is inevitable?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** That is rather lot of questions to answer for a G20 briefing. Definitely relevant questions but I think they are more relevant if you are asking the question for India. I cannot answer for other countries. Actually this is not the forum to ask those questions. My own view is that given the shock that the global economy got in 2008, the G20 did a pretty good job in arresting the decline. There was negative growth in the world in 2008 and a somewhat surprisingly positive growth in 2010. 2011 was never expected to be the same as 2010, it was expected to be lower. But now it is going to be worse. And that is because it got overtaken by a second crisis which is the sovereign debt crisis emerging in Europe. We have to give the G20 a chance to tackle that crisis.

On the issue of whether this involved some fundamental weakness in the system, that is something on which I am sure people can continue to disagree and we should encourage that. I think it will be a very interesting subject, but I doubt if I can add anything in this press conference on that issue.

**Question:** Are there going to be any bilateral meetings between our Prime Minister and President Obama for one, and President Hu Jintao?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** I honestly do not know. The Prime Minister's Office probably has a more up-to-date account of it. These gentlemen are going to be in a very tightly packed schedule for a day and a half and there are periods when they interact. So, I am sure they will get a chance to talk to each other. But whether there are formal pullout bilaterals, I just do not have the answer to that. They are all going to be meeting again a little bit later in East Asia. It is a different kind of scene.

Question: As far as the Indian contribution is concerned, is India emphasizing more on World Bank than IMF as the clientele ...(Unclear)...?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** We do not go there docketed. Right now we have a major Eurozone crisis. The World Bank has no role whatsoever to play in the Eurozone crisis. The World Bank has a very important role to play in the development process and we will make that point, we often do. But right now the biggest thing before them is, is it economic management within Europe leading towards an early resolution of Greece, and is it containing contagion to other European periphery countries? In this process the World Bank has no role at all.

I am sure they have analytical inputs but it is really the G20. The World Bank also says things about what is going to be the implication of the Eurozone crisis on the global economy. So, in that sense there is an input. But in the solution to the Eurozone crisis, I do not think the World Bank has any role at all. There is an agenda item which is development, and in that is development financing. It is certainly our view that the long-term development financing role of the World Bank remains important for emerging market countries like India. I think we have frequently said that the volume of lending of the World Bank, unless something is done, is likely to shrink very sharply next year which is not a desirable thing. It is not the biggest issue before the Summit right now.

**Question:** It is a non-G20 question. Would you like to react to Union Minister K.V. Thomas's reported remark that affluence of Indians is responsible for the food inflation going up?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** I think very carefully in responding to remarks made by Ministers after I am sure that I know exactly what they have said. But if I start responding to remarks attributed to them by someone in the press, that is not a good thing. So, I will not in fact respond. I do not know what exactly he said really.

**Official Spokesperson:** I would like to make a request. Deputy-Chairman has another maximum ten minutes. So, let us restrict ourselves to the questions related to the visit.

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** I have to go to Rashtrapati Bhavan for the Governors' Conference. So, it is not just time but protocol, etc. Ten minutes is fine.

**Question:** A question related to the G20. Sir, you said that situation in Europe will figure prominently in the Summit. What about the situation in the US? Will that also be discussed?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** Of course, certainly. There is no question about it. The US has not produced any sudden surprises. It remains the case that growth in the US is a little bit weak but actually most people say that it is sentiment that is weak. The economy is not doing so badly. The real problem in the US is, unemployment does not seem to be coming down. Given the size of the US, any Mutual Assessment Process has to address the question how the US calibrates its own policies. Now, if you take a very narrow view and say, look the US has too high a public debt so it should just shrink its fiscal deficit, then you will be actually recommending a very contractionary set of policies for the US which will have spillover effects in the rest of the world. And even within the US there are very sharp differences of view on this.

Many people would say what US should do is to take steps that will increase the confidence that over time the US deficit will come down without necessarily doing a sharp contraction now. So, I mean the US would also ask about what signals the other countries are giving, who is going to expand demand. And that is part of the whole Mutual Assessment Process. There is no question that the policy signals for the US would be a very important part of the MAP process.

**Question:** Sir, the way things are panning out, it seems the G20 and the global leaders are stumbling from one crisis to another whereas the agenda after the 2008 crisis was to address the global imbalance and create an architecture that does not encourage this kind of crisis again. Do not you think that is getting lost in this firefighting that is happening and what is India doing to put this back on the agenda?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** The fact that there is a crisis means that the G20 is struggling with a shifting set of circumstances. I do not think our view on this is different from anybody else's. What you have in this particular case is a crisis that has been precipitated not by lending to the private sector as was the case in Europe but due to uncontrolled sovereign debt. So, in one sense it is a similar kind of crisis but in another sense it is caused by somewhat different factors. I think one of the reasons why it has happened is that the Eurozone financial system did not actually read the signals right in the sense that when you get rid of currency differences, you get rid of what is called currency risk. So, to the extent to which your interest rate reflects currency risk, that is an advantage.

And you should have a lower interest rate. But you do not get rid of country risk or credit risk. So, it does not mean that if you keep running as big a deficit as you like, then your interest rate will still remain low. I think in retrospect it is very clear that European banks lent or rather bought bonds of sovereigns under some sort of an assumption that there would be no debt servicing problems.

So, now this is bearing the cost of that. As these things emerge, corrective steps do get taken. We have to see how effective they are.

**Question:** You have said that to create an environment for the global economy will be the focus of the Summit. I just wanted to have your opinion on how representative G20 is so far as the world economy is concerned, especially in the context of the disparity the world over when 20 richest countries corner more than 80 per cent resources of the whole world.

In that context, how representative is G20 so far as the whole world is concerned? After all we have the United Nations and then other smaller groups from G8 to G20 to make it more representative. How do you assess its representativeness so far as the whole world is concerned?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** It is a very good question. I think you have rightly put it. It is a democratization of the G8, but a democratization by adding some of the larger countries. It is certainly not representative. It is not a formal organization, unlike the UN or even the IMF and the World Bank which are formal international organizations. In the UN each country has one vote. In the IMF each country votes whatever its share is and there are huge differences. But there is a sense in which everybody is represented. The G20 is just 20 plus five countries who get invited.

So, it is obviously not formally representative. The strength of the system simply is that the countries that are included in the G20 account for 80 per cent of global GDP. So, the fact of the matter is that if this Group of countries agrees on something, then you have got 80 per cent of global GDP more or less agreeing on something. And hopefully since they keep doing outreach with their other colleagues, they are in touch with other organizations - it is not as if these countries have opted out of the formal international representative structure - it becomes a way of reaching a common agreement which then gets when it needs to be endorsed by some formal international organization, it has to go and do that. But the probability that that will happen goes up. That is exactly what the G7 used to do. They would fix the deal themselves and then go and get it voted by the IMF Board or whatever Boards.

So, now 20 of them hopefully will do the same thing. I think it would be a mistake to denigrate this on the grounds that it is not representative. It is not very useful to have a G192. So, that is what it does. It is not a substitute. Incidentally we and other developing countries like China constantly say that what needs to be done in a multilateral framework should be done in a multilateral framework. But we can consult about what our positions are going to be. So, that gives a greater chance of reaching an international agreement. I think Prime Minister Cameron is supposed to present a paper on global

governance and the G20 at the Cannes Summit. So, that should be quite interesting because I am sure he will be addressing some of these issues.

**Question:** Sir, given the ongoing global crisis, there has been a dip in the FDI flows. Will you be taking this option to send out a message of the robustness of India's investment climate to keep the capital flows in, and also allay whatever concerns they might be having on the investment front given the governance issues?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** You do not allay concerns of investors by talking to their governments. You allay concerns of investors by talking to investors. This is not going to focus on those kinds of issues. I think the world is going to look at the G20 Summit and ask themselves the question, are they actually giving a sense of collective responsibility in managing the global economy in a sensible way or not? And are there any changes of signals such as the one my friend here was talking about? Are they issuing an obituary for capitalism or something? Those are the things that they will be watching for.

I think out of that will come some assessment of what does the G20 think makes for a well functioning global economy. Then I think investors will make up their own mind about whether they agree with the G20 on this or not. It is a bit of a subtle process. But I think it is useful. No doubt about it.

**Question:** Sir, you said that it has a potential of spillover. Dr. Singh also said this a little while ago. With what suggestions, what advice, what instructions are we going to the G20? What will be India's approach? Can you throw some light on that? Secondly, do you think that the time is right now to change the Bretton Woods formula and is India going to pitch for it this time?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** What do you mean by the Bretton Woods formula?

**Question:** It is basically the institutions like the IMF, the World Bank, the change in them, more representation. ?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** On the representation issue, it has been our consistent view that we need these international institutions. So, we are not in favour of abolishing them. But they need to become more representative reflecting the changes that have taken place in the global economy. And what that translates into is more voting rights and associated obligations for the developing countries. The G20 did succeed in moving it a little bit a year ago. So, it is a move in the right direction. By no means in our view commensurate with the change that is needed. But it is a move in the right direction.



On the issue of what are we going to do, the whole point I think of a Mutual Assessment Process is that each country does not go off and makes his list of demands. Right now or maybe by tomorrow, the Economic Affairs Secretary and his colleagues in the other Finance Ministries will be looking at what the G20 MAP process says. I think out of the G20 MAP process will come a set of recommendations which would say, for the US this is what they should do, for Italy this is what they should do, for India this is what they should do.

And clearly we hope that each of these countries or the collectivity of these countries, as far as we are concerned, will certainly endorse that we are on the right path. From the point of view of the global economy we are on the right path because we are not running a big surplus, we are not having a fixed exchange rate. The fact that our current account deficit is high means that we are contributing to global demand. And of course they will say, like we are saying ourselves, that we should reduce our fiscal deficit because really globally you need to do that all the time. But how much other countries will agree to, we have to wait and see.

**Question:** Sir, if the Eurozone crisis is not resolved within a certain period, how will it impact India?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** I do not think the Eurozone will impact on India any differently from the way it will impact on the whole world. I do not want to sound negative but it is more like an academic exercise. What does it mean that the Eurozone crisis is not resolved? It could mean that for example uncertainty about Eurozone debt is not resolved. This means that interest rates for many of the countries in the periphery remain high. This means that basically value of holdings of sovereign debts by banks will fall.

Banks will be under stress. Basically European growth will slow down dramatically. Credit in Europe will become constrained. You could have a liquidity problem. Some of this is perceptual and some of this is real. This will have an impact on the rest of the world. If you disrupt the smooth functioning of a financial system by throwing a lot of uncertainty into it, basically everybody stops deciding, and we will be as impacted as anyone else. We are not exclusively dependent on Europe. So, from that point of view obviously countries that have 100 per cent of their trade with Europe will be much more affected than countries that have 30 per cent of their trade with Europe. And our trade is actually quite diversified, which means that whoever has a problem we have some impact but it is not such a huge impact.

But let us not underestimate it. I do think that the world is in a fragile situation barely recovering from 2008. And it does not need another crisis with a signal that governments are not capable of handling these crises. If all you are saying

is what happens if Greece defaults but everybody else is fine, the answer would be very different. Very sad for Greece, but I do not think it will matter for the rest of the world. But I think if you have a Eurozone crisis, that is big news. And we do not want that.

**Question:** I just want to come back to my original question. Initially there have been voices from India saying we are a poor country, why should we step in to help out the rich Eurozone world? But it sounds like what you are saying is that although there has been no formal request made and there is no clear path forward, India is receptive to, I just want to try and understand, calls to step up to help out stabilize the Eurozone. Is that correct?

**Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission:** What I said was that I think as members of the G20 we should be willing to do our bit to play whatever supportive role is necessary for the international economy to support the Eurozone. Now, issues of choice come in here. For example, a lot could be done by Europe itself and they have done that through the EFSF, leveraging, and all this. Now if it turns out that what Europe does itself is not enough, my personal view - this is a Finance Ministry matter really - is that the logical thing to do is to bring in the International Monetary Fund. That is why we have it. We are members of the Fund.

If it turns out that the Fund were to say that look, we do not have enough resources and we need support to mobilize more resources, I would be in favour of India saying that we should support the Fund in doing that. We did do that last time around by contributing about 10 billion dollars or whatever it is to the NAB. On the other, very often countries may not want to go to the IMF. But then they have to do whatever bilateral deal they want to do themselves. Nobody has asked us for anything. So, I am not in a position to say. Institutionally it seems to me that we have constantly said that the International Monetary Fund should be an organization that is both strengthened and made more even-handed. Frankly the best way to make it more even-handed is that when rich countries need support they go to the Fund because the rules that the Fund then applies will be the rules that the Fund will apply subsequently.

I am not at all in favour - this is again a purely personal view, I have no idea what the Government's view is - of saying that the IMF is only there for poor countries and everybody else will sort out things on their own. That is not the spirit of any of the communiqués of the G20.

Thanks.



**100. Statement of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Cannes for the G-20 Summit**

**New Delhi, November 2, 2011.**

I leave today to attend the G-20 Summit in Cannes, France at the invitation of President Nicolas Sarkozy.

The Cannes Summit takes place against the backdrop of the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone. This crisis has emerged as the principal source of concern for the global economy. The twin Summits of the European Union and Eurozone a few days ago have helped to restore a measure of confidence in the markets, but much more needs to be done. It is imperative that the difficult decisions needed to address the economic challenges in Europe and elsewhere are taken swiftly.

The Eurozone is a historic project. India would like the Eurozone to prosper, because in Europe's prosperity lies our own prosperity.

It is important for the Cannes Summit to signal a strong and coordinated approach to put the global economy back on track, while addressing medium term structural issues.

Developing economies such as India need a conducive global economic environment to address the vast challenges they face. In an increasingly interdependent world, we have to be wary of contagion effects and the import of inflationary pressures in our economy. We need to ensure that developing countries have access to requisite funds through multilateral development banks and to investible surpluses to meet their infrastructure and other priority needs.

The issue of global governance will also come up for discussion. This is an issue of importance to India, and we will work with others to develop effective and representative global governance mechanisms and carry forward the process of reform of the international monetary and financial system.

I will separately hold a bilateral meeting with President Nicolas Sarkozy during my visit. I also look forward to meeting Prime Minister David Cameron, Prime Minister Julia Gillard, as well as the European Union leaders Mr. Herman Van Rompuy and Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso.



**101. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the G-20 Summit.**

**Cannes (France), November 3, 2011.**

Mr. President, let me thank you for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit, and for your hospitality.

We meet at a time when the global economy faces exceptional uncertainty. Our Summit will be judged by our ability to deal with financial instability emanating from the Euro zone periphery. We had hoped that the agreement arrived at by Euro zone Leaders for reducing the Greek Debt, combined with a new EU-IMF programme providing additional resources, could be put in place quickly. The announcement of a referendum by the Government of Greece has upset these calculations. I hope ways can be found to manage the situation so that a package can be put in place as quickly as possible.

We welcome the initiatives taken in the Euro zone to evolve innovative mechanisms to raise resources for the European Financial Stability Facility and to strengthen fiscal discipline through intensive surveillance. This goes some way towards addressing one of the known deficiencies in having a monetary union without fiscal union. However, the effectiveness of these arrangements to cope with the crisis is yet to be tested.

Although the Eurozone countries have the principal responsibility for dealing with these problems, the dangers from spillovers from the Eurozone to the rest of the world are a matter of concern for all of us.

In an increasingly integrated world, all of us have a stake in the orderly functioning and prosperity of Europe, including the Eurozone countries. Prolonged uncertainty and instability in the Eurozone countries can hurt us all. The IMF must keep the situation under close watch as part of regional surveillance. It should also be willing to help in an appropriate manner if asked to do so.

We strongly support the IMF playing its part in restoring stability in Europe. At the same time, the IMF must also keep in mind the liquidity requirements of developing countries who are not at the centre of the crisis, but may nevertheless be adversely affected as innocent bystanders.

As we deal with the short term problem of instability we must also face the challenge of orchestrating a broad based recovery and sustainable growth in industrialized countries and in developing countries. This is what the Mutual Assessment Process exercise is meant to do. We face the difficult task of

balancing the requirement for giving a push to growth in the short term and the task of restoring fiscal sustainability over the medium term. These call for very different policy prescriptions.

The Mutual Assessment Process needs to focus on structural reforms in all G-20 countries to increase efficiency and competitiveness over the medium term. This would help revive the animal spirit of investors which is necessary to allow us to shift the burden of sustaining demand from the public to private sector. Such rebalancing is necessary to make the recovery sustainable. We in India are taking steps to ensure a return to high growth. Our economy has slowed down in the current year and GDP growth is likely to be between 7.6 and 8 percent. Like many other emerging market countries, we too are experiencing high levels of inflation. We hope to go back to higher growth in 2012-13, together with a moderation in inflation.

Our medium term strategy focuses on a revival of investment especially in infrastructure, and continuing efforts to reduce our fiscal deficit through improved revenue collection which is expected to come from tax reforms.

Mr. President, as the G-20 battles with short term problems of crisis management it must not lose sight of the developmental needs of developing economies. After a long period, these economies experienced broad based acceleration of growth, making them potentially significant contributors to global growth. This is now threatened by slowing trend growth in developed countries and uncertainties in financial markets.

We need to find credible ways of strengthening these growth impulses. At Seoul, I had called for measures to redirect global savings so that they could be leveraged to increase investments in developing countries. This would help offset the moderation in private demand in industrialized countries.

Multilateral Development Banks play a key role in mobilizing and deploying global savings. The G-20 should therefore raise its level of ambition for these institutions so that they can play the kind of transformational role they played in the post war period.

The G-20 has made considerable progress towards strengthening global financial regulation and this needs to be carried forward through follow-up measures. It is important that in an integrated world there should be common standards that are implemented simultaneously in all jurisdictions, to avoid a race to the bottom. Otherwise financial activity will migrate from the tightly regulated sectors to less regulated jurisdictions. It is however important that the developmental needs of developing countries are kept in mind in these regulatory reforms.

In many developing countries, including India, financial markets have been tightly regulated. This tight regulation helped us avoid financial crises resulting from excessive leverage but it came with a cost, as it increased the cost of intermediation. Emerging markets therefore were engaged in progressive reduction in tight regulations with a view to modernising their financial markets and expanding intermediation.

The priorities in emerging markets, like India, before the crisis, were not regulatory but developmental, with the aim of deepening and developing new markets to sustain high rates of growth in the real economy.

Financial inclusion, provision of long-term funding instruments for infrastructure, the development of liquid bond markets to improve monetary policy transmission, among others, were financial sector priorities in India before the crisis. Nothing has happened in Indian financial markets or globally that warrants changing these priorities. We need to be sure that the regulatory reforms being introduced globally will not hamper this process.

There are areas where our concerns are different. For example, while banking capital needs to be strengthened in India, this is not on account of higher risks but because credit is projected to expand at a very fast pace to feed the high real growth that we expect. To take another example, while the principle that the cost of a bailout falls on equity holders rather than on taxpayers is robust, in India large segments of the financial sector, especially banking and insurance, is mostly state owned, and equity holders and taxpayers are mostly one and the same. In this environment it is difficult to see why a financial sector tax, which would only raise the cost of capital even further, would be appropriate.

Mr. President, tax evasion and illicit flows have seen the migration of tax bases in developing countries abroad and are serious problems. The G-20 should send a strong message to curb such activity. G-20 countries should take the lead in agreeing to automatic exchange of tax related information with each other, irrespective of artificial distinctions such as past or present, for tax evasion or tax fraud, in the spirit of our London Summit that "the era of bank secrecy is over".

Thank you Mr. President.



**102. Signature ceremony of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax matters.****Cannes, November 3, 2011.**

On the occasion of the signature ceremony of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters on the 3rd of November 2011 at the G20 Summit in Cannes, France, Mr. R. Gopalan, Secretary (Department of Economic Affairs), Government of India, on behalf of the Finance Minister, affirmed the intention of the Government of India to sign the Convention along with China and Saudi Arabia.

Among the G20 countries, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Turkey have signed the Convention on the occasion. France, Italy, Korea, Mexico, UK and USA have signed the Convention earlier.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary (Economic Affairs) Mr. Gopalan said that tax evasion and illicit flows are serious problem and over the last two years, in order to check this trend, India has negotiated 19 new Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements and 17 new Tax Information Exchange Agreements. In addition 22 existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements have been renegotiated. All these 58 Agreements provide for tax information exchange according to international standard. For these instruments to be effective, he said that it is vital that consensus is built on applying the standards to past information, including banking information, so that earlier evasion is also investigated. This is essential, if the spirit of the G20 London Summit that “the era of bank secrecy is over” is to be respected. He urged members of the G20 to lead by exchanging information automatically with their treaty partners and urge other countries to do the same. He expressed hope that the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters would help progress in this regard.



**103. Opening statement of Prime Minister at Press Conference in Cannes.****November 4, 2011.**

The summit had before it an extensive agenda, on which work had been going on over the past two years. It was overtaken by sudden developments in Greece which could have broader spillover effects. The Summit reviewed progress on the existing agenda and also discussed the implications of the Greek crisis.

As far as the ongoing agenda is concerned, the communiqué brings out the significant progress made in all the important areas. These include the outcome of the Mutual Assessment Process (MAP), progress in financial regulation and banking transparency, and improvements in the functioning of agricultural and energy markets, including futures markets. The communiqué welcomes the IOSCO recommendations for improving regulation and supervision of commodity markets to manage volatility in prices.

The MAP process represents the first time that the major economies have undertaken a collective commitment to follow policies which meet their national objectives while also being consistent with promoting global growth.

I am particularly happy to note that the communiqué endorses our call for increased banking transparency and exchange of information to combat tax fraud and evasion and other illicit flows. This was an important part of our agenda

The Communiqué emphasizes the importance of social inclusion, the establishment of social protection floors based on national policies and promotion of employment, especially among the youth. These emphases are fully in line with our own priorities.

The summit also reviewed the position regarding the Doha Round of negotiations, which have not made progress. The summit has endorsed the importance of the Doha Round and the mandate of the Doha Development Agenda. To give a forward push in this area, it has tasked the G20 Trade Ministers to explore all possible approaches at the next WTO Ministerial Meeting in December and report back at the Mexico Summit. The Summit has also reaffirmed the standstill agreement on new protectionist measures which was adopted in Toronto

The Summit also discussed issues arising from the Greek crisis and the need to take protective measures to avoid contagion, We had stated that management of the Eurozone crisis is primarily the responsibility of the Eurozone countries and this assessment was shared by many other delegations. The Eurozone



countries did undertake extensive consultations among themselves and have reported some progress. The Greek referendum announced earlier has been withdrawn and the Greek Government has indicated that it will proceed with implementing the package agreed earlier.

We welcome this development, and hope that it will lead to an early resolution.

On the issue of the contagion spreading to other Euro zone countries, Italy announced that it has agreed to a monitoring arrangement under which the IMF will report every quarter on Italy's performance under the existing programme agreed with the EU. This is meant to send a signal of confidence to the markets. We have taken the view that the IMF should keep the situation under close watch and we would support the IMF in playing an appropriate role to backstop preventive steps taken within the Eurozone. The communiqué has stated that the G-20 will ensure that adequate resources will be available with the IMF. This issue has been referred to the Finance Ministers for their next meeting in December.

The crisis in the Eurozone is a potentially grave threat to the stability. There was obviously too little time in the Summit to resolve all the issues. However, I hope that unresolved issues can be quickly resolved. The outcome of the Summit on this issue should be seen as a work in progress.



**104. G-20 Leaders Summit Communiqué****Cannes, November 4, 2011.**

1. We, the Leaders of the G20, met in Cannes on 3-4 November 2011.
2. Since our last meeting, global recovery has weakened, particularly in advanced countries, leaving unemployment at unacceptable levels. In this context, tensions in the financial markets have increased due mostly to sovereign risks in Europe; there are also clear signs of a slowing in growth in the emerging markets. Commodity price swings have put growth at risk. Global imbalances persist.
3. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to work together and we have taken decisions to reinvigorate economic growth, create jobs, ensure financial stability, promote social inclusion and make globalization serve the needs of the people.

**A global strategy for growth and jobs**

4. To address the immediate challenges faced by the global economy, we commit to coordinate our actions and policies. Each of us will play their part.
5. We have agreed on an Action plan for Growth and Jobs to address short term vulnerabilities and strengthen medium-term foundations for growth.
  - Advanced economies commit to adopt policies to build confidence and support growth and implement clear, credible and specific measures to achieve fiscal consolidation. We welcome the decisions by European Leaders on October 26th, 2011 to restore debt sustainability in Greece, strengthen European banks, build firewalls to avoid contagion, and lay the foundations for robust economic governance reform in the Euro area and call for their swift implementation. We support the measures presented by Italy in the Euro Summit and the agreed detailed assessment and monitoring by the European Commission. In this context, we welcome Italy's decision to invite the IMF to carry out a public verification of its policy implementation on a quarterly basis.
  - Taking into account national circumstances, countries where public finances remain strong commit to let automatic stabilizers work and take discretionary measures to support domestic demand should economic conditions materially worsen. Countries with large current account surpluses commit to reforms to increase domestic demand, coupled with greater exchange rate flexibility.
  - We all commit to further structural reforms to raise output in our countries.

- Monetary policies will maintain price stability over the medium term and continue to support economic recovery.
6. We are determined to strengthen the social dimension of globalization. We firmly believe that employment and social inclusion must be at the heart of our actions and policies to restore growth and confidence. We therefore decide to set up a G20 task force which will work as a priority on youth employment. We recognize the importance of social protection floors in each of our countries, adapted to national situations. We encourage the ILO to continue promoting ratification and implementation of the eight core Conventions ensuring fundamental principles and rights at work.
  7. Convinced of the essential role of social dialogue, we welcome the outcomes of the B20 and L20 and their joint statement.

#### **Towards a more stable and resilient International Monetary System**

8. We have made progress in reforming the international monetary system to make it more representative, stable and resilient. We have agreed on actions and principles that will help reap the benefits from financial integration and increase the resilience against volatile capital flows. This includes coherent conclusions to guide us in the management of capital flows, common principles for cooperation between the IMF and Regional Financial Arrangements, and an action plan for local currency bond markets. We agree that the SDR basket composition should continue to reflect the role of currencies in the global trading and financial system. The SDR composition assessment should be based on existing criteria, and we ask the IMF to further clarify them. To adjust to currencies' changing role and characteristics over time, the composition of the SDR basket will be reviewed in 2015, or earlier, as currencies meet the existing criteria to enter the basket. We are also committed to further progress towards a more integrated, even-handed and effective IMF surveillance and to better identify and address spill-over effects. While continuing with our efforts to strengthen surveillance, we recognize the need for better integration of bilateral and multilateral surveillance, and we look forward to IMF proposals for a new integrated decision on surveillance early next year, and for increased ownership and traction.
9. We affirm our commitment to move more rapidly toward more market-determined exchange rate systems and enhance exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying economic fundamentals, avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. We are determined to act on our commitments to exchange rate reform articulated in our Action plan for Growth and Jobs to address short term vulnerabilities and

restoring financial stability and strengthen the medium-term foundations for growth. Our actions will help address the challenges created by developments in global liquidity and capital flows volatility, thus facilitating further progress on exchange rate reforms and reducing excessive accumulation of reserves.

10. We agreed to continue our efforts to further strengthen global financial safety nets and we support the IMF in putting forward the new Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL) to provide on a case by case basis increased and more flexible short-term liquidity to countries with strong policies and fundamentals facing exogenous shocks. We also support the IMF in putting forward a single facility to fulfil the emergency assistance needs of its members. We call on the IMF to expeditiously discuss and finalize both proposals.

11. We welcome the euro area's comprehensive plan and urge rapid elaboration and implementation, including of country reforms. We welcome the euro area's determination to bring its full resources and entire institutional capacity to bear in restoring confidence and financial stability, and in ensuring the proper functioning of money and financial markets.

We will ensure the IMF continues to have resources to play its systemic role to the benefit of its whole membership, building on the substantial resources we have already mobilized since London in 2009. We stand ready to ensure additional resources could be mobilised in a timely manner and ask our finance ministers by their next meeting to work on deploying a range of various options including bilateral contributions to the IMF, SDRs, and voluntary contributions to an IMF special structure such as an administered account. We will expeditiously implement in full the 2010 quota and governance reform of the IMF.

#### **Reforming the financial sector and enhancing market integrity**

12. In Washington in 2008, we committed to ensure that all financial markets, products and participants are regulated or subject to oversight, as appropriate. We will implement our commitments and pursue the reform of the financial system.

13. We have agreed on comprehensive measures so that no financial firm can be deemed "too big to fail" and to protect taxpayers from bearing the costs of resolution. The FSB publishes today an initial list of Global systemically important financial institutions (G-SIFIs). G-SIFIs will be submitted to strengthened supervision, a new international standard for resolution regimes as well as, from 2016, additional capital requirements. We are prepared to identify systemically important non-bank financial entities.

14. We have decided to develop the regulation and oversight of shadow banking. We will develop further our regulation on market integrity and efficiency,

including addressing the risks posed by high frequency trading and dark liquidity. We have tasked IOSCO to assess the functioning of Credit Default Swaps markets. We have agreed on principles to protect financial services consumers.

15. We will not allow a return to pre-crisis behaviours in the financial sector and we will strictly monitor the implementation of our commitments regarding banks, OTC markets and compensation practices.

16. Building on its achievements, we have agreed to reform the FSB to improve its capacity to coordinate and monitor our financial regulation agenda. This reform includes giving it legal personality and greater financial autonomy. We thank Mr Mario Draghi for the work done and we welcome the appointment of Mr. Mark Carney, Governor of the Central Bank of Canada as Chairman of the FSB, and of Mr. Philipp Hildebrand, Chairman of the Swiss National Bank as Vice-Chairman.

17. We urge all jurisdictions to adhere to the international standards in the tax, prudential and AML/CFT areas. We stand ready to use our existing countermeasures if needed. In the tax area, we welcome the progress made and we urge all the jurisdictions to take the necessary actions to tackle the deficiencies identified in the course of the reviews by the Global Forum, in particular the 11 jurisdictions identified by the Global Forum whose framework has failed to qualify. We underline the importance of comprehensive tax information exchange and encourage work in the Global Forum to define the means to improve it. We welcome the commitment made by all of us to sign the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters and strongly encourage other jurisdictions to join this Convention.

#### **Addressing commodity price volatility and promoting agriculture**

18. As part of our financial regulation agenda, we endorse the IOSCO recommendations to improve regulation and supervision of commodity derivatives markets. We agree that market regulators should be granted effective intervention powers to prevent market abuses. In particular, market regulators should have and use formal position management powers, among other powers of intervention, including the power to set ex-ante position limits, as appropriate.

19. Promoting agricultural production is key to feed the world population. To that end, we decide to act in the framework of the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture agreed by our Ministers of Agriculture in June 2011. In particular, we decide to invest in and support research and development of agriculture productivity. We have launched the "Agricultural Market Information System" (AMIS) to reinforce transparency on agricultural products' markets. To improve food security, we commit to develop appropriate risk-management

instruments and humanitarian emergency tools. We decide that food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Program will not be subject to export restrictions or extraordinary taxes. We welcome the creation of a "Rapid Response Forum", to improve the international community's capacity to coordinate policies and develop common responses in time of market crises.

#### **Improving energy markets and pursuing the Fight against Climate Change**

20. We are determined to enhance the functioning and transparency of energy markets. We commit to improve the timeliness, completeness and reliability of the JODI-oil database and to work on the JODI-gas database along the same principles. We call for continued dialogue annually between producers and consumers on short medium and long-term outlook and forecasts for oil, gas and coal. We ask relevant organizations to make recommendations on the functioning and oversight of price reporting agencies. We reaffirm our commitment to rationalise and phase-out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.

21. We are committed to the success of the upcoming Durban Conference on Climate Change and support South Africa as the incoming President of the Conference. We call for the implementation of the Cancun agreements and further progress in all areas of negotiation, including the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund, as part of a balanced outcome in Durban. We discussed the IFIs report on climate finance and asked our Finance Ministers to continue work in this field, taking into account the objectives, provisions and principles of the UNFCCC.

#### **Avoiding protectionism and strengthening the multilateral trading system**

22. At this critical time for the global economy, it is important to underscore the merits of the multilateral trading system as a way to avoid protectionism and not turn inward. We reaffirm our standstill commitments until the end of 2013, as agreed in Toronto, commit to roll back any new protectionist measure that may have risen, including new export restrictions and WTO-inconsistent measures to stimulate exports and ask the WTO, OECD and UNCTAD to continue monitoring the situation and to report publicly on a semi-annual basis.

23. We stand by the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) mandate. However, it is clear that we will not complete the DDA if we continue to conduct negotiations as we have in the past. We recognize the progress achieved so far. To contribute to confidence, we need to pursue in 2012 fresh, credible approaches to furthering negotiations, including the issues of concern for Least Developed Countries and, where they can bear fruit, the remaining elements of the DDA mandate. We direct our Ministers to work on such approaches at

the upcoming Ministerial meeting in Geneva and also to engage into discussions on challenges and opportunities to the multilateral trading system in a globalised economy and to report back by the Mexico Summit.

24. Furthermore, as a contribution to a more effective, rules-based trading system, we support a strengthening of the WTO, which should play a more active role in improving transparency on trade relations and policies and enhancing the functioning of the dispute settlement mechanism.

#### **Addressing the challenges of development**

25. Recognizing that economic shocks affect disproportionately the most vulnerable, we commit to ensure a more inclusive and resilient growth.

26. The humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa underscores the urgent need to strengthen emergency and long-term responses to food insecurity. We support the concrete initiatives mentioned in the Cannes final Declaration, with a view to foster investments in agriculture and mitigate the impact of price volatility, in particular in low income countries and to the benefit of smallholders. We welcome the initiative of the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) to set up a targeted regional emergency humanitarian food reserve system, as a pilot project, and the "ASEAN+3" emergency rice reserve initiative.

27. Recognizing that the lack of Infrastructure dramatically hampers the growth potential in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, we support recommendations of the High Level Panel and the MDBs and highlight eleven exemplary infrastructure projects and call on the MDBs, working with countries involved, to pursue the implementation of such projects that meet the HLP criteria.

28. In order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, we stress the pivotal role of ODA. Aid commitments made by developed countries should be met. Emerging countries will engage or continue to extend their level of support to other developing countries. We also agree that, over time, new sources of funding need to be found to address development needs and climate change. We discussed a set of options for innovative financing highlighted by Mr Bill Gates. Some of us have implemented or are prepared to explore some of these options. We acknowledge the initiatives in some of our countries to tax the financial sector for various purposes, including a financial transaction tax, inter alia to support development.

#### **Intensifying our Fight against Corruption**

29. We have made significant progress in implementing the Action Plan on combating corruption, promoting market integrity and supporting a clean

business environment. We underline the need for swift implementation of a strong international legislative framework, the adoption of national measures to prevent and combat corruption and foreign bribery, the strengthening of international cooperation in fighting corruption and the development of joint initiatives between the public and the private sector.

### **Reforming global governance for the 21st century**

30. We welcome the report of UK Prime Minister David Cameron on global governance. We agree that the G20 should remain an informal group. We decide to formalise the Troika. We will pursue consistent and effective engagement with non-members, including the UN and we welcome their contributions to our work.

31. We reaffirm that the G20's founding spirit of bringing together the major economies on an equal footing to catalyze action is fundamental and therefore agree to put our collective political will behind our economic and financial agenda, and the reform and more effective working of relevant international institutions. We support reforms to be implemented within the FAO and the FSB We have committed to strengthen our multilateral trade framework. We call on international organisations, especially the UN, WTO, the ILO, the WB, the IMF and the OECD, to enhance their dialogue and cooperation, including on the social impact of economic policies, and to intensify their coordination.

- On December 1st. 2011, Mexico will start chairing the G20. We will convene in Los Cabos, Baja California, in June 2012, under the Chairmanship of Mexico. Russia will chair the G20 in 2013, Australia in 2014 and Turkey in 2015. We have also agreed, as part of our reforms to the G20, that after 2015, annual presidencies of the G20 will be chosen from rotating regional groups, starting with the Asian grouping comprising of China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea.

32. We thank France for its G20 Presidency and for hosting the successful Cannes Summit.





**G-24****105. Intervention by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee after taking over the Chair of G-24.****New York, September 23, 2011.**

"It is a great honour to take over the chair of G24 and I thank you for enabling it. I bring greetings from all the people of India.

South Africa and its dynamic Finance Minister Mr Pravin J Gordhan has successfully steered this group over the last one year. Let me thank him and his team, on behalf of all of us present here.

I also take this opportunity to welcome the new 2nd Vice Chair , Minister Fayza Aboul Naga of Egypt.

I had the privilege to chair the Group in 1983-84, and I clearly recollect the very influential role played by the Group at that time. Much has changed in the 28 years since I was last associated with the group.

First there have been fundamental structural changes in the global economy and these shifts have accelerated in recent years. The role of developing countries which had stalled for many years is now experiencing a major and fundamental rise. Second, the global economy has become much more interconnected and with it we are facing the need for much better coordinated and concerted actions.

I do believe that the G24 has an important role to play in fostering dialogue amongst developing countries and in supporting a more inclusive approach in global economic and financial cooperation including on the development agenda.

However, as we have discussed, realizing this potential will require enhancing the effectiveness of the Group and adapting its role to the changing landscape of global governance. A key prerequisite for effectiveness will be to agree on a limited set of priorities which are of vital importance to us and where we can make a difference.

The next few months are crucial for the global economy. The challenge of economic development and poverty alleviation is a continuing one. The recent commodity and food price rise and their volatility constitute a grave threat to economic growth and food security in our economies. Increased investment in agriculture and productivity should be the strategic priority of G24 to cool prices and provide food security to our people. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure transparency in commodity markets.

Another strategic priority that I hope to see focused action, is on the development of infrastructure in our countries. Gaps in infrastructure remain as significant bottlenecks to growth. India places great importance to meeting the challenge of infrastructure financing and we look forward to working with you in developing concrete proposals for action.

Third, we must continue to push for more ambitious progress on governance reform of the IFIs. The Multilateral Development Banks need to also mobilize more resources to increase their assistance to low income and other developing countries including finding ways of expanding their lending capacity, so that development finance is not neglected.

I believe that many of our countries possess extremely good practices that can be studied and emulated in others. Let us use the platform of G24 to build stronger South-South cooperation links for our people's common benefit.

I look forward to your suggestions and your inputs as we go along."



## **IBSA**

### **106. Communiqué issued by India – Brazil – South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum on the 7<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Commission Meeting.**

**New Delhi, March 8, 2011.**

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. S. M. Krishna, the Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, H.E. Ambassador Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, met in New Delhi on 8th March 2011 for the VII IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission.

2. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their respective countries to further deepening the dialogue and cooperation within the IBSA framework at inter-governmental, social, people-to-people and business-to-business levels. They underscored the important role IBSA is playing in strengthening political coordination among the three countries on global issues of mutual interest. In this rapidly changing global order, the Ministers underscored the increased strategic importance of IBSA as a Forum of developing country democracies from three different continents based on shared values which play a critical

role as an influential mechanism for further strengthening and fostering South-South cooperation and safeguarding and advancing the interests of the South, particularly in regard to reform of global governance.

3. The three Ministers confirmed their countries' commitment to democratic values, inclusive social development and economic growth and their belief in multilateralism as the guiding principle to deal with peace, security and development issues. The Ministers emphasized the growing interdependence between development and security and its importance for sustainable peace.

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that there is a wide range of global issues on which the three countries share common positions. In this context, they stressed the common objective of making structures of global governance more democratic, representative, transparent, and to enhance their legitimacy by ensuring a more effective role for developing countries.

#### **I. Global Issues**

##### **United Nations Reform and Security Council Reform**

5. The Ministers noted that this meeting was taking place when the three countries are non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. They reiterated their firm commitment to multilateralism and reaffirmed the need for the UN to become more responsive to and coherent with the priorities of developing countries. They emphasized the need for urgent reform of the UN Security Council, including expansion of permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both categories. Towards this end, the representation of developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America is essential. Such reform in the Security Council is of utmost importance to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities and to enhance its representativeness, effectiveness and legitimacy. The Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to maintain their close coordination as well as to reach out to the broader UN membership, in order to advance towards concrete results in the on-going intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, by the end of the current session of the UNGA.

6. The Ministers underscored that the concurrent presence of all three IBSA countries in the Security Council during the year 2011, provides a unique opportunity to work closely together in order to bring their perspectives into the work of the Council and strengthen the voice of the South. They reiterated the commitment of their countries to consult and coordinate their approaches and positions in New York, Geneva and in capitals, on issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

7. The Ministers emphasized the central role of peacekeeping operations

and the need to accompany them with peacebuilding programmes so as to enhance stability.

#### **International Terrorism**

8. The Ministers agreed that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, hinders the enjoyment of human rights, and undermines social and economic development of democratic societies. They reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any acts of terrorism. They reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in coordinating the international action against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with the international law. The Ministers stressed that the fight against terrorism needs strong international cooperation and agreed to enhance their mutual cooperation to prevent terrorist attacks and punish perpetrators, financiers and others involved in such acts, according to international and domestic legislations. In this context, the leaders urged all UN member states to urgently conclude and adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

#### **Climate Change**

9. The Ministers reiterated the importance of working towards the establishment of an equitable outcome for the current climate change negotiations at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Durban, South Africa in November/December 2011. They stressed that the result should be reached in an inclusive and transparent manner, and that the Bali Road Map should guide the future work of the Parties. Furthermore, the outcomes of COP17 should build on the agreements reached at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this respect, the Ministers called for the speedy operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund, Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Committee.

#### **International Financial and Economic Crisis**

10. The Ministers remained concerned about the sustainability of the current global economic recovery. They noted that coordinated response in the aftermath of the global crisis, and the resultant recovery, even if it is not complete, has clearly demonstrated the merits of a coordinated approach. They urged the G-20 and like-minded countries to take further steps towards achieving the shared objective of ensuring a full return to growth and employment, and reformed and strengthened global financial system, and sustainable and

balanced growth. They also emphasized that it was important to explore ways to improve the international monetary system to ensure systemic stability in the global economy.

11. The Ministers underscored the importance of sustaining long-term capital flows to developing countries to stimulate investment, especially in infrastructure, to address the development deficit and increase global demand. They called upon Multilateral Development Banks and Regional Development Banks to play a major role in this regard.

12. The Ministers welcomed the decisions of the G20 Leaders in the Seoul Summit in November 2010, including on International Financial Institutions reforms, financial regulatory reforms and development agenda embodied in the Multi-Year Action Plan. They emphasized that reforming international financial institutions, should aim for achieving equitable distribution of voting power between developed and developing countries. While recognizing the importance of continuing on repairing financial sector and reforming financial regulation for global financial stability, they welcomed the Multi-Year Action Plan comprising nine development pillars.

#### **Multilateral Trade Negotiations**

13. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to an open, transparent and rule-based international trading regime and called for an early conclusion of the Doha Development Round with a balanced outcome which ensures the development needs of the developing countries, especially the least developed countries.

14. They recognized that the existing draft modalities, which should be the basis for ongoing negotiations, already require the developing countries to offer unprecedented levels of concessions. Keeping in mind the terms of the Doha Development Agenda, they urged WTO members to ensure that any additional requests by developed countries must be matched by equivalent concessions, in order to maintain the general balance and preserve the development dimension of the Round.

15. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment toward trade liberalization and enhanced South-South cooperation.

#### **Intellectual Property Rights**

16. The Ministers emphasised the need for an equitable international system of rules governing intellectual property, allowing among others, for the protection of the indigenous knowledge systems against abuse and for preventing the misappropriation of genetic resources, and associated traditional knowledge.

17. They warned against attempts at developing new international rules on intellectual property outside the appropriate fora of WTO and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). They also called upon a comprehensive implementation of the Development Agenda by WIPO.

#### **Disarmament and non-proliferation**

18. The Ministers renewed their support for global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and for the complete, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, within a specified timeframe. They committed to work in close cooperation in order to help the international community to expedite the achievement of this goal globally. Brazil and South Africa welcomed India's engagement with and interest in participation in the relevant international multilateral export control regimes and utilization of their guidelines.

#### **South-South cooperation**

19. The Ministers reaffirmed the role of development as an instrument for the achievement of sustainable peace and security as well as in preventing conflict and checking the relapse of countries into conflict. In this context, they reaffirmed the importance of South-South Cooperation, being implemented jointly through the IBSA Facility for Hunger and Poverty alleviation.

20. The Ministers reiterated that South-South cooperation is complementary to and not a substitute for North-South cooperation. In this context, they called upon the developed countries to fulfill their commitments by achieving the target of 0.7% GNI as ODA to developing countries.

#### **Disaster Management**

21. The Ministers underscored the need to enhance disaster management cooperation to enhance disaster prevention and response capabilities of IBSA countries as well as to learn from each other's experience in this field. In this context, they urged their respective officials to explore the areas for cooperation in disaster management.

#### **Global Internet Governance**

22. The IBSA countries are committed to improving the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and its outcomes, with a view to linking it to the broader dialogue and policy making on global internet governance, including through more effective interface with relevant inter-governmental organizations and other institutions. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the advances in coordinating positions for the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) follow-up mechanisms, for example, with the IBSA Joint Statement about Enhanced

Cooperation on Internet Governance. They acknowledge the value of multi-stakeholder participation on internet governance discussions and reaffirmed their commitment to continuously improve it - with the special aim to achieve full and equal participation of stakeholders from developing countries - and to contribute to the improvement of openness, transparency, diversity of ideas and accountability in the decision making and decision shaping processes regarding global internet governance.

## **II. Regional Issues**

### **Middle East Peace Process**

23. The Ministers reviewed the situation in the Middle East following their previous statement on the situation in the Middle East that was made at the 4th IBSA Summit in April 2010, and expressed deep concern regarding the deteriorating situation, also in view of recent incidents and regional political developments. They reiterated their call for the urgent resumption of negotiations that will lead to a two-state solution, with the creation of a sovereign, democratic, independent, united and viable Palestinian State, coexisting peacefully alongside Israel, within secure, pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

24. In the context of mass protests in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, as an expression of the aspirations of the peoples of these countries for reform, the Ministers expressed the hope that the situation will be resolved in a peaceful manner, in the best interests of the respective peoples. The Ministers expressed their deep concern with the present situation in Libya and manifested hope that a peaceful solution for the crisis may be found, in the best interests of the Libyan people. They underscored that a no-fly zone on the Libyan air space or any coercive measures additional to those foreseen in Resolution 1970 can only be legitimately contemplated in full compliance with the UN Charter and within the Security Council of the United Nations.]

### **Afghanistan**

25. The Ministers emphasized the imperative for the international community to maintain its commitment to render assistance to the Government and people of Afghanistan in ensuring security and development and to make concerted efforts to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan. They underlined the need for adequate development of the Afghan National Security Forces to enable Afghanistan to defend its sovereignty and independence and for strengthening Afghan capacities to deliver public goods to its citizens. They expressed concern at the resurgence of the Taliban, Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups and the continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries.

26. While reaffirming their long term commitment to a democratic, pluralistic and stable Afghanistan, the Ministers highlighted the need for strict observance of the sanctions regime against persons and entities listed by UNSC Committee 1267'.

#### **India-LDC (Least Developed Countries) Ministerial Conference**

27. Brazil and South Africa appreciated India's hosting of India-LDC (Least Developed Countries) Ministerial Conference on 18-19 February 2011 under the theme, "Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for development of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)" to provide inputs to the 4th UN-LDC Conference to be hosted by Turkey in Istanbul during 9-13 May 2011.

#### **AU and NEPAD**

28. The Ministers extended warm congratulations to the African Union (AU) as 2011 marks ten years since the adoption of New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) as the AU flagship socio-economic programme in Lusaka in July 2001. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the NEPAD High-Level Sub-Committee on Infrastructure and South Africa's championing of the North-South Rail and Road projects, amongst other regional projects. They noted with satisfaction the growing cooperation of Brazil and India with AU.

#### **Sudan**

29. The Ministers welcomed the delivering of a peaceful and credible referendum for the people of Southern Sudan and the immediate acceptance of the results by the Government of Sudan which would lead to the establishment of an independent and viable state of South Sudan. The Ministers also called for the early conclusion of outstanding issues such as the referendum for Abyei, border demarcation, natural resources and economic issues, citizenship, security and other issues. The Ministers urged the international community to honour their commitments towards Sudan.

30. The Ministers announced their intention that the IBSA Fund will identify reconstruction and development project proposals for discussion with both North and South Sudan.

#### **Côte d'Ivoire**

31. The Ministers indicated their support for the AU High Level Panel for the Resolution of the Crisis in Côte d'Ivoire which was established per AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa on 28 January 2011. They urged



all parties to refrain from violence and to cooperate with the AU in finding a lasting solution for the country.

#### **Madagascar**

32. The Ministers expressed their continued support for the mediation efforts by the SADC to find an amicable and acceptable solution to the political crisis in that country and called on all parties to cooperate with the Head of the mediation team, i.e. former President J Chissano of Mozambique.

#### **Somalia**

33. The Ministers remained deeply concerned at the prevailing situation in Somalia and its impact on the countries of the East African region and the Horn of Africa. The increasing instability and lack of progress in the internal reconciliation process is much regretted and they called on all role players in Somalia to commit themselves to an all inclusive process that will usher in an era of peace in Somalia. IBSA stands ready to support international efforts towards reconciliation, reconstruction and development of Somalia.

### **III. IBSA Sectoral Cooperation: Progress Report**

34. The Ministers took note with satisfaction of the report of the Focal Points on the progress made by the working groups which met in the New Delhi prior to the Trilateral Commission, namely, Culture, Trade and Investment, Public Administration, Agriculture, Environment, and Information Society. They stressed the importance of regular meeting of the working groups and emphasized the need for all Working Groups to hold at least one meeting a year.

#### **Energy**

35. The Ministers noted that energy is an area of great mutual interest for cooperation under IBSA. They welcomed the signing of an MoU for cooperation on solar energy at the 4th IBSA Summit in April 2010. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at holding of a Workshop on production and use of bio-fuels by Brazil in September 2010 as well as a Workshop on Technical specifications and standards for bio-fuels hosted by South Africa in December 2010. In order to fulfill this cycle of activities, they would welcome the holding of a Workshop on Biofuels Production Technologies to be organized by the Indian Government, as previously agreed during the VI Energy WG Meeting.

#### **Agriculture**

36. The Ministers underscored the need for further deepening of cooperation in the field of agriculture and, in this context, appreciated the decision of the

Joint Working Group on Agriculture, to undertake collaborative activities in the areas of diagnostics and control of transboundary diseases of animals, training programmes in viticulture, integrated pest management and soya bean production and value addition would be of mutual interest and benefit. .

#### **Public Administration & Governance**

37 The Ministers noted that IBSA is uniquely placed to cooperate in the areas of public administration, governance and service delivery. The Joint Working Group on Public Administration actively engaged in promoting transparency, accountability, efficiency and quality of service rendered to citizens by implementing the IBSA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through an Annual Plan of Action, identifying various projects/programmes for exchange and cooperation among IBSA countries.

#### **Defence**

38. The Ministers noted progress made under the Joint Working Group on Defence particularly the successful holding of 2nd IBSA Naval Military Exercise – IBSAMAR-II along the South African southern and eastern coast from 8-27 September 2010 with the participation from all three countries and India as the lead nation. They noted that IBSAMAR III is scheduled to take place in 2012 with Brazil as the rotating lead nation. The Ministers recommended further deepening of cooperation in areas such as exchange of information in the areas of piracy, international terrorism, cybernetic security, etc.

#### **Revenue Administration**

39. The Ministers noted the holding of 5th Heads of Revenue Administration Working Group (HRAWG) in Salvador, Brazil from 4-7 October 2010 and welcomed the signing of a MoU for exchange of tax information through a centre located in India. They noted that the three countries could benefit from exchange of information in the areas of transfer pricing/ international taxation, risk profiling, barriers in tax laws and procedures, tax avoidance and abuse of double taxation agreements and capacity building in revenue administration.

#### **Transport**

40. The Ministers underscored that connectivity is at the core of strengthening trilateral cooperation. Cooperation between Maritime Educational Institutes of the three countries for human resource development and capacity building is of mutual interest. Three countries can also explore possibilities of mutually beneficial investment in maritime infrastructure. They urged Working Group to come up with concrete suggestions to deepen cooperation in this area.

### **Trade and Investment**

41. Appreciating the work of the Trade and Investment Joint Working Group, the Ministers expressed satisfaction that the three nodal agencies in the field of standardization, viz. Bureau of Indian standards (BIS), South African Bureau of standards (SABS) and the Brazilian Association of Technical Norms (ABNT) have initiated discussion in order to devise a suitable frame work for structured implementation of the MOU on Trade Facilitation for Standards, Technical and Conformity Assessment. They noted that a Tri- Nation Summit on Micro, small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) being organized by NSIC of India, SEBRAE of Brazil and SEDA of South Africa has now become a part of the IBSA Summit. They endorsed the recommendation of the Joint Working Group for strengthening of the existing business linkages by having regular membership in the IBSA Business Forum; enhancing interaction between the financial stakeholders in the three countries; and regular exchange of information about the trade and investment promotion events in the three countries.

### **Tourism**

42. The Ministers highlighted the considerable potential for cooperation in tourism and noted suggestions to hold a Workshop on Beach Tourism (Brazil), a Workshop on National parks and Eco-Tourism (South Africa) and a Workshop on Rural Tourism (India).

### **Science and Technology**

43. The Ministers noted with appreciation the work of the Joint Working Group on Science & Technology which has identified R&D projects for joint funding and has agreed on fresh joint projects. They also noted with satisfaction successful holding of three 'Nano-schools' – one each in India, Brazil and South Africa - during 2009-10 for training of young researchers towards human capacity development. The Ministers recommended the scheduled IBSA satellite technical meetings to take place prior to the Summit.

44. The Ministers also converged on the idea that there should be increased dialogue on the existing modalities of innovation in the three countries. In this regard, the Working Group on Science & Technology shall entail initiatives aimed at better exchanging information and knowledge about innovation programmes, processes and policies in the three countries, mainly those that promote the direct transfer of scientific and technological knowledge to the productive sector.

### **Information Society**

45. The Ministers noted that information and technology holds significant potential for mutually beneficial trilateral cooperation. The Ministers noted the

importance of projects/activities including, measurement of e-readiness in IBSA countries, e-governance standards, IBSA Digital Inclusion Award etc, identified for cooperation in this area.

46. The Ministers also noted that the IBSA Website could be developed into an interactive tool and platform for exchange of information among the working groups and other departments engaged in IBSA cooperation as well as for disseminating information to the public to create awareness about IBSA.

47. The Ministers took note of the meeting of the Joint Working Group on Information Society which has identified bridging digital divide, collaboration in FOSS (Free and Open Source Software), e-governance, Quality Assurance in e-governance, measurements of e-readiness and exchange of experts, etc as areas for cooperation. For development of industry-to-industry cooperation, the IT and software industry association of India, Brazil and South Africa, the Ministers suggested increased participation in each other's annual events, forums and conferences on ICT.

#### **Environment**

48. The Ministers underlined that cooperation on environment and climate has the potential to forge common stand on various related issues being discussed and negotiated in the international conventions and agreements. The Ministers noted that there exists significant potential of knowledge and information sharing between scientific and research organisations of the three member countries, especially in the field of forestry, environment and community development.

#### **Health**

49. The Ministers stressed on the need for further strengthening cooperation and sharing of experiences in Public health sector. They noted the Seminar on counterfeit medicines that was held in Geneva in October 2010.

#### **Culture**

50. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress in the work of the Joint Working Group on Culture. They affirmed that it is an important mechanism to further deepen cooperation in this field among the three countries. India has proposed to host an IBSA Poetry Festival in India 2011. South Africa would consider this to be included as one of the side events of the next IBSA Summit. South African side has also proposed to enhance the visibility of IBSA cultural cooperation by organizing cultural events during the Summit in which India and Brazil shall also participate. The three side also agreed to actively promote participation in each other's cultural festivals to reflect IBSA partnership in the cultural field.

**People-to-People cooperation**

51 The Ministers stressed that people-to-people cooperation plays an important role in enhancing the importance and visibility of the IBSA Dialogue Forum among the peoples of the three countries. In this context, they encouraged all IBSA Forums including Women's Forum, the Parliamentary Forum, the Business Forum, Tri Nation Forum, the Editor's Forum, the Academic Forum and Local Government Forum to meet before the next Summit. The Ministers complemented the Government of Brazil for bringing out a catalogue of Books of Reference on India, Brazil and South Africa.

**IV. IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation**

52. The Ministers took note of the achievements of IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation through various developmental projects such as in Haiti, Palestine, Guinea-Bissau, Cambodia, Burundi, and Cape Verde. They called upon the concerned parties to take expeditious steps for early implementation and completion of developmental projects. They reiterated their commitment to contribute at least US\$ 1 million per year to the IBSA Trust Fund.

53. The Ministers furthermore endorsed the decision of the 15th IBSA Focal Points meeting to review the guidelines and to discuss ways and means for IBSA Member States to ensure that there is greater effectiveness, visibility and greater utilization of their own resources wherever possible. They also decided to support the construction of a Center for People with Special Needs in Nablus, Palestine.

**V. Final Remarks**

54. The Ministers of Brazil and India accepted with gratitude the South African proposal to host the 8th IBSA Trilateral Commission Meeting in the year 2012 on mutually convenient dates.

55. The Ministers of Brazil and South Africa thanked the External Affairs Minister of India for hosting the meeting and warm hospitality extended to their delegations.



**107. Declaration by the IBSA Countries on the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa.**

**New Delhi, March 8, 2011.**

The Ministers of External Relations of India, Brazil and South Africa, gathered in New Delhi, on March 8th 2011, for the VII Ministerial Meeting of the IBSA Dialogue Forum, closely attentive to the present political unrest in several Middle Eastern and northern African countries, stressed their expectation that the changes sweeping the region follow a peaceful course. They expressed their confidence in a positive outcome in harmony with the aspirations of the peoples.

Referring to the IBSA Ministerial Declaration, issued in Brasilia, on April 15th 2010, on the occasion of the Fourth IBSA Summit, when a meeting with the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki was held, they stated their conviction that the recent developments in the Region may offer a chance for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This process should include the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the resumption of negotiations that will lead to a two-state solution, with the creation of a sovereign, democratic, independent, united and viable Palestinian State, coexisting peacefully alongside Israel, within secure, pre-1967 borders, and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In line with the Joint Statement of the IBSA Ministerial Meeting, held in New York, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, concerning countries that risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict, they underlined the key role of development strategies for the achievement of sustainable peace. In that sense, they recalled that IBSA countries are sponsoring projects in Palestine, such as the construction of a Multipurpose Sports Center in Ramallah and the creation of a Palestinian Youth Sports League. Recalling their condition of developing countries, who share therefore the same challenges for ensuring sustainable development, they are willing to cooperate with other Arab countries in order to address social and economic issues aiming at long term stability and recovery, according to regional demands, whenever requested.

Taking into consideration the presence of the three countries in the Security Council during 2011, they stated their intention to assess areas for further cooperation and discuss the current security situation with a view to making a positive contribution.



**108. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on IBSA delegation's visit to Damascus and calls on President Assad to discuss situation in Syria.**

**August 11, 2011**

An IBSA delegation comprising of Mr. Ebrahim Ebrahim, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Mr. Paulo Cordeiro de Andrade Pinto, Under Secretary General for Africa and the Middle East of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil and Mr. Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary for International Organizations, MEA, called on President of Syria H.E. Bashar Al-Assad and FM H.E. Walid Al-Moualem, on 10th August 2011 at Damascus, to discuss the current situation in Syria and the way forward.

The President reassured the delegation of his commitment to the reform process, aimed at ushering in multi-party democracy, including through revision of the constitution. He said that political reforms were being finalized in consultation with the people of Syria and the national dialogue would continue to give shape to the new laws and to arrive at a suitable model for the economy. The process of revision of the constitution would be completed by February/March 2012. He acknowledged that some mistakes had been made by the security forces in the initial stages of the unrest and that efforts were underway to prevent their recurrence.

FM Moualem briefed the delegation about the prevailing situation in Syria, the reasons behind the unrest and violence and explained the steps taken by the Government to bring the situation under control. He said that there were three categories of opposition in Syria: the economically disadvantaged sections; intellectuals and academics; and armed groups. He outlined in detail the political reforms that are in the process of being implemented and said that free and fair elections to the Parliament will be held in Syria before end 2011. He recalled the statement of the President of Syria to rewrite the Constitution of Syria, if considered necessary.

In recalling the adoption of UNSC Presidential Statement of 3 August, the visiting delegation reaffirmed the commitment of India, Brazil and South Africa to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria. They expressed grave concern at the current situation in Syria and condemned violence from all sides. They regretted all loss of life and were concerned over the humanitarian impact of the violence. They called for an immediate end to all violence and urged all sides to act with utmost restraint and respect for human rights and international human rights law. In noting the establishment of an independent judicial committee to investigate the violence, the visiting delegation stressed the importance of ensuring the credibility and impartiality thereof, to which FM

Moualem responded that once the report of the committee became available, those responsible for the violence would be held to account.

They urged the Government to positively consider the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 29 April 2011. They stressed that it is essential for the Syrian Government not to lose momentum and to continue the process of national dialogue and political reforms with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the population. This will contribute to the full exercise of fundamental freedoms by the Syrian people, including that of expression and peaceful assembly. They expressed the hope that opposition groups will cooperate in this process.

The Syrian FM reiterated that Syria will be a free, pluralistic and multi-party democracy before the end of the year.



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The BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - will not let the Libya scenario repeat in Syria, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"The Libya scenario will not be repeated there [in Syria], if BRICS have their way," he said at a joint press conference with visiting Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota in Moscow on Sunday.

The Russian Foreign Minister unveiled a BRICS initiative on Syria.

The BRICS countries "propose that the Security Council firmly speak out against any violence in Syria, demand that all sides, the government and the opposition, respect human rights and engage in dialogue," he said.

"One must not instigate certain forces inside the opposition to keep on rejecting offers of dialogue. This amounts to inciting a replay of the Libya scenario."

Mr. Lavrov said the BRICS nations stand united on Libya.

"The position of BRICS has not changed: we stand for ending violence, ensuring the safety of the civilian population, guaranteeing human rights and observing international humanitarian standards." The BRICS countries are not happy with the current situation in Libya.

"Unfortunately, we cannot feel satisfied with what is happening in Libya. The main goal set forth by the U.N. Security Council was to protect the civilian population. Civilians keep dying in large numbers and unfortunately there is no end in sight for this sad process."

He said the reconciliation process should involve all political and ethnic forces.



**109. Joint Statement issued by the IBSA Ministerial meeting held on the margins of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, September 23, 2011.**

1. They observed the nature of the historic occasion as the three IBSA countries serving concurrently as non-permanent members in the UN Security Council during the year 2011.
2. They pledged their continued cooperation to ensure that the voices of these three democracies from the South make a meaningful and unique contribution to global peace and security. They further exchanged views on the current global political, economic and financial environment, which pose considerable challenges, notably for developing countries. They reiterated that the current international system has to be more reflective of the needs and priorities of developing countries. IBSA, as like-minded countries, will continue to strive to contribute to a new world order whose political, economic and financial architecture is more inclusive, representative and legitimate.
3. They underscored the need for urgent reform of the Security Council, including an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both. The need for greater progress in the intergovernmental negotiations on the UNSC reform was identified as critical to ensure the required impetus to achieve change. They committed themselves to maintain close cooperation and coordination to continue to promote initiatives aimed at achieving tangible results during UNGA66 and thereafter.
4. They acknowledged the positive role that the three IBSA countries have been playing in the maintenance of international peace and security during their current tenure on the Security Council. They committed themselves to continued close cooperation in order to bring their perspectives into the work and decision-making processes of the UNSC.
5. In the context of contributing to sustainable peace and security in countries dealing with post- conflict situations and reconstruction, the IBSA countries recalled the importance of South-South Cooperation, in particular projects carried out through the IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Trust Fund), among others in Haiti, Palestine, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi and Sierra Leone. Since the announcement of the results of the referendum in the South Sudan on 7 February 2011, IBSA countries are supporting the reconstruction and development of both the Sudan and South Sudan, through the IBSA Trust Fund.

6. They reiterated their view that peacekeeping operations have a contribution to make in early peacebuilding activities and in providing an environment conducive to the implementation of development strategies, as a means to bring immediate peace dividends to afflicted areas and to contribute to a cooperative atmosphere for UN missions.
7. They also noted that when considering the deployment of a mission or in evaluating and renewing the mandate of current missions, the Security Council should work in close cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), with a view to developing a stronger synergy between the two organs.
8. The need for the UN to ensure stronger cooperation and coordination with regional representative bodies such as the African Union and its Peace and Security Council was also reiterated.
9. They stressed that IBSA countries have consistently engaged constructively in deliberations on the UNSC in an effort to find permanent solutions to highly complex issues with emphasis on diplomacy and dialogue. It may be recalled that IBSA Deputy Foreign Ministers visited Syria as part of a trilateral engagement with the Syrian government to encourage democratic changes and a peaceful resolution to the situation. That initiative reflects values shared by the IBSA countries especially with relation to the promotion of democracy and human rights and the protection of civilians.
10. India, Brazil and South Africa committed to resume discussions and coordination on Security Council issues during the IBSA Summit which will be hosted in South Africa on 18 October 2011.
11. India and Brazil conveyed their best wishes to South Africa as host of the next IBSA Summit, on 18 October 2011.



**110. Joint Statement issued by IBSA Ministerial Meeting held on the margin of the UN General Assembly Session.**

**New York, September 24, 2011.**

The IBSA Ministers issued the following statement on 23rd September 2011 on the margins of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

1. They observed the nature of the historic occasion as the three IBSA countries serving concurrently as non-permanent members in the UN Security Council during the year 2011.
2. They pledged their continued cooperation to ensure that the voices of these three democracies from the South make a meaningful and unique contribution to global peace and security. They further exchanged views on the current global political, economic and financial environment, which pose considerable challenges, notably for developing countries. They reiterated that the current international system has to be more reflective of the needs and priorities of developing countries. IBSA, as like-minded countries, will continue to strive to contribute to a new world order whose political, economic and financial architecture is more inclusive, representative and legitimate.
3. They underscored the need for urgent reform of the Security Council, including an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both. The need for greater progress in the intergovernmental negotiations on the UNSC reform was identified as critical to ensure the required impetus to achieve change. They committed themselves to maintain close cooperation and coordination to continue to promote initiatives aimed at achieving tangible results during UNGA66 and thereafter.
4. They acknowledged the positive role that the three IBSA countries have been playing in the maintenance of international peace and security during their current tenure on the Security Council. They committed themselves to continued close cooperation in order to bring their perspectives into the work and decision-making processes of the UNSC.
5. In the context of contributing to sustainable peace and security in countries dealing with post- conflict situations and reconstruction, the IBSA countries recalled the importance of South-South Cooperation, in particular projects carried out through the IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Trust Fund), among others in Haiti, Palestine, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi and Sierra Leone. Since the announcement of the results of the referendum in the South Sudan on 7 February 2011, IBSA countries are supporting the

reconstruction and development of both the Sudan and South Sudan, through the IBSA Trust Fund.

6. They reiterated their view that peacekeeping operations have a contribution to make in early peacebuilding activities and in providing an environment conducive to the implementation of development strategies, as a means to bring immediate peace dividends to afflicted areas and to contribute to a cooperative atmosphere for UN missions.

7. They also noted that when considering the deployment of a mission or in evaluating and renewing the mandate of current missions, the Security Council should work in close cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), with a view to developing a stronger synergy between the two organs.

8. The need for the UN to ensure stronger cooperation and coordination with regional representative bodies such as the African Union and its Peace and Security Council was also reiterated.

9. They stressed that IBSA countries have consistently engaged constructively in deliberations on the UNSC in an effort to find permanent solutions to highly complex issues with emphasis on diplomacy and dialogue. It may be recalled that IBSA Deputy Foreign Ministers visited Syria as part of a trilateral engagement with the Syrian government to encourage democratic changes and a peaceful resolution to the situation. That initiative reflects values shared by the IBSA countries especially with relation to the promotion of democracy and human rights and the protection of civilians.

10. India, Brazil and South Africa committed to resume discussions and coordination on Security Council issues during the IBSA Summit which will be hosted in South Africa on 18 October 2011.

11. India and Brazil conveyed their best wishes to South Africa as host of the next IBSA Summit, on 18 October 2011.



**111. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) M. Ganapathi on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Pretoria for the IBSA Summit.**

**New Delhi, October 12, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening. Welcome back. Good to see all of you.

The Prime Minister of India would be leaving for Pretoria on the 17th of October to participate in the IBSA Summit. Secretary (West) Mr. M. Ganapathi is here to brief you about the visit of the Prime Minister of India. He is joined by two of my colleagues. To his right is Mr. Ravi Bangar who has recently taken over as Joint Secretary (Multilateral Economic Relations). And to my left is Mr. Charan Jeet Singh who is the Director in the same Division. I will invite Secretary (West) to make his opening statement. Thereafter he will be happy to take a few questions.

**Secretary (West) (Shri M. Ganapathi):** Thank you, Vishnu. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, friends from the media. It is a pleasure to address you today afternoon and I am very happy that my colleagues Mr. Vishnu Prakash, Joint Secretary (XP), Mr. Ravi Bangar, Joint Secretary (MER), and Mr. Charan Jeet Singh, Director (MER) are here.

As Vishnu mentioned, Hon. Prime Minister is leading a delegation to the Fifth IBSA Summit which will take place in Pretoria, South Africa on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. The Prime Minister's official delegation includes the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna; the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma; the National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon; the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Mr. Pulok Chatterjee; Secretary (W), MEA; the Media Advisor to the Prime Minister; and other senior officials.

The Summit will be chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma, the President of the Republic of South Africa. The President of Brazil Mr. Dilma Rousseff will also be participating. The format of the Summit envisages a restricted working meeting over lunch followed by a plenary meeting between the three leaders on, as I said, the 18th of October.

IBSA came into being as a Dialogue Forum in June, 2003 at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa. The first IBSA Summit took place in September, 2006 in Brazil. There were three subsequent Summits which took place in Pretoria in October 2007, in New Delhi in October 2008, and in Brazil in April 2010.

In the run up to the current Fifth IBSA Summit, the Focal Point Meetings of

senior officials will take place in Pretoria on October 14, 2011, day after. The Foreign Ministers of the three IBSA countries will hold their Ministerial Dialogue on October 17, 2011 which will be followed by the IBSA Summit proper on October 18, 2011.

IBSA is a unique forum which brings together three large democracies from three different continents, which are Asia, Africa and the Americas, facing common aspirations and challenges. India, Brazil and South Africa are pluralistic societies and developing nations. The three countries occupy an important position in their respective regions as also globally. They are all members of the G20, BRICS and BASIC group of countries.

Cooperation in IBSA is perceived on three broad fronts. These include: (1) as a forum for consultation and coordination on significant political issues; (2) it is seen as an instrument for trilateral collaboration on concrete areas and projects through sixteen Working Groups and six People-to-People Forum; and (3) IBSA is involved in assisting other developing countries by developing projects in these countries through the IBSA Trust Fund.

The IBSA Working Groups include those relating to Agriculture, economic (which is trade and industry), social development, education, environment, information society, public service administration, human settlement, transport, defence, energy, science and technology, health, heads of revenue administration, culture and tourism. The six People-to-People fora (or the civil society fora) include the Academic Forum, the Editors Forum, the Local Government Forum, the Parliamentary Forum, Small Business Forum and the Women's Forum.

Some of the Working Groups have already held their sessions and some Working Group meetings are on going. The meeting of the Women's Forum is currently being held in Durban, currently meaning tomorrow and day after. Our Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge) Shrimati Krishna Tirath has just arrived in Johannesburg, maybe a little while ago. The Business Form will meet in Durban on October 16 and 17, 2011. And the Indian Delegation is led by Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma.

Thus, in the run up to the IBSA Summit, we would notice that the Working Groups and the People-to-People or Civil Society Forum would have already held their meetings. This would naturally engage the leaders comprehensively during the Summit.

To further concretize cooperation among themselves, the meeting of the senior officials, or the focal point as it is called, in New York on September 22, 2011 identified areas which will be led by the three concerned countries. This would

include India overseeing cooperation in health and science and technology including space sciences and applications; Brazil will oversee agriculture and environment; and South Africa will oversee trade and investment and tourism.

The outcome of the discussions in the Working Groups and the different fora will be reported to the leaders during the Summit plenary session. The leaders will address a press conference following the plenary meeting.

A trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa MoU for cooperation among the diplomatic academies of the three countries will be signed in the presence of the leaders of the three countries.

I should mention the laudable steps taken by the IBSA Trust Fund aimed at identifying and executing replicable and scalable projects in developing countries for capacity building. Projects have been conceived in Haiti, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Burundi, Palestine, Cambodia, Laos, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Sudan and South Sudan. IBSA works in close coordination with the UNDP in monitoring and delivering these projects.

The IBSA process has contributed significantly to a positive feeling of friendship and working atmosphere at the level of the leadership, Government officials and popular levels of the three countries. More importantly, IBSA today is seen as an important forum by various international and regional organisations. The success of IBSA has a demonstrative effect by most vividly reflecting the fact that South-South cooperation is feasible and possible beyond the conventional areas of exchange of experts and training. IBSA's active engagement in contributing to solutions for issues of a global nature, would also demonstrate the significance and importance to developing countries of the utility of engaging themselves with countries of the South.

The IBSA Summit this year is taking place against an important background. All the three countries India, Brazil South Africa are non-permanent members of the UN Security Council at this point in time. You would recall the visit of an IBSA delegation to Syria a couple of months ago and coordination of the position of the IBSA countries in the vote on the Syria Resolution in the UNSC.

Bilateral meetings between Prime Minister and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, and Prime Minister and President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil are envisaged during the visit to Pretoria. This will be an opportunity for the leaders to review the current state of bilateral relations and look towards the road ahead.

Thank you and I am ready to take your questions.

**Question:** Mr. Ganapathi, this is a larger question on IBSA. Now that the BRIC has been expanded to BRICS, is IBSA still relevant, and how?

**Secretary (West):** The most important we should understand is IBSA brings together an important country from each of the three continents - Asia, Africa and the Americas. The relevance of this organisation was evidently felt by the visit of the IBSA countries to Syria, as I mentioned, and by the coordination of the positions during the Syria vote. Importantly, all the three countries have a harmonised position on a series of issues which naturally will be reflected in the Joint Declaration which will be issued after the IBSA Summit in Pretoria. So, you cannot do away with the relevance of IBSA and IBSA will continue to be relevant in the days to come.

**Question:** Mr. Ganapathi, there has been talk among members of IBSA and BRICS on the need for finding a reformed global governance in economic affairs, and there was a hunt for an alternative to the US dollar. What is the latest on that? Is there any move? In the last BRICS Summit in China you had a meeting where the possibility of the intra-BRICS trading in local currencies and all that. Is this likely to figure in the IBSA meeting in Pretoria?

**Secretary (West):** I think one of the important issues which will naturally figure in the IBSA Summit would be the current global and financial situation. Everyone agrees that the situation is not as easy as it was and it is fairly complicated and difficult. The three leaders have had a series of engagements before. And obviously, the entire scenario as it presents itself from a global financial and economical angle and possible steps to be taken forward would be touched upon. It is also significant that within a month's time, the three leaders will also meet in the G20 Forum. So, it is relevant and it will be taken forward.

**Question:** What are the immediate advantages India is hoping to gain from IBSA, specifically strategic, from ...(Unclear)... and from this session?

**Secretary (West):** I think we should start by looking at the bilateral relations between India-South Africa and India-Brazil. Fairly healthy. A very good trade turnover of around 7.5 billion dollars between India-South Africa and India-Brazil, and coordination of positions internationally, globally and on regional issues. So, obviously when you look at the totality of the situation, be it the political discussions or discussions from an economic and financial point of view, it is going to be a useful engagement between the leaders of the three countries.

**Question:** You mentioned about the three countries being non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. Earlier this month there was a resolution which the US tried to bulldoze and the three countries came together and blocked it, and it led to the first ever walkout by the US in a Security Council meeting. So, do you think there is going to be a more coordinated strategy in terms of how you deal with the Security Council now that India is also the chair of the ...



**Secretary (West):** As I put it, I think one of the first and single most objective of IBSA has been seen as a forum for consultation and coordination on significant political issues. And in that context, if you had looked at the relevant declarations which have been issued by IBSA in all the four previous summits, there has been a healthy chapter on political issues of the day in which the summits took place, and also looking beyond as to how the IBSA countries and the leaders will look at global issues. Obviously, the visit to Syria by the IBSA representatives and the frequent exchange of views on the UNSC vote was itself an important indicator of the fact that the IBSA permanent representatives, IBSA officials, and IBSA leaders would like to take forward their engagement and cooperation in these areas.

**Official Spokesperson:** And by no means does IBSA aim at ganging up, as you said, against any country or organisation. As Secretary (West) has mentioned in his opening remarks, IBSA is a grouping or a forum of likeminded countries - three developing countries, three pluralistic societies, three democratic societies representing three continents. So, in a number of areas there is a natural convergence of positions. And whenever there is a convergence of positions that obviously gets articulated. But let us be very clear about the role of IBSA.

**Question:** Defence is also one of the areas of cooperation. In what way are they cooperating in defence?

**Secretary (West):** Right now in South Africa we have the Working Group on Defence Cooperation also meeting. I think they are meeting today and tomorrow if I am not wrong. Primarily exchange of views on the situation globally, exchange of views on the current state of the strategic interplay. And one of the important outcomes of the defence cooperation was the IBSAMAR, that is, IBSA Maritime Cooperation which took place on the seaboard of South Africa last year I think where the navies of the three countries have participated. Again I will take on from what Vishnu said. This is promoting intra-IBSA cooperation to the security interests of the three countries and moving forward.

**Question:** Sir, is there any plan to include new members in IBSA?

**Secretary (West):** Right now we have had four summits and the fifth is going to take place. Each of these summits has been successful. The current state of play factors in on the meeting of the three leaders of the three countries – India, Brazil, and South Africa.

**Question:** Is there any proposal?

**Secretary (West):** I think it is the three countries right now – India, Brazil, South Africa – and no proposal.

**Question:** This organisation is intended for the South-South cooperation. I wonder what kind of a concept you have when you talk of South. Compared to 20, 30 years ago, I do not think there is no more North-South problem. What do you think when you use the word?

**Secretary (West):** I think when you talk of South it is developing countries. It is not the geographical North or the geographical South. It is also in an economic scale the South comes down. So, obviously I think it is the developing countries' forum and these three countries, as we mentioned in the preamble itself when we started staying, are developing countries where there are similarities of their stages of development, similarities in approach to various issues be it on political, economic, or financial fronts. And that is why it brings them together.

That is why when they also talk of the IBSA Trust Fund, they look at countries of the South from the developing world to see how we can assist them in their development, growth, and alleviation of poverty and other related problems.

**Question:** Mr. Obama has said India has risen already.

**Secretary (West):** When we rise, we also have to rise with the others; we have to take the others with us.

**Official Spokesperson:** Also there is no contradiction. Certainly we are rising, certainly we are growing, certainly we are developing. But all that Secretary West has said is basically, that Japan is a developed country or if you like to accept this categorisation - it is North. We are talking here of developing countries and the developed countries, the OECD countries and the developing countries. The three countries in question are economically developing countries, but certainly rising, economically developing countries, if you please.

**Question:** Sir, the Prime Minister as recently as yesterday talked about the troubles that the global powers are facing economically, financial troubles and said that India should independently evolve its strategies. Will this be the kind of a view we carry forward to the IBSA effort and what would be the plan?

**Secretary (West):** In various global fora I think the Prime Minister's views are learnt with great attention and respect. Obviously when the Prime Minister speaks of economic problems and how to address them, he will make a presentation because this was a subject which will form the text and tenet of the discussions. Now obviously he will present his views and they will be listened to with great attention. Obviously first will be IBSA and then we go on to G20.

**Question:** Sir, any affirmation by Brazil or South Africa on India's permanent membership of the UNSC?

**Secretary (West):** I think India and Brazil are part of the G4. And with South Africa we have had engagements on this and there has been support.

**Question:** Just a quick question on the IBSA Trust Fund. How much money is in that Fund?

**Secretary (West):** The three leaders agreed to the contribution of a million dollars from each of the countries over the last five years. Two projects have been successfully completed which are in Haiti and in Palestine, and it is ongoing.

**Question:** Is more funding expected?

**Secretary (West):** It is annual contribution as I mentioned.

**Question:** A million dollars every year, is that right?

**Secretary (West):** That was what was announced in the Second Summit.

**Question:** Carrying on with the defence question, Sir, were there any talks of cooperation in counterterrorism activities and intelligence sharing as well?

**Secretary (West):** This is an area of interest for all the three countries in terms of tackling organised crime, tackling issues which undermine the established nature of democratic states. So, obviously this would be discussed in the Defence Working Group among the three countries.

**Question:** Mr. Ganapathi, there have been some studies several years ago which suggested that Indian exports to South America using South African ports could reduce the transportation costs by 40 to 50 per cent. Given the fact that now IBSA is a tricontinental collaborative effort, is there any proposal to increase or enhance maritime connectivity between these three great continents?

**Secretary (West):** In fact one of the working groups, the Transport Working Group, has been touching up on this. In that there is a subgroup which has discussed this aspect of maritime cooperation and transport cooperation. Of course what would have happened twenty years ago is totally different from a situation today. I think you need intermediate points but you can also go directly. So, this is an issue which has been touched upon.

**Question:** Mr. Ganapathi, a runoff from the earlier question. Will it be correct to say that Japan and Vietnam have shown interest in joining IBSA, are they being considered?

**Secretary (West):** I am not aware of any countries asking to join IBSA. As I said, a takeoff from the earlier questions and a response to earlier answer, it is as of date and the Fifth Summit and beyond, India, Brazil and South Africa.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**112. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Pretoria to attend the IBSA Summit.**

**New Delhi, October 16, 2011.**

I will leave tomorrow on a visit to South Africa to attend the 5th IBSA Summit being hosted by President Jacob Zuma in Pretoria on 18 October 2011.

The Summit is expected to focus, among other things, on coordination among IBSA countries in United Nations Security Council, sustainable development, the forthcoming meetings of the Conference of Parties under the UNFCCC and the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol being hosted by South Africa later this year, the Rio+20 Conference being hosted by Brazil in 2012 and other matters related to deepening of cooperation under IBSA.

The IBSA Dialogue Forum has matured considerably over the years. There is greater cooperation across a wider canvas. Above all, the idea of three large developing democracies, Brazil, India and South Africa working together in a highly complex global environment has taken root, and has received universal welcome by our peoples.

It is a happy coincidence that during 2011 India, Brazil and South Africa are members of the United Nations Security Council. We have shown significant cohesiveness and coordination in our approach to issues under discussion in the Security Council.

I also look forward to an exchange of views with our IBSA partners on the current global economic and financial situation especially in the context of the forthcoming G 20 Summit in France.

We expect to issue an IBSA Joint Declaration at the Summit.

During my stay in Pretoria, I look forward to holding bilateral meetings with President Jacob Zuma and President Dilma Rousseff to exchange views on global, regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest.



**113. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the plenary session of the IBSA Summit.**

**Pretoria, October 18, 2011.**

President Zuma

President Rousseff

Ministers,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset I would like to express my profound gratitude to President Jacob Zuma, the Government and the people of South Africa for making excellent arrangements for the 5th IBSA Summit.

I would also like to thank and convey my appreciation to our Ministers, officials, Focal Points and others who have painstakingly worked to ensure the success of our meeting.

I would also like to welcome President Dilma Rousseff to her first IBSA Summit. I am sure that we will benefit from her vision and leadership in the strengthening and consolidation of the IBSA Dialogue Forum.

**Excellencies,**

Our grouping derives its strength and global influence from the fact that it consists of three major developing democracies located in three continents.

We share the principles of pluralism, democracy, tolerance and multiculturalism.

We have similar views on many global issues such as the primacy of the development agenda, a just and equitable international order, a multipolar world, a rule based international trading system, climate change and reform of the United Nations.

Our cooperation is underpinned by three pillars - political consultation and coordination; multi-sectoral trilateral cooperation; and execution of development projects in third countries through the Trust Fund.

The IBSA framework is unique because it goes beyond just government-to-government interaction. It touches the lives of our people by facilitating dialogue among civil society and other important sections of society.

The IBSA Forum has also helped us in strengthening our own bilateral relations with each other. Through its 16 Working Groups and 6 people-to-people fora IBSA has brought together our officials, technical experts, business

representatives, intellectuals and academicians. Despite the geographic distance between us, our cooperation has grown in all areas. Yet there is a lot more that IBSA can do to bring tangible benefits to our peoples.

The year 2011 has special salience on account of the fact that we are all Members of the United Nations Security Council. We have demonstrated our cohesion and coordination on various issues under discussion in the United Nations, particularly in the context of developments in West Asia and North Africa.

The visit of an IBSA delegation to Damascus in August this year and their interaction with the Syrian leadership demonstrated the political role which IBSA can usefully play. We should build upon this experience.

We stand united in our efforts to address the deficit in global governance. The United Nations Security Council must be enlarged in order to reflect present day reality and to make it representative and effective in responding to global challenges.

The IBSA Trust Fund is a novel initiative. Through this we have been able to share our developmental experience with other developing countries in the true spirit of South – South cooperation. We should strengthen IBSA's ownership of the projects executed under the Trust Fund and bring their focus back to what was originally envisaged i.e. hunger and poverty alleviation.

We could consider new projects in areas such as agriculture and agro-processing, environment and energy, including new energy resources. These will help our partner countries in addressing the challenges of food and energy security. The IBSA Trust Fund projects could also useful focus on education and skill development, which is a key requirement of almost all developing countries.

#### **Excellencies,**

Despite the global economic slowdown our three economies have registered a steady growth rate. Our intra-IBSA trade is almost touching the 20 billion dollar mark. This augurs well for realizing our target of 25 billion US dollar by 2015, and for being even more ambitious.

The early conclusion of India-SACU-Mercosur Trilateral Trade Arrangement would give a boost to South-South trade. With the conclusion of this trilateral arrangement, Africa could emerge as a bridge linking South Asia and Latin America.

#### **Excellencies,**

The sovereign debt crisis in Europe and recessionary trends in the traditional engines of the global economy – the United States, Europe and Japan are

sending negative signals to world financial and capital markets which are showing signs of distress. Developing countries cannot remain untouched by the negative impacts of these developments. Their ability to address their developmental challenges has been adversely affected.

We hope that effective and early steps will be taken by Europe and other advanced economies to calm the capital and financial markets and prevent the global economy from slipping into a double dip recession.

The G-20, of which all of us are members, has played an important role in pursuing the agenda of reform of international monetary and financial institutions. We should coordinate our positions in the run up to the G-20 Summit in Cannes to ensure that the priorities of the developing economies are adequately reflected.

Our cooperation on environment and climate change issues is important. The BASIC Group has proved to be an effective forum for projecting the viewpoint of the developing world. We should maintain the momentum of coordination and consultation in the run up to Durban.

I wish South Africa under President Zuma's leadership all success for the Durban Conference. I also wish President Dilma Rousseff all success for the Rio+20 meet in Rio de Janeiro in June next year.

**Excellencies,**

The issue of IBSA's outreach is one of the important items on our agenda. IBSA has deservedly received considerable attention since its establishment in 2003. It is important to further consolidate our achievements and maintain the unique identity of IBSA. We should preserve the common principles and values we stand for.

**Excellencies,**

India remains committed and willing to work closely with its IBSA partners in our collective endeavour to further deepen our cooperation.

I have pleasure in extending a most cordial invitation to you all for the next Summit meeting of IBSA in India in 2013.

Before I conclude I would like to heartily congratulate the people of South Africa as they prepare to mark the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress next year.

I thank you.



**114. Prime Minister's statement to the media after the 5th IBSA Summit.**

**Pretoria, October 18, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Jacob Zuma

Your Excellency President Dilma Rousseff

Honourable Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

At the outset I would like to convey my profound gratitude to President Jacob Zuma, the Government and the people of South Africa for the warmth and cordiality with which we have been received here in Pretoria.

It is always a pleasure and privilege to visit this beautiful country. This is a country with which India and the people of India have very deep rooted links – links that have changed the course of India's history. The people of India owe a deep debt of gratitude to South Africa for giving us the Mahatma.

India joins the people of South Africa as they prepare to mark the centenary celebrations of the African National Congress next year. We cherish our historical and deep emotional links with the ANC. The elimination of apartheid was one of the most seminal events of the 20th century.

We have just concluded a very fruitful exchange of views on a wide range of issues of interest to all the three countries. We have heard the results of the meetings of the Working Groups and Forums who met before our Summit. We have discussed ways and means to further consolidate our cooperation and collaboration under the IBSA Dialogue Forum.

I have had the privilege of attending all the IBSA Summits. I am, therefore, witness to the flowering of this unique organisation and this is a matter of great satisfaction for me. We have defied the skeptics and shown how three like minded countries can pool their resources and genius to help each other and others.

IBSA countries are already members of groupings such as BRICS, BASIC and the G-20. We have a tradition of collaborating on global economic issues and challenges such as international economic and financial crisis, climate change, energy security and food security.

This Summit is special because it has taken place in a year when all three of us are members of the United Nations Security Council. We have acted in concert on the global stage, dealing with complex regional and international



political and security issues, including recently in West Asia. This suggests that IBSA can play a role in promoting the cause of international peace and security.

The IBSA framework is unique because the interaction under IBSA transcends the realm of government-to-government activity to encompass dialogue among civil society and people-to-people exchanges.

Its cooperative framework in the form of 16 Working Groups and 6 people-to-people fora brings together our officials, technical experts, business representatives, intellectuals and academicians. These have helped to expand our cooperation considerably. The IBSA Trust Fund is another unique feature of our outreach activities, which we have agreed to promote further.

There is, however, vast potential to increase and expand our cooperation. Intra-IBSA trade is now close to 20 billion US dollars. I am therefore confident that we will be able to cross the target of 25 billion US dollars by 2015. We need to do much more to address the present deficit of intra-IBSA linkages in terms of people's travel, transport facilities and other related infrastructure.

As three developing democracies, we share very similar aspirations. We seek the empowerment of our people and betterment of their lives through inclusive socio-economic development. Our cooperation so far indicates that we are on the right path.

India looks forward to working closely with its IBSA partners in our collective endeavours to further deepen our cooperation.

I have offered that we will be happy to host the next IBSA Summit in India in 2013.

I thank you.



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It is noteworthy that of all the three leaders of the IBSA, Dr. Manmohan Singh is the only leader who attended all its Summits.

"The grouping has shown sceptics how the three states can pool their resources and genius"

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is the only leader to have attended all five IBSA summits, said the grouping had defied sceptics and shown how the three could pool their resources and genius to help each other and others. This is the first summit for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and the second for South African President Jacob Zuma.

As the senior-most statesman among the three, Dr. Singh in his opening remarks at the Fifth IBSA summit provided a detailed elucidation on why IBSA must remain restricted to the three countries. His rationale for retaining the three-country format comes against

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the backdrop of countries such as Turkey indicating their desire to join the grouping and comments by experts that IBSA had been buried under a pile of BRICS consisting of the three IBSA members plus Russia and China.

Describing IBSA as "unique," its initiatives as "novel" and Tuesday's summit "special," the Prime Minister said it drew its strength and global influence from their common political model of being major developing democracies geographically located over three continents.

Collaborating and speaking in almost one voice at over half a dozen global fora, the Prime Minister said the history of cooperation was reflected at the United Nations Security Council (where all three are concurrently non-permanent members) where the three have acted in concert in dealing with complex regional and international political and security issues, including recently in West Asia. "This suggests that IBSA can play a role in promoting the cause of international peace and security."

Dr. Singh wanted IBSA to build on this cooperation and cited the visit of an IBSA delegation to Damascus in August this year and its interaction with the Syrian leadership, which demonstrated the political role IBSA can usefully play.

Dr. Singh reposed faith in the G-20 and suggested the three leaders should meet on the sidelines of the next summit to ensure that the priorities of the developing economies are adequately reflected. He wanted Europe and other advanced economies, "traditional engines of the global economy," to calm the capital and financial markets and prevent the global economy from slipping into a double dip recession.

Besides remaining active on the global stage, IBSA should consider new projects in agriculture and agro-processing, environment and energy, including new energy resources. The IBSA Trust Fund projects could also focus on education and skill development, which is a key requirement of almost all developing countries, he suggested.

With the early conclusion of India-SACU-Mercosur Trilateral Trade Arrangement, he hoped Africa could emerge as a bridge linking South Asia and Latin America.

**115. Tshwane Declaration Issued at the end of IBSA****Pretoria, October 18, 2011.****Preamble**

The President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Ms. Dilma Rousseff (hereinafter referred to as “the Leaders”) met at the Presidential Guest House, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, on 18 October 2011 for the 5th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum.

1. The Leaders noted that the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum brings together three large pluralistic, multi-cultural and multi-racial societies from three continents, i.e. Asia, South America and Africa, as a purely South-South grouping of like-minded countries committed to inclusive sustainable development, in pursuit of well-being for their peoples. The leaders underscored the importance of the principles, norms and values underpinning the IBSA Dialogue Forum, i.e. participatory democracy, respect for human rights, and the Rule of Law.

2. This Summit took place at a critical time globally, when the world economy is faced with serious challenges and where democracy is being sought after in areas such as the Middle East and North Africa. The Leaders highlighted that the basic pillar of IBSA is the shared vision of the three countries that democracy and development are mutually reinforcing and key to sustainable peace and stability. The Leaders posited that the entrenched democratic values shared by the three countries to the good of their peoples and are willing to share, if requested, the democratic and inclusive development model of their societies with countries in transition to democracy.

3. The Leaders acknowledged the importance of the IBSA Dialogue Forum as an instrument to promote coordination on global issues, pertinently during the historic occasion of 2011 when all IBSA Member States serve as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

4. Recalling the Declarations and Communiqués issued during the previous Summits, they took the opportunity to deliberate upon the topics hereunder.

**Coordination in Multilateral organisations**

5. The leaders recalled their joint collaboration in the UNSC and other relevant international fora such as the UN Specialised Agencies and groupings such as the G20, G24, WTO, WIPO, BASIC, BRICS, and G77 + China.

### **Global Governance Reform**

6. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to increase the participation of developing countries in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions. They underscored the need for urgent reform of the United Nations (UN) to render it more democratic and consistent with the current geopolitical reality. They particularly emphasized that no reform of the United Nations will be complete without a reform of the UN Security Council (UNSC), including an expansion in both the permanent and nonpermanent categories of its membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both. Such reform is of the utmost importance for the UNSC to reflect the representativeness and legitimacy it needs to face contemporary challenges.

7. They reiterated that the current international system has to be more reflective of the needs and priorities of developing countries. IBSA, as like-minded countries, will continue to strive to contribute to a new world order whose political, economic and financial architecture is more inclusive, representative and legitimate.

8. They underscored the need for urgent reform of the UN Security Council, including an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both. They discussed the G4 initiative of a draft resolution on expansion of the Security Council in both categories and improvement of its working methods. The initiative has been supported by a wide coalition of Member States, from all regional groups of the United Nations. Therefore, they expressed the view that such strong support should be considered as the basis for further discussion in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the UNSC reform. The need for greater progress in the intergovernmental negotiations was identified as critical to ensure the required impetus to achieve change. They committed themselves to maintain close cooperation and coordination in order to achieve tangible results during the 66th session of the General Assembly.

9. They expressed their satisfaction with the positive role that the three IBSA countries have been playing in the maintenance of international peace and security during their current tenure on the Security Council. They committed themselves to continued close cooperation in order to bring their perspectives into the work and decision-making processes of the UNSC. They reaffirmed their willingness and capacity to take on major responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security. In this context, the IBSA countries declared support for each other's aspirations for permanent seats in a reformed United Nations Security Council.

10. The leaders encouraged coalitions of developing countries, devoted to the process of UNSC reform to actively participate in expediting the ongoing

intergovernmental negotiations. The Leaders recalled the critical role of the regional organizations in resolving conflicts. They urged the UNSC to work closely with them.

11. The Leaders committed themselves to continue to work together in relevant multilateral fora to enhance macro-economic policy coordination for sustainable recovery and continued growth. As members of the G20, IBSA Countries reaffirmed their support for the Group as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. The Leaders stressed the importance of sustaining long-term capital flows to developing countries to stimulate investment, especially in infrastructure and called upon Multilateral Development Banks and Regional Development Banks to mobilise more resources and to find ways to expand their lending capacity to developing countries.

12. The Leaders emphasised the importance of the G20 development agenda, with its focus on the contribution to sustainable growth in developing countries, especially in low income countries. They committed themselves to work together for the continued mainstreaming of the development agenda of the G20 in the future, with the emphasis on infrastructure, food security and trade

13. The Leaders called for the early implementation of the targets for the reform of the International Monetary Fund relating to the mandate, representation, scope, governance, responsibility, responsiveness and development orientation of the Fund, in order to ensure that the Fund is democratic, responsive and accountable. The Leaders reiterated that the governing structure of the Fund should reflect the changed realities of the global economy in the 21st Century, through the increased voice and representation of emerging economies and developing countries. The Leaders emphasized that reform of the international financial institutions should be carried out in accordance with G20 commitments, with the objective of achieving an equitable distribution of voting power between developed and developing countries consistent with their participation in the world economy.

14. The Leaders agreed that the Heads and senior leadership of all international institutions should be appointed through an open, transparent and merit-based process beginning with the selection of the next President of the World Bank in 2012. The Leaders underscored the importance of strictly adhering to the commitments already agreed in other fora, such as in the G20, including the development agenda.

#### **Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**

15. Recalling the interdependence between security and development, the leaders reiterated their view that peacekeeping operations have a contribution

to make in early peacebuilding activities and in providing an environment conducive to the implementation of development strategies, as a means to bring immediate peace dividends to afflicted areas and to contribute to a cooperative atmosphere for UN missions. The leaders noted that when considering the deployment of a mission or in evaluating and renewing the mandate of current missions, the UN Security Council should work in close cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission, with a view to developing a stronger synergy between the two organs.

### **Global Financial and Economic Crisis**

16. The Leaders expressed concern at the ongoing deterioration of the global economic scenario, which presents particular challenges for the economic policy and growth prospects of developing and low-income countries. Downside risks have increased substantially in recent weeks. They stressed the importance of the implementation of a credible plan of macro-economic and financial policies and structural reforms by the Eurozone countries, as a necessary step to prevent further negative shocks to the world economy. They also highlighted the importance of complementary measures by other key developed economies to boost recovery and help the global economy as a whole. They emphasized that domestic policy responses and structural reforms alone remain insufficient to restore growth in many developed and developing countries.

17. The Leaders emphasised the need to increase policy coordination amongst G20 nations, with a view to avert a new recession and to promote a robust recovery in order to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth of the global economy in the medium term. This requires carefully calibrated fiscal consolidation in countries with high debt levels and measures to strengthen domestic demand in countries with large surpluses. The Leaders believe that Brazil, India and South Africa are doing their part to promote growth while containing inflationary pressures and ensuring fiscal discipline.

18. The Leaders stressed the importance of implementing the current international commitments of financial regulatory reform, with a view to improving oversight and supervision, towards a more resilient financial system. They also renewed their commitment to the timely implementation of the Basel III agreement.

19. The Leaders emphasized the importance of a more stable and resilient International Monetary System and coherent management of capital flows. They highlighted the special responsibility of reserve currency issuers in the field, in the sense that their policies can have a disproportionate impact on global liquidity and capital flows.

### **The Social Dimensions of Global Governance**

20. The Leaders reaffirmed that people must come first and should participate in the formulation and implementation of public policies, allowing for fair, equitable and sustainable development. They stressed the need to strengthen social policies and to fight poverty, unemployment and hunger. They considered this a relevant priority in the context of an increasingly globalized world, as well as in the restructuring the international financial architecture, which directly affects the welfare of people, particularly of older persons, the youth, the family and persons with disabilities. They reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the MDGs. They highlighted the role of the IBSA Facility for the Alleviation of Hunger and Poverty in the implementation of South-South cooperation projects.

### **Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

21. The Leaders noted that 2015 remains a fundamental target date, by which MDGs must be met. The leaders reaffirmed that with just four years to go for the target year, global efforts for attaining the MDGs by 2015 must see accelerated action. In this regard they called upon developed countries to urgently meet their ODA commitments and to take steps to strengthen global partnership as envisaged in MDG 8 including technology transfer. They further noted that the tepid pace of recovery of the global economy must not lead to lowering of ambition on the MDGs. The Leaders reaffirmed their efforts to strengthening the global partnership for development, but reiterate the necessity of the expeditious delivery of commitments already made by developed countries in the context of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

22. The Leaders acknowledged the centrality of the objectives and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and its pursuit for the advancement of the agenda for sustainable development. In this regard, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit on 08 September 2000, which reaffirms the objective of making the Right to Development a reality for everyone, remains complementary to the overall spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

23. The Leaders acknowledged that the successful achievement of the MDGs; as encapsulated in the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and 2010 High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly; requires strong political will and commitment; adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels; and strengthened international cooperation.

24. The Leaders noted that Sub-Saharan Africa faces peculiar challenges, with respect toward the achievement of the MDGs and has seen less improvement than other developing regions of the world. The African situation remains highly worrisome, particularly in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)s who are faced with severe poverty and underdevelopment. There is therefore an imperative need for enhanced international cooperation and solidarity, especially under MDG 8, in order to ensure results.

#### **International Trade (WTO DDR)**

25. The Doha Development Round negotiations were launched on the basis of a mandate that sought to put the interests of developing countries at the centre of the work programme. The current impasse in the negotiations is therefore a source of serious concern. The distortions caused by the high levels of protection and subsidies in agriculture in the developed countries continue to undermine the development prospect of many developing countries, especially the least developed countries.

26. The Leaders reiterated their view that the demands of the current negotiations in the Doha Development Round reflect an imbalance in the sense that there is too much accommodation of the sensitivities of developed countries in agriculture, alongside unjust demands on developing countries to open their markets in the services and industrial sectors. The Leaders expressed concern at initiatives, such as a standstill on tariffs that remove WTO consistent policy space previously negotiated by developing countries. Developmental agenda remains central to the Doha Round.

27. To overcome the current impasse and to bring the Round to a successful conclusion, the Leaders reiterated the need to re-affirm the integrity of the mandate that launched the Round, and to build on the convergence already achieved. The Leaders urged the members of the WTO to reach an agreement on measures of interest to LDCs such as DFQF, Cotton, and services waiver and not to make it conditional to reaching an agreement on market access issues.”

#### **Sustainable Development**

28. The Leaders of India and South Africa pledged their support for Brazil's hosting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro (“Rio+20 Summit”) to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development; to assess progress towards internationally agreed commitments on sustainable development and to address new and emerging challenges. The Leaders acknowledged the relevance of



the main themes for the Summit namely the Green Economy in the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development in implementing the Sustainable Development agenda. The Leaders recognised that this conference represents a key opportunity for the international community to examine and reinforce long term commitments established since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg.

29. The Leaders agreed that Rio+20 should renew political commitment to accelerate the implementation of the sustainable development agenda as defined by the Rio Principles and taken forward through the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPol) in pursuit of global sustainable development. Recognising that the green economy is a means to sustainable development and poverty eradication, the Leaders stressed the significance of this conference in addressing the emerging sustainable development challenges associated with the multiple global issues such as food price volatility and food security, energy scarcity and energy access, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, challenges of rapid urbanization, land degradation and climate change. Therefore, they stressed that there is no “one-size-fits-all” strategy for sustainable development and that the conference should reinvigorate political commitment towards the implementation of the global sustainable development agenda and work towards assisting developing countries through additional and new financing, technology transfer and capacity building in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. Furthermore, the Leaders emphasised the importance of reaching an agreement on an effective multilateral institutional framework to coordinate, support and enable sustainable development efforts by the international community and relevant stakeholders in a coherent and integrated manner.

### **Climate Change**

30. South Africa as the host of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol, which will be taking place in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011, appreciates the support of India and Brazil towards a successful outcome in Durban. The outcome of Durban should be comprehensive, balanced and ambitious, within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

31. The Leaders recalled the two-track Bali Road Map decisions and that the Durban Climate Change Conference is the last opportunity to reach an agreement before the end of the 1st commitment period for developed country mitigation commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. They therefore, called for an agreement on the 2nd commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol as well as the early operationalisation of all the institutions agreed to at COP16/CMP6 in Cancun last year, the Adaptation Committee; the Technology Executive Committee, the Technology Centre and Network; the Standing Committee on Finance and the Green Climate Fund, which must provide significant means of implementation for immediate action to tackle climate change.

In this regard, an appropriate assessment of the Green Climate Fund should be undertaken during COP17/CMP7, in order to ensure its adequate structure, with a view to timely disbursements to developing countries. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure that accounting of finance by all developed countries is consistent, complete, comparable, transparent and accurate, and should include detailed and comprehensive information on fast start financial flows provided by developed countries.

32. The Leaders emphasised the centrality of adaptation and means of implementation as part of a balanced and comprehensive outcome towards the completion of the Bali Road Map. In addition, it is recognised that the extent to which developing countries can implement their actions is dependent on the extent to which developed countries fulfill their commitment to provide sufficient financing, technological and capacity building support to enable both mitigation and adaptation action.

### **Biodiversity**

33. The Leaders, also as members of the Group of Like-Minded Mega-diverse Countries appreciated the initiative of India to host in October 2012, the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP11 of CBD) and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. COP11 of CBD will consider among other, the status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization, the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the agreed process to adopt indicators and targets for the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

### **Global Food Security**

34. The Leaders expressed their concern about the continuing challenges that developing countries are facing regarding food and nutritional security, such as negative consequences of food inflation and food price volatility. They

also expressed concern at how the rising cost of inputs may have regressive impacts on agriculture production and highlighted the need to ensure an increase in agricultural production and productivity, and regulation of commodity markets to meet a growing demand. Regarding the ongoing famine in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, the Leaders renewed their appeal for countries to deliver on commitments made to provide funding to address issues of food and nutrition security, especially in support of domestic and regional programmes, where they exist.

35. It remains imperative that international collaboration improves to ensure that agricultural productivity be augmented, together with an increase in emergency aid, where needed. The Leaders emphasised the need to support small scale and subsistence agriculture and greater market access for their products. Simultaneously, the need for increased sharing of intellectual property with developing countries that could increase resilience in addressing agricultural development and sufficient nutritional feeding remains critical.

36. The Leaders expressed their support for the UN food based institutions in Rome, and other regional organisations that could increase the capacity of developing countries to deal with the issues of increased agricultural production, food security and nutritional feeding to ensure that they eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and attain the Millennium Development Goal 1. In this regard the Leaders welcomed the election of Dr José Graziano da Silva of Brazil as the first Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation from the Latin America region. The Leaders expressed optimism that under the able leadership of Dr Silva, FAO would continue to grow in strength, particularly looking at its regional programmes, when addressing the specific problems of agriculture development and food security.

#### **South-South Co-operation**

37. The Leaders undertook to continue to advance the agreed principles underlying South-South Cooperation. The Leaders recalled that South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, a partnership among equals, and must be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

38. The Leaders affirmed that South-South cooperation is complementary to, and not a substitute for, North-South Cooperation. It encompasses all the aspects of international relations beyond the traditional economic and technical areas. South-South Cooperation is an ongoing process which helps developing countries to confront the common challenges they face in successfully promoting their own sustainable development, including through enhancing the capacities

of the arrangements and the institutions that promote such cooperation. In this context, the Leaders reaffirmed the importance of South-South Cooperation being implemented jointly through the IBSA Trust Fund.

### **Human Rights**

39. The Leaders expressed the imperative need for the international community to recognise and reaffirm the centrality of the Human Rights Council. The Leaders welcomed the recently concluded Outcome of the review of the status, functioning and working methods of the United Nations Human Rights Council and in this regard reiterated their commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. The Leaders recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

40. The Leaders recalled the political declaration signed by Head of States and Government on World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) + 10, held in New York, on 22 September 2011, and reaffirmed their commitment to implement the provisions of the outcomes of WCAR and called on all states to commit to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action as the most instructive United Nations document on the global efforts for the eradication of the scourges of racism and related intolerance.

41. The Leaders expressed the need for IBSA countries to continue to explore mechanisms to further deepen cooperation in international human rights bodies by developing common initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They also reiterated their commitment to strengthening technical assistance and capacity building for the promotion and protection on human rights, based on their respective experiences and good practices.

### **Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

42. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe, in a comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable and irreversible manner. They also renewed their support for efforts related to the disarmament and non-proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to expediting their elimination. Brazil and South Africa welcomed India's engagement with, and interest in, participation in the relevant international multilateral export control regimes and utilization of their guidelines.

**Terrorism**

43. The Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious to international peace and security.

44. The Leaders regretted and condemned the recent attacks in India that resulted in loss of lives. The Leaders of Brazil and South Africa offered condolences to the government and people of India. The Leaders in the same vein reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and encouraged cooperation among States and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism. In this regard they emphasized the urgent need to finalize the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) and called upon all UN member-States to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues with the objective of an expeditious conclusion of negotiations and adoption of this Convention. They reaffirmed the central role of the UN in coordinating the international action against terrorism within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with the international law.

**Transnational Organised Crime**

45. The Leaders welcomed the UNGA resolution A/RES/65/230 on the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which endorsed the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World.

The Leaders also acknowledged that organised crime in all its manifestations is an anathema that poses a great threat to social, economic and moral fiber of societies and has serious potential to undermine good governance. Organised crime further weakens efforts towards poverty eradication and sustainable development, and the way forward should be regional and international cooperation. The Leaders recognized that women, along with children, are the main victims of human trafficking, particularly for forced labor and sexual exploitation. The Leaders emphasized the need to coordinate policies among countries and to create effective channels to combat this crime.

46. The Leaders welcomed the adoption of the 2010 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons which will contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, as well as enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons.

47. The Leaders invited Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts where appropriate to implement the principles contained therein, taking

into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States.

48. The Leaders called on Member States of IBSA to collaborate in their fight against the scourge of transnational organised crime, including cooperation in the area of extradition, mutual legal assistance and criminal justice.

#### **Intellectual Property Rights**

49. The Leaders emphasized the need for an equitable and balanced international system of rules governing intellectual property, allowing among others, for the protection of indigenous knowledge systems against abuse and for preventing the misappropriation of genetic resources, and associated traditional knowledge.

50. They emphasized, in this context, the need for a balanced international intellectual property system that contextualizes Intellectual Property Rights in the larger framework of socio-economic development and views them, not as ends in themselves, but as a means of promoting innovation, growth and development in all countries through calibrated norm-setting, protection and enforcement, while facilitating the effective transfer of technology. To this end, they called for the full implementation of the Development Agenda of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in all areas of its work. In this context, they welcomed the progress being made towards evolving legally-binding international instrument(s) in WIPO for the effective protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions and urged early adoption of these instruments within the 2012-'13 biennium. Reaffirming the important role played by Exceptions, Exclusions and Limitations in bringing the necessary balance between Intellectual Property Rights and public interest, the Leaders took positive note of the ongoing initiatives in WIPO. The leaders noted with appreciation that IBSA countries were already co-coordinating their positions on a number of issues within the framework of the Development Agenda Group (DAG).

51. The Leaders warned against attempts at developing new international rules on enforcement of intellectual property rights outside the multilateral fora that may give free rein to systematic abuses in the protection of rights, the building of barriers against free trade and undermining fundamental civil rights.

#### **Internet Governance**

52. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to working together towards a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society and their agreement to continue to coordinate positions for the World Summit on

Information Society (WSIS) follow-up mechanisms, as well as in the other fora and organizations related to the Information Society and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

53. The Leaders expressed their satisfaction with the ongoing work in this arena; recognized the role of the Internet as a catalyst for economic and social progress; and emphasized its potential to enhance IBSA's profile as a key global player. The leaders reaffirmed the IBSA framework agreement for Cooperation on the Information Society adopted on September 13, 2006 and recalled the commitments made in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Agenda with regard to Enhanced Cooperation.

54. The Leaders highlighted the importance of building a wide political coalition at the international level for making the global internet governance regime as multilateral, democratic and transparent as provided by the WSIS.

In this context, they reiterated the urgent need to operationalise the process of 'Enhanced Cooperation' mandated by the Tunis Agenda and recalled, with satisfaction, the fruitful coordination amongst IBSA countries in the deliberations on 'Enhanced Cooperation' in the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and in the UN Secretary-General's Open Consultations held in December 2010. The leaders took note of the recommendations of the IBSA Workshop on Global Internet Governance convened in Rio de Janeiro on 1-2 September 2011 and resolved to jointly undertake necessary follow-up action.

55. The Leaders emphasized Internet Governance as a key strategic area that requires close collaboration and concrete action. In this context, it recommended the establishment of an IBSA Internet Governance and Development Observatory that should be tasked to monitor developments on global Internet Governance and provide regular updates and analyses from the perspective of developing countries.

### **Energy**

56. The Leaders acknowledged that each State has a right to define its national energy policy in accordance with its national circumstances and requirements and its relevant international obligations. They also recognized that a diverse portfolio of energy sources will be needed in future to sustain energy and electricity resources in all regions of the world. In this regard, the availability of energy and access to it are vital to human development, and they recognized that renewable energy, as well as nuclear power play an important role in the energy mix of countries and also contributes to mitigate the risk of global climate change. The Leaders remain convinced of the importance of encouraging joint research and studies to promote cooperation

and information exchange in the field of development of sustainable and alternative energy.

### **Health**

57. The Leaders expressed their conviction that universal access to healthcare and affordable medicines is an indispensable step to achieve the ambitious goals adopted by the international community in the fight against communicable and non communicable diseases, as set forth by the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2011 and by the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases of 2011.

58. Furthermore, the Leaders recognized that the effective impact of intellectual property on health, access to drugs and prices can best be tackled by enabling developing nations to scale up production of generic medicines through the full use of the flexibilities provided by the TRIPS agreement, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health, and, with the support of the World Health Organization, by the Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, (WHO).

59. The Leaders welcomed the convening of the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, to be held from the 19th to the 21st of October 2011, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In this context, the leaders expressed the hope that the - Conference will be able to agree a common agenda for the implementation of a social determinants of health approach to reduce health inequities.

### **Gender**

60. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, as well as important contributions made by IBSA in achieving women's empowerment and gender equality.

61. The Leaders welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established under General Assembly resolution 64/289. The Leaders called for adequate funding of the budget of UN Women to enable it to promptly and effectively plan and carry out its mandate.

62. The Leaders recognised with concern that the situation of women, children and persons with disabilities have been negatively impacted by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirmed that eradicating poverty continues



to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socio economic context.

63. The Leaders further recognised with concern that Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 on ending maternal and child mortality will not be achieved by 2015. The Leaders also recognized that the lack of economic empowerment and independence has increased women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, involving the risk of contracting HIV, malaria, tuberculosis and other poverty related diseases.

In this regard, the Leaders stressed the importance of ensuring women's right to the highest attainable standards of health and their access to affordable and adequate health care services, including sexual, reproductive and maternal health care and lifesaving obstetric care. The Leaders called for the strengthening of national health and social infrastructures to reinforce measures to promote women's access to public health and to address shortages of human resources for health.

64. The Leaders reaffirmed the full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision making as an essential condition for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

65. The Leaders recognised the significant role women play in economic development and in the eradication of poverty and stressed the need to ensure women's and girls' full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

66. The Leaders emphasised the need to create an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of socio-economic policies and poverty eradication strategies.

67. The Leaders emphasised the importance of enhanced cooperation and partnership between their countries as an effective way of working towards women empowerment and gender equality and achieving sustainable development.

### **Children**

68. The Leaders expressed deep concern that malnutrition and preventable diseases continue to be major obstacles to the realization of rights in early childhood, in particular the right to life and access to health and food, and to the ability of the child to develop, and also recognizes the need to reduce child mortality and ensure comprehensive child development.

69. The Leaders reaffirmed that the eradication of poverty is essential to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals and to the full realization of the rights of all children, including in early childhood. The Leaders emphasized that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols and relevant human rights instruments constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

70. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and took note of the ILO Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016 and welcomed the convening of the Third Global Conference Against Child Labour to take place in Brazil in 2013.

#### **Persons with Disabilities**

71. The Leaders noted that large number of persons with disabilities live in developing countries, and recognized the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts to mainstream persons with disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries.

72. The Leaders further noted with concern that the lack of adequate data and information on disability and the situation of persons with disabilities at the national level presents an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

73. The Leaders affirmed that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides an opportunity to strengthen the policies related to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, thereby contributing to the realization of a "society for all" in the 21st Century.

#### **Youth**

74. The Leaders welcomed the convening of the High Level Meeting (HLM) on Youth held at the UN Headquarters in New York from 25- 26 July 2011 to address the theme: "Youth: Dialogue and Understanding" and the resultant outcome document. Bearing in mind the global economic crisis, the Leaders recognized the importance of promoting access to decent work, culture, education and participation in the decision-making processes. The Leaders expressed concern at the high levels of unemployment among youth worldwide and stressed the need to develop a plan of action aimed at effectively addressing youth unemployment.

#### **REGIONAL ISSUES**

##### **AU / NEPAD**

75. The Leaders welcomed the fact that the full integration of the NEPAD Agency into the structures of the AU has been completed and in this way

augments the fact that NEPAD remains the AU's flagship socio-economic programme. The Leaders further welcomed the fact that Africa's most important partners are increasingly aligning their programmatic support as well as their projects with NEPAD principles and policies, and with the decisions taken by NEPAD and AU structures.

76. IBSA Leaders extended their congratulations on the 10 year anniversary of NEPAD, and acknowledge that NEPAD has played an immense role in mobilizing the African continent to take the lead in the determination of its destiny. The Leaders noted that NEPAD, through the commitment of African leaders, and with the support of Africa's key partners, including IBSA, has an important role to play in developing the potential of Africa as a potential new global growth pole.

77. The Leaders welcomed the progress made by the eight NEPAD Champion states in their endeavours to implement the selected priority cross-border projects that will further integrate the regions of Africa and will contribute to improving intra-African trade.

78. The Leaders welcomed the decision of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) that the African private sector needs to be more involved in NEPAD projects and programmes and that African countries should increase the use of their domestic resources for infrastructure and other projects. The envisaged greater involvement by the African public sector and the African private sector will also serve the purpose of strengthening the already strong links with Africa's bilateral and multilateral partners.

79. The Leaders recognised the positive contribution that India and Brazil play in support of the AU in conjunction with NEPAD. They welcomed the successful conclusion of the 2nd India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. They also looked forward to the South America-Africa Summit to take place in Malabo in 2012. The deep-rooted historical relationship that Brazil and India have with Africa has developed into a modern example of South-South Cooperation.

### **Libya**

80. The Leaders reiterated their governments' attachment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya. They underlined the urgency of ceasing hostilities, consolidating public security and fully restoring basic services throughout the country. The Leaders called on those concerned to reach an agreement on an inclusive transitional government as soon as possible with a view to promoting national unity, reconciliation, democracy and reconstruction. The Leaders underlined the central role of the United Nations in post-conflict Libya and the contribution of the African Union can offer in this process. The

Leaders expressed IBSA's willingness to help the Libyan people rebuild their institutions and infrastructure.

### **Arab-Israel Peace Process**

81. The Leaders welcomed the Palestinian request for full membership at the United Nations, which they support as a key step towards the full realization of the two-state solution and expect a positive response by UNSC to the Palestinian request. The Leaders called for the urgent resumption of effective and result-oriented negotiations aimed at giving birth to a sovereign, democratic, independent, united and viable Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, coexisting peacefully alongside Israel, within secure borders. They called for the monitoring of the Quartet's activities by the UNSC. The Leaders called for an immediate freeze in all settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian Territories and East Jerusalem and lifting the siege against Gaza. The Leaders reflected on the work of the Quartet as regards to finding a solution to the Palestinian question. They urged the Quartet to report to the UNSC on a regular basis on progress made, or lack thereof.

### **Syria**

82. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria. They expressed their grave concern at the current situation in Syria and condemned the persistent violence. They expressed their belief that the only solution to the current crisis is through a Syrian-led all inclusive, transparent, peaceful political process aimed at effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the population and at protecting unarmed civilians. The leaders welcomed IBSA's joint initiatives on Syria.

They further called for an immediate end to violence and, respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The Leaders decided to consider the possibility of undertaking a visit to Syria by an IBSA delegation in an effort to expedite the implementation of reforms promised by the Syrian Government.

### **Sri Lanka**

83. The Leaders recognized the territorial sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka and encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to implement a fully inclusive political settlement in Sri Lanka, which will be best achieved through broad consultation and dialogue amongst all the peoples of Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the Leaders acknowledged the priority of the timely completion of effective domestic accountability processes, i.e. the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), before any consideration is given to alternative processes.

**Afghanistan**

84. The Leaders emphasized the need for the international community to maintain its commitment to render assistance to the Government and people of Afghanistan in ensuring security and development, whose interdependence is key to stability and sustainable peace. The only way to lasting peace is through dialogue. The Leaders are of the view that without good governance and a long-term commitment to support economic development; security gains will not be sustainable.

85. The Leaders expressed support for a democratic, pluralistic and stable Afghanistan. The Leaders acknowledged the need for continued international assistance to further enable the Afghan National Security Forces to guarantee Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and stability. International cooperation is also needed to further strengthen Afghanistan's capacity to deliver public goods to its citizens. The Leaders also expressed support for the principle of national ownership and leadership in the transition processes.

86. The Leaders also voiced their firm support to the government of Afghanistan to lead efforts to advance the process of reconciliation and reintegration, which should be inclusive and transparent, and where those reintegrated renounce violence, eschew links with all terrorist groups and fully respect the National Constitution.

**Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan**

87. The Leaders welcomed the new state of the Republic of South Sudan and congratulated the efforts and commitment made by Sudan and South Sudan which led to the conclusion of the processes of the creation of the new state. The Leaders stressed the continued need for all parties to fully respect the 2005 CPA and the resolution of the outstanding issues in a constructive manner.

88. The Leaders expressed continued support for both Sudan and South Sudan and indicated that they will continue to support AU efforts regarding peace between the two countries as well as the post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts. They also emphasized the importance of close cooperation between both countries and the African Union High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan (AUHIP), led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki and pledged continued support for its work.

**Somalia**

89. The Leaders welcomed the progress made in the security situation in Mogadishu, while recognizing the persistence of serious challenges, as demonstrated by the terrorist attack that occurred in 4 October, which the

Leaders strongly condemned. They called upon all Somali parties to renounce violence and engage in dialogue and reconciliation.

90. The Leaders expressed their deep concern about the situation in the Horn of Africa, which has led to a severe humanitarian crisis.

91. The Leaders welcomed the adoption of the Roadmap during the first Consultative Meeting on Ending the Transition in Somalia, held in Mogadishu, on September 5-6, 2011 and expressed the hope that this will lead to the adoption of a new constitution and general elections soon thereafter. The Leaders also welcomed the efforts by the international community to alleviate the plight of the internal displaced and Somali refugees in neighbouring countries. The Leaders also called upon the international community to redouble its efforts to address the problems of piracy and hostage-taking off the coast of Somalia in a comprehensive manner.

#### **Guinea-Bissau**

92. The Leaders welcomed the significant progress made by the Government of Guinea Bissau towards sound economic management, stability and peace consolidation. They stressed the need for the international community to support such progress by fully resuming its cooperation with the country, in particular with regard to security sector reform and social and economic development.

#### **Haiti**

93. The Leaders reiterated their commitment to the people and the Government of Haiti. They highlighted the positive efforts from the Executive and Legislative powers in Haiti resulting in the ratification of the Prime Minister, which will enable the implementation of the government program and the ensuing strengthening of recovery and reconstruction efforts. They reaffirmed their full support for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), recognizing that it continues to play a vital role in the maintenance of security and stability in Haiti. The importance of MINUSTAH's support for the strengthening of the Haitian State and Haiti's sustainable development was also underlined.

#### **IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund)**

94. The Leaders highlighted the importance of the IBSA Fund as an instrument to alleviate poverty and hunger and a useful vehicle for meaningful South-South cooperation. The Leaders reiterated their commitment to the various new projects that have been approved and are being implemented under auspices of the IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA

Trust Fund), i.e. Palestine, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Timor Leste, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vietnam, Sudan and South Sudan.

### **Sectoral cooperation and People-to-People Fora**

95. The Leaders noted that IBSA also provides for substantial cross-sector cooperation and promotion of people-to-people cooperation. The Leaders welcomed the collaboration among within the working groups on Agriculture, Environment & Climate Change, Culture, Defense, Education, Energy, Health, Human Settlements, Information Society, Public Administration, Revenue Administration, Science & Technology, Social Development, Tourism, Trade & Investment, and Transport. Their activities have already resulted in the signing of a number of Memoranda of Understanding the implementation of which should be prioritised to ensure concrete deliverables on the projects identified for co-operation.

96. The Leaders noted with appreciation the organisation and the outcome of the IBSA People-to-People For a meetings, i.e. Academic, Business Council, Editors, Intergovernmental Relations and Local Government, Tri Nations Summit on Small Business, and Women.

97. The Leaders welcomed the signing of the MoU on Mutual Cooperation among the Rio Branco Institute of the Ministry of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Diplomatic Academy of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

### **IBSA Satellite Project**

98. Brazil and South Africa welcomed India's decision conveyed at the Working Group on Science and Technology meeting that India will host the IBSA Satellite Technical Meeting In Bengaluru to discuss (i) modalities of cooperation in space weather, earth observation and micro satellite; and (ii) translating the IBSA Satellite concept into action.

### **Final Remarks**

99. As the IBSA Dialogue Forum approaches its first decade of existence, and prepares to take on new challenges, the Leaders instructed the Ministers to conduct a review of the work methods of the IBSA sectoral cooperation mechanisms and the IBSA Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation.

100. The month of October marks the celebration of various festivities and auspicious days, including Diwali (the celebration of light) in India. The Leaders wished the Government and the people of India well during these celebrations.

101. The Leaders expressed their satisfaction with the decision by the Minister of External Affairs of India, H.E. Mr S.M. Krishna, the Minister of External Relations of Brazil, H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, H.E. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane to convene the 8th Meeting of the Trilateral Commission to be hosted by South Africa, in the first half of 2012.

102. The Leaders welcomed the offer by India to host the 6th IBSA Summit in 2013 on a date to be set through the diplomatic channels.



**116. Extracts from the Media interaction by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on board his Special Flight on way back to New Delhi after attending the IBSA Summit in Pretoria.**

**October 19, 2011.**

**Question:** Impact of the visit and how are we going to gain?

**Answer:** We had a very satisfactory meeting. As I said in my opening speech, we are three democracies, three developing countries, trying to bring about synergy of interests, we are trying to promote new pathways to promote economic cooperation between India and Africa and India and Latin America. The trade volumes are moving in the right direction. We are confident of reaching the target of 25 billion dollars of trilateral trade by the year 2015. What is more important is the people to people contacts, the various working groups, the foras which have been set up, they bring together civil society actors, women's groups, science and technology group, agriculture groups, health group, and out of that I think, a new atmosphere, that we have a great deal to learn from each other, that the developing countries exchange can itself enrich all the participant countries. This is the message of this Conference.

**Question:** On tackling poverty, unemployment and other chronic ills ailing our country?

**Answer:** Getting rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflict millions and millions of people in our country is the most important task and to achieve that goal we have to walk on several legs. We have to ensure that the country's economy grows fast enough and the 12th Five Year Plan has the target of about 9 percent growth rate. It is difficult in the present world situation but we believe it is achievable, and if we simultaneously lay lot more emphasis



on infrastructure, on education, on health, on skill development, we will create an environment where the youthful population profile that we have, will create not only higher growth rates but also create jobs of productive quality for young men and young women who would be joining the labour force.

\* \* \* \*

**Question:** On rising threat perception from China and plans to tackle it?

**Answer:** India and China are neighbours, we have problems. The border problem is a long standing problem, but its my sincere hope that is possible for us to find ways and means by which the two neighbours can live in peace and amity. Despite the persistence of the border problem our both countries have agreed that peace and tranquillity should be maintained along the border. Therefore despite, sometimes something appearing in the newspapers in our country, something appearing in the newspapers in China, that I think invites comments, but overall our relations are quite good. I have good working relations with President Hu Jintao, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and I am convinced that the top leadership of China wants peaceful resolution of all problems that exist between India and China.

\* \* \* \*

**Question:** What does India look forward to at the G20 in Cannes?

**Answer:** Well you would have seen the communiqué issued yesterday. We expect the developed countries, particularly the Eurozone countries to come up with credible measures to resolve the crisis of the sovereign debt which now is becoming a major global concern.

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**IOR-AR****117. Opening Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).****Bengaluru, November 15, 2011.**

Excellencies, Distinguished Leaders of Delegations and Members of the Official Delegations,

Allow me to first thank our officials, business persons and academics, as well as our Secretariat, for their diligent preparatory work for this meeting.

I am grateful to all of you for the confidence reposed in India, as we assume the Chair of this Association for the first time. My colleagues and I will work closely with you to contribute to our collective vision and to achieve our shared objectives.

We welcome Australia as the Vice Chair of our Association.

**Excellencies,**

Over six decades ago, our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru envisioned a grouping of countries bordering the Indian Ocean that could help one another in tackling common challenges. This extraordinarily perceptive idea was realized in 1997 with the formation of our Association. We reaffirmed then that the Indian Ocean is an integral part of our collective destiny, and that we need a holistic vision for a cooperative response to current challenges for this region.

The key east-west arteries of international trade – especially in commodities and energy sources – run through our ocean. Maritime security issues impact on our strategic security and the conventional security of our boundaries. Technological evolution and the rising cost of natural resources have made it economically viable to harvest new resources from our sea beds.

The sustainability of our economic development in today's ecologically challenged world requires efficient management of our shared seas. Conservation and sustainable harvesting are vital for the security of our marine food resources.

These are both opportunities and challenges for collaboration, which reinforce the cultural and civilizational factors that have historically united our region. Our Association is based on an open regionalism, permitting multiple channels of interaction in areas of regional and sub-regional interest.

**Excellencies,**

Piracy is a priority challenge. It increases the direct cost of trade. It adds indirect costs through increased insurance premia and a human cost to many of our nationals involved in the shipping industry. We need to build upon existing national, regional and multilateral measures to enhance coordination to combat piracy.

We can build functional relationships between our Navies and Coast Guards to enhance the security of our waters. Our port and customs authorities, as well as our shipping firms, need to address issues of transport infrastructure and connectivity that hinder trade.

The growth of intra-regional trade has been limited by poor connectivity, market complexities and inadequate trade facilitation. Our intra-regional investment flows are modest, though many of our economies are important destinations for foreign direct investment from outside our region. We need to promote initiatives to rectify this situation.

We should strengthen connections between our disaster management agencies. India is willing to share its experiences with the Tsunami Warning System for the Indian Ocean.

Our hydrology, marine biology and weather systems research institutions can develop mutually beneficial collaborative projects, share best practices and enhance national capacities. We can invite the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, of which all our countries are members, to make a presentation on its work at our future meetings.

Our international technical cooperation programme, ITEC, offers capacity-building courses in a number of areas of priority interest to our Association. Our Foreign Service Institute has developed training modules that could be of interest to diplomats in our member-countries.

More regular educational, cultural and tourism exchanges can play a key role in promoting people-to-people understanding.

**Excellencies,**

Our officials have been discussing ways of simplifying procedures for utilization of our Special Fund. It should become an effective instrument for financing projects and studies of common interest. With this objective, India has decided to provide additional funding of US \$ 1 million to the Fund.

**Excellencies,**

From our meetings over the last few days, we get the sense of widespread impatience for our Association to move from discussion to action. India shares

this sentiment and would like our meeting today to impart the required momentum in this direction. We have asked all our Heads of Mission in your countries to attend our deliberations here, so that they can take forward our agenda in priority sectors of interest.

In conclusion, Excellencies, I thank you again for your support. I look forward to hearing your views on how best to make our Association more effective.

Thank you.



**118. Opening media statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the conclusion of the Council of Ministers meeting of IOR –ARC.**

**Bengaluru, November 15, 2011.**

Friends of the media

We have just concluded a very successful interaction of Indian Ocean Rim Council of Ministers.

This is the first time that the IOR - ARC meeting was held in India at the apex level. India would be chairing the Association for the next two years. Thereafter Australia would assume chairmanship for a further period of two years in 2013.

I am delighted that my good friend and colleague, FM Kevin Rudd, joined me as Vice Chair in the deliberations.

I am also pleased to welcome Seychelles back into the Association's fold, taking our number to 19. We whole heartedly facilitated the re-entry of Seychelles ensuring that they could rejoin us at Bengaluru itself.

All 19 of us are sea faring nations, enjoying the bounty of the mighty Indian Ocean. We also have the responsibility at the same time, to further strengthen maritime security and do everything possible to enhance, all round cooperation among IOR nations.

The Indian Ocean is of strategic importance to all our member nations. India is committed to take initiatives to address the contemporary challenges and developmental aspirations of all nations on its rim. We have taken a decision

in the meeting to fully harness the potential of all IOR related institutions that have been established over the years.

I am very encouraged by the overwhelming support for India's Chairmanship and enthusiasm for making Indian Ocean Association a vibrant grouping for promoting economic and trade relations, cooperation in education, tourism, fisheries, strengthening maritime security, combating piracy, disaster management, share best practices and experiences - to cite a few examples.

We welcome the election of the new Secretary General of the Association, High Commissioner K. V. Bhagirath. He will take up his post on 1 January 2012.

You would have seen the communiqué which spells out our vision. I would refrain from going into further details at this stage.

I also took the opportunity, over yesterday and today, to have a series of meetings with visiting heads of delegations, including FM Rudd of Australia, FM Dr. Dipu Moni of Bangladesh, FM Arvin Boolell of Mauritius, Sr. Minister of International Monetary Cooperation of Sri Lanka, Minister of East African Cooperation of Tanzania, FM Al – Qirbi of Yemen and the FM of Seychelles.

I reviewed the state of play of our bilateral relations with my interlocutors, consulted them on infusing new synergies in the Indian Ocean Association of nations, as well as, exchanged views on regional and international issues of interest.

All my interlocutors were delighted that this important event had been held in Bengaluru and are going back with very positive impressions of the city and State.

Last but not the least, I will like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank CM of Karnataka, the state government and the people of Bengaluru, for their unqualified support and spontaneous warmth.



**119. Bengaluru Communiqué issued at the end of the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).**

**Bengaluru, November 15, 2011.**

We the Ministers of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), met for the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers at Bengaluru, India, on 15 November 2011. Our discussions were facilitated by the recommendations of the preceding meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials, IOR Academic Group, Working Group on Trade & Investment and the IOR Business Forum.

We were delighted to welcome the Republic of Seychelles back as a member of IOR-ARC family.

Our deliberations emphasized the increased salience of the Indian Ocean in the contemporary setting. Our maritime domain is at the crossroads of commerce and its busy energy trade routes pass through vulnerable points. The menace of piracy has assumed alarming proportions in recent years. Our cities have been the target of global terror. Our region's susceptibilities to natural and manmade disasters, issues of sustainable development of our countries and the well-being of our peoples, of the requirement of resources, environmentally friendly technologies and renewable energy to handle challenges of changing climate, the management and sustainable harvesting of the Indian Ocean's bounty, all these were foremost in our minds and the peoples we represent.

The Indian Ocean is a part of our collective destiny, and there is clearly a case for developing a holistic vision and working cooperatively towards its realization if we are to cope with the challenges of the 21st century. We have reiterated our commitment to furthering the goals of IOR-ARC of promoting sustained growth, balanced development and stability, co-operation based on mutual trust and respect, common interests and similar approaches towards the pressing issues of our region.

We identified sectors of common and contemporary interest, which should guide our Association's work as we further deepen and give intra-regional cooperation greater relevance and value.

We expressed our shared concern on the prevailing situation regarding maritime security in the Indian Ocean, particularly at the growing level of piracy off the Horn of Africa which poses a threat to international and regional navigation, maritime commerce and the safety of sea farers. In this regard we fully support the international efforts at the UN and the several initiatives at the regional

level, as well as the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia which is coordinating anti-piracy efforts. We committed ourselves to cooperate fully through sharing of information and through technical assistance to jointly combat this menace. We noted that stabilisation of Somalia will contribute to dealing with piracy in the region. As members take practical steps consistent with international law to combat piracy, we agreed that IOR-ARC could serve as an effective vehicle for sharing information, experience and best practices. We encouraged members to actively participate in international conferences, regional symposia and workshops being held in the region dealing with these issues.

The Rim has faced the devastating impact of a tsunami a few years ago, and our countries have faced cyclones, monsoon floods and similar natural disasters. Oil spills and marine pollution are recurring threats. Sharing of experiences and best practices through workshops and through capacity building would help in better preparedness to tackle the consequences of disasters, and we have adopted this approach.

Fisheries and marine resources occupy important place in the economies and livelihood of the IOR-ARC member countries. We underscored the importance of deepening cooperation among IOR-ARC members, including in the management and sustainable harvesting of fish stocks and combating illegal fishing and damaging fishing techniques, to further consolidate cooperation under IOR-ARC. The IOR-ARC Fisheries Support Unit set up under the aegis of the Sultanate of Oman could function as a nodal institution to respond to the interests and requirements of member states.

Intra-regional trade amounts to 24% of the global trade and it is increasing. We have the capacity to take this process further. Infrastructure building and trade facilitation are areas in which we would be especially interested. We encourage IOR-ARC forums to reach out to the business and commercial expertise that exists in the region, with improved dissemination of market and supply side analyses and reports to support intra-regional growth of business. We also discussed possibility of initiation of a comprehensive study on the feasibility of preferential trading arrangements for the region including in a variable geometry. We are of the firm view that the academic, scientific and business communities of our membership would find their participation in the wide variety of trade, academic and tourism exhibitions and fairs held in our region of benefit and use, and encourage them to do so.

Science and Technology, and in a wider sense, the whole IOR Academic effort are areas which, in our opinion, need close attention with a recalibration of methodology and approach. We need to understand our region and our shared maritime domain better, we need to look at the development of technologies

relevant to our peoples' needs. Meteorology and the study of the monsoons, marine biology and management of our coastal zones are all areas of relevance; so also are energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, capacity building in ICT, analytical studies on investment promotion etc. We emphasize the need for cross-fertilization of ideas between the Academic and Business Forums and the Working Group on Trade and Investment to strengthen overall cooperation under IOR-ARC. We are convinced that educational mobility and academic exchanges have the potential to contribute to this effort.

We appreciate the diversity and richness of the region's tourism potential and tourism promotion is an attractive vehicle for socio-economic growth and development in the IOR-ARC region. We believe that intra-regional tourism offers interesting possibilities and suggest that relevant authorities of member countries target this sector for growth to realize the potential of cooperation to fuller extent. We have noted that the second phase of Tourism Feasibility Study is being undertaken at the initiative of the Sultanate of Oman and look forward to its early completion.

We also agree that cultural exchanges would help in promoting people-to-people contacts, contribute to greater appreciation of our diverse capacities, social and cultural values, build mutual confidence and enhance the visibility and value of our Association.

In all these sectors, capacity building is a key instrument. We encourage Member States to make full use of capacity building programmes and workshops that members organize. We would like this aspect to be studied and remedial action suggested, so that the considerable efforts that are put into organizing these activities are put to optimum use.

We agreed to consider a new name for our Association. We directed our senior officials to undertake necessary consultations and report at our next meeting.

We express our appreciation for the leadership provided to the Association by Yemen as the Chair of IOR-ARC over the last two years. We welcome India as the incoming Chair and Australia as Vice Chair of the Association and extend our support and cooperation to it during its Chairmanship in our collective efforts.

We welcome the new Secretary General Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath of India. We would also like to record our appreciation of the contributions of Ambassador Morteza Sarmadi, Secretary General during his term of office.

We thank the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India for hosting the 11th COM at Bengaluru.





**LDC****120. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the significance of the India - LDCs Ministerial Conference organized by the Ministry.****New Delhi, February 16, 2011.**

Government of India is hosting an India-LDC (Least Developed Countries) Ministerial Conference on 18-19 February 2011 in New Delhi. It is the first of its kind BEING hosted by India. The UN Office of High Representative for LDC, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) is assisting Government of India in hosting the event.

The theme of the Conference is "Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for development of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)"

The objective of the Conference is to provide inputs to the 4th UN-LDC Conference to be hosted by Turkey in Istanbul during 9-13 May 2011. The Istanbul Conference is the fourth in the series of the UN-LDC Conferences held so far: the first two in 1981 and 1991 were held in Paris and the third was in Brussels in 2001.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to Government of India to hear from the Foreign Ministers, Ministers and Permanent Representatives of the LDCs about their approach to the 4th UN-LDC Conference, an event that takes place once every 10 years.

The India-LDC Conference would also be an occasion for Government of India to share with the LDCs the nature and state of our development cooperation with them. The contribution of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program, Duty Free Quota Free Scheme, Africa E-connectivity Project, Lines of Credit and other development assistance initiatives in addressing the special needs of LDCs would be discussed.

The Conference will be inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister. Some 35 Foreign Ministers and Ministers and 40 Permanent Representatives to the UN from the LDCs are expected to attend the Conference. The Foreign Minister of Turkey the host of UN LDC IV will also be present. The participating Ministers are likely to call on Prime Minister.

Apart from the LDCs, the Conference will see participation of Finland, Australia, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Georgia, European Union, China, United States, Germany, China and Hungary as Observers.

The 4th UN-LDC Conference would be an opportunity for the members of the international community to reiterate their highest commitment to the cause of LDCs and to announce new measures in support of the Istanbul Program of Action for the LDCs.

At present, there are 48 Least Developed Countries: 33 in Africa; 14 in the Asia/Pacific region and 1 in Latin America and Caribbean. Since the creation of the LDC category in 1971, only three countries have graduated out of the Group: Botswana (1994), Cape Verde (2007) and Maldives (2011).

**NOTE on LDC countries:** The United Nations (UN) established the Least Developed countries (LDCs) as a separate category of Nations in 1971. The International Development Strategy for the second UN Development Decade for the 1970s incorporated special measures for the LDCs. Thereafter, the UN decided to hold a dedicated Conference once every 10 years to address the development needs of the LDCs. The First United Nations Conference on the LDCs was held in Paris in 1981; the Second in 1991 again in Paris and the Third in Brussels in 2001 hosted by the European Union. The three Programs of Action adopted so far have had limited impact on the development process of the LDCs. As a result, only three countries have graduated out of the Group since 1981: Botswana (1994), Cape Verde (2007), and Maldives (2011).

#### **UN-OHRLLS:**

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) was set up in 2001 as a follow-up mechanism to the Third UN Conference on the LDCs held in Brussels.

**Fourth UN-LDC Conference:** Turkey would be hosting the Fourth UN-LDC Conference in Istanbul during 9-13 May 2011. The LDCs and host Turkey are expecting an ambitious outcome from the Istanbul Conference; one which would allow at least 50% of the countries to reach the threshold of graduation by 2020. In the new Program of Action to be finalised in Istanbul, the LDCs are looking for stronger international support measures to meet their development needs: greater Official Development Assistance (ODA) support from the North, enhanced assistance from South-South Cooperation, increased FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and financial flows from innovative sources and leveraging triangular cooperation.

**The Least Developed Countries:** The LDCs represent the most vulnerable and the poorest segment of the international community. Of the 48 LDCs, 33 are in Africa, 14 in the Asia Pacific region and one in Central America. These 48 countries account for approximately 815 million people, of which 50% live below the poverty line.

**Criteria for LDC classification:** The criteria for classifying a country as an LDC are based on: Per capita income; Human asset index; and Economic vulnerability index.

**Special needs and vulnerabilities of LDCs:** Extreme poverty, lack of productive capacity, absence of infrastructure and institutions; food and energy shortages; weak domestic market; dependence on commodity exports; high global health burden; vulnerability to external shocks and structural weaknesses have long held the LDCs in a state of under-development. They are the most off-track on the Millennium Development Goals.

**Dependence of LDCs on global trade:** Due to limited structural transformation, the LDCs are heavily dependent on exports of commodities and natural resources for economic growth. However, their total exports in 2009 were only about 1% of the total global trade. In 2009, out of US\$ 128 billion LDC exports, US\$ 68 came from fuels, US\$ 30 from primary commodities, US\$11 billion from foods and US\$4 billion from agricultural products.

#### **Least Development Countries (48)**

**Africa (33):** Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia

**Asia/Pacific (14):** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Yemen Latin American and the Caribbean (1): Haiti LDC Chair Nepal is the current Chair of the LDCs.

#### **India-LDC partnership:**

India has traditionally been a strong supporter of the LDCs. In fact, India played an active role in the setting up of the Group: the idea of creating a separate category of LDCs was discussed in detail and took shape in the 2nd UNCTAD Session held in New Delhi in 1968. India has excellent bilateral relations with each LDC and has longstanding development partnerships with them. Our development assistance to the LDCs is aimed at building productive capacities, institutional strength, infrastructure development and technical expertise to create long term sustainability in these countries.



**121. Press Releases issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of External Affairs Minister with heads of visiting delegations to India - LDC Ministerial Conference.**

**New Delhi, February 17, 2011.**

The India LDC Ministerial Conference is taking place in New Delhi on 18-19 February, 2011. Representatives of 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including some 35 Foreign Ministers, over 40 Permanent Representatives to the UN and other delegates, besides the representatives of Observer countries, are expected to participate in the two-day Conference. A briefing on the event took place yesterday (16th February), transcript of which is available on MEA website (<http://mea.gov.in>).

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna (EAM), today met a number of visiting heads of delegations from Africa including H.E. Mr. Osman Mohammed Saleh, Foreign Minister of Eritrea; H.E. Mr. Mohlabi Tsekoa, Foreign Minister of Lesotho; H.E. Mr. Augustin Nsanze, Foreign Minister of Burundi; H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia; H.E. Madam Aminata Djibrilla Maiga Toure, Foreign Minister of Niger; H.E. Gen. Antoine Gambi, Foreign Minister of Central African Republic; H.E. Mr. Elliot Ohin, Foreign Minister of Togo and H.E. Mr. George Rebello Chicoty, Foreign Minister of Angola.

EAM warmly welcomed his guests and thanked them for visiting New Delhi, to participate in the conference. He spoke of India's historical ties with Africa which had been re-invigorated in recent decades. India, he noted felt privileged to be the development partner of fellow African nations particularly LDCs, in accordance with their priorities and aspirations.

The visiting dignitaries expressed deep appreciation for India's initiative to host the conference, reflective of her commitment to enhance South South cooperation. They thanked India for her consistent support and assistance in capacity building, Human Resource Development, bridging the digital divide and creating opportunities for gainful employment. The Pan African E - Network project, providing for tele-medicine and tele-education, particularly came in for favourable mention.

The Ministers observed that India's developmental model and experience, was far more relevant to their countries and evinced a strong desire to enhance mutual synergies. They complimented India for her rapid economic growth and welcomed the growing interest of Indian investors in their countries, who had successfully set up a series of new ventures, in a wide array of sectors. They asked EAM to encourage Indian companies to take an even closer look

at investment opportunities in their countries, assuring that the companies would find a conducive business environment.

EAM and his interlocutors exchanged notes on a number of issues of mutual interest and concern, including the scourge of Terrorism, which was seen as a common challenge for the mankind. The immediate need for all countries, to display steadfast political commitment and join hands with the international community to root out the menace, was strongly emphasized.

EAM also had a very good exchange of views with H.E. Abdul Hasan Mahmood Ali, Chairman, Standing Committee of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral ties and underlined their continued commitment, to take energetic steps to implement the decisions, taken during the landmark visit to India last year of H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



**122. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on commencement of the INDIA-LDC Ministerial Conference.**

**New Delhi, February 18, 2011.**

The India LDC Ministerial Conference was formally inaugurated today with an address by External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna. EAM said that the Conference was meant to collectively brainstorm with the delegates 'to facilitate an innovative, meaningful, pragmatic and ambitious outcome' for the benefit of LDCs. He noted that 'without the progress of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), there could be no equitable global growth and prosperity'. He also observed that since 2003, India had offered \$ 4.3 million in lines of credit to LDCs, a significant portion of which had already been utilized. Also, public and private sector Indian companies had already invested over \$ 35 billion in LDCs.

2. In her welcome remarks Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao, affirmed India's steadfast support to the LDCs and stated that 'India believes that stimulating economic growth in LDCs will be an important driver of global growth in the years to come.' Foreign Secretary reiterated India's firm commitment to the needs of the LDCs and for the success of the Fourth UN-LDC Conference in Istanbul in May this year.

3. Earlier in the morning, Heads of Delegation called on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who reiterated India's commitment to the development

of LDCs and the importance that India attaches to South-South cooperation.

4. In the course of the day, EAM held a series of bilateral meetings, including with H. E. Ahmet Davutoglu, Foreign Minister of Turkey; H.E. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Minister of Nepal; H.E. Moctar Ouane, Foreign Minister of Mali; H.E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, Foreign Minister of Liberia; H.E. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, Foreign Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo; H.E. Dr. Edouard Nyankoye Lama, Foreign Minister of Guinea; H.E. Joseph Bandabla Dauda, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone; H.E. Adelino Mano Queta, Foreign Minister of Guinea-Bissau; H.E. Ped Shanel Agovaka, Foreign Minister of Solomon Islands; H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Foreign Minister of Djibouti; H. E. Fahim Said Ibrahim, Foreign Minister of Comoros , H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tangara, Foreign Minister of Gambia and H.E. Mr. Maitre Madicke Niang , Foreign Minister of Senegal.

5. EAM's interlocutors expressed appreciation for India's principled and sustained support to LDCs and for the additional pledge of assistance made earlier in the day, including a \$ 500 million credit line for specific projects and programmes in LDCs over a five year period; additional five scholarships each year to every LDC under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) and a Special Fund of \$ 5 million over the next five years for the follow-up to UN LDC4.

6. The next UNLDC Summit would be held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011. EAM had a very good exchange of views with Foreign Minister Davutoglu of Turkey, on a range of bilateral and other issues of mutual interest. The Foreign Minister cordially invited India to participate in the Summit meeting. He also invited EAM to pay an early visit to Turkey which was accepted with pleasure.

7. In his meeting with Minister Tuladhar of Nepal, EAM spoke of the traditionally close bilateral ties, which were to mutual benefit and hence required nurturing by both sides. He hoped that the peace process and constitution drafting would gain further momentum, ushering in an era of stability, growth and prosperity in Nepal. Minister Tuladhar conveyed greetings of the people and leadership of Nepal to the people and Government of India and said that the two countries enjoyed historically close ties. He apprised EAM of the developments in his country and sought continued assistance and support of India. On behalf of his Government, he also extended an invitation to EAM to visit Nepal at the earliest, which was accepted.



**123. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at India - Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Ministerial Conference.**

**New Delhi, February, 18, 2011.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to my country. Your presence here, Excellencies, is as an affirmation of our common resolve and shared vision.

It is a privilege for India to host this first-ever India- Least Developed Countries Ministerial Conference in New Delhi. This provides an opportunity for us to explore the untapped opportunities of South-South cooperation which can contribute significantly to the sustained development of Least Developed Countries.

This morning, you have had the opportunity of meeting Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He provided to you a reiteration of our commitment at the highest level to the development of the Least Developed Countries and the importance we attach to the instrument of South-South cooperation in the pursuit of that cause.

Excellencies, I would like to begin by recalling the words of India's first Prime Minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 which encapsulate India's commitment from the earliest days after its independence to sharing its development experience with fellow developing countries. I quote:

"The service of India means, the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest men of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us, but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over. And so we have to labour and to work, and to work hard, to give reality to our dreams. Those dreams are for India, but they are also for the world, for all the nations and peoples are too closely knit together today for any one of them to imagine that it can live apart. Peace is said to be indivisible, so is freedom, so is prosperity now, and also is disaster in this one world that can no longer be split into isolated fragments." Unquote.

These inspiring words from India's first Prime Minister have guided and shaped our approach to South-South cooperation. Successive Indian leaders, beginning

with Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru followed by Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and now Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, have tirelessly nurtured and pursued the process of sharing our knowledge and experience with our friends from the developing world.

As we endeavour to transform a post colonial economy into a modern vibrant state, we continue to draw inspiration from those who fought for our freedom, particularly our first Prime Minister. Today, as the world's largest democracy, which supports fundamental human rights and human freedoms, we are proud of the progress we have been able to register to meet the economic aspirations of our people. We stand ready to share our experience with our friends and brethren in the Least Developed Countries.

I personally believe that this Conference will be meaningful and successful only through full and frank participation of the Least Developed Countries. We would like to hear your ideas and listen to your suggestions. We would like you to guide us towards the solutions to the problems which you face. As they say, the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. Let there be a collective brainstorming in this Conference on the theme of the Conference to facilitate an innovative, meaningful, pragmatic and ambitious outcome at the end.

The share of 48 Least Developed Countries in global trade remains a mere 1%. Of the 33 countries in a permanent state of food insecurity, 22 are Least Developed Countries. This situation is further exacerbated by their rapidly expanding urban population and declining agricultural productivity.

We have seen significant growth in a few Least Developed Countries, attributed mainly to concerted national efforts and some international support. But the overall progress continues to be halting, uneven and fragile. Most of the Least Developed Countries are still struggling to meet the objectives and targets set in the Brussels Programme of Action, a decade after its adoption. They are also behind schedule in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The number of Least Developed Countries has almost doubled from 25 in 1970 to 48 in 2011. Only three countries have so far graduated out of their Least Developed Country status. This pace of progress is clearly unacceptable. It is time that we take up the cause of the Least Developed Countries on a war footing and work together. Without the progress of the Least Developed Countries there can be no equitable global growth and prosperity.

The expectations from the forthcoming Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul are naturally very high. The Istanbul conference provides us with a valuable opportunity to self-introspect, make course corrections, and adopt a result-oriented agenda for action.



Given the enormity of the challenges facing the Least Developed Countries and the less than satisfactory results of international efforts so far, it is imperative that we explore new and innovative ways to supplement the mainstream effort to assist Least Developed Countries and look for out-of-the-box solutions to assist our least developed country partners.

South-South cooperation, the theme of this conference, and one of the cornerstones of Indian foreign policy, is one such innovative solution that has the potential to deliver real and tangible benefits to the Least Developed Countries and effectively supplement and complement existing international efforts. However, I must emphasise that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for North-South cooperation.

India's rich and expansive agenda of technical and economic cooperation with developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, is the result of our abiding belief in South-South cooperation. It is our intention to continue to augment our development cooperation initiatives with developing countries in general and Least Developed Countries in particular. In our initiatives with Least Developed Countries, we are principally guided by the priorities set out by Least Developed Countries themselves.

India already has a substantive development cooperation programme with Least Developed Countries. We have extended a comprehensive scheme for Duty Free Quota Free treatment to imports from the Least Developed Countries. The core thrust of our development partnership with Least Developed Countries has been capacity building. In this regard, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme merits mention. The cumulative value of our Lines of Credit to Least Developed Countries since 2003 is US\$ 4.3 billion, a significant part of which has already been utilized. But more significantly, the total investment by Indian public and private companies in the Least Developed Countries now stands at about US\$ 35 billion. India's annual imports from Least Developed Countries are over US\$ 10 billion.

I am happy to make the following additional announcements for the Least Developed Countries:

- (i) Additional 5 scholarships every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme for each Least Developed Country.
- (ii) A special fund of US\$ 5 million over the next five years for the follow up to UN LDC Four.
- (iii) US\$ 500 million credit line facility over the next five years to be used specifically for projects and programmes of Least Developed Countries.

Excellencies, it is my expectation that your deliberations at this Conference will be meaningful and productive and that we will be able to embody the outcome in a Declaration. This Declaration has been agreed upon in New York by our Permanent Representatives and the text will be circulated to you this afternoon. I am confident that this Declaration will serve as a useful input for the Istanbul Conference.

I thank you, Excellencies, for joining us in New Delhi for this Conference. I wish you successful deliberations and a pleasant stay.

Thank you



**124. Remarks by Minister of State Mrs. Preeti Kaur at the concluding session of two-days India-LDC Ministerial Conference in New Delhi.**

**New Delhi, February 19, 2011.**

Honourable Ministers,

Permanent Representatives,

The High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and distinguished delegates,

Our deliberations yesterday and today have given us a better understanding of the developmental concerns of the LDCs. We are greatly encouraged by your appreciation of and the value you attach to South-South Cooperation. The warmth and goodwill that marks our mutual ties are a source of inspiration and hope for the future. I am particularly grateful for the appreciation you have shown of the India-LDC partnership and of India's development cooperation programmes.

I wish to thank all of you for your active participation in making this event a success. I know many of you came to this event in spite of your extremely busy schedules, travelling from the farthest corners of the world. Your contributions at this meeting will guide us in our cooperation with you to enable you to meet the aspirations and development goals of your countries.

I am thankful to our fellow partners from the South for joining us at this

conference. I am also grateful for the participation of delegations from developed countries whose commitment and enhanced support are vital for the LDCs to achieve socio-economic transformation.

The Brussels Program of Action of 2001 had given us valuable inputs on the pressing needs of the LDCs. Our deliberations here have produced further meaningful recommendations on South-South Cooperation that would feed into the Istanbul Program. The Delhi Declaration, which we have adopted today, and the promises and aspirations therein, will guide our collective vision for the development of LDCs. We are keen to build upon them and ensure that they provide useful inputs to the Istanbul Conference.

We welcome the multi-stakeholder strategy that has been adopted for the Istanbul Conference and compliment Turkey for taking the initiative. This is the time to establish partnerships. Involving Parliaments, the private sectors and the civil societies will be most meaningful in drawing upon the ideas and energies of all relevant stakeholders.

With just three months to go for the Istanbul Conference, I call upon the international community to express its strongest commitment, solidarity and support for the fulfillment of aspirations of the LDCs.

India on its part will meet all expectations and more; and I am confident that our fellow countries in the South will be equally enthusiastic and supportive of the LDCs.

I once again thank you all for your distinguished presence here. You will be going shortly to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. I wish you a pleasant trip and a safe journey back home.



**125. Delhi Declaration issued by the INDIA-LDC Ministerial Conference.**

**New Delhi, February 19, 2011.**

**DELHI DECLARATION**

We, the Foreign Ministers, Ministers and Representatives of the Least Developed Countries and India attended the India-LDC Ministerial Conference on "Harnessing the Positive Contribution of South-South Cooperation for Development of Least Developed Countries" in New Delhi during 18-19 February 2011 to foster and further strengthen our mutually reinforcing development partnership, solidarity and commitment to socio-economic advancement of the LDCs. The conference was organized in cooperation with UN-OHRLLS to develop meaningful inputs for the Fourth UN-LDC Conference (UN-LDC IV) to be held in Istanbul from 9-13 May 2011.

2. We call upon the international community to express its highest political commitment in support of the Istanbul Program of Action and to the successful and ambitious outcome of the Fourth UN-LDC Conference.

3. We underscore that the interconnected and globalized world has made it essential for the international community to accord its highest priority to the cause of LDCs to ensure global peace, security and prosperity; and urge that the Istanbul Conference must galvanize global action in support of the development needs of LDCs, whose progress would bring greater global growth and opportunities for all. The LDCs' perspective must be taken into account while making decisions on global economic governance.

4. We underline that addressing extreme poverty, building productive capacity through structural transformation, spurring economic growth, enhancing participation in international trade and building resilience against vulnerabilities are key development challenges of the LDCs.

5. We note with concern that international efforts so far have lacked a comprehensive approach to effectively address the challenges faced by the LDCs, evident in the number of LDCs having increased from 25 in 1971 to 48 in 2011, and press for strengthening of international support mechanisms in favour of LDCs to augment their resources, productive capacity, institutional strength and policy space to lead their respective national development processes; and in this regard call for augmenting ODA, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation for a comprehensive implementation of the Istanbul Program of Action.

6. We call for an ambitious Istanbul Program of Action that aims to get at least 50% of LDCs at the threshold of graduation by 2020.

7. We underscore the need to have a strong in-built review mechanism in the Istanbul Program of Action for monitoring and evaluating progress and to provide a smooth and effective transition to graduating countries.
8. We note with satisfaction the increase in South-South Cooperation and South-South trade and investment flows and its positive impact on the LDCs' development process and commit to further strengthening this partnership, which we see as a complement, and not a substitute to North-South cooperation.
9. We note that the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the Marrakech Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation and the Yamoussoukro Consensus on South-South Cooperation constituted a comprehensive framework for continuing efforts by developing countries to resolve their shared problems and acknowledged the various national, sub-regional and regional initiatives to promote South-South cooperation and called for greater dialogue and exchange of experiences to increase their coherence.
10. We acknowledge the need to reinvigorate the United Nations development system in supporting and promoting South-South cooperation, and to this effect urge the United Nations funds, programs and specialized agencies to take concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South and triangular cooperation to help developing countries, at their request, to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation in order to achieve their national development goals and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.
11. We emphasize that promoting economic growth is fundamental to reducing poverty and attaining the Millennium Development Goals and in this regard note the importance of creating a domestic environment conducive to growth of private enterprise and attracting foreign direct investment in LDCs.
12. We express deep concern at the precarious state of global food security including food price volatility and inflation and its destabilizing impact on the LDCs, and call for bringing about an agricultural revolution in LDCs to achieve self-sufficiency in food.
13. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting access to energy and strengthening energy security to reduce poverty and meet other development challenges in LDCs.
14. Noting that the share of LDCs in global trade in spite of the Duty Free Quota Free scheme extended by development partners continues to be around 1%, we appeal to countries to address the bottlenecks in the program including

stringent rules of origin, complex procedures and supply side constraints to enable LDCs to have a greater share in global trade.

15. We call for an early conclusion of the DOHA Round with a development based outcome to allow meaningful integration of the LDCs in the multilateral trading network.

16. We underscore the significance of science and technology, research and innovation in stimulating development in the LDCs and in this regard call upon developed countries to facilitate transfer of technology to LDCs to support science & technology initiatives.

17. Citing the success of the India- Africa E-Network, mobile telephony, mobile-banking and renewable energy programs in LDCs, we appreciate that technological leapfrogging has brought immense socio-economic gains and also opened vast opportunities for addressing developmental challenges in LDCs.

18. Deeply concerned at the debt situation of several LDCs, we strongly appeal for the creation a debt sustainability framework for LDCs to address their systemic vulnerabilities and to build resilience in their economies.

19. We recognize that Climate Change presents a major threat to livelihoods in developing countries, particularly in LDCs and other vulnerable countries and pledge to work together to take forward the Cancun agreements to find effective solutions based on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities. We call for immediate disbursement of fast start funds agreed under Cancun Agreements to the LDCs and special allocation of resources under the Green Climate Fund for LDCs along with transfer of environmentally sound technologies to LDCs to meet their urgent adaptation and mitigation needs. We urge the parties to urgently reach agreement on the design of the Fund and the measures to significantly scale-up long-term financing for meeting mitigation and adaptation needs in developing countries in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

20. We thank the participation of Turkey, Finland, Australia, Hungary, Slovenia, China, United States of America, Germany, Croatia, Georgia European Union, Italy, France, UNDP and UNCTAD as Observers in the Conference.

21. The Ministers and Representatives of LDCs and other participants at the Conference welcomed and thanked the Government of India for announcing new initiatives in support of the development needs of LDCs comprising 5 additional slots annually under the Indian Economic and Technical Cooperation (ITEC) Program to each LDC; US\$ 5million over the next five years for follow-

up activities of the Istanbul Program of Action; and a Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million over the next five years to be used specifically for projects and programmes of Least Developed Countries.

22. The Ministers and Representatives of LDCs thanked the Government of India for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for hosting the India-LDC Ministerial Conference and for India's continued commitment and support to the cause of the LDCs.



**126. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the UN- LDC IV.**

**Istanbul, May 12, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for me to participate in this Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

I am grateful to the people and Government of Turkey for graciously hosting this conference and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

This historic city of Istanbul bridging the East and the West provides the perfect metaphorical setting to build a durable partnership between the international community and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Mr. Chairman,

The Least Developed Countries are the most vulnerable and the poorest segment of the international community. Their marginalised existence, is a matter of grave concern to all those who believe in a just and humane society.

The plight of the LDCs remains immeasurable. They have little or no capacity to absorb external shocks.

Mr Chairman,

We live in an interconnected world where the global community shares a common destiny. What we do for the LDCs in reality is a matter of our collective

interest. Supporting the cause of the LDCs goes far beyond the moral argument; it is an economic imperative and a political necessity.

Without putting the LDCs in the forefront of the global development agenda, we can hardly expect progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

International support for the LDCs since 1971, when they were created as a special category of countries in the UN, has not been commensurate with their special needs. The Brussels Programme of Action has had limited success. It is no surprise then that so far only 3 countries have been able to graduate out of the Group in the last forty years.

With their limited domestic resources and meagre international support, the LDCs have worked hard to overcome their developmental challenges. But their structural weaknesses make their development a vicious cycle.

The global financial, food and energy crises have had a debilitating impact on these countries reversing their hard won development gains.

The LDCs are excessively dependent on global trade for economic sustenance. However, their share in global trade, in spite of preferential market access, was only 1% in 2009. There is an urgency to work for an early conclusion of the Doha Round to create more space for the LDCs in global trade.

Food and energy price volatility, threats posed by Climate Change and new and emerging challenges have further eroded the productive capacities of these countries.

The debt situation in several LDCs remains untenable.

While they remain saddled with myriad challenges, the LDCs are endowed with vast natural resources, huge potential for clean energy and a dynamic young population. What they need is a strong international partnership to unlock their true potential.

Mr. Chairman,

The LDCs have come to Istanbul with high expectations and so have we. I am hopeful that these expectations will be fulfilled.

The Istanbul Programme of Action is a comprehensive document. It now needs to be backed by the highest political commitment and a genuine international partnership.

I, therefore, urge all stakeholders to pledge their maximum support for the



LDCs and enable them give a life of dignity and hope to their people. India, on its part, would do all it can and more for their cause.

In my appeal, I am reminded of the timeless wise words of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who said, "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems". Unquote.

The commitments made by the donor community on Official Development Assistance, market access, debt settlement, capacity building and transfer of technology must be renewed and scaled up for a meaningful implementation of the Istanbul Programme.

South-South Cooperation no doubt will play an important part in this endeavour but it cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation. Developing countries which are themselves faced with insurmountable challenges cannot be expected to take on a responsibility that they don't have the capacity to fulfil.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustained economic growth is fundamental to eradicating poverty in LDCs. In this regard, we are happy to see that the LDCs are taking major steps to attract Foreign Direct Investment and promote private enterprise to boost growth.

We welcome the multi-stakeholder approach of the Conference to involve the Parliamentarians, the private sector and the civil society in addressing the special needs of LDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

India prides itself in standing shoulder to shoulder with the LDCs. Our strong ties with the LDCs have been nurtured through a shared history and common development needs.

We feel particularly privileged to have played a historical role in the creation of the LDC category when we took lead to give shape to the idea at the Second UNCTAD Meeting in New Delhi in 1968.

Our solidarity with the LDCs draws continuous inspiration from what our former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi had to say at the 7th NAM Summit in New Delhi, and I quote "Faith in future has brought so many across the continents and the oceans to meet here. We are here because we do believe that minds and attitudes can and must be changed and the injustice and suffering can and must be diminished. Our world is small but it has room for all of us to live together and to improve the quality of lives for our peoples in peace and beauty". Unquote.

Mr Chairman,

India remains fully committed to the needs of the LDCs. We have extended capacity building and economic assistance to the LDCs in their priority areas of development such as agriculture, infrastructure, telemedicine, energy, banking, and information technology under our flagship Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

In keeping with the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Declaration, we have extended duty free quota free preferential market access to their products.

Our Lines of Credit worth 4.8 billion US Dollars to LDCs since 2003 and Aid for Trade programmes have led to expansion in India-LDC trade from 16.7 billion US Dollars in 2008-09 to 20.5 billion US Dollars in 2009-10, with the balance of trade being in favour of the LDCs.

Our private sector has invested more than 35 billion US Dollars in the LDCs since 2003.

During the India-LDC Ministerial Conference three months ago in New Delhi, we had announced a credit line facility of 500 million US Dollars for projects and programmes for the LDCs over the next five years under the existing Indian credit line regime for developing countries. Today, I have the pleasure to announce enhancement of that amount to 1 billion US Dollars. The additional 500 million US Dollars will come into the credit line immediately after the 500 million US Dollars announced last February are fully utilised by the beneficiaries.

At the India-LDC conference we had also offered 5 additional slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme to each LDC on an annual basis and a grant of 5 million US Dollars for the follow-up of the Istanbul Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

The Istanbul Programme is an opportunity to give to the Least Developed Countries their rightful due. Let us make the most of it.

Thank You.



**NAM****127. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the NAM Ministerial Conference.****Bali (Indonesia), May 25, 2011.****Mr. Chairman**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your Chairmanship of this conference and express my sincere appreciation for the people and Government of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to us.

Aligned Movement.

It is, indeed, befitting that this commemoration is taking place on the soil of Indonesia where the foundations of our Movement were laid at the historic Asian African Conference held in Bandung in 1955. Today I am particularly reminded of the founding fathers of our Movement - Pandit Nehru, President Nasser, President Tito, President Nkrumah and President Sukarno. Their shared vision of freedom of judgement and freedom of action in international relations built upon the basic principles of solidarity, peace, justice and equity gave birth to our Movement. Describing the Movement, Pandit Nehru said, and I quote "The power of nations assembled here is not military power or economic power, nevertheless it is power. Call it moral force".

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Movement helped close a long and painful chapter of colonialism, imperialism and institutionalized racism. These are achievements of which the Movement can be justifiably proud and draw inspiration. However, fifty years after its founding, our Movement stands at the crossroads and we need to draw on the vision of our founding fathers to guide our perspective as we move forward. We are once again facing significant political challenges that could have a profound impact on the landscape of the global political discourse. Our members have benefited from globalization but still face daunting development challenges.

Much work still needs to be done to attain the Millennium Development Goals for all by 2015. Accelerated and sustained efforts are needed towards eradication of poverty and lasting improvements in nutrition, health and education, the well-being of our children and jobs for our youth. Developing

countries are being hit by the rising food and energy prices and excessive speculation in the global commodities market. Our environment and climate challenges need to be ambitiously addressed bearing in mind equity and the cardinal principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held next year in Rio de Janeiro should place sustainable development squarely within the development agenda. Developed countries have historical responsibilities and capabilities. They need to meet their commitments and not seek their dilution. This is true not only in the area of environment but also for development cooperation. Developing countries, who all face daunting development challenges, are partnering each other and doing as much as they can.

At the recently concluded UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, India committed US Dollars One Billion in Lines of Credit for the LDCs. These South-South cooperation actions are voluntary and in a spirit of solidarity cannot be a substitute for long made but still unfulfilled North-South development assistance commitments. A critical essential in developing countries being able to cope with the huge challenges that confront them is to have the necessary policy space at national level and multilateral institutions that are supportive of that space.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The creation of UN Women last year has been one of the most important transformational aspects of UN reform. This new entity should give a significant fillip to our quest for gender equality and women's empowerment, which lie at the heart of development and distributive justice. The expectation that political emancipation would lead to rapid socio-economic development and give the developing countries a greater say in the world order are still far from being realized. The world's international institutions, in particular, the UN and its Security Council and the Bretton Woods Institutions require fundamental changes to reflect contemporary realities. After years of discussion and negotiations we are at the cusp of bringing about real change in the Security Council to expand it in both permanent and non-permanent categories. Developing countries must throw their considerable weight behind this reform so that their voice is qualitatively enhanced in the Security Council.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Increasing inter-connectedness and inter-dependence has created its own challenges while exacerbating others. Terrorism is the greatest scourge of our times. The Movement should ensure that terrorism is not condoned or justified on any ground whatsoever: political, religious, ethnic or any other.

The fight against terrorism must be directed not only against the terrorists, but also against those who sponsor, abet or support them. It is high time that we agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

Another major challenge is from the handling of weapons of mass destruction.

We need to be unwavering in our commitment for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We need to be fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state actors and terrorists could entail. States need to remain accountable and ensure the elimination of these dangers. Clandestine proliferation networks have led to insecurity for all and must not be allowed to reappear.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India has been consistent in its support for global, complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In 1988, Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi presented an Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order to the Third Special Session of the UN on Disarmament. In June 2008, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh asked others to join India in taking the critical first step - a commitment, preferably a binding legal commitment through an international instrument, to eliminate nuclear weapons within a time bound framework.

India's resolutions in the First Committee on a "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons", "Reducing Nuclear Dangers" give expression to some of these steps and have justifiably found support from a large number of countries. India has also called for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

**Mr. Chairman,**

African countries form the largest single grouping in NAM. The Movement must continue to work towards ensuring Africa's pre-eminence in the global development agenda. And, we must stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters from Africa as they address their socio-political challenges. The international community needs to be there to assist as per the wishes of the African countries in their quest for national answers. As we meet in Bali, the Second India-Africa Forum Summit is taking place in Addis Ababa. This Summit process is an important manifestation of South-South Cooperation and signifies the close engagement between India and Africa in fulfilling their aspirations of development and creating a paradigm of mutual support and partnership. India's partnership with Africa is anchored in equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit and we are guided by the wishes and priorities of our African friends.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Today's world of instant information and communication has provided people with a dramatic ability to be part of and influence political processes. Several countries in North and West Africa and the Middle-East are witnessing challenging developments. It is important that violence is abjured and the route of dialogue taken to meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. It is also important to ensure the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of States. The use of force should be avoided.

**Mr. Chairman,**

NAM has always been in the forefront of efforts on the Palestinian issue and this time we have a special segment on the issue of Palestinian political prisoners. The situation in the Middle-East continues to be grim with no signs of peace talks and with potentially exacerbating situations developing in the region. It is, however, imperative that hopes raised for a Palestinian State during last two years reach fruition later this year itself.

India has a long-standing tradition of solidarity with the Palestinian people. We welcome the reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas and hope that this would promote the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people and lead to peace and stability in the region.

We support the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Roadmap and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As we embark on the monumental task for elaborating a vision for the next fifty years, we must be guided by a new, forward-looking agenda which draws inspirations from our convictions of the past and our aspirations for the future.

The Movement also ought to position itself to play a seminal role in strengthening multilateralism and shaping a multi-polar world order with developing countries having a qualitatively significant voice in critical global institutions.

We need to focus on issues that unite while recognizing the rich diversity of countries that constitute the Movement. We need to strengthen commonality and build on our solidarity.

Thank you.



**PACIFIC ISLAND FORUM****128. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Plenary of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners' Meeting.****Auckland, September 09, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here, amongst you today, on the occasion of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting. I would like to compliment the Government of New Zealand for the excellent arrangements made for the Forum meetings, as also thank our hosts for their warm and gracious hospitality.

2. India's "Regional Assistance Initiative" for Pacific Island Forum countries, is based on the priorities identified by the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum countries in the Pacific Plan. In keeping with its desire to develop closer engagement with the Pacific region, India increased its annual Grant-in-Aid to US\$125,000 from 2009 to each of the Pacific Island Countries for their economic development.

3. The assistance offered by India covers a wide spectrum of economic and social needs as felt by the Pacific countries. This includes supply of equipment and materials for social and economic programmes and for sustainable development initiatives; capacity building course on Small and Medium Enterprise promotion, training courses for diplomats by Foreign Service Institute of India and scholarships in higher studies in different centres of academic excellence in India. This year we have conducted a course for diplomats of the Pacific Island Countries and provided assistance for office equipments to Solomon Islands, renovations of the Liku Village Pastor's Housing project and re-roofing and renovation of Niue Sports & Recreation and Training Centre, provided three dialysis machines and other medical equipment, 5 new Ambulances and installed 123 water tanks for Rural/Urban Schools in Fiji, and set up a Coconut Oil Mill Plant in Micronesia.

4. India also offers wide ranging technical expertise in non-conventional energy sources, especially wind and solar energy, software and telecommunications. India's own experience with meeting ever increasing energy demands has helped accumulate considerable expertise in the area of harnessing new and renewable energy sources. We stand ready to share this knowledge and experience with our partners from the Small Pacific Island countries.

5. We keenly follow and appreciate the steady progress made by Pacific Island Countries Forum towards regional integration. This Forum provides an

excellent opportunity to identify common areas of cooperation in different sectors for sustainable development. India has always stood for the cause of the developing countries at multinational forums such as the UN and the WTO and has been at the forefront of South-South cooperation.

6. In order to strengthen our engagement with PIF countries, India is considering appointing Honorary Consuls in those Pacific Island countries where there is no resident Indian Mission. We will also ensure setting up of a PIF Trade Commission office in India in order to increase trade and investment relations with the region.

7. I would like to reiterate India's commitment for the economic development of the Pacific Island Countries and its greater integration with the Indian economy. I would also like to mention that those countries which did not utilize the grant-in-aid of US\$ 1,25,000/- offered annually in previous years may avail of the same, along with the offer made this year.

Thank you



## SAARC

### **129. Opening Remarks by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the 38th Session of the SAARC Standing Committee.**

**Thimphu, February 6, 2011.**

It gives me great pleasure to be here in Thimphu for the 38th Session of the Standing Committee during this 33rd Inter-Summit Session. My delegation and I would like to express our grateful thanks to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the warm hospitality accorded to us, as well as for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting; and also for facilitating the Informal meeting of the Council of Ministers at the margins of the 65th UNGA session in New York last September.

I would like to thank the Secretary General of SAARC, H.E. Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, and his very able team of officers and staff for the excellent preparatory work done for this Inter-Summit Session and its preceding meetings.

In considering the Periodical Analytical Report before us, I wish to, at the outset,



commend the Secretary General for presenting a very comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved in SAARC on various issues of regional cooperation since the last session of the Standing Committee. As several issues raised in the Secretary General's Analytical Report would be revisited under specific agenda items, I would like to restrict my intervention, at this stage, to general comments on some of the key issues raised in the Report. Our specific comments would be made against individual agenda items.

In perusing the report it becomes evident that valuable progress has been achieved in developing a regional framework of cooperation in areas such as environment, energy, agriculture, rural development and trade. SAARC has also facilitated some encouraging steps towards greater cooperation in the prevention of trafficking of women and children. Increased people-to-people interaction has been facilitated by greater cultural and social exchanges under the auspices of SAARC. The Secretary General's Analytical Report reveals a degree of progress in some areas but also considerable scope to do more in others.

Having just completed 25 years of SAARC, we can say that the process is maturing and we are now gradually focusing on providing more services for the economic and development needs of our people.

SAFTA can be an important instrument to deepen intra-regional trade if it is complied with by all member states and implemented in letter and spirit. Early ratification of the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services signed at the 16th SAARC Summit will give a boost to realizing the full potential of trade in services in the region. India has already submitted its sector-specific request list of services to various Members and we hope that the 'request-offer process' can soon gather pace at the meeting of the Expert Group scheduled for the end of March 2011. The Group on Customs Cooperation is also doing good work for the harmonization of customs standards within the region. We are hopeful that with the appointment of its first Director-General, the SAARC Arbitration Council will also contribute to facilitating the trading environment in the region.

The SAARC Development Fund is an important pillar of SAARC in implementing collaborative projects that bring tangible benefits to our people. I am glad that apart from the two ongoing projects on Women's Empowerment and Maternal Healthcare, a third project on Zero Energy Cold Storage has been approved by the Governing Board of the SDF. Other projects in the pipeline should also be processed soon for implementation.

I am very pleased that in August 2010, the first academic session of the South Asian University (SAU) commenced in New Delhi with 50 students from all across the region. The Seventh Steering Committee Meeting has, in September

2010, finalized all the modalities of the University and plans are now afoot for the first meeting of the Governing Board of the SAU to be convened. We would urge those Member States who have not yet done so to quickly nominate their members to the Governing Board so that its first meeting can be held soon. We also call upon remaining Member States to ratify the Agreement on the establishment of the SAU at the earliest.

We are fully committed to working with other Member States to enhance the prosperity of the South Asian region through social development and regional economic integration. In this context, India is pleased that we were able to launch projects in the important areas of health, education, food, water and energy in some of our neighbouring countries. The thrust of most of our regional projects and activities is at the grassroots levels having a direct bearing on the lives and livelihoods of the people.

We have noted the aspect of the Secretary-General's report relating to SAARC's interaction with Observers and Inter-governmental organizations. As we explore consensus to deepen and broaden the Association's global engagement, we must not lose sight of fundamental principles of such cooperation, which should continue to be based on mutual self respect of each others identity. Such engagements need to be rooted in SAARC's Charter and its objectives and priorities, and be based on concrete assessed regional developmental needs in mutually agreed areas.

We also take note of the Secretary General's stress on the need to hold SAARC meetings on schedule to ensure timely implementation of decisions. We will do our utmost to make this a reality. In this regard, we welcome the offer by Maldives to host a meeting to finalize the Draft Agreement on Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism, something that we have been keen to pursue for some time and was almost ready for the last Summit.

In concluding my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, I wish to also formally acknowledge the stellar contribution of the Secretary-General, Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, to further regional cooperation during his tenure. I would like to place on record our deepest appreciation for his valuable and untiring efforts towards achieving this objective. My delegation and I wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

Thank You.



**130. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 33rd Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers.**

**Thimphu, February 8, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SAARC Member States,

Your Excellency the Secretary General,

Distinguished delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to be here in Thimphu for the 33rd Session of the Council of Ministers as part of the Inter-Summit Session. My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warm hospitality accorded to us by the Royal Government of Bhutan and greatly appreciate the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting. I am very pleased to be back in Thimphu and recall with appreciation the successful hosting of the 16th SAARC Summit here last April.

I wish to take this opportunity to also thank the Secretary General of SAARC, Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, and his very able team of officers and staff for the excellent preparatory work done for this Inter-Summit Session and its preceding meetings.

As SAARC completes 25 years of its existence, the need of the hour is to identify ways and means for the Association to become a more dynamic component of the larger Asian resurgence, characterized by increasing inter-linkages and growing inter-dependence. We are, of course, fully committed to the SAARC processes. There has been progress in various fields in SAARC but I am sure my colleagues will agree that we face a continuing challenge to implement our agreed decisions. We need to move faster in executing the plans of action.

Terrorism is a very serious challenge facing the entire South Asian region. In this regard, I am very glad to note that the Third SAARC Home Ministers Meeting took place in Islamabad in June 2010. During the course of that meeting, important decisions were taken including the adoption of the Ministerial Statement on Cooperation against Terrorism. Other significant decisions, on the guidelines for the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme and Standard Operating Procedures to prevent trafficking in women and children, were also taken. We fully support the decisions taken by our fellow Home/Interior Ministers in these areas.

I am glad to note that the Third SAARC Transport Ministers Meeting took place in New Delhi in November 2010 and discussed matters relating to the SAARC

Regional Multimodal Transport Study as well as progress in the implementation of pilot, sub-regional and regional projects. I was also pleased to learn that a demonstration container train run is being planned, initially from Bangladesh to Nepal via India. This would hopefully show the potential for reducing freight costs in the region and give an impetus to trade. However, some forward movement is still required with respect to the two draft Agreements on Motor Vehicles and Railways for the enhancement of intra-regional connectivity in South Asia. I hope progress can be made with regard to these two Agreements.

I am pleased to note that our fellow Finance Ministers had their fourth meeting in Thimphu in August last year, where they considered matters of financial sector cooperation among our countries. I note, in particular, the progress made on a draft Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments. This would be an extremely useful agreement to give a fillip to trade in the region and we look forward to its early finalisation so that it can be signed at the next SAARC Summit in the Maldives later this year. We also welcome the work being done by SAARCFINANCE to promote greater cooperation among the Central Banks of our countries, especially with regard to monetary coordination and harmonization of banking rules.

I am glad that SAARC Tourism Ministers met recently in Kathmandu and noted that Member States are taking necessary steps for tapping the vast potential in the tourism sector with due regard to its impact on society, culture and environment. Promoting intra-regional tourism through collective efforts will also contribute towards our shared vision of building a common South Asian identity.

I am particularly pleased with the progress achieved to establish the South Asian University in New Delhi. It is heartening to note that the University has started functioning from August 2010 and 50 students from all over the region are already studying at the University. I am also glad that in September 2010 the Steering Committee of the SAU finalized all the modalities of the University and plans are now in place to convene the first meeting of the Governing Board of the University. We look forward to greater participation of students and faculty from all across the region as we work together to make this University a world class institution that can contribute in a significant manner to the larger objectives of our association.

I am glad that the new CEO of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) is taking a keen interest in the follow up to ongoing projects under the social window of the Fund. We look forward to more projects being developed by different Member States for the benefit of people at the grassroots level in our region. India will provide all necessary help to the SDF in furthering this institution for regional development.

I am pleased that trade under SAFTA is growing and has crossed \$ 1.2 billion. This is, however, still well below its potential. India is taking steps to reduce its sensitive lists, especially for LDCs and I hope this will encourage others to respond too. The signing of the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) in Thimphu last year was a big step forward in broadening the scope of trade in SAARC from goods to also include services. I am glad to note that four SAARC Member States have already ratified SATIS and would urge Member States that have not yet done so to take steps to do so soon.

Mr Chairman, India remains fully committed to enhancing the prosperity of South Asia through implementation of social development projects. In this regard, I am pleased that projects funded by the Government of India in Tele-medicine, Tele-education, Rain Water Harvesting, Seed Testing Laboratories and Solar Rural Electrification are being implemented in some SAARC Member States. I must express my gratitude to my colleagues around the table for fully supporting these projects. In due course, we look forward to implementing these projects in all Member States who would like us to do so. I recall the ambitious Statement on Climate Change adopted by our leaders at the Sixteenth SAARC Summit at this very venue. I hope that all Member States will take urgent steps to ensure that the objectives of that Statement are implemented in full.

Mr. Chairman, it was particularly heartening to see that Bhutan presented a common position for SAARC at the COP16 in Cancun. Congratulations are also due to your leadership as SAARC was accorded Observer status to the UNFCCC Secretariat during COP16. This should spur us to work more closely to identify ways and means to tackle the challenges facing the region in the areas of climate change and global warming.

SAARC belongs to all the people of South Asia and we have to ensure that its processes are so focused. Demonstrating our commitment to make SAARC a people-driven process, India organized a series of cultural events since we last met here in Thimphu. I am pleased to say that the participation of people from all over the region in these programmes of folklore, heritage and music made them a great success. Indian delegations also participated actively in cultural events organized by other Member States during this period.

I am also glad that our proposal to create a South Asia Forum for the exchange of ideas on the future development of South Asia has been endorsed by all members. We now look forward to the early nomination of members to the Steering Committee of the Forum and to hosting the first meeting of the Forum in India before the 17th SAARC Summit in the Maldives.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to place on record our appreciation for the special efforts

made by the outgoing Secretary General, Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma, to further regional cooperation during his very productive tenure. His deep personal commitment and belief in the potential of SAARC to contribute to the welfare of South Asians is an abiding legacy of his three years as Secretary General. I wish him the very best for his future endeavours.

Finally, I take this opportunity to felicitate Ms. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed who has been nominated by the Government of Maldives as the next Secretary General of SAARC. We strongly support Ms. Saeed's candidature and welcome her warmly to the SAARC family. We look forward to working with her closely and are convinced that the Association will rise to even greater heights under her stewardship.

With these words I once again thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and assure them of India's enduring support during their Chairmanship of SAARC.

Thank You.



**131. Inaugural address by Prime Minister at the 5th Conference of Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians.**

**New Delhi, July 9, 2011.**

"I warmly welcome all the distinguished delegates at the Fifth Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians in India. I extend a special welcome to the delegates from Afghanistan, who are participating in this Conference for the first time.

South Asia has seen many changes since the first Conference was held in 1995. The winds of democracy have swept across the length and breadth of South Asia. In some cases, there has been a peaceful transition from an old order to a new one. In some, the end of war and conflict has opened new opportunities for political accommodation and devolution of powers. In others, the struggle for the hearts and minds of the people is underway to defeat the forces of terrorism and extremism.

The picture is a mixed one, but what is common is the optimism about the future and the abiding faith of our people in universal adult franchise and free and fair elections.

Parliament is the supreme organ of democracy that reflects the collective will of the people and the sovereignty of the state. Today, more than ever before, a tremendous responsibility rests on our parliaments to safeguard political liberties, protect fundamental human freedoms and the rule of law.

At the SAARC Summit in Thimphu in April last year, SAARC Leaders had agreed that a Conclave of SAARC Parliamentarians be established in order to benefit from the democratic and participatory tradition represented by the Parliamentarians of South Asia.

We had also agreed to form a 'South Asia Forum' with representatives from Parliaments of SAARC countries to engender debate, discussion and exchange of ideas on South Asia and its future development. These are initiatives worthy of our wholehearted support.

We in South Asia face common challenges of mass poverty, unemployment, lack of adequate health care, illiteracy and environmental degradation. Each of us has rich and varied experiences in tackling these challenges. We should learn from each other's experiences, and reinforce each other's efforts to deal with these challenges.

One of the lessons history has taught us is that no country can prosper in isolation. We live in an inter-connected world, and this is especially so in South Asia. We share common borders, whether on land or sea. What happens in one country necessarily affects the other. Our destinies are bound by history as well as by geography. If we act with wisdom and sagacity, we all stand to benefit.

The free flow of information and the explosion in communication technologies imply that physical borders can no longer divide our nations. We must not only keep pace with technology, but also harness its benefits to bring down the psychological barriers that separate us.

We have a shared civilizational and cultural heritage going back many centuries. We celebrate our pluralism and diversity of religion, language and culture while finding our strength in unity. We must learn to speak with one voice on the common challenges that face us.

South Asia is home to perhaps the most youthful population in the world. They demand and deserve a better future, and it is incumbent on us to respond to their aspirations. We can reap a rich demographic dividend if we can equip our youth with the right skills, make them employable and channel their energies to productive ends. Disaffection and alienation provide a fertile breeding ground for intolerance, violence and terrorism which then threaten our societies and rupture the social fabric.

The establishment of the South Asian University is a most timely initiative in this context. I am happy that it has started its academic session in 2010. With the support of all SAARC nations, the University has the potential to become an important centre of learning in the region.

Economic development is a fundamental prerequisite for human progress. Economic growth has to be inclusive and balanced. We cannot allow pockets of poverty to persist either within our countries or within the broader region. India provides opportunities for all of South Asia to benefit from its economic growth and vast market. We have opened our market and we are committed to pursuing policies that benefit the entire regional economy as a whole. South Asia must prosper as a whole.

Intra-regional trade since the introduction of the South Asian Free Trade Area in 2006 has grown to 1.2 billion US dollars. We have declared 2010-2020 as the 'Decade of Intra-regional Connectivity' in SAARC. The SAARC Development Fund is now well-established. The SAARC Regional Food Bank has been set up to meet food emergencies in the region. We are moving in the right direction, but we need to move much faster.

Perhaps no region is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and other challenges to sustainable development than ours. Regional cooperation is vital for improving the quality of governance in managing our natural resources, in preventing land and water degradation and in strengthening our food, water and energy security. We should do this at all levels - bilaterally, sub-regionally and as a region as a whole. The SAARC Convention on Cooperation in Environment agreed upon at the SAARC Summit in Thimphu in 2010 deserves to be implemented in full.

I am glad that this Conference will focus on the issue of sustainable development. South Asia cannot afford to copy western lifestyles. We have to tap our own genius to develop models of growth which correspond to our resource endowments, and yet enable us to banish the scourge of poverty from our midst.

South Asia cannot realise its full potential until and unless we solve our differences peacefully and develop the culture of solving our problems ourselves. Others cannot solve our problems for us. The scourge of terrorism has taken a huge toll on all our societies. It is a cancer that if not checked, will consume us all. I would like to believe that we have the will and foresight to prevent such an outcome.

Resolving differences and reconciling different viewpoints are what Parliaments and their Presiding Officers do on a daily basis. This is a job Smt. Meira Kumar



has done with outstanding success in our own Lok Sabha and I congratulate her. As Parliamentarians you are uniquely placed to help inculcate the sense of a common South Asian destiny in your countries. We would like to see many more exchanges among our Parliamentarians.

India remains firmly committed to principles and ideals of SAARC. We will go the extra mile to make SAARC an effective organisation that benefits all citizens of South Asia.

In conclusion, let me say that we would like our Parliamentarians to act as the conscience keepers of South Asian cooperation and integration. I wish you all success in your deliberations and look forward to your valuable recommendations.

With these words, I have great pleasure in declaring the 5th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians open.



**132. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's visit to Male for SAARC Summit.**

**New Delhi, November 05, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and welcome. Sorry to keep you waiting a bit. You know, Foreign Secretary flew back at 8:30 in the morning from Cannes.

Prime Minister of India is leading the delegation to the Seventeenth SAARC Summit to take place at Maldives. Prime Minister leaves on the 9th of November. After the SAARC Summit he is also going to pay a bilateral visit to Maldives. Foreign Secretary would like to brief you about the important forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India. Also I would like to introduce Mr. Vikram Doraiswami, who is to the right of Foreign Secretary. He is the Officer on Special Duty handling SAARC affairs.

Sir, the floor is yours.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you.

As Joint Secretary mentioned to you, I have just got off the flight a little while ago. Essentially I have been travelling since the 27th of October. So, if I look a

little grubby, it is because I am. Let me just say welcome all of you and colleagues from the Ministry.

This is the Seventeenth SAARC Summit being hosted by Maldives in the island of Addu which is the southernmost island. It is actually the first time the SAARC will be meeting south of the equator in the island of Addu. The Summit will take place on 10th and 11th of November. The Summit would be preceded by Standing Committee meeting, as is always done, which will be on the 7th and 8th of November, and a Council of Ministers meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers on 9th.

Prime Minister will lead the Indian delegation to the Summit. He would be assisted, as I said, by the External Affairs Minister, National Security Advisor, Foreign Secretary myself, and a number of other senior officials.

After the Summit, as JS (XP) has mentioned, the Prime Minister will proceed to Male, the capital of the Maldives, for a bilateral visit on the 11th and 12th. His visit to Male, Maldives is expected to inject new momentum and content to our relations with this close and strategic neighbour in the Indian Ocean. The last time there was a bilateral visit by the Prime Minister of India to the Maldives was in September, 2002.

The objectives of the visit would be to reinforce India's close bonds of friendship and solidarity with the Maldives and to review the current status of our bilateral relations with that country. A number of agreements are likely to be signed during the bilateral visit. The Prime Minister has also been invited to address the People's Majlis, the Parliament of the Maldives.

Coming to the SAARC, this is the third time Maldives hosts the Summit, after doing so in 1990 and 1997. I think the Government of Maldives did make a special effort to take it outside the Capital and, as I said, we are meeting south of the equator in the atoll of Addu.

In its 26th year of existence, SAARC has established itself as the leading mechanism for regional cooperation in South Asia. It is working to intensify regional integration and develop a South Asian identity. More wide-ranging cooperative projects that create momentum for integrating our region will also benefit from a greater sense of a shared destiny.

It is on this broad canvass that SAARC has exercised a positive impact on the lives of South Asia's people. Over the last quarter century since it came into being, the Association has focused on common concerns ranging from poverty alleviation and enhancing food security to combating trafficking in women and children, coping with environmental challenges to enhancing regional trade and connectivity.

Implementing the provisions of the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) remains central to creating a more prosperous region. Since its entry into force in 2006, SAFTA has been showing significant results. Trade under SAFTA is now at the mark of US\$ 1.3 billion. And this is more than double of what it was two years ago. Further forward movement can be expected both in terms of reducing the size of our Sensitive Lists, especially for LDC members of SAARC, but also for reducing peak tariff rates for products that remain covered by the Sensitive Lists.

It is timely and appropriate that the theme for the Seventeenth SAARC Summit is Building Bridges. Literally and metaphorically, our region needs to improve the infrastructure of connectivity and trade. It also needs better people-to-people contact to entrench the habit of regional cooperation.

I would like to mention a few steps taken by SAARC to create new institutions which will anchor the sense of integration and cooperation. The examples include the South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO) which is set up in Dhaka, Arbitration Council in Islamabad, and a development fund which is called SDF in Thimphu. The South Asian University has opened its doors to Masters level students from the region as of July 2010 in New Delhi.

India hosted the first meeting of the South Asia Forum. This is a platform mandated by the SAARC Leaders at the XVI Summit, to bring together Governments and civil society actors. The Forum will provide inputs to develop a new vision for the region in its next 25 years. And the Summit is going to have a report from the Forum. We also see this as part of a process to widen the range of stakeholders in all the eight SAARC nations.

In this SAARC Summit, four important Agreements are to be finalized. These will include two agreements on regional standards, one agreement to establish a rapid response mechanism to deal with natural disasters, and an agreement to establish a SAARC Seed Bank.

For India, SAARC is a key element in our approach to the region. It is a vital platform for our agenda of mutually-beneficial regional cooperation, leading to economic integration of our wider region. It is also a mechanism through which we can supplement bilateral ties with each of the other seven SAARC states.

Since a proactive, positive and engaged India is central to regional cooperation in South Asia, we remain committed to supporting SAARC projects even in an asymmetrical and non-reciprocal manner. I am confident that the forthcoming Summit will enable us to intensify regional cooperation, while expanding the canvas for such activities. It may be mentioned that since the New Delhi Summit in 2007 India has in fact contributed a substantial sum for various SAARC initiatives.

Thats all I will say at this point. I will be happy to answer your questions.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, even 25 years after SAARC came into existence, the intra-SAARC trade continues to be languishing at five per cent whereas in ASEAN it is 50 per cent. The upcoming Summit does not have any plans like in the next 25 years the intra-SAARC trade could be increased to 10 per cent of the total trade, 15 per cent. And considering that Pakistan finally has granted MFN status to India, do you expect that to be a game changer vis-à-vis SAFTA trade and India Pakistan trade?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think the Summit plans to arrive at any numerical figure such as 10 per cent. But I think the basis on which the movement towards reducing the sensitive list, of reducing peak tariffs is that the intra-SAARC trade must grow much faster. It is a fact that if you look at the intra-SAARC trade, there are both the SAFTA element and the element outside SAFTA. And it is remarkable, as I said, that the SAFTA element has literally doubled since 2009. And in 2009 it had doubled from two years earlier. So, it is a fact that the SAFTA process is growing faster than the rest of intra-SAARC trade. As a result, we expect that the measures which are being taken here will certainly propel the overall intra-SAARC trade to a much faster level of development. Whether it will reach ten per cent or not I am quite sure but we certainly expect it to grow much faster.

As to the MFN, certainly the implementation of the MFN process, as and when that actually comes into effect, will we believe have a very positive impact on Indo-Pakistan bilateral trade. And certainly through that it could impact the overall intra-SAARC trade.

**Question:** Could you just throw some light on this Agreement on Rapid Response System, as to what is this all about? On the MFN status, the Pakistani High Commissioner was there at the Home Ministry yesterday also and he clearly said that what the Cabinet has mandated is a formalization towards the MFN status, which is not equal to giving MFN status. There is a lot of contradiction on that.

**Foreign Secretary:** I will ask my colleague Vikram to describe the details of the Rapid Response Mechanism and I will come to MFN after that.

**Officer on Special Duty (SAARC) (Shri Vikram K. Doraiswami):** Thank you, Sir. The agreement essentially aims to provide effective regional mechanisms for a rapid response to natural disasters. Basically the idea is to create the modalities by which countries in the region can provide each other assistance teams, how the assistance teams are to move, to build capacities to deal with post-disaster delivery relief, and also to create contingency planning and post-disaster measures across the region. We do not actually have any such thing.

It builds upon the establishment of the SAARC Disaster Reduction Mechanism which is based in Delhi.

**Foreign Secretary:** As regards the MFN, the actual statement by the Pakistan Cabinet is that the Ministry of Commerce has the mandate to take forward the process of normalization of trade relations between India and Pakistan which would culminate in the observance of Most Favoured Nation principle in its true spirit. And according to the information available through the Pakistan Government, the Cabinet has approved the process of full normalization of trade relations, of which MFN is a part. The actual implementation would be a culmination of the normalization process which could take some more time. That is the position as explained.

**Question:** Is there any proposal in the near future to open up new Chapters of SAARC University in other SAARC countries?

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes, in principle there is a decision that there should be other campuses for the SAARC University. I think three other places were mentioned. The first campus will come up at Maidan Garhi in Delhi which should be ready by 2015. It would have a full-fledged campus by 2015 on a very large plot of land. The second is in fact supposed to come up in Bangladesh. There are proposals for the other countries but Bangladesh is the next country that I am aware of. The idea is that we would be extending campuses to at least two other places.

**Question:** My question is regarding Afghanistan ... to the SAARC Summit. It is now a full member of SAARC. Do you have any plan or a vision to extend the Indian help like you have been doing in Afghanistan what the other members is building bridges, as we can do something in the human made disasters also in Afghanistan. After the pullout of the American troops and all, there should be some kind of an infrastructure building. Does the SAARC Summit have any vision for building up of Afghanistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think what we are doing bilaterally with Afghanistan will of course continue. Afghanistan as an LDC will benefit certainly from those measures which SAARC agrees on specifically for LDCs. There are certain other infrastructure-related issues - I mentioned the Seed Bank, I mentioned certain other development projects – under which Afghanistan can benefit. We also have the specific mechanism of the small development projects under the SAARC agenda including some for dealing with the issues of climate change and issues like that. Certainly Afghanistan would be a beneficiary of those joint mechanisms. But I am not aware that specific infrastructure building is on the agenda of SAARC. The issue on which Afghanistan could really benefit is the connectivity. This is an issue on which Afghanistan could benefit. Also SAARC

has capacity-building schemes for education, for training. This will certainly benefit their human resource development. Then there is a thing called the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) under which all countries have contributed. We are in fact the major contributor there. Projects could be developed under that.

**Question:** You said that after the SAARC on the 12th there would be bilaterals. In those talks, will there be any kind of a discussion on defence assistance to Maldives in view of the apprehensions being expressed by Maldives over Somalian piracy?

**Foreign Secretary:** Defence is one of the areas in which we do cooperate with the Government of Maldives. All aspects of our relations will get covered during the bilateral relationship. Certainly the question of tackling piracy has been raised. But it is not a specific agenda item. It comes under the broad discussion on defence cooperation, joint exercises, joint management of our coastal zones. Certainly yes, we would take this on board as one of the issues which we will continue our cooperation. As you know, our Navy cooperates with the Maldivians but even our Coast Guard does cooperate with the Maldivian Coast Guard authorities. Certainly the fact of some of these pirate ships turning up close to Maldivian shores has been a sense of concern. It has not happened in recent months. But some months ago there were some reports of them having come. I was present in Perth when the subject also came up in the Commonwealth framework. Along with the Maldives, certain other island states like Seychelles, Mauritius had also raised this issue. Certainly at a bilateral level we are going to cooperate with Maldives.

**Question:** Is the Prime Minister going to have bilateral meetings with some of them from other SAARC countries? More specifically talking about bilateral with Pakistan, do you sense a qualitative change in relations with Pakistan in the past few weeks? And what are you expecting from this forthcoming bilateral meeting?

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes, the Prime Minister has in principle agreed that he would hold bilaterals with all the South Asian leaders. We are working out the schedules. We certainly expect meetings with all the leaders to take place. With Pakistan, you were right in saying there have been some positive indicators in the last few weeks. I think the Joint Secretary had issued a statement on the release of the helicopter which strayed into their territory. Then there is this decision in principle by their Cabinet on MFN. These are I would say indications of forward movement. Our Prime Minister, as you know, is committed to building the relationship with Pakistan, building it on a more stable and normal basis. We would also look forward to the visit of the Judicial Commission. This is another area where we expect some forward movement. All aspects of bilateral

relations will be discussed when the two Prime Ministers meet. I cannot be more specific than that, but certainly when they meet at that level, all issues in our bilateral relations will come up for review.

**Question:** What is the expected timeframe for actual implementation of MFN status to India?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not have an exact timeframe. As they said, it is going to be a normalization process. So, we will establish what exactly would be the timeframe as we go along. But we do not expect it to take a very long time.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, India is trying to integrate its economy with the other major economies of Asia. What is our view on bringing in the big ones like say China, South Korea or Japan into it? I know they are observers at the moment, but to give them a kind of a full membership in SAARC.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the question of even the observers, someone just remarked the other day that they have nine observers in an eight member organization. So, I think we need to take first of all a look at the observership. As you are aware, there was a moratorium on it. But as to the membership of the organization itself, as its name goes it is South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. I do not think Korea fits into the category of South Asians. I do not think this is on the anvil or is even being discussed. We are interested in economic integration with the rest of Asia. That is a goal which is driven more bilaterally and our engagement with individual countries. The only group engagement would be our engagement with ASEAN. But SAARC as a whole trying to integrate, I do not think this has ever been discussed.

**Question:** Just two small points on the bilaterals. In the bilateral with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, are you expecting to take forward the unfinished part of the Teesta Accord from Dhaka? Secondly, you mentioned welcoming the Judicial Commission from Pakistan to India. India had also put in a request to send a Commission from here in order to interrogate those who are in the Rawalpindi jail under trial right now. Has that gone any further?

**Foreign Secretary:** I will answer the second question first. I do not really have a take on that. I do not have the specific date or specific mention on that. As regards the meeting with Sheikh Hasina, I think the overall bilateral relationship and where we are certainly will be discussed. Inevitably we would discuss any unfinished business from the Prime Minister's visit. But the meeting is in the nature of a meeting on the sidelines of SAARC. So, we expect that some of the SAARC related issues and how they impact our bilateral relationship would be discussed. I do not think we would be going into the specific details of the individual agreements.

**Question:** Sir, in the last SAARC summit many of us reported that there was quite a mild protest that India-Pakistan bilaterals, when they take place on the sidelines of that event, dominate the entire event. Even Maldives President had told us on record also about this. I think Bhutan and Bangladesh are also privately opposing it. What is your view on that? It becomes such a big event. The big ticket event is always the bilateral relation and not the entire issue.

**Foreign Secretary:** The question is, who makes it a big ticket event? I think I am looking at those responsible for that. So, I leave it to you to introduce a sense of balance. I think you have a very valid point. We are meeting as eight sovereign countries who are all equals in the SAARC framework, and certainly we would like the focus to remain essentially on the common business of SAARC. And once we get beyond the common business of SAARC we have vital relations with all these countries. And certainly some of them have very substantive business with each other. So, we would certainly hope that the focus will not be diverted to one single event.

**Question:** Are we concerned about the Chinese military activities in and around Maldives?

**Foreign Secretary:** We have a very strong relationship with Maldives including a very close defence relationship. In our interactions with the Maldives, they are fully cognizant of our interests and our concerns. We do not see any reason to be concerned.

**Question:** The aim is to integrate South Asia. Our relationship with Myanmar has improving with the civilian government in place. Will there be a move to accord Myanmar full membership of SAARC?

**Foreign Secretary:** At the moment there is no proposal on the table for expansion of the membership of SAARC. Certainly, as you said, Myanmar is an important neighbour; I would go even far to say it is a vital neighbour of ours. It is already an observer within the SAARC. We have found in our discussions with Myanmar that it is the bilateral mechanism which they favour to build their relationship with us. After all Myanmar actually borders us and to a limited extent Bangladesh. But as of now there is no proposal for expanding the membership.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, it has been more than ten years since friend Laxman Kadirgamar had floated the idea of having a SAARC currency at a New Delhi Summit. Nothing happened after that. Is there likely to be any forward movement on that, at least SAARC countries' internal trade accepting one country's currency in another and so on instead of depending on dollar or euro?



**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think this idea has really been examined in great detail after Mr. Kadirgamar mentioned it because I think many of the other countries did not take it up as an issue. So, my brief response would be to keep your rupees in your pocket and continue to use them.

**Question:** Under the SAARC framework would you be raising the issue of bilateral trade transit facility between India and Afghanistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** Under the concept of connectivity, certainly we would hope that this issue can come up. As you are aware, Pakistan and Afghanistan have their own bilateral Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade Transit Agreement (APTTA). But in the SAARC context there are proposals for both rail and road connectivity among all the countries. As and when all the members can agree on that, certainly we would hope this would apply in the context of India-Afghanistan relations also. But this is some time away. On the road agreement, I think there has been one meeting which has been held so far. Railways has made more progress. But we are still not in sight of an actual agreement.

**Question:** Will this issue of road and railway connectivity be taken up?

**Foreign Secretary:** It is one of the issues which will be discussed in the Standing Committee and by the Heads.

**Question:** Just a corollary to Manish's question on the India-Pakistan relationship. You said that there are indications of forward movement. What led to this forward movement? You have cited the helicopter instance which was very encouraging - the chopper came back in all of four hours - and now the Most Favoured Nation status. Your exact words were, 'There are indications of forward movement'.

**Foreign Secretary:** I said these are indications are forward movement, these developments.

**Question:** Could you tell us what led to this improvement in the India-Pakistan relationship?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think that is a question you will have to pose to our neighbours. But broadly I think we have been consistent in seeking, as I said, a relationship which is stable, normal, in which minor incidents should not derail the overall trend towards a more cooperative and constructive relationship between us as neighbours. As you are aware, the issue of trading is one on which we have been holding out the hand of cooperation to Pakistan. Prime Minister mentioned yesterday while answering questions in Cannes that we in fact extended MFN status to Pakistan back in 1996. As he remarked, der aaye, durust aaye.

**Question:** Sir, Bangladesh has made their position clear that unless you sign the Teesta agreement, they will not allow India transit facility. In the context of SAARC, do you think that Teesta has become a stumbling block? Without Bangladesh, how is connectivity possible?

**Foreign Secretary:** The connectivity being discussed in SAARC is independent of any country's bilateral relationship. Obviously the agreements on roads and rails will finally go ahead only when all countries are satisfied that it is in their interest and that it is in the common interest to do so. As regards connecting it to individual bilateral relations, that is an issue which we take up as we go along. I do not see individual countries' bilateral relationships stopping the general forward movement, at least on those where the SAARC has already reached an element of agreement. We shall see in Male whether there is any actual connection with the river waters.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



**133. Statement of Prime Minister prior to his departure for Maldives to attend the SAARC Summit.**

**New Delhi, November 9, 2011.**

I am leaving today on a visit to the Maldives to attend the XVIIth SAARC Summit being hosted by the President of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed in Addu on 10-11 November 2011. This will be the first SAARC meeting south of the Equator. I will thereafter pay a bilateral visit to the Maldives on November 12.

Over the last 26 years of its existence, SAARC has established itself as the leading mechanism for regional cooperation in South Asia. It has enabled enhanced cooperation within the region in a wide range of areas such as trade, connectivity, poverty alleviation, food security, women and child development, combating organized crime and terrorism, among others. It has also created new institutions to promote regional integration such as the South Asian Regional Standards Organization, the South Asian Development Fund and the South Asian University which is based in New Delhi.

The theme of the XVIIth SAARC Summit is "Building Bridges". We welcome this focus because India has always emphasized the importance of enhanced

connectivity for the socio-economic development of the South Asian region. We have undertaken several initiatives to improve connectivity on a bilateral, sub-regional and regional basis, and are willing to do much more. The theme is also in consonance with the observance of the current decade as the “SAARC Decade of Intra-Regional Connectivity”.

At the SAARC Summit, we expect to move forward on the process of liberalization of trade under the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement. We also expect to sign agreements on Implementation of Regional Standards, Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment, Rapid Response to Natural Disasters and establishment of a SAARC Seed Bank.

India will work to promote greater integration as well as the development of a South Asian identity at the forthcoming Summit.

On the margins of the SAARC Summit, I look forward to the opportunity of holding bilateral discussions with other South Asian Heads of State and Government who will be participating in the Summit.

My bilateral visit to Male after the SAARC Summit will be the first Prime Ministerial visit to the Maldives from India in nine years. During this period, our relations have been significantly transformed. I look forward to holding in-depth discussions with President Nasheed on all aspects of our relations and to the honour of addressing the Peoples Majlis in Male. We also expect to conclude concrete agreements to enhance our cooperation in both traditional as well as new areas.



**134. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Inaugural Session of the XVII SAARC Summit.**

**Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.**

I am delighted to be here in the Maldives - a country of breathtaking beauty. There can be no better setting for our Summit than this exquisite Addu Atoll. I convey our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Maldives for the excellent arrangements and their warm hospitality.

I wish to join my other distinguished colleagues in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your election as the Chairperson of SAARC. We look forward to your dynamic leadership of our organization. I assure you of India's full cooperation.

I wish to thank His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan for his exemplary stewardship of SAARC as the outgoing Chairman.

As someone who has had the privilege of attending the last four SAARC Summits, I can see the impressive progress we have made as an organization in recent years. The momentum and scope of our cooperation has undoubtedly increased. Since our last Summit alone, our Ministers of External Affairs, Home, Finance, Transport, Tourism, Commerce, Energy and Environment have met. Greater exchanges and communication among ourselves should be followed by concrete outcomes.

In my discussions with the leaders of South Asia, I sense a collective commitment and desire to give greater meaning and content to SAARC. Admittedly, there is a lot to be done but the political will is there. We have all come to believe that regional cooperation is good for each one of our countries.

I reaffirm that India will do whatever is within our capabilities to make SAARC an effective instrument to deliver on our vision of common peace, shared prosperity and cooperation.

Our Summit takes place at a time when the global economy is under acute stress. This has imposed a fresh and entirely uncalled for burden on our development efforts. We hope that the leaders of the major economies, particularly in the Eurozone, will show the wisdom and will that are required to revive the global economy.

However, the world economy is going to take time to recover. In the meantime developing countries like ours will be squeezed for capital, investments and markets for our exports.

We should seek imaginative ways to create new avenues and sources of growth and investment in South Asia. If we can create favourable conditions for development at home, there is no reason why our investors should seek greener pastures elsewhere. The complete normalization of trade relations will create huge opportunities for mutually beneficial trade within South Asia.

We should work to create a climate whereby the wealth generated by us is invested back into our own region. This will be the most ringing endorsement of our vision of a regional economy without boundaries.

There are promising signs that South Asia is increasingly getting plugged into the growth dynamic of Asia. Despite all the difficulties, we have been able to maintain a respectable growth rate in the last few years.

This encouraging trend has coincided with the growing pace of SAARC integration. This shows that we are on the right path.

I believe the process should move faster, though at a pace we are all comfortable with. I recognize that India has a special responsibility that flows from the geography of our region and the size of our economy and market.

I am happy to announce that, in a major trade liberalization effort, the Government of India has issued a notification to reduce the Sensitive List for the Least Developed Countries under the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement from 480 tariff lines to 25 tariff lines. Zero basic customs duty access will be given for all items removed with immediate effect.

I recognize that non-tariff barriers are an area of concern. India is committed to the idea of free and balanced growth of trade in South Asia. Competition begins at home. Our industries have to learn to compete if our economies are to have a future in this globalised world that we live in.

We can all benefit from our respective comparative advantages. These include our hydropower and natural resource endowments, possibilities of earnings from transit, marine resources, our scientific and technological base and above all our young population which will drive consumption and investment in the years ahead.

We should expedite the finalization of the SAARC Agreement on Investment.

The theme of this year's Summit is "Building Bridges". This eloquently summarizes the imperative of greater regional integration, and is an objective to which India is fully committed. One such initiative taken last year was the launch of the South Asia Forum that has brought eminent South Asians from different walks of life together.

In our Summit in Dhaka in 2005, I had suggested a reciprocal initiative to provide unrestricted access to airlines from SAARC States to our four metropolitan cities, and to 18 other destinations in India. Connectivity has partially improved since then. We must take this further.

We should aim to conclude a regional Air Services Agreement, for which India would be happy to host a meeting of officials next year.

We have been talking of a Regional Railway Agreement and a Motor Vehicle Agreement for a long time. Let us agree to conclude these agreements as a matter of priority. India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are in the process of developing regional ferry services. We should replicate many more such connectivity arrangements in other parts of our sub-continent.

I commend the Postal Administrations of SAARC for agreeing to establish a South Asian Postal Union. India is happy to host the ad hoc Secretariat for the Union, and to sponsor training courses at our Postal Staff College to train upto ten SAARC officials per year, belonging to interested Member States.

We should follow up this agreement by improving our telecommunication linkages to reduce call rates and telecommunication tariffs and interconnection termination charges. India will be ready to facilitate the development of a regional telecommunications infrastructure to improve the quality of connectivity.

We should encourage greater broadcasting, television and film exchanges among our countries. It is time that we overcome the information deficit among the SAARC countries. We should encourage our people to know more about each other.

In this spirit, I wish to announce the following initiatives that India will take.

We will host a conclave of the top dozen tour operators from the SAARC region to boost tourism exchanges.

We will take the initiative to establish a travelling exhibition on the ancient history of South Asia. This could comprise of a hundred archeologically significant pieces per country to be selected by member States. The exhibition can be hosted in each of our national museums in turn for three months.

Post-graduate courses in the South Asian University have started in July 2010. India will increase the number of SAARC Silver Jubilee Scholarships for the South Asian University from 50 to 100. 75 of these will be at the Masters level and 25 at the doctoral level.

Protecting our environment even as we pursue rapid growth is essential. The India Endowment for Climate Change which I had announced last year has been established. We look forward to receiving project proposals from our SAARC partners.

We will provide a total of ten scholarships per year to SAARC Member States for post-graduate and doctoral studies in forestry courses at the Forestry Research Institute of India, Dehradun.

The destiny of South Asia lies in our own hands. SAARC provides a platform for us to put aside our differences and work towards a higher calling. We have a long way to go, but I am confident that we can realize our true potential through sustained effort.

We have to learn to trust each other and to learn from each other. The security and stability of our countries are closely interlinked. None of us can prosper in isolation to each other. We cannot afford to allow the many problems we face to stand in the way of our ambitions and dreams.

Let us challenge ourselves to do even better. I thank you.



**135. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's engagements in Addu City.**

**Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening and once again apologies to keep you waiting.

Prime Minister has had a very active calendar, a packed calendar. Foreign Secretary would like to brief you about the engagements of the Prime Minister. He will make some opening remarks and thereafter he will be happy to take your questions.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you, Vishnu. Let me add to those apologies which he has conveyed with my own. It was not just a meeting but in fact building bridges. The theme of this Summit I think is very apposite. If there were a bridge between the island and I am on, I would have been here a long time ago. I think Vishnu was over-optimistic. I kept telling him that 8:30 is about the earliest I think I can physically get to this island. But he was convinced that I could do it earlier. But that was not possible.

This morning, after the bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan I had come out and made a statement and given a general briefing. So, I will leave that out of my initial statement and then go on to Prime Minister's engagements. I will start with last night.

After his arrival here Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Bhutan for a discussion on our bilateral relationship with that country. The Prime Minister of Bhutan expressed great appreciation for the very successful and very happy visit of His Majesty the King of Bhutan and his royal bride after their royal wedding their visit to India. He also expressed great appreciation of the exposition of Buddhist relics from the Maha Bodhi Society which was held in Bhutan, and finally on the successful completion of the discussion on Indian assistance for the Tenth Plan. The Tenth Plan is actually finishing in a year and a half but there were some discussions on re-appropriations and the smooth disbursement of Indian assistance to Bhutan's Plan.

Prime Minister underlined the importance and the unique special relations between India and Bhutan and emphasised our continuing commitment to assist Bhutan in its development. He also spoke on the shared security concerns of the two countries. And there was a further discussion on all aspects of our bilateral relations.

Later in the evening, Prime Minister met President Nasheed of the Maldives. As you are aware, after the SAARC Summit, Prime Minister would be visiting



Male for a standalone bilateral visit to the Maldives. However, the President wished to have a separate bilateral meeting in Addu to discuss essentially matters relating to the SAARC Summit. The two leaders met later in the evening and spoke again on the theme of Living Bridges which is the theme chosen by the Maldivian Presidency. President Nasheed highlighted the importance of this theme to the lives of common people, and spoke essentially in terms of connectivity, transport. He highlighted the need for the SAARC to complete the railways agreement. And then he spoke at some length on the planned ferry service which is to link India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Prime Minister in his response also spoke on the theme as being linked to the larger issue of poverty eradication, development, building bridges between our countries as we work together to meet these common challenges. There was also discussion on certain specifics of the SAARC like the SAARC Development Fund, the role of the Secretary-General, and the improvement in the SAARC Regional Centres. There was also a reference to the bilateral relations briefly during which the Maldivian President expressed appreciation for India's assistance including for the SAARC Summit and for our bilateral economic assistance to the Maldives.

This morning, as I have said already, Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan and I have already spoken on that. Subsequently, he had a bilateral meeting with President Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka. During this discussion, essentially three issues were discussed. One was the issue of the fishermen which continues to be an issue between our two countries. The Prime Minister stressed the need to ensure that the waters between India and Sri Lanka are free of violence, and that any incidences of attacks on Indian fishermen are a matter of great concern to India. The Sri Lankan President assured the Prime Minister that Sri Lankan Navy have been under very strict instructions to ensure that there is no violence, that in fact it had been instructed to provide assistance to fishermen in case they are in distress. He highlighted the fact that the Sri Lankan fishermen were again very active after a long time in their own waters, and that there was some evidence of large scale crossing of the international boundary line between India and Sri Lanka.

The two leaders discussed this further and it was felt that it would be appropriate for the Joint Working Group between India and Sri Lanka to actually meet and see what measures could be taken to ensure that there is peace and harmony in the waters. It was also felt, and both leaders agreed, that the fishermen's associations between the associations of fishermen of India and associations of fishermen in Northern Sri Lanka, who are also Tamils, that these groups of people should meet together and talk about their common interests, their common concerns.

The second issue which was discussed was that of the resettlement of internally displaced persons. Prime Minister spoke on the importance in terms of opinion in India, sentiment in India on the resettlement of those who had become internally displaced. President Rajapaksa mentioned that of the very large number which had been internally displaced a year and a half ago or two years ago, there are about 7,000 still awaiting resettlement. And he expected that this process of resettling them would be completed by the end of December. The two leaders also reviewed Indian economic projects in Sri Lanka and also had a general discussion on other matters of mutual interest and concern.

After the meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh. Prime Minister once again expressed his gratitude for a very fruitful visit which he had had in September to Dhaka, and discussed with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina how to take forward cooperation on all issues of bilateral relations. Prime Minister once again expressed India's appreciation of the cooperation on the security front with Bangladesh which has made a marked improvement in the situation in the North East with respect to Indian insurgent groups being brought under control.

Prime Minister also noted that on the land boundary issue, a protocol to the land boundary agreement had been signed during his visit, that further steps were being taken to actually implement this very soon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also spoke on the importance of these issues; expressed appreciation of Prime Minister's visit when he was in Dhaka and the progress which has been made. She then spoke about her visit to the Teen Bigha where the corridor has been opened on a 24-hour basis. And she said she was very happy with her visit. She expressed appreciation that this, what she called the dream of 24-hour access had been provided and that it had been provided in an efficient and workable way. She also said that she had been very well received and she was very happy with the outcome of her brief visit to that place.

In the afternoon, Prime Minister attended the opening session of the SAARC Summit. I am sure all of you have seen the text of Prime Minister's address. Prime Minister mentioned a number of initiatives. In fact his speech was received with a great deal of enthusiasm because it contained a number of very specific issues on the reduction of items in the sensitive list under SAFTA, on increase in our assistance by way of scholarships and capacity-building, and including one specific on environmental issues which was a common theme of many people that we would be providing training for SAARC officials at the Indian Forest Institute.

There was a considerable discussion on the need for SAARC to move forward. Basically, I think this was a recurring theme of all of the leaders. One was in the area of the common obligations of all countries under SAFTA that we need to make progress on these. The second was on building bridges, the theme, they need to do something on transport and connectivity. Many leaders spoke on the importance of concluding a railways agreement among the countries and also starting further discussions on motor vehicles agreements between the three countries.

Prime Minister also expressed an interest in having the SAARC accord on investment promotion finalised as soon as possible. We believe the SAARC Summit, which will continue tomorrow, will take up these issues and take the entire region as a whole forward in these very vital areas which are of particular interest to the people of all the countries of SAARC. I think I could stop here now. If you have a few questions, I can take them.

**Question:** Sir, today there was an important opportunity to speak to the Interior Minister of Pakistan, who today yet again said that India has till now not provided any evidence against Hafiz Saeed or Jamaat-ud-Dawa. As far as Hafiz Saeed is concerned, is it the end of the road for India? How can we achieve our goal of seeing 26/11 perpetrators behind bars or being brought to justice unless anything happens on Hafiz Saeed?

Prime Minister Gilani said Kashmir and Siachen were also discussed. Could you elaborate on what discussion has taken place?

**Foreign Secretary:** We have provided extensive documentation on Hafiz Saeed and those who are under trial for their involvement in the Mumbai attacks. This evidence has been provided, a number of dossiers have been handed over. We believe there is enough information in that for Pakistan to be able to take forward their case against those seven accused.

As regards your question about Siachen, there is a process of dialogue on various themes. We have plans to have meetings between the Commerce Secretaries, in fact in a few days' time, meetings between the Home Secretary and the Pakistani Interior Secretary, and the discussions on Tulbul between the Secretaries of Water Resources, perhaps also in December but these have still to be worked out. Prime Minister Gilani did mention that among the other dialogue processes which we have to engage in, Sir Creek and Siachen are among those. He did raise that in that context saying that this is part of the dialogue and we need to make progress on those issues also.

**Question:** Sir, this is again about Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik equating the demand for justice for 26/11 to the Samjhauta case, linking it up

with the Samjhauta case, and also very specifically equating the demand for sending Ajmal Kasab to the gallows and to also giving similar treatment to the accused in the Samjhauta blast. Is there a possibility of India's case that it is a victim of terror sponsored from across the border getting diluted in the process?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think there is any possibility of India's case getting diluted. The Samjhauta Express issue to which you refer is a terrible attack that took place in India and there is no question of any cross-border element being involved in that. So, I frankly do not see how these two can be linked in terms of diluting India's concerns on cross-border terrorism. It is interesting that you have quoted the Interior Minister as having said that Mr. Kasab should be sent to the gallows. It would seem that he then believes that there is evidence against him.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, just to start with I would like to ask if India now believes that now Pakistan has taken any steps in terms of cracking down on the groups responsible for 26/11, whether they think that Pakistan is in fact serious about taking the 26/11 trial ahead because it would seem that the fact that the bilateral dialogue has now been resumed comes on the back of positive steps which, I think, you have spoken about, the Prime Minister spoke about. I would like to get your assessment of what are those steps. Secondly, did that long-pending invitation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to visit Pakistan come up in talks, and is there any date for that?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think if one were to talk in terms of steps, the fact that Pakistan has now said it would send a Judicial Commission to India to record the statements of the Chief Investigating Officer, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, and two doctors - that is the list of those whose statements have to be recorded - that this is part of the action being taken by them to make some progress on the case against these people. We have to set up a court, or appoint a judge to receive this Judicial Commission. It seems this is a step forward. They have also indicated that on many of the concerns which we have expressed and which we have expressed again that these could be addressed in the discussions which are scheduled between the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan. So, to that extent, yes there have been some developments even on the cases against those responsible for the Mumbai attacks.

You mentioned resumed dialogue. I would like to clarify that dialogue actually was resumed in the month of February following the Thimphu talks. That first stage, you might say, culminated in the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India in July. And during the meetings with our External Affairs Minister and

subsequently the call on Prime Minister it was felt that we need to take this dialogue forward, and another second round of discussions on all these issues in our bilateral relationship would be resumed or taken forward, whichever you like. But that is where we are. And that is why we place a great deal of importance on the outcomes of these dialogues which are now going to take place. As I said, the Commerce Secretaries' dialogue, the Home Secretaries' dialogue, and we have planned also the dialogue between the Water Resources Secretaries on Tulbul.

A mention was also made of the Joint Commission. There is a Joint Commission between our two countries which last met in 2005. It has eight Technical Groups working under it. There is a proposal to get those Technical Working Groups restarted. Some of them have actually met in the past, and their work and their conclusions are available. But if there is need to restart any of those Technical Groups, we will certainly look at it. That is where we are.

In terms of the invitation, Prime Minister Mr. Gilani said that he was very keen that Prime Minister should visit Pakistan, and he put it in very emotional terms saying this would be an opportunity not only to build the relationship between our two countries and put it on a very firm footing, but also gave Prime Minister an opportunity to visit his ancestral home which happens to be on the other side of the border. Prime Minister said that he certainly does look forward to visiting Pakistan and this would be decided by mutual consultation.

**Question:** The Joint Working Group on fishermen was supposed to meet last month but then it was called off. Has a fresh date been set? Secondly, fishermen's associations have met twice, once in Chennai and Nagapattinam and then in Colombo. But it was very clear that Sri Lankans did not want Indians to come into their waters. So, what ...(Unclear)... is on the table?

**Foreign Secretary:** On the Joint Working Group, in fact the Convenor on the Indian side is sitting next to me. So, I think we have to ask him when he is planning the next visit. We had a bit of a scheduling problem in fixing it last time. There was no substantive issue involved. In the JWG we would like to ensure that the Government of Tamil Nadu is also represented through its Fisheries Department. It includes representatives of Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, the Ministry concerned with fisheries in Delhi as also the Tamil Nadu Government. We certainly have proposed asking for the mutual convenience of all for another meeting. The Sri Lankans certainly are very keen that they should meet and the meeting is scheduled in Colombo. Even the President said he attaches importance to this meeting being held. The idea is to see whether the Joint Working Group can come up with suggestions and ideas of ways in which the incidences of friction and difficulties could be avoided.

Involving the Fishermen's Associations, you are quite right, they have had meetings. I have not seen the details but there is one version which has gone about is that the meetings which took place earlier did not really involve directly the fishermen, but there were some people from some NGOs and others claiming to represent fishermen who were also part of the Groups who may not have focused entirely only on the fishermen's particular concerns. The idea is to see whether there is a limited amount of water between our two countries and there are fishermen communities on both sides. On the Sri Lankan side they have reactivated after many years of having been unable to fish. When I was myself in Sri Lanka I visited Jaffna. And the government agent, the equivalent of the Collector, who happens to be a Tamil officer showed me a statistical chart showing how fishing had been affected by the large scale crossings from India and the difficulties faced by the Sri Lankan fishermen. The Sri Lankans would always put it that the real issue they face is with the large trawlers which do bottom trawling. The ordinary small boats, they do not really have too much of problem there. So, what is it that can be discussed between the fishermen is, is there a possibility for both countries doing something to assist their fishermen's groups to go a little beyond these restricted waters into the wider area of the Indian Ocean where there are foreign fishing fleets actually harvesting a lot of the fish which really belongs to this region. So, these are the kinds of issues we thought if the fishermen's associations would come up with some specific suggestions, then maybe the Governments could take some action to help on both sides.

**Question:** Sir, the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan spent nearly forty to forty-five minutes one on one. Overall, did any new initiatives or confidence-building measures figure in the discussions? Also both the leaders struck a very upbeat note promising to start a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. In what areas can we see a breakthrough or a significant improvement in the coming days or months?

**Foreign Secretary:** The two leaders of course did meet with their delegations as well as one on one. They discussed all issues quite openly. The Prime Minister said there is a need for us to be able to discuss all issues which bedevil our relations or which stand in the way of a normal friendly relationship between our two countries. The Prime Minister believes firmly that ultimately the destinies of us as a people are quite interlinked, and we need to work out a new chapter in our relationships. For this, the next round of our discussions should be made more productive than the first round. But, Prime Minister did mention that there are, as he called it, perennial concerns about terrorism in India. And he stressed the fact that terrorism is a threat to India, it is now a

threat to Pakistan also, but acts of terrorism have the capability of being a spoiler in our relationship of setting back any kind of progress that we could make in our dialogue, and that therefore Pakistan needs to address this in all earnestness. These were the specific words Prime Minister conveyed to us.

**Question:** Sir, if I could just press you a little more on the previous question, both Prime Ministers said that they look forward to, as they put it, a new chapter in India-Pakistan relationship. So, before the next meeting comes, along the way will there be any sort of verifiable steps, maybe action against Lashkar camps in PoK, a decrease in infiltration, can there be steps that we can say are verifiable steps which would indicate that Pakistan is delivering on the content of its interactions?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the discussions covered all aspects of our relationship. Certainly we would need to be completely satisfied that the Pakistanis are taking the kind of steps that you have mentioned. The Home Secretary will be meeting, as I said, his counterpart from Pakistan hopefully next month. We are hoping it will take place around the third week. These specifics would be discussed at that level. I think what Prime Minister was trying to stress is that there is a past which hangs on us, there is a future which lies ahead of us if we can work together, but we are in the present now and we need to deal with these issues here and now. The idea is to move towards a more constructive agenda. But as I said, Prime Minister made quite clear that our ability to move such a constructive agenda certainly does require dealing with the concerns which we face in the present.

**Question:** Sir, you said the next round has to be more productive in India-Pakistan talks. Will the next round follow the same structure as that of the Composite Dialogue, or do you plan to rejig a bit, scale it up a bit? Secondly, has the issue of early formalisation of Teesta and Feni water agreements come up during our Prime Minister's discussions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina?

**Foreign Secretary:** I believe here on this question of what kind of dialogue, I happened to glance at what my predecessor Mrs. Rao answered when she was in Thimphu and she said we do not need to get into nomenclature. So, I can take refuge behind my predecessor's comments. So, I will just say that this is a resumed dialogue. Certainly the dialogue is to cover, as I said, all outstanding issues in our relationship. And it is structured in a way that you have different Ministries, Secretaries of different Departments involved in different elements of the dialogue. So, certainly we should be going through all of them. The aim is to culminate, as was mentioned by Hon. External Affairs Minister when he met the Pakistani Foreign Minister in July, in a meeting

between the two Foreign Ministers perhaps by the end of the first half of 2012. That was the calendar which they had set. That remains as the target.

As regards the waters issue with Bangladesh, certainly the question of Teesta was mentioned. The two leaders discussed it. Prime Minister mentioned that on our side we need some more time to build a consensus. Certainly we underlined that whatever agreement we do arrive at, and we hopefully will arrive at, will have to take into account the interests of all concerned. In this particular case it certainly was the interests of West Bengal. As regards Feni, we understand that it was for all practical purposes ready to be signed but since it was one of the water-related issues in Dhaka, it just happened to get postponed for the future. But there are really no substantive differences between India and Bangladesh on it. And certainly in regard to Feni, the State Government of Tripura also has no issues regarding our finalising the agreement as it stands.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls Mr. Gilani a man of peace, it is obviously not an assessment made by an individual, it is an assessment made by the Prime Minister of a country. My question is, what has made him come to the conclusion that has further reinforced his belief that he is dealing with a man of peace? And what steps taken by Prime Minister Gilani make him feel that he is a man of peace?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think Prime Minister's assessment is based on the frequent meeting he has had with Prime Minister Gilani. He has met him a number of times now. And it is an assessment based on the nature of his discussions with Mr. Gilani, and our own Prime Minister's own pursuit of peace, and the fact that he finds a resonance in this. I would presume that is why he has come to this assessment. It is based on a large number of meetings and the desire which Prime Minister Gilani has expressed for resolving all issues between our two countries on the basis of dialogue, and that this dialogue should take place in an atmosphere of peace and free of hostility. This is the express wish of the Pakistanis also.

**Question:** Sir, the Pakistani Interior Minister kept on saying that India gave us only information and dossiers, not credible evidence. What makes credible evidence for them? Have the two sides ever sat together and discuss what would make credible evidence for Pakistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not a lawyer, so, I do not have the benefit of being able to make a legal distinction. But, as I said, the dossiers have provided a great deal of information which should give enough leads to the Pakistani authorities to be able to take the case forward. He says that it is mere information.



I am not quite sure what is intended. As far as we are concerned, there is enough information in the dossiers which have been provided for the Pakistanis to be able to take action. I would only say that in these dossiers is also the confession of Mr. Kasab. Somebody mentioned that the Interior Minister has declared him fit for being hanged. So, if his confession is a part of the dossiers which we have given on the basis of which he has decided he should be hanged, maybe he finds there is some evidence after all.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**136. Addu Declaration issued at the conclusion of the Seventeenth SAARC Summit— “Building Bridges”.**

**Addu City (Maldives), November 11, 2011.**

The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai; the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina; the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan, His Excellency Lyonchhen Jigmi Yoeser Thinley; the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh; the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Nasheed; the Prime Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Dr. Baburam Bhattarai; the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani; and the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa met in Addu City, the Maldives, on 10-11 November 2011 for the Seventeenth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

**Welcoming** the theme of the Summit and recognizing the importance of bridging differences, creating better understanding and promoting amity and mutually beneficial and comprehensive cooperation in order to promote effective linkages and connectivity for greater movement of people, enhanced investment and trade in the region;

**Reaffirming** their commitment to peace, confidence building, liberty, human dignity, democracy, mutual respect, good governance and human rights;

**Renewing** their firm commitment to alleviate poverty and reduce income inequalities within the societies and reaffirming their resolve to improve the

quality of life and well-being of their people through people-centered sustainable development;

**Recognizing** that the full enjoyment of fundamental rights by women and girls is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights and that gender-based violence and discriminatory practices constitute a violation of fundamental rights;

**Mindful** of the plurality of cultures and diversities within the region and cognizant of the need to promote inter-cultural harmony through greater contact and interaction between peoples;

**Deeply Concerned** about the continuing threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, transnational organized crimes, especially illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, trafficking in persons and small arms and increased incidents of maritime piracy in the region; and reiterating their resolve to fight all such menaces;

**Conscious** of the environmental degradation and particular vulnerabilities of the region to the threat of climate change;

**Recognizing** the need to further strengthen the institutional mechanisms of SAARC in order to bolster and enhance regional cooperation;

**Welcoming** the signing of the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters, the SAARC Seed Bank Agreement, the SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment and the SAARC Agreement on Implementation of Regional Standards;

**Recognizing** the importance of the full implementation of SAFTA as a measure towards the creation of an enabling economic environment in the region;

**Noting** the recommendations of the Report of the First Meeting of the South Asia Forum that SAARC needs to move from looking within to accepting the logic of interdependence;

**Acknowledging** the participation of Observers from Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Union of Myanmar, the United States of America and the European Union at the Seventeenth Summit;

**DO HEREBY DECLARE:**

1. To direct the SAFTA Ministerial Council to intensify efforts to fully and effectively implement SAFTA and the work on reduction in Sensitive Lists as well as early resolution of non-tariff barriers and expediting the process of harmonizing standards and customs procedures.

2. To direct the SAARC Finance Ministers to chart a proposal that would allow for greater flow of financial capital and intra-regional long-term investment.
3. To hold the Twelfth SAARC Trade Fair along with SAARC Travel and Tourism Fair in Kulhudhuffushi, Maldives in 2012; and to develop modalities, by involving the relevant private sector, in promoting the region globally as „Destination South Asia.
4. To conclude the Regional Railways Agreement and to convene the Expert Group Meeting on the Motor Vehicles Agreement before the next Session of the Council of Ministers; and to direct the early conducting of a demonstration run of a container train (Bangladesh – India – Nepal).
5. To direct the Secretary General to ensure completion of the preparatory work on the Indian Ocean Cargo and Passenger Ferry Service, including the Feasibility Study, by the end of 2011, in order to launch the Service.
6. To ensure timely implementation of the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change.
7. To direct the conclusion of the Inter-governmental Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation and the Study on the Regional Power Exchange Concept as also the work related to SAARC Market for Electricity.
8. To make available an appropriate percentage of national income towards the respective countries renewable energy investments, subject to the approval of national arrangements.
9. To resolve the operational issues related to the SAARC Food Bank by the next Session of the Council of Ministers with a view to ensuring its effective functioning.
10. To root out terrorism, taking into account its linkages with illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and small arms and to make coordinated and concerted efforts to combat terrorism; and call for an early conclusion of the proposed UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and completion of the ratification of the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.
11. To initiate work towards combating maritime piracy in the region.
12. To direct the convening of an Inter-governmental Expert Group Meeting to discuss the establishment of a regional mechanism to ensure empowerment of women and gender equality in the region, with focus on national legislations, including timely realization of the MDGs and SDGs.

13. To direct the finalization of the work on the elaboration of the SAARC Regional Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution with a view to its adoption by the next Summit.
14. To formulate an actionable framework to address the common challenge of sanitation and access to safe drinking water in the region.
15. To expedite the work on mutual recognition of academic and professional degrees and harmonization of academic standards; and establishment of long-term linkages among universities, research institutions and think-tanks in the region.
16. To direct the South Asia Forum to continue to work towards the development of the "Vision Statement" for South Asia and its future development, including on the goal and elements of a South Asian Economic Union, as may emerge from its subsequent meetings.
17. To strengthen SAARC mechanisms, including the Secretariat and Regional Centres, through an inter-governmental process.
18. To direct SAARC mechanisms and institutions to develop and implement regional and sub-regional projects, as appropriate, in agreed areas.
19. To undertake a comprehensive review of all matters relating to SAARC's engagement with Observers, including the question of dialogue partnership, before the next Session of the Council of Ministers in 2012.
20. To mark a SAARC Media Day and, in that context, decide to convene a Regional Conference on Media to consider deepening collaboration in the region.



**137. Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on board his special flight from Male to New Delhi.**

**November 12, 2011.**

**Prime Minister:** We just had a very successful SAARC Summit. SAARC has still miles to go before its full potential is realised. But there is a growing awareness among all countries of the region about the importance of regional cooperation.

The fact that the global economy is not doing too well, is a further incentive for countries of the SAARC region to learn to cooperate with one another. And there is a growing realisation that a country like India, with its vast market, with its strong growth rate performance, can help other countries in the region to raise their sights for economic development.

That's a hopeful development and as you know, four agreements were signed at the Summit, the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Responses to Natural Disaster, SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangements on recognition of conformity assessment, SAARC Agreement on implementation of regional standards and SAARC Seed Bank Agreement.

Already the South Asian University is now a functioning entity, SAARC Development Fund is a functioning entity, so bit by bit SAARC is moving forward to promote the cause of regional integration and regional cooperation.

The number of meetings that are taking place at various Ministers level, I think creates a climate where there is growing mutual awareness of each others potential, of each others limitation and that itself is conducive to the promotion of regional cooperation.

Apart from SAARC Summit, I had good meetings with all the leaders of SAARC countries.

I should begin by mentioning my discussions with Prime Minister Gilani. We reviewed the whole gamut of our relationship. We agreed that the resumed round of dialogue should continue. We took note of the encouraging developments in the area of trade, the changing attitude of Pakistan to giving India the status of Most Favoured Treatment and the willingness of Pakistan to discuss all matters including that of terrorism.

So I come back with the expectation that the second round of resumed dialogue which will begin very shortly, will have the advantage of a more informed dialogue.

What will be the outcome of that dialogue, I am optimistic, but India Pakistan

relations are subject to accident, and therefore we both recognise that if there is another incident like the Mumbai terror attack, that could give a big setback to the process of normalization\*, I think that is fully understood by Prime Minister Gilani.

With regard to my meeting with Sri Lanka, we reviewed with President Rajapaksa, the problems of Indian fishermen, who stray into Sri Lankan waters and then are arrested by Sri Lankan authorities. We explained this to President Rajapaksa and he agreed that the use of force to deal with Indian fishermen is totally unacceptable, that it is a human problem and it must be dealt in a humane manner. And we explored various options like growing involvement of fishermen of two countries in discussing their mutual problems. Also there is a bilateral working group to discuss these issues. We agreed that the working group should accelerate its work.

Principally, my concern was with regard to resettlement of internally displaced Tamil refugees, and the treatment of fishermen. President Rajapaksa gave me assurances that Sri Lanka will and has been moving forward. How far that satisfies the common public opinion, there is now a structured dialogue between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil National Alliance and also there is a Parliamentary Select Committee which has been appointed to go into this question of what can be done to find a permanent political and acceptable solution to the Tamil problem.

With regard to other countries also, I had very useful talks. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and I reviewed the road map for the implementation of the Agreement on Boundaries. As you we have reached an Agreement but it requires constitutional amendment. We will work to that end. There was also other discussion about providing electricity to Bangladesh from India and we

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\* Pakistani welcomed the positive trend of interaction and its Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar sounded upbeat with her remarks that Islamabad was willing to bend backward to improve relations with its neighbours. Welcoming the trend she said "the 'Thimphu spirit' has given way to 'Addu hope,'". Refusing to react negatively to Prime Minister's remarks that he would visit Pakistan only if there was forward movement on the Mumbai terror attack case, and that another such strike would be a setback to the accident-prone Indo-Pak relationship, Ms. Khar simply said that "Some statements are made for domestic consumption, but we also heard what he said before the international media. Prime Minister Singh was exceptionally positive. We have managed to create the space we needed to pursue issues meaningfully." Sounding a positive note she said: "Addu onwards trust deficit is zero or it has shrunk to a large extent and now we need to start building on the trust. We have invested far too much in seeking out hostility towards each other and too less in seeking out peace with each other. I told the Indian Foreign Minister that I am competing with you on positivity." While flagging the Kashmir issue she avoided its negativity by saying "Pakistan does not want to remain hostage to disputes. We want to resolve issues and don't want to be pulled backwards."

said within the limits of our capabilities we will certainly be helpful. There was also a brief discussion of the Teesta problem and I mentioned to the Prime Minister that we will work to build a national consensus so that an agreement can become a realistic proposition.

With Maldives our relations are very good. We have signed many agreements, but the most important agreement is the framework agreement on cooperation which sets out a road map of cooperation in a large number of areas covering economy, trade, investment and security related issues in the context of security of sea lanes in the Indian Ocean.

With regard to Nepal, I had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Babu Ram Bhattarai. We reviewed the progress made with regard to peace keeping and peace initiated and on that the Prime Minister was true to his word, what he had told me that he would work hard within this month to see the peace process moving forward and that the political parties in Nepal have reached an agreement with regard to the rehabilitation and resettlement of Maoist combatants and now they are moving forward to prepare a draft of the constitution.

Prime Minister Bhattarai also told me that the avoidance of double taxation agreement has now been cleared by the cabinet of Nepal and that we can now go ahead to sign it. You recall that there were some problems with regard to our being not able to sign the avoidance of double taxation agreement when he visited, but now he has got his Cabinet approval and now we will proceed to sign the agreement.

With regards to Afghanistan, both President Karzai and I expressed our happiness at the signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between our two countries and President Karzai mentioned to me that this agreement is universally popular in Afghanistan. Unlike the agreement which they are proposing with the United States, where they would require ratification only after the Loya Jirga has met and approved the draft. He said that it is a matter of great satisfaction for India Afghanistan relations that there is no such demand for the ratification of the Strategic Partnership Agreement that he has signed in India. We also discussed the security situation, the challenges that Afghanistan faces. On the whole relations with Afghanistan are in very good shape, and there is enormous scope for expanding areas of cooperation between our two countries.

President Karzai also mentioned to me that in the changed situation he would like Indian investments in Afghanistan. Well in this connection he mentioned the iron ore mines which will soon be available for participation by foreign investment.

With regard to Bhutan, I complimented Prime Minister Thinley on excellent conduct of the SAARC during the last one year of his Chairmanship. We reviewed our bilateral relations which are in exceedingly good shape. And therefore on the whole I can say that other than the regional issues, my dialogue with the SAARC leaders on bilateral issues has helped in both settings, has enabled me and the other leaders to get a better idea of each others point of view.

I have often said that the SAARC process is an essay in persuasion and because of the fact that we cannot change our neighbours, we can change our friends, we cannot change our neighbours, we have learnt to live together in peace and amity. We have to learn to cooperate with each other and I do think that at long last SAARC is getting on to that process, even though I do think that there is a long arduous journey ahead of us.



**138. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, Joint Secretary (CE) and Joint Secretary (ERS) on visit of Slovenian Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to to ASTANA for SCO Summit.**

**NEW Delhi, June 13, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. My colleague Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison, Joint Secretary (Central Europe), and Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia) and I will like to brief you about two important visits.

First the state visit which has already begun of the Prime Minister of Slovenia HE Borut Pahor who would be in India till the 16th. Let me take you through the outline of his programme and delegation. The dignitary has already landed in Mumbai. Today he would be meeting with the Governor, and as we speak he is paying homage at the 26/11 Memorial at the Taj Mahal Palace.

He arrives in New Delhi later in the evening. Tomorrow, Prime Minister of India accords a ceremonial welcome to him, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There would be calls on him by EAM. He calls on the President. At 1300 hours tomorrow there will be a Joint Business meeting organized by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM. Thereafter there is a call on him by the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.



Next there is a call by him on the Vice-President and tomorrow evening he meets the Prime Minister and holds delegation-level talks, which will be followed by signing of agreements and a banquet. On Wednesday, 15th, he visits Agra and thereafter proceeds to Bangalore where he would be meeting with the Governor and visiting some of the centres of excellence including the Indian Institute of Sciences, Infosys, Biocon and also Narayana hospital. He leaves for home on the 16th evening.

PM Pahor is leading a high-power delegation including the Minister of Economy, Minister of Health, Minister of Transport, the State Secretary for Higher Education, a large number of senior officials as well as businessmen.

This is the first formal visit of a Head of State or Government from Slovenia although the former President and present President of the country, have come here on a private visit and for an international conference last year, respectively. We recognized Slovenia as a separate nation on the 11th of May 1992 paving the way for the official visit of their Foreign Minister within a week thereafter. Slovenia is a fellow democratic nation and a developed country which is already a member of EU, with a per capita income of more than \$ 22,000. Our relations have been expanding steadily. Like India, Slovenia sees India as a priority country.

We do enjoy a similarity of outlook on a host of international and regional issues. Furthermore, Slovenia has been supportive of India's aspirations and sensitive to our concerns, including our permanent membership of the UN Security Council and the threat of terror that we face. Slovenia had strongly condemned the terror attacks on Mumbai.

Trade is growing rapidly and quadrupled in five years to cross Euro 245 million last year with a balance in India's favour. We are exporting non-traditional goods to Slovenia. The country also has strengths in sectors like pharmaceuticals, auto components, electrical and engineering services and products. A number of Indian companies are looking at servicing the Central and Southeastern European markets like Austria, Southern Germany, Hungary, Czech and so on through Slovenia. Tata Motors have already entered the Slovenian market in 2009.

To spur the process of economic development we already have an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, a double taxation avoidance agreement, and more agreements are in the pipeline. Slovenia also sees India as a potential source of investments and hence the business team that is traveling with the Prime Minister. We are both interested in widening the scope of cooperation including in areas like science and technology, culture, parliamentary exchanges and so on.

A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is likely to be installed later this year in Slovenia. And as I said, a number of agreements are likely to be signed during the state visit of the Prime Minister of Slovenia.

Let me then quickly turn to the visit of EAM to Astana for the 11th SCO Summit which is to take place on the 14th and the 15th of June. You are aware that India became an Observer in SCO in 2005 and in the very first year then EAM represented India both at the Council of Heads of States and later in the Council of Heads of Governments. Iran and Pakistan became Observers along with India and Mongolia was inducted as an Observer one year earlier in 2004.

We regard SCO as an important regional forum addressing itself to a wide range of issues in our Eurasian region, including security, counterterrorism, narco-trafficking and trans-border organized crime. SCO member states and observers comprise close to 50% of the global population and occupy half of the entire globe. Naturally developments in SCO impact not only the region but are felt far beyond.

SCO was created by Russia, China and four Central Asian countries in 2001. Ever since becoming an Observer in 2005 India has participated actively and constructively taking a forward looking approach to our engagement with this forum. For the first time in 2009, the Prime Minister of India at the invitation of Russia attended the SCO Summit at Yekaterinburg.

SCO brought in Afghanistan as a special invitee in 2005, and every year since then the country has been represented by President Karzai. Given the geographical proximity that SCO countries and observers have with Afghanistan, the situation in the country has been engaging SCO's attention quite regularly.

In 2009 SCO created a new category of dialogue partners and within that rubric invited Belarus and Sri Lanka for the first time at the Yekaterinburg summit. Again in June 2010 at the Tashkent summit, SCO decided to lift the moratorium on expansion of the forum and approved the 'regulations on the procedure for admitting new members in SCO'. It is understood that SCO Secretariat which was established in Beijing in January 2004, is now engaged in working out a model draft on 'memorandum of obligations' which would be applicable to new members.

The SCO Council of Heads of States and Governments meets every year. In addition they also have regular annual meetings at the levels of Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers and Finance Ministers besides the Trade, Transport, and Culture Ministers meetings. Trade, Transport and Cultural Ministers meetings we have begun to attend since 2009 as an Observer.

We have already expressed our willingness to play a larger role in SCO being an integral part of the Eurasian region and enjoying good relations with all SCO member countries. India shares similar concerns and challenges on security, terrorism, narco-traffic as well as in economic development.

Let me pause here. We will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** I would like to know what hopes does India have with the SCO? The problems which could not be resolved earlier, will this meeting of the SCO be particularly able to help resolve? For example, maybe transit from Central Asia of course to India through Afghanistan, Pakistan. What other issues can be only addressed in SCO and no other forum?

**Joint Secretary (ERS) (Shri Ajay Bisaria):** We have a great deal of respect and we value highly the contribution the SCO can make both currently and potentially to solve a all lot of regional issues particularly those of economic development and security. In economic development, as you mentioned, we feel that this organisation can develop the synergies given its membership of the countries in the Central Asian space as well as China and Russia, to talk for instance of transport corridors which address India's connectivity issues with Central Asia. And we feel that addressing these collectively in the SCO Forum can speed up the development of regional projects like transport connectivity and even energy projects, pipelines for instance. This is certainly one potential area where SCO can contribute and the other is security. We feel there is a great deal of potential for counterterrorism cooperation. In the region of the SCO Observers and members lies the epicenter of terrorism, in the Pakistan and the Pakistan-Afghanistan region. Each or most of the countries are afflicted by the terrorism that has been ...(Inaudible)... And we feel that joining hands in counterterrorism is one very very promising area where we can contribute. For instance, we already have the Regional Antiterrorism Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent which the SCO has initiated and where India is a member. So, we feel that that is an area where we can contribute technically towards intelligence sharing as well as developing solutions to counterterrorism. And apart from that, on the security front we also have Afghanistan and the countries most of which fall within the contiguous neighbourhood of Afghanistan are well placed to discuss regional solutions to the Afghanistan problem.

**Question:** Since you said just now that India is ready to play a larger role in the SCO, what do you think are the prospects of India moving from an Observer status to a member status? Is there a possibility of India becoming a member soon?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** As JS(XP) mentioned, watching closely the process that the SCO itself is evolving of its expansion, the last summit in June 2010 in Tashkent basically lifted the moratorium on membership. It announced that it would be declaring the rules of engagement for new members. This summit is expected to spell out the rules of engagement for expansion, what JS(XP) mentioned, a memorandum of obligations that the new applicant state would need to sort of fulfill to become full member. So, this is a process where we have said publicly several times that India stands ready to play a larger role. Essentially it means that we are waiting for the SCO to complete its consideration of its expansion plans. And then we will carefully look at those expansion plans and the kind of obligations it places on members and then we would be happy to play a larger role, should our interests meet.

**Official Spokesperson:** And I can also add that we are of course in touch with the SCO member countries.

**Question:** At the last summit in Tashkent the indication was that in the next few months we would get a clear picture of becoming a member. What has delayed it?

**Official Spokesperson:** As far as I know there was no such signal ---

**Question:** I am sure you were there because you also briefed.

**Official Spokesperson:** I was there and so were you and I remember what we had said. Nobody had put a timeframe on that. Therefore, today we have taken you through the different steps. In 2010 what evolved we have shared with you. And also we have mentioned to you in particular that the SCO Secretariat is working on further details. So, it is a process and a process as you can well appreciate would take the time that it takes.

**Question:** Can you just clarify which are the areas where it is really slowing down the process?

**Official Spokesperson:** I am afraid I do not get that sense at all. It is a process. This is the eleventh year of SCO and the eleventh summit. As it has evolved the role has evolved, the activities have evolved. First they had Observers, then they had a Special Invitee, then they created a group of dialogue partners, and then they decided to lift the moratorium. So, it is curve and a process. But if my colleague would like to add anything?

**Joint Secretary (EA):** I agree with what JS(XP) has said. But just additionally the perspective you need to have is that the way the organization is structured is that its apex decision making body is the Council of Heads of State which is

meeting two days from now. And that is the body that decides. So, essentially the way the decision making is structured is that you make decisions summit to summit. And, therefore, there is an in-built slowness if you will in the whole process because it is only the next summit which will actually possibly admit members. It does not happen intra-summit. But certain processes and discussions would certainly continue.

**Official Spokesperson:** And further to that decisions are taken by consensus. That is where it is.

**Question:** I have a question on Slovenia. If we are in as much synergy as we are supposed to have with Slovenia, why does it take a Prime Minister from there nineteen years to travel here?

**Joint Secretary (CE) (Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison):** Thank you, Nilova for that question, I was trying to get my bit in.

Slovenia itself is twenty years old. In fact it is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Once it had emerged into independence - and it was the first country out of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to emerge into independence in almost entirely nonviolent manner - it was economically the most advanced Republic of the region, and it got membership of EU in 2004. I think that answers your question. From 1992 to 2004, it is a short period within which to complete the requirements of Euro integration. And that was its understandable priority. But do remember that its Foreign Minister visited India within seven days of our recognizing the country and the Prime Minister was invited by us in 2006 and there was some issue which came up internally and since then we have been trying to schedule these visits. So, this scheduling predates the actual date of the visit.

**Official Spokesperson:** And as I said, the President of the country did visit India in February 2010 for attending the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. And we have had regular exchanges at different levels. And also, just to reiterate what Banashri has just mentioned, in 2004 they became a member of EU and in the last five years our trade has shot up 400 per cent. So, things have been moving at a pace which is more than satisfactory.

**Question:** About the SCO and Afghanistan, you said that Afghanistan is abutting most of the countries so there is a risk for them. Do you see any specific role for the SCO in Afghanistan where they can maybe replace the foreign troops that are ...(Inaudible)... leave Afghanistan?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** I would not go as far as that. But the point I made was that for Afghanistan, particularly when one looks at regional solutions, regional

answers or regional approaches to stabilizing the Afghanistan situation, SCO offers one alternative forum. And that is exactly what it looks at itself as. It does not look at itself as a security body. It look sat itself as a platform. Since Afghanistan itself is a member and the members and observers are mostly countries abutting the region including India, we feel that it offers an important platform and this platform has been used particularly by Russia. There was an Afghanistan contact group that the SCO had floated. The Russian Government has floated an SCO discussion forum which is on Afghanistan under the aegis of the SCO which has had a couple of meetings in Moscow. So, at this point it is a platform for discussion on the Afghanistan situation. It is one of the several alternatives that is available.

**Question:** Any important bilateral engagement during the SCO Summit?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** The way the SCO summit is structured, there is a group of Heads of States and Heads of Delegations in a small room. So, there is a lot of informal bilateral interaction that takes place. But there is a formal structured interaction with the President of Kazakhstan which we are expecting to schedule, and possibly one with the President of Kyrghizstan that we might schedule. But these things happen even at the last minute. And there is no clear structured programme to meet other Heads of State, partly because of the lack of time, and each one of the Heads of State is just flying in and flying out of the meetings. So, it is not very ...

**Question:** This is an add-on to Ranjit's question. In those informal that you are talking about, would there be an informal meet with the representatives with China especially in the light of the fact that today there are certain media reports about China trying to divert Brahmaputra river.

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** That is very clever.

**Official Spokesperson:** This very legitimate question has already been answered by Mr. Ajay Bisaria.

**Question:** Do you see a distinct trend ... (Inaudible)... vis-à-vis Arab uprising and particularly India has also a very clear stand?

**Official Spokesperson:** At the moment what we know of the agenda and of the focus of SCO, we have already shared with you. The SCO is basically a forum of four Central Asian countries - Russia, China and the Observers. Their focus is on areas like security, counterterrorism, narco-trafficking, trans-border organized crime and so on. That is the focus. But if the Heads of States want to discuss any other matters, they are the Heads of States.

**Question:** This is a follow-up to the previous question on SCO membership. We know that Pakistan is also lobbying hard to become a full member of SCO. What are our chances compared to that of Pakistan considering that Islamabad unlike us now seems to be getting support both China as well as Russia?

**Official Spokesperson:** We compare ourselves with ourselves only and I can only talk about India's stated interest to play a larger role in the SCO process. Let me also invite your attention to the Joint Media Statement that had been issued in Wuhan after the Tenth RIC Foreign Ministers' Meet in November 2010. I am slightly paraphrasing that, but it noted that the Foreign Ministers of China and Russia welcomed India's constructive participation in SCO as an Observer and attached importance to India's intention to play a larger role in SCO. So that is one of the outcomes of the 10th RIC Foreign Ministers' meeting. The rest we have all shared with you how it has evolved, what our approach is, what our thinking is.

Thank you very much.



**139. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the SCO Heads of State Summit.**

**Astana, June 15, 2011.**

Your Excellency, President Nazarbayev,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government of the Members and Observers of SCO,

Representatives of Dialogue Partners,

Secretary General of the SCO,

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for me to join you in this dazzlingly modern city of Astana, to represent India at the 10th Anniversary Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It was here in 2005 that India participated in the SCO Summit for the first time, after being inducted as an Observer and we are delighted that we celebrate today the 10th Anniversary of the forum in this beautiful city. I would like to begin by thanking the Government and the people of Kazakhstan for their gracious hospitality and warmth.

Excellency, India attaches great importance to our association with the SCO and values the consistent and mature contribution made by the organisation to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. India has demonstrated its strong commitment to the SCO by participating constructively at SCO meetings open to Observers. It is of great importance to us that most SCO member countries are our neighbours or belong to our extended neighbourhood, with a strong historical and cultural legacy of centuries binding us together.

We are impressed that the SCO has taken several significant initiatives in recent years especially in two major areas: in combating terrorism; and in the promotion of economic cooperation in the region. SCO's emphasis on the need for all countries to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, extremism and narcotics is the only meaningful approach to this global menace that threatens us all equally.

Terrorism and extremism show no respect for boundaries. India is only too familiar with this evil, which not just wantonly claims human lives, but threatens the social and economic progress of our societies. India would like to see the SCO zone emerge as a terror-free zone, free of safe havens



and sanctuaries for terrorists and free of infrastructure of terrorism that poisons our common region. Regional counter-terrorism cooperation can indeed play an important role in supporting action taken by individual countries. We see the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) as an important regional answer to the terrorism challenge. We look forward to India's greater engagement with RATS and in counter-terrorism exercises in the region.

SCO has played a constructive and forward-looking role in contributing towards peace in Afghanistan. SCO's discussions on Afghanistan and particularly the recent initiatives by Russia, have all added to our understanding of the difficult situation there and helped us examine regional solutions. India on its part, is doing its best for the reconstruction of Afghanistan to improve the social and economic lives of the friendly people of Afghanistan who have been suffering from conflict for the last almost three decades. We are helping our Afghan friends even at the cost of the lives of our people. India stands committed to the prosperity of the Afghan people and our Prime Minister was in Afghanistan recently to reaffirm India's unwavering commitment to this cause. Afghanistan has the promise of becoming a geo-strategic bridge between Central Asia and South Asia as well as a trade and transit hub with modern infrastructure.

Connectivity between SCO countries is in fact central. One bottleneck to trade and economic activity among the SCO members and observer countries is the lack of viable transport linkages. SCO can address the problem of limited connectivity through regional solutions and break barriers that inhibit trade and investment flows between our countries. India is ready to cooperate with member countries to find viable solutions to this problem and contribute to the endeavour to build bridges between Central and South Asia.

Ten years since its founding, the SCO faces a historic moment. Like other successful multilateral organisations, it must choose the path of its evolution. The draft of the Memorandum of Obligation being discussed by this Summit would pave the way for expansion of the organisation in a natural process of its evolution. India would be happy to play a larger and deeper role in the SCO when the rules and criteria for full membership are clear. We value the role of the SCO in bringing security, stability and development to our region and stand ready to contribute more to the SCO for the common good of the people of our region. We have friendly ties with all the member states and we wish to bring to the table our technical expertise, markets and financial commitment, all of which equip us to fulfil greater responsibilities in this forum.

SCO members and observers could cooperate more in the future on regional and global threats arising out of climate change, environmental security, food security, energy security, particularly non-conventional sources of energy and other emerging issues which require a joint response for sustainable development. India stands ready to make a constructive contribution in these areas.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to once again thank the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the wonderful arrangements. I take this opportunity to wish the people of Kazakhstan continued peace and prosperity in the coming years and congratulate Your Excellency for successfully organising this important Summit.

Thank you.



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - V**

**DIASPORA**

**140. Inaugural speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 9th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.**

**Jaipur, January 8, 2011.**

"I am very happy to join you once again in this wonderful annual homecoming of Pravasi Bharatiyas. I extend a very warm welcome to each one of you.

I extend a very special welcome to His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, the Governor General of New Zealand, who is our honoured Chief Guest this year. He has taken keen interest in revitalising relations between India and New Zealand and has been a source of great encouragement for the expansion of our bilateral relations in all fields. His achievements in the fields of law, jurisprudence, public service and international relations, and his deep knowledge of several languages are a matter of inspiration for the entire overseas Indian community.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of a very accomplished global Indian who is no longer with us - I am referring to Professor CK Prahalad, one of the foremost management gurus of our time. We will sorely miss his vast knowledge and experience in the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians and other bodies where he made valuable contributions to the evolution of public policies particularly directed at raising the living standards for the poorest section of our community. We honour Professor CK Prahalad by dedicating the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Oration to his memory this year.

The year gone by has been a busy year for Indian diplomacy. We had the honour of receiving leaders from all countries which are permanent members of the UN Security Council in India. The world expects India to play a more important role in the management of global polity and economy. India's rise as an emerging nation is welcomed as a positive factor in international relations. Our contributions whether in the G 20 or in the Climate Change conference held recently in Cancun were noteworthy and derived from our unique experience of tackling the challenge of developmental challenges, our emphasis on values and our tradition of building consensus among different sections and interests.

We have this year become a member of the United Nations Security Council for a period of two years. We will play our due and commensurate role in international bodies and we will seek to promote what is good for India and good for the world at large.

Last year I had the opportunity of visiting many countries with large Indian communities, to renew our contacts and bonds of affections. I visited Saudi

Arabia, Canada and Malaysia. In Malaysia I had the privilege of inaugurating the Little India district in Kuala Lumpur with Prime Minister Dr. Najib.

It was a very emotional experience for me. It was a symbolic acknowledgement of the contributions that have been made by many other 'little Indias' to local communities across the world. I felt very proud when leaders of these countries praised and appreciated the role of Indian communities in their nation building efforts and processes.

India's soft power is an increasingly important element in our expanding global footprint. This is a matter which came up yesterday in Prime Minister's Advisory Council and several distinguished members led emphasis on the more effective use of India's soft power. The richness of India's classical traditions and the colour and vibrancy of contemporary Indian culture are making waves around the world. The Government of India has decided to establish new Indian cultural centres in US, Canada, Saudi Arabia, France and Australia. I urge the Indian communities in these countries to support and patronise these centres so that they become effective instruments for projecting the diversity and splendour of composite Indian culture.

The welfare of the large number of workers that emigrate from India is a matter of special concern to us. To improve the conditions for migration overseas we have signed Social Security Agreements with twelve countries and finalised Labour Mobility Partnerships with two others. We are negotiating a generic arrangement with the European Union. As a further measure we have now extended the facility of the Indian Community Welfare Fund to all Indian Missions. I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of my colleague Mr. Vayalar Ravi in this matter.

Our Government had introduced the Overseas Citizen of India card and the People of Indian Origin card to facilitate visa-free travel to India as well as to provide the rights of residency and participation in business and educational activities in India. We have recently reviewed the functioning of these schemes, and have decided to merge the OCI and PIO cards into a single facility. We hope to iron out some of the problems that have arisen in the implementation of these schemes.

This year the North Eastern States of India are the partner States for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. I represent the beautiful state Assam in Parliament and I know what boundless potential the North Eastern region has to contribute to our nation building given the right opportunities. Providing gainful employment opportunities for the youth is a real challenge. I encourage the diaspora to join hands with local and national efforts to accelerate the pace of development of this region.

I am glad that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is planning to initiate a 'skills initiative' for overseas employment of people from the North Eastern region. Towards this end, we will identify an Institute of Excellence to promote technical skills in the region in the areas of hospitality and healthcare.

Since we met last year, we have enacted a law which has accorded Non-Resident citizens the right to register themselves in the electoral rolls of their constituencies. Our government is framing appropriate procedures to give effect to this new legal provision which will give NRIs their legitimate right to participate in the country's electoral processes. I have no doubt that their participation will be welcomed by the constituencies in which you do participate. They will bring a breath of global fresh air to our politics, I sincerely hope.

Despite the uncertain global economic scenario, I am happy that our economic recovery is progressing very well. In the last two quarters, our growth rate of Indian economy has been 8.9% and we expect that for the entire year it will be around 8.5%. We expect that from the next year onwards we will be able to grow at a rate between 9 and 10%. This growth is vital to fund our ambitious social development programmes and create employment opportunities for our young population. I will also create new bonds of interactions and connectivity between India and the overseas Indian communities.

We are examining seriously how to make systemic changes that ensure more transparent procedures and safeguards in our governance processes. I believe our democracy is sturdy, vibrant and has their own inbuilt mechanisms for redressal and course correction. We need to build consensus on far-reaching changes that may be required in processes of governance and in our legal or electoral systems. We are determined to work sincerely towards this end.

I believe that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has become an important event in our calendars because in this era of globalisation and instant and constant connectivity a new bond has been established between India and her own children who live around the world. It is a new bond based on our pride in the achievements of people of Indian origin worldwide and their pride in India's re-emergence as a cradle of creativity adventure and enterprise.

These interactions have enabled you to discover a new India and feel enthused by our progress. When you see the knowledge explosion in Bangalore, the entrepreneurial vibrancy of Gujarat, the creativity of Tamil cinema, the awakening of a new India, you feel proud to say you are a person of Indian origin.

Similarly, there is today great appreciation in India of the impressive achievements of the people of Indian origin around the world. Your hard work, your creativity inspire us.

I do sincerely believe the coming of age of the Pravasi Bharatiya has enabled the international community to recognise that India and the people of Indian origin have a new message for the world at large.

India has a message for the world. It is the message of pluralism, of tolerance, of the balance between individual rights and collective responsibilities. It is this message that every daughter and son of this great Mother Land of ours symbolises. Each one of you - living in different countries, different faiths, different languages, different beliefs - are a symbol of that great idea of "unity in diversity" that India represents.

Yesterday, at the meeting of the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians, I was struck by how many of the distinguished members spoke about education and health care and what more India should be doing to develop Indian brain power. I think it would not be an exaggeration to say that the sterling achievements of our diaspora represent a triumph of the value that Indian culture places on education. We hope to use the wisdom, experience and resources of the global Indian community to develop a world class education system, particularly in the field of higher education.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I am very happy to inaugurate today the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra which we hope will become a focal point for interaction, for exchange, for facilitation and for advocacy for the NRI community.

With these words, I wish you success, prosperity and fulfillment in all your endeavours in the year ahead."



**141. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Valedictory session of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.**

**Jaipur, January 9, 2011.**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today from all parts of the world to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, on this 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the homecoming of Mahatma Gandhi back to Indian shores. He returned to India, providing leadership to our freedom struggle and inspiring a whole generation of Indians to follow his path of Non-Violence, and to adhere to the highest values of truth, integrity and respect for all. Gandhiji's thinking had a tremendous impact in India and globally, making him one of the greatest personalities of our times. I am happy to know that Ela Gandhi, the grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi has also participated in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi. This gathering of "Global Indians" should pledge to work actively for upholding Gandhian philosophy and values, which will promote peace and understanding so essential in the world today.

We are especially honoured to have with us the Governor General of New Zealand, His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand. We are proud of his achievements and I thank him for being with us today. I have had the opportunity to interact with him on two earlier occasions, when he paid a State Visit to India in September 2008, and when he came here during the Commonwealth Games. In discussions about Gandhiji, he mentioned that a statue of Gandhiji has been installed in a prominent location in Wellington. Indeed, Gandhiji's statues have been established in many countries across the world. He belongs to the whole world. His birthday is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence, as he was a true apostle of peace.

India has had a long and ancient history of contacts with the outside world. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, like Gandhiji, many Indians who went overseas followed the imprint of the British Empire. After India became independent in 1947, Indian emigrants settled in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific, or closer home in the Gulf. At the same time, like Gandhiji, they have carried with them and nurtured Indian traditions and values wherever they have settled. Overseas Indians have shown outstanding capabilities in professional, academic, social, cultural and political fields. They are known for determination in the face of adversity, fortitude in difficult circumstances, and the spirit of never giving up. They have thus endeared themselves to their fellow citizens in their adopted home countries.

We are gathered here today not only because we share common bonds of ethnicity, language, culture and tradition, but also because we are part of a



global village - a society and an economy in which, as it rapidly changes due to technological advances, we all have to constantly redefine our roles and positions, while at the same time retain our central values and rich heritage. There are indeed, very few conventions of the kind that we have here today, in which the delegates are so diverse, and yet have so much in common. Looking into the future, we must identify the interests that will continue to hold us together, and explore the common activities that will benefit all of us.

I am informed that deliberations held over these three days of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention have dwelt on many issues pertaining to the growth and development of India. At the same time, issues pertaining to the welfare and interests of the Indian diaspora have been discussed. Our attempt is to engage with the Indian community overseas in a mutually beneficial manner, in all spheres of life and nation building.

We have a gigantic task of nation building that lies ahead of us. Government of India is focusing on rapidly expanding the coverage and improving the quality of education, health services and infrastructure, combined with conserving and improving the environment and maintaining macro-economic stability. As India grows rapidly, it holds out immense opportunities to the world.

Our economy has been robust in the recent turbulent times, because of the contribution of services and manufacturing sectors, as also of the traditional sectors including, agriculture, animal husbandry and informal services. Government's efforts at reducing poverty, imparting schooling and skills, improving health and habitats, and increasing participation of women and socially disadvantaged groups in economic activity, can only succeed with the help and co-operation of private initiatives and civil society.

The seminars and interactions you have participated on topics pertaining to education, health, and inclusive growth, would have brought to your attention, the increasingly large number of successful initiatives in the social development sector in India, as well as policies and institutions put in place by Government to facilitate public - private partnerships. Last year, I had mentioned that Overseas Indians have come to be recognised as the "Knowledge Diaspora". Your expertise and skills will be a vital resource for India's efforts to forge inclusive growth for all its citizens. Your immense capacity in talent, skills, experience and finances are known to all. I hope that we will see a rapid increase in the number, size and scope of developmental activities in India by overseas Indians. I am sure that we will also see these initiatives evolving into more comprehensive and long-term projects that will have a significant positive impact on many lives. We would like to measure such projects not in terms of the money spent on them, but in terms of the humans touched and improved by

them. Therefore, I call upon each and every one of you to participate to the best of your ability, in at least one endeavour in India for building a better future for the disadvantaged sections of society. Your contribution in the health and education sectors, in efforts to make India slum-free, as well as your participation in infrastructure development projects would be most welcome.

For close interaction with Overseas Indians, we now have made it a practice to hold a regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas every year in one of the countries which have a significant number of Indians. The last such regional convention was held at Durban, South Africa, on 1st and 2nd October 2010. It was attended by about 500 delegates from 12 countries in Africa and was graced by President Jacob Zuma of South Africa. The next meeting will be held in Toronto this year.

I congratulate Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, for initiatives that have benefited our Diaspora overseas and especially the workers. Just of couple of months ago, I had the occasion to inaugurate the first Indian Workers Resource Centre at Dubai. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has also piloted the efforts of the Government of India to provide voting rights for Non Resident Indians. It has taken steps to set up a Memorial for Indentured Workers at Kolkata Port. This memorial marks the indomitable spirit of Indian emigrants, reminding me of a quotation by Rabindra Nath Tagore:-

“Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be fearless when facing them”.

I would like to appreciate the work and the outstanding qualities of individuals and institutions that have been conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards this year. I wish all present here success in their endeavours, as well as a happy and a prosperous New Year.

Thank You



**142. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community function.**

**Melbourne, January 20, 2011.**

Please see Document No.332.



**143. Suo Motu Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Parliament on the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of External Affairs to assist Indians entrapped in crisis situations abroad.**

**New Delhi, February 23, 2011.**

I rise to share with the House information on the efforts undertaken by my Ministry to assist Indians entrapped in recent crisis situations abroad.

The Hon'ble Members of Parliament are aware of the recent changes in Egypt. Upon request of the Indian community, three special flights were arranged by Air India, which carried around 670 Indians from Cairo to Mumbai. This was not 'evacuation' and Government only facilitated arrangement of the special flights of Air India to Cairo which brought back Indians desirous of returning to India.

Libya, Yemen and Bahrain are witnessing violent political protests. In these countries, there is a significant Indian community most of whom have gone there to earn their livelihood and have been contributing to the growth and development of the host country. The Governments of these countries have also acknowledged this fact.

In Libya, there are around 18,000 Indians; 14,000 in Yemen and in Bahrain, the number is over 350,000 who are reportedly safe. Our embassies have been in close and regular contact with the Indian community.

I have personally spoken to our Ambassadors in these countries and conveyed that all measures should be taken for the safety and welfare of our nationals there. The Ministry of External Affairs and the Embassies have set up round the clock helplines.

We also held inter-Ministerial meetings to take stock of the situation in the region and its impact on Indian and Indian origin community in the region and contingency plans required for them. We have also put in place plans for possible evacuation by land, air and sea from Libya. We have also issued travel advisories for our nationals to avoid non-essential travel to Bahrain, Yemen and Libya.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation in these countries.

On the issue of safety and security of Indian fishermen in waters between India and Sri Lanka, allow me to reiterate, at the outset, that the welfare, safety and security of our fishermen have always received the highest priority by Government.

Hon'ble Members are aware of the two tragic incidents in January this year in the waters between India and Sri Lanka, which resulted in the death of two of our fishermen. The first fisherman was killed after being allegedly fired at by the Sri Lankan Navy and the second died after being allegedly strangled on the seas.

As soon as the news of the deaths of our fishermen was received, the Government had immediately taken up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka both in New Delhi as well as in Colombo. Expressing our deep concern at these incidents, we emphasized that resort to firing or use of force in such situations had no justification. We requested the Sri Lankan Government to seriously investigate these incidents and ensure that they do not recur. We also emphasized that they should scrupulously adhere to the October 2008 Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements in letter and spirit.

To underline the seriousness with which Government viewed these developments, Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka from January 30-31, 2011, to convey Government's strong concern over the killing of our fishermen. She also called on His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa. A Joint Statement was issued during her visit where both sides agreed that the use of force cannot be justified under any circumstances. The Sri Lankan Government reiterated their commitment to ascertaining the facts behind the incidents though they denied any responsibility in the two incidents of death of our fishermen. Both sides agreed that the October 2008 Understanding on Fishing Arrangements had led to a decrease in incidents and that there was need to discuss further arrangements so as to strengthen the safety and security of the fishermen. It was decided that the next meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fishing would be convened at an early date and contacts between the fishermen associations on both sides would be encouraged.

I had also taken up these issues strongly with the Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris when I met him on 7th February 2011 on the margins of the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Thimphu, Bhutan. I not only conveyed our deep concern at the violence against our fishermen but had also stressed the need to ensure that these incidents do not recur.

Hon'ble Members would also be aware that in two recent but separate incidents this month, a total of 136 Indian fishermen were surrounded by Sri Lankan fishermen at sea, apprehended and handed over to Sri Lankan Police. Our fishermen had strayed into Sri Lankan waters close to Jaffna and Point Pedro. Some of our fishermen were injured in the skirmish at sea.

On receiving the news of the arrests, Government took up the matter immediately with the Sri Lankan Government. I personally spoke to my Sri

Lankan counterpart on 17th February and conveyed our deep concern at Sri Lankan nationals taking law into their own hands. I requested for their immediate release. In response to my request, the Government of Sri Lanka released the fishermen on 18th February.

I would also like to point out to this august House that almost all instances of arrests and harassment to our fishermen seems to have occurred in Sri Lankan waters, when our fishermen stray across the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). While this by itself does not provide any justification for use of force against our fishermen, we need to be conscious of the sensitivities on the Sri Lankan side and of the many Sri Lankan fishermen who have, after a long hiatus, started fishing in that area.

In fact, it is keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of this issue, that the two Governments on 26th October 2008 had issued a Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements under which both agreed to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide fishermen from either country crossing the IMBL. It was agreed that there will be no firing on Indian fishing vessels. While the incidents in 2011 have no doubt caused much consternation and concern in India, it is also pertinent to point out that after October 2008, there has been a significant decrease in 2009 and 2010 in apprehension of Indian fishermen and use of force against them in 2009 and 2010.

Both our countries have agreed that the Joint Working Group on Fisheries will meet in March this year. We would also encourage the fishing associations of both countries to continue with their informal contacts since such contacts have proved to be mutually beneficial. I hope that, in the days to come, our countries move forward to ensure that our fishermen can fish with safety and security.

Hon'ble Members would be aware that the US Government closed last month Tri-Valley University in California for alleged immigration fraud and other irregularities. The university was authorised in February 2009 to admit a limited number of foreign students, but did not enjoy state accreditation. Approximately 1500 Indian students, constituting 95% of the enrolment at the University, face an uncertain academic future. The students were on valid visas or authorization.

US authorities questioned a number of Indian students and 18 of them were initially detained and then released with radio monitoring devices on their ankles, pending completion of the investigations for possible involvement in the irregularities.

The Government, as well as our Embassy and Consulate Generals in the United States, are fully engaged in addressing the welfare and the academic future of the affected students. I have personally raised this issue with the US Secretary

of State Hillary Clinton. Foreign Secretary also conveyed our concern to US officials during her recent visit to the United States. While we recognise the right of every government to investigate and prosecute fraud, we have asked the US Government that the students, who are themselves victims of fraud, should be given adequate time and opportunity to transfer to other universities or adjust their status and, if they desire, return to India honourably. We have also strongly protested the radio collars as unacceptable, which should be removed immediately.

Despite the fact that a significant number of students at the university were dispersed across the United States and had not registered their contact details with the Indian Mission, our Embassy and Consulates were able to contact a large number of students and have provided all possible assistance to them, including through direct meetings with them, by organising a free legal aid camp and issuing appropriate guidance and advisories.

The US authorities have begun progressively removing the radio tags and have assured us that innocent students would have adequate opportunity to readjust their status or transfer to other US universities.

The Government expects that the United States would take steps to prevent such universities from exploiting foreign students. Government would also advise Indian students to exercise due diligence in applying to foreign universities.

I am confident that this unfortunate development will not affect the excellent cooperation between India and the United States in higher education, which includes the presence of over 100,000 Indian students at US universities, who enjoy a strong reputation for academic accomplishments and responsible conduct.

Thank you.



**144. Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indians on the Fourth Ministerial Consultation of Colombo Process.**

**Dhaka, April 20, 2011.**

The Overseas Indian Affairs Minister, Shri Vayalar Ravi said that Indian Government has taken significant initiatives for the protection and welfare of Indian migrant workers. These include, revamping emigration rules to facilitate movement for overseas workers, with stringent penal provisions for unscrupulous agents and those aiding and abetting irregular migration. A fully computerized web-based emigration clearance system has also been installed to integrate all stakeholders in the migration process for a smooth transparent and orderly management of labour migration.

Addressing the Fourth Ministerial Consultation of Colombo Process in Dhaka today, Shri Ravi said that India will extend all cooperation for a dynamic and productive outcome to the ensuing deliberations for the adoption of the two important documents, namely, the Operating Modalities and the Dhaka Declaration, which envisage greater cooperation among the Member States to address common issues affecting migrant workers. He said that the member countries must work to establish a credible and effective joint consultative mechanism with the employers as well as between diplomatic missions and local governments for grievance redressal. As home to 58% of the current population, Asia must have a major say in any discussion on Globalization and Migration. He said that in the Colombo Process itself represent not only very large populations but also countries that are and will provide a large number of workers to global markets in future. There is a need to recognize through collective cooperation of all the Colombo Process Member States and the established consultation processes with the destination countries, that we would be able to ameliorate the conditions of our overseas workers and to realise the theme of 'migration with dignity'.

In his address, the Minister listed five key areas of regional cooperation for this Ministerial Consultation's consideration, namely,

- A model contract,
- Domestic and informal sector workers and their special needs,
- Harmonizing instruments of legal entry of workers,
- Exchange of labour-related information between sending and destination countries and
- Cooperation on grievance redressal mechanisms.

He said the overseas worker in domestic and informal sector constitutes the most vulnerable section of emigrant population. There is a need to strengthen the mechanisms of coordination and cooperation with the Governments of the destination countries to give them the requisite social and economic protection. Given fluctuations in currencies and continued increases in cost of living, in most countries the real wage is way below the cost of living. There is need to consider the concept of the accepted international norm of linking the wage structure to the cost of living index.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by the Indian Government for the protection and welfare of Indian migrant workers, Shri Ravi said that an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in New Delhi, equipped with a 24-hour toll-free helpline that provides information, and grievance redressal mechanisms to migrant workers and their families. The helpline operates in several regional languages of India besides international lines for callers from UAE. The Indian Government has also provided on-site support and information to its overseas workers, through the establishment of special centres in destination countries, a recent one having been established in Dubai called the Indian Workers Resource Centre. He said that the Indian Government, in cooperation with Government of UAE, is initiating a web-based attestation of contracts to be made mandatory for all workers, especially women care-givers and workers in the unskilled category. He further said that the Indian Community Welfare Fund in all our missions abroad have been established to provide on-site help and assistance on a means tested basis to overseas workers and migrants in distress. The Indian government has also entered into agreements, including social security agreements, with almost all major destination countries in the Gulf and Europe for the protection and welfare of our overseas workers.

The Colombo Process was established in 2003, as a Regional consultative process on management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia. It has expanded its collaboration with labour destination countries through bilateral talks and meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in January 2008 and the Asia-EU Dialogue later in the same year. It has eleven members, who are meeting in Dhaka to review past activities and chart the future roadmap through the adoption of 'Operating modalities' and a 'Ministerial Declaration'.





**145. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community Function.**

**Kuala Lumpur, May 2, 2011.**

Please see Document No.391.



**146. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Indian Community Function in Addis Ababa**

**Addis Ababa, May 26, 2011.**

Please see Document No.505.



**147. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Reception for the Indian Community at in Dar es Salaam.**

**Dar-es-Salaam, May 26, 2011.**

Please see Document No.546.



**148. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception.**

**Seoul, July 26, 2011.**

Please see Document No.386.



**149. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception hosted by the Indian Ambassador for the Indian Community and Friends of India.**

**Ulaanbaatar, July 27, 2011.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here in Mongolia, the land of the “Blue Skies”, and for the opportunity to interact with Indian friends of Mongolia and Mongolian friends of India. At the outset I would like to place on record the important role the small Indian community in Mongolia is playing in carrying forward our bilateral relations step-by-step on a daily basis. You represent the face, spirit and soul of India in Mongolia. At the same time, I would like to pay tribute to the Mongolian friends of India, who have opened their hearts to my country and the people of India. You are the present day torch-bearers of this age-old relationship between our peoples and our two countries.

I look forward to my meetings with the leadership of Mongolia to discuss the current status, and the future prospects of our multifaceted partnership, which naturally is to our mutual benefit. We are determined to preserve what we have; yet move on towards co-operation in new areas of partnership. India will focus on the ways and means to impart more economic content to our relationship and to see how India can play a more dynamic role in the core strengths of the Mongolian economy for example in coal and steel.

We are proud to see that Mongolia cherishes and upholds its democratic credentials, sending a loud and clear message to the region and the world beyond, that democracy is the ideal platform to provide for the welfare of its citizens. I congratulate Mongolia for assuming the Chair of the Community of Democracies. As a Parliamentary democracy, India assures Mongolia of all support as it provides leadership to this group. As two sister democracies we have a lot in common, and a lot to share with the world.

An old Mongol proverb says “Supreme treasure is knowledge”. This sentiment appropriately marks our centuries old traditional relationship, which has been a transaction of ideas primarily through the vehicle of Buddhism in the past. Here, I recall one such great son of India who was much revered in Mongolia. The Kashmiri monk Namu and his brother came to Mongolia during the reign of ýygedie Khan in the early decades of the 13th Century AD. Later, he was appointed as Guo-shi the State preceptor, or what we know in India as Rajguru. He was given a jade seal to administer Buddhist affairs. He was much honored at the Mongolian court.

In a more contemporary context, we seek to connect with Mongolia through what I call the 3 Es i.e. Enterprise, Economics and Education. In today's milieu, I see a responsibility for all assembled here, as you are the people who interact on a regular basis and propel India-Mongolia relations. You are the vehicle, the via-media to take the relationship forward, to provide the relationship content, substance and meaning. I congratulate all of you for the initiative you have taken to organize yourself as part of the 'India Club'. I am sure that with concerted action, your efforts in fostering close and friendly India-Mongolia relations will go a long way. My Government, through the Embassy of India in Mongolia, is happy to provide all possible assistance, to see the success of your efforts to promote our bilateral relationship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Indian economy has recorded high rates of growth on a sustained basis since our process of economic reforms began. India is among the most attractive destinations globally for doing business. Several Indian companies have expanded their global presence in various sectors across the world, including here in Mongolia. One of the important tasks in which all of us are engaged, is to see how the economic dynamism of India, and Asia in general, can be harnessed to benefit our peoples and raise their living standards. It is in this context that I see the future of India-Mongolia relations. By cooperation and sharing, we can leverage our strengths and capabilities and provide opportunities to our peoples to realize their true potential.

Before I end, may I say that I am confident that my visit will provide additional impetus and momentum, towards expanding the scope of our ever expanding bilateral co-operation. I am certain that my compatriots in Mongolia will also serve as Ambassadors of India, and pursue excellence in whatever field they choose to, and be a source of pride for India and benefit to Mongolia. I also thank our friends from Mongolia for their abiding friendship and goodwill towards India, and I would like to assure them that we in India fully and substantively reciprocate your sentiments.

To all of you present today and your families, I convey my good wishes. I would urge that each one of you continue to work hard, as you have done so far, towards preserving, nurturing, promoting and strengthening the enduring friendship that exists between India and Mongolia.

Long live India-Mongolia friendship.

Thank you.



**UAE**

- 150. Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indians regarding the signing of the India – UAE revised Memorandum of Understanding on Manpower.**

**New Delhi, September 13, 2011.**

Please see Document No.472.



- 151. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by Ambassador of India.**

**Geneva, October 2, 1011.**

Please see Document No.643.



- 152. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception hosted by Ambassador Dinkar Khullar for the Indian community.**

**Vienna, October 5, 2011.**

Please see Document No.594.



**153. Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the signing of India – Germany Social Security Agreement.**

**New Delhi, October 13, 2011.**

A comprehensive Social Security Agreement (SSA) was signed by the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Civil Aviation, Shri Vayalar Ravi and the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany, Dr. Ursula von der Leyen in Berlin. The Agreement which subsume the earlier Indo-German agreement on Social Security on 8th October 2008 will enhance cooperation on social security between the two countries. The Agreement with Germany will provide for the following benefits to Indian nationals working in Germany:

- a) For short term contract up to five years, no social security contribution would need to be paid under the German law by the detached workers provided they continue to make social security payment in India.
- b) The above benefits shall be available even when the Indian company sends its employees to Germany from a third country.
- c) Indian workers shall be entitled to the export of the social security benefit if they relocate to India after the completion of their service in Germany.
- d) The self-employed Indians in Germany would also be entitled to export of social security benefit on their relocation to India.
- e) The period of contribution in one contracting state will be added to the period of contribution in the second contracting state for determining the eligibility for social security benefits.

This is the 60th year of diplomatic relationship between India and Germany. There are about 68,500 Indians in Germany most of whom are working as professionals and self-employed. During the visit of German Chancellor to India in May 2011, both India and Germany reaffirmed that the bilateral trade should reach US\$ 20 billion by 2012. There is a huge potential for Indian for Indian workers to take employment in Germany. As such, a bilateral Social Security Agreement with Germany is a significant requirement from the futuristic point of view to take advantage of the emerging employment opportunities and to strengthen the trade and investment between the two countries.

India has signed similar agreements with Belgium, Germany (Social Insurance for detached workers), France, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Hungary, Denmark, Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea and Norway.



**154. Press Release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on the signing of Treaties on Security Cooperation and Exchange of Sentenced Persons between India and UAE.**

**New Delhi, November 23, 2011.**

Please see Document No.471.



**155. Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs making a Year-End-Review of the several Social Security and Labour Agreements signed for Welfare of Overseas Indians.**

**New Delhi, December 30, 2011.**

2011 was an eventful year for Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with several Labour and Social Security agreements signed with foreign countries for protection and betterment of Indian workers and professionals. An equally large number of initiatives were taken for constructive and mutually beneficial engagement with the Indian Diaspora. Some highlights are given below.

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has entered into Bilateral Labour Agreements with UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Malaysia. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has taken several initiatives for safeguarding the welfare and protection of Indian workers going abroad. The Bilateral Labour Agreements include (i) Establishment of Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in the Indian Missions to provide immediate relief to the Indian workers in need and distress, (ii) Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) at New Delhi. This centre has 24x7 helpline and walk-in counseling centre to provide information and to handle workers problems. This centre uses 8 Indian languages and has a toll free number. (iii) Bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSA) for protection of the interests of Indian professionals going abroad and (iv) Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) at Dubai for providing information to the Indian workers and to handle their problems.

A revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on manpower was signed in September 2011. The MoU will strengthen the symbiotic relationship and mutual cooperation between the two countries. The revised MoU will boost the initiative of the Ministry in implementing Web Based Attestation Procedure for

employment contracts for emigrant workers in UAE by the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi. A need has been felt over the years to revise the MoU, which was signed between India and the UAE in December, 2006 to address various problems faced by the Indian emigrant workers in the UAE. The MoU in the field of manpower between India and the UAE provides (i) Facilitation of the recruitment of Indian manpower for working in the UAE (ii) Broad procedure for employment of workers; Responsibilities of the employers and workers (iii) Exchange of knowledge and experience in job-creation and generation of employment opportunity iv) Protection and welfare of workers under the labour laws and regulations of the host country (v) Authentication of the work contract between the Employer and the employee by the Ministry of Labour, Government of UAE (Vi) and (vii) Constitution of a Joint Committee comprising of at least three Members each from both the Governments to implement the provisions of the MoU.

The Ministry has concluded the Social Security Agreements (SSA) with Belgium, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Denmark. A comprehensive SSA was signed with Germany at Berlin in October, 2011. The SSA between India and France came into force with effect from 01.07.2011 and the SSA between India and Luxembourg came into force with effect from 1st June, 2011. The administrative Arrangement of the SSA between India and the Republic of Korea was signed at Seoul in July this year. A Norwegian Delegation and a Japanese delegation visited New Delhi this year for finalization of forms of the SSA. Countries with which India has already signed SSA but the agreements have not come into force due to finalization of forms being under process are; Netherlands, Hungary, Czech Republic, Norway. The Government is in negotiations on Social Security Agreements with Portugal, Canada, Finland, Austria, Sweden, Australia and Japan. The bilateral Social Security Agreements protect the interests of Indian professionals by providing following benefits:

Exemption from social security contribution for the posted (detached) workers (provided the worker is covered under the Indian social security system and continues to pay his contribution to the Indian system during the period of contract).

Totalization of the periods of contribution pertaining to both countries for the purpose of assessing eligibility for benefit/pension under the legislation of each country.

Social Security Agreements provides for pension and insurance benefits to Indian workers working abroad in the countries with whom India has entered into an SSA.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention is the flagship event of the Ministry

organized every year in January since 2003, with a view to connect India to its vast Indian diaspora and bringing their knowledge, expertise and skills on a common platform. The 9th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention was held in New Delhi from 7th to 9th January, 2011. The Convention was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and the valedictory address was delivered by the President. The President also conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to the eminent Overseas Indians. The theme of the event was "Engaging the Global Indian". Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand was the Chief Guest for 9th PBD.

The fifth Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) was held in Toronto from 9th and 10th June 2011 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The theme of the Conference was "Building bridges: Positioning strategies for the Indian diaspora".

The Ground-breaking ceremony of the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) was held in April 2011 and the construction work of building has been commenced. The PBK will be the prominent centre for Overseas Indians. It will serve as the focal point of the institutional framework to benefit from networks with and among overseas Indians. The Kendra will develop into the hub of activities for sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding economic, social and cultural engagement between India and its Diaspora. The Kendra would have the facilities such as library/research centre, flexible capacity meeting rooms, Indian Cultural Centre, art auditorium and fully fledged business centres etc. The PBK will be established on three plots of lands, measuring about 9800 sq. mts. at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

A Memorial plaque in honour of Indian Indentured Labourers was unveiled at Kidderpore Dock, Kolkata Port to commemorate the thousands of indentured Indian workers who sailed from Kolkata Port between 1834 and 1920, to lands far away, seeking better livelihoods for themselves and their families. This memorial symbolizes the deep emotional connect the descendants of those Indians, who are now living in different countries of the world. During the indenture system, which lasted from 1833 to 1920, more than 1,190,000 Indians were sent to work to different parts of the world. About 453,000 went to Mauritius, 239,000 to British Guiana, 144,000 to Trinidad and 152,000 to Natal, South Africa. This is the first ever Memorial established in India in honour of Indian Indentured Labourers that travelled from India in the 19th & 20th centuries. The Kolkata Memorial recognizes and honours the indomitable spirit and heroism of all Indians who left the shores of their motherland from 1833 to 1920 to embark a long and hazardous journeys to far away

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs announced to implement a web-based attestation procedure for the benefit of Indian workers going to the UAE for



employment. The Web Based Attestation Procedure will include registration of employers, online filing of the demand, online receipt of documents from Indian Missions, filing of details of employees selected and finally the Emigration Clearance of the Protector of Emigrants (POE). This system will provide access to all data/information related to the recruitment of Indian Emigrant Workers in the country of destination to the Indian Mission, the employer, the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) and the Protector of Emigrants (POE). Thus, the system will provide a data bank of the employer, the Indian worker, contract validation, control on recruitment and grievance redressal and the resolution of labour disputes.

The 6th Annual Conference of the Head of Missions was held in New Delhi. Heads of Indian Missions of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as Jordan, Yemen, Malaysia, Maldives, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa and Iraq attended the conference. The Agenda of the Conference was, the new initiatives in the Emigration Policy being framed by the Ministry, review of various welfare measures at the Mission level, strengthening Grievance Redressal Mechanism at the Mission level, follow up on the Joint Working Group meetings' decisions, pursuant to labour MoUs with five GCC countries etc. The two day Conference was an important institutional initiative to discuss various issues and problems relating to the Overseas Indian Community, especially the expatriate workers and to further develop an institutional framework and operational mechanism to effectively address the concerns of Overseas Indians.

The 4th Consultation Meeting with State Governments on Emigration Management held in New Delhi. The two-day consultation meeting is being organized to discuss various emigration and Diaspora related matters and how best the Ministry can partner with the State Governments to provide required support and guidance in effectively addressing the concerns of Overseas Indians. The aim of this consultation meeting was to take this engagement of the States to the next level in Emigration Management. This meeting is an important initiative of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) for providing a platform for the State Governments to make suggestions and recommendations to the Government of India in the matter of emigration and overseas Indians.

35 participants from 12 countries (Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, New Zealand, Peru, Suriname, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, UK and Zimbabwe) participated in the 16th Know India Programme from 5th- 26th January 2011. A group of 24 diaspora youth from seven countries attended 17th Know India Programme (KIP) from 28th April to 18th May, 2011. The Programme was conducted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The 18th Know India

Programme (KIP) of this Ministry held from 21st September, 2011 to 11th October, 2011 with partner State of Rajasthan. 28 Diaspora Youth in the age group of 18-26 years (12 girls and 16 boys) from six countries (Australia, Fiji, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Malaysia) took part in the programme.

The Know India Programme, by the Ministry of Overseas Indian affairs is organized for diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-26 years is conducted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The programme is held in partnership with one or two State Governments with a view to promoting awareness on the different facets of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science & technology, communication and information technology and culture.





# **INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS-2011**

## **SECTION-VI**

### **ASIA**

- (i) ASIA**
- (ii) SOUTH ASIA**
- (iii) SOUTH EAST & EAST ASIA AND  
PACIFIC**
- (iv) WEST & CENTRAL ASIA**

**(i) ASIA**

**156. Speech of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee delivered at the Governors' Seminar on "ASIA - 2050" at the Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank.**

**Hanoi, May 4, 2011.**

"I would like to congratulate the ADB for its timely study on ASIA 2050. Asia has experienced high economic growth over the past few decades, and emerged as the lynchpin of the global recovery. With Asia firmly leading the global economy out of the morass of the crisis, the fulcrum of economic power is surely tilting towards Asia. The study rightly points out that despite its blistering pace of growth, Asia is not on the autopilot mode and in fact would require careful steering to realize the goal of a prosperous Asia which will not only make lives of Asians better but augur well for world economic growth.

Permit me to present some views on what needs to be done to make the Asian century a reality.

First and foremost, I believe that if Asia has to reach the level of an affluent region, achieving broad-based, inclusive and sustained growth would be a paramount necessity. Inclusive growth is critical for a sustained assault on poverty and for containing inequality. If we fail to achieve inclusive growth, we will end up with islands of prosperity within a largely poor Asia. Equally, important is the quality of growth. Asian countries should aim to transform their economies into knowledge- and skill-based economies over the next 40 years to ensure high sustained growth.

The second point is meeting the challenge of the region's food and energy needs. Over the next four decades, as Asia grows, its demographic foot print will be much larger. Asia with an estimated population of 5.1 billion would account for 56 per cent of the world population and 65 per cent of the population of the developing world in 2050. Even today there are 1 billion people, majority of them Asians, who live below the poverty line and face chronic undernourishment. Lifting them out of poverty and feeding the extra mouths will require increasing cereal production by over 70 per cent. Moreover, with increase in prosperity and changing consumption pattern, the demand for food will increase. We need to step up the pace of agriculture growth and achieve improvements in agriculture productivity by building forward and backward linkages, efficient credit delivery, water management, improved farming practices and rural infrastructure. Similarly, meeting the energy needs of the region will be a major challenge. Asia would have to ensure energy security by utilizing all available sources of energy including fossil fuels and renewable resources in an efficient and sustainable manner, while carefully managing climate-change issues.

The third point I would like to make pertains to the demographic dividend. It is felt that in developing countries in Asia, a key economic force is their young working population, which will contribute to higher growth. While this argument is sound in itself, what needs to be emphasized is the quality of this workforce that we are producing. We will need to invest much more in human resource development through higher investments in education and health. Furthermore, Asia would have to take leadership in technology, innovations and be at the forefront of the knowledge curve and this will be possible only if its human resources are highly skilled.

Managing urbanization and overcoming infrastructure constraints is the fourth area I would like to touch. Between now and 2050, Asian urban landscape will be transformed as its urban population is slated to double from 1.6 billion to 3.1 billion. Many of Asia's cities today are already bursting at the seams and face ever increasing infrastructure deficit. If the Asian mega cities and secondary cities are to serve as growth centres, attracting investments in economic activity, huge investments in urban infrastructure and improved and efficient service delivery through innovative modalities involving public and private sectors would have to be ensured.

Fifth, regional cooperation has to become a major development agenda as it has the potential to create synergies between the fast growing major economies and the neighbouring economies and push the region into a higher growth orbit. As the Asian economies try to rebalance growth towards internal demand, regional cooperation and integration through transport and energy connectivity could pave the way for the emergence of a vibrant regional market. We have seen that improved trade and investment ties and regional integration of production has been critical to Asia's leadership in global manufacturing. However more needs to be done to strengthen these ties. Addressing structural bottlenecks by strengthening cross border infrastructure linkages in transport, communications and energy sectors would help in addressing structural bottlenecks that are impeding growth. Similarly, integrating financial markets and channelising investments in the region would be critical to growth. In short, we need to work towards a broader more inclusive pan Asian regional community.

Lastly, for the growth story of Asia to unfold an enabling environment and appropriate institutional structure is a pre requisite. When we talk about governance, it is not just corruption but also accountability and predictability. All countries need to work towards improving governance, transforming their institutions into high quality, modern institutions and apply transparency and accountability filters to domestic policy making and implementation.

To recapitulate, for 21st century to truly belong to Asia, the Asian growth story would have to be based on inclusivity, making full use of its human and natural resources, overcoming resource and infrastructure constraints and fully utilizing the potential of the region through fuller cooperation."



**157. Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai's media interaction during curtain raiser for 1st meeting of South Asia Forum.**

**New Delhi, August 25, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening and welcome. In the last SAARC Summit in Thimphu a decision was taken to set up the South Asia Forum (SAF). The first meeting of the Forum will take place in New Delhi between the 7th and the 9th of September. Foreign Secretary is here to apprise you of this very important initiative.

He is also joined by Mr. Asoke Mukerji, Additional Secretary MEA and Senior Vice-President of FICCI, Mr. R.V. Kanoria.

Briefly the programme is that we will have the Additional Secretary make introductory remarks, thereafter there will be an address by the Foreign Secretary followed by remarks by Mr. Kanoria. And thereafter Foreign Secretary will be happy to take a few questions. After that at 1900 hours, as you are aware, there is a reception that the Foreign Secretary is hosting and all of you are very cordially invited.

Asoke, the floor is yours.

**Additional Secretary (Shri Asoke Kumar Mukerji):** Thank you, Vishnu.

Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kanoria, friends in the media, I want to take this opportunity to briefly mention the reason why we are meeting today. The idea of the South Asia Forum was proposed at SAARC Summit in Thimphu in April last year. Subsequent to that, since it was an Indian proposal we followed up with the concept note on what we thought the Forum could look like and discussed it in a meeting of SAARC countries in January this year again. I was chairing the process of the SAARC group back in January and subsequently informed a Steering Committee which met in April. Both these meetings were endorsed by the SAARC process, by the Foreign Ministers. Subsequent to the endorsement of this process we have now an agreement among all the eight



member countries of SAARC to collaborate together in convening the first meeting of the South Asia Forum.

It is a public private partnership and we are grateful to FICCI which is the nodal chamber of commerce in India represented in the SAARC Chambers of Commerce for partnering the Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs within the Government of India in hosting this Forum.

Foreign Secretary I think would be the best person to provide us with the details of what we had conceptualized in terms of what the Forum would intend to do and how it could help. I would like to, therefore, turn the floor over to Foreign Secretary to ...(Unclear)...

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you very much, Asoke.

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, Mr. Kanoria, friends from FICCI, and my colleagues:

I would like to thank all of you for joining us in what we are calling a curtain raiser for the forthcoming South Asia Forum which, as you have been told, India is hosting early next month.

As Asoke mentioned, this is an initiative that emanates from the Silver Jubilee Declaration of the SAARC Summit which was held in Thimphu in April last year. This is we believe a very unique construct for our region. We already have some Track II processes which are in the way in the region, but this is the first of its kind to be formally endorsed by the SAARC Summit as a platform that explicitly includes business, academia and non-governmental entities.

The Summit at which SAF emerged, visualized that the Forum would be a platform to generate debates and facilitate an exchange of ideas on what you might call our shared South Asian home, and how its future development could take place. The Forum has been tasked to provide inputs to the next Summit which will be held in Maldives in November. At that point we hope to take stock of where SAARC stands after 25 years of its existence. And the suggestions which emerge from the Forum will also provide something of a roadmap for the medium and long term for the SAARC as a whole.

So, I think it is fair to say that the Forum will provide the Governments who meet in the Summit an opportunity to listen to some new thinking, fresh thinking, as a group on what we can do to energise our cooperation programmes to move forward on the larger goal creating a South Asian community and a South Asian Economic Union. This concept is timely and relevant as SAARC's potential as a driver of regional integration all the way from Afghanistan to Bhutan, and from Nepal to Maldives is steadily being realized. And I think it is important to

note that it is also recognized worldwide that economic integration in this region could be a factor for stability.

Within the history of SAARC it is inevitable that the Forum will develop in an evolutionary manner. We do not expect the entire process to be completed in a single meeting. We are, therefore, happy that India is hosting the very first meeting as a partnership between MEA and FICCI. The Government's presence in this event is rather extensive, and it is intended to provide the initial support to establish the Forum and to encourage its future development.

FICCI's partnership underscores the need for many more private initiatives, especially from business, to underpin SAARC's focus on a more cooperative future for the region. The fact that this is a public private partnership signals that SAARC is today building a sense of South Asian identity across the region and that the linchpin of the future any integration schemes will inevitably be driven by the economic integration and business partnerships. That is the way in fact many other regional entities have developed and the cohesion of many of those in the other parts of the world has in fact been driven by business and by non-governmental agencies. In fact, as I said in the beginning, the aim is to really provide a lead, to provide a catalytic process in the beginning, and then ensure that FICCI and its partners will carry the weight from there.

The theme for this first SAF is, therefore, integration in South Asia : Moving Towards a South Asian Economic Union. I understand that Vishnu has provided a media kit which will give you all the details of the programme. So, I would not go into them. You will see that the event is structured in three sessions and the focus is on enabling a free-flowing discussion while promoting a conversation, a genuine conversation.

Sessions 2 and 3 are intended to draw up ideas that could contribute to starting a vision for SAARC over the next twenty-five years. These include themes which are of great topical interest like business and economic integration, culture, sports, climate change and the environment, and finally demographic issues which are politically relevant to our region, which has the largest growing population of young students.

How we will work is that each SAARC member state will nominate a delegate to anchor a thematic panel and one delegate to present the paper on the theme that is intended to initiate the discussions. We are currently awaiting these nominations from each of the SAARC states though the programme is well under way.

So, thematic sessions are also reflective of areas of our Government's focus on our immediate neighbourhood and on ways in which we can work with our

partners in South Asia to embed the habit of beneficial regional cooperation. The key is to find ways of building institutions and mechanisms of regional relevance which provide benefit to our peoples to improve connectivity, development opportunities and trade facilitation in an environment of peaceful cooperation and energy.

We have a good panel of participants from among our SAARC neighbours the details of which you will find in the media kits. I am particularly gratified that the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission has consented to inaugurate the Forum and to participate in the stocktaking sessions that will follow. A very eminent predecessor of mine Ambassador Lalit Mansingh will be chairing the entire meeting. He would then be requested to summarise discussions and draw together plans for convening future meetings of the South Asia Forum which is intended to meet annually somewhere in our region.

We are happy that we will be having a number of eminent participants from among our partners in SAARC including at the Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial level from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal who have confirmed so far. The delegations list which is in your media pack includes many eminent academics and former civil servants who have contributed significantly to the process of establishing SAARC and developing the habit of regional cooperation. We hope this first meeting of the South Asia Forum will, therefore, help us to achieve the objective of creating new and effective mechanisms for regional cooperation in our immediate neighbourhood.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to hand it over to Mr. Kanoria, and thereafter we will take questions.

**Shri R.V. Kanoria (Senior Vice-President, FICCI):** Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. Ranjan Mathai, Hon. Foreign Secretary to Government of India; Mr. Asoke Mukerji, the SAF's Steering Committee head and Additional Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Vishnu Prakash, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; and friends from the media:

We are absolutely delighted in FICCI that we will be part of this very important new initiative of the public private partnership between the Ministry of External Affairs and FICCI to launch the South Asia Forum within the context of SAARC. I would like to thank the Ministry of External Affairs for supporting FICCI in jointly organizing the first meeting of the South Asia Forum.

As the Secretary has already said, friends, the South Asia Forum is the first of its kind and will facilitate the active sharing of experiences and best practices and allow an exchange of ideas to be an enabler for enhanced engagement among South Asia's intellectual diaspora. We can endeavour to evolve a vision

for South Asian regionalism in the coming twenty-five years. And as the Secretary has mentioned, there is no better way than economic integration to ... (Unclear)... not only ... (Unclear)... but as Foreign Secretary mentioned that it is perceived that any economic stability in this region actually is contributing to global stability.

FICCI and the Indian constituent of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry have already made pioneering efforts to bring the business community of SAARC countries closer together. It is our desire in FICCI to pursue the agenda of bringing together both the Track I through the political process as well as the Track II through the business process towards greater regional economic cooperation.

I would like to say that business leaders of SAARC countries have confidence in their abilities to compete with the best and the brightest anywhere in the world. They have the desire and they intend to raise the potential to make South Asia an economic powerhouse of the world. We need to look at inter-related South Asian future where trade and cross border links flourish and bring prosperity to all our people. As a region blessed with an abundance of natural and human resources, a youthful population, and a unique spirit of enterprise, this surely should be an achievable goal.

On behalf of the business community, may I just reiterate what the business community endeavours and perhaps the entire civil society of South Asia would like to look forward to.

1. Freedom to trade without barriers
2. Freedom to invest across the borders
3. Freedom to travel seamlessly
4. Connectivity across the borders through world class linkages, open skies, open roads and open seaways
5. Building a South Asian brand equity.

The first meeting of the South Asia Forum should aim at successfully gauging the interest of the member states. The Forum is bringing together, as the Foreign Secretary has already mentioned, a group of eminent persons comprising of key policy makers, prominent industry players, and active representatives from think tanks, civil society and the media. The overarching theme remains South Asia Economic Union. The meeting's focus is on the economic dimension of SAARC and on the socio-cultural dimension. To this end FICCI has already launched a website which is [www.southasiaforum.in](http://www.southasiaforum.in) for

the forthcoming South Asia Forum. I hope that this website ultimately would become popular in this region to continue to foster trade and business amongst the business community. The finding of this unique forum would be an excellent input to the forthcoming SAARC Summit at Male in November 2011.

I would like to thank again the Ministry of External Affairs for partnering with us. Thank you very much.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Mr. Kanoria. The Foreign Secretary will be happy to take a few questions pertaining to the SAARC process and the South Asia Forum.

**Question:** If the idea is to have a South Asia Economic Forum on the lines of the European Union and African Union and ASEAN and NAFTA, are we working with a time limit in mind as to when it is going to be a reality considering that at the moment intra-SAARC trade is less than five per cent or around 20 million dollars or whatever? What are your expectations from South Asia Forum as well as SAARC in the next 25 years?

**Foreign Secretary:** Before starting to answer that question I would like to acknowledge the presence of an ex-colleague of ours who has actually been the Secretary-General of SAARC, Ambassador Sheel Kant Sharma. If any of us does not have very fine technical details we will always be able to turn to Sheel because he has actually been Secretary-General.

You pointed to the ASEAN and the European Union. These are indeed very successful examples of economic integration in our area. I think the Forum is not intended to head in that direction. Forum is intended to be a clearinghouse for ideas, thinking out of the box through people who are not necessarily directly related to the official channels of how SAARC is moving, but who can bring to bear their knowledge, as FICCI has said, what is best in terms of how the movement called the SAARC can move forward towards an economic union.

Certainly the very outstanding examples you have mentioned would be a long-term direction but if one were looking for a model of what the Forum is trying to achieve, I would like to say with a degree of modesty because we are just starting but if we see the way in which certain other fora like the World Economic Forum in Davos has contributed through its own deliberations, non-official, to inputs into official agencies, into official channels, into official fora, in the same way this forum could contribute by bringing people together, the people from diverse disciplines from outside Government, from business, from think tanks,

from academia, from media, from civil society at large, to assist you might say the Governments and the officials in the process of developing a common vision. I think that is what we intend to do.

You mentioned quite rightly that intra-SAARC trade is not very impressive. I would just like to say that I was shown a figure which, while indeed is not impressive, has grown remarkably in the last five years from something around a 150 million within the SAFTA process to something like a billion in five years. So, the potential for a very rare rapid growth if we all agree is indeed very great.

**Question:** You said that the region will not truly be a free trade area as long as free movement of people, labour, currency and other forms of capital is hampered. That is what you said in conclusion. I just want to ask you since you are looking for twenty-five years ahead, just to follow up on what Mr. Venkat has said, is there any possibility of this emerging into a kind of a South Asian Parliament on the same pattern as the EU? Secondly, is there a possibility of a common currency? Are you talking about a common currency like in Schengen countries?

**Foreign Secretary:** If I can just seek some further clarifications, I would ask our Additional Secretary to add. What I would like to say is, whether it is a movement towards a common parliament or a common currency, these are ideas which will have to emerge, be discussed, be approved at the Summits. I think they are quite far away from any kind of plan in that direction. But certainly, on the path between now and moving towards any such goal, if all the leaders jointly agree on that, an agency like the Forum, a group like the Forum, can throw up ideas on where you can go, what is the advantage in it, what is it that other regional groupings have achieved, what was the process by which they achieved it, what was the role of non-governmental personalities, eminent personalities, academics, thinkers in achieving that? And we believe that by throwing open the Forum to such an idea perhaps the next Summit could in fact think in terms of, okay yes this is a roadmap which we need to start on. It is a journey of a thousand miles but it always starts with the first step.

**Additional Secretary:** I would just like to add that this was keeping in mind the fact that we are entering into a completely new concept that we structured the Forum in as flexible manner as possible. I think the ideas that we have put forward of the Parliament and the currency and issues of that nature would find resonance within the SAARC process if the Forum deliberates on these ideas and then provides these ideas after deliberating on them as inputs to the Summit. So, we have taken a conscious decision in the SAARC process that every Forum would more or less be held linked with the Summit so that the outcome of the Forum would feed into the Summit.

**Foreign Secretary:** In fact, in the very first Summit connectivity is one of those themes. Connectivity is not just transport. It is communications, it is the ability of people to use transport systems and move, travel just along the lines you mentioned. Certainly we would expect the Forum to contribute with suggestions and ideas as to what the best way forward is.

**Question:** Members of chambers of commerce used to exchange visits of delegations to each other's countries, especially with Pakistan. Is there any move to resume those visits, especially organise exhibitions and things like that?

**Foreign Secretary:** Mr. Kanoria, maybe you can throw some light on this?

**Shri R.V. Kanoria:** We already have delegations between the countries. In fact, in November there is a FICCI delegation which will be going to Pakistan. It has been our constant endeavour to continue to build up economic relationships including with Pakistan. In fact, we would very much like to see that there is an engagement where there is a stake of business in each of our neighbouring countries to improve relationships through economic cooperation. So, delegations continue. There is a regular framework of delegations. I know that it is not just FICCI which is doing it but PHD chamber also has delegations to Pakistan.

**Foreign Secretary:** Would you like to add anything on the chambers of commerce and their role in SAARC?

**Shri Sheel Kant Sharma (Former Secretary-General of SAARC):** There is a SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry which has all the national chambers of commerce and industry in SAARC countries as its members. They keep meeting with a considerable regularity. In the past three years that I used to be Secretary-General of SAARC, they have an economic summit where people from the chambers of commerce got together and met in SAARC capitals. That process is actually under way. The idea of the Forum is to harness everything together.

**Question:** One of the major stumbling blocks when we talk about the huge potential or untapped potential of SAARC has been the troubled relations between India and Pakistan. The core problem is not just India and Pakistan but also the trust deficit between different countries in the region that has hindered the movement of people and trade and ideas. What are we doing to address this which is often being overshadowed by India-Pakistan issues? How do we take this forward?

**Foreign Secretary:** You are quite right. There has been a fairly slow movement in many of the areas where movement could have been a lot faster, if what you

might say the confidence in each other was greater. We have seen in other areas of the world, ASEAN and Europe are the two examples which are very often mentioned, that what happens is that when you have a high degree of convergence of ideas and trust and confidence in each other, that cooperation becomes like a habit. And it is the rare area where you do not cooperate which you can find people raising questions that why it is not taking place. So, certainly this has been a factor. I would say that the answer is at two levels. One, the SAARC itself does not address bilateral issues. But we have seen that within the region there are concerted efforts by the various countries, I have been speaking only for India, to have discussions and dialogue to resolve all outstanding bilateral issues with all our neighbours. And I think we have had a considerable degree of success in this regard certainly even with Pakistan which you referred to. If you note the recent visit of the Foreign Minister, this was part of that process, to try and rebuild trust and confidence and to ensure that any such lingering leftover, residual doubts do not come in the way of the SAARC process.

That said, one has to also see that in the last five years SAARC has indeed been able to achieve a very substantial progress on issues which some years before you might have thought were not moving ahead fast enough. To mention a few examples, we have had the South Asia University, we have had the SAARC Development Fund, and a number of developments of this nature. So, I think the answer is that things have really speeded up in the last few years but certainly progress could even still be faster.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Sir.





**158. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the first meeting of South Asia Forum.**

**New Delhi, September 8, 2011.**

**Your Excellencies, Ministers and Deputy Ministers from South Asia**

**Delegates at this Forum**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is a distinct pleasure for me to welcome you to New Delhi for the first meeting of the South Asia Forum. Your presence here is testimony to the importance that you attach to the Forum and its laudable objectives.

The fact that this meeting is in fulfilment of a mandate from the highest political levels of SAARC adds, on one hand, political weight to the effort, but on the other hand, it also adds the weight of expectations over its outcomes.

**Excellencies, friends,**

I understand that the discussions at the SAF today have been frank, free and extensive. This is an excellent start and therefore a good sign for the future. The guiding principle of the Forum must be its capacity to produce practical and implementable recommendations that are oriented towards a medium-to long-term vision of what our South Asian region should look like in the next quarter century. The biggest challenge is in focusing our attention forward, and in tempering it with practicality. Managing to tread a fine balance in this regard is critical.

From this perspective, I would be interested in seeing the recommendations of this Forum. The first element that, in my view, is to see whether the Forum manages to assemble a robust argument in favour of progressive integration of the region. This is neither the time nor the place for a detailed discussion on this issue, but the imperative for integration at a pace and in a manner that is acceptable to all our member States needs to be made clear.

Proceeding on this basis, the Forum should recommend ways in which the process of integration can be supported, and areas of cooperation that are least difficult for us to rapidly build an integration agenda.

We all know, of course, that our region is among the least economically integrated in the world; there are adequate studies that offer statistics in this regard. However, for me, the litmus test of integration is really whether we are able to make it viable for our businesses to expand intra-regional trade and investment flows. If this can be incentivized either through policy measures or by means of

forward-looking steps by our premier chambers of commerce and industry, the connective tissue of a South Asian economic community can begin to be created.

Much of what we consider to be limiting factors, such as high costs of telecom and physical connectivity are more symptoms of the lack of trade and investment flows within our region. Unless we work collectively to make it rewarding for our businesses to look within our own region for joint ventures, partnerships and expansion, our region will continue to lag other similar regional cooperation mechanisms.

### **Excellencies,**

It is only through an expansion in the number of stake-holders in the processes of regional cooperation that we can create a critical mass in favour of deepening and widening integration in our region. The South Asia Forum creates precisely such a platform. The utility of the Forum, over and beyond that of our excellent national think-tanks lies not only in the fact that it includes members from each of our eight nations. It also lies in the fact that the Forum is anchored within official SAARC structures.

However, for future editions of the Forum, we may perhaps need to consider widening representation from civil society, media, academia and business, while proportionately reducing the scale and extent of Governmental presence. The recommendations of the Forum will always have official weight because the Chairman of edition will provide his conclusions to the succeeding Summit.

That apart, for future editions of the SAF, we need to consider how best to derive value from the presence of observer nations of SAARC. Can we find ways of encouraging academics and other specialists on our region in the observer States to participate in discussions, not merely as spectators, but as discussants?

### **Excellencies, delegates and friends,**

It is not my intention to try and suggest outcomes or directions to the Forum. I did however want to point to areas of enquiry that I would be interested in seeing explored by this valuable initiative. I also hope to make explicit the fact that India believes in the utility of this Forum, and is committed to working both domestically-with our partners in civil society and business, in particular FICCI-but also within our region, to ensure that the Forum is soon seen as an integral part of the South Asian landscape.

Thank you for your attention, and once again, thank you for contributing to the success of this event through your presence.



**159. Remarks by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the first meeting of South Asia Forum.**

**New Delhi, September 8, 2011.**

Your Excellencies, Ministers and Deputy Ministers from South Asia

Madame Secretary-General of SAARC,

Chairman of the first South Asia Forum meeting, Ambassador Mansingh

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Friends from the media,

Delegates at this Forum,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome our friends from the SAARC family to India.

It is also a privilege to be given the honour of hosting this opening event of the first meeting of the South Asia Forum, which in many ways, represents a unique experiment in our region.

Sadly, we meet in the wake of brutal and cowardly acts of terrorism. As many of you were flying into New Delhi, not far from here, eleven innocent people lost their lives outside the Delhi High Court, and dozens were seriously injured.

While all of you have joined us in a minute's silence in respect to the victims of terror in separate incidents in India and Pakistan, I must underline that we will not be deterred from our positive and forward-looking agenda for our region.

Acts of terror only alienate the perpetrators from civilized humanity. They also do not understand the will of our people, or our determination to ensure development of our people and our region, in a spirit of peace and friendship with our neighbours.

Our shared commitment to the development of our region will continue to inspire us as we begin an important set of discussions tomorrow. This dialogue should be an important contribution to securing the future of our region through the SAARC process.

Excellencies,

Last year, at the historic 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu, our Leaders issued a Silver Jubilee Statement that was remarkably forward-looking.

In it, they mandated the creation of the South Asia Forum as a platform to bring

together eminent people from diverse backgrounds, to engage in a future-oriented discussion based on out of the box thinking.

It is one of the first occasions in our region that our leaders have mandated a platform that brings business, civil society and media in a public-private partnership to provide inputs to enable SAARC to evolve a vision for the future of our region in the next 25 years.

It is certainly a sign of our changing times that our Association is formally seeking the views of all stakeholders in the region, to enable the fullest ownership of the policies that will drive integration of our region in the next 25 years.

Today, as we realize the mandate given to us by our leaders last year, I felicitate all of you for your support in getting this shared endeavour off the ground.

I want to particularly highlight the fact that this experiment has reached here because of the joint effort of FICCI and my Ministry, in a public-private partnership. I commend you for your work.

Excellencies, delegates and friends,

Now that the Forum is a reality, and as you prepare for almost two days of intensive discussions, I should also request you to bear in mind that the purpose is to start the process of evolving a roadmap for our shared future.

It is essential therefore that this first meeting of the Forum generates implementable and practical suggestions.

Equally, delegates should focus on firmly establishing a platform upon which subsequent editions of the Forum can be built.

Your efforts will be watched closely by our Heads of State and Government. Not only because of their mandate last April, but also because the outcomes of this event will feed into the 17th Summit that will be held in the beautiful atolls of the Maldives. As you begin your work tomorrow, you will not only have the blessings of our leadership, but also the good wishes of over one point five billion South Asians.

I wish you every success. Thank you.



**160. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the inauguration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference on Cooperative Security by Defence Minister A. K. Antony.**

**New Delhi, November 15, 2011.**

Inaugurating the 5th South Asia Conference on Cooperative Security, Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony said New Delhi is committed to build networks of interdependencies in the region. "Our people deserve peace, security, education, healthcare facilities and sustainable development in equal measure. With regard to our neighbours, we have always demonstrated our willingness to go the extra mile for the sake of peace and security, even on a non-reciprocal basis, if required," he said.

Referring to Pakistan, he said there are already clear signs that Indo-Pakistan trade relations might improve and expand. Shri Antony said the expansion in cooperation has created an atmosphere to expand the dialogue on cooperative security. However, "we need to change our mindsets, if we really wish to reap the benefits of mutual cooperation," he said.

Welcoming the foreign delegates including those from Pakistan, Afghanistan and other South Asian countries, Shri Antony said that asymmetries among countries in South Asia need not stand in the way of regional cooperation. "Asymmetries in size, resources and military capabilities must be used as "building blocks" to enhance cooperation-and not be allowed to become "blocks" to regional cooperation," he added.

Pointing out that India has recently signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan and a Framework Cooperation Agreement has been drawn up with Bangladesh, Shri Antony advocated bilateral and regional defence cooperation including exchange of delegations."We pay special attention to defence cooperation by increasing the frequency of defence exchanges with defence forces from a large number of friendly countries. These defence exchanges are aimed at enhancing capacity building, training and cooperation among friendly nations. Indian defence forces have made a significant contribution towards disaster management and humanitarian relief work and received widespread appreciation for their efforts," he added. Exhorting a regional security model on the patterns of South East Asia and Central Asia, the Defence Minister mooted a cooperative security architecture focusing on issues related to soft security. "The ambit of the concept of security today includes a range of other issues affecting human security. Several UN summits have been held in the past two decades on diverse issues pertaining to human security viz-population, food, information, society, environment and climate change. This

expansion in the concept of national security has created new opportunities for cooperation between nation states,” he said.

“India too has set up regular mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation with SAARC countries at bilateral level. We must further expand the scope of such discussions to include issues pertaining to human security. At the non-official level, there is an even greater scope for expanding the dialogue and further intensifying people-to-people contacts,” he added.

Pointing out that terrorism continues to be a problem, Shri Antony said that “the gamut of security issues facing various nations is largely non-traditional and asymmetric. Increasingly, non-state actors with cross national linkages pose critical challenges. Nations need to draw up collective and innovative measures to effectively counter such evil designs”.



**161. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Conference jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs-International Institute of Strategic Studies-Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis on Forging Stability in Asia.**

**New Delhi, November 21, 2011.**

Thank you for inviting me to address the fourth in this continuing series of dialogues between the Ministry of External Affairs, International Institute for Strategic Studies, London and IDSA, New Delhi. My predecessors have spoken at these dialogues about the priorities and goals of India’s Foreign Policy. It is my intention today to build upon that foundation in order to examine, in particular, the future and importance of forging a new stability in Asia. I hope my brief remarks can set a tone for the discussion but it is not my intention to anticipate what you will be discussing in depth.

Sometimes it is useful to spend a minute on definitions. To us in India, Asia has always meant the entire continent, not just the Eastern part of it as seen from across the Pacific. At the Asian Relations Conference in March 1947, Prime Minister Nehru presciently spoke of a rising Asia.....and welcomed delegations from China, Egypt and the Arab world, Iran, Indonesia & Indo-China, Turkey, Korea, Mongolia, Thailand (Siam), Malaya, Philippines, Central Asia (he referred

to the Soviet Asian republics), all our neighbours, Australia and New Zealand. This is a vast canvas, and it needs retelling that India is in a sense a meeting point of influences of West, North, East and South East Asia. The theme of forging stability across such a vast expanse requires a look at whether Asia can be considered a single strategic entity. Perhaps not, despite decades of globalization.

Stability in other regions has essentially been forged by what we can call architecture; the creation usually by general consent, of structures of regional dialogue and cooperation. These arrangements help either subsume, resolve or put aside bilateral differences, within a construct aimed at collaboration on issues of general interest or towards achievement of a common vision of the general interest. The EU was traditionally considered the exemplar. After the recent East Asia Summit, the ASEAN is probably an equally good example of the search for stability through architecture.

We are supposed to be in a post-Westphalian world in which globalisation has reduced classical identity of States as autonomous entities. Recent events suggest, however, that the nation state remains the primary unit of international politics, and regional architecture cannot end competition among nation states; it can however moderate it through the quest for common interests. It also appears that requirements for stability do have a substantial constituency; even in an era of mobilized, politically active populations, the dangers of unrestricted competition are increasingly recognized. Also recognized is that multilateral constructs provide avenues for compromise that may not be politically saleable on purely bilateral levels.

I do not wish to ramble on on a theory of international politics. Your sessions focus on asymmetric warfare, stability in Pakistan and Afghanistan and engaging a rising China. So let me touch on these themes within the overarching idea of stability in Asia.

Asymmetric war is actually war by other means (I say this with caution because this is a field for experts). But such war is possible because of the balance created by mutually assured destruction, or because of the difficulty of finding the appropriate targets to respond to. Hence state sponsored terrorism is a form of asymmetric warfare, that we best know currently. As the range and firepower of terrorists increases, the capacity of asymmetric warfare to endanger international security increases. The ultimate danger of nukes falling into the hands of terrorists needs the attention of all those concerned about stability across the globe.

Let me turn to the topic of stability in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This area is currently the focus of much of the world as the US and ISAF begin their

countdown to the transition in 2014. Stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan, on the border between them, and in the regions abutting them are of vital importance to the countries directly involved; and the perceived outcome of the ten years' war and reconstruction efforts (the latter to which we have contributed) hinges on the maintenance or otherwise of stability in these regions. The Istanbul Conference on November 2 sought consensus for an architecture, built on a concept of economic cooperation in a region stretching from Turkey to South Asia and Central Asia to the Gulf passing through Afghanistan which was described as the "heart of Asia". This (along with political elements) would be taken forward at Bonn in December when one can expect to hear more on what US Secretary of State Clinton described in India in July, as the New Silk Route.

For a moment this idea transports us back in time to an era when the Silk Route was an important part of the relationship between Europe, Asia and Africa for several centuries. Extending some 6000 kilometers with mostly overland (but also some sea) routes, the Silk Route was not only important for the exchange of goods and precious metals, but also for the spread of ideas and knowledge. It was, in fact, a major factor linking the developments within the great civilizations of India, China, Persia, Egypt and Rome. There was no conception of a strategic interlinking of all these regions, hence the role of the Silk Route in maintaining stability is uncertain.

The metaphor of the Silk Route (by whatever name) could be a useful one today, especially for those seeking common structures to lock in the kind of common interests that can foster Asian stability. A new Silk Route in Asia seeks to highlight the synergies between us, and the acceptance of interdependence that has not only become part of our lives, but which could give us competitive advantages for intra-regional trade and in dialogue with the world outside. None of this will be cheap. There will be a requirement for deep pockets, but the outcomes could be very positive.

Nehru hinted at the idea of Silk Route earlier in 1947, when he said "one of the notable consequences of European domination of Asia has been the isolation of Asian countries from each other. India had contacts and intercourse with her neighbour countries in the North West, North East, and East and South East Asia. With the coming of British rule these contacts were broken off and India was completely isolated from the rest of Asia. The old land routes ceased to function and our chief window to the world looked out to sea routes which led to England".

That we should be talking of "New Silk Route" even today six decades later, when there has been ample time to recreate old routes, suggests that political obstacles apart, maritime routes are, in fact, quite natural to us in Asia and



must be part of any architecture we build. For us in India, the New Silk Route is another name for connectivity we seek to Central Asia and beyond. But with apologies to Bismarck, we are both a land rat and a water rat. If I were to look at the prospects for stability in Asia in connection with Afghanistan, I would add Iran to the list of countries needing to be discussed.

### **Security and Terrorism**

Terrorism is now recognised as one of the greatest scourges of our times and a serious source of instability in regions across Asia and the wider world. Earlier in the 1980s and 1990s, it was easy for the outside world to watch as India went through trials of terrorist fire. Today, no one is immune from terrorism emerging from the same swamps that produced the terror groups targeting India. There is also a growing recognition that while India has suffered grievously, it has preserved the values of democracy and secularism at home and acted with a great sense of responsibility abroad. Such preconditions for stability are less assured in other countries.

In a new emerging world, it is, of course, necessary to find solutions to terrorism, beyond the obvious, to understand the contexts rather than to give one-size-fits-all solutions. But concerted international efforts to counter terrorism and to pressurise those who provide them safe haven, must continue and become the norm in policy making. Institutional mechanisms of states must find ways to deal with subterranean and ideological regional groups, and the asymmetric warfare resorted to by some states. The CCIT at the UN is one place to start.

### **South Asia**

In our search for stability we have tried to help Afghanistan in nation building. We have also engaged with Pakistan to maintain a structure of normalised state relations. There have been some modest successes as seen in the move towards trade normalisation. There is today, more successfully, a greater degree of stability in countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. There has also been considerable progress in India's relationship with Bangladesh in dealing with outstanding problems, including settling the border, security, sharing of river waters and increase in trade linkages. In fact, progress with Pakistan and better relations among and with countries in South Asia could leapfrog the SAARC region into a high economic growth trajectory.

The potential of the dynamic SAARC market is considerable with the Indian economy growing at a steady rate of about eight per cent per annum. With greater assistance to other countries in South Asia from India, I think we could create opportunities for inter-linkages for stability and economic growth. The destiny of South Asia to some extent lies within. SAARC provides a platform to aim for a higher calling even as we try to resolve our differences.

**Central, West & East Asia**

Afghanistan and the Central Asian region are not new areas for Indian engagement. India and Afghanistan are not just neighbours, joined together by history and civilisational contacts stretching over millennia, but we are also strategic partners. Our close relations based on cultural affinities, the shared values of multi-ethnicity and pluralism and the common quest of our peoples for peace and development have ensured that the relationship between our two peoples remains warm and friendly.

The strongest testimony of this is reflected in our reconstruction and development assistance to Afghanistan. Continuing aid and assistance to Afghanistan is a major strategy of our engagement with Afghanistan. This includes an important agreement for capacity building of Afghan working in a new economy, for the civil services and security forces. Whether you call it a New Silk Route or simply connectively through links of trade, transport and energy, the potential of the routes and networks that can emerge from regional cooperation through Afghanistan would not just be economically beneficial but confidence building measures. In the run up to 2014 and beyond, there will be scope for expanding the networks to link with other arrangements that we could consider after India's full participation in the SCO.

**West Asia**

The upsurge that began in Tunisia in early 2011 has transformed West Asia. The changes set in motion in early 2011 still echo in the region: more regions are affected, more regimes have fallen, and among those which have survived, many have been forced to adopt new policies. Taken together, these changes herald an epochal shift primarily in the Arab world, possibly one of the most significant geo-political developments of the 21st century.

The rise of a new democratic West Asia will bring its own set of challenges and opportunities. The biggest challenge to stability will be the creation of employment opportunities and satisfying aspirations of the growing young generation who believe that dictators have stifled their prospects. This will require governments and businesses in each of these countries coming together to foster entrepreneurship in a sustained manner, with international support. The EU, GCC, US and to a lesser extent Japan, Russia, China and India may have a role to play. But so far, there is no sign of a coordinated move to work to support democratic and economic aspirations of the people. We are doing our bit by being helpful with election management, training programmes, etc.

**China**

I think China has already risen, though it is likely to continue to rise. It is not just a cliché but a fact that we are likely to be both competitive and complementary.

As two of the largest developing economies in the world, India and China are significant engines of economic growth in the world. The promise of an India-China engagement is mirrored with China having emerged as India's largest trading partner, with prospects of growth continuing and a bilateral trade target of US 100 billion dollars by 2015. Peaceful development of relations between India and China will also lead to the strengthening of BRICs at a time when large parts of the world in Europe and the United States are facing the heat of global recession. On global issues such as climate change, the need for a development dimension in trade negotiations, and reform of international financial institutions, there are many common interests between China and India.

Therefore, there is need for continued engagement with China across all spectrums, despite outstanding problems on the border issue. China will be an important partner in fostering Asian stability, and in ensuring economic linkages between countries that could work to dissuade conflict. There will, of course, be many balancing acts required.

#### **India, China and the United States**

The rise of China as a major economy and global power has implications for the world's superpower, the United States. At the same time, the two countries are chained together by a shared economic destiny in view of their close trading and financial linkages. In India, we have been able to engage constructively with both China and the United States despite some ups and downs. An India that continues to grow rapidly and build its relations with both China and US may be in a position to participate effectively in, if not initiate, a trilateral dialogue between the three countries which could be a major factor of stability in Asia.

#### **India and a revitalized Asian economy**

Today, the global economy has several stress points. The world economy will take time to recover and the effectiveness of the initiatives taken in the Euro Zone remain a work in progress. Attention is increasingly focussed on domestic concerns. It is, therefore, possibly time to dwell on the concept of an "inclusive Asia" that could be the basis for a new Asian identity and stability.

Sometime ago it was popular to talk of "Asian values" and a new Asian outlook on the world. This has not proved decisive in the search for stability. A vibrant Asian economy will also involve the creation of a new energy architecture for Asia; harnessing technology and innovation for economic growth; and providing for the region's infrastructure needs. It may be too early to say that for the stability of Asia, "it's the economy stupid". But clearly anyone who fails to see that the economy gives us the best prospect for working on an architecture of stability is being somewhat "stupid".



**162. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the release of a Report on "South Asia Energy Cooperation and Business Opportunities in the Power Sector" by Secretary (Economic Relations) Sudhir Vyas.**

**New Delhi, November 24, 2011.**

With India looking at increasing power availability by 800,000 GW by 2030 to sustain GDP growth rates of 8-9%, the country's demand for energy will drive the formation of the SAARC energy grid, said Shri Sudhir Vyas, Secretary(ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, while releasing a report on "South Asia Energy Cooperation and Business Opportunities in the Power Sector" published by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the Round Table Session focusing on the same subject. He further stated that while initial steps have been taken, much more needs to be done to expedite regional cooperation in this space. "A lot is being done at the bilateral level but this needs to be scaled up to the regional level" he said.

Focusing on the policy issues that need to be addressed for energy security through regional cooperation, Dr Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe (Integrated Research and Action for Development) emphasized that a competitive electricity sector with independent regulators is imperative to meet the goals of power to all and poverty alleviation. "There is clearly a strong argument for energy cooperation given the advantages of lower costs, more effective utilization of resources and an increase in capacity factor. However, the way forward is not only a strong reliance on large scale government interventions. It is also important to promote private sector participation on smaller platforms. This can be done by the development of an institutional set up which facilitates the set up of transmission lines and true open access extended across borders." He further added that the power purchase agreements need to be symmetric with clauses like formula-based tariff setting built into these agreements so that developers are assured of getting the right price. Functioning of a transparent power exchange and minimization of political risks is essential to expedite energy cooperation among these countries.

Dr Sudhir Kapur, Member CII National Committee on Power and Chairman & Managing Director, Country Strategy Business Consultant Pvt Ltd, said in his welcome remarks that given the growth potential in the entire south Asian region, an almost four fold increase in energy demand and also supply is expected. "Currently, thermal plants account for the bulk of the power supply in these regions at 65% followed by hydro power at 20%. Given the twin objectives of ensuring energy security and addressing the climate change challenge, it is important to capitalize on the over 200 GW of hydro potential in countries

including India, Bhutan and Nepal. A comprehensive approach comprising an integrated policy, and integration of the grids as well as substantial investments has the potential to be a game changer in providing the countries in this region with uniform access to power,." he said.

Highlighting the benefits of cross border trading Shri Jayant Deo, Member CII National Committee on Power and Managing Director, Power Trading Corporation Ltd. said, "With key advantages including the creation of transparent & neutral platforms; savings on operating costs, utilization of cheaper generation; optimal use of resources and enhanced efficiency and reliability of power supply, cooperation among countries in the energy space is increasing globally. In India, as well, to facilitate the development of cross border power exchanges, it is important to develop mechanisms for deviation settlement, payment security and clearing & settlement. This will pave the way for a single South Asia electricity market

Assessing the business opportunities in this segment, Shri Amulya Charan, Chief Mentor, Tata Power Company Ltd stated, "All our neighboring countries including Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka either have the demand or the supply resources which are unfulfilled and therefore setting up a SAARC grid has huge potential. For instance, Nepal and Bhutan have adequate hydropower resources which if harnessed effectively can provide these countries with adequate national income. This has already been happening very effectively in Bhutan where hydropower exports account for a substantial portion of the country's GDP." Citing the example of Europe, he said, "The multiple nation grid is a well established phenomenon and needs to be replicated in South Asia. This will lead to a win-win situation for all the countries in this region."



**(ii) SOUTH ASIA**

**AFGHANISTAN****163. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Press Conference at Kabul.****Kabul, January 9, 2011.**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to be in Kabul, and in Afghanistan, a country so closely linked to India throughout history. His Excellency Dr. Zalmay Rassoul and I have had today a productive round of detailed consultations. We discussed a broad range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan is based on the strong foundations of rich historical and civilisational bonds and shared interest in regional peace and prosperity. I assured Foreign Minister Rassoul that India is committed to partnering the Government and people of Afghanistan in the building of modern Afghanistan. Assisting Afghanistan in capacity building and for skills and human resource development, and building Afghanistan's own public institutions is a special area of priority for us.

The two sides also discussed the issue of terrorism, and the need to deal firmly with the safe havens for terrorist groups that continue to exist outside Afghanistan's borders. My delegation was also assured that all necessary steps would be taken for the security of Indians in Afghanistan.

I will be calling on President Karzai. I called on the First Vice President Fahim and the Second Vice President Khalili and conveyed India's long-term commitment to Afghanistan and to the people of this great country. I will also be meeting National Security Advisor Dr. Spanta and other high dignitaries.

I am happy to announce our decision to set up a Chair of Pushto and Dari Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. This will further strengthen the symbiotic relationship which our two countries enjoy.

I am also happy to announce that taking into account the prevailing drought situation in Afghanistan, India has committed to provide one hundred thousand tonnes of wheat for the government and people of Afghanistan.

The true strength of the relationship between India and Afghanistan is the love and friendship between the people of our two countries, and I am confident that these ties will only grow stronger with the passage of time.



**164. Interaction of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Visiting Afghan Journalists.**

**New Delhi, January 27, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Once again a very good morning to you. Foreign Secretary of India, Shrimati Nirupama Rao is here to meet you. I have mentioned to the Foreign Secretary that we are delighted and privileged to have such a distinguished group of journalists and friends from Afghanistan. Madam, 14 of our guests are women journalists and they have been here for the last about two weeks, with the Indian Institute of Mass Communications. Prof. K.N. Shrivastava, the Course Director is also here. May I invite you to kindly share some of thoughts on our relations with Afghanistan

**Foreign Secretary:** Thank you Vishnu and Prof. Shrivastava.

Dear friends, I want to welcome you to the Ministry of External Affairs. I hope you are enjoying your visit to India. I am sure this must be in many ways a learning experience for you coming to this neighbour of your country. In fact we have had with Afghanistan and Afghanistan has had with India a very deep and enduring friendship. That is a friendship that cannot be disturbed or weakened by any external forces. It has endured through the centuries and it will continue to endure in the centuries to come.

This traditional framework, this traditional foundation of good relations has been further strengthened in recent years by the big assistance programmes that we have in Afghanistan and also our dialogue and our cooperation with your Government, with your political leaders and with your civil society that is ordinary Afghan citizens including professors, students, engineers, doctors, farmers and the ordinary men and women of Afghanistan. India has made some sacrifices also over the last few years as we have lost precious lives in Afghanistan to terrorism which is a problem that affects you, affects us, is affecting the region. So, we have a common interest and common concern to fight this threat, to resist it, and to overcome it. There again we share similar values and similar concerns.

In the field of women empowerment, I am so happy to see 14 out of 30 of this group are women. I am so happy to see that because the field of women empowerment is a special focus for India in its efforts in Afghanistan in terms of building capacity and promoting awareness, education and skill-building. I think that is an area that we have given great focus and importance to.

Afghanistan is a very important country from many angles. It is not only our neighbour but in terms of the region you are very well positioned because you



are linked to Central Asia, you are linked to West Asia, you are linked to South Asia. So, you have a very unique position. Once peace returns to the country, you can become a hub, a connecting point for all these regions and in the field of energy. So, you will have the opportunity to build very good communication, transport linkages, energy pipelines, transit facilities. So I hope Afghanistan will be able to fulfill that potential also in the future.

But I wanted to say that we are committed in India, we are determined to help you to build a peaceful Afghanistan, a stable Afghanistan, a prosperous Afghanistan and a democratic Afghanistan which embraces pluralism and diversity because you have so many different ethnic groups in Afghanistan, so many different communities and all of you belong to one country just as in India we have diverse groups, different languages, many religions, all have come together to form one country. Similarly, I think Afghanistan is in a situation that is not so different in terms of diversity. And I am sure you could benefit from our experience in building that kind of pluralistic society and as a nation that builds unity out of diversity. So, I would urge you to look at that aspect also during your stay in India.

I wanted to say that one major initiative that we are planning to undertake is to help the development of Afghanistan's agricultural sector. This will involve 300 scholarships every year for the next five years to study in our universities in agriculture. This would be over and above the existing schemes that we have for your students to come for education and training here. The Afghan national institution building project, which is aiming at building Afghan capacities and institutions is also another programme that we are actively supporting.

I do not need to tell you about the other projects that we have done in Afghanistan, the infrastructure projects, the work in the health field, in education, in humanitarian assistance and human resource development. These are all areas where we have given a lot of emphasis in promoting assistance and development cooperation. Afghanistan is our development partner. We have a development partnership with Afghanistan. And it is through development that all communities can benefit and you can alleviate poverty and you can fight ignorance because ignorance becomes the breeding ground for violence, for terrorism, and for radicalism and extremism. So, we have to fight ignorance. And you can fight ignorance only through development and giving people the opportunity to widen their horizons and educate themselves and to build a better life for themselves in the process. So, I will stop here.

**Afghan Media:** Since there was an act of terrorism on Indian Embassy a couple of years ago, could you please describe what measures have been taken by the Indian Government to stop that kind of radicalism?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not know if you were there at the Republic Day Parade yesterday. You know that the Major who died in Kabul last February got the Ashoka Chakra which is the highest bravery decoration in peace time that we give to anybody. So, that brought back memories of the attack in Kabul. We have taken measures to strengthen the security of our personnel, our Embassy and our projects, people working on projects. We are working with the Afghan Government to be vigilant, to safeguard against the possibility of such attacks happening in future. But terrorism is a problem that continues to affect your country and the region. So, these safe havens that exist for terrorists in the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan and in the vicinity of your country, they will need to be tackled and removed, and people who are engaging in these activities will have to be dealt with properly. So, this is a larger issue and I know that the ISAF troops and the foreign military presence in Afghanistan are also working in that direction. But as far as the security of our establishments is concerned, we are working with your Government, and we are doing whatever we can to protect our people. But there is a constant threat. It is not over.

**Afghan Media:** My other question is about the TAPI gas pipeline project which has been given coverage by almost all the media here in this region. Could you please give your views, as a Government official in India, about the importance of that? Like in Pakistan even from outside of Pakistan they say that the security of that project is very important. So, maybe they are not able to give security to that project. So, could you please explain the important of that project?

**Foreign Secretary:** The project is important because India is a growing economy, it has very large requirements in terms of energy. So, we would like to source energy from wherever we can because the requirements are so huge and they are going to be even more in the years to come because the economy is expanding very fast and we are a hydrocarbon importing country. People are focused on the need to develop renewable sources of energy, to develop alternative technologies for energy security, all that is fine, we are focused on that. But for years to come and in the short-term and medium-term we will have to depend a lot on imports of such resources. So, that is why we are discussing with energy-rich countries how we can augment our own supplies, our imports of these hydrocarbons from outside. Anyway, this pipeline that we are thinking of - and your country is involved and Pakistan and Turkmenistan are involved - is basically going to bring benefits also to these countries. It will help your economy, it will create jobs in your country as in other countries through which it transits. Of course, security is important. You will have to be sure about the security aspects, the pricing, the financial aspects. These are all in the process of being worked out. The pipeline has to be built. These are all important points that will have to get more and more attention as this project takes shape. But right now, yes there is this consensus among all these

countries that we should work on this project which is a good thing. I think it will help to build more stakes in ensuring that there is peace in our region, that there is stability, because otherwise how can such projects move forward?

**Afghan Media:** Madam my question is regarding the scholarships on which Afghan students came to India for learning. Is there any Committee to see what are they doing? I mean months before we heard that ... even some of them sent back from India for no reason. My second question regarding the Masters Degree programme of ... there is much scholarships in the Masters Degree area. Would it be possible to increase these scholarships because we really need some professionals in Afghanistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** I just mentioned the issue of agriculture, how we are going start giving scholarships to focus on agriculture. Some of these will be at the Masters Degree level and the Ph.D. level. So, that answers your question about more professional training and experience building up through such training.

The largest number of foreign students in India today receiving assistance from the Indian Government in terms of scholarships is the Afghan community of students. There may be two or three cases where people have had to be sent back. Because they indulged in activities that were incompatible with their status as students, we had to send them back. But otherwise, the large proportion of these students are studying here without any problem. My colleague Mr. Sinha handles this on a day-to-day basis. He knows the situation very well. As a journalist you should please represent the truth on this. It is wrong to say that students are being sent back and they are not happy here which is not the case at all. Just two or three students going back should not lead you to conclude that the entire community of students of Afghan origin in India, are having problems. That is not the case. So, please represent it properly.

**Afghan Media:** Other countries just think that terrorism is not in Afghanistan it is a problem in Pakistan. Do you think the same?

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes, I certainly think so. I think the Pakistan Government also is aware of this because every other day there is an attack in Pakistan, there is some terror attack, people are getting killed. You saw what happened in Lahore the other day. The word epicenter is used very freely - there are so many groups operating there, so many radical, extreme elements. So, it is a big problem for Pakistani society today. They will have to root out this evil definitely. And that will help all of us, it will help Afghanistan, it will help India, it will help Pakistan.

When we had the Mumbai attack, the attackers, the people who were involved,

came by boat. They came from Pakistan, they landed in Mumbai on the coast and then they came into the city. That is the evidence that we have. We found the boat, we found the dead body of the boatman, we found that these people had abandoned the boat at the entrance to Mumbai harbor and then come into the city. That lone surviving gunman Kasab is from Pakistan. So, there is a lot of proof that confirms our suspicions and our misgivings on this score.

**Afghan Media:** Do you think that Pakistan supports terrorism? If not, who supports terrorism?

**Foreign Secretary:** There are elements definitely in Pakistan that have just decided that terrorism is the means to further Pakistan's interests. I am not saying everybody in Pakistan is like that. I have no doubt that the people of Pakistan want peace and they want stability. But there are groups in Pakistan definitely who are saying violence is the best way to do these things, we have to attack, we have to terrorize. That is the problem. In the past and perhaps even now, within the Pakistani state not enough has been done to control this. And that is in danger of consuming the country today. It is like a Frankenstein.

**Afghan Media:** What is the specific role of Indian Government to remove terrorism along with the Afghanistan Government?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, we are working. The security agencies work with each other. We share information. We share intelligence. Similarly we work with other democracies. We have counter-terrorism dialogue with the USA, with France, with UK, with China, with some of the Central Asian countries, with Russia. All these countries have to cooperate together. How do we deal with terrorism? We have to defeat the terrorists by being very systematic and very serious in collecting the information that is needed to counter the plans and programmes of these terrorists, then to improve our technology to deal with terrorism, the kind of technological input that we need in terms of the equipment, in terms of examination of evidence, in terms of the security barriers and checks that we need to put in place, and training people. We need to train personnel, security people. We need to train ordinary citizens also to be vigilant about these things, to report if they see anything that is suspicious. So, ultimately everybody is involved in this to fight this. Each and every one of us has to think that we are soldiers in this struggle. So, this is the way to deal with it.



**165. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.**

**New Delhi, February 3, 2011.**

H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, visited India on 2-3 February 2011 at the invitation of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. President Karzai held meetings with Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India and Dr. Manmohan Singh. The visit reflected the close friendship between the people of India and Afghanistan, and the continuing tradition of high-level and frequent consultations between the leaders of the two countries.

President Karzai and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held detailed discussions covering issues of bilateral and regional interest. The Indian side reiterated its long term commitment to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, and to the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan under President Karzai's leadership to build a strong, independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous nation. The two leaders agreed that the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan is a positive factor for peace and stability in the region. In this context, the two leaders also discussed the common threat faced by both their societies from terrorism. They agreed that this ran counter to the aspiration of their peoples.

President Karzai expressed gratitude of the Afghan people for the assistance provided by India over the years. He underlined the need for the two countries to work together in close cooperation in the interest of the people of the two countries and stability in the region at large.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh accepted an invitation from President Karzai to visit Afghanistan at an early date.



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Media reports said that during the talks on the political side, both sides took stock of the current situation, especially the reaching out by Pakistan to the Northern Alliance leadership and India's overtures to the Pashtuns. They noted the timetable for the withdrawal of foreign security forces and the raising of the Afghan police and the Army. The two leaders also dwelt on the Kunduz offensive against the Taliban in the Northern Areas. In economics, India and Afghanistan took note of the potential areas where both sides can work together, especially in mining. Mr. Karzai was informed about the potential earnings of \$500 million as transit fees from the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline and development of gas fuel based industries as well as allied activities in the country.

**166. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council.**

**New York, March 17, 2011.**

Please see Document No.699.



**167. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Afghanistan.**

**New Delhi, May 11, 2011.**

I will be leaving on an official visit to Afghanistan at the invitation of His Excellency President Hamid Karzai.

My visit to Afghanistan is in keeping with the healthy tradition of regular high level exchanges between our two countries. President Hamid Karzai was in India in February 2011.

India and Afghanistan enjoy a deep and abiding relationship that goes back in time and history. We are people of the same region. We cannot remain unaffected by developments in Afghanistan. We take a long-term view of our partnership with Afghanistan.

If our region has to prosper and move ahead, Afghanistan must succeed in rebuilding itself. Its people have suffered far too long. India's commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan is enduring and has weathered many storms. Since my last visit to Afghanistan in 2005, our cooperation has expanded significantly. Today, our development assistance commitment to Afghanistan is about US \$ 1.5 billion. What is heartening is the support it enjoys among the Afghan people.

I look forward to wide ranging discussions with President Hamid Karzai and the Afghan leadership on ways to advance our partnership to a new level in the coming years. We will also exchange views on developments in the region and our common fight against the scourge of terrorism. The quest of the Afghan people for peace, stability and reconciliation needs the full support of all countries in the region and the international community.



**168. Remarks by Prime Minister at the Banquet Lunch hosted in his honour by the Afghan President Hamid Karzai.**

**Kabul, May 12, 2011**

Your Excellency President Hamid Karzai,

Distinguished Ministers,

Distinguished guests,

Thank you for your warm words of welcome and most generous hospitality. This is indeed in the best traditions of Afghanistan, and I feel extremely privileged to experience this hospitality first hand today. Thank you, Mr. President, for hosting me and my delegation to this extraordinary banquet.

I am delighted to be here in Afghanistan. This is an ancient land steeped in history and culture. When I see the love, affection and friendship in the eyes of the many faces around me, I know that I am visiting not just a neighbour but a very special friend. The presence of such a large number of prominent Afghan personalities here is enriching and humbling.

The bonds between India and Afghanistan have been forged over centuries. They have tied us together in traditions and faiths. They are immortalized in the poetry of Amir Khusro, the shrines of Salim Chisti and Moinuddin Chisti and the grave of Bidel Dehlavi. Trade, people and ideas have flowed between our lands. Afghan fruits and dry fruits are treasured delicacies in India.

I have come here with a message of solidarity, friendship and goodwill from the people of India to the people of Afghanistan. India is your neighbour and partner in development. You can count on us as you build your society, economy and polity.

Afghanistan has endured great suffering and violence. The time has come to put an end to this violence. Afghanistan should be allowed to rebuild itself, in the way its people want it to. Afghanistan deserves to occupy its rightful place in the global community.

We wish to see a peaceful, stable, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan, that is in harmony with the culture, genius and temperament of its people. We strongly support the Afghan people's quest for peace and reconciliation. India supports the unity, integrity and prosperity of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has made significant strides under President Karzai. He is a great patriot who has led his country without fear or favour. His friendship towards

India has won the hearts and minds of Indians, and made a strong partnership between India and Afghanistan a living reality.

The journey ahead for both India and Afghanistan to fulfil the aspirations of our peoples is a long one. There will be obstacles, but if we stand together we will achieve our goals. We will prevail, we will win.

We should have a long term vision of our relations and act accordingly. We should be ambitious in shaping our future ourselves. We should harness the goodwill that exists between our people and encourage much greater exchanges at all levels both within and outside government.

Your Excellency,

I once again thank you for such a special welcome. This will remain forever etched in my memory.

In conclusion, allow me to wish the people of Afghanistan peace, prosperity and happiness.



**169. Press Note issued by the Indian Embassy in Kabul on additional assistance to Afghanistan announced by Prime Minister during his visit to Afghanistan.**

**Kabul, May 12, 2011.**

India's existing commitments to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan involve a financial outlay of close to US \$ 1.5 billion.

2. A fresh package of US \$ 500 million has been announced during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Afghanistan, to underline India's undiluted commitment to the efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan to build a peaceful, prosperous and stable country. The following are the aid commitments made during the visit:

- (i) A fresh commitment of US \$ 100 million for the third phase of India's programme of Small Development Projects, over and above the previous pledge of US\$ 20 million;
- (ii) Donation of 1000 buses for the Kabul and other municipalities with provision for maintenance support, training and infrastructure;



- (iii) A medical package consisting of the treatment of Afghan patients in select disciplines and hospitals in India over the next three years to be implemented through the Afghan Ministry of Public Health; the rehabilitation and professional up-gradation of the National Malaria and Leishmaniasis Centre of Afghanistan; and the upgradation of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, including the neo-natal and maternal care unit;
- (iv) Upgradation of the agricultural department at the Kabul University to an agricultural university and providing scholarships for the study of agricultural sciences.
- (v) Donation of 500 tractors for Afghan farmers; Provision of seeds and other assistance for the agricultural sector;
- (vi) The early finalization of a US\$ 50 million Buyers Credit Line to promote exports and attract Indian business to Afghanistan;
- (vii) A grant of US \$ 10 million for preservation and revival of Afghanistan's archaeological and cultural heritage and cultural exchanges;
- (viii) A grant of US \$ 4 million to the Government of Afghanistan for the restoration of the historic Stor Palace in Kabul.
- (ix) Assistance in setting up an Afghan Institute of Mining.
- (x) An enhancement of our ICCR scholarships for students from 675 to 1000 with a special focus on encouraging women students to avail of the additional slots;
- (xi) Assistance in setting up of a computer laboratory at Habibia School.
- (xii) Supporting the Second Phase of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Skills Development Programme for providing vocational training to Afghan nationals
- (xiii) Establishment of a Jawaharlal Nehru Chair of Indian Studies at Kabul University
- (xiv) Reiterating the commitment to donate 250,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan to meet its requirements this year.



**170. Joint Declaration issued between India and Afghanistan on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Kabul.**

**Kabul, May 12, 2011.**

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

During the visit, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh held detailed discussions with H.E. President Hamid Karzai on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two sides recognized the ancient, historical and traditional ties that have existed between the two countries for centuries, and their mutual desire for close cooperation to strengthen and develop these ties for mutual benefit. Drawing upon their rich and fruitful tradition of cooperation in various fields since the establishment of their diplomatic relations, and emphasizing the fundamental and lasting importance of the Treaty of Friendship between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Afghanistan of 04 January 1950, and subsequent Agreements and Joint Statements, the two sides agreed that the further comprehensive development of their bilateral strategic ties would promote progress and prosperity in both countries and the region as a whole.

The two sides agreed to impart a long term commitment to their multifaceted bilateral relations and to actively develop them in the years ahead. India and Afghanistan confirmed their adherence to the common ideals of peace, democracy, inclusive development, rule of law, non-violence, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and underlined their shared commitment to combating terrorism that threatens both countries as well as the region and the world as a whole. The two leaders shared their vision of Afghanistan as an independent, democratic, stable and prosperous country.

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, India and Afghanistan decided to establish a Strategic Partnership covering all areas of mutual interest. Based on mutual understanding and long term trust in each other, this Partnership envisages the elevation of their multifaceted ties to a higher level, both in the bilateral field and in the international arena.

The two sides declared that the Strategic Partnership between the two countries is based upon the principles of sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, mutual respect and mutual benefit.

The two sides decided to hold follow up discussions in the near future towards preparation of a Strategic Partnership document between the two countries. The Strategic Partnership will be implemented under the framework of a Partnership Council. The Council will be headed by the Foreign Ministers of both the countries and will meet annually. It will consist of separate Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on designated issues of common concern.

The two sides agreed that the Strategic Partnership between India and Afghanistan will include various facets of the bilateral relationship.

In the political sphere, the two sides agreed to hold regular Summit level meetings, institutionalized dialogues at various levels, regular consultations on peace and security, and closer cooperation and coordination at the United Nations and other international and regional fora.

In the area of economics and commerce, the two sides decided to enter into a Strategic Economic Partnership, recognizing the advantages of closer economic integration with the South Asian market and the region. They agreed to explore greater cooperation in sectors such as mining, metallurgy, fuel and energy, information technology, communications and transport, and also jointly explore the possibilities of regional trading arrangements with other countries. The two countries agreed on the importance of regional projects such as TAPI, in promoting regional integration.

The two sides agreed to enhance and expand cooperation in the field of education & human resource capacity development, including through expanded opportunities for education and training for Afghan students in India and a significant expansion of the ongoing Small Development Projects (SDPs) scheme for grass-root level development in all parts of Afghanistan, especially remote and rural areas, and for the welfare particularly of Afghan women and children.

The Indian side announced an additional outlay of US\$ 500 million for these and other projects to be decided in consultation with Afghan partners making their total development commitment to Afghanistan US \$ 2 billion. The Afghan side expressed gratitude to India for its commitment to Afghanistan's reconstruction and development and for its generous support over the past ten years, including the new announcement of an additional US\$ 500 million to its past contribution.

The two sides also emphasized the importance of parliamentary exchanges, and those in the area of media, culture, youth, civil society and people-to-people relations, to provide further substance to the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

The two sides agreed that regional economic cooperation, with a view to assisting Afghanistan in emerging as a land bridge and trade, transportation and energy hub connecting Central and South Asia by enabling free and more unfettered transport and transit linkages would be in the interest of the country and the region as a whole. In this context, the two sides agreed on the need to explore regional infrastructure development projects and further energize cooperation under the framework of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The two sides also agreed that an important part of their Strategic Partnership would be cooperation in the area of security, law enforcement and justice, including an enhanced focus on cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, organised crime, and illegal trafficking in narcotics, and money-laundering.

The two sides affirmed that their Strategic Partnership was not directed against any other State or group of States.



**171. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Joint Session of the Afghan Parliament.**

**Kabul, May 13, 2011.**

I am overwhelmed by the honour given to me today to address the joint session of the Parliament of Afghanistan.

I am conscious that this is a rare honour given to a foreign leader. I am humbled by this gesture of love and affection for India.

You, the Honourable Members of the Wolesi Jirga and the Meshrano Jirga, represent the magnificent diversity, hopes and aspirations of this great and ancient land.

I bring to you the greetings and good wishes of the people of India.

**Honourable Members,**

Afghanistan is a country richly endowed in culture, heritage, architecture and natural resources.

Afghanistan has been a centre of civilization. It has given to the region and the world the richness of Dari and Pashto literature, the Sufi traditions of the Chistis,

the legacy of the Buddha and Buddhist art in Bamiyan, the Gandhara School of art and much more.

Afghanistan has been the junction between South and Central Asia and a gateway to India.

Our ties of history and culture go back many millennia.

The founder of the Mughal Empire Emperor Babar lies interred here in his favourite garden in Kabul.

In his brilliant reign of five years, Sher Shah Suri built the Grand Trunk Road from Kabul to Delhi. This facilitated the traditional exchange of religious ideas, the carriage of goods, travellers, kings and commoners. Kagazi badams and Kandahari anars are well known delicacies in India.

Bacha Khan, who was known as the Frontier Gandhi because of his friendship with Mahatma Gandhi, was laid to rest in Jalalabad according to his wishes.

Our forefathers have bequeathed to us a rich heritage of social, cultural and political ties. These civilisational connections have tied together our traditions and faiths and our terrain and temperament.

As leaders and representatives, we have the sacred duty to strengthen and enrich these bonds forged by our people over centuries.

I have come to Afghanistan to renew these ties of friendship, solidarity and fraternity. This is the only agenda that I have come with. This is the only agenda that the people of India have in Afghanistan.

**Honourable Members,**

Afghanistan has undergone great trials and tribulations. But we know that the Afghan people are proud, brave and fiercely independent. We know that they are strong and resilient in the face of adversity. These are qualities widely admired in India.

In the ten years since it decided to turn its back on the past and face the future, Afghanistan has made significant progress in many areas. There are undoubtedly many challenges ahead. The process of nation building is long and full of hurdles. National reconstruction needs sustained hard work and sacrifice and is a process of learning.

Our two countries face similar development challenges. India is ready to partner the Afghan people as they rebuild their country in accordance with their own priorities and national circumstances.

Many of Afghanistan's priorities are also our priorities. Many of your problems are also our problems.

We fully support the vision of a secure, prosperous and democratic future for Afghanistan outlined in the National Priority Programmes initiated by the government of Afghanistan.

Our experience of policy implementation in India has been that participative democracy is a vital agent of social and economic empowerment at the grassroots. It has brought in more transparent and accountable governance. The Afghan parliament already has reservation for women. We have found that similar reservation in local bodies in India is creating a new dynamic of development with a human face.

School enrolment in your country has increased from 1 million to 7 million since 2002 and enrolment of girls has doubled over the past four years.

I know that it is your topmost priority to put every child in school and keep him or her there. In India the mid-day meal scheme has been very successful in our schools. We have been supplying fortified biscuits to Afghan school children for the last few years.

But what we teach our children is equally important. In India we have recently overhauled the school curriculum. What children learn in school should be related to their lives outside it. They should imbibe a sense of nationhood and values of tolerance and respect for others. They should be taught about the importance of the environment. Education should stimulate and open their minds to creative thought and imagination. The hopes and dreams of our nations rest on the little shoulders of our children. So we need to teach them well.

I know that Afghanistan has made strides in providing health care to its people over the past decade. We would be happy to strengthen the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health and the work of our medical missions in different provinces.

Building infrastructure is another challenge. We have tried to provide such assistance as we could to provide electricity and roads in Afghanistan.

I am happy that the transmission line built from Pul-e-Khumri is now bringing a steady supply of electricity to the capital.

I am happy that the sacrifices made in building the Zaranj - Delaram highway have not gone in vain. The population of Zaranj has increased. Trade is thriving and customs revenues have grown.

**Honourable Members,**

The people of India feel privileged to see their development cooperation receive such a warm welcome in Afghanistan. Nothing would give us greater satisfaction than to see Indian resources being utilized for more roads, more electricity,

more schools, more hospitals or more community projects - activities that directly benefit the common Afghan people.

We will increase development outlays towards capacity building and skill development. This will include more scholarships for Afghan students for studying in India, institution building efforts, social development and higher investment in the health sector by way of a medical package. We will provide buses for Kabul and other municipalities.

We propose to upgrade the agricultural department at the Kabul University to an agricultural university, donate tractors to farmers and give scholarships for the study of agricultural sciences.

We will significantly enhance our commitment for the Small Development Projects Scheme across provinces to further facilitate development at the grassroots with the involvement of local communities.

We will help in the preservation and revival of Afghanistan's archeological and cultural heritage and restoration of the historic Stor Palace in Kabul.

The total outlay on these and other additional initiatives that we will take in consultation with the government of Afghanistan in the next few years will amount to 500 million US dollars. This will take our total commitment of assistance to around 2 billion US dollars.

**Honourable Members,**

Our ambitions and aspirations for growth and prosperity cannot be realized unless there is peace and tranquility that will allow our people to live and work in honour and dignity.

I pay tribute to all those innocent men, women and children who have lost their lives in the search for a better tomorrow. The people of India feel and share the pain and suffering of their Afghan brothers and sisters.

Terrorism and extremism are alien ideas to our people. They bring only death and destruction in their wake. They provide no answers to the problems of poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease. They have no place in a civilized society. Eventually, our centuries old traditions of peaceful co-existence, of living in peace and harmony with each other and with nature will prevail over these deviant ideologies. We cannot and must not allow the flames of extremism and terrorism to be fanned once again.

Afghanistan has embarked upon a process of national reconciliation. We wish you well in this enterprise. It is up to you, as the peoples' representatives, to

make decisions about your country's future without outside interference or coercion. This is your sovereign right. India will respect the choices you make and the decisions you take.

Our only interest is to see a stable, peaceful and independent Afghanistan living in peace with its neighbours.

We hope that Afghanistan will be able to build a framework of regional cooperation that will help its nation building efforts.

As Afghanistan moves towards assuming full responsibility for its security, we stand ready to widen our cooperation in this area.

**Honourable Members,**

The people of this region have lived together for centuries. This is our region and we have to survive together and flourish together.

While the international community can help, ultimately it is the people of the region who must take charge of their own future.

We have to learn to solve our problems ourselves. This is the lesson of history.

**Honourable Members,**

Afghanistan's entry into the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation was a historic step. We must invest and work together for our common future. The countries of South Asia have been most prosperous and stable when they have been well connected to each other and the world. Geography and history make it imperative that we cooperate to realize our common destiny.

If we are to build a common regional identity, we need to learn more about each other. I have often said that we know more about the countries of the West than we do about each other. That is why it is very important to multiply our people to people contacts.

**Honourable Members,**

Yesterday, President Karzai and I have agreed on a Declaration of Strategic Partnership.

We have agreed to reinvigorate our relationship in all sectors on the basis of mutual respect and mutual equality.

This will be a long term partnership. Its main pillars will be greater political interaction, a comprehensive economic partnership, a trade development strategy, a social development strategy, an agricultural outreach strategy, a



cultural development strategy, and a civil society strategy. A Partnership Council will be set up under the two Foreign Ministers.

I would especially like to underline the decision to enhance people to people exchanges, including between intellectuals, youth, women and the media.

Parliamentary exchanges are extremely useful and helpful. I would suggest for your consideration the formation of an India-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Forum.

We will revitalize links between our business and trading communities so that Afghanistan's economy can fully benefit from India's economic growth.

**Honourable Members,**

I am happy that the people of Afghanistan are emerging from the ravages of war and rebuilding the country as a peaceful home for the confluence of cultures, for commerce and development and where the countries of the region cooperate rather than compete with each other.

As an abiding friend, India will always stand by you in this noble task. We have always stood by our Afghan friends and I want to reaffirm that we will do so in future as well.

I once again thank you for giving me this great honour of sharing some of my thoughts with you.

I am deeply grateful to President Karzai for his personal friendship, and thank the people and Government of Afghanistan for the warm hospitality extended to me during my stay in this beautiful country.

Long live India-Afghanistan friendship



**172. Press Release issued by Ministry of Culture on the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Culture.**

**New Delhi, May 27, 2011.**

Ministry of Culture, Government of India has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Information and Culture, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan here today. The MOU has been signed by Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and Dr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen, Minister for Information and Culture, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

This MOU is part of the broader MOU on National Institution Building Project (NIBP) signed on 30-3-2010 between Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC), Government of Afghanistan and UNDP for facilitating public sector capacity development in Afghanistan.

The MOU signed today aims at sending Capacity Development Advisors (CDAs) from India for providing capacity development support to Afghanistan in the following areas:

- Common functions of government (policy & strategy development, project management, financial management, procurement and human resource management) and the technical areas.
- The technical areas of cooperation which shall be an evolving list and shall be determined in accordance with the needs assessment ascertained over time during the implementation of this MOU. An initial indicative list of areas of cooperation for capacity development is as under:-
  - (i) Promotion of art and culture.
  - (ii) Development of archaeological institutions, museums, libraries and archives.
  - (iii) Preservation and restoration of historical and cultural sites.
  - (iv) Promotion of cultural heritage of Afghanistan.
  - (v) Marketing of cultural places to improve tourism in Afghanistan.
- The contribution by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India shall be in kind in terms of provision of services of its experts/advisors in

accordance with the Terms of Reference for assignments identified by the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India shall assume responsibility for facilitating conduct of activities under this Agreement at its location.



**173. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the talks between the Indian and Afghan Defence Delegations.**

**New Delhi, June 1, 2011.**

India is committed to building the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces. This was conveyed by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony to General Abdul Rahim Wardak, Minister of National Defence of Afghanistan, here today.

During the hour-long delegation level talks, Shri Antony said that as a longstanding friend of the Afghan people, India remains fully committed to supporting Afghanistan in its reconstruction and development efforts. He conveyed the Government of India's willingness to work with the Afghan government in building the capabilities of the Afghan Security Forces in accordance with the priorities of the Afghan government. Both sides noted that terrorism continues to pose a threat to all countries in the region and noted the need to ensure cessation of support to such organizations in the interest of peace and development.

Shri Antony said that India attaches high importance to bilateral relations with Afghanistan, as is evidenced in the multifaceted relationship between the two governments. General Wardak, who is accompanied by a seven-member Afghan delegation, conveyed the appreciation of the people and the government of Afghanistan for the friendship and support of the Indian government and people.

The Afghan Defence Minister, who is on a three-day visit to India at the invitation of Shri Antony, earlier laid wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti and was presented a Tri-Services Guard of Honour.

There have been periodic exchanges between the Armed Forces of the two countries since General Wardak last visited India in April, 2008. The Afghan Chief

of General Staff, General Sher Mohammad Karimi visited India in October last year.

The visit of Afghan Defence Minister to India marks another step in the steady progress in bilateral relations, particularly as his visit comes soon after the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Afghanistan earlier this month.



**174. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Afghan situation at ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting.**

**Godollo (Hungary), June 6, 2011.**

Please see Document No.73



**175. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Afghan President Hamid Karzai conveying his heartfelt condolences on the assassination of Ahmad Wali Karzai.**

**New Delhi, July 12, 2011.**

In a letter to President H.E. Hamid Karzai, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed 'deep sorrow and shock' at the 'sad news of the tragic assassination' of Mr. Ahmad Wali Karzai\*.

PM conveyed heartfelt condolences, on behalf of the people and Government of India and on his own behalf to President Karzai, adding that 'Apart from your personal bereavement, the people of Afghanistan have lost a prominent public figure. In this difficult hour, our thoughts and prayers are with you, your family and the people of Afghanistan'.



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\* Mr. Ahmad Wali Karzai was the brother of President Karzai.

**176. Welcome remarks by External Affairs Minister during the visit of Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani.**

**New Delhi, July 14, 2011.**

It is my pleasure to welcome Chairman of the High Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan, His Excellency Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, and members of his delegation to New Delhi and India. He is an old friend of India.

I had the pleasure of meeting him during my visit to Kabul earlier in January this year when I was struck by his considerable understanding of the challenges confronting Afghanistan and the region.

We have historically enjoyed the closest of relations with the friendly people of Afghanistan. Our relationship is akin to a strategic partnership.

As your neighbour, friend and well wisher, we would like to see peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan in which all sections of the society, regardless of gender or ethnicity, can work shoulder to shoulder to secure a bright future for the country. In your quest for progress, economic development and social harmony, you can always count on India's unstinted support.



**177. Press Release on the visit of Chairman of High Peace Council of Afghanistan Prof. Burhanudin Rabbani.**

**New Delhi, July 15, 2011.**

On the invitation of the External Affairs Minister, a delegation of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan led by H.E. Professor Burhanudin Rabbani Chairman of the High Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan visited India from July 14-15, 2011.

2. During the visit, the High Peace Council delegation held detailed discussions with the External Affairs Minister and his delegation on the peace process in Afghanistan. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations organized an interaction for the members of the Afghan delegation with prominent Indian scholars. The Afghan delegation also called on Hon'ble Vice President of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister.

3. India's support for Afghanistan's quest for peace and stability through a process which is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, inclusive and transparent and

which respects the redlines agreed upon by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, was reiterated.

4. The visit of the delegation of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan is part of the regular high level exchanges between India and Afghanistan. The close relations between the two countries have been further strengthened by this visit.



**178. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Foreign Office Consultations between India and Afghanistan.**

**New Delhi, September 15, 2011.**

The Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai, led a delegation to Kabul for Foreign Office Consultations between India and Afghanistan during September 13-15, 2011.

2. The Foreign Secretary called on the President of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai. He also met Marshal Qasem Fahim, First Vice President; Mr. Abdul Karim Khalili, Second Vice President; Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Foreign Minister; Dr. Dadfar Rangeen Spanta, National Security Advisor; and Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines.

3. During his meeting with Foreign Secretary on September 14, President Karzai emphasised that terrorism and extremism posed a threat to not only the two countries but to the entire region and the world at large. In this context, both sides condemned the terror attack in Kabul city on 13 September. The Foreign Secretary, who was on his first visit to Afghanistan after assuming office, reiterated India's long-term commitment to partnership with Afghanistan.

4. The Foreign Secretary reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations with his counterpart, Mr. Jawed Ludin, Deputy Foreign Minister, apart from regional and global issues of mutual interest. Both sides expressed their continuing commitment to the strategic partnership between the two countries which would enhance regional cooperation. The Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister emphasised the importance of India's role in the forthcoming Istanbul and Bonn Conferences on Afghanistan later this year.



**179. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna offering his Condolences and expressing shock on the assassination of Chairman Burhanudin Rabbani, Chairman of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan.**

**New Delhi, September 20, 2011.**

"I am shocked to receive news of the assassination of Chairman of the High Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan Professor Burhanudin Rabbani, earlier today.

I fondly recall my meetings with him in Kabul and again in New Delhi last July, when he had shared his vision of a harmonious and prosperous Afghanistan. Tragically, the forces of terror and hatred have silenced yet another powerful voice of reason and peace in Afghanistan. We unreservedly condemn this act of great brutality.

I offer my deepest condolences to and solidarity with the members of the family of Prof. Rabbani and the people of Afghanistan. I would also like to reiterate the steadfast support of the people and government of India in Afghanistan's quest for peace and efforts to strengthen the roots of democracy".



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Burhanuddin Rabbani, former President of Afghanistan and Chairman of the High Peace Council - leading the year-old Afghan effort to negotiate with the Taliban - was killed in a bomb blast at his residence in the centre of Kabul's high-security diplomatic district. The blast reportedly took place when he was meeting two members of the Taliban as part of the ongoing efforts at reconciliation.

**180. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office condoling the assassination of Afghan leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani.**

**New Delhi, September 21, 2011.**

The Prime Minister has condoled the tragic death of Afghan leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani and condemned the terrorist attack on the leader. In a letter to President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan Dr. Manmohan Singh said the best tribute the people of Afghanistan can pay to the departed leader is to carry on with the task that he had begun - securing a peaceful and safe future for the people of Afghanistan.

The text of the Prime Minister's letter is as follows:

"It is with great shock and sadness that I have learnt of the tragic death of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. This is a senseless act of terrorism which the Government and people of India condemn.

I fondly recall my two meetings with Professor Rabbani in Kabul in May 2011 and in New Delhi in July 2011 during which he had shared with me his vision of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The best tribute the people of Afghanistan can pay to him is to carry on with the task that he had begun - securing a peaceful and safe future for the people of Afghanistan.

Please accept my deepest condolences on the tragic loss. I wish to assure Your Excellency that India stands by you and the people of Afghanistan in this hour. "





**181. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the meeting on new Silk Road in Afghanistan.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

His Excellency, Mr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

His Excellency, Mr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Federal Republic of Germany,

Her Excellency Mrs. Hilary Clinton, Secretary of State of United States of America,

And Fellow Ministers,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government and people of India, I would like to convey my deepest condolences on the tragic demise of Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, Chairman of the High Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan in a dastardly act of terrorism which we strongly condemn.

It was not so long ago, about two months back, in the month of July, that I had an opportunity to receive Prof. Rabbani in Delhi and exchange views with him on his mission to bring about peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

We welcome the initiative of the international community to support and assist Afghanistan in building a self-reliant and sustainable economy, at a time when the country seeks to take control of its own destiny. With the onset of the drawdown of foreign security forces and the transition process, it is all the more important for the international community, especially the regional countries, to remain committed in this crucial phase, when Afghan national institutions are still being developed and consolidated.

It is also important that Afghanistan's growth strategy is built upon the country's comparative advantage of abundant natural resources and its strategic geographical location. These would have to be the building blocks of our vision for Afghanistan as a hub linking Central and South Asia through pipelines, trade and transit routes for the common good of the people of our region and the world. In our opinion, the New Silk Road initiative is an important step in that direction and will receive our support.

We are already undertaking reconstruction and development activities in Afghanistan, with our total bilateral assistance commitment reaching US \$ 2 billion approximately. India has taken up projects in all parts of Afghanistan and in a wide range of sectors, which have been identified by the Afghan Government as priority areas.

We have laid special emphasis on capacity building and human resource development, which in our opinion would form the basis for a robust and self-reliant economy. Indian companies have presented bid for the development of the Hajigak iron ore reserves to the Afghan Government and India is participating in the TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) gas pipeline project. These are projects which would call for large investments and express our resolve to cooperate with Afghanistan on plans involving regional integration for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders. SAARC, of which Afghanistan is a full member, is an important vehicle for regional economic cooperation within the South Asian region. We have always considered Afghanistan as a South Asian country with natural complementarities and synergies with other countries of South Asia and one which is uniquely placed to build bridges even beyond it. India's rapidly growing economy and its large market make it a natural destination for Afghan exports. Similarly, India can be a cost-effective and efficient source for Afghan imports. In this regard, we welcome the operationalization of APTAA (Afghanistan Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement). This could serve as a start for trade and transit through the land route for other countries including India.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had succinctly articulated his vision for the region much before the idea of a New Silk Road initiative. I conclude by reiterating what he so eloquently stated: "I dream of a day, while retaining our respective identities, one can have breakfast in Amritsar, lunch in Lahore, and dinner in Kabul. That is how my forefathers lived. That is how I want our grandchildren to live." The time has come for all of us to start the process of building a better future for the generations to come.

Thank you



**182. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN  
Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Situation in  
Afghanistan at the Security Council.**

**New York, September 29, 2011.**

Please see Document No.759.



**183. Statement to the media by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during visit of President Karzai.**

**New Delhi, October 04, 2011.**

His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

Distinguished members of the media

I am delighted to welcome His Excellency the President of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai to India.

President Karzai's visit takes place soon after my own visit to Afghanistan in May. This reflects the tradition of regular high level exchanges that so happily exists between our two countries.

My discussions today with President Karzai have once again underlined the importance of a strong and broad based partnership between India and Afghanistan.

Our cooperation with Afghanistan is an open book. We have civilizational links, and we are both here to stay. We have to live and work together in times both good and bad.

Based on intensive consultations and deliberations, we have finalized an Agreement on a Strategic Partnership between India and Afghanistan which the President and I have signed today. The Agreement creates an institutional framework for our future cooperation in the fields of political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, capacity building and education, and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations.

We have also concluded two Memoranda of Understanding for cooperation in Mining and Hydrocarbons. These will add a new dimension to our economic relations.

We both agree that Afghanistan's economic integration with the Indian economy and South Asia as a whole is in the national interest of the people of Afghanistan, and one of the ways to achieve this is to promote closer trade, investment and transit links.

I reiterated to the President that India stands by the people of Afghanistan in their journey towards capacity building, reconstruction, development and peace. We will do all that is within our means to help Afghanistan.

We had detailed and frank discussions on the issue of terrorism. This threatens our entire region, and no country can remain immune to its lethal effects.

I conveyed our sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of Afghanistan on the acts of terrorism that have taken place in Afghanistan recently, particularly the tragic assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. Professor Rabbani was our guest in India in July and we were greatly encouraged by his vision. His brutal assassination should serve as an occasion for all of us to strengthen our resolve to jointly confront the menace of terrorism that threatens to undermine the security and stability of our region.

The people of Afghanistan have suffered enough. They deserve to live in peace and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation.

It is in this context that India will participate in the forthcoming conferences in Istanbul and Bonn to contribute to international and regional initiatives to support Afghanistan's efforts at nation building. The greatest need today is for the Afghan people to have peace and stability. All countries of the region must work to facilitate this.

India will stand by the people of Afghanistan as they prepare to assume the responsibility for their governance and security after the withdrawal of international forces in 2014.

I pay tribute to the sagacious leadership of President Karzai in seeking solutions that are inclusive and led by the Afghan people themselves. He has shown great courage in very difficult circumstances.

I look forward to working with President Karzai and his Government in the period ahead to further advance our relations across a wide spectrum.

Thank you.



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In a development of considerable importance for regional security, the all embracing Strategic Agreement that the two countries signed takes care of all round relationship between the two countries. It specifically provides for the training of Afghan security forces by India, to enable the Afghan security forces to gear up to deal with the situation arising from the withdrawal of the NATO forces by 2014. The proposal has been on the drawing board for quite some time but it matured now when Kabul felt its need. The significance of the Agreement was further underlined by the fact of it being signed at the highest level by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Karzai. Another major initiative that the Agreement underlines is that the two countries would cooperate more closely at the United Nations and other international fora to achieve policy synergies. In addition to dealing with political and security cooperation aspects, the Agreement spells out trade and economic cooperation in much greater detail, covering aspects ranging from assisting Afghanistan in developing trading routes to exploring for hydrocarbons and mineral ores the country is abundantly endowed with. The Agreement also aims to

create a favourable trading and investment environment by simplifying customs and other procedures, starting air cargo operations and improving credit and insurance facilities. Both Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Karzai made it clear, that the Agreement would not be directed against any state or a group of states. It only seeks "to creates an institutional framework for ... future cooperation in the fields of political and security , trade and economic cooperation, capacity building and education, and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations."

Other Agreements signed during the visit of President of Afghanistan

S.No	Name of the Agreement/MOU	Signatory from Afghanistan	Signatory from India
1.	MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Development of Hydrocarbons	H.E. Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.	Shri S. Jaipal Reddy Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.
2.	MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Mineral Resources Development	H.E. Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.	Shri Dinsha J. Patel, Minister of State for Mines (Independent Charge), Government of India.

#### **Brief notes on two above MOUs.**

##### **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Development of Hydrocarbons**

The bilateral MoU signed between the Indian Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Afghan Ministry of Mines, establishes a cooperative institutional framework to facilitate and enhance, bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, including oil and gas. It envisages cooperation in the areas of exploration, production, infrastructure, research & training and promotion of private and public sector investment in development of hydrocarbons including oil and natural gas.

##### **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Mineral Resources Development**

The bilateral MoU signed between the Indian and Afghan Ministry of Mines aims at promotion of private and public sector investment in mining and mining-related activities; mineral exploration & exploitation and capacity building in the field of geosciences and mining in Afghanistan.

**184. Agreement between India and Afghanistan on Strategic Partnership.**

**New Delhi, October 4, 2011.**

**The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India**, hereinafter referred to as "the Sides",

**RECOGNISING** the time-tested and friendly relationship between the two countries, underpinned by historical and cultural ties;

**EMPHASISING** the fundamental and lasting importance of the Treaty of Friendship between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Afghanistan of 4 January 1950, and subsequent Agreements and Joint Statements;

**PROCEEDING** from a desire to further strengthen their traditional and historical ties to mutual benefit;

**DRAWING** upon their rich and fruitful tradition of cooperation in various fields since the establishment of their diplomatic relations;

**CONVINCED** that the further comprehensive development of their bilateral ties would promote progress and prosperity in both states and the region as a whole;

**APPRECIATING** the significant expansion of bilateral ties between the two countries and, in this context, the sincere and generous assistance that the Republic of India has provided to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan over the past ten years;

**SEEKING** to impart a long term commitment to their multifaceted bilateral relations and to actively develop them in political, development, economic, trade, scientific, technological, cultural and other fields in the years ahead;

**CONFIRMING** their adherence to the common ideals of peace, democracy, rule of law, non-violence, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

**Hereby proclaim** the establishment of relations of Strategic Partnership, as laid out in the following paragraphs:

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

1. This Agreement, based on mutual understanding and long term trust between the Sides, envisages the elevation of the multifaceted ties between the two countries to higher levels, both in the bilateral field and in the international arena.

2. The Strategic Partnership between the Sides is based upon the principles of sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, mutual respect and mutual benefit.
3. The Strategic Partnership between the Sides is not directed against any other State or group of States.

#### **POLITICAL & SECURITY COOPERATION**

1. The Sides agree to engage in close political cooperation and, in this respect, establish a mechanism for regular bilateral political and Foreign Office Consultations. Political consultations will be led by Foreign Ministries of both countries and include summit level consultations convened at least once a year.
2. The Sides agree to consult and cooperate at the United Nations and other international, regional and multilateral fora. Such cooperation is to be aimed at influencing decision-making in these fora in the interest of both countries. Cooperation at the UN and multilateral fora would include:
  - (a) Joint initiatives on key regional and international issues;
  - (b) Support for the reform and expansion of the United Nations Security Council, including a permanent seat for India in the Council.
3. The Sides agree to establish a Strategic Dialogue to provide a framework for cooperation in the area of national security. The Dialogue will be led by NSAs and involve regular consultations with the aim of intensifying mutual efforts towards strengthening regional peace and security.
4. Security cooperation between the Sides is intended to help enhance their respective and mutual efforts in the fight against international terrorism, organized crime, illegal trafficking in narcotics, money laundering and so on.
5. India agrees to assist, as mutually determined, in the training, equipping and capacity building programmes for Afghan National Security Forces.

#### **TRADE & ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

1. The Sides commit to strengthening trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, as well as cooperation between other bodies of business and industry representatives, with a view to expanding trade and economic relations.
2. In the interest of Afghanistan's sustainable development, and furthering economic interdependence between the two countries, the Sides commit

to deepening and diversifying cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, rural development, mining, industry, energy, information technology, communications, transport, including civil aviation, and any other areas that the Sides may agree on.

3. The Sides agree to take effective measures to create a favourable environment to promote trade and investment. The measures shall include, among others:
  - (a) Enhancing investment protection;
  - (b) Simplifying customs and other procedures and promoting the removal of non-tariff barriers, and gradually lowering tariff barriers;
  - (c) Working towards the creation of air-cargo facilities for promotion of commercial exchanges;
  - (d) Cooperating in the areas of banking and finance, and improving credit and insurance facilities and;
  - (e) Enhancing cooperation and coordination at international trade, economic and financial bodies.
4. To achieve a sustained expansion of bilateral trade and economic ties with a long term perspective, the Sides will establish effective mechanisms for interaction between Indian and Afghan entities. Specific measures will include:
  - (a) Encouraging contacts between regions/provinces in both countries with a view to promoting trade, economic and cultural cooperation;
  - (b) Mandating the relevant bodies of both countries to jointly explore the possibilities of regional trading arrangements with third countries;
  - (c) Further enhancing the quality and international competitiveness of their goods by promoting cooperation between the institutions of quality assurance and standardization, and on new technologies; and
  - (d) Encouraging greater cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industries of both countries.
5. Recognizing that regional economic cooperation is vital to the future economic prosperity of individual nations, the Sides agree to cooperate, both bilaterally and through regional organizations in promoting regional economic cooperation. Regional economic cooperation shall:



- (a) Envisage assisting Afghanistan emerge as a trade, transportation and energy hub connecting Central and South Asia and enabling free and more unfettered transport and transit linkages;
- (b) Focus on development of regional infrastructure projects;
- (c) Help facilitate the integration of the Afghan economy within the South Asian and global economies by opening markets for Afghan and Indian products for mutual benefit; and
- (d) Strengthen regional cooperation under SAARC, of which both sides are members.

#### **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

1. In the interest of Afghanistan's long-term, sustainable development, and building on the existing generous aid programme offered by India to Afghanistan, India commits to continue its assistance to the development and capacity building efforts in Afghanistan.
  - (a) Cooperation will, among other areas of focus, concentrate on the agriculture, mining and health sectors, reflecting Afghanistan's priorities; and
  - (b) India further commits to expand ongoing Small Development Projects (SDPs) for grass-root level development in the remote and rural areas.
2. The Sides agree to establish institutional linkages between their respective governments by encouraging cooperation between Ministries/agencies of the two sides. India offers the experience of its own institutional, administrative, political and economic systems as references that Afghanistan can study and benefit from in the light of its own needs and realities.
3. As part of its highly successful annual scholarship programme, and the broader strategy of support to higher education for Afghanistan, India will continue to expand education and training opportunities in India through the ICCR and ITEC scholarships, and multilateral-funded programmes.
  - (a) Responding to the requirements of Afghanistan, India will explore avenues to expand scholarships in medical, engineering and management institutes of India; and
  - (b) The Sides will also encourage and facilitate annual student exchange programmes at the school and university levels.

4. As part of its capacity building support for the Afghan government, India will continue and expand technical, training and other capacity building support to the various departments in the three branches of government, including the Executive, Judiciary and the Parliament.
5. In response to Afghanistan's need to strengthen its administration and governance at national and sub-national levels, India offers its experience of governance at the national, state, district and local body levels, and technical assistance in setting up a permanent, career-based civil service suitable for Afghan realities.

#### **SOCIAL, CULTURAL, CIVIL SOCIETY & PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONS**

1. In pursuit of further expanding the existing people-to-people bonds that exist between the two countries, the Sides envisage greater exchanges between parliament, media, women, youth, sports, academic, cultural, intellectual and religious figures and bodies.
2. Through the India-Afghanistan Foundation, the Sides will seek to promote social and cultural ties, with a focus on arts, literature, poetry and so on, and further expand the exposure to each others' cultural heritage and achievements.
3. The Sides will encourage and promote greater exchanges between media organizations in their respective countries, within the framework of an independent and free media.
4. Both Sides will work for the upliftment of women, their education and rights, and also for the poorer or weaker sections of their societies.
5. To encourage and expand interaction and legitimate movement of people between the two countries, the Sides agree to simplifying rules and procedures for travel by citizens of both countries. The Sides intend to:
  - (a) Promote tourist exchanges and cooperation between tourist organizations in both countries; and
  - (b) Encourage sister-city agreements between the cities/provinces/states of the two countries.
6. To facilitate legal cases involving nationals of one country in the other, the Sides will work towards agreements on mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal matters.
7. To promote relations between civil societies and, in particular, enable intellectual exchanges, the Sides intend to establish India-Afghanistan Round Table consisting of eminent persons representing different fields.

8. Both Sides agree to promote cooperation and exchanges in the field of sports.
9. Both sides agree to share and learn from each others' experience of the values and institutions of democracy, including the sharing, distribution and devolution of powers, relations between the Centre and States/ Provinces, electoral reforms etc.
10. The Sides agree to establish parliament-to-parliament exchanges between the two countries by organizing visits of parliamentary delegations and establishing parliamentary friendship groups in the two countries.

#### IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

1. This Strategic Partnership would be implemented under the framework of a Partnership Council, which will be headed by the Foreign Ministers of both countries. The Council will convene annual meetings.
2. The Council will consist of separate Joint Working Groups on Political & Security Consultations, Trade and Economic Cooperation, Capacity Development & Education, and Social, Cultural and Civil Society, involving high level representatives from concerned Ministries/ Authorities.
3. The existing dialogue mechanisms between the two sides will become part of the Council.

#### CONCLUSION

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India go forward in this partnership, re-asserting the fundamental and lasting spirit of the Treaty of Friendship between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Afghanistan of 04 January 1950, which states: "There shall be everlasting peace and friendship between the two Governments who will further strive to maintain and strengthen the cordial relations existing between the people of their respective countries."

**Signed** on the 4th October 2011 at New Delhi in four originals, each in Hindi, Pashto, Dari and English languages. However, in case of any discrepancy in the text or difference in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**(Manmohan Singh)**  
Prime Minister  
of the Republic of India

**(Hamid Karzai)**  
President  
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



**185. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at 3rd R.K. Mishra Memorial Lecture delivered by Afghan President Hamid Karzai.**

**New Delhi, October 5, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Hamid Karzai,  
President ORF Ambassador Rasgotra,  
Distinguished Members of the Afghan delegation,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct pleasure for me to address you on the occasion of the third R.K. Mishra Memorial Lecture.

I would like to convey my profound appreciation to His Excellency President Hamid Karzai for his gracious presence today and for delivering the R.K. Mishra Memorial Lecture. We have greatly benefited from President Karzai's insights and his vision of India Afghanistan relations.

Mr. President, we are humbled by your affection for India and her people. Your appraisal of the constructive role played by India in reconstruction and development of Afghanistan is gratifying. It is our privilege to be Afghanistan's partner in her nation building efforts.

I also thank Your Excellency for your farsighted and forthright views on ushering in a new era of peace in Afghanistan and the region.

At the outset, I would like to once again convey our deepest condolences on the brutal assassinations of Mr. Ahmed Wali Karzai and Prof. Rabbani. We have condemned these dastardly acts in no uncertain terms and reiterated that we stand solidly by the side of our Afghan brothers and sisters.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

India and Afghanistan share a civilizational relationship interwoven by cultural, social and people-to-people contacts. This bond has not only endured but strengthened over the centuries.

India's goodwill and friendship for Afghanistan, as well as, confidence in its leadership, was eloquently articulated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, during his address to the Parliament of Afghanistan earlier this May. He observed, "Many of Afghanistan's priorities are also our priorities. Many of your problems are also our problems. We fully support the vision of a secure, prosperous and democratic future for Afghanistan", outlined by the government of Afghanistan.

This confidence and commitment, has been fully reflected in the, landmark bilateral Agreement on Strategic Partnership, concluded yesterday, between our two countries.

We are clear in our minds that it is for the people and government of Afghanistan to take decisions about the future of their great nation, without any outside prescription. We as always, would be happy to be guided by your choices and decisions.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Afghanistan is at a crucial phase in its history. Quite apart from being a victim of terrorism and targeted assassinations, it also bracing for drawdown of NATO forces by end-2014. The twin challenge therefore is of strengthening national security institutions, in tandem with, stepping up the pace of socio-economic development.

Our efforts are aimed precisely towards such an outcome. During our Prime Minister's visit to Afghanistan in May 2011, India announced an additional assistance of US \$ 500 million for capacity building and Human Resource Development. We are working closely with our Afghan friends for early implementation of this commitment.

Despite persistent attacks on Indian interests, engineered by forces inimical to India Afghan friendship, we remain steadfast in our commitment to assist the valiant people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan, as well as, to enhance socio-economic ties with its neighbourhood. Afghanistan's entry into the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation - SAARC - in 2005 was a key step in enhancing regional synergies.

We see Afghanistan as an economic hub connecting Central and South Asia through a network of trade and transit links, and pipelines. The Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation between India and Afghanistan signed yesterday, in the fields of development of Hydrocarbons and mineral resources, will be conducive to such an outcome.

And that was the principal factor for my participation in the New Silk Road Ministerial Meeting held last month in New York, to underline India's support, for this very constructive initiative towards positioning Afghanistan as an economic hub in the region. India will also actively participate in the forthcoming international conferences on Afghanistan in Istanbul and Bonn.

At the same time, it is essential that global efforts be renewed with greater vigour, to suitably strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan's own institutions, including its National Security Forces, to enhance peace and stability in the

country. A prerequisite for this, is to liquidate the terror sanctuaries and safe havens that exist beyond Afghanistan's borders. It has to be understood by each and every nation, that a democratic Afghanistan, a stable Afghanistan and an economically developed Afghanistan would also enhance regional peace and prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to once again, profusely thank President Karzai for so eloquently delivering the third R K Mishra Memorial Lecture today. I am also appreciative of the Observer Research Foundation for inviting me to present my thoughts. It is indeed a great honour.



**186. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for Implementation of a Twin Arrangement for Public Sector Capacity Development in Afghanistan.**

**New Delhi, October 12, 2011.**

India and Afghanistan today entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of a twinning arrangement for public sector capacity development in Afghanistan. Under it both the countries will co-operate in the field of public sector capacity development in accordance with the applicable domestic law in force in the respective countries in which the activities are undertaken. The MoU was signed by the Union Labour & Employment Minister Shri Mallikarjun Kharge with his counterpart Ms. Amena Afzali Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Welcoming the Afghanistan delegation Shri Mallikarjun Khage said India and Afghanistan share warm and cordial relations based on historical and cultural links and this relationship spans over centuries.

Referring to the recent visit of Afghanistan President Karzai the minister said there are around 4000 Indians in Afghanistan engaged in the task of rebuilding the country both through Government of India projects and private sector initiatives. The VV Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) has been organising various training programmes for Afghan officials.

He said areas for further technical cooperation between VVGNLI and Government of Afghanistan can include: (a) Programmes similar to those being organised currently which can be conducted for different groups of social partners (b) capacity building programmes for the labour administrators which can be developed and organised by the VVGNLI for Afghanistan labour administrators. These programmes could focus on themes like industrial relations, social security, child labour and gender issues in labour market (c) Our institute could help the Afghanistan Government in developing a Labour Institute in Afghanistan which could provide technical expertise in designing research studies to be under taken in the areas of labour and employment there and can also organize courses on research methods in labour studies. India can share the details of its various schemes in the area of skill development, Health insurance, Social Security, OSH etc, Shri Kharge added.

Shri Kharge expressed the hope that the current MoU will go a long way in bringing about improvements in the various matters related to the World of Work in Afghanistan.

As per the MoU the cost to carry out the activities under this Agreement shall be met out of National Institution Building Project (NIBP) funds mobilized from different resources. The scope of this twinning Agreement includes Provision of advisory services for supporting policy and strategy development and systems improvement in accordance with identified needs of Afghanistan for assessments, capacity development, policy development and other advisory services including services of technical experts for specific identified needs.



**187. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 'Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia'.**

**Istanbul, November 2, 2011.**

**Excellency President Gul of Turkey,  
Excellency President Karzai of Afghanistan,  
Distinguished Foreign Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me today to represent India at the 'Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan: Security and Cooperation in the Heart of Asia'.

India has age-old historical, cultural, civilizational and economic ties with neighbouring Afghanistan. Our relationship has, since 2001, been renewed and consolidated by our contribution to the rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan; to helping this neighbor build a modern and sustainable economy and the strong administrative capacities necessary for a self-reliant nation.

India supports the aims and objectives of this Conference: - to bring regional countries together on an inclusive platform to address the common challenges facing the region, and working towards cooperative confidence-building measures and solutions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Turkey for its timely initiative in convening this Conference of all of Afghanistan's extended neighbours and its international supporters, and facilitating this regional process.

**Excellencies,**

In the decade since 2001 when the international community took up the stabilization and development of Afghanistan, the role that regional countries could play in bringing stability to Afghanistan has not been given adequate importance.

Today as NATO-ISAF prepares to drawdown its combat role in Afghanistan by the end of 2014, it is evident that Afghanistan's regional neighbours and friends can work with the wider international community to provide Afghanistan a helping hand to assist it in the transition and beyond. Afghanistan needs our assistance to build its capacity to tackle the critical challenges of terrorism including suicide terrorism, the religious extremism that fuels it, and the drug trafficking that sustains it.

**Excellencies,**

Allow me to set out India's perspective on security and cooperation in the Heart of Asia with Afghanistan at its centre:



First, India believes in a strong, independent, sovereign, stable, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbours. Reconciliation on the basis of the Constitution of Afghanistan should be an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-driven process.

Second, recent history has shown that an end to Afghanistan's suffering requires an end to external interference in its internal affairs. This Conference is addressing issues including safe havens and sanctuaries beyond Afghanistan's borders.

Third, critical requirements for Afghanistan are security, good governance and development. It is for this reason that as a developing neighbour itself, India has pledged up to 2 billion US Dollars in development and humanitarian assistance, and recently signed a comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan looking at 2014 and beyond.

Fourth, our partnership does not look at Afghanistan and the region in 'competitive' terms; it is based on a vision of regional economic cooperation spanning all the countries in the vast theatre radiating out from the Heart of Asia. This cooperation would be founded on trade and transit routes, railways and highways, energy pipelines and electricity networks, economic projects and cross-investments. This cooperation would not be only between governments, but have civil society and business as stakeholders.

#### **Excellencies,**

The idea of linking South and Central Asia recalls the historical roots of regional trade routes. Today our investments in Afghanistan require a framework of regional collaboration for their success.

From our vantage point in the SAARC region, we would like to highlight the potential of the dynamic SAARC market of over 1.5 billion, and the Indian economy of over US \$1.5 trillion growing at a rate of 8% per annum. Cooperation linking our region with Central Asia through Afghanistan could be a critical confidence building measure.

#### **Excellencies,**

In our deliberations we need to work simultaneously on economic cooperation along with political, security and other confidence building measures that could ensure peace and stability for Afghanistan and through it for the entire region. Our vision for this period of transition must take account of the conditions on the ground and the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces to preserve the independence and the integrity of their nation. We also need to overcome the deficit in trust through regional cooperation, linked to a larger vision of how our region relates to the world.

**Excellencies,**

So far, the attempts to grapple with these challenges have been made in an ad hoc and piece-meal manner, in exclusive groups of three, four or more, more often than not with different foci, and competing interests.

Our Conference today and its follow up is an opportunity to bring all the countries of the region together, along with international supporters to address the common problems, referred to earlier. It is our hope that the final document that we will be adopting today, will reflect this vision. We need a road map that follows up our conclusions with processes to address the common challenges facing the region and build trust and confidence in addressing them. We in India look forward to working with you in this great endeavor.

Thank you.

**188. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at International Afghanistan Conference.****Bonn, December 5, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Karzai,

Your Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan and Germany,

Excellencies ladies and gentlemen,

We are getting together in Bonn once again after 10 years for another historic and fateful moment in Afghanistan's recent history, a moment of hope as well as anxiety. What we decide here today, will decide the fate of Afghanistan and the region, and probably beyond, for at least another generation. Therefore, we must decide well and wisely.

Over the last 30 odd years, Afghanistan has seen domestic political struggles, destabilizing foreign intervention of various kinds, internal conflict and civil war, repressive fundamentalist rule, and foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs on a large scale. These left the Afghan state and society devastated, and Afghanistan itself a staging ground for regional and international terrorism.

The task before Afghanistan and the international community since the end of 2001 therefore, has been to reverse that fate and set Afghanistan firmly on the road to recovery, reconstruction, security, development and prosperity.

Much has been achieved since then: a new democratic Constitution adopted, Presidential and Parliamentary elections held twice around, new institutional foundations laid, schools, health centres and roads built, school enrolment up, girls educated, health services brought to people, infant mortality reduced, women restored to public life, and large numbers of refugees and expatriates returned to rebuild a new Afghanistan of their hopes. The physical and socio-economic security provided by international forces and international assistance program has been a sine qua non for these dramatic improvements.

But much remains to be done, and there have been reverses in the security situation on the ground and in public faith in the future of Afghanistan. Ten years is too short a time to rebuild a country even with the best will and efficiency in the world. The international community needs to stay engaged in Afghanistan for the long term, for both its security and development.

Let us not forget why the international community came to Afghanistan. It came because Afghanistan, under the control of an extremist ideology and under the influence of foreign countries, had become a sanctuary for International terror. Terrorism radiated outwards to the region, affecting firstly India, and then other countries. It culminated in the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. The international community then decided that this would not stand, that this bastion of extremism and terrorism was a threat to mankind and had to be replaced.

Today, we have to ask ourselves, if that job is done, whether we have succeeded in eliminating terrorism, and the safe havens and sanctuaries from where it is emanating, right from its source. We have to ask whether, if we withdraw our holding hand, Afghanistan will be able to withstand the forces of (radicalism), extremism and violence, and stand on its own feet. The answer to that question should decide the nature and level of our long-term engagement with Afghanistan.

Fortunately, this extraordinarily well attended Bonn Conference, for which we congratulate the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and thank Germany, is an expression of the international community's determination, that even as it reduces its footprint in Afghanistan, it does not abandon Afghanistan as it did in the 1990's. It marks a political commitment to stay engaged with Afghanistan well into the future.

The strategic partnership agreement that Afghanistan has signed with India, and will in due course sign with the US, EU, France, the UK, Australia (etc) is an encouraging pointer in this direction.

But political commitment and conference decisions alone are not enough. We need to back up our commitments with both resources and actions. We need to avert the possibility that Afghanistan is let down or made to feel abandoned

by a withdrawal of assistance, at least in terms of quantity if not quality, of international assistance required, in the era after 2014.

There is a real danger that as international forces withdraw from a combat role and in numbers, there will be a transition 'recession'; i.e. that attention and aid will decline, just as the Afghan government's security demands increase. We should not make the mistakes of the past and let Afghanistan slip back. We must ensure that Afghanistan's security is ensured through non-interference in its internal affairs. It also needs support for economic development. The World Bank study on the looming recession and the fiscal gap that needs to be bridged during this period of transition is a timely warning of the danger of leaving the country to its own devices. We hope that the upcoming conferences in 2012, the Chicago conference in May (on security), the Kabul conference in June (on regional cooperation) and the Tokyo conference in July (on development), will ensure the continued engagement of the international community in Afghanistan's growth.

Afghanistan today faces at least four deficits: a security deficit, a governance deficit, a development deficit, and an investment deficit. All four of these deficits Afghanistan's will require enormous assistance for a long time if it is to address these four deficits adequately.

To address these deficits, Afghanistan needs time, development assistance, preferential access to world markets, foreign investment and a clear end-state and strategy to make sure that it does not once again plunge into lawlessness, civil war, and externally sponsored extremism and terrorism. Conceptually there is need for something like a 'Marshall Plan' for Afghanistan, involving all the major stakeholders. Afghanistan is not like any other country. It is a Least Developed Country that has suffered three decades of conflict and devastation resulting in the decimation of virtually a generation of not only its citizens and its institutions and infrastructure. It continues to face a potent threat to its security from terrorism and insurgency being fuelled from outside its borders. The international community must ensure that as it reduces its military commitment to Afghanistan, it increases rather than decreases its economic commitment to the security and rebuilding of Afghanistan so that it does not once again slide back to the dark ages of the 1990s.

Of course, such assistance has also to take into account hard global realities of public fatigue and economic and financial crisis in most troop contributing countries, and Afghan responsibilities. It cannot be open-ended. But it also cannot be avoided. In the long run, Afghanistan clearly has to move away from international dependence and take responsibility for its own development. Afghanistan has the natural and human resources to sustain a future of economic growth. Issues of corruption, investment climate, development of its

own resources, rule of law and governance have to be addressed. There have to be "credible mutual commitments", but we should be aware that Afghanistan is not yet an equal partner, and may need help even in fulfilling its own commitments.

In speaking for an international commitment to Afghanistan's security and economic growth we are clear that long-term international assistance to Afghanistan is not offered an expression of our collective munificence. It stems from our shared recognition that instability and radicalism in Afghanistan poses a threat to our common security.

In this context, let me underline that India is willing to contribute its share. In May this year, addressing the Afghan parliament, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pledged an additional US \$ 500 million to the US \$ 1.5 billion already pledged by India to its development effort for Afghanistan until the period 2014. The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October this year commits us to all-round assistance to Afghanistan well into the future.

We offer our growing market to Afghanistan's products. In early November, India announced the virtual elimination of sensitive lists affecting exports of all least developed SAARC countries to India. India is also assisting Afghanistan in building an Agricultural University to tap the potential in Agriculture in Afghanistan. We have extended our assistance to Afghanistan for capacity building; increased the number of civil scholarships offered to Afghanistan to enable more students from Afghanistan get requisite training in art, culture and technology among other areas to further the process of nation building in Afghanistan. We are also prepared to make long-term investments in Afghanistan. When we last met in Istanbul I mentioned that Indian companies are willing to invest up to US \$ 10 billion in mining, setting up a steel plant, and related infrastructure in Afghanistan. I am happy to announce that the Indian consortium has been awarded the bid for three blocks of the Hajigak iron ore reserves by the Government of Afghanistan.

These are concrete manifestations of our long-term political commitment to Afghanistan. If others do the same, we could set off a virtuous cycle of healthy economic competition in Afghanistan that benefits Afghanistan and the region, indeed, set off, as President Karzai has called it, a cooperative rather than competitive 'Great Game' in the region.

We need to offer a narrative of opportunity to counter the anxiety of withdrawal, uncertainty, instability and foreign interference.

We visualize Afghanistan's mineral resources, agricultural products and human resources as possible drivers of regional economic development that together

with the energy resources of Central Asia, Iran and the Gulf, the growing economic prowess and markets of China, Russia, Turkey and India, could knit the entire region between Turkey in the West, Russia in the north, China in the east, and the Gulf, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean in the south, in a web of trade, transit and energy routes and economic cooperation. This vision requires international support in the form of institutional finance and foreign investment.

Let us look at the Bonn conference and the upcoming conferences of 2012 as providing a road map for such future.



## **BANGLADESH**

### **189. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's meetings at Thimphu.**

**Thimphu, February 7, 2011.**

Please see document No. 227.



### **190. Joint Press Statement issued by Ministry of Culture on India - Bangladesh Meeting on Cultural Cooperation at Secretary-Level.**

**New Delhi, April 7, 2011.**

- Secretary level discussions on India-Bangladesh cooperation in the field of Culture was held in New Delhi today, 7th April, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Bangladesh delegation was led by Ms. Suraiya Begum, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Culture Secretary also called on Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Km. Selja.
- India and Bangladesh share close historical, cultural and ethnic links. The cultural agreement between the two countries was first signed in Dhaka in December, 1972. o The India-Bangladesh Cultural Agreement covers a range of areas of cooperation including art and culture, mass-

media including T.V., radio, films and press, sports and youth activities, archaeology, museums, libraries and archives, and education activities. The objectives enshrined in the Cultural Agreement are realized through the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)

- The current Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2010-12 between India and Bangladesh was signed on 11th January, 2010 in New Delhi in the presence of the Prime Ministers of the two countries when the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina paid a State visit to India.
- In the Joint Communiqué issued after the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, one of the significant agreement was to jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
- The discussions between the two sides were held in an atmosphere of great warmth and cordiality. The two sides recalled the successful visit of Secretary (Culture) of India to Bangladesh in December 2010 and undertook a detailed review of the implementation of CEP.
- The two sides highlighted the common cultural heritage of the two countries and emphasised the need to build on these shared links.
- The areas of discussion included the following:-
  - Monuments and Archaeology
  - Museums and Visual Arts
  - National Science Museums
  - Films and Media
  - Library and Archives
  - Performing Arts
  - Joint nominations of Intangible Cultural Heritage for UNESCO
  - Joint Commemorations of the 150th birth Anniversary Commemorations of Rabindra Nath Tagore, including, inter-alia, opening ceremony on 6th May 2011 at Dhaka and 7th May 2011 at New Delhi and programmes throughout the year.
- The two sides noted with satisfaction that under the CEP 2010-12 following activities have already taken place:
  - Visit of a delegation of craft persons to Bangladesh in December, 2010

- Participation of Bangladesh in the International Film Festival at Goa in November, 2010. The Golden Peacock award of INR 4 million was won by the film "Moner Manush" coproduced by Indian producer Gautam Kundo and Bangladeshi producers Habibur Rahman Khan and Faridur Reza Sagar and was directed by Gautam Ghose.
- A Bangladesh Film Festival was held in April, 2010 in Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.
- Shri Belal Choudhury, Shri Rafiq Azad, Shri Syed Al Faruq and Smt. Jahanara Parveen visited Shantiniketan for a "Kavita Utsav" on 12-13 Feb. 2011 in connection with the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore on the invitation of Sahitya Akademy.
- The National Archives of India (NAI) and the National Archives of Bangladesh have been in close cooperation as well.
- Retrospective of Uttam Kumar films in Dhaka and Chittagong
- 'Ananda Jagya', - a festival of Indian Performing Arts held in Bangladesh.
- During the discussions both sides identified several activities for the current year. They include the following:
  - Lalit Kala Academi to invite Bangladeshi artists to participate in the Triennial - India. India to participate in the Asian Art Biennial in Bangladesh.
  - Sahitya Akademi and Bangla Academy to enhance cooperation and Sahitya Akademy to publish an anthology of poetry of Bangladesh.
  - Cooperation between the National Museums of both countries.
  - The National Archives of India (NAI) and the National Archives of Bangladesh to continue their active cooperation, including modalities for exchange of archival records.
  - Cooperation with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
  - National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) to send an exhibition of Modern Art of India starting from the Company School to the Modern Contemporary Art. NGMA to also host the exhibition of contemporary Art from Bangladesh.
  - Enhanced cooperation in the field of Archaeology, including visits of



experts from both countries, capacity building and training by the ASI of India and the Directorate of Archaeology of Bangladesh.

- Shared heritage sites to be pursued with UNESCO for inclusion in the World Heritage Site list.
- Development of the Buddhist circuit.
- Visit of Indian experts to Bangladesh in the areas of Archaeology, Museology, Archives, etc.
- Training of Bangladeshi scholars in the leading National institutes, including the National School of Drama, National Museum Institute, National Archival Institute and National Institute of Archaeology.
- Cooperation in the area of Science Museums.
- Participation in the Film Festivals of both countries, including Children Film festivals.
- Cooperation in the areas of films, TV, performing arts and theatre.
- Cooperation in the field of library sciences and capacity building.
- Cooperation in manuscript conservation
- The two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress on preparation for celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore both in India and Bangladesh. In this context the following were discussed:
  - Opening Ceremony between 6-8 May 2011 at Dhaka, with participation of an Indian VVIP and performing artistes.
  - Opening Ceremony between 7-9 May 2011 at New Delhi, with participation of a Bangladeshi VVIP and Performing Artists.
  - Joint programmes in India and Bangladesh between May 2011 and May 2012 covering Performing Arts i.e. dance, drama and films, of original prints and paintings, exhibitions, seminar / conferences / scholar retreats, etc..
  - Joint overseas programmes viz. at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.
  - "Robi Tirtha" - Tagore Circuit in Bangladesh and India to be worked out through the Tourism Departments.
  - Technical assistance for restoration of Tagore heritage sites in Bangladesh.



**191. Briefing by Special Secretary (Public Diplomacy) Jayant Prasad on Vice President M. Hamid Ansari's visit to Bangladesh in connection with the 150th Birth Centenary commemoration of Rabindranath Tagore.**

**New Delhi, May 4, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and welcome.

You are aware that Hon. Vice President of India would be leaving tomorrow for Bangladesh to participate in the 150th birth anniversary commemorations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Special Secretary (PD) Mr. Jayant Prasad is here to brief you about this very important visit of the Vice President of India. He is joined by two of my colleagues - to the right of Special Secretary (PD) is Mr. Harsh Shringla, the new Joint Secretary (BSM); and to my left is Mr. P. Harish, Joint Secretary in Vice President's Office.

Special Secretary (PD) would be making an opening statement and thereafter he will be happy to take a few questions.

**Special Secretary (PD) (Shri Jayant Prasad):** Thank you, Vishnu.

As you have heard, Hon. Vice President Mr. Hamid Ansari will represent India at the 150th anniversary celebrations in Dhaka, which is being scheduled for Friday morning, 6th May. He will leave for Dhaka early tomorrow morning and return the day after in the afternoon.

The Vice President will be accompanied by Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur, and two Members of Parliament - Shri O.P. Mathur of the BJP and Shri Moinul Hassan from the CPI(M). Secretary (Culture) is part of the official delegation along with DG (ICCR) and Joint Secretary (BSM).

During his visit, the Vice President will call on hon'ble President of Bangladesh Mohammad Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni will call on him, and the Leader of Opposition Dr. Khaleda Zia will also call on him.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India last January, the two sides had agreed to oversee the joint celebrations together. It is a response befitting the occasion, the Bangladesh side has arranged a whole range of activities beginning from Friday, and therefore the Government of India decided that our representation should be also befitting at the level of the Vice President. From the Bangladesh side, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A.K. Khandkar, who is their Minister of Planning, will be the Special Guest for the Inaugural Ceremony that we are hosting in New Delhi on the 7th of May.

The Vice President's visit will be the first high-level visit after the state visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India last January. Since the Prime Minister's visit last year both sides have maintained satisfactory pace in bilateral interactions and considerable progress has been recorded in many areas including the signing of the billion dollar line of credit agreement; signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on border haats; India facilitating the electrification of the Bangladeshi enclaves Dahagram and Angarpota; designating Ashuganj in Bangladesh and Silghat in India as ports of call for the inland waterways transport; India agreeing to provide transit for Bangladesh nationals across Teen Bigha, you know this is a long-festering issue, and commencement of work on inter-grid connectivity between India and Bangladesh. This is really exciting for export of power from India to Bangladesh. This visit will be useful in taking stock of the progress in the implementation of decisions.

Bangladesh is, as you all are aware, a very important neighbour of India, our largest trading partner within SAARC region. India and Bangladesh share strong historic, cultural and linguistic ties and the visit will provide to us an opportunity to reiterate our commitment to partner in the economic development of Bangladesh.

Hon. Vice President will also be visiting the National Mausoleum Savar to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. He will visit also the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman lived until the fateful night of 15th August 1975 when he was assassinated. The Museum is an enduring symbol of the love and admiration that the people of Bangladesh feel for him.

The visit is completely in sync and congruent with the ongoing high-level bilateral interchanges between our two countries, and is expected to further strengthen the close bilateral relations and accelerate the pace of many of our ongoing activities in some of the areas that I have enumerated.

I thank you. I will be most happy to take a few questions.

**Question:** ... (Inaudible)... You said that we have extended the biggest line of credit. Can you give us a status of how many projects have been implemented and how much of that line of credit has been utilized so far?

**Special Secretary (PD):** The line of credit agreement has been signed. The principal beneficiary, which is the counterpart bank of EXIM Bank in Bangladesh, has been identified. Now it is for the Bangladesh side to present to us proposals which are commercially viable, which can be funded under the credit line. So, they have made good deal of effort. And last month, fifteen Detailed Project

Reports (DPRs) have arrived on our desk, and we have sent them to the technical Ministries for vetting, and we hope to begin work on this quite soon. I am glad you asked the question because we have made progress there.

**Question:** Any details of the programme on the 6th May in Dhaka of the birth centenary?

**Special Secretary (PD):** The birth centenary programme per se is a series of presentations of different cultural troupes from the main cultural organizations of Bangladesh. Essentially it is in one venue and there are a whole range of performances, some short dramas, plays - very short but mostly musical performances. Then there are of course, as on all such occasions, some important statements to be made because it is after all a commemorative event.

If there are no further questions and if any of you is interested in India-Bangladesh relations, I would just want to add something of significance that you all ought to know. The January 2010 visit of Sheikh Hasina was a significant one. We have been trying to make a breakthrough bilaterally, Bangladesh with India and India with Bangladesh. It is of mutual benefit. Whatever is contained in the Joint Communiqué is significant. One of the areas that we are looking at is how to increase our interaction in terms of communications and how to increase our interaction in terms of infrastructure. We have seen that in Bangladesh, work on the 40-kilometre, 400 KV high voltage direct current line has begun, and by the end of next year that will be completed. India has indicated that it could provide up to 250 MW of electricity to Bangladesh because right now, believe it or not, despite its riches and natural gas it is energy deficient and in fact it is dragging the potential growth rates down. But the line that we are building is up to a capacity of 500 MW. So, as and when the two countries decide in future, something more can be done.

Another significant event is that NTPC has signed an agreement with its counterpart organization in Bangladesh, which is their power corporation or Power Board to set up a huge coal-based plant in Khulna. This is an over 1300 MW power station and it is well-located because it is not far from the coast. So, coal can be brought in from the outside because Bangladesh does not have coal deposits.

Then we are building a gas station in Tripura and there was no way of taking the heavy gas turbines through the Chicken's Neck by road. It would have been very very expensive. So, 23 oversized packages, the bulk of the cargo has been transshipped through a new transshipment point on the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route, which is the river navigation route by which India connects to India through Hooghly-Kolkata, through the Sundarbans we can go all the way up. Earlier the trade was mainly trade picked up from India for

Bangladeshi destinations like cement, fly ash, etc, some cargoes for India but mainly for Assam. But this particular cargo was meant for Tripura and that went to Karimganj and this is the first time we have used it. So, that is again exciting news. I thought I will mention these two points to you.

**Question:** Do we consider this as the first step towards total transit to the North-East?

**Special Secretary (PD):** There is no such thing as total transit. I have lived seven and a half years of my life in Switzerland and it is supposed to be the transit country of Europe. But each and every new transit agreement in terms of the quantities, in terms of earmarking the roads, in terms of allocating the tunnels which will be used to take merchandise from Germany to Italy, all that is by prior agreement. So, it will be a step-by-step process. But there are things embedded in the January 2010 Agreement, which I have not mentioned, and if you read that agreement you will find plenty more material about connectivity there on which work is going on, but I do not want to hold all of you up.

**Question:** What was the name of the transit point?

**Special Secretary (PD):** Ashuganj. I have brought along the map. This pink dotted line is the normal traffic. Our normal traffic goes up here and then ultimately India is developing a big port centre in Bandu for looking after the trade interests of all the North Eastern States. This equipment had to be taken to Akhaura and from Akhaura across to Agartala. We took it to Ashuganj port over here. That is the transit point.

**Official Spokesperson:** I take it there are no more questions. Thank you.



**192. Media Briefing by High Commissioner for India in Bangladesh Rajeet Mitter on Vice President M. Hamid Ansari's visit to Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, May 5, 2011.**

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka (Shri Rajeet Mitter): Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to all of you to Dhaka on this occasion of a very important visit from India. Let me introduce myself. I am Rajeet Mitter. I am the Indian High Commissioner here. Mr. Subbarayudu is a Counsellor in the High Commission here. I will just give you a general background on India-Bangladesh relations at present, and of course I will be happy to take any questions thereafter.

I think the visit of the Hon. Vice-President comes at a very important time where our bilateral relations are growing from strength to strength and new areas of cooperation are being developed. I think there is a broad area of agreement in the political leadership in both countries that we need to strengthen our cooperation and move quickly forward so that both our countries and peoples can benefit from this enhanced cooperation.

As you know, much of the outline of what work we are presently engaged in arises from the historic visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Delhi in January of 2010. A very elaborate Joint Communiqué was concluded and I presume most of you have seen that document. It charts a very ambitious programme of cooperation, and I am happy to note that good progress is being achieved in many areas.

Let me flag some of these. I would term our cooperation in two ways. One is that we are looking at problems which have been left over from the past and we are also looking at issues where we can enhance cooperation and get into new areas for future bilateral contacts. Of issues left over from the past, we can flag the unresolved boundary issues which really go back all the way right up to from 1947. There is a new urgency to try and settle these and what work has been going on now is actual surveys that are going on across West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura to just ascertain on the ground what are the issues involved. And these are jointly being done by both Indian and Bangladeshi teams.

Other issues also which are historical in nature are questions of sharing of river waters. As you know, in 1996 we had a historic agreement for sharing of what is called the Farakka Agreement for sharing of the waters of the Ganga. And now we are engaged in looking at some of the other rivers principally the Teesta and how we can share these waters. Various technical level discussions have been held and the matter is moving ahead. We hope that some of the

issues can come to a satisfactory conclusion on this. But there is still some technical work to be done.

If we look at new areas of cooperation, I think one big thing is the grant of a one-billion dollar line of credit by the Government of India. This umbrella agreement was signed in August of last year when the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee came to Dhaka. It was an umbrella agreement because the agreement itself did not specify which project it will be used for. And separately we have been working with the Bangladesh side to finalise project proposals. Till recently, they have submitted about 17 proposals for coverage under the Line of Credit. These are mainly in the area of railways which includes supply of locomotives, passenger coaches, tank wagons, some railway bridge projects, some rehabilitation projects.

Then the second area is in the area of dredging where they have requested us to provide some dredgers. As you know, Bangladesh is a riverine country and dredging is an important issue here to prevent the water ways getting blocked up. The third area is supply of buses for the urban transportation system. There are also some other miscellaneous projects such as building of inland container ports, upgrading the Bangladesh Testing Institute and things like that. These seventeen so far have been received and they have been examined from the technical point of view within India and we hope to move forward on these very soon. In fact, particularly on railways there has been continuous interaction over the last year between our railway experts and their railway experts to finalise the technical specifications and the issues involved in that.

The other very new area of cooperation is the area of energy. I think there is a landmark agreement to link the electricity grids of the two countries whereby supply up to 500 MW of power from India would be possible. This project is moving ahead on schedule. We expect completion by the end of 2012 or early 2013. It is a big project. It is almost a thousand crore project because one of the issues here is to set up what is called the HVDC substation which is the major cost component in this. But Bangladesh presently has an urgent requirement for power and I think this was a much needed boost to their domestic requirements as it comes on stream. Similarly, our national power company NTPC has gone ahead in a joint venture to set up a 1300 MW green field power plant in a place called Khulna for which again the feasibility study has been done and some more technical details are being worked out but again there has been good progress on this.

The other new area of cooperation is the whole issue of connectivity. As you know, the cross-connectivity from mainland India to the North-East was in the past restricted mainly to the water route. We have always enjoyed what is called the Treaty of Inland Water Trade and Transit since 1972 where barges

from Kolkata and Haldia could come up through the waterways and go right up to Assam. But we have now extended this and in between there is a place called Ashuganj which has been declared a multimodal transport hub. So, barges can come up to there and then unload and then they can go by road to Tripura. That would be the closest contact point of destination. So, Ashuganj has now been declared as a port of call under this treaty.

We are working towards linking the railway lines between Tripura and eastern Bangladesh. The joint satellite survey, joint survey for the alignment has been completed. We have now an agreed alignment and now again a detailed project is being formulated. Similarly there is another proposal to open up a route in southern Tripura from a place called Sabroom to Ramgarh where one of the problems is the need to cross a river called the Feni river and again it has been decided that a bridge will be built across this river for which a joint inspection has also been completed and the site has been selected, and now we have to go ahead and plan the exact design and how it will be linked up.

In the area of trade, as you know, we are already offering Bangladesh duty free access to the Indian market for some 4800 tariff lines under the SAFTA agreement. In addition we are giving eight million pieces of quota for garment exports from Bangladesh to India. Garments is of course one of the strongest export items of Bangladesh. Recently our Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Anand Sharma was here just about two weeks ago and he has increased this quota to ten million pieces while we continue to examine ways of further liberalizing this trade.

One positive development has been that there has been a regular exchange of business delegations. In fact, in the other hotel you will find there is a big India-Bangla trade fair going on and CII are coming with a delegation of 25 people just after you leave. Mr. Anand Sharma brought a business delegation. There have been a lot of exchanges of visits. And this has resulted in several joint venture agreements being concluded in areas such as packaging, animal foods, auto components, denim, and the household utensils. These are all new areas because it will help to utilize Bangladesh's advantages as a manufacturing base today. And since Bangladesh also enjoys duty free preference to the European Union, it is a way of building up and diversifying the export basket of Bangladesh. So, this is also a very positive development results of which will show within a year as these factories and all come on stream.

Then we come to the immediate purpose of the visit of the Hon. Vice-President and that is the decision in the Joint Communique to jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. This is also again a unique project. We have drawn up an elaborate programme of events throughout the year where our people would be coming, their people would be going to India covering



various aspects of Tagore's life and work. Immediately at the opening ceremony tomorrow we have the famous actor, Soumitra Chatterjee from Kolkata who is coming to give a recitation; and Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Shantiniketan will be giving a lecture; and we also have a noted Rabindra Sangeet singer, Swagata Lakshmi Dasgupta. And similarly Bangladesh is sending a high power delegation to Delhi led by their Planning Minister Air Marshal (Retd) A.K.M. Khandakar, who is also one of the veteran freedom fighters and he will be leaving in fact tomorrow morning for Delhi.

As I said, this is just the beginning, this is just the inauguration but we hope through the year we will have many events. Another thing that will be inaugurated day after tomorrow is a painting exhibition where ICCR has donated over 100 very high quality digitized prints of Rabindranath's paintings to Dhaka University which was handed over just a few days ago but those have been loaned now for this exhibition at the Shilpa Kala Academy where also various artistes from India and Bangladesh also painted specially for this exhibition on themes related to Rabindranath.

As you know, Rabindranath belongs not just to India and Bangladesh but to the whole world but there is a particular synergy because it is well-known that the national anthems of both our countries are written by Rabindranath. He spent many years in what is today Bangladesh in places like Kushtia, Shilaidaha, Shahzadpur and of course his in-laws also came from what is today Bangladesh. I have actually visited these places and all these old houses have been very well preserved and kept open to tourists.

One project that will come on stream maybe at the end of this year or early next year is a joint India-Bangladesh car rally which will visit the sites in India associated with Tagore and then come here and visit the sites associated with Tagore in Bangladesh.

We find that the visit of the Vice-President is at a very opportune time. As you know, he has come with a high-power delegation - MoS for External Affairs plus two Members of Parliament. I think the intention is not just for the opening of the Tagore celebrations but also to demonstrate our commitment to further strengthen and take our bilateral relationship forward across these various new sectors that we are working on.

Thank you. If there is anything particularly you would like to know, please feel free.

**Question:** Has any date for the Prime Minister's visit decided? When is it likely to be?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** No dates have been decided yet but it is being talked about because Bangladesh Prime Minister went to India last year so normally you have a return visit. But no dates have been fixed as yet.

**Question:** When the Prime Minister comes here, will the boundary issue be one of the major subjects?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** We do not know what will be discussed at the PM level but all these things are complicated and a lot of technical preparatory work is required so that we are ready to take decisions. That is why these joint surveys are being done. We also have, as you know, one of the leftovers of history this problem of enclaves. There are little pockets of Indian territory within Bangladesh and little pockets of Bangladesh territory within India which we call enclaves. So, we are also doing a joint headcount on the people living in these enclaves so that we know exactly how many people are involved and then some decision will have to be taken on what to do with these enclaves also. So, as I said, it is leftovers from history which are complicated but there is an urgency and a commitment to move forward on these issues and not let them just lie because ultimately it is for the benefit of not just the two countries but the peoples also living in these areas that there should be some finality to their position in these places.

**Question:** The joint survey particularly in Meghalaya sector was stopped because of interference from BDR. Will it resume? What is the situation?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** When you are looking at where are the people living, which areas people have been traditionally using, there are certain differences of opinion but let me assure you there is a complete commitment on both the BGB side and the BSF side to our land boundary people, Survey of India people, and counterparts over here to solve these issues and not to place obstacles. The idea of the survey is really to pinpoint what exactly is the nature of the problem so that then a decision can be taken at the political level on how to handle this.

**Question:** What about area of terrorism? How Bangladesh and India are cooperating with each other to tackle this issue?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** One of the things that was concluded during Sheikh Hasina's visit to India was signing of three security related agreements. These three agreements have now been ratified by both sides and are now in operation. But apart from that there is close contact between our security personnel on both countries. I think there is a commitment equally in India and Bangladesh that terrorism is totally unacceptable and that our countries will not be used for terrorist activities against the other. I think on that there is total unanimity and there is good cooperation in exchanging information in dealing with this problem of terrorism.

**Question:** Would it be fair to assume that the Prime Minister's visit will come about once the water sharing agreement and the border dispute nearly get sorted out?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** That is speculative. One really does not know. Prime Minister's itinerary, we are not privy to it.

**Question:** Long back we heard that they will open a corridor through Bangladesh connecting the Districts of Jalpaiguri and North Dinajpur in West Bengal. Is there any proposal like that?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** No, I do not think that proposal is under consideration. I mentioned two or three of the new connectivity issues. One is of course this rail link - the Akhaura-Agartala rail link. One is the Feni bridge. I did not mention and in fact what is probably the most important is the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports by India. We have submitted some draft modalities on how these will operate. When you start something new you have to have some modalities on how the goods will come, what will be the treatment by the customs, how will the transportation be arranged. So, this is again technical level discussions are needed. But ultimately once these two ports become available to India, obviously from the North-East goods going or reaching the North-East through these ports it might be much more advantageous particularly if you are dealing with southern India or third countries also. If say Tripura needs to import something from a third country, this could be the most easy route to use instead of coming to Kolkata and then going round the Chicken's Neck.

**Question:** I have a question on the three border haats to be opened.

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** I think two border haats are to be opened on a trial basis in Meghalaya. The sites have been selected. The agreement on how these border haats will be operated has also been finalized. It is just that the Meghalaya Government are working on preparing the infrastructure. When Mr. Anand Sharma was here a tentative target was put that by end of June we should try to inaugurate these border haats. This is really for trade in local products amongst the local populations.

**Question:** By when do you think India can get access to Chittagong and other ports?

**Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka:** Again I cannot give a timeframe but as I said, this is under discussion. That commitment is there in the Joint Communiqué. So, I think both sides are eager to fully implement the Joint Communiqué.

Thank you very much.



**193. Address of Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the Inaugural Function of the 150th birth anniversary commemorations of Rabindranath Tagore.**

**Dhaka. May 6, 2011.**

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

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Visiting a neighbour is always a matter of happiness. The pleasure is enhanced manifold when the occasion is such a rarity. In history, as in cricket, a score of 150 is worthy of special mention; it becomes doubly so when it relates to a personality who cannot be situated in conventional terms, who transcends categories and national boundaries, and simply remains sui generis.

Some in this audience would recall that half a century back, we celebrated the Tagore Centenary separately and that you did it here notwithstanding many odds.

For these reasons, and more, I am delighted to be here today to represent the Government of India on this historic occasion emanating from the decision of the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India in January 2010 to hold joint commemorations to mark the sesqui-centenary of the versatile and multifaceted genius who both our nations and our people refer to as kobiguru, Vishwa-kavi and Gurudev and whose pen wrote our respective national anthems.

We are looking forward to welcoming tomorrow in New Delhi the Hon'ble A.K. Khandker to join us in our National Inaugural Function. These parallel celebrations highlight the enduring impact of Rabindranath Tagore on our cultural and intellectual ethos.

We cherish it as you do; together we shall endeavour to enrich it for future generations.

It is well known that Tagore spent the most creative decades of his youth in Bangladesh where he absorbed the beauty of nature. Enchanted by the river Padma and on his 'Padma' boat, Tagore produced some of his finest work.

It was here that the serene environs of Shilaidaha, Kushtia, Patisar and Shahzadpur worked their magic on young Rabindranath, thereby becoming an integral part of his inspirational canvas. "I knew not then", he said in the sylvan paradise of Shilaidaha, "that it was so near, that it was mine, and that this perfect sweetness had blossomed in the depth of my own heart".

It was here that Tagore was drawn closer to the toiling masses and took the opportunity to work tirelessly for their upliftment.

It was here that he began his pioneering experiments in education, rural reconstruction and development, as also in affirmative action to set right the existing social inequities. Much of his philosophy, world-view and vision can be traced to these highly productive years.

### **Madam Prime Minister**

Your historic state visit to India last year laid the road-map for our bilateral relations. We have made considerable progress regarding implementation of the far-reaching decisions taken during your visit and remain committed to addressing your developmental priorities, strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing economic engagement.

Rabindranath Tagore represents much that is precious in our common heritage and has influenced our intellectual and cultural ethos in an enduring and distinctive manner. His vision and outlook binds us as perhaps nothing else can. Today's joint celebration is a momentous occasion and the first of its kind in the history of our two nations.

It is also recognition that Tagore was a man ahead of his time; his ideas on culture, gender, poverty, education, freedom, and a resurgent Asia remain relevant today.

Tagore worked for one supreme cause, the union of all sections of humanity in sympathy and understanding, in truth and love. He expressed himself in an invocation penned in April 1919. It bears recalling in the troubled world that we live in:

Give me the supreme courage of love, this is my prayer, the courage to speak, to do, to suffer at thy will, to leave all things or be left alone

Give me the supreme faith of love, this is my prayer, the faith of life in death, of the victory in defeat, of the power hidden in the frailness of beauty, of the dignity of pain that accepts hurt, but disdains to return it.

I take this opportunity to compliment the Government of Bangladesh for its initiative to honour and perpetuate the memory and legacy of Rabindranath Tagore.



**194. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the meeting of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee with Bangladesh journalists.**

**New Delhi, May 7, 2011.**

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that India attaches great importance to its bilateral ties with Bangladesh. He said that good relations with neighbours especially with Bangladesh is a foreign policy priority for India. Shri Mukherjee was speaking when a group of eleven Bangladesh journalists called on him in his office here today.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that a Joint Communiqué issued at the end of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's last visit to India in January, 2010, is a landmark document leading to further cementing of the ties between the two countries.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that both sides have been making strenuous efforts to implement each and every element of the aforesaid Joint Communiqué expeditiously including in the areas relating to security, power, connectivity, border haats, electrification of Dahagram and Angarpota, capacity building especially in standards and certification among others.

In this regard, the Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee specifically mentioned about his last visit to Dhaka in August 2010 to witness the signing of the historic \$ 1 billion Line of Credit Agreement, the largest amount ever offered by India to any country and on soft terms which is the testimony to India's desire to partner in the economic development of Bangladesh.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the LOC will be utilized for building infrastructure in Bangladesh including supply of buses, railway coaches and locomotives, railway infrastructure, upgrading standards and dredging among others.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that work on the transmission line to connect India and Bangladesh for supply of the 250 MW power promised by India is proceeding apace. He said that we expect power to flow by 2013.

On security cooperation, the Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that we appreciate the support extended by Bangladesh in the recent past. He said that both of us have recognized that terrorists are friends to none and we have to collectively fight against them. The Minister said that we cannot afford to allow them to disrupt our relations. He said that we have agreed

in principle to facilitate 24 hour access to Bangladesh nationals across the Tin Bigha Corridor and have handed over a Non -paper to Bangladesh side on modalities.

In the end, the Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that India has both political will and ability to bring about a paradigm change in our ties which would be beneficial not only to both the countries but also to the region as a whole.



**195. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the creation of an ICCR's Long Term Tagore Chair at the University of Dhaka.**

**New Delhi, May 17, 2011.**

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and University of Dhaka, Dhaka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 12th, 2011 for establishment of ICCR's Long Term Tagore Chair at the University. High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, Shri Rajeet Mitter signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR alongwith the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, Prof. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University, shall appoint an Indian academician who would be visiting the University for a period of one year. The Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the University by engaging in teaching and research in his/her respective specialization. The Chair would commence from July 2011.

This Chair is ICCR's first Chair in Bangladesh and second in the series of 'Tagore Chairs' being established by ICCR to commemorate the 150th anniversary year of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Establishment of this Chair is a major step in propagation of Tagore related studies in Bangladesh and thereby fulfilling ICCR's mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural links and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



**196. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Joint Press meet in Dhaka.**

**Dhaka, June 7, 2011.**

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh and my counterpart His Excellency Mijarul Quayes for the invitation and excellent hospitality extended to the Indian delegation and arrangements made for the Foreign Office Consultations. It is always delightful to visit Dhaka.

2. We have had very comprehensive consultations earlier today covering a range of issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation. The talks were marked by great warmth and cordiality reflecting the close ties and friendship between the two countries.

3. The Joint Communiqué signed by PM Dr Manmohan Singh and Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her landmark visit to India in January last year has outlined the roadmap for the relationship between India and Bangladesh. Both sides have made considerable progress in implementation of the Joint Communiqué since the visit. Implementation of projects under the \$ 1 billion LOC from India has been high priority for both sides. We have just conveyed our concurrence for a number of projects under the LOC in Railway infrastructure and the purchase of buses for the city of Dhaka. These can be implemented immediately. India is committed to implementation of far-reaching decisions taken by the leaders of both countries.

4. Our cooperation in the power sector, including grid connectivity, supply of upto 500 MW of power from India, including 250 MW of power at a preferential rate and Bangladesh request for setting up of a high technology joint venture thermal power plant of 1320 MW capacity is progressing well. During the visit of Minister for Commerce and Industry of India in April this year, the annual duty free quota for export of Bangladeshi garments to India has been raised from 8 to 10 million pieces. Cooperation to upgrade BSTI is progressing well. Both sides are working on several projects to improve trade infrastructure and connectivity. A new LCS at Fulbari-Banglabandha was opened in January and the Government of India has now undertaken to set up five ICPs and the foundation stone of the ICP at Agartala was laid by the Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram in May. Border Haats in Meghalaya are expected to be inaugurated soon.

5. There has been regular exchange of business delegations. This has resulted in several joint venture agreements being concluded for export oriented manufacturing activities in Bangladesh. Indeed, we are happy to note that Bangladesh exports to India have, according to our figures, increased by 52%



in the first nine months of 2010-11. I am sure that Indian investments in Bangladesh will provide employment and also generate export potential, including to India.

6. We have made substantial forward movement in respect of both water and land boundary issues. The Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) meeting was held in November 2010, and the Bangladesh Water Resources Secretary held talks in Delhi yesterday. Both sides are discussing interim water sharing of Teesta and Feni rivers. The work on river bank protection and embankment construction along the common rivers is progressing and the dredging of the Ichhamati River along the 20 km common stretch is nearing completion.

7. The joint Inaugural Ceremonies of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in both our capitals were very impressive. Several events are planned for the whole year.

8. India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Bangladesh and seeks a deeper and stronger partnership. The historic bonds between India and Bangladesh are deep rooted and peoples on both sides want mutual prosperity and cooperation.

9. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is looking forward to his visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take forward the mutually beneficial cooperation agreed by the two Prime Ministers in January 2010.

10. I am looking forward to calling on Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina right after this interaction. Yesterday, I had very productive interaction with H.E. Dr. Mashiur Rahman and H.E. Prof. Gowher Rizvi, Advisers to Prime Minister. I shall also call on Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni later today.

11. I thank you for your presence.



**197. Extract from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's interaction with newspaper editors.**

**New Delhi, June 29, 2011.**

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Q 1: Sir, you did not mention anything about our neighbourhood.

A: Well, neighbourhood worries me a great deal, quite frankly

You have a situation in Sri Lanka. The decimation of the LTTE was something which is good. But the Tamil problem does not disappear, with the defeat of the LTTE. The Tamil population has legitimate grievances. They feel they are reduced to second-class citizens. And our emphasis has been to persuade the Sri Lankan government that we must move towards a new system of institutional reforms, where the Tamil people will have a feeling that they are equal citizens of Sri Lanka, and they can lead a life of dignity and self-respect. It is not easy. Within Sri Lanka's population, there are hotheads, the Sinhala chauvinism is a reality. But we have to find a difficult balance because what happens in Sri Lanka has a domestic dimension also. The Tamil Nadu government and assembly have often shown great worry about what is happening. Our challenge is to keep the Tamil Nadu government on our side. I have had good cooperation with Jayalithaa-ji. I raised this matter with her the very first time. What she asked of me was moderate. Whatever be the resolutions that were passed in the assembly, I found her fully conscious of the complexities and the realities of managing this relationship.

With Bangladesh, we have good relations. Bangladesh government has gone out of its way to help us in apprehending the anti-Indian insurgent groups which were operating from Bangladesh for a long time. And that is why we have been generous in dealing with Bangladesh. We are not a rich country. But we offered it a line of credit of one billion dollars, when Sheikh Hasina came here. We are also looking at ways and means of some further unilateral concessions. We are also looking at ways and means of finding a practical and pragmatic solution to the sharing of Teesta waters. I plan to go there myself. The external affairs minister is planning to go later this week. So, Bangladesh, our relations are quite good. So Bangladesh, our relations are quite good. But we must reckon that at least 25 percent of the population of Bangladesh swear by the Jamiat-ul-Islami and they are very anti-Indian, and they are in the clutches, many times, of the ISI. So, a political landscape in Bangladesh can change at any time. We do not know what these terrorist elements, who have a hold on the jamiat-e-islami elements in Bangladesh, can be upto.

So a very uncertain neighbourhood. A very uncertain international, economic environment. We have to swim and keep our heads high.

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**Clarifying the Prime Minister's remarks the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on July 2 said:**

"Our attention has been drawn to some off the record remarks attributed to the Prime Minister during his interaction with Editors in New Delhi. It is clarified in this regard that these attributed remarks were by no means intended to be judgemental. The Prime Minister and his Government and the people of India have the greatest affection for the people of Bangladesh and hold our relations with Bangladesh to be of the highest importance.

India recognises the stability of the democratically elected Government and is committed to the non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. In recent years, ties between India and Bangladesh have seen exceptional heights with close cooperation in a wide range of areas. The focus on both sides has been development cooperation, poverty alleviation, capacity building and education. It is in this context that the External Affairs Minister of India is undertaking an official visit to Bangladesh. We were fully committed to our bilateral relationship with the people and the Government of Bangladesh."



**198. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Media prior to his departure for Bangladesh.**

**New Delhi, July 4, 2011.**

I will be undertaking a two-day official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of my counterpart Dr. Dipu Moni, from July 6-8, 2011.

My programme in Bangladesh includes calls on His Excellency Zillur Rahman, President of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Besides holding talks with Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, I also look forward to the opportunity to meet Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Leader of Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia. We will also be signing some bilateral documents.

I will be addressing academics and scholars on India-Bangladesh relations at the Bangladesh Institute for International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and inaugurating the Kala Bhawan, set up with Indian assistance, at the Dhaka University. I look forward to visiting the National Monument at Savar and the Bangabandhu Museum.

As you are aware, Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will be visiting Bangladesh on September 6-7, 2011. My visit thus would be preparatory to that of our Prime Minister. I propose to review progress in the entire gamut of our bilateral relations with my interlocutors.

India attaches utmost importance to its relations with Bangladesh - a close and friendly neighbour. In the preceding years, our relationship has matured and deepened with close cooperation in a wide range of areas.

Following the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010, both sides have moved forward purposefully to implement a series of initiatives outlined in the Joint Communiqué. Both sides have identified a number of infrastructure developmental projects to be undertaken under the US\$ 1 Billion Line of Credit extended by India, including for Bangladesh Railways and procurement of buses for Dhaka city. Progress has been made on issues relating to river waters sharing, land boundary, provision of 250 MW of power from India to Bangladesh, facilitation of 24-hour access to Bangladesh nationals through the Tin Bigha Corridor, electrification of Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves, among others. Both sides are working on projects for inter-grid connectivity, setting up power plants under joint ventures and continuing our close cooperation in security related matters and the environment.

We remain committed to forging a stronger and enduring relationship with the people and the Government of Bangladesh.



**199. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on the Telephonic Conversation between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.**

**New Delhi, July 4, 2011.**

Following the official announcement of his visit to Bangladesh on 6-7 September, PM Dr. Manmohan Singh called the Prime Minister of Bangladesh HE Sheikh Hasina, to say how much he was looking forward to the visit and to renewing contacts with his old friends there. Prime Minister Hasina said that she personally and the people of Bangladesh were waiting eagerly to receive him and there were high expectations from the visit, which she hoped would be a historic one. PM conveyed his warm personal greetings to her and through her to the people of Bangladesh.

PM said that India attached the highest importance to relations with Bangladesh and that a strong and productive partnership between the two countries was in the interest of the two peoples and the people of South Asia as a whole. The visit would provide an opportunity to give added momentum and high level political direction to bilateral ties, which have been intensifying steadily in recent years. PM noted with satisfaction that there had been an increase in high level exchanges. The Vice President of India had visited Bangladesh recently.

The External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna is scheduled to pay an official visit the day after tomorrow, to review bilateral ties and prepare for the Prime Minister's visit. PM said that goodwill existed among the political parties in both countries and encouraging people to people contacts was a priority in the relationship. Both leaders decided to instruct their respective officials to work towards making the Prime Minister's visit successful and substantive.



**200. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival at Dhaka airport.**

**July 6, 2011.**

I am very pleased to be in Bangladesh at the invitation of my distinguished counterpart Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni. I am touched that she took the trouble of coming all the way to the airport to receive me. I bring with me greetings and best wishes of the people and Government of India for the friendly people and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

India attaches the highest importance to our relations with Bangladesh, a close and friendly neighbour. We are impressed with the tremendous growth and development in your beautiful country. We believe that a prosperous, stable and democratic Bangladesh is in the interest of both the countries and the entire region.

Our bilateral relations are passing through the best phase in recent times with a number of new and forward looking initiatives taken by the leadership of two countries following the visit of Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010.

During my visit, in addition to holding talks with my counterpart, I am looking forward to calling on His Excellency President Zillur Rahman and Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. I would also have an opportunity to meet Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Leader of Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia. We will also be signing some bilateral documents. My programme also includes the inauguration of Kalabhaban.

I am looking forward to a productive and focused interaction with the leadership here on bilateral relations between our two countries. We have made considerable progress in the implementation of the 2010 Joint Communiqué and projects under the 1 billion US dollars Line of Credit. I wish to discuss the scope for a broader cooperation framework which will significantly improve the livelihood of our peoples.

I am happy to mention that the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh is looking forward to his visit to Bangladesh later this year.

We are at a historic juncture. I am confident that through a forward-looking, progressive and pragmatic approach based on understanding and cooperation, we can achieve a mutually rewarding relationship that brings a brighter future, prosperity and development to the people of both countries. India remains committed to a partnership in the development and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh. Both the countries remain steadfast in their efforts to combat the

scourge of terrorism. We are determined to continue to build upon the stronger bonds of cooperation and trust based on the strong foundations of shared history and culture.

I once again take this opportunity to wish the people of Bangladesh every prosperity and happiness.



**201. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Joint Press interaction in Dhaka.**

**Dhaka, July 7, 2011.**

Your Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni Foreign Minister of Bangladesh,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

At the outset, I wish to convey the greetings and best wishes of the people and Government of India to the friendly people and Government of Bangladesh. I thank the Government of Bangladesh and Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, in particular, for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements made for me and my delegation.

2. My visit has been very productive. I had the opportunity to call on Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. I also met Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday. Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni and I had very fruitful discussions this morning. We reviewed a range of bilateral issues, including implementation of Joint Communiqué and projects under the 1 billion US Dollars Line of Credit. Later this evening, I will be calling on His Excellency President Zillur Rahman. I am also looking forward to the inauguration of Kalabhaban at the University of Dhaka and delivering an address on India-Bangladesh relations at the BIISS.

3. We have signed two agreements today - exchange of instruments of ratification in respect of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for entry of trucks from Bhutan into territories of the two countries near the border.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh is on a high trajectory in recent times with both sides embarking on a comprehensive, forward looking, pragmatic and mutually beneficial initiatives and projects. We have been working together on implementation of the Joint Communiqué adopted by the two Prime Ministers during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's landmark visit to India. Both sides have made considerable progress in this regard. I am happy to convey that a number of the proposals received for utilisation of the 1 billion US Dollars Line of Credit from India are under implementation.
5. We have made significant forward movement in our cooperation in the power sector, including establishment of grid connectivity upto 500 MW of power from India of which 250 MW will be at a preferential rate. India responded positively to Bangladesh's request for setting up of a high technology joint venture thermal power plant of 1320 MW capacity at Khulna and has completed the feasibility report.
6. Both sides are working on several projects to improve trade infrastructure and connectivity. A new Land Customs Station (LCS) at Fulbari-Banglabandha was opened in January 2011 and the Government of India has now undertaken to set up seven Integrated Check Posts (ICP). Border Haats in Meghalaya are expected to be inaugurated later this month.
7. The constant interaction between the two business communities has resulted in several joint venture agreements for export oriented manufacturing activities in Bangladesh. Indian investments in Bangladesh will provide employment and also promote bilateral trade. The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) will greatly facilitate two-way investments between our countries.
8. We are happy to note that exports from Bangladesh to India have increased by 56% in the first 10 months of 2010-11. We want exports from Bangladesh to grow further. The annual duty free quota for export of garments from Bangladesh to India has been raised from 8 to 10 million pieces. Cooperation to upgrade the BSTI is progressing well.
9. We have made substantial forward movement in the field of water resources. Both sides are discussing interim water sharing of Teesta and Feni rivers. The work on river bank protection and embankment construction along the common rivers is progressing and the dredging of the Ichhamati River is nearing completion.
10. The Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) meeting was held in



November 2010. I am happy to note that both sides are engaged in a process to seek a comprehensive resolution of outstanding land boundary issues.

11. Both countries recognize the importance of cooperation in the field of security and are determined to jointly combat the menace of insurgency, militancy and terrorism. Our leadership has been in agreement that the territory of either would not be allowed for activities inimical to the other.

12. Cooperation in the field of culture, education and training between our two countries is expanding at a rapid pace. The joint celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in both our capitals is progressing well. A Tagore Chair has been set up at Dhaka University. A Parliamentary Friendship Group with Bangladesh has been set up in the Indian Parliament.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. Let me reaffirm that India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Bangladesh and seeks a deeper and stronger partnership. We are guided by the fundamental premise that a stable, prosperous, democratic and peaceful Bangladesh is in our mutual interest. We are committed to pursuing such cooperation with Bangladesh that brings prosperity to our peoples and development to the two countries.

15. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has conveyed to me that he is looking forward to his first visit Bangladesh on 6-7 September 2011 at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. I have no doubt that the visit will serve to significantly take forward the mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries.

16. I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the friendly people of Bangladesh. Thank you



**202. Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at  
Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies.**

**Dhaka, July 8, 2011.**

**"India and Bangladesh: Partners In Progress"**

Maj. Gen. Firdaus Mian, Chairman, BISS

Maj. Gen. Imrul Quayes, Director General

Ambassadors, academicians and scholars

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to be addressing this august gathering on "India and Bangladesh: Partners in Progress". I am delighted because India and Bangladesh share a very unique relationship. Our relations are as old as history; our peoples share a bond embedded in our common cultural heritage; and our destinies have been forged by our shared principles and values.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for organizing this session at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS). As a leading think-tank of Bangladesh, BISS has advanced knowledge and understanding of contemporary international and strategic issues in national and regional perspectives. I congratulate your efforts and appreciate the links you have developed with the academic fraternity in India to improve understanding on both sides.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You would have seen reports of my meetings with the leadership in Bangladesh. I am very satisfied with the outcome and am positive that we are poised for significant developments. I had excellent understanding in my discussions with Foreign Minister, Dr. Dipu Moni as also with Finance Minister AMA Muhith. Both the Prime Minister and President indicated their desire to take our relations to a higher level. I shall also be meeting the Leader of Opposition immediately after this meeting.

I am delighted to be meeting the intellectual community of Bangladesh at a juncture when our bilateral engagement is both deepening and broadening and our intellectual dialogue is expanding. Your experience and practice of international and strategic affairs is vast. You play an influential role in the shaping of policy and many of you are also engaged in its implementation. We look to you to draw up your vision for our relations which will be of benefit to our peoples. I wish to share with you some of my thoughts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are witnessing a transformation, unparalleled in the annals of history. At a global level, never before have we brought hope and aspiration to so many people as we are doing today. Hundreds of millions of people, hitherto underprivileged and destitute, are moving out of poverty to shape their own destinies.

At a regional level, India and Bangladesh are the beneficiaries of the development-democracy-demography dividend. The economic development we are experiencing is even more remarkable than the global trend. It is the outcome of the commitment of our leadership to improving the living conditions of our people. The experience of democracy has empowered our people and built institutions that deliver peace, prosperity and stability. Our demographic trend with a high proportion of educated and trained youth, despite the large population, has a potential to provide the growth impetus into the second half of the century.

This transformation is also bringing in a paradigm shift in the philosophy that will govern the world we live in. We are casting aside suspicion and conflict to embrace trust and cooperation, recognizing the pursuit for common good. Our experience of co-existence, tolerance, plurality and a holistic interface with nature is gaining currency. This is a mission in which we may join hands to create a new global architecture.

India and Bangladesh cannot afford to miss this historic opportunity to work together to be a part of the new future. We have the potential to play a greater role in regional, and global, affairs in the years ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen,

India and Bangladesh have come a long way in developing a mature relationship that is based not only on our history but also recognizes our common values and shared destiny. Equally significant is the fact that the potential of our relationship has grown over time and is a factor of stability, development and confidence. Our geographical proximity makes us natural partners. Our cultural identity will promote this partnership. Most significantly, the economic and social developments that have taken place in the region and the institutions that are being built will provide the complementarities for the partnership to flourish.

I have noticed a new momentum in our bilateral relations in recent times. Not only is this reflected in a common perception and approach at a leadership level but it is also seen in the desire of opinion makers, businessmen and the people to forge closer ties of goodwill and amity and to build bonds of cooperation and mutual benefit. I can emphatically state that our relations today are perhaps the best ever in recent times.

The joint communiqué adopted by our Prime Ministers during the landmark visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to New Delhi in January 2010 outlined a vision for our partnership. We are now marching in that direction. We have achieved success on many fronts, including implementation of the joint communiqué and signing of contracts in the transportation sector under the 1 billion US dollar Indian Line of Credit. Yet, this is still work-in-progress. We need a framework for cooperation on development, which will help us build the physical and institutional infrastructure to meet the aspirations of our people not only in improving their livelihood but also in preparing them for the challenges in this age of transformation.

India and Bangladesh have a natural propensity to work together in varied and diverse areas but let me look at just a few of them, today.

First, as friendly neighbours that respect national sovereignty, we have sought to put behind us the threat of war and the recurrence of armed conflict. However, we face new challenges and non-traditional security threats. The rise of religious fundamentalism, extremism and terrorism are not unfamiliar to our region. Such forces sap away the strength of our societies, threaten our state systems and are an impediment to our advancement. India and Bangladesh have had good cooperation in fighting such forces. It is imperative that we continue to join hands to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Only then can we ensure that this creed will never gain ascendancy and we shall secure for ourselves and our peoples the hope of stability, development, peace and prosperity.

Second, I am hopeful that the outstanding land boundary issues between us will be resolved in the near future in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. Discussions are ongoing and I sense willingness on both sides to resolve this age old issue. The resolution of boundary and its demarcation will remove an impediment to our collaborative efforts for growth and development and enhanced people-to-people exchanges.

Third, we have expanded our understanding on water issues. We have a very good agreement on the sharing of the Ganga Waters which is being implemented sincerely by both sides. I am optimistic that we shall reach similar conclusion on the sharing of the Teesta and Feni waters. Between neighbours, it is necessary to deal with each other in a spirit of transparency and sincerity. As our populations grow, the demand for water, which is a vital resource, will also increase. However, I am positive that we shall find mutually acceptable and pragmatic solutions that meet the needs of our people while recognizing the need for mutual sacrifice in view of declining of flows due to climate change.

Fourth, I see a growing enthusiasm for trade and economic cooperation between the two sides. Both our economies are robust and have weathered the global economic downturn. I have noticed that our trade volumes are low and the share of our bilateral trade in the global context still remains small. The bulk of your imports from India are raw materials which are processed further in Bangladesh for exports. The priority should be to significantly increase the volumes of trade. I believe this can be made possible if we look at trade and investments in conjunction. Cross investments will not only provide gainful employment and production but will also lead to increased export earnings. A number of Indian corporate entities are looking forward to opportunities for investments in Bangladesh. If you can welcome them warmly it will be to mutual benefit. I also wish to point out that there is potential for Bangladesh investments in India.

Fifth, I would like to refer to the issue of connectivity. We live in a global community, interacting across borders. Technology and communication have made connectivity possible. In fact, not only do these flows improve efficiencies and provide access to goods and services across frontiers but they also bring improvement to the living conditions of people. We cannot deprive them this opportunity. Further, we should see connectivity in a dynamic concept of markets that are growing rapidly on both sides of the borders; in the north east of India, the growth could be even more rapid than the rest of India. As the pie expands on both sides, the opportunities for business also expand exponentially. Our economies are not fully integrated. I can visualise connectivity will spur economic growth and development on both sides of the border; it is not simply a flow of goods and services across frontiers in the context of transit.

Finally, I cannot but see the growth of this partnership without special attention being devoted to the cultural and educational dimension. India and Bangladesh are organising joint events to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. It will showcase the tremendous contribution of Tagore in areas such as women's empowerment and rural development, explore his contemporary relevance and rejoice in his intellectual genius. Tagore shows these issues remain relevant for us even today and he provides guidance towards realizing our true potential in the modern world.

I was in the University of Dhaka a short while ago to inaugurate the newly constructed Kalabhaban. India considers it a privilege to cooperate in this project. As you may know, a Tagore Chair in the University has also been established. An Indian Tagore scholar of great eminence will assume the seat of the first Chair next month. I am confident that this will enrich the dialogue between us and deepen exchanges and scholarship.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We share a unique bond. We seek to strengthen it further through collaborative effort. Our hand is always extended for you to grasp. We seek stability, peace and prosperity for all our peoples on both sides of the border. We wish to realize our shared destiny with Bangladesh.

Thank you.



**203. Ceremony to hand over Cyclone resistant Core shelters in Bangladesh to affected families.**

**Dhaka, July 12, 2011.**

High Commissioner of India in Dhaka Sh. Rajeet Mitter along with Minister for Food and Disaster Management H.E. Dr. Abdul Razzak, handed over the first batch of Sidr Core Shelters, built in Sharonkhola, Bagerhat on 9 July, 2011 to the affected families, at a public function. The event was witnessed by political leaders, members of the civil society, officials and a large number of local residents.

Government of India had offered to provide 2800 Core Shelters in more than 11 villages in Sharonkhola and Morelganj for the families affected by cyclone Sidr. The beneficiaries were selected by the Government of Bangladesh. The project is being executed by local Bangladesh contractors selected through an open tender. Work on the project commenced in October 2010. Over 1600 families have moved into the newly constructed Shelters and the remaining Shelters are being built.

The innovative design of the core shelters, verified by the Indian Institute of Technology, is ideal for cyclone prone areas and follows Bangladesh National Building Code. The shelters take into view, requirements of the beneficiaries as well as, the local climatic and seismic conditions. They are capable of withstanding moderate cyclones and floods. The Shelters use local material and manpower so as to contribute to the socio-economic development of the region. The Shelters are constructed on a raised platform with foundation of precast RCC stumps and a wooden-frame structure for maximum stability. The frame is covered with Corrugated Galvanized Iron Sheets for walls and

sloping roof. It has an open verandah, two wooden doors and two windows for cross ventilation. An independent toilet has been provided with each Shelter.

The Core Shelters will provide a permanent home to people in an area which is vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones and floods.



**204. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Bangladesh news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) on his upcoming visit to Bangladesh.**

**New Delhi, September 5, 2011.**

**Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS):** Bangladesh eagerly awaits your visit to Dhaka in a few days time, which is widely expected to be an historic event. Nineteen months ago your Bangladesh counterpart visited New Delhi when the two neighbours issued a joint communiqué raising huge expectations that it would mutually benefit both the countries through enhanced bilateral cooperation. How far optimistic you are about the successful implementation of the commitments made in the communiqué?

**Prime Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh):** The joint communiqué issued jointly by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and me at the end of her state visit to India in January 2010 was comprehensive and forward-looking. The focus on both sides has been to work together to expeditiously implement various initiatives outlined in the joint communiqué. I am satisfied with the implementation of those initiatives, but there is always scope to do much better.

I am encouraged by the fact that we have put in place a broad-based agenda of action covering every sector, whether it is political exchanges, trade and economic cooperation, power exchange, water resources, border management, education, cultural contacts, people-to-people exchanges, better border and transport infrastructure or connectivity. Some of the initiatives will have immediate impact, while others, by their nature, will take more time to make a difference. What is clear is that we have a blueprint and a roadmap and we are well on the way to its implementation.

**BSS:** Dhaka-Delhi ties witnessed an initial euphoric phase soon after Bangladesh's independence with crucial Indian support. But in subsequent years it saw several ups and downs particularly after the 1975 political

changeover in Bangladesh. Most analysts said an opportunity has now come for both the countries to take this ties to a new height by resolving longstanding issues. What do you think about it?

**Prime Minister:** India has always valued its relations with Bangladesh based on sovereign equality and mutual respect. Besides several common features, our relationship is anchored in shared history and similar developmental aspirations. Our destinies are interlinked. Hence it is natural for both sides to follow the path of close cooperation and partnership.

The Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has shown the political will and desire to not only resolve longstanding issues, but to broaden the horizons of our cooperation. We hold the wishes of the people of Bangladesh in the highest esteem. I agree that both our countries have an historic opportunity before them to open a new chapter in the relationship. My visit to Bangladesh is a demonstration of India's readiness to do so.

**BSS:** South Asia region in recent years witnesses a growing campaign for enhanced regional connectivity and most Bangladeshis also now believe isolation in this age of globalization would retard their progress. Yet there are some concerns among certain quarter in Bangladesh about offering transit facilities to India. How would you dispel the fears?

**Prime Minister:** This is entirely a sovereign decision for Bangladesh to take. We respect whatever decision Bangladesh takes. However, I see no reason for Bangladesh to be fearful of improving transport and infrastructure connectivity with India. There is a lot that can be done for the benefit of both countries in this regard, including through inland waterways.

I am extremely pleased that the Chief Ministers of the States neighbouring Bangladesh will be accompanying me to Bangladesh. Bangladesh can become the springboard for the development of India's North-East Regional economic integration has become the trend in all parts of the world. India has, for example, opened up rail and road routes for transit to link Nepal and Bhutan with Bangladesh. Nevertheless, we will move only at a pace with which Bangladesh is comfortable.

**BSS:** As a big neighbor how India looks at the socioeconomic progress of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina? Don't you think that India has a great role to play in promoting economic development of its South-Asian neighbours as a whole by rendering assistance to the smaller countries?

**Prime Minister:** Bangladesh has experienced sustained and high rates of economic growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. We



commend her leadership. As a neighbouring country, we welcome and support the socio-economic advancement of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has taken major strides in women empowerment, child welfare, entrepreneurship and democracy at the grassroots level. Its social indicators have shown a constant and steady improvement. We are ready to render whatever assistance we can within our resources to enable Bangladesh to realise its enormous development potential.

India is ready to play its part in the building of a prosperous and peaceful South Asia. All our countries have a lot to learn from each other, and a lot to share. Our destinies are linked by geography and history. It is up to us to shape our future by cooperating and collaborating with each other. We would like India's economic growth to be seen as an opportunity by our neighbours, particularly Bangladesh. India will leave no stone unturned to promoting balanced, sustainable and inclusive development of the entire South Asia region.

**BSS:** Terrorism has gripped a number of countries in the South Asia region hindering socioeconomic development. How India and Bangladesh could fight together this menace more effectively?

**Prime Minister:** Security remains a common concern for both our countries. Terrorists and criminals do not respect any national borders. They pose a serious threat to peace, stability and prosperity of each and every country. It is therefore paramount importance that we work together to confront this challenge head on. We must not allow our territories to be used for activities inimical to interests of the other. I am happy that India and Bangladesh recognize this imperative and have been cooperating well in the recent past.

**BSS:** Sir, what message will you carry to Dhaka during your visit for the people of Bangladesh?

**Prime Minister:** The message that I have for the people of Bangladesh is that there is great affection, respect and regard for the people of Bangladesh in our country, and that it will be my effort to work with Her Excellency the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to strengthen our links in trade, in economy, in investment, in culture, in security matters, in every possible way that we have outlined in the joint communiqué which was issued in January, 2010.

**BSS:** Sir, a very personal question.

**Prime Minister:** Yes.

**BSS:** Hilsa fish is very popular in India. I think you are a vegetarian, Sir. **Singh:** I am vegetarian.

**BSS:** Sir, we would like to offer you Hilsa.

**Prime Minister:** I am willing to break my vegetarian vow because I have heard about the delicious dish of hilsa fish. So, I am willing to make that exception.

**BSS:** Finally, Sir, we want strong, stable and good Bangladesh-India relationship.

**Prime Minister:** I assure you. I was in Bangladesh very soon after Sheikh Sahib came to power in December 1971, I and Bangladesh officials, particularly Nurul Islam Sir who was then the Chairman of the Planning Commission, jointly worked out an economic vision of our relationship. Since that time I have been very much involved in the development of India-Bangladesh of relations, and it has been my effort to strengthen this relationship in every possible way. Our destinies are closely interlined. Therefore, whatever I can do as Prime Minister of India to strengthen, widen, deepen our relationship with the friendly people and Government of Bangladesh, I will do all that is necessary.

**BSS:** Sir, thank you very much.

**Prime Minister:** Thank you



## **205. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh.**

**New Delhi, September 5, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you. Welcome. Great to see a full house!

You are aware that the Prime Minister of India is leaving tomorrow for Dhaka on an official visit. Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai is here to brief you about the visit. He is also joined by my colleague Harsh Shringla, Joint Secretary (BSM). Foreign Secretary would be making a statement on the visit and thereafter he will be happy to take your questions.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you, Vishnu. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Delighted to have this first opportunity to interact with you and introduce to you the Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh which starts tomorrow.

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, accompanied by Shrimati Gursharan Kaur, would be paying a state visit to Bangladesh on the 6th and 7th of September at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh.

The members of the Prime Minister's delegation include the External Affairs Minister; the Chief Ministers of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya; the National Security Advisor; the Foreign Secretary; the Secretary (Water Resources), and other senior officials.

The main elements of the programme include a call on the President of Bangladesh; both restricted and delegation-level talks between the two Prime Ministers; calls on the Prime Minister by the Foreign Minister, the Finance Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the President of the Jatiya Party.

The Prime Minister would lay a wreath at the National Martyrs Mausoleum and also visit the Bangabandhu National Museum to pay homage to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the valiant son of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to deliver an important address on "India, Bangladesh and South Asia" at the Dhaka University on the 7th.

The bilateral visit by the Prime Minister is happening after a gap of 12 years. It aims at consolidating the process set in motion during the landmark visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January, 2010, to craft a new paradigm in our relations. We are trying to put in place a broad-based agenda of cooperation in areas including trade and investments, infrastructure, power, water resources, border management, education, cultural contacts, people-to-people exchanges, better border and transport infrastructure or what is called connectivity.

Both sides are determined to iron out any divergences and lay a firm foundation of mutually beneficial engagement, to enhance trust, cooperation and stability not only between our countries but in South Asia as a whole. Substantial progress has been made first of all in implementing the decisions taken during the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister last year. These include, if I may list them:

**Boundary-related issues:**

1. We have had the joint headcount in the enclaves which was conducted in July 2011.
2. The Joint survey of territories under adverse possession which was conducted in West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya.
3. Electrification of Dahagram and Angarporta.
4. Commencement of the signing of the strip maps on August 20, 2011.

**Border Management/Security:**

1. We have had a Coordinated Border Management Plan which was signed

between the two sides in July, 2011 when our Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram had visited Dhaka.

2. There is the ratification of the three security-related agreements signed during the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina last year.

**Water Sector:**

1. We have had the 37th meeting of the Joint River Commission held in March, 2010.
2. We have had the principles of water-sharing agreements finalized at the Secretary-level meeting in January, 2011.
3. The Dredging of the Ichamati river, which was mentioned at that time, has been undertaken and completed.
4. River bank protection and embankment repair works of various common river ways is underway.
5. Exchange of information on flood forecasting is taking place regularly.

**Power sector:**

1. The Bulk Power Transmission Agreement was signed in June, 2010.
2. There was a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and our NTPC to undertake a feasibility study in Khulna and Chittagong, which was signed in August last year.
3. The construction of transmission lines and HVDC station for India-Bangladesh Grid Connectivity has in fact commenced.

**Trade/Connectivity:**

1. The Ashuganj and Silghat have been declared as ports of call with customs notification carried out in Silghat.
2. An MoU on border haats for border trade was signed in October, 2010, and the border haat at Kalaichar in Meghalaya was inaugurated in July, 2011.
3. There has been an increase in the TRQ (Tariff - rate Quota) from 8 million to 10 million pieces of garments announced in April, 2011 during the visit of our Commerce Minister to Bangladesh.
4. The movement of Over-size Dimensional Cargo (ODC) through the Ashuganj route has commenced. This is for the Palitana power plant.

5. The Finalisation of alignment for the Akhaura-Agartala rail link and the Sabroom-Ramgarh Land Customs Station has been undertaken.
6. We have finalized the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for movement of trucks from Bhutan and Nepal into Bangladesh.
7. We have concluded the SOP for the facilitation of movement of trucks between the Land Customs Stations between India and Bangladesh.
8. The Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement has been ratified.

As regards of Lines of Credits Projects you would recall that India had agreed to extend the largest ever Line of Credit of one billion dollars to Bangladesh, when Sheikh Hasina was here. I am happy to tell you that 13 of the 20 projects which we considered, which amount to about US\$ 750 million, have already been finalized.

In the area of culture, the joint celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore have been held.

In the recent months we have witnessed a number of high-level visits from India to Bangladesh reflective of the great attention that this relationship is receiving. These include the visit of our Commerce Minister in April, 2011, the Hon'ble Vice President in May, External Affairs Minister and Home Minister in July. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA, also visited Dhaka in July for an autism conference when she was awarded the Bangladesh Swadhinata Sammanona (Bangladesh Freedom Honour) Award on behalf of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi for the latter's contribution to the "liberation of Bangladesh".

We are pleased at the manner in which our ties have evolved in the recent years. We are particularly appreciative of the sensitivity shown by the Government of Bangladesh to India's security concerns. Sizeable Indian investments have started to flow into Bangladesh and the pace is likely to pick up in the months and years ahead. Two-way trade has crossed five billion dollars in 2010-11, and Bangladesh exports to India have grown by 68 per cent in the last one year. We acknowledge that there is still a large trade imbalance favouring India, which we are determined to address by providing better market access into India for Bangladeshi goods, and we are also thinking of other imaginative measures.

The Prime Minister of India is looking forward to his visit starting tomorrow. Thank you.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, how does the absence of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, or Paschim Banga, affect the signing of the river waters sharing agreements, Teesta and Feni?

**Foreign Secretary:** As you know, the subject of water, it is acknowledged, is a very sensitive issue. And we have been trying to arrive at an agreement on the Teesta which is acceptable to all parties. In our federal scheme of things nothing is done or will be done without consultation with the State Government. Any agreement that we conclude will have to be acceptable to them. At the same time, it would also have to be acceptable to Bangladesh. I think that is very clearly understood. I would not like to get into further details of where we are now, but that is in effect what our position is right now.

**Question:** Sir, what is the basic reason for her not going to Bangladesh? There are reports in the newspapers but we are in the dark. Could you please clarify this?

**Foreign Secretary:** Actually I have also seen the reports in the newspapers, I have not seen the actual reasons. But what I have understood from the newspapers is that it relates to the Teesta agreement.

**Question:** But has she formally admitted to the Prime Minister?

**Official Spokesperson:** The question has been answered already.

**Question:** Sir, there is a report in some local channels in West Bengal today that in fact Teesta pact is not going to happen I think as a result of Mamata Banerjee's absence. So, can you give us some clarity on whether the treaty will actually go ahead?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think I have already said that any agreement we conclude will have to be acceptable to West Bengal and also to Bangladesh.

**Question:** Sir, can you help us understand if the Chief Minister of West Bengal was adequately consulted by the Centre? I know you are not the nodal Ministry but you are the Ministry in charge. Also, what about the extradition treaty and Anup Chetia's fate?

**Foreign Secretary:** I can only recall what I said that in our federal scheme of things nothing is done or will be done without consultation with the State Government. As regards the extradition treaty, it is still under discussion. As regards Mr. Anup Chetia, the matter came up when the Home Minister visited Dhaka in the month of July and we were told that the procedures under which Bangladesh is to consider further action are still under way. We respect that.

**Question:** Sir, this problem of illegal migration from Bangladesh has assumed drastic proportions in Assam and in parts of West Bengal. The Home Minister

had already described it as a serious issue. In its recent report, the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies suggested that Bangladesh should be made to acknowledge that this issue arises. So, what steps is the Government of India taking to take up with the Government of Bangladesh to accept the reality of this issue, and also take up other issues like extradition treaty so that there is smooth deportation of people who come illegally into India?

**Foreign Secretary:** This subject of migration was discussed when the Home Minister visited Dhaka. I think the issue was also looked at in the context of the Border Management Plan which has been accepted by both countries. In regard to extradition I have already said that this matter is still under discussion. We certainly intend to pursue this.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, coming back to the Teesta water sharing agreement, the general impression is that the West Bengal Chief Minister had agreed to a certain quantity of water being released for Bangladesh and now the Centre is giving more. Could you please clarify what was the quantity which was actually agreed upon?

**Foreign Secretary:** This is a matter actually being dealt with by the Ministry of Water Resources. As I have said already, I do not want to go beyond that. Anything that is agreed between India and Bangladesh would have to be acceptable to the State of West Bengal and we have consulted and we will continue to consult the State Government.

**Question:** Sir, is the Prime Minister going to be meeting with opposition leaders there? And is the relationship still just hinging on Sheikh Hasina and Awami League, or is there a Plan B in action? What if Awami League is not there anymore? If the Jamaat and the others come into power, then what happens? Every time it has been one step forward and two steps backward with relationship with Bangladesh. Now where?

**Foreign Secretary:** The Prime Minister will be receiving Begum Khaleda Zia who is the Leader of the Opposition. He will also be meeting Gen. Ershad who is the leader of the Jatiya Party, which of course is part of the Coalition in Bangladesh. Our contacts with Begum Khaleda Zia have been ongoing. Both the Vice-President and the External Affairs Minister during their visits to Dhaka had also met Begum Khaleda Zia. We have been engaging in discussions with the Opposition party whenever the occasion is appropriate. And we would certainly hope that the manner in which the Indo-Bangladesh relationship has been progressing, particularly in those areas which bring benefit and connectivity to the people-to-people contacts, these would be appreciated and accepted by all sections of opinion in that country.

**Question:** You said that an understanding has been reached between India and Bangladesh on issues of security concern. Can you explain that?

**Foreign Secretary:** Subsequent to the visit last year we have had three agreements which have been concluded. One was on the transfer of sentenced prisoners. One was on what is called Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). The third was an agreement on combating terrorism, illicit-trafficking in drugs. These are the kinds of areas. Of course, you are aware that we have made very substantial progress in the last year or two in the security-related matters. Bangladesh has been extremely helpful on this score. During the Home Minister's visit we have had very productive discussions on, as I said, the overall management of our border, and dealing with each other's security concerns.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, strip maps have been prepared by the two sides - so have all boundary related issues including that of enclaves been sorted out? How much is the loss of territory for us?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would like to just say that the effort which is under way is to implement the agreement which was signed in 1974. So, it is a very long time that we have been unable to conclude the demarcation of the boundary, the exact boundary between the two countries. The issues of the adverse possessions in the enclaves flow out of that. This is a very major task. We believe it will be a very major achievement. Once that is completed, only then we will be able to address the issues. I do not think we have to look at this issue in terms of loss or gain of territory. It is the implementation of an agreement which was actually signed in 1974 and had not been ratified because of these pending issues.

**Question:** What are some of the other agreements that are expected to be signed in the next two days, that are expected actually to be concluded?

**Foreign Secretary:** Actually, I do not want to prejudge the outcome of the visit before it takes place. But we would look at areas including trade and connectivity, the land boundary as we have been talking about, water resources, culture, the area of environment, these are broadly the areas. Is there anything I have left out? Would you like to say something?

**Joint Secretary (BMS) (Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla):** There is also fisheries; there is also textiles in terms of design between the National Institutes in both countries; there is also television cooperation in terms of television institutes. There is a number of agreements, as the Foreign Secretary has said, and I think it is only on that particular day that we will have a full list. But, for the time being it is indicative of areas that we would be concluding agreements in.



**Question:** Is the border agreement likely to be signed or is that still being worked out?

**Foreign Secretary:** We will see it on the 7th.

**Question:** Sir, anything on railways cooperation?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are working on possibilities of railway cooperation. I would also like to mention that of the Line of Credit of \$ 1 billion a very large amount is in fact both railways and road transport.

**Question:** When did the Bengal Chief Minister's office officially conveyed to the Centre that she will not be travelling to Dhaka with the Prime Minister?

**Foreign Secretary:** I frankly do not know because I was not the person who received the message. So, I cannot tell you.

**Question:** Bangladesh has also been seeking extradition of two alleged killers of Bangabandhu who are believed to be in India. Is there work in progress in that? There are reports of Indian Mujahideen's footprints in Bangladesh especially in the context of the recent Mumbai blasts. Will that also be on the table?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I understand, both these issues were in fact discussed when the Home Minister went to Dhaka. The Home Minister did assure the Bangladesh authorities that in whatever way we could cooperate, we would in fact cooperate with them in this matter. We have been assured by Bangladesh that our security concerns are very much in their minds when they are looking at the issue of security cooperation.

**Question:** There was one off transit arrangement when Sheikh Hasina came to India ... (Inaudible)... project in Tripura through Ashuganj-Kolkata roadway and from Akhaura to Tripura. And the other was there is Rangpur-Singabad, that was India's giving that access. That was one off thing. Are you going to kind of make this transit agreement common which happen only for once? And the other is that there are 61 items India is going to give market access to Bangladesh which has been reported, out of which 47 are textile based items. Can you elaborate on that whether that is going to happen?

**Foreign Secretary:** First of all on the transit related issues, the Akhaura-Agartala rail link is one of the issues we are working on, as I said. On Rangpur-Singabad, I will ask my colleague to elaborate.

**Joint Secretary (BMS):** I think as you mentioned both of these were given on a trial basis. But I think we are looking to operationalise Ashuganj. In fact, bulk

cargo movement is already beginning. Rohanpur-Singabad, of course as and when there are requests we are accommodating them on that sector.

**Foreign Secretary:** I would like to add that broadly speaking we are trying to look at the whole issue of these transport connections in a way which makes commercial sense, that is to try and take it out of the ambit of very strictly governmental arrangements and to see that once the facility is developed, leave it to the market forces to ensure that it works in a smooth and transparent manner. To your second question, yes textiles is one of the major chunk of the requests which Bangladesh had conveyed to us. As I said, these are being addressed very seriously and you will hear the outcome on the 7th.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, will Mamata's absence in any way mar the importance or minimize the importance of this crucial trip of Prime Minister to Dhaka? Do you think so?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the fact that the Prime Minister is taking Chief Ministers is very important, very significant of the importance we attach to this relationship. Certainly the presence of one more Chief Minister would have been very useful but I do not wish to comment on that.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, you did not mention the name of the West Bengal Chief Minister as part of the Prime Minister's delegation, and you also explained that no agreements will be there without the State support. Does it mean that the water sharing agreement is off the table?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would just like to say that the water sharing agreement I think I have already explained it in great detail that nothing will be done without consultation with the State Government. This is the position as it is now. Beyond that I do not wish to comment.

**Question:** Are you still hopeful that something will work out?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think I do not want to speculate at this point as to what will or will not be the outcome.

**Question:** Sir, you have been saying that as long as the State Government does not agree, we cannot go ahead with the Teesta waters agreement. But what about Feni, the other one? This was also on the table. Has this also been put off or what?

**Foreign Secretary:** My understanding is that on the Feni that whatever was being planned is under way and we should be able to reach a conclusion on it. But as I said, the actual outcome, I will only be able to confirm to you when the visit does take place.

**Question:** Sir, Bangladesh has always been averse to erection of fences along the border. Now that we are going to conclude this Border Management Agreement, will there be any issue after the agreement is signed if we go ahead with fencing the border to contain illegal immigration issue?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think my colleague who was part of the Border Management Plan discussions could answer this question.

**Joint Secretary (BMS):** The signing of the Comprehensive Border Management Plan during Home Minister's visit to Bangladesh addresses the issue of fencing on vulnerable and priority patches. So, it will certainly accelerate the process of fencing along the border where it is necessary and certainly will lead to more coordinated action to address the issues of security on both sides.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, you spoke about transfer of prisoners. Are there any prisoners that will be sent back to Bangladesh from India or that have been sent back?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not have the details. Do you have any details on that?

**Joint Secretary (BMS):** In the first instance both sides have agreed to share a list of sentenced prisoners. I think on our side we have certainly shared our entire list with the Bangladesh side. And I think this is going to be a normal trend from here onwards that we will declare those prisoners that are there in jails on both sides and accordingly governments can take action and start the legal process for transferring prisoners.

**Question:** How many Bangladeshi prisoners do we have?

**Joint Secretary (BMS):** That is a matter of detail. Obviously there is no static figure and I do not think at this time we can quantify the numbers.

**Question:** There was talk at one time of India using the Chittagong port for exports. Is anything happening on that ... front?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think discussions on Chittagong and Mongla ports are at a fairly advanced stage. As I said, the broad outline is that it would be in the form of an enabling provision and actual implementation will be dependent on the commercial elements of whatever we agreed to. Yes, Chittagong and Mongla are on the anvil.

**Question:** A lot of experts have written on this visit. One of the western press has written that this visit is historic in one way and it will have a terrific, it will touch regional security issues also. In that they have little nasty I would say, mentioned about China that transit routes which will be allowed can be used in

other ways in other times. Can you comment on that that how this visit, and if and when transit route is allowed, if and when borders ... is finally settled, which will be a historical event, how it will change the mood in the region and security issues in the region?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think we see this as a very major, very substantive visit. As I said, this is the first visit in 12 years by an Indian Prime Minister bilaterally to Bangladesh. We have had visits in the context of SAARC and bilaterally. The visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister here last year has been prescribed as landmark. I think the fact that we have been able to actually make progress on those decisions which were taken a year and a half ago already shows that there is a major shift in our relations. The kind of discussions the Prime Minister will engage in and the levels of cooperation which we expect to enter into with Bangladesh would I think create, if I may use the expression again, a paradigm shift in our relationship with Bangladesh when cooperation is seen as a natural, it is seen as being in the mutual interest of the people of both countries, and really takes us forward. And we have also engaged in a discussion with the Bangladesh authorities on projects for the future. In broad framework terms, what are the areas in which we can cooperate in which we have looked at not only just purely bilateral but including subregional and regional levels of cooperation. I think once those take effect you will see a very major transformation in the eastern part of our subcontinent. And that is I think the direction in which the Prime Minister would like to move this relationship. I do not think we see it in terms of a zero sum game with the Chinese. No, we see this as being relevant to the entire SAARC region and beyond that, the regional cooperation in the eastern part of our country.

**Question:** I would like ask you on the enclaves. Could you throw some light on the enclaves and the size of these enclaves?

**Foreign Secretary:** This is a very detailed subject and will take a considerable amount of time as well as a lot of detail to trying to get you that. But the important point I think is that the exchange of enclaves which is being envisaged flows out of the agreement we are reaching to finally demarcate our boundary. And that is the first step which we need. The enclaves will follow. But if you want the full details, once the agreements are all done I am sure we will be able to sit down with you and give you a long list between us and the State Governments.

**Question:** The kind of questions being asked notwithstanding, the fact remains that this is again changing the kind of visit it has immense potentialities for expanding trade in South Asia and Southeast Asia and the use of Chittagong and Mangla. So, you have certain last mile problems as regards connectivity which used to exist before Partition which was why British Raj was a jewel in

the British Crown. Now all that we are trying to do is restoring the connectivity to pre-1947 or whatever. So, how many months or years will be required for the use of Chittagong and Mangla ports which are very important?

**Foreign Secretary:** The last mile is always the best mile, is not it? I cannot speculate on how long it will take. What I can tell you is that the manner in which the discussions have been held on dealing with these last mile issues has been very positive, very cooperative. It has to be recognized that it is not easy sometimes to overcome. If these last mile problems were easy to overcome they would have been overcome long ago. But it is on and I do not think it will be a very long time, certainly between now and way into the distant future. Our expectation is that it will be done fairly soon.

**Question:** Mr. Foreign Secretary, the issue of the using of extremism in the region has been worrisome for India especially from Bangladesh or using other neighbouring country against India. Now, we can see that the relation between India and Bangladesh has moved in a very good direction especially with Sheikh Hasina in power. What assurances are you having that these sleeping cells will not be awake when change of guard in the Government of Bangladesh takes place?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, we have already had a very substantive dialogue with the Bangladesh authorities. In fact, the three subjects on which the last agreement, I was just reminded by my colleague, one was terrorism, the other is organized crime and the third was the illegal trafficking in narcotics. We are confident. We have a dialogue which extends first of all at the level of our Prime Ministers; we have had the dialogue now at the level of our Home Ministers; we have a regular exchange between the Home Secretaries. Our security level dialogue has very dramatically improved in the last few years. We believe that with these steps we will be able to deal not only with the issues of the present but also we are confident that we should be able to deal with the problems that may arise in the future.

**Question:** Coming back to the Teesta agreement, as far as the reports are concerned, we were on the final stage of signing the agreement. Now according to you you are stepping back. Do you think there was something wrong on the part of the Centre that you have not consulted the State Governments like Mamata Banerjee, and now since Mamata is not agreeing you are not going to sign the agreement. And after that, will you ask Mamata Banerjee since the agreement is not going to be signed?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, nothing is done or will be done without consultation with the State Government. Any agreement we conclude will have to be acceptable to them. At the same time it would also have to be acceptable to Bangladesh.

**Question:** Are those consultations with Mamata Banerjee still on? That is the only question. It is not a closed chapter?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not want to get into the details.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**206. Response of Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai to questions regarding Teesta Agreement.**

**New Delhi, September 5, 2011.**

In response to questions on the ongoing discussions on Teesta Agreement with Bangladesh, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai said,

"The subject of water is a sensitive issue. We have been trying to arrive at an agreement on Teesta which is acceptable to all parties. In our federal scheme of things, nothing is done or will be done without consultations with the State Government. Any agreement that we conclude will have to be acceptable to the State Government; at the same time, it would also have to be acceptable to Bangladesh".



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These remarks of Foreign Secretary were made in view of Chief Minister of West Bengal having some reservations on the share of West Bengal state in the Teesta Waters as envisaged in the proposed Agreement.

**207. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Bangladesh.**

**New Delhi, September 5, 2011.**

I will be visiting Bangladesh tomorrow at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Her Excellency Ms. Sheikh Hasina. This will be my first bilateral visit to Bangladesh.

We attach the highest importance to further developing and strengthening our relations with Bangladesh. Our relations with Bangladesh are rooted in history, culture and the struggle for freedom. Both our countries share common democratic values and development aspirations.

During the visit, I will be accompanied by the Chief Ministers of all the Northeast States neighbouring Bangladesh. This reflects our desire to have across the board engagement with Bangladesh, so that the fruits of our cooperation are available to people on both sides of the border.

Our two countries are today witnessing an extraordinary period of cooperation and friendship. My visit will provide an opportunity to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the decisions taken during the historic visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in 2010. It is a matter of satisfaction that we have made concrete progress in several areas such as security, boundary issues, water resources, power connectivity, improvement of border infrastructure, trade facilitation and economic cooperation. Our endeavour will be to sustain and build upon this positive momentum.

I expect my visit to lead to greater cooperation between India and Bangladesh in all these areas. We also expect to conclude concrete agreements which will help us to elevate the level of our cooperation in the traditional areas of cooperation and to develop cooperation in new areas.

During my visit, I will call on the President of Bangladesh His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Zillur Rahman, and meet the leaders of other political parties in Bangladesh. I look forward to addressing a cross-section of Bangladeshi society at the Dhaka University.

As a close neighbour and friend, India is committed to extending its full support to Bangladesh in its development efforts. Our partnership with Bangladesh is important for the stability and prosperity of own Northeast region. It is a partnership which can have a profound positive impact on the South Asian region as a whole.



**208. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai during Prime Minister's visit to Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening and sorry to keep you waiting. As you are aware PM Sheikh Hasina was hosting an official banquet for the Prime Minister and his delegation. It has just gotten over and Foreign Secretary immediately rushed across to interact with you. He is joined by our High Commissioner to Dhaka.

Trust you have received all the ten documents that were signed today, as also texts of PM's remarks to the media and the banquet. FS would like to share some thoughts with you with brief opening remarks and thereafter will be happy to take your questions.

Sir, the floor is yours.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** As the Prime Minister has also said when addressing the media, we have all been struck by the warmth of the welcome accorded to us here in Bangladesh. The fact that we have several Chief Ministers of India's Northeastern States reflects our desire to project, to ensure this visit is seen as one of intensifying the friendship and tactical cooperation between our two countries.

The background of course to the Prime Minister's discussions was the historic visit of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, who came to India last year. And what the Prime Minister did look at is the extent to which we have been able to accomplish many of the goals that were set out during that 2010 visit.

They did find that they had in fact made very great progress in these areas but also that the kind of success they have had so far simply cannot be taken for granted, and that we have to more steps to make the friendship, cooperation, the collaboration between our two countries irreversible, making it a kind of, in normal course you might say, like a habit of cooperation between our two countries.

The planning for the future is encapsulated in what is called the Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development which I think all of you have seen. It was signed by the two Prime Ministers. The Prime Minister also noted, and this was acknowledged, that the one billion dollar line of credit which was extended in January, 2010 has been in fact substantially utilised and to the extent of commitments of about 750 dollars, mostly in the area of transport and transport infrastructure.



Today we also signed the Protocol to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement thus bringing to a conclusion, if I might say, to a chapter which began in 1974. As the Prime Minister of Bangladesh repeated again and again, this was an agreement signed in 1974 by her father the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Madam Indira Gandhi, then the Indian Prime Minister.

Our Prime Minister while acknowledging that this was a major step forward noted that we have been able to make this progress because of the cooperation of the State Governments who had to assist in the process of demarcation on the ground, and he thanked the Chief Ministers for their cooperation on that.

The issue of border management has been addressed in a number of different fora between our two countries, most recently when our Home Minister visited Bangladesh in July and they completed the Border Management Plan. The two Prime Ministers reviewed the functioning of this Border Management Plan and said that this is really an opportunity for us to work together and ensure that the kind of incidents which have taken place on the border do not take place, that we develop new structures and methods of cooperating across the border.

The issue of border infrastructure, the improvement of our transportation links was also one of the issues discussed, as was increased trade through Land Customs Stations, Integrated Check Posts, Border Haats and so on. As you are aware, the movement of goods through Ashuganj to India has already begun, and we are hoping to make some progress on the Akhaura-Agartala rail link. On this particular issue we had an exchange of information between the two Railways. We have not been able to complete that exercise yet, but we hope that we will be able to take this forward.

On the electricity supply, the work on the transmission lines for supply of bulk power to Bangladesh is making progress, and we hope that with the completion of this India would be able to contribute to meeting the electricity demand of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister also announced in the area of trade that India would be giving duty-free access, which means zero per cent duty, on 46 textile tariff lines which are of great sensitivity for Bangladesh into the Indian market. He also assured that as we move forward we would be willing to look at other measures to address the issue of Bangladesh's trade balance which is the large trade deficit with India. We have also pointed out that one way this could be addressed, one way the issue of economic development could be taken forward is by having greater Indian investments into Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister recalled also the great assistance received from Bangladesh in terms of dealing with security-related matters. This was one of the big issues discussed when the two Prime Ministers met last year and there have been a number of steps taken by the two Governments to take this forward.

The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed that they would be willing to cooperate not just in a purely bilateral setting but in a sub-regional setting with the other countries in the sub-region, as also regional whether it is SAARC and also across the region in BIMSTEC and other fora.

I think this kind of a roundup of the issues which were discussed will give you a flavor of the extraordinary depth as well as the variety of our relationship.

There is one issue which we had thought we might conclude before we came here, I addressed this in New Delhi, was in regard to the sharing of river waters. We were not able to take forward the proposed agreement on the Teesta. That will need some further consideration and further discussion. Because of that the river waters issue itself was not tackled in great depth today. The other agreement on the Feni also was not signed.

I will leave it there and take such questions as you might have.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, the sense of disappointment that we gathered from the Bangladesh side, from the people that we met in the Prime Minister's house, seemed fairly acute. And ... (Inaudible)... obviously concentrated on the Teesta issue. They also indicated that the Land Boundary Agreement almost did not get signed. So, we were wondering if you could share your thoughts on the matter.

**Foreign Secretary:** On what you are saying about the Teesta, as I said in Delhi, we had hoped to make this another step forward. That has not been possible. This will require further consultations within India, in our own system. As regards the land boundary, there were a couple of issues which still had to be tackled, which is why there was requirement for further discussion. Once that discussion was completed, we did in fact sign it.

**Question:** Sir, there is a report in the Bangladesh media that the Indian High Commissioner was called to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh and they protested against whatever happened with the Teesta river water-sharing agreement. Is it true?

**Foreign Secretary:** I have to ask the High Commissioner who is sitting right here.

**Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh (Shri Rajeet Mitter):** It is true I met the Foreign Secretary this morning. All High Commissioners and Ambassadors regularly meet the Foreign Secretary. It was not about Teesta in particular, it was generally in the context of the Prime Minister's visit, the programme, the documents that were to be signed. So, it was an all encompassing discussion. I do not think one should read too much into it because we meet Foreign Secretaries very regularly.

**Question:** The two sides were also supposed to exchange documents on the transit. There was supposed to be roadmap on taking the protocols forward. At least that had not been addressed in this.

**Foreign Secretary:** There was no protocol generally on transit. What we had thought we would do was to have an exchange of letters on the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports. The Government, as it had been drafted and negotiated, dealt with the issue in broad terms and said that many of the aspects of that like the actual utilization, for example the costs and so on, would be determined by the market as it developed. There was a feeling here in Bangladesh that it would be advisable before you move to that step to try and develop a framework and an understanding between the two Governments as to how these charges would be fixed, who would fix them, we have to have a Committee and so on. So, as we went into this in some detail we found that we would need another round of discussion perhaps with some more of our experts on our side. So, it has been just put for another round of discussions. So, discussions will continue on this.

**Question:** You would not see it as a politically difficult issue for the Prime Minister, the Teesta not being signed?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would not rather speculate on that part. But this is what actually transpired.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, regarding this Land Boundary Agreement you have said that the Prime Minister has thanked the Chief Ministers of the four Indian States for their cooperation in finalizing the agreement. A question arises here that can the permission of the Chief Ministers of the States alone lead to a change in the boundaries of the State without the permission or the consent of the State Assemblies? You cannot change the boundaries of a State only with the consent of the Chief Minister. There are certain Constitutional provisions in the Indian Constitution.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think I have to clarify that. We were not changing any boundaries. There were segments amounting to I think about 6.5 kilometres which were un-demarcated. That means there was no boundary there. And it had been difficult to actually undertake the demarcation because of certain delays which had accumulated over the years since the 1970s in Tripura, in Assam, and in Meghalaya and also in Paschim Banga. We got the full support of the Governments concerned in ensuring that the surveyors could carry out their work. I think that is what we were referring to. The demarcation, which is a very complex exercise, was completed. Then strip maps had to be prepared. These were of course prepared by the Surveyors of our Central Government but at each point you need the assistance of the State Surveyors. They have to

be there, they have to authenticate, they have to verify. So, it is that process which has been completed.

**Question:** Sir, for early implementation of the Teesta agreement after this visit, what is your future course of action? What is your future roadmap? I think Bangladesh is also in a hurry. Will you share with us what your action plan is now? Did they give any deadline on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the interest in having a quick agreement is shared by both sides. It is not that it is only Bangladesh which wants an early agreement. We would also like to have this issue resolved. I will be very frank with you, I do not have a timeline, and I do not have a specific plan of action. Obviously this issue came up quite recently when we were engaged in doing the preparations for the visit. I think it will take some time. When we go back we will have our deliberations on the matter.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, what about the stateless people who are on the borders of both the countries? Any specific dates for exchanging the lands or exchanging the people? There were no specific dates announced in the Joint Statement, Sir?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the issue is not so much 'stateless' in the classical sense of the word but those for whom the headcount was carried out after the exercise started in the joint survey, people living in so-called enclaves and in adverse possessions. The provision in the agreement which we are trying to work on is that they will have the option of either staying there or moving to the country of their choice. The headcount found that the bulk of them would prefer to stay where they are. So, the issue will be resolved on that basis.

**Question:** On the question of Teesta, today in her banquet speech Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that we have reached an understanding on the sharing of Teesta and Feni. What is the conclusion you have reached? What does that 'understanding' mean? Have you agreed for a joint survey or joint management?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think I should comment on what the Prime Minister of Bangladesh said.

**Question:** Sir, we heard about the point made by the Prime Minister of India which essentially concentrated on the issues that India is more keen to tackle as far as Bangladesh, long-pending issues that are there with Bangladesh and most of them are essentially, if I am not mistaken, if I have not read wrongly into it, are the ones that India is providing to Bangladesh. My question to you, Sir, is what is India's take away from this whole cooperation and the agreements that you have reached there? What is India's take away?

**Foreign Secretary:** I will start with the land boundary. I think it is an important step to have your own boundary finally clarified. Please remember that this is the longest boundary we share with any country in the world, the Indo-Bangladesh border. And having it un-demarcated, incomplete to that extent, for such a long period of time involves ...(Inaudible)... So, whether it is in terms of border management, whether security, the completion of this exercise I think is a very big take away as far as we are concerned. Secondly, I think the relationship between our two countries has to be seen not just in terms of 'I get what and you get what'. It is the development of an entirely new paradigm of cooperation, a constructive collaboration with one of our most important neighbours. I must underline this, sometimes it is not recognized just how big and how vital a neighbour Bangladesh is for us. To have a country of this size, this capability on a regular cooperative basis, friendly dialogue working together is I think a very big take away as far as India is concerned. Thirdly, I think the steps we are discussing we hope to be able to move forward on that. The framework agreement refers to them but we have to flesh it out in actual details is the question of transport connectivity. We would like to and we expect that this would emerge over a period of time certainly improve connections between the Northeastern States and the rest of India.

**Question:** According to the recent survey, there are about 51,590 people living in the enclaves. You just said that majority of them do not want to move to any of the states. Do you have any figure on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** No, I am relying on the joint headcount which was carried out by the two Governments and the conclusions of that. I do not have a specific figure.

**Question:** I just wanted to know from you whether Teesta did cast a shadow on the discussions today. Secondly, we spoke to some Bangladeshi people here and they are saying that this Teesta water-sharing agreement is in the discussion level for the last 20 months. It started when Sheikh Hasina visited Delhi. Twenty months were enough time to discuss and prepare a roadmap. At the last moment Mamata Banerjee says she is not interested and that is why Teesta falls from the list. Does that mean bad preparation by the Indian Government?

**Foreign Secretary:** I will go back to what I said in New Delhi that in our federal scheme things any agreement of this nature is done on the basis of consultations with the State Governments. There is consultation and there will be consultation. Certainly it could have been an addition to the outcomes and conclusions, if we had had the agreement in place. But clearly this is something on which there is more work to be done.

**Question:** At this stage, can it be categorically stated that a Teesta water-sharing agreement with Bangladesh cannot be ruled out in future?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not ruling out or ruling in but certainly the intention is to move towards a water-sharing agreement.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



**209. Statement of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at joint media interaction with Prime Minister of Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 06, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

Distinguished Ministers,

Honourable Chief Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen of the media,

I thank Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her very kind words of welcome. I also thank the government and people of Bangladesh for the gracious hospitality and excellent arrangements made for my visit to this beautiful country.

This is my second visit to Bangladesh as Prime Minister after 2005. I am deeply impressed by the changes that have taken place since then. The Bangladesh economy is doing well and the socio-economic transformation of Bangladesh is proceeding rapidly ahead.

Relations between India and Bangladesh enjoy our highest priority. There is a national consensus in India that India must develop the best possible relations with Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and I have had very wide-ranging and in-depth discussions. These have built upon the momentum of the Prime Minister's historic visit to India in 2010.

We have agreed on a new architecture for our partnership. This will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation, strengthen regional cooperation within South Asia and set an example of good neighbourly relations.

The Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and I have signed is a contemporary blueprint designed to encompass all forms and sectors of cooperation.

We have signed a Protocol to the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. With this, both our countries have now demarcated the entire land boundary as well as resolved the status of enclaves and adversely possessed areas.

As the Prime Minister has just announced, we have worked out 24-hour access to the enclaves of Dahagram-Angarpota through the Tin Bigha Corridor.

Our common rivers need not be sources of discord, but can become the harbingers of prosperity to both our countries.

We have decided to continue discussions to reach a mutually acceptable, fair and amicable arrangement for the sharing of the Teesta and Feni river waters.

India is fully alive to the problem of trade imbalance between India and Bangladesh. I am pleased to announce that, with immediate effect, we will provide duty free access to the Indian market to 46 textile tariff lines as requested by Bangladesh.

We have embarked on a series of measures to improve border infrastructure. These will facilitate Bangladesh's exports to India and provide it greater opening to India and other neighbouring countries. We are addressing issues relating to non-tariff barriers together with Bangladesh.

India is committed to assisting Bangladesh in its development efforts. We will supply bulk power to Bangladesh by connecting our national grids. We will assist in the setting up of a 1320 megawatt joint venture power plant in Khulna.

Projects worth over 750 million US dollars under the 1 billion US dollar Line of Credit announced last year have been identified for implementation.

I conveyed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina India's deep appreciation for the cooperation rendered by Bangladesh in our joint fight against terrorism and insurgency. This has brought much needed stability to both of us, and to this region as a whole.

India is a true and genuine partner of Bangladesh. We will do the utmost to build this relationship on a sustained basis, and I believe this also reflects the approach of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

The several agreements that have been signed and the Joint Statement that is being issued reflect the richness and diversity of our cooperation. We now have to ensure that the fruits of our cooperation lead to improvement in the lives of our people.

I am overall extremely satisfied with my discussions today. I convey my very best wishes to the people of Bangladesh, and once again thank them for the warm welcome given to us.

Thank you.



**210. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister of Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Distinguished Guests,

I am delighted and honoured to be in Dhaka. I am touched by the warmth and friendship of the people of Bangladesh and the extraordinary hospitality accorded to me and members of my delegation.

Present here tonight are not only the leading dignitaries of Bangladesh, but also the Chief Ministers of all the States of our North-East bordering Bangladesh.

This is a unique and special moment. It is a demonstration of our collective will to shape a better future for ourselves.

There are few countries in the world whose destinies are so interlinked than ours. We are people of the same region. We share the same religious beliefs, language, customs and aspirations. We have a common ethos.

Madam Prime Minister,

I have come to Bangladesh to build upon your momentous visit to India last year.

We deeply value your commitment to strengthening India-Bangladesh relations. You have served your nation with great distinction. Your personal sacrifices and belief in the values of pluralism, democracy and human dignity have earned you respect throughout the world.

You have upheld the great legacy of your illustrious father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Today, Bangladesh is in the midst of a major socio-economic transformation. Your economy has witnessed steady growth during the last several years. You have achieved commendable successes in eradicating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease. These are achievements Bangladesh can be justly proud of.

Our talks today and the agreements that have been signed represent a qualitative leap forward in our relations. We have found solutions to seemingly difficult problems; problems which had defied solutions for years.

We have done better. We have put in place a forward looking and comprehensive framework for cooperation in development. We have shown an openness of mind and heart to build bridges of collaboration across sectors.

It is befitting that in this atmosphere of hope and confidence, we are jointly celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The establishment of a Tagore Chair at Dhaka University, an India-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Indian Parliament and the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka will add to the intensity of people to people interaction.

Allow me to conclude by affirming India's complete commitment to the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh. We desire to see a stable, secure and self-reliant Bangladesh. India will remain at your disposal in every sphere of your nation building efforts.

Excellency,

I once again thank you, the government and people of Bangladesh for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to us.

May relations between India and Bangladesh continue to flourish.

Thank you.



## **211. Fact Sheet on Agreements and other MOUs signed between India and Bangladesh**

**September 6, 2011.**

### **1. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development**

A Framework Agreement between India and Bangladesh had been envisaged during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in January 2010. The Joint Communiqué issued on that occasion notes that the two Prime Ministers agreed to put in place a comprehensive framework of cooperation for development between the two countries, encapsulating their mutually shared vision for the future.

2. The Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development signed by the two Prime Ministers on September 6, 2011 in Dhaka provides the template for future cooperation between India and Bangladesh.

3. The Agreement lays down the framework for enhancing mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas. These include - promotion of trade, investment and economic cooperation; connectivity; water resources; management of natural disasters; generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, including from renewable or other sources; promotion of scientific, educational and cultural cooperation; people to people exchanges; environmental protection and responding to challenges of climate change through adaptation; sub regional cooperation in the power sector, water resources management, physical connectivity, environment and sustainable development; and enhancing cooperation in security. The Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in order to enhance, deepen and widen the scope of cooperation, including regional/ sub-regional expansion.

4. The Agreement would enable the two countries to realize their shared destiny and common vision through the optimum utilization of opportunities for mutual benefit.

5. A Joint Consultative Commission would be established to monitor effective and smooth implementation of the Agreement. The Commission will meet annually.

6. The Agreement entered into force today and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual consent by either Party.

### **2. Protocol to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement**

The Protocol to the Agreement Concerning the Demarcation between India

and Bangladesh and Related Matters signed today between the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and the External Affairs Minister of India seeks to address all outstanding land boundary issues and provide a final settlement to the India-Bangladesh boundary. The outstanding issues addressed include (i) undemarcated land boundary in three sectors viz. Daikhata-56 (West Bengal), Muhuri River-Belonia (Tripura) and Dumabari (Assam); (ii) enclaves; and (iii) adverse possessions. The undemarcated boundary in all three segments has now been demarcated. The status of 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh with a population of 37,334 and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India with a population of 14,215 has been addressed. The issue of Adversely Possessed Lands along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam has also been mutually finalised. The boundary settlement has been concluded keeping in view the aspirations of the people.

### **3. Addendum to the MOU between India and Bangladesh to facilitate Overland Transit Traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal**

The MOU seeks to facilitate rail transit to/from Bangladesh and Nepal by using the Rohanpur-Singhabad route as agreed during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Mrs. Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010. It also facilitates rail transit between Bangladesh and Nepal using Indian territory through the Radhikapur-Birol line once the Bangladesh portion is converted into broad gauge. The signing of this MOU will facilitate bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Nepal.

### **4. MOU on Conservation of the Sunderbans**

The MOU seeks to facilitate cooperation in the areas of conservation of biodiversity, joint management of resources, livelihood generation for poverty alleviation and development, cataloging of local flora and fauna and studying the impacts of climate change. A Working Group would be set up to implement the activities under MoU. The MoU is valid for for an intial period of five years which can be extended further through mutual consent.

### **5. Protocol on Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban**

The Protocol on Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban provides for bilateral cooperation in undertaking scientific research, knowledge sharing and patrolling of the Sunderban waterways on their respective sides to prevent poaching or smuggling of derivatives from wildlife and bilateral initiatives to ensure survival and conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger in the unique ecosystem of the Sunderban. The Protocol also provides for cooperation to promote understanding & knowledge of Royal Bengal Tigers, exchange of personnel for training and promotion of education.

## **6. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Fisheries**

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the Field of Fisheries seeks to promote development of cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities between the two countries through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel. A Joint Working Group would be set up to facilitate cooperation under the MoU and review progress. The Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock of the Government of Bangladesh would coordinate implementation of the MoU. The MOU would be valid for an initial period of 5 years and can be extended further through mutual consent.

## **7. MOU on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy**

The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of renewable energy between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh aims to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical, bilateral cooperation in the areas of solar, wind and bio energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.

## **8. MoU on Educational Cooperation between the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Dhaka University**

An MoU on Educational Cooperation between Jawaharlal Nehru University and Dhaka University was signed between the Vice Chancellors of the two Universities in Dhaka on September 6, 2011.

Considering the large number of students from Bangladesh pursuing their academic career in India, especially at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, a formal mechanism on Educational Cooperation between Dhaka University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University would foster and institutionalize existing cooperation between the two Universities.

The MoU is designed to be a framework agreement for educational cooperation between the two institutions whereby the two sides express their commitment towards cooperation in identified sectors - Social Sciences, International Relations, Computer Science etc -- through the annual calendar of events. The MoU is expected to benefit scholars and researchers of both India and Bangladesh.

### **9. MoU on Cooperation between Doordarshan (DD) and Bangladesh Television (BTV)**

An MoU on Cooperation between the Doordarshan, India and the BTV, Bangladesh was signed by the representatives of two organizations in Dhaka on September 06, 2011.

Under the agreement, both the public broadcasters would make available live telecasts of News, Cultural and Educational Programmes for mutual broadcast. Doordarshan and BTV may also broadcast live of any specific events such as visit of High Dignitaries to each others' countries or of cultural events of significance. Further, they would explore the possibilities of jointly co-producing television programmes. Doordarshan, having a well equipped Staff Training Institute for carrying out training in advanced broadcast techniques for its staff, will endeavour to provide such training to BTV in the fields of programme production, technology and management. In addition, Doordarshan may also to provide consultancy on technical services to BTV.

The agreement would provide an opportunity for BTV and Doordarshan, in general, and DD Bangla, in particular, to telecast its programmes in India and Bangladesh, respectively. The MoU is intended to redress, to the extent possible, the paucity of Bangladesh programmes on Indian TV.

### **10. MoU between the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi and BGMEA Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT), Dhaka**

The Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT), Dhaka seeks to promote cooperation between the two institutes in the areas of exchange of students and faculty and training and research activities concerning design, management and technology. The MoU defines the principles, policy guidelines & procedures of cooperation.

NIFT is a statutory institute under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. It was set up in 1986 to train professionals to meet the requirements of the textiles industry. The Institute has pioneered the evolution of fashion education across the country through its network of fifteen centres. BIFT, established in 1999 by the BGMEA, is affiliated to the National university of Bangladesh.

### **Fact Sheet on Trade Related Issues**

India-Bangladesh trade relations have witnessed a significant improvement in the recent past. In 2010-11, two-way trade crossed the US\$ 5 billion mark as a

result of a significant increase in Bangladesh's exports to India (68% over the previous year) and India's exports to Bangladesh (43% over the previous year). Bangladesh's exports to India in 2010-11 was \$ 512.5 million and India's exports to Bangladesh in the same period was US\$ 4586.8 million. India is the biggest export destination for Bangladesh outside the Western world.

2. The main items of Bangladesh exports to India include Raw Jute (\$ 159 million); Jute goods (\$69 m); Fish (\$56 m); Mineral distillates (\$28 m); Fruits (\$28m); Garments (\$25 m); Copper/articles (\$25 m); Minerals (\$13 m); Cotton waste (\$ 11m); Iron/Steel (\$8 m) & articles (\$11 m); Knitwear (\$10m); Leather (\$10 m); Ceramic (\$ 7m) etc.

3. The main items of Bangladesh imports from India include Cotton (raw, yarn, fabrics)-\$1505.5 million; Vehicles & parts, other than rail rolling stock (\$ 474m); Animal feed/ food waste (\$ 300m); Boilers, machinery/mechanical appliances (\$ 248m); Cereals (\$ 209m); Iron & Steel (\$ 173m); Organic chemicals (\$ 131m); Electrical machinery & equipment (\$ 115m); Vegetables/ roots & tubers (\$ 111m); Mineral fuels/waxes/ bituminous products (\$ 106 m); Plastics/articles (\$ 97 m); Tanning chemicals (\$ 82m); Man-made fibres (\$ 74m); Rubber/articles (\$ 65m); Coffee, tea, spices (\$ 58m) etc. Inputs imported from India such as cotton, machinery, tanning chemicals etc. are used for value-addition for products such as Ready Made Garments, Knitwear, Leather goods etc., and get reflected in Bangladesh's trade surplus elsewhere.

4. Tariff concessions granted by India to Bangladesh under SAFTA (as SAARC LDC) include a zero-duty market access for ALL but 480 items in the sensitive list. India had further increased the duty-free access to 10 million pieces of readymade garments (RMG) from Bangladesh every year.

5. Taking into account the trade imbalance between the two countries in favour of India, the Prime Minister of India announced on September 6, 2011, during his visit to Bangladesh, the removal of all 46 textile items from the sensitive list and zero duty access in all these 46 items for Bangladesh exports to India. This unilateral gesture is expected to address a major and long-standing demand from Bangladesh for increased market access for Bangladesh products to India.

6. India is upgrading seven main border Land Customs Stations (LCS) as Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at a total cost of Rs. 467 crores. ICPs will have facilities for immigration, customs, parking, banks, warehousing, quarantine, fuelling etc The measure will help improve trade with Bangladesh across West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram,. Movement of goods between the two countries is covered by the existing 'Protocol on Inland Water Transit

and Trade (IWTT)' for use of waterways, 'Fundamental and Subsidiary Rules' guiding movement of railways, 'Standard Operating Procedures for movement of Trucks' between LCSs and 'Air Services Agreement'. Further, to restore the traditional economic and cultural links between people in adjoining states in India and Bangladesh, Border Haats have been established, starting with inauguration of Border Haat in Meghalaya.

7. Bilateral investment will be facilitated by the recent conclusion of the 'Bilateral Investment Protection & Promotion Agreement' and 'Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation' between the two countries. So far 225 Indian firms have proposed foreign direct investment totaling \$ 558.77 million as 100% Indian-owned or JV proposals. In 2008 and 2009 the total Indian investment was \$ 400 million. (Source: Board of Investment, BD, April 2011). It is hoped that Bangladesh investments in India will increase with easing of local currency transfer restrictions.

8. Given the geographical proximity, warm and friendly ties, availability of workforce and investment-supportive atmosphere, the quantum of Indian investment and trade with Bangladesh is further expected to improve for mutual benefit.

**Dhaka**  
**September 6, 2011**



**212. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development between India and Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT  
BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

The Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter **Government of India**) and the **Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh** (hereinafter Government of Bangladesh)

**RECALLING** the two countries' shared bonds of history, culture and common values;

**DESIROUS** of living in peace and harmony with each other and fostering good neighbourly relations based on sovereign equality, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect and mutual benefit;

**INSPIRED** by an abiding faith in and total commitment to democracy, development, pluralism and peaceful co-existence;

**REITERATING** their common objective of eradicating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease and promoting social justice and inclusive growth with a view to enabling their peoples to realize their potential to the full;

**DESIROUS** of promoting trans-border cooperation in the management of shared water resources, hydropower potentials and eco-systems and in the areas of connectivity and trade and economic cooperation;

**CONVINCED** that cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will accelerate development and enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, shared destiny and common vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia;

**HAVE AGREED** as under:

**ARTICLE 1**

To promote trade, investment and economic cooperation, which is balanced, sustainable and builds prosperity in both countries. Both Parties shall take steps to narrow trade imbalances, remove progressively tariff and non-tariff barriers and facilitate trade, by road, rail, inland waterways, air and shipping. Both Parties will encourage the development of appropriate infrastructure, use of sea ports, multi-modal transportation and standardization of means of transport for bilateral as well as sub-regional use.



**ARTICLE 2**

To enhance cooperation in sharing of the waters of common rivers, both Parties will explore the possibilities of common basin management of common rivers for mutual benefit. The Parties will cooperate in flood forecasting and control. They will cooperate and provide necessary assistance to each other to enhance navigability and accessibility of river routes and ports.

**ARTICLE 3**

To develop mechanisms for technical cooperation and exchange of advance information with respect to natural disasters. The Parties shall also promote training and capacity building initiatives and cooperation between respective disaster management authorities, with a view to upgrading response mechanism.

**ARTICLE 4**

To establish arrangements for cooperation in generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, including electricity from renewable or other sources. The Parties also agree to use power grid connectivity to promote power exchanges to mutual economic advantage.

**ARTICLE 5**

To promote scientific, educational, cultural and people to people exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. These shall be implemented through programmes and joint initiatives in areas such as agriculture, education and culture, health, tourism, sports, science & technology and any other area that the Parties may agree. The Parties shall cooperate by means of exchange of data, scientific knowledge, collaborative research, training, common programmes and in any other manner as may be agreed between the two Parties.

**ARTICLE 6**

To develop and implement programmes for environmental protection and responding to the challenges of climate change through adaptation. The Parties shall collaborate on projects of mutual interest to preserve common eco-systems and, as far as practicable, coordinate their response in international fora.

**ARTICLE 7**

To harness the advantages of sub-regional cooperation in the power sector, water resources management, physical connectivity, environment and sustainable development for mutual advantage, including jointly developing and financing projects.

**ARTICLE 8**

To cooperate closely on issues relating to their national interests. Both parties shall work together to create a peaceful environment conducive for inclusive economic growth and development.

**ARTICLE 9**

To cooperate on security issues of concern to each other while fully respecting each other's sovereignty. Neither party shall allow the use of its territory for activities harmful to the other.

**ARTICLE 10**

To establish a Joint Consultative Commission for effective and smooth implementation of this Agreement that shall meet once a year.

**ARTICLE 11**

The Agreement may be amended by mutual consent in order to enhance, deepen and widen the scope of cooperation, including regional / sub-regional expansion.

**ARTICLE 12**

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signing by the two Parties and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual consent in accordance with Para 2 of this Article.

Either Party may seek termination of this Agreement by giving a written notice to the other Party providing the reasons for seeking such termination. Before this Agreement is terminated, the Parties shall consider the relevant circumstances and hold consultations to address the reasons cited by the Party seeking termination in the Joint Consultative Commission.

Actions taken or agreements reached pursuant to this Agreement shall not be affected by its expiry or termination.

**Done** in Dhaka on the Sixth day of September, 2011, in two originals in English Language.

**Dr. Manmohan Singh**  
**Prime Minister**  
**For the Government of**  
**The Republic of India**

**Sheikh Hasina**  
**Prime Minister**  
**For the Government of the**  
**People's Republic of Bangladesh**



**213. Protocol to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

The Government of the Republic of **India** and the Government of the People's Republic of **Bangladesh**,

**Bearing** in mind the friendly relations existing between the two countries,

**Desiring** to define more accurately at certain points and to complete the demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh,

**Having** regard to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh and related matters, May 16, 1974 and Exchange of Letters dated December 26, 1974; December 30, 1974; October 7, 1982; and March 26, 1992 (hereinafter referred to as the 1974 Agreement),

**Have agreed** as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

The provisions of this Protocol shall form an integral part of the 1974 Agreement.

**ARTICLE 2**

**(I) Article 1 Clause 5 of the 1974 Agreement shall be implemented as follows:**

**Muhuri River (Belonia) sector**

Boundary in this segment shall be drawn westwards from the existing Boundary Pillar No. 2159/48-S along the agreed line as depicted in the index map prepared jointly till it meets the southern limit of the Burning Ghat as shown in jointly surveyed map of Muhuri river area in 1977-78. Thereafter it shall follow the external limit of the Burning Ghat in South-West direction and then turn northwards along the external limit of the Burning Ghat till it meets the centre of the existing Muhuri River. Thereafter it shall run along the mid stream of the existing Muhuri River upto Boundary Pillar No. 2159/3-S. This boundary shall be the fixed boundary. The two Governments should raise embankments on their respective sides with a view to stabilising the river in its present course as stipulated in the 1974 Agreement. The Parties agree to fencing on 'zero line' in this area.

**(II) Article 1 Clause 12 of the 1974 Agreement shall be implemented as follows:**

**Enclaves:**

111 Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh Enclaves in India as per the jointly verified cadastral enclave maps and signed at the level of DGLR&S, Bangladesh and DLR&S, West Bengal (India) in April 1997, shall be exchanged without claim to compensation for the additional areas going to Bangladesh.

**(III) Article 1 Clause 15 of the 1974 Agreement shall be implemented as follows:**

**Lathitilla and Dumabari:**

Line drawn by Radcliffe from Boundary Pillar 1397(point Y) i.e. the last demarcated boundary pillar position, straight southward to the tri-junction of Mouzas Dumabari, Lathitilla and Bara Putnigaon i.e up to iron bridge, and thence it shall run generally southwards along the midstream of the course of Putni Chara as already demarcated on the ground, till it meets the boundary between Sylhet (Bangladesh) and Tripura (India) i.e. Boundary Pillar No. 1800.

**(IV) The land boundary in the area mentioned below shall be demarcated in the following manner:**

Daikhata 56 (West Bengal-Jalpaiguri) / Panchagarh Boundary in this segment shall be drawn as fixed boundary from existing Boundary Pillar 774/32-S in the strip sheet 444/6 along the mouza boundary of Daikhata-56 as surveyed in 1997-98 and thereafter will follow the southern boundary of Daikhata-56 (from east to west) upto Point No 18 and therefrom it will follow the western boundary of Daikhata-56 (from south to north) till it meets the center of River Sui at Point No 15 and thereafter, will run along the center of the River Sui up to Point No 1, the points as depicted in the sketch map jointly prepared and mutually agreed on August 3, 2011. Thereafter the International Boundary shall follow the already delineated boundary through Main Pillar (MP) 775.

**ARTICLE 3**

**(I) Article 2 of the 1974 Agreement shall be implemented as follows:**

The Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh agree that the boundary shall be drawn as a fixed boundary for territories held in Adverse Possession as determined through joint survey and fully

depicted in the respective adversely possessed land area index map (APL map) finalized by the Land Records and Survey Departments of both the countries between December 2010 and August 2011, which are fully described in clause (a) to (d) below.

The relevant strip maps shall be printed and signed by the Plenipotentiaries and transfer of territorial jurisdiction shall be completed simultaneously with the exchange of the enclaves. The demarcation of the boundary, as depicted in the above-mentioned Index Maps, shall be as under:-

**(a) West Bengal Sector**

- (i) **Bousmari – Madhugari (Kushtia-Nadia) area:** The boundary shall be drawn from the existing Boundary Pillar Nos. 154/5-S to 157/1-S to follow the centre of old course of river Mathabanga, as depicted in consolidation map of 1962, as surveyed jointly and agreed in June 2011.
- (ii) **Andharkota (Kushtia-Nadia) area:** The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No 152/5-S to Boundary Pillar No 153/1-S to follow the edge of existing River Mathabanga as jointly surveyed and agreed in June 2011.
- (iii) **Pakuria (Kushtia-Nadia) area:** The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No 151/1-S to Boundary Pillar No 152/2-S to follow the edge of River Mathabanga as jointly surveyed and agreed in June 2011.
- (iv) **Char Mahishkundi (Kushtia-Nadia) area:** The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No 153/1-S to Boundary Pillar No 153/9-S to follow the edge of River Mathabanga as jointly surveyed and agreed in June 2011.
- (v) **Haripal/ Khutadah/ Battoli/ Sapameri/ LNpur (Patari) (Naogaon-Malda) area:** The boundary shall be drawn as line joining from existing Boundary Pillar No 242/S/13, to Boundary Pillar No 243/7-S/5 and as jointly surveyed and agreed in June 2011.
- (vi) **Berubari (Panchagarh-Jalpaiguri area):**

The boundary in the area Berubari (Panchagarh-Jalpaiguri) adversely held by Bangladesh, and Berubari and Singhapara Khudipara

(Panchagarh-Jalpaiguri), adversely held by India shall be drawn as jointly demarcated during 1996-1998.

**(b) Meghalaya Sector**

(i) **Lobachera-Nuncherra:** The boundary from existing Boundary Pillar No 1315/4-S to Boundary Pillar No 1315/15-S in Lailong - Balichera, Boundary Pillar No 1316/1-S to Boundary Pillar No 1316/11-S in Lailong- Noonchera, Boundary Pillar No 1317 to Boundary Pillar No 1317/13-S in Lailong- Lahiling and Boundary Pillar No 1318/1-S to Boundary Pillar No 1318/2-S in Lailong- Lubhachera shall be drawn to follow the edge of tea gardens as jointly surveyed and agreed in Dec 2010.

(ii) **Pyrdiwah/ Padua Area**

The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No 1270/1-S as per jointly surveyed and mutually agreed line till Boundary Pillar No 1271/1-T. The Parties agree that the Indian Nationals from Pyrdiwah village shall be allowed to draw water from Piyang River near point No 6 of the agreed Map.

(iii) **Lyngkhat Area:**

(aa) **Lyngkhat-I / Kulumcherra & Lyngkhat-II/ Kulumcherra**

The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No. 1264/4-S to Boundary Pillar No 1265 and BP No 1265/6-S to 1265/9-S as per jointly surveyed and mutually agreed line.

(ab) **Lyngkhat-III/ Sonarhat:**

The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No 1266/13-S along the nallah southwards till it meets another nallah in the east-west direction, thereafter it shall run along the northern edge of the nallah in east till it meets the existing International Boundary north of Reference Pillar Nos.1267/4-R-B and 1267/3-RI.

**(iv) Dawki/ Tamabil area**

The boundary shall be drawn by a straight line joining existing Boundary Pillar Nos 1275/1-S to Boundary Pillar Nos 1275/7-S. The Parties agree to fencing on 'zero line' in this area.

(v) **Naljuri/ Sreepur Area:**

(aa) **Naljuri I**

The boundary shall be a line from the existing Boundary Pillar No 1277/2-S in southern direction upto three plots as depicted in the strip Map No 166 till it meets the nallah flowing from Boundary Pillar No 1277/5-T, thereafter it will run along the western edge of the nallah in the southern direction upto 2 plots on the Bangladesh side, thereafter it shall run eastwards till it meets a line drawn in southern direction from Boundary Pillar No 1277/4-S.

(ab) **Naljuri III**

The boundary shall be drawn by a straight line from existing Boundary Pillar No 1278/2-S to Boundary Pillar No 1279/3-S.

(vi) **Muktapur/ Dibir Hawor Area:**

The Parties agree that the Indian Nationals shall be allowed to visit Kali Mandir and shall also be allowed to draw water and exercise fishing rights in the water body in the Muktapur / Dibir Hawor area from the bank of Muktapur side.

(c) **Tripura Sector**

(i) **Chandannagar-Champarai Tea Garden area in Tripura/ Moulvi Bazar sector:** The boundary shall be drawn along Sonaraichhera river from existing Boundary Pillar No 1904 to Boundary Pillar No 1905 as surveyed jointly and agreed in July 2011.

(d) **Assam Sector**

(i) **Kalabari (Boroibari) area in Assam sector**

The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No 1066/24-T to Boundary Pillar No 1067/16-T as surveyed jointly and agreed in August 2011.

(ii) **Pallathal area in Assam sector:**

The boundary shall be drawn from existing Boundary Pillar No. 1370/3-S to 1371/6-S to follow the outer edge of the tea garden and from Boundary Pillar No.1372 to 1373/2-S along outer edge of the pan plantation.

#### ARTICLE 4

This Protocol shall be subject to ratification by the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification.

**Signed** at Dhaka on the Sixth day of September, 2011, in two originals in the English language.

**For the Government of the  
Republic of India**

**For the Government of the  
People's Republic of  
Bangladesh**



**214. Addendum to MOU between India and Bangladesh to facilitate overland transit traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal.**

**Dhaka September 6, 2011.**

**Addendum to the Memorandum of understanding between India and Bangladesh to Facilitate overland Transit Traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal.**

**WHEREAS**, on August 15, 1978, the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (hereinafter referred to as "parties") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate overland transit traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal (hereinafter referred to as MOU).

**WHEREAS**, this Memorandum of Understanding remains in full force and effect, and

**WHEREAS**, the said parties now have agreed to make an addendum to the MOU to add new rail routes for facilitating overland transit traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. For the purpose of mutual benefits of the Parties, Para No. 04 of the MOU is amended and will read as follows :
  - (a) "Traffic in Transit" to/from Nepal and Bangladesh shall move through Indian territory by rail using Singhabad Railway station in India and Rohanpur Railway station in Bangladesh with their existing facilities. To ensure expeditious and smooth flow of such movement, necessary infrastructural facilities shall be provided by the two Parties within their respective territories.



- (b) The existing rail route through Radhikapur Railway station in India and Birol Railway station in Bangladesh which has been suspended shall be brought into operation by converting Bangladesh portion into broad gauge. In this case, both the routes (proposed and the existing) shall be used for Nepal Transit Traffic by rail for additional operating convenience
- (c) As far as feasible the "Traffic in Transit" to/from Nepal and Bangladesh shall move in full rake loads.
- (d) For all "Traffic in Transit" from/to Nepal and Bangladesh, an additional One Time Lock (OTL) will be affixed by Indian customs at the border Land Customs Station (LCS) of entry into India which will be checked at the LCS of exit in India.

The Addendum to MOU shall enter into force from the date of its signing and remain in force till the validity of the MOU.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments have signed this addendum to MOU.

**Signed** on this Sixth day of September, Two Thousand Eleven at Dhaka in two originals in English Language.

**For and on behalf of the  
Government of the Republic of  
India.**

**For and on behalf of the  
Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh**



**215. Memorandum, of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on Conservation of the Sundarban.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

**Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Conservation of the Sundarban**

The **Government of the Republic of India** and the Government of the **People's Republic of Bangladesh** hereinafter referred to as "Parties":

**Considering** that both the Governments are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 and are contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971;

**Recognizing** that the Sundarban of India and Bangladesh represent a single ecosystem divided between the two countries;

**Acknowledging** that the wildlife sanctuaries of the Sundarban located in both countries is recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site and in Bangladesh as Ramsar site as well;

**Have Reached the Following Understanding:**

**ARTICLE I**

Both Parties recognize the need to monitor and conserve the Sundarban, which is home to rich biodiversity consisting of large variety of rare species of flora and fauna, and acts as a vital protective barrier protecting the mainland from flooding, tidal waves and cyclones.

**Article II**

Both Parties, with a view to exploiting the potential of the Sundarban for development and alleviation of poverty, agree to undertake, but not limited to, the following endeavors:

- a. consider and adopt appropriate joint management and joint monitoring of resources;
- b. explore the possibility of implementing conservation and protection efforts, encourage mangrove regeneration, habitat restoration and rehabilitation programs, which would eventually increase the potential for carbon sequestration;

- develop a long term strategy for creating ecotourism opportunities for both countries, which will create synergy and generate greater revenue.

#### **Article III**

The Parties are in agreement that the Sundarban ecosystem is greatly influenced by human use and the human beings living around the Sunderban. The Parties will map and delineate these human settlements on respective sides so that a better understanding emerges of the relationship between human settlements and the ecosystems. The Parties will further develop a management plan that utilizes this information to address issues of livelihood, deprivation by flooding and other climate related disasters, man-animal conflict, pollution, resource depletion, etc. The Parties will through the management plan, also identify opportunities for livelihood generation that do not adversely affect the Sundarban ecosystem.

#### **Article IV**

Both Parties agree that an exercise needs to be conducted to identify and catalogue the diversity of flora and fauna that are found in the Sundarban along with their spatial distribution across the countries of Parties. Through this exercise, Parties will determine what areas and species are under pressure including those facing threat of endangerment and extinction. The Parties will develop a comprehensive plan to tackle these threats along with a detailed action plan to adapt against perceived threats.

#### **Article V**

Both Parties will carry out research to develop a common and shared understanding of the impacts of climate change along with adaptation strategies that can be implemented.

#### **Article VI**

The Parties, in order to contribute to strengthening the management of the Sundarban across the two countries, are committed to the advancement of collaboration in the following and other areas:

- (a) Share relevant information between the concerned officials, forest and otherwise, of both the countries;
- (b) Explore the possibilities of joint research and management projects;
- (c) Share technical knowledge with the common goal of conservation and management of biodiversity of Sundarban;

- (d) Organize joint tiger estimation at regular intervals;
- (e) Execution of patrolling exercises by the Forest and other relevant Officials of both the Parties along the respective borders to prevent poaching or smuggling of derivatives from wild life;
- (f) Promote capacity building exercise and exchange visits of Forest Officials of field level in order to better understand and share ideas and problems of management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and promotion of sustainable socio-economic development, and ecotourism;
- (g) Exchange personnel for training and promotion of education in forestry, including at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun financed by the Government of India.

A Working Group will be set up to define activities, responsibilities, time, and resources involved, according to the activities established as per this Memorandum.

#### **Article VII**

The Parties further agree that:

Should changes of national policies in either country result in difficulties in the further development and implementation of this Memorandum, both countries will do their utmost to ensure a reconciliation vis-à-vis the difficulties raised.

This Memorandum is non exclusive, allowing both Parties to enter into similar agreements with other countries.

This Memorandum does not constitute any legal obligations for either Party in any international forum and it does not conflict with any other treaty to which either country may be a party to.

#### **Article VIII**

The Memorandum may be modified by mutual written consent of the Parties. The period of this Memorandum will be 5 (five) years and shall be extended automatically at the end of each period unless terminated by mutual consent by either Party by serving written notice 90 (ninety) days prior to the date of termination.

Termination of this Memorandum shall have no effect on other similar agreements or projects entered into by the Parties.

Termination shall not affect the programmes under implementation.

This Memorandum will come into effect on signature and will continue in operation, until terminated by either Party as stated in this Memorandum.

**Signed** in two originals in Dhaka on the Sixth day of September 2011 in English Language.

**For and on behalf of  
the Government of  
Republic of India**

**For and on behalf of the  
Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh**



**216. PROTOCOL on Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

**WHEREAS:**

**Sunderban**, which is an excellent tiger habitat and the largest sanctuary for the Royal Bengal Tiger in the world, stands across the common boundary of India and Bangladesh; And India and Bangladesh have a shared and common concern of the Royal Bengal Tiger and accordingly wish to take certain bilateral initiatives for ensuring the survival and conservation of the tiger in the unique ecosystem of Sunderban; and It is necessary to intensify the efforts for the safety of the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Now, therefore, India and Bangladesh hereby agree as following:

**Article I**

1. Both countries -
  - (a) will undertake bilateral scientific and research projects to promote their understanding and knowledge of the Sunderban's Royal Bengal Tiger and including habitat will develop information systems, share research data and conduct joint research;
  - (b) will exchange personnel for training and promotion of education;

- (c) will undertake patrolling of the Sunderban waterways on their respective sides to prevent poaching or smuggling of derivatives from wildlife;
- (d) agree that either party will not undertake any activity, which will have adverse effect on the biodiversity and the unique ecosystem of Sunderban. However, no restriction on border domination activities be imposed;
- (e) will include the safety of Royal Bengal Tiger as an agenda in all border meetings involving the habitat of the tiger.

#### **Article II**

2. For the purpose of training and promotion of education referred to in clause (b) of Article I of this Protocol, the Government of India, at the request of the Government of Bangladesh, will reserve at least four seats for personnel from Bangladesh in the nine months Diploma Course in the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

#### **Article III**

A special committee will be constituted in each country to examine human casualties that take place in the Sunderban by tiger attacks with a view to sharing experiences from either side, and to act in consultation with the other side, if necessary.

#### **Article IV**

Forest Officers or Park Directors from both the countries will hold periodic meetings on either side of the Sunderban alternately, with a view to sharing management strategies and creating innovative and common management approaches.

#### **Article V**

High level Ministerial level meetings will be held to follow up all the recommended actions between the two countries.

#### **Article VI**

The Protocol can be amended by mutual consent.

#### **Article VII**

The Protocol shall remain valid for 5 (five) years and shall be automatically renewed at the expiry of each period, unless terminated by mutual consent for which the Party desiring to terminate shall serve on the other Party a notice 90 (ninety) days prior to the date from which termination becomes effective. The

termination of this Protocol shall not affect completion of any project which has made substantial progress.

**Signed** at Dhaka on the Sixth day of September, 2011 in two originals in English language, each of which is equally authentic.

**For and on Behalf of  
The Government of  
The Republic of India**

**For and on Behalf of  
the Government of The  
People's Republic of Bangladesh**



## **217. Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on co-operation in the field of Fisheries.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on co-operation in the field of fisheries**

The **Government of the Republic of India** represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the **Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh** represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties",

**Mindful** of the need to strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries through development of co-operation in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities.

**Considering** that the advantage to be derived from development of co-operation in fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities;

**Have** reached the following understanding:

#### **ARTICLE-I**

The Contracting Parties shall promote development of co-operation in fisheries and aquaculture and allied activities between the two countries through joint activities, programmes, exchange of scientific materials, information and personnel.

#### **ARTICLE-II**

The joint activities will be determined by the Contracting Parties and implemented through mutually agreed procedures.

Such joint activities should be environmentally sound and sustainable and may include the areas of aquaculture germplasm exchange and training in fish stock assessment, post harvest technology, freshwater pearl culture, Hilsa fisheries management, protection of biological diversity related to fisheries development, fish production, distribution, trade and international protocol on Bio-safety.

#### **ARTICLE-III**

The Contracting Parties shall jointly promote co-operation within this framework of the activities mentioned in Article II. Biennial Work Plans will be drawn up by mutual agreement between the contracting parties to give effect to the objectives of this MOU.

#### **ARTICLE-IV**

A Joint Working Group (JWG) shall be formed to provide guidance, review the progress of activities and to facilitate co-operation under this Memorandum. The Joint Working Group Meeting shall be arranged every year alternately in India and Bangladesh.

Each Contracting Party shall designate an Executive Secretary who shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring all activities to be carried out under the auspices of this Memorandum. The Executive Secretaries will either meet in person or correspond with each other to develop a work programme and coordinate administrative details.

#### **ARTICLE-V**

Under this Memorandum, the designated coordinating authorities will be the Ministry of Agriculture for the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

#### **ARTICLE-VI**

The Memorandum authorizes the involvement of other interested Government agencies, the scientific and business communities as well as the private sectors of both countries in such co-operation.

#### **ARTICLE-VII**

The sending party will bear the costs of travel(s) and the receiving party will provide local hospitality. Activities pursuant to this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funds and personnel and to the laws and regulations of the respective countries of the parties.



**ARTICLE-VIII**

The Memorandum shall not in any way affect the commitments of the Contracting Parties under existing bilateral agreements between the two countries.

**ARTICLE-IX**

The Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature by both parties and shall remain valid for a period of 5(five) years. This MOU may be extended for further period as may be mutually agreed upon. Either of the parties may terminate the MOU by giving at least 6(six) months notice in advance of its intention to terminate the MOU. The termination of this Memorandum shall not affect the validity or duration of any implementing arrangement/project executed and commenced thereunder and the activities in progress shall continue until completed.

**ARTICLE-X**

This MOU may be modified or amended by mutual consent.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have hereto signed this Memorandum and affixed hereto their seals.

**Done** at Dhaka on this Sixth day of September, 2011 two originals in English language

**For and on Behalf of  
The Government of the  
Republic of India**

**For and on Behalf of  
the Government of the  
People's Republic of Bangladesh**



**218. Memorandum of Understanding between Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

**Memonandum of Understanding between  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India  
and University of Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi, (hereinafter called JNU) and **University of Dhaka** (hereinafter called DU) establish hereby a formal understanding of cooperation and friendship which is intended to further the academic objectives of each institution and to promote better understanding between the faculty and students of JNU and the faculty and students of DU. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, the two institutions will proceed to implement the following endeavors and exchanges of materials and personnel.

**Areas of Cooperation**

Cooperation shall be carried out, subject to availability of funds and the approval of the competent authority of JNU and DU, through such activities or programmes as:

1. Exchange of faculty members
2. Exchange of students
3. Joint research activities
4. Participation in seminars and academic meetings
5. Exchange of academic materials and other information
6. Special short-term academic programmes
7. Exchange of Administrative Managers/Coordinators
8. Joint cultural Programmes

The terms of such mutual cooperation and necessary budget for each specific programme and activity that is implemented under the terms of this MoU shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by both parties prior to the initiation of the particular programme or activity and the terms of such programme shall be negotiated on an annual basis. Each university will designate a Liaison Officer to develop and coordinate specific activities or programmes.

**Scope of the Cooperation**

The areas of cooperation include, subject to mutual consent, any Programme offered at either university as felt desirable and feasible on either side and that both sides feel can contribute to the fostering and development of the cooperative relationships between the two universities.

The assistance to be provided by each of the contracting parties will be teaching, research, exchange of faculty and students, and staff development, etc. as deemed beneficial by the two institutions.

The cooperation will be focussed on the following fields of study initially;

1. International Relations
2. Social Sciences
3. Language, Literature and Culture Studies
4. Computer Sciences

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) shall remain in force for a period of three years from the date it is signed by the appropriate officials of the two universities. It may further be extended or amended with the written agreement of both parties. This MoU may be terminated by either party subject to the delivery of six months advance notice, in writing.

At JNU the office of the Academic Coordinator will oversee the implementation of the MoU. At DU, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor will oversee the implementation of the MoU.

Both parties understand that all financial arrangements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds.

**Prof. Sudhir Kumar Sopory**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**Jawaharlal Nehru University**  
**New Delhi, India**

**Prof. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**Dhaka University**  
**Dhaka, Bangladesh**



**219. Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bangladesh on mutual broadcast of Television Programmes.**

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

**Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Mutual broadcast of Television programmes**

The **Government of the Republic of India** and the **Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh** herein after jointly referred as 'Parties';

**Desiring** to strengthen the friendly relations and co-operation between the broadcasting authorities of two countries:

**Have agreed as follows:**

**Article 1**

**Programme Exchange**

Doordarshan, India and Bangladesh Television (BTV) of National Broadcasting Authority (NBA), will enter into detailed agreement through mutual discussions to make available for mutual broadcast of general programmes. The above would be made available for broadcast in English, along with scripts so that Bangladesh Television (BTV) of National Broadcasting Authority (NBA) may translate and dub the programmes into Bengali and Doordarshan may translate and dub the programmes in Hindi and other Indian language(s) for broadcast as they consider appropriate. The time of broadcast shall be decided by the recipients, who may consult each other for determining, as far as practicable, parity in the total time allocated for broadcasting each other's programmes.

**Article 2**

**Live telecast of News Coverage**

Doordarshan and BTV of National Broadcasting Authority (NBA) may broadcast live any specific event such as visit of High Dignitaries or any cultural event of bilateral importance through an arrangement of sharing of signals.

**Article 3**

**Education Programmes**

Doordarshan and BTV of National Broadcasting Authority (NBA) may also exchange programmes on Education either free of cost or on financial terms agreed between the Parties.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Co-production**

Both the Parties shall explore the possibility of executing television co-productions, whether to be done in India or in Bangladesh, as per/on terms and topics to be decided.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Training and Consultancy Services**

Doordarshan and Bangladesh Television (BTV) of National Broadcasting Authority (NBA) shall cooperate in providing training as well as technical advice with a view to enhancing the capacity of their respective training institutions and the quality of the contents of training. The services so provided may be free or at cost agreed between the Parties.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Documentation**

The Parties shall keep each other informed of the times, dates, duration and technical characteristics of all re-broadcasts.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Term**

The conditions of this MoU shall have a term of 5 (five) years if not terminated by one of the Parties. The programmes exchanged prior to termination, whether free or at a price, shall continue to be the property of the recipient for use for the purpose for which the exchange had been made. This MoU is renewable automatically for similar periods, subject to re-agreement of both Parties.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Termination**

This MoU may be modified or terminated at any time by joint agreement of the Parties. The MoU may be terminated by either Party with thirty (30) days prior notice in writing to the other Party, provided that the Party's duty to fulfill the mutual obligations incurred prior to the termination shall survive termination of this MoU.

#### **Article 9**

##### **Miscellaneous**

##### **Termination**

For legal purposes, nothing in this MoU shall be construed as creating a joint venture, an agency relationship or a legal partnership between the Parties.

### Article 10

#### Effectiveness

#### Termination

This memorandum shall come into effect on the date of the signature set forth below and will remain valid until terminated.

Done at Dhaka on this Sixth day of September, 2011

For the Government of  
the Republic of India

For the Government of  
the People's Republic of Bangladesh



#### 220. Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between National Institute of Fashion Technology New Delhi, India and BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology Dhaka – Bangladesh.

**Dhaka, September 6, 2011.**

This Agreement is executed on 6th September, 2011 at New Delhi between National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi, India through Ms. Monika Garg, Director General, NIFT, New Delhi who has been duly authorized by the Board of Governors of NIFT vide Resolution No.—— dated ——, hereinafter referred to as NIFT and shall include all its servants, agents and assigns of the FIRST PART And BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology (BIFT), Dhaka - Bangladesh through, Mr.Muzaffar U. Siddique President, Governing Body- BIFT, Bangladesh who has been duly authorized by the Board of Governors of BIFT vide Resolution No. 78 dated 25th August 2011 hereinafter referred to as BIFT and shall include all its servants, agents and assigns of the SECOND PART

#### I. About the agreement

1.1 This agreement defines the principles, policy guidelines & procedures required which BGMEA Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT) & National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) wish to develop in mutual interest. This co-operation includes exchange of students, training activities, research

activities within the area of Design, Management and Technology of the two partner institutes.

1.2 This agreement will be reviewed each year and changes specifying the methods of co-operation and modalities between the partners will be incorporated with mutual consent.

## **II. Organization and Management**

2.1 Each of the two partner institutes shall designate a permanent employee of its teaching staff or management team as a representative for the management of this agreement.

2.2 Each partner institute will endeavor to provide the human, material and financial resource necessary for the running of the co-operation program specified annually. Moreover, the two institutes agree to put forth joint proposal for financial support for the activities undertaken within the framework of this agreement from regional, national and international funding organizations.

## **III. Objective**

3.1 The objective of this agreement is to encourage international cooperation, and strengthening two institutes in the following areas:

- a) NIFT will provide a semester study for BIFT students while BIFT will facilitate NIFT student to carry out Internship and Graduation Project/ Research Project in Apparel Industry at Bangladesh.
- b) Faculty training program for BIFT
- c) Exposure to workshops, exhibitions and conducting special lectures
- d) Joint industrial projects and joint research activities

## **IV. Scope**

4.1 The Agreement will cover the exchange of activities between NIFT India and BIFT Bangladesh.

### **A. Faculty Development Program**

1. On the basis of requirement of BIFT, Faculty Development Program can be offered by the NIFT. The modalities will be worked out on the basis of the duration, gap areas, nature of workshop, place of training etc. at the time of offering the program.

2. BIFT faculty / faculty groups may come to NIFT for training or NIFT may send faculty members to BIFT to train their faculty at BIFT which will be decided in writing from time to time.

3. Detailed modalities will be worked out at the time of training programs.

**B. Student Exchange**

1. NIFT will offer a semester input to BIFT Students at NIFT India and BIFT will facilitate NIFT students to carry out Internship, Graduation Project and Placement in Apparel Industry at Bangladesh.

<b>1 Semester at NIFT</b>	<b>8 -14 Weeks</b>	<b>12- 16 Weeks</b>
<b>for BIFT Student =</b>	<b>Apparel Internship +</b>	<b>Graduation Project</b>
	<b>for NIFT students</b>	<b>Research Project</b>
		<b>for NIFT students</b>

**BIFT Student at NIFT:**

2. The exchange student (s) from BIFT will undergo for the study of one semester of the Degree Program at NIFT. BIFT student will be issued a complete semester mark sheet indicating the subjects studied, credit, hours of inputs and overall performance. The classes for BIFT student(s) will be held with other students of NIFT.

3. BIFT student (s) shall be responsible for all travel costs, accommodation, meals, health insurance, semester contribution (at their home institute), medical costs, passport and visa costs, course materials (books, and consumables) and other expenses. NIFT shall not provide any financial assistance to exchange students.

**Internship and Graduation Project at Bangladesh Apparel Industry for NIFT students:**

4. As a part of exchange, NIFT student(s) will carry out an Internship and / or a Graduation Project in the industry at Bangladesh. This complete activity will be organized by BIFT well in advance by 2 months. The duration and timing of internship and Graduation Project/ Research Projects will be communicated well in advance, since the duration of these activities varies from program to program at NIFT. Both the activities, Internship & Graduation Project, will take place in the Industry only. During this period BIFT will appoint one senior faculty as a co-guide / mentor to the student(s) carrying out the Internship / Graduation Project in the Industry. The student who undertakes the internship in the industry will be encouraged to carry out the Graduation Project in the same Industry in Bangladesh. However, in specific cases a different student can be sent to carry out the Graduation project if the student who had opted for the Internship is not willing to go there for Graduation Project.

Internships	:	8 to 14 weeks (Depending on Academic Program of NIFT)
Graduation Projects	:	12 to 16 weeks (Depending on Academic Program of NIFT)



**a) Internship at Bangladesh Industry:**

For the NIFT student(s) carrying out Internship at Bangladesh Industry, the Industry will provide accommodation and local conveyance between factory & place of accommodation. However student will have to bear all other travel expenses, lodging, health insurance, semester contribution at their home institute, passport & visa cost, course material & other unforeseen expenses. This arrangement between the Industry & NIFT students shall be planned and finalized by BIFT.

**b) Graduation Project at Bangladesh**

For the NIFT student(s) carrying out Graduation Project in the Apparel Industry at Bangladesh, the Industry in which students are carrying out Graduation project will provide accommodation and local conveyance from place of accommodation to the factory however student will have to bear expenses of all other travel expenses, lodging, health insurance, semester contribution at their home institute, passport & visa cost, course material & other expense. The Industry will also provide a stipend to the students for the duration of Graduation Project. BIFT will work out this arrangement between the Industry and the students and also facilitate the placements for NIFT students.

5. The maximum number of students exchanged under this agreement will be limited to four students per year.
6. Exchange student(s) of BIFT who have successfully completed 6 semesters for UG program / 3<sup>rd</sup> year of degree course at the home institute will be nominated by BIFT. The applications will be submitted to NIFT & each exchange student will satisfy the admission procedures and requirements of the host department as well as the prerequisites for specific courses and programs. Admission of the student(s) will be entirely at the discretion of NIFT.
7. Language proficiency of exchange students will be gauged and verified by appropriate personnel at the home institute before nominating them. The medium of instruction at NIFT is English.
8. Exchange students will be admitted in a non-degree status by NIFT for a period of one semester.
9. On a reciprocal, NIFT shall waive tuition and related fees for BIFT exchange student(s)
10. Exchange students must carry out medical health insurance that meets the requirements of the host institute and/or the host government. Neither institute will incur liability for illness, injury, financial loss or death of an exchange student at the partner institute. NIFT and BIFT will ensure that exchange students sign liability waivers absolving both institutes of any liability.

11. If an exchange student withdraws before the end of the designated period of that exchange, the status of the other member of the exchange will not be affected. The principle of reciprocity however, must be maintained over time.
12. NIFT will provide services to assist exchange students in locating accommodation and adjusting to the academic, social and cultural life of the host institute. It will also provide instruction, academic evaluation and supervision for exchange students as is maintained for home students.
13. Exchange students are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations of the host institute and respect the cultural norms, national traditions and customs of the host country.
14. Both the institutes reserve their rights to decline the students on academic ground or if any other condition within this agreement is not met.

**C. Student Groups**

1. Special arrangements for groups of students from one institute to another for the purpose of a short-term visit (workshops, exhibitions, industries exposure) may be negotiated in a separate agreement.

**D. Joint Industrial Projects / Research work**

1. Faculties and the staff at both the institutes can take joint industrial projects on mutual consent with the prior written approval of the respective institutes.
2. Both the institutes have equal rights on the joint projects.
3. Prior to the starting of the joint project all the conditions will be worked out. If any faculty leaves in between, the institute will be responsible to provide a substitute
4. In the joint industrial projects / research work, liability will remain with the institute, individual will not be liable for the project.
5. Detailed modalities will be worked out at the time of taking up joint projects.

**V. Duration, Conditions and Modifications of the Agreement**

- 5.1 This agreement becomes effective upon the signature of the designated officials of both institutes. The actual implementation will begin as soon as both institutes have identified qualified individuals in each institute ready to participate in the exchange. However, such identification must

take place within 30 days of execution/coming into effect of this Agreement.

- 5.2 This Agreement is valid for five years from the date of signature. However, three years will be recognized as the accounting period. The numbers of the students benefiting from this agreement would be 20 each from either side by the end of 5 years. However, every effort will be made to maintain four students on yearly basis.
- 5.3 The absence of exchanges during one academic year is possible and does not nullify the Agreement.
- 5.4 In accordance with the Equal Opportunity Policies of the institutes named above, there will be no discrimination against any person, for any reason, who is qualified as a participant in the program supported by this document.
- 5.5 Either institute may terminate this Agreement with a notice of six months. Exchanges in progress at the time remain unaffected and will be completed in the agreed period.
- 5.6 Modifications may be proposed and implemented at any time, effective from the date of written notification mutually agreed upon and signed by both institutes.
- 5.7 At the end of the penultimate year of the five-year cycle both institutes will conduct an evaluation of the program. Any amendments to be made would be achieved by mutual consent in writing and the agreement will be revised accordingly for a further five-year cycle.
- 5.8 No amendment or revision of the Agreement shall come into effect unless it has been mutually agreed upon and such agreement is recorded in writing.

## **VI. Dispute Resolution**

- 6.1 The disputes arising out of and in connection with the present agreement shall be sought to be amicably resolved by conciliation between the Director General, NIFT and the President, Board of Governors- BIFT. In the event there is a failure of resolution of such disputes, it shall be referred to arbitration by a sole arbitrator to be duly appointed and nominated by the Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- 6.2 The place and venue of arbitration shall be at New Delhi.
- 6.3 The applicable proper, substantive and procedural law for arbitration

shall be the laws of India and the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted under and as per the provisions of the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation of Disputes Act, 1996 and the Rules framed there under.

#### **VII. Jurisdiction**

- 7.1 All disputes arising out of the present Agreement shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Indian courts.

#### **VIII. Governing law**

- 8.1 The present Agreement shall be governed by the laws of India, and in the event of conflict between any laws of Bangladesh and India, the Indian law shall prevail.

#### **IX. Miscellaneous**

- 9.1 **Licenses and regulations:** In the performance of this Agreement both parties agree that they shall comply and shall cause their personnel to comply with all local laws and regulations, which affect the undertakings to be executed by the parties under this Agreement. Both parties shall have all relevant permits and licenses in place necessary for the proper execution of the Agreement.
- 9.2 **Intellectual property rights:** Both Parties undertake that they shall not infringe upon any copyright or other intellectual property rights of the other Party which shall remain in exclusive possession of the respective Parties. Both parties shall obtain permission in writing for the usage of any logo, motif, emblem, or any other intellectual property right vested in the respective Parties to be used in connection with the implementation of the present Agreement from the respective Party.
- 9.3 Each Party is the sole owner of such intellectual property rights and the other Party shall have no rights thereto if not expressly mentioned in this Agreement. Neither Party may use the other party's intellectual property rights without the prior consent of possessing Party. Nothing contained in this agreement is intended to, or shall be construed to grant to either Party any license or right regarding the other Party's intellectual property rights.
- 9.4 **Waiver:** No waiver by either Party of any breach of any condition, covenant or term of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and no failure or delay by either Party in insisting upon strict performance of any of the terms or conditions of this agreement or in exercising any right, power or privilege hereunder shall operate as a waiver thereof.

- 9.5 **Assignment and subcontracting:** Neither Party hereto shall assign any of its rights or obligations or sub-contract the same under this Agreement to any third party without the prior written consent of the other party.
- 9.6 **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement constitutes the complete expression of both Parties' agreement and understanding with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes all other prior agreements, undertakings, obligations, promises, arrangements, communications, negotiations and understandings whether oral or written, by both the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- 9.7 **Modification:** This Agreement and its Annexure may be amended or modified only by a written agreement by both Parties. Any such amendment and modifications will be listed in an Annexure hereto.
- 9.8 **Notices:** Any notices required to be sent under this Agreement by one Party to the other shall be in writing and forwarded to the other Party to the following addresses:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>If to NIFT:</b><br/>         Director General<br/>         NIFT Campus, Near.<br/>         Gulmohor Park Town,<br/>         Hauz Khas, New Delhi.<br/>         India 110016</p> | <p><b>If to BIFT:</b><br/>         President, Board of Governors BIFT<br/>         S. R. Tower, 105 Uttara Model<br/>         Sector #7, Uttara, Dhaka – 1230<br/>         Bangladesh</p> |
|---|---|
- 9.9 If statements must be made in writing, they are deemed to having been made in writing when using electronic data communication or any other machine-readable form as long as the originator of the message is identifiable.
- 9.10 **Independent Contractors:** Both parties shall not for any purpose, be deemed or represent itself to be an agent or representative of the other Party. The relationship between the Parties shall only be that of independent contractors.
- 9.11 **Severability:** In the event that anyone or more of the provisions contained herein, or the application thereof in any circumstance, is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such provision or provisions shall be ineffective only to the extent of such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability, without invalidating the remainder of such provision or provisions or the remaining provisions of this Agreement, and such

invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision or part thereof shall, to the maximum extent possible, be substituted by an enforceable provision(s) that preserve(s) the original intentions position of the parties.

**Signature:**  
**President, Governing Body BIFT**  
**BGMEA Institute of Fashion**  
**Technology**  
**Dhaka-Bangladesh**

**Signature:**  
**Director General**  
**National Institute of Fashion**  
**Technology**  
**New Delhi- India**



**221. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Dhaka University.**

**Dhaka, September 7, 2011.**

I am delighted to be here today in the hallowed precincts of Dhaka University. We have just celebrated the holy festival of Id and I bring with me the good wishes, prayers and greetings of the people of India.

I thank the Vice Chancellor Professor Arefin Siddique and all students and faculty for inviting me to one of the finest seats of higher learning in South Asia. Many renowned scholars and thinkers have passed through its portals and brought glory to their motherland. As a teacher myself, I feel truly at home in this environment.

Dhaka University is more than just an institution of higher learning. It was here that the language movement began, culminating ultimately in the birth of a new proud nation and bringing a new dawn for a proud people.

Every year on Ekushey, thousands of people gather at the Shaheed Minar to pay homage to the martyrs of the language movement. It is an emotional outpouring of their love for their language, their country and their unique culture. It is a renewal of the dedication to the values and aspirations that guided you in your years of national struggle.

The Ekushey Book Fair has become among the largest attended literary events in the world, symbolizing Bangladesh's love for literature, fine arts and poetry.

It was here, at the University of Dhaka, that the fires of intellectual awakening and freedom began to glow.

I pay tribute to the memory of the students and teachers who were killed here defending what they believed in and to the memory of all those who laid down their lives for the liberation of Bangladesh.

I pay tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who fought for his convictions and led the nation to freedom.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has firmly rejected extremist ideas and achieved success as an open, moderate and vibrant society and democracy.

India and Bangladesh share these values. Our people have a common civilisational heritage.

Both our countries have been deeply influenced by the tenets of Islam, which teaches peace, compassion and virtuous living. For centuries, our people have lived and worshipped together in harmony. Even today thousands of Indians and Bangladeshis from all creeds go to seek solace at the dargah in Ajmer Sharif.

Our lands and people have been sustained by the common waters of the mighty Ganga and the Brahmaputra. The verses of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam are read and revered on both sides of the border. This year we are jointly celebrating Gurudev's 150th birth centenary in a befitting manner.

We fought shoulder to shoulder during the struggle for liberation. Now we must join hands to meet the challenges of equitable social and economic development. We must fight poverty, hunger and disease.

We must live in peace and harmony as good neighbours just like our forefathers did. We must stand by each other in good times and in times of crisis as we have done in the past.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

India celebrates and takes pride in the achievements of the people of Bangladesh.

The world has watched with great admiration Bangladesh stand on its feet in the face of great odds.

The people of India have watched with admiration as the people of Bangladesh have fought poverty, overcome the vagaries of nature and survived political upheaval. And through all this, their faith in democracy has been strengthened.

They have turned out in record numbers in every election to exercise their democratic franchise.

The poor in the villages are finding new livelihoods. Women have become the back bone of the micro-credit sector and the textile industry. The middle class is growing rapidly. Social indicators are improving and in some cases are better than those in India.

Like India, Bangladesh has an active civil society and a vibrant and free media. The institutions of pluralistic democracy are gaining in experience and strength.

These are not small achievements for a young country.

Bangladesh is an influential member of the Islamic world where it is a voice of moderation and reason. It is the largest troop contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Bangladesh is an important voice of the developing world. It has much to say and contribute in the comity of nations and the affairs of the world. India will support Bangladesh's efforts to play its due and commensurate role in regional and global affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have always believed that the destinies of the nations of South Asia are interlinked. We must believe in the vision of a shared future of common prosperity and fulfillment.

It was Bangladesh which proposed the creation of a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to give shape to a common South Asian identity and regional cooperation.

I have often said that the people of South Asia are second to none when it comes to their talent, their enterprise or their ability to cope with adversity. But to realize the potential of the region we have to believe in the power of cooperative effort. We have to learn to trust each other and work with each other in our enlightened self-interest.

There are difficulties and obstacles in the way of greater regional cooperation. But the people of our region have the imagination and maturity to find our own solutions to our own problems.

Our borders are a sovereign reality but we can make them frontiers of hope and opportunity as we work to build our common prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,



The effective management of our borders is probably the biggest challenge we face in developing our bilateral relations.

The first essential step is to create a defined and peaceful boundary that will provide a stable and tranquil environment for cross-border cooperation.

That is why both our governments have worked hard to resolve the outstanding boundary issues in the spirit of give and take.

A Protocol was signed yesterday to finalise the unresolved issues of the enclaves, areas under adverse possession and undemarcated areas. This will be done without dislocating people living in the border areas. I congratulate both sides for arriving at this historic agreement in a spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and a desire to put these issues behind us.

India has agreed to 24 hour access across the Tin Bigha corridor. We have facilitated the electrification of Dahagram and Angarpota as a step towards improving the conditions of the people living there.

I am acutely conscious of the problems that arise due to the incidents on the border. We have now put in place mechanisms which we hope will greatly reduce the scope for such incidents and strengthen mutual trust and goodwill among the border guarding forces and people living in the border areas.

There must be even greater co-operation between our respective border forces to ensure that illegal trans-border activities do not cast any shadow on our bilateral relations.

Both India and Bangladesh are vulnerable to the forces of extremism and terrorism. Such forces sap the strength of our societies, threaten our state systems and impede our social and economic progress. It is therefore of paramount importance that we work together to confront this challenge.

I would like to acknowledge the immense cooperation India has received from Bangladesh in this area, which is in the interest of both India and Bangladesh.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our economic cooperation is growing but is well below its potential.

We recognize the sensitivity of our Bangladeshi friends over the large bilateral trade deficit. We will work sincerely to address this issue.

I commit the Government of India to providing greater market access to Bangladeshi products in India by removing both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Yesterday the Government of India issued a notification removing all 46 textile tariff lines of greatest sensitivity to Bangladesh from the negative list for Least Developed Countries under SAFTA. There will be zero duty on Bangladeshi exports of these items to India with immediate effect. There will be no quota restrictions on these items.

In my view, what is of greater long-term importance is increased Indian investment in Bangladesh. This will not only lead to greater economic activity but also increase Bangladeshi exports to India and other countries. We should work on both fronts not only to reduce the trade deficit but increase and even multiply total trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is in rapid ferment. Globalization and the growing inter-dependence of economies are creating new challenges and opportunities.

It is imperative for India and Bangladesh to find new pathways of cooperation to deal with the common challenges of development. The governments of both countries have the unfinished agenda of providing adequate food, adequate shelter and adequate healthcare to their people; protecting them from floods and other natural disasters and empowering them to earn a decent living.

Yesterday our two governments signed a Framework Agreement for Cooperation on Development. This agreement commits the two governments to work together in areas such as agriculture, health, education and culture. We have identified other areas where cooperation will provide direct benefit to our people. These include power transmission, management of common rivers, road, rail and water transportation and protection of the environment.

We have mutually agreed on projects worth over 750 million US dollars under the 1 billion US dollar credit line India has provided to Bangladesh. These projects, I sincerely believe, will help in strengthening Bangladesh's transport infrastructure, especially the railway sector.

We will further strengthen our cooperation in the area of flood forecasting, disaster warning and disaster management. We will collaborate with Bangladesh to cope with the threat of climate change. This is an area where we should pool our scientific knowledge to develop new joint strategies for adaptation and mitigation.

The management of our common resources is vital for sustainable development in both countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water is a very sensitive subject in both our countries. But we have shown that, in a spirit of friendship and mutual accommodation, we can agree on cooperative arrangements based on the principles of equity, fair play and no harm to either party. The Ganga Water Treaty signed in 1996 is one such example which has stood the test of time.

I was hopeful that during this visit we would be able to come to an agreement on the sharing of the waters of the Teesta. Both sides worked very hard to arrive at a solution that would be acceptable to all. Unfortunately these efforts did not meet with success within the time available. I have asked all the concerned officials to intensify their efforts towards finding a viable formula which does not cause undue distress to all those, in India or in Bangladesh, who are dependent on the flows of the river.

Concern has been expressed from time to time on the Tipaimukh dam project in India. I wish to make a public statement and make it clear that India will not take steps that will adversely affect Bangladesh.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are making serious efforts to improve border infrastructure, particularly the Land Customs Stations. New Integrated Check Posts are coming up at Petrapole in West Bengal, Agartala in Tripura and Dawki in Meghalaya. The border haat at Kalaichar-Baliyamari in Meghalaya has been inaugurated, and procedures for movement of trucks from Bhutan and Nepal to Bangladesh have been finalized.

Power connectivity and energy cooperation are emerging as major pillars of our economic relationship. Work on a transmission line which will evacuate up to 500 megawatt of power to Bangladesh from India has begun. A feasibility study for the establishment of a 1320 megawatt power plant in Khulna has been completed.

We have set up a Joint Empowered Group to reduce travel time for passengers on the Maitree Express between Dhaka and Kolkata.

We have agreed on the need to enhance greater exchanges at all levels to foster deeper understanding. We have agreed to further intensify academic, cultural, sports, and youth exchanges.

I am aware that many Bangladeshi citizens are disappointed when they are unable to see their favourite local channels when they visit India. There is no rule which prevents the broadcast of Bangladeshi channels in India. I hope that commercial arrangements can be worked out so that Indian viewers have

the opportunity to listen to the great contemporary exponents of Rabindra Sangeet and Baul in Bangladesh or see the films of the late Tareque Masood.

I hope that with all these steps we can make an irreversible shift in India-Bangladesh relations. We seek to build our relations on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and respect for each other.

If we can make a habit of cooperating with each other, the possibilities for mutually reinforcing growth and development are limitless.

I compliment Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the statesmanship she has shown in breaking new ground in our bilateral relations. This is what people on both sides of the border want - to turn a new leaf and look ahead.

Our friendship is with the people of Bangladesh. We wish to work with all sections of the people and all shades of public opinion in Bangladesh to foster multi-faceted cooperation between our two countries.

We will always be neighbours and remain friends. If we can make a success of building a new cooperative model for India-Bangladesh relations, it will have a tremendous impact on the fortunes of South Asia.

I believe in all sincerity that India will not be able to realize its own destiny without the partnership of its South Asian neighbours. Therefore, establishing relations of friendship and trust with our neighbours, particularly with Bangladesh, and the creation and consolidation of a peaceful and prosperous regional environment in South Asia are the highest priority of our government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Both India and Bangladesh have young populations. The young faces I see here today represent the hopes and aspirations for our future. They will soon take over the mantle of carrying forward the sacred legacy of trust and amity between our two countries that was built by our great leaders. To my young friends gathered here today, I say - just as you work hard to build the Sonar Bangla of the poet's dreams, I urge you to work with the same passion and same sincerity to usher in a golden era of peace, prosperity and friendship among the people of India and Bangladesh.

I thank you for your attention.



**222. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh.**

**Dhaka, September 7, 2011.**

1. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, paid a State visit to Bangladesh from 6-7 September 2011. He was accompanied by Smt. Gursharan Kaur.
2. During the visit, the Prime Minister of India called on H.E. Md. Zillur Rahman, Hon'ble President of Bangladesh. Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni called on the Prime Minister of India. The Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, and President of Jatiya Party Mr. H.M. Ershad also called on the Prime Minister of India. The meetings and exchanges were marked by warmth and cordiality on both sides.
3. The Prime Minister of India paid tribute and respect to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum in Dhaka. He laid a wreath at the National Martyr's Mausoleum at Savar as a mark of respect to the memory and contribution of the great freedom fighters of Bangladesh.
4. The official talks between Bangladesh and India were held on 6 September 2011 in an extremely warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere reflecting the excellent bilateral relations and friendship that exist between the two countries. The two Prime Ministers led their respective sides. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hosted a banquet in the honour of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the accompanying delegation.
5. During the official talks, the Prime Minister of India was assisted by External Affairs Minister Shri S M Krishna, Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister of Mizoram Shri Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister of Tripura Shri Manik Sarkar, National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Shri Rajeet Mitter, Secretary Ministry of Water Resources Shri Dhruv Vijai Singh and other senior officials.
6. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh was assisted by Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, Finance Minister Mr. A.M.A. Muhith, Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun, Minister for Land Mr. Rezaul Karim Hira, Water Resources Minister Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sen, Commerce Minister Mr. Faruk Khan, Advisor for Economic Affairs Dr. Moshir Rahman, Advisor for Energy Dr. Tawfique-e-Ilahi Chowdhury, Advisor for International Affairs Dr. Gowher Rizvi, High

Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Mr. Tariq A. Karim, Ambassador-at-Large M. Ziauddin, Principal Secretary Mr. Abdul Karim, Foreign Secretary Mr. Mijarul Quayes and other senior officials.

7. During the talks, the two Prime Ministers reiterated the shared faith in and commitment to the values of secularism, democracy and social justice. They recognised that the destinies of the peoples of the two countries were interlinked in their search for peace, prosperity and stability.

8. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh lauded the steps taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina towards strengthening democracy and promoting peace, security and stability in the region. He added that Bangladesh is a high growth economy with promising prospects.

9. The Prime Minister of India, on behalf of the Government and people of India, conveyed appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh for conferring the Bangladesh Swadhinata Sammanona (Bangladesh Freedom Honour), the highest Award of Bangladesh for foreign nationals, on former Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi, for her extraordinary contribution to the historic Liberation War of Bangladesh.

10. The two Prime Ministers noted that India and Bangladesh have entered a new phase in bilateral relations with a pragmatic and practical approach based on sovereignty, equality, friendship, trust and understanding for the mutual benefit of their peoples and collective prosperity of the region.

11. They recalled the landmark visit of H.E. Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010 and noted that, during the visit, the two sides had reached agreement on a set of initiatives that had elevated the bilateral relations to new heights. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the recent exchange of high level visits and agreed that these exchanges had helped reach understanding on many of the issues under discussion. They agreed to encourage more such high level interactions between the two sides.

12. They also welcomed the regular holding of institutional mechanisms for promoting bilateral relations, such as Foreign Office Consultations, Commerce Secretary level talks, Joint River Commission meetings, Home Secretary level talks, BGB-BSF DG level border conferences as well as meetings of the Joint Working Groups on various issues.

13. In their desire for the common good, they recognized the need to exploit the synergies between the two countries for further deepening of cooperation and widening of the relationship into newer areas and towards that end, agreed on a number of measures.

14. The two sides signed the following historic accords:
  - i. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development
  - ii. Protocol to the Agreement Concerning the Demarcation of the Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and Related Matters
15. The following bilateral documents were also signed during the visit:
  - i. Addendum to the MoU between India and Bangladesh to Facilitate Overland Transit Traffic between Bangladesh and Nepal
  - ii. Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation
  - iii. Memorandum of Understanding on Conservation of the Sundarban
  - iv. Protocol on Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sunderban
  - v. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Fisheries
  - vi. Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Broadcast of Television Programmes
  - vii. Memorandum of Understanding between Jawaharlal Nehru University and Dhaka University
  - viii. Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), India and BGMEA Institute of Fashion and Technology (BIFT), Bangladesh.
16. Both sides welcomed the conclusion of the comprehensive "Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development" that outlines the shared vision for durable and long-term cooperation to achieve mutual peace, prosperity and stability.
17. Both sides decided to establish a Joint Commission led by the Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs to jointly coordinate and oversee implementation of initiatives as well as to explore newer avenues for cooperation, including progress of activities under the Framework Agreement.
18. The two Prime Ministers welcomed that there has been progress on the principles and modalities of interim agreements on sharing of waters of Teesta and Feni Rivers on fair and equitable basis. They directed the concerned officials to work towards concluding the agreements at the earliest.
19. The Prime Ministers noted that the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), Secretary and technical level meetings were discussing various aspects relating

to sharing of waters of the Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar rivers.

20. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the following decisions flowing from the Joint Communiqué of January 2010 had been implemented:

- a) Dredging of the river Ichhamati along the common reach between Angrail and Kalanchi bridges has been completed;
- b) The river bank protection works along Mahananda, Karatoa, Nagar, Kulik, Atrai, Dharla, Punarbhaba, Feni, Khowai, Surma etc. are being carried out in phases.

21. The Prime Minister of India reiterated the assurance that India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely impact Bangladesh.

22. The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two countries on security related issues and reaffirmed their unequivocal and uncompromising position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including insurgency. They reiterated the assurance that their respective territories would not be allowed for any activity inimical to the other and by any quarter.

23. They noted with satisfaction the signing of the Coordinated Border Management Plan during the visit of the Home Minister of India to Bangladesh in July 2011. They expressed confidence that it would enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces of the two countries, and enable them to manage the identified vulnerable areas with a view to preventing criminal activities, illegal movement, acts of violence and loss of lives along the border areas. The Prime Ministers directed the concerned agencies to implement the Plan immediately. They welcomed the decision to henceforth hold annual consultations at the level of Home Ministers.

24. The two Prime Ministers underscored the need to conclude an Extradition Treaty between the two countries expeditiously to complete the legal framework for bilateral security cooperation while expressing satisfaction that the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, signed in January 2010, were now in force following their ratification.

25. The Prime Ministers expressed deep satisfaction at the conclusion of the Protocol to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement which paves the way for settlement of the long pending land boundary issues including the undemarcated



areas, territories under adverse possession and exchange of enclaves. The historic agreement, which is based on ground realities, would further contribute to amity and harmony in border areas and create a conducive environment for enhanced bilateral cooperation. The two Prime Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the signing of strip maps by the Plenipotentiaries. They resolved to complete the ratification process and implement the Agreement expeditiously.

26. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep appreciation of the Government of Bangladesh for facilitating 24-hour unfettered access to Bangladesh nationals through the Tin Bigha Corridor. She noted that the fulfillment of the long pending promise would have a significantly positive impact on the lives of the people of Angarpota-Dahagram.

27. The Prime Ministers agreed to promote trade, investment and economic cooperation in a sustainable manner and facilitate trade by road, rail, inland waterways, shipping and air. Both sides underscored the need to increase trade volumes and address trade imbalance. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced the decision of the Government of India to remove all forty six textile lines which are of interest to Bangladesh from India's Negative List for LDCs under the provisions of SAFTA, thereby reducing the applicable duty rate to zero with immediate effect. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conveyed appreciation for this major step on improved market access extended to Bangladesh aimed at reducing the existing trade imbalance.

28. The Prime Ministers underscored the importance of harmonization of standards and mutual recognition of certificates for promoting bilateral trade and expressed appreciation for efforts being taken towards this end. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh thanked the Indian side for undertaking the upgradation of laboratories of the BSTI and for training of the Bangladesh Standards Testing Institute (BSTI) personnel in India. It was agreed that a bilateral cooperation agreement between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Bangladesh Standards Testing Institute (BSTI) would be concluded at an early date.

29. Recognizing the need to address factors including non tariff and para tariff barriers and port restrictions that hamper the natural growth of bilateral trade, the Prime Ministers directed concerned officials to identify and remove all barriers to unfettered bilateral trade.

30. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the opening of Banglabandha-Fulbari Land Port for bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India. They also expressed satisfaction at the Indian initiative to develop seven Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), and noted that this would facilitate trade between the two countries. They directed the concerned officials to hold the meetings of the Sub-Group on Infrastructure so that necessary infrastructure could be developed

at the identified Land Ports / Land Custom Stations (LCS) on both sides expeditiously.

31. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the inauguration of the border haat in Baliamari (Kurigram)-Kalaichar (West Garo Hills) and the proposed inauguration in Balat (East Khasi Hills)-Dalora (Sunamganj) as a fulfillment of the long standing demand of the local people of the area. They noted that the resulting economic activity would contribute to the economic upliftment of the people of the area surrounding the border haats. Both sides agreed to open new border haats at mutually agreed locations.

32. Welcoming the exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their call for increasing investments including joint ventures in each other's country. They underscored the role of the private sector as very important in bringing qualitative and quantitative change in the development process. The Indian Prime Minister appreciated the announcement of the Bangladesh Prime Minister regarding the establishment of a Special Economic Zone for Indian investments.

33. Both sides agreed to examine the establishment of new land ports / LCS / immigration points to facilitate trade and movement of people.

34. The two Prime Ministers noted that both sides had already signed the Standard Operating Procedures allowing movement of trucks carrying goods from Nepal and Bhutan to Land Customs Stations in Bangladesh. It was agreed to work towards concluding Motor Vehicles Agreement for regulation of Passenger and Cargo traffic.

35. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh thanked the government of Bangladesh for allowing passage of ODC cargo for the Palatana power project in Tripura.

36. The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the operationalisation of Ashuganj and Silghat as additional Ports of Call under the bilateral Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol. He also expressed his appreciation for the successful commencement of trial run of the bulk cargo for Tripura using multi-modal facilities through Ashuganj port. It was agreed that the construction of an Inland Container Terminal at Ashuganj would be expedited and pending that, the port could be used for movement of bulk cargo immediately as far as practicable.

37. Both sides agreed to expedite works for enabling night navigation facilities on the Protocol routes. They agreed to allow movement of containerized cargo by rail and water and to work towards its early operationalisation.

38. Both the Prime Ministers directed that necessary steps be taken to expedite construction of a bridge over river Feni as per the alignment already agreed between the two sides.

39. The Prime Ministers directed the concerned officials that the MoU regarding development of railway infrastructure at the border point between Agartala and Akhaura should be concluded and the execution of rail line commenced at the earliest.

40. Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed her appreciation to the Indian Prime Minister for amendment of the MoU between the Bangladesh and Indian Railways allowing Rohanpur-Singabad as an additional route for both bulk and container cargo for Nepalese rail transit traffic. Bangladesh side also appreciated the assistance from India for the movement of fertilizers from Bangladesh to Nepal by rail route. They also agreed to re-establish rail connections between Chilahati-Haldibari and Kulaura-Mahishashan in the spirit of encouraging revival of old linkages and transport routes between the two countries.

41. The Prime Ministers directed that necessary formalities for the use of Chittagong and Mongla seaports for movement of goods to and from India through water, rail and road should be completed urgently.

42. Both the Prime Ministers noted that road, rail and waterways were building blocks to an inter-dependent and mutually beneficial relationship among the countries of the region. The establishment of physical infrastructure would promote exchange of goods and traffic, and lead to the connectivity of services, information, ideas, culture and people.

43. The two sides welcomed the signing of the MoU for cooperation in the Renewable Energy sector between the two countries, noting that cooperation in this sector was essential to meet the growing energy demands of the two countries and to supplement the conventional sources.

44. The two Prime Ministers urged expeditious conclusion of Power Purchase Agreement between BPDB and NTPC for purchase of 250MW power from India by Bangladesh. It was agreed that Bangladesh would procure the additional 250MW of power from the open market in India utilizing the full capacity of the power transmission line being established through inter-grid connectivity at Bheramara and Behrampur.

45. The two Prime Ministers noted that BPDB and NTPC were working towards concluding a Joint Venture Agreement for setting up of 1320MW coal based power plant in Bagerhat. They directed the concerned officials to complete all formalities for operationalising the project expeditiously. They also directed the concerned officials to undertake necessary steps for conducting feasibility

reports for the setting up of a similar 1320MW coal based power plant at a suitable location in Chittagong.

46. Both the Prime Ministers agreed to promote and support joint research projects and exchange of scientific personnel. In this context, the Prime Minister of India conveyed that India would invite from Bangladesh eminent scientists and researchers to participate in the Indian National Science Congress, and school children to participate in the Annual National Children Science Congress.

47. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the programmes organised for the joint celebration to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. They directed officials of both sides to remain engaged in the joint effort and take it to a successful conclusion in May 2012. They noted that the joint celebration had enthused the people on both sides to explore the common cultural heritage and linkages and had promoted exchanges not only among Tagore experts, but also a whole range of artists, singers, dancers, dramatists, poets, writers, actors, etc. which had led to greater understanding among the two sides. It was agreed that the 90th Anniversary of the publication of Bidrohi by Poet Nazrul Islam would be jointly celebrated. Bangladesh Prime Minister conveyed her intention to set up a Bangladesh Bhaban in Shantiniketan as a resource centre for use of the visiting academicians and researchers from Bangladesh.

48. Recognizing the urgent need of trained doctors and specialists in the field of healthcare in Bangladesh, the two Prime Ministers agreed to set up a programme for training of Bangladesh doctors in premier Indian medical institutes.

49. Bangladesh Prime Minister appreciated the concurrence of the Government of India to the opening of a Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Mumbai. In addition, both sides agreed to consider further strengthening diplomatic and consular presence in each other's countries.

50. Recognizing the value of television channels as a means to promote cultural exchange and dissemination of information, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of MoU on Mutual Broadcast of Television Programmes between Doordarshan and Bangladesh Television. Noting that there are no restrictions, they encouraged private channels to explore opportunities to expand the viewership in each other's countries.

51. The two Prime Ministers underscored the need to preserve the memory of freedom fighters by undertaking various initiatives, including observance of anniversaries of their martyrdom. The Indian side informed that it would enhance scholarships to the heirs of Muktijoddhas from Bangladesh to pursue higher secondary and graduate studies. Bangladesh side requested facilitation for

setting up of memorial plaques and visits of family members to the identified graves of freedom fighters buried along the border in the Indian States of Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and West Bengal.

52. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the Indian side in the construction of 2800 core shelters for families affected by the Sidr cyclone and the construction of Theatre and Music Departments of Kalabhaban in the University of Dhaka.

53. The Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the utilisation of the US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit extended by India and noted that it would significantly enhance infrastructure and capacities in Bangladesh. The credit would finance a number of projects identified by Bangladesh, including for supply of BG locomotives, tank wagons, passenger coaches and infrastructure projects such as Khulna-Mongla rail line and rail bridges over Titas and Bhairab rivers for strengthening Bangladesh Railways, purchase of buses for Dhaka city public transportation and dredgers for capital and maintenance dredging of Bangladesh rivers. They directed the concerned officials of both India and Bangladesh to complete all necessary measures for the speedy implementation of the projects so that the benefits would accrue to the people at an early date.

54. The Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh announced grant to Bangladesh for several cooperation and developmental projects and other initiatives, including :

- a) Construction of state-of-the-art India-Bangladesh Culture Centre in Dhaka;
- b) Undertaking feasibility study for upgradation of Dhaka-Chittagong railway line;
- c) Construction of railway line between Akhaura and Agartala;
- d) New Indian Scholarship to 100 students at graduate, post graduate and Doctoral/ research level;
- e) Setting up of an IT Lab in a model school in each of the 64 districts in Bangladesh;
- f) Setting up of IT centres in Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Military Institute of Science and Technology and Bangladesh Police Academy;
- g) Provision of solar lanterns to 2800 families affected by the Sidr Cyclone.

55. Recognizing the urgency of protecting and conserving the fragile ecosystem of Sundarban, the world's largest mangrove forest, the two Prime Ministers

expressed satisfaction at the signing of the MoU on Conservation of the Sundarban and a Protocol on the Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban. They expressed confidence that the combined efforts of the two sides would lead to the sustenance and preservation of this common heritage.

56. Reiterating the role of SAARC in promoting regional cooperation, they agreed to work together in further strengthening SAARC, including by expanding areas of cooperation, and as partners in achieving the full implementation of all existing SAARC projects and Agreements.

57. Both sides reviewed various steps taken to strengthen sub-regional and regional cooperation, including under BIMSTEC and other regional initiatives.

58. Both Prime Ministers agreed that the two sides would harness advantages of regional and sub-regional cooperation in power, water resources, transport and other forms of connectivity, food security, education, environment and sustainable development to mutual advantage. They directed relevant authorities of both sides to study and formulate, in consultation with experts of the countries of the region, necessary terms for undertaking joint projects in the field of water resources management and hydro-power.

59. The two leaders agreed to promote trade in services under the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services and directed early completion of work for harmonization of education curricula and mutual recognition of degrees between the two countries.

60. Both Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they also recognized the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies, including the Security Council. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh reiterated her country's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded and reformed UN Security Council. Both sides noted with satisfaction contributions of both countries to UN peacekeeping operations.

61. The two Prime Ministers underscored the need for strengthening and reform of multilateral financial institutions and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making.

62. Both sides agreed that climate change was one of the most important global challenges. They reaffirmed the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including that of common but differentiated responsibilities. It was agreed that adaptation programmes for environment protection were essential to combat climate change. They agreed to collaborate on matters of mutual interest to preserve

common eco-systems and coordinate their response in international fora. They also stressed the need to meet the over-riding priority of poverty eradication and sustainable development and agreed to enhance cooperation on issues related to bio-diversity.

63. The two sides expressed their conviction that Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh and signing of historic documents between the two countries marks a watershed in the bilateral relationship between two close and friendly neighbours.

64. The Prime Minister of India thanked the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the warmth, cordiality and gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in Bangladesh.

65. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh extended an invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to pay a visit to India. The invitation was accepted and it was agreed that the dates of the visit would be finalised through diplomatic channels.



**223. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Tin Bigha Enclave.**

**New Delhi, October 19, 2011.**

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina visited Dahagram and Angarpota through the Tin Bigha Corridor today. She was received at the Tin Bigha Corridor by the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare H.E. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Jitendra Singh.

The announcement regarding India's facilitation of 24-hour access for Bangladesh nationals from the Bangladesh mainland to Dahagram & Angarporta through the Tin Bigha Corridor was made during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh on September 6, 2011

The Tin Bigha area will continue to be manned efficiently by Indian personnel as per the agreement between the two countries. It is earnestly hoped that the beneficial arrangements will bring the people of the two countries closer together.



**224. Response of the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to questions relating to Dhaka's concern on possible adverse impact of Tipaimukh Project on Bangladesh.**

**New Delhi, November 22, 2011.**

"We have seen reports in the Bangladesh media expressing concern over the Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project. The only recent development pertaining to the project has been the signing of a 'Promoter's Agreement' with the purpose of setting up a Joint Venture Company (JVC) between the Government of Manipur, NHPC Ltd. and Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) on 22nd October, 2011. The JVC will be established under the name and style of "Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Corporation Limited" or any other name as approved by the concerned Registrar of companies.

It would be recalled that a 10-member Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Abdur Razzak, former Water Resources Minister and current Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, had visited India in July 2009 at the invitation of Government of India. It had been clarified to the delegation that the proposed project was a hydro-electric project with provision to control floods and that this would not involve diversion of water on account of irrigation.

Subsequently, during the visit of H.E. Sheikh Hasina Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in January 2010, our Prime Minister had reiterated the assurance that India would not take steps on the Tipaimukh project that would adversely impact on Bangladesh. The assurance was again reiterated during the visit of our Prime Minister to Bangladesh in September 2011".

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**2. Again in December when Senior Advisors to Bangladesh Prime Minister called on Prime Minister the Indian assurance was reiterated.**

**New Delhi, December 2, 2011.**

In response to a question, seeking details of the call on PM by the Advisers to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, when the latter raised the the Tipaimukh project issue, the Official Spokesperson said,

“ Dr. Mashiur Rahman and Professor Gowher Rizvi, Advisers to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister today.

As you are aware, Government of India has already conveyed to the Government of Bangladesh its readiness to hold discussions with the Government of Bangladesh on the Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project.

Prime Minister reiterated the assurance he had given to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during his visit to Bangladesh in September 2011, that India will not take steps on Tipaimukh project that will adversely affect Bangladesh”.



**225. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the visit of Bangladesh Army Chief General Mohammad Abdul Mubeen.**

**New Delhi, November 29, 2011.**

General Md Abdul Mubeen, Bangladesh Army Chief is on a visit to India from 28 Nov to 02 Dec 11. The visit assumes special significance in the light of improving military cooperation between the two countries in consonance with our growing relationship with Bangladesh.

India-Bangladesh relations are multifaceted and founded on historical linkages. The successful culmination of recent visit of Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in Sep 2011 has contributed significantly to the consolidation of the existing ties and given a further boost to the cordial relations between both the nations. The high level visits of both Army Chiefs in 2008, 2010 & 2011 has boosted our Military to military relations.

Military-to-Military Cooperation between Bangladesh and Indian Armed Forces encompasses exchange of high and medium level visits, availing of training courses in each other's training institutions, witnessing of designated exercises by military observers from both sides, exchange of War Veterans, UNPKO, sharing experience in disaster management, sports and adventure activities.

During the visit, General Mubeen is scheduled to interact with Defence Minister, NSA, Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary and other members of Indian Armed Forces hierarchy. In addition, he will be visiting Agra, Jaipur, Kolkata, important training establishments and field formations.

The visit will further cement our defence relationship with Bangladesh and add impetus to ongoing defence cooperation. Maintenance of enhanced military to military contacts with Bangladesh by Indian Army is mutually beneficial to the strategic interests of both the neighbours. The ensuing visit of Bangladesh Army Chief has a major significance in the burgeoning defence cooperation between both the countries.



**226. Statement by Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External on the death of Bangladesh nationals near India - Bangladesh border.**

**New Delhi, December 20, 2011.**

“Reports have been received of the deaths of three Bangladesh nationals as a result of firing on the Indian side of the border with Bangladesh in two separate incidents in Govindpur in Malda District (West Bengal) and Narayanganj in Coochbehar District (West Bengal) in the night / early hours of December 16 and 17, 2011, respectively.

The Government of India regrets all incidents of deaths on the border, of Indian and Bangladesh nationals. To prevent loss of lives along the border areas, the Border Security Force (BSF) has exercised the utmost restraint and has resorted to firing in self defence only in rare cases. The Government of India has taken various steps, including strict control on firing, introduction of non-lethal weapons, round-the-clock domination and intensive patrolling. It has also imposed night time restrictions on the movement of people in the border areas.

Unfortunately, this policy of restraint has emboldened criminal elements who have stepped up their attacks on BSF personnel deployed along the border in order to facilitate their illegal activities. A number of attacks have been recorded on BSF personnel and posts along the India-Bangladesh border over the last few months.

In the recent incident at Malda, a group of around 50-60 miscreants involved in illegal activity, not only pelted stones when challenged by the BSF jawan on duty at his post, but also tried to drag him towards the Bangladesh side of the international boundary. Sensing imminent danger to his life, his two colleagues fired four rounds in all resulting in the miscreants fleeing the scene leaving the BSF jawan behind. In the other incident at Coochbehar, around 30-40 miscreants involved in illegal activity attacked a BSF jawan with bamboo sticks and dahs, when challenged by him. Sensing imminent danger to his life, the BSF jawan first hurled a non-lethal stun grenade and then as a last resort opened fire at the armed miscreants in self-defence. Both incidents took place 200 to 250 meters from the international boundary inside Indian territory. One BSF jawan was injured in the incident and is currently in hospital undergoing treatment. BSF has ordered an enquiry into these incidents.

The Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP), signed between India and Bangladesh in July 2011, envisages joint responsibility of both the BSF and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to synergize their efforts to ensure effective control over cross-border illegal activities and crimes as well as for the maintenance of peace and harmony along the border. It is the view of the

Government of India that illegal activities, which sometimes lead to regrettable loss of lives on both sides along the border, need to be addressed through joint collaborative efforts and mechanisms. The Government of Bangladesh has been urged to take measures to restrict the movement of people along the border, especially during night hours.

The Government of India proposes to continue to work closely with the Government of Bangladesh to maintain peace and harmony along the border”.



## **BHUTAN**

### **227. Press Briefings by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's meetings at Thimphu.**

**Thimphu, February 7, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good evening to all of you and sorry to keep you waiting.

As you know, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) had a series of engagements today. His fifth meeting has just finished and my colleague Mr. Tirumurti, JS(BSM), and I have rushed across to brief you about EAM's engagements today.

EAM arrived in the afternoon. His very first engagement was an audience with His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk (HM). This is EAM's third visit to Bhutan. Many of you would recall that his very first visit overseas as the External Affairs Minister took place to Bhutan in June 2009. It was profoundly gracious of His Majesty the King to himself come to Taj Tashi where EAM is staying. It is reflective of the very high esteem and respect that he has for EAM, and the affection and admiration that His Majesty has for India.

Both sides reviewed the excellent and multifaceted ties that have traditionally obtained between India and Bhutan. His Majesty said that as the King of Bhutan he would do everything possible to further enhance and deepen our close engagement. EAM observed that it had been a privilege for India to be Bhutan's development partner and that India would be happy to do whatever it can, within its means, to extend every possible support and assistance to Bhutan.

HM gave an overview to EAM of the socioeconomic development of the world's youngest democracy that is Bhutan. You would remember that the first elections took place in Bhutan in 2008. HM also spoke of the development priorities of his nation.

EAM was assisted during the audience by Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao; Ambassador of India; and other officials. Ambassador Pavan Verma also handed over a cheque of Rs.15 crore to the corpus of Kidu Foundation to the Royal Chamberlain of HM in the presence of His Majesty and EAM. You have already received a press release on this initiative. I may just add that the foundation was launched by Prime Minister H.E Thinley and our Ambassador on the 3rd of February this year.

EAM's next meeting was with Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk who is the Minister for Economic Affairs and the Acting Foreign Minister as well as the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. EAM complimented Bhutan for providing exceptional leadership to the SAARC process under its Chairmanship and for the marvelous organization of SAARC events. He spoke of the South Asian University which has started functioning since August 2010 and thanked Bhutan for its support.

The Acting Foreign Minister (AFM) of Bhutan expressed deep appreciation for India's developmental assistance including in the establishment of hydroelectric capacity in Bhutan. Both EAM and AFM reaffirmed their commitment to attain a generation capacity of 10,000 MW as envisioned by the Prime Minister of India and the leadership of Bhutan.

The Minister apprised EAM of Government's endeavours to lay a strong democratic foundation in Bhutan, for the benefit of the present and future generations in the country. His Government was striving to maintain the pace of social and economic development in the country. He expressed admiration for India's democratic model and for the support that they had received, they are receiving from India to ensure that the democratic roots in Bhutan get even stronger. The two leaders also exchanged views on a number of other bilateral and regional issues of common interest.

Next, EAM had a meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart Prof. Peiris (SLFM). The External Affairs Minister recalled his very fruitful visit to Sri Lanka in November last year, when he had inter alia called on the President of Sri Lanka and met with a number of other dignitaries. You would recall that the SLFM had travelled along with EAM both to Jaffna and Hambantota, to jointly inaugurate the Consulates General of India which are functioning actively.

EAM had also participated in the ground breaking ceremony for railway infrastructure projects and the two Ministers had also co-chaired the meeting of the Joint Commission. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the number of

key initiatives to enhance people-to-people contacts, including the recent MOU to commence two ferry services - one between Tuticorin and Colombo, and the other between Rameswaram and Talaimannar.

The External Affairs Minister conveyed India's deep concern at the death of two Indian fishermen. Both agreed that use of force against fishermen must not be resorted to under any circumstances. SLFM said that a thorough investigation into the incidents was under way. EAM recalled the understanding that had been reached between the two countries in 2008 and emphasized that it should be observed in letter and spirit so that such incidents do not re-occur in the future. Both Ministers also welcomed the decision that was reached during the visit of the Foreign Secretary to Sri Lanka recently, to hold the next Joint Working Group meeting on fisheries very soon.

SLFM thanked Government of India for the substantial assistance in the rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons and reconstruction of the infrastructure in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. He also briefed EAM on the recently held dialogue between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil National Alliance. The two leaders had a very warm and constructive interaction.

Next, EAM received his Bangladeshi counterpart His Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni (BDFM). Both sides expressed satisfaction at the forward movement on a number of issues of bilateral interest and initiatives that were agreed upon during the landmark visit to India in January 2010 of Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina. They also expressed the need and the commitment to maintain and sustain this momentum. The leaders noted with satisfaction that there had been good progress in talks inter alia between the Secretary of Water Resources who had met in January 2011, when they had satisfactory discussions on sharing of water of Teesta and Feni.

Similarly, the Home Secretaries had met in January this year and had very good discussions on strengthening security cooperation. They were also pleased at floating of tenders for several projects that had been envisaged during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, within the framework of the one billion dollar line of credit that India has agreed to extend to Bangladesh. They expressed satisfaction at the smooth progress in inter grid connectivity in the power sector. You would recall again that an understanding had been reached during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, for India to supply 250 MW of power from our Central Grid.

They also spoke about the opening of the two border haats along the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border. BDFM thanked India for assistance in upgrading Bangladesh standards and certification. She invited the EAM to pay an early visit to Bangladesh. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. I would like to

also add that the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers was very friendly and constructive.

The last was the courtesy call on EAM was by the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan (PFS). At the outset he conveyed the greetings of the people and leadership of Pakistan to Prime Minister, EAM and the people of India. He thanked EAM for guiding the process of bilateral engagement and taking the dialogue further.

PFS underlined the desire of Pakistan to have cordial and cooperative ties with India. He also expressed satisfaction at his discussions with Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao.

EAM complimented both the Foreign Secretaries for their hard work and dedication. He also spoke about the vision of the Prime Minister of India to see a peaceful South Asia which could become a region of co-prosperity and rapid development.



**228. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai's first official visit to Bhutan.**

**Thimphu, August 18, 2011.**

Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai, is in Bhutan (17-19 August 2011), on his first official visit aboard after assuming charge.

He met in audience with HM Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and with HM Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo of Bhutan. Foreign Secretary called on Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley and Minister of Economic Affairs and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, besides holding substantive discussions with Foreign Secretary Daw Penjo. The discussions focused on bilateral relations, economic cooperation, SAARC, regional and multilateral issues.



**229. Press Release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on the India – Bhutan Secretary level meeting to review the India-Bhutan Border and Security Issues.**

**New Delhi, September 15, 2011.**

The 7th India-Bhutan meeting on Border Management and Security was held at New Delhi today. The Indian delegation was led by Shri A.E. Ahmad, Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bhutanese delegation was led by Shri Dasho Penden Wangchuk, Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MHCA).

The two sides reviewed issues relating to threat perceptions, security and border management issues, sharing of real time information, SSB escorts, opening of a seasonal Land Customs Station at Jiti, training of security personnel, misuse of SIM Cards, coordination of entry-exit points on the Indo-Bhutan border, etc.

The meeting was held in a cordial environment and both the countries expressed their satisfaction on the outcome. The talks are expected to further catalyze the cooperation and traditionally friendly relations between the two countries. It was also decided that the next India-Bhutan Meeting on Border Management and Security will be held in Bhutan in 2012.



**230. Messages of felicitations on the Royal Wedding in Bhutan.**

**New Delhi, October 13, 2011**

On the occasion of the Royal Wedding in Bhutan, the President of India, the Prime Minister of India and the Foreign Secretary have conveyed their heartiest felicitations to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, King of Bhutan, and Her Majesty Ashi Jetsun Pema, Queen of Bhutan.

In his letter, the Prime Minister said that the *'Government and people of India wish you every happiness and greater peace and prosperity as Bhutan enters a new era in its history'*.

The President of India stated that the country was greatly looking forward to welcoming the King and the Queen of Bhutan to India later this month on a State visit.

**October 13, 2011**





**231. Joint media statement on State Visit of King of Bhutan to India.  
New Delhi, October 31, 2011.**

At the invitation of the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Her Majesty the Queen, Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck paid a State Visit to India from 23 to 31 October, 2011. Their Majesties were accompanied by the Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister-In-Charge of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, the Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, His Excellency Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army, Maj. Gen. Batoo Tshering and other senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

2. A special importance was attached to this first visit abroad by His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen after the Royal Wedding on 13 October, 2011. The visit reinforced the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries.

3. While in India, Their Majesties met the President of India. The President of India felicitated them on their marriage and wished them happiness and a long life together. The President of India hosted a banquet in honour of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen.

4. The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari; the Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram; the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj; the Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur; the National Security Adviser, Shri Shivshankar Menon; and the Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai, called on His Majesty the King. Their Majesties also met the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

5. His Majesty the King of Bhutan held talks with the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who also hosted a lunch in honour of Their Majesties. They exchanged views and held discussions on bilateral relations and economic cooperation as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. They recalled the strong historical ties of friendship and understanding that exist between the two countries. His Majesty the King and the Prime Minister of India expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen these exemplary relations. His Majesty the King conveyed appreciation for the invaluable support that the Government of India provides for Bhutan's socio-economic development.

6. The meetings were held in a very warm and friendly atmosphere, reflecting the spirit of trust, cooperation and deep understanding that characterize the bilateral relations between the two countries.

7. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the cooperation in the hydropower sector and reiterated their commitment to achieve the target of 10,000 MW of power generation in Bhutan by 2020.
8. His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen also visited Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.
9. The visit of Their Majesties to India marks an important milestone in the close and friendly relations between the two countries and has contributed significantly towards further strengthening the profound friendship, mutual understanding, trust and cooperation between India and Bhutan.
10. His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen expressed deep appreciation to the Government and the people of India for the warm reception and gracious hospitality extended to them and the members of their delegation.



## **MALDIVES**

### **232. Media Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna prior to his departure for Maldives.**

**New Delhi, July 28, 2011**

I am on my way to Maldives, a neighbor with which we have traditionally enjoyed the closest of relations. I am pleased at the steady expansion of our bilateral ties, including in sectors like trade and investments, Human Resource Development, capacity building, health, infrastructure, tourism, energy, and culture. In recent years corporate India has also been increasingly investing in the priority sectors of Maldives like hospitality, energy and infrastructure, which has been welcomed by Government of Maldives.

Consolidation of democracy in the country has added yet another common bond in our ties. We are privileged to be a partner of Maldives, in their quest to craft a more harmonious and prosperous society.

During my visit, I would be calling on President Mohamed Nasheed and other leaders, as well as, holding delegation level talks with my counterpart, on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. I would also be visiting Addu Atoll, where the SAARC Summit will be held in November this year. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is looks forward to participate in the Summit.

I am eagerly looking forward to my visit and discussions in Maldives.



**233. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at Joint Press Conference at Male.**

**Male, July 28, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr. Ahmed Naseem, Foreign Minister of Maldives

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I wish to convey the greetings and best wishes of the people and Government of India to the friendly people and Government of Maldives. I thank the Government of Maldives and Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmed Naseem, in particular, for the warm welcome and remarkable hospitality reserved for me and my delegation.

2. My visit has been very productive. I have had the opportunity to call on His Excellency President Mohamed Nasheed and discuss and review with him our extensive bilateral cooperation and preparations for the upcoming SAARC Summit in the Maldives. Tomorrow, I am scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmed Naseem as well as the Ministers of Defense, Home Affairs and Economic Development to discuss ongoing and future projects under bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

3. The bilateral cooperation between India and Maldives is on a high trajectory in recent times with both sides embarking on comprehensive, forward looking, pragmatic and mutually beneficial initiatives and projects. We have been working together on increasing connectivity and closer economic integration.

4. The Government of India will undertake shortly, extensive renovation work at the most visible symbol of bilateral cooperation, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Male. The project to construct the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies in Male is on and we expect to hand over the project in mid 2013. Other major projects and initiatives under consideration include the proposal for the establishment of a Development Finance Institution in Maldives with the help of an Indian institution, promotion of the Maldives as a film shooting destination and the creation of enabling infrastructure for setting up a Information Technology (IT) village in Maldives.

5. Both countries understand the importance of cooperation in the field of defense and security and are determined to work jointly to safeguard our respective security interests. We are cooperating on the issues of piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking and other possible threats to our countries.

6. Also cooperation in the field of culture, education and training between our two countries is expanding at a rapid pace. The newly established India Cultural Center in Male would give a major fillip to the vibrant cultural exchanges between the two countries that share so much in common.

7. Let me reaffirm that India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Maldives and seeks a deeper and stronger partnership. We are guided by the fundamental premise that a prosperous, democratic and peaceful Maldives is in our mutual interest. We reiterate our continued commitment to assist Maldives in all possible ways as it seeks its rightful place in the comity of nations.
8. The Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh is looking forward to his visit to the Maldives in November 2011 at the invitation of the President of Maldives.
9. I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the Government and the friendly people of Maldives.



**234. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the People's Majlis.**

**Male, November 12, 2011.**

I wish to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the People's Majlis for giving me the honour of addressing this august House. I am humbled by this gesture of goodwill ACCORDED to me, and to my country.

I bring to you the warm greetings and good wishes of the people of India.

I congratulate the people of Maldives on their Republic Day yesterday, and convey my belated greetings to each one of you on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Hon'ble Members,

This is my first visit to Maldives as the Prime Minister of India. I am overwhelmed by the breathtaking beauty and serenity of this nation of islands. You are a truly blessed people to be living in such harmony with Mother Nature. The tranquillity of your physical environs is matched only by your tolerance and devotion to the noble religion of Islam.

I am delighted to be here today in this pearl of the Indian Ocean.

Yesterday at Addu City, the leaders of South Asia concluded the first ever SAARC Summit in the Southern hemisphere. I wish to heartily congratulate President Nasheed, the Government and people of Maldives for the outstanding

manner in which the Summit was organised. The Summit has helped to further consolidate the process of regional integration in South Asia, a goal which unites both India and Maldives.

Hon'ble Members,

The Peoples Majlis is a testimony to the strong faith the people of Maldives have shown in democracy. As a fellow democracy we take delight in your achievements.

In 2008, you adopted a new Constitution and then held Presidential elections in a free and fair manner. The foundations of democracy were further reinforced with the first multi-party Parliamentary elections in 2009 and subsequent elections for the City, Atoll and Island Councils.

You have undertaken the reforms necessary for the independent functioning of the judiciary and other vital organs of the State. The People's Majlis has upheld the freedom of speech and expression of the people and the media which are the pillars of democracy.

India will be at your side in your transition to a fully functioning democracy. We will assist the Majlis by way of training, formulation of rules and regulations and any other assistance that you may desire.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is scheduled to visit Maldives at the invitation of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Majlis. The formation of India-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the People's Majlis and in the Indian Parliament augur well for the development of relations between our two Parliaments.

These are links which are natural between neighbours.

Hon'ble Members,

Well-known Maldivian historian and scholar, Naseema Mohamed, has recorded that, according to legend, the first people who settled in Maldives were a race called Dheyvis from Kalibangan on the banks of river Saraswati during the Indus Civilization.

Today, students from all across Maldives live and study in Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru and Mysore. They constitute the largest expatriate Maldivian community abroad. The recent establishment of an Indian Cultural Centre in Malé will further promote people-to-people contacts and facilitate the visits of Maldivian artists and scholars to India. We will be happy to facilitate more intensive exchanges between the Maldives National University and universities in India.

Earlier today I have discussed these and other bilateral initiatives with President Nasheed. We have succeeded in defining new frontiers for our cooperation: cooperation that will have a tangible effect on the lives of common citizens.

The President and I have signed a historic Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development. This is a blueprint for cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, food security, fisheries development, tourism, transportation, information technology, new and renewable energy, communications and enhancing connectivity by air and sea.

I informed the President of our decision to extend a Standby Credit Facility of 100 million US dollars. This will help Maldives to meet its short term budgetary needs and enable it to import essential commodities.

We have extended a Line of Credit of 40 million US dollars for the construction of new houses. We look forward to the first houses coming up in the not too distant future.

Maldives has made impressive gains in education and gender equality. Your social indicators are among the best in the region. We will collaborate with you to build upon these successes.

We are ready to work with the Government of Maldives to train youth in identified areas of skills development.

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male has served as the main referral hospital for Maldives. We will undertake a major renovation of the Hospital as part of our aid programme.

The tourism and hospitality sectors are the largest revenue earners in Maldives. Indian companies are engaged in various infrastructure projects in Maldives which will further enhance your earning potential. We have decided to forge closer economic links through banking and financial institutions. We wish to cooperate in the modernisation of your fishing and food processing industry.

No enterprise between our two countries can be complete without planning for greater connectivity between us. Our officials are engaged in talks to work on a passenger cum cargo ferry service between Cochin and Male, and to look at the possibility of developing a port north of Male. We have encouraged our airlines to increase direct air links between destinations in India and Maldives.

Hon'ble Members,

I am aware of the threat which Maldives faces from rising sea levels. We understand your concerns because millions of Indians themselves live in vulnerable coastal areas of our peninsula. I wish to state in no uncertain terms

that India will stand as one with Maldives in combating global warming. Maldives' views must be heard with respect in global councils.

We will help Maldives to achieve its aim of becoming carbon neutral. We will help build your capacities through sharing of energy efficiency technologies and provide scholarships for students from Maldives in areas such as coastal zone adaptation and management.

We in India have made a number of commitments on climate change. One is to keep our per capita emission of greenhouse gases below the average for the industrialised countries. Secondly, we have committed to reduce the emissions intensity of our Gross Domestic Product by 20% between 2005 and 2020. We have launched eight national missions under our National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Green India plan seeks to regenerate six million hectares of degraded forest land.

India will be a constructive participant in the global climate change negotiations based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility.

Hon'ble Members,

As I stand here I am conscious of the vastness of the ocean that surrounds us. This is our extended neighbourhood. We wish to work with the Maldives and other like minded countries to ensure peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. In many ways, India and Maldives are natural partners in this enterprise.

The Indian Ocean is rich in resources. It provides sustenance and livelihood to many island states. Over 97 percent of India's international trade by volume and 75 percent by value passes through the Indian Ocean. All the littoral states have a common interest in ensuring the safety and security of the sea lanes of communication.

Through the ages, seafarers, traders and merchants from India have ventured across the seas. Today vibrant Indian communities have settled in places such as Mauritius, Seychelles, the East Coast of Africa, the Gulf and East Asia. This movement of people has been accompanied by the exchange of cultural influences from which we have all benefited. We should build upon these and other commonalities and reinvigorate the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation.

India's security, like that of Maldives, is closely linked to what happens in the Indian Ocean. The challenges we face are well known - extremism and religious fundamentalism, piracy, smuggling and drug trafficking to name a few. Maldives is additionally concerned about poaching in the coral reefs and illegal commercial fishing by foreign trawlers. We have together experienced the devastation caused by the tsunami in 2004.

Our two countries have agreed upon a multi-pronged approach to deal with these problems. To build capacity within Maldives, India will support the construction of a National Police Academy.

Bilaterally, we have entered into arrangements on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, Disaster Management and Coastal Security and Transfer of Sentenced Persons. These will strengthen the framework of cooperation on law enforcement and consular matters.

At a regional level, we should enhance our cooperation to increase maritime domain awareness and surveillance. We should have better exchange of information, more training programmes and work towards a cooperative security framework in the Indian Ocean region.

Hon'ble Members,

Ever since your independence in 1965, you have taken impressive strides in nation building. Today Maldives has earned the respect of the world for its achievements in the socio-economic sphere and for its leadership on issues such as climate change and protection of the environment. You have chosen the path of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights.

You have shown how even a small nation can stand up and be counted in the affairs of the world.

I am confident that the people of Maldives will continue to consolidate their achievements. As an abiding friend, India will always stand by you in these efforts. Our relations are time-tested and I wish to reaffirm that they shall remain so in the future.

I once again convey my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker and to each one of you for granting me the honour of addressing you.

I thank President Nasheed for his personal friendship and the people of Maldives for the warm hospitality extended to me in Maldives. This has been an unforgettable journey for me which I shall always cherish.

Hon'ble Members,

On behalf of the people of India I wish you all success in your efforts to build a prosperous, dynamic and safe country.

Long live India-Maldives friendship.





**235. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at media interaction with President of Maldives.**

**Male, November 12, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, President of Maldives, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

I have just concluded very fruitful and productive discussions with President Nasheed.

I conveyed to the President my warm felicitations on the holding of an extremely successful SAARC Summit. I am confident that under President Nasheed's chairmanship of SAARC, the pace of our activities will gather even greater momentum.

The President and I have reviewed our bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. We have had a meeting of minds on all issues, including on the future direction of our partnership.

Bilateral cooperation between India and Maldives has been on a high growth trajectory in recent times. We have approached our partnership in a comprehensive, forward looking, pragmatic and mutually beneficial manner. We are working together on increasing connectivity and closer economic cooperation. These efforts are bearing fruit.

The President and I have signed a 'Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development'. This Agreement puts in place a template for cooperation in a wide range of areas such as trade and investment, food security, fisheries development, tourism, transportation, information technology, new and renewable energy, communications, and connectivity.

The Agreement recognises the role which our two countries can play in the Indian Ocean region.

The Government of India has agreed to extend a 100 million US dollars Standby Credit Facility to the Government of Maldives to help stabilize its fiscal position. We have agreed to examine a comprehensive package to help develop the Maldivian economy, including in the areas of banking and financial infrastructure and capacity building.

At the request of the Government of Maldives, India will undertake extensive renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male. The project to construct the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies in Male is in full swing. We expect to hand over the project in mid-2013 after completion. The

Government of India has also agreed to construct the National Police Academy of Maldives on which work will commence shortly.

We have examined the possibility of commencing regular passenger-cum-cargo ferry services between Cochin and Male at the earliest.

Both countries recognise the importance of jointly cooperating to safeguard our mutual security interests. We are cooperating on issues relating to climate change, piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking and other threats to both our countries. The Memorandum of Understanding signed today on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, Disaster Management and Coastal Security will provide the framework for expanded cooperation.

India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Maldives. We seek a deeper and stronger partnership with each other. We are guided by the premise that a prosperous, democratic and peaceful Maldives is in the interest of the entire region.

I wish to reiterate our continued commitment to assist Maldives in all possible ways as it seeks to play its rightful role in the comity of nations.

I once again thank the government, the people of Maldives and His Excellency the President for the warm hospitality that has been extended to me and members of delegation during our visit.

I thank you



**236. Remarks by the Prime Minister at the Official Luncheon hosted by the President of Maldives**

**November 12, 2011**

His Excellency President Mohamed Nasheed,  
Madam Laila Ali  
Cabinet Ministers,  
Hon'ble Speaker and Members of the People's Majlis,  
Distinguished Guests,

My wife and I have spent the last few days in this country of exquisite beauty and we are overwhelmed by what we have seen and experienced. This has far exceeded all that we had heard about the Maldives.

We have been touched by the warmth, affection and friendship of the people of Maldives and the gracious hospitality accorded to me and my delegation. I wish to thank you wholeheartedly for this.

Excellency,

The progress made by the people of Maldives is a matter of pride for all South Asians.

We value your commitment to the strengthening of democracy and rule of law. Your personal sacrifice and unwavering faith in democratic values and human dignity are widely acknowledged.

Your pioneering leadership on the global arena on environmental issues and advocacy of the cause of small and vulnerable island States has had a profound impact on the global discourse on climate change.

The advent of full democracy in Maldives has also thrown open new opportunities for cooperation between our two countries. I have always believed that India and Maldives not only share common goals and values but that our destinies are interlinked.

The commonality of culture, customs and languages is testimony to our links that are steeped in antiquity. Our ancestors used the Indian Ocean for trade, cultural and social interaction. These linkages continue today, as we take forward our relations as sovereign partners committed to good neighbourly conduct and constructive collaboration.

Our talks earlier today and the agreements that have been signed are indicative of the strong desire of both our sides to take our relations to new heights. We shall continue doing all we can to further strengthen and develop the close

relationship our two countries have forged together based on mutuality of interests and benefits.

In keeping with the theme of the 17th SAARC Summit, our two countries must also strive to build bridges over the Indian Ocean to bring our people closer together.

Efforts to increase connectivity between our two nations through transport links such as the introduction of ferry services, increase in air services, development of financial and banking linkages, strengthening of human resources capabilities and enhanced trade and investment are producing tangible results.

The safety and security of our people will always remain a high priority. A stable and peaceful Indian Ocean is an objective we both share. We look forward to continue working closely with Maldives in the attainment of that goal.

Excellency,

We wish to see a secur

e and self-reliant Maldives. Allow me to reaffirm India's total commitment to the progress and prosperity of Maldives. India is committed to remaining firmly by the side of Maldives in its nation building efforts.

I was eagerly looking forward to visiting your beautiful country ever since you extended an invitation to me on your first visit to India in December 2008. I am glad that I have now had the opportunity of doing so.

I once again thank you for making our visit so immensely pleasurable and fruitful.

May the people of Maldives enjoy greater peace and prosperity, and relations between India and Maldives continue to flourish!

Thank you.



**237. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the bilateral visit of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to Maldives.**

**Male, November 12, 2011.**

1. The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, paid a bilateral visit to Maldives on 11 & 12 November 2011 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Nasheed. He was accompanied by Smt. Gursharan Kaur and an official delegation.
2. After a ceremonial welcome in Male, the Prime Minister of India met the President of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, on November 12, 2011. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Thasmeen Ali, subsequently called on the Prime Minister of India. The meetings were marked by warmth and cordiality.
3. The Prime Minister of India delivered an address to the People's Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Maldives on November 12, 2011. The Speaker of the People's Majlis, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, while welcoming the Prime Minister of India to the People's Majlis, highlighted the fact that the Prime Minister of India would be the first foreign Head of State or Government to ever address the People's Majlis in its 78 year history. The Prime Minister of India acknowledged the singular honour accorded to him by the People's Majlis as a measure of the closest affinity and affection between the people of the two fraternal neighbouring countries.
4. Official talks between India and Maldives were held on November 12, 2011 in an extremely warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere reflective of the special relationship between the two countries. President Nasheed hosted an official luncheon in honour of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the accompanying delegation.
5. The Prime Minister of India was assisted at the official talks by National Security Advisor Shri Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai, High Commissioner of India to Maldives Shri Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay and other senior officials.
6. The President of Maldives was accompanied by Vice President Dr Mohamed Waheed, Special Envoy of the President Mr Ibrahim Hussein Zaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Ahmed Naseem, Minister of Home Affairs Mr Hassan Afeef, Minister of Finance and Treasury Mr Ahmed Inaz, Minister of Health and Family Ms Aminath Jameel, Minister of Trade and Economic Development Mr Mohamed Razee, Minister of Housing and Environment Mr Mohamed Aslam, Minister of Education Dr Aminath Jameel, Minister of Education Ms Shifa Mohamed, High Commissioner Designate to India Mr

Ameen Faisal, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Mohamed Naseer and other senior officials.

7. The two leaders recalled the geographical contiguity and ethnic, historical and cultural ties between the two countries. They reiterated an abiding faith in and commitment to democracy, development and peaceful co-existence.

8. They shared the confidence that cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region and South Asia.

9. The Prime Minister of India congratulated the people of Maldives for their successful and peaceful transition to democracy. He, inter alia, reiterated the willingness of the Government of India to share its experiences in parliamentary democracy and extend full support to consolidate the gains attained through the democratic process in Maldives. The two sides agreed to promote more cooperation between the Parliaments of both countries. Both sides also agreed to promote and facilitate cooperation between their respective institutions.

10. The two sides signed the following documents during the visit:

(i) Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development ; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Combating International Terrorism, Trans-national Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation in Capacity Building, Disaster Management and Coastal Security; (iii) Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons; (iv) Agreement on US\$ 100 million Stand-by Credit Facility; (v) Memorandum of Understanding on renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Maldives; (vi) Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the years 2012-2015.

11. The two leaders reaffirmed their unequivocal and uncompromising position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In furtherance of the shared recognition that the security interests of both the countries are interlinked in the region, they reiterated their assurance that each side would be sensitive to the concerns of the other on the issue and that their respective territories would not be allowed for any activity inimical to the other and by any quarter. It was agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation on issues of common concern, including piracy, terrorism, organized crime, drugs and human trafficking. It was also agreed to intensify cooperation in the areas of training and capacity building of police and security forces.

12. The two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region through coordinated patrolling and aerial

surveillance, exchange of information, capacity building and the development of an effective legal framework against piracy.

13. Both the leaders reviewed the various efforts to promote bilateral trade and investment ties and the development of infrastructure in a manner that contributes to sustainable development in both countries. It was agreed to work towards closer economic cooperation in sectors such as food security, fisheries development, tourism, transportation, information technology, new and renewable energy and communications.

14. Both sides agreed to undertake measures to strengthen links in the banking and financial sectors, including by improving credit and insurance facilities and assistance in the establishment of development finance institutions. They also agreed to review institutional arrangements to meet the essential commodities requirements of Maldives.

15. The President of Maldives thanked the Prime Minister of India for the assistance extended by Government of India, including by way of the US\$ 100 million Stand-by Credit Facility extended in 2008 and the full subscription to US\$ 100 million Treasury bonds issued by the Maldives Monetary Authority in 2009. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the US\$ 40 million Line of Credit for the construction of housing units that was signed in August 2011.

16. The two leaders expressed their confidence that the new US\$ 100 million Stand-by Credit Facility extended by India would significantly enhance infrastructure and capacities in Maldives. The credit would finance a number of projects identified by Maldives and imports from India.

17. The Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh announced financial support to Maldives for several cooperation and developmental projects, including the setting up of the Maldives Police Academy and renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) established by Government of India in Male.

18. Both leaders emphasised the urgent need to improve connectivity between the two countries through the establishment of enabling infrastructure that would promote the exchange of goods and services, information, ideas, culture and people.

19. It was agreed to enhance connectivity by air and sea, in particular through shipping links and ferry services. In this context, the two leaders directed the concerned officials to expeditiously work towards starting a regular passenger-cum-cargo ferry service between Cochin (India) and Male (Maldives) and other destinations between Maldives and India. The Prime Minister of India announced that India would undertake a feasibility study on the development of the regional

port in Kulduffushi (upper North Province Maldives) at the earliest. The two leaders also directed that direct flights between Mumbai/Delhi- Male sectors be operationalised at the earliest.

20. The two leaders welcomed the allocation of lands on reciprocal basis in Male and New Delhi for construction of the new Chancery buildings for the respective High Commissions in each other's country.

21. Both leaders agreed that the two sides would harness the advantages of regional and sub-regional transport and connectivity, renewable energy, education, environment and sustainable development to mutual advantage.

22. The Prime Minister of India congratulated the President of Maldives for successfully hosting the XVII SAARC Summit in Addu City from November 10-11, 2011. Reiterating the importance of SAARC in promoting regional cooperation, the two leaders also agreed to work together to further strengthen SAARC, including by expanding areas of cooperation, in working closely with the Maldives to revitalize SAARC institutions, and as partners in achieving the full implementation of all existing SAARC projects and Agreements. In this regard, the President of Maldives appreciated the continued support of the Government of India to Maldives as Chair of SAARC and, in particular, for strengthening the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center in Male.

23. Both leaders reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they also recognized the need to pursue reform of the main UN bodies, including the revitalization of the UN General Assembly and expansion of the UN Security Council. The President of Maldives reiterated his country's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded and reformed UN Security Council.

24. The two leaders underscored the need for strengthening and reform of multilateral financial institutions and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making.

25. Both sides agreed that climate change was one of the most important global challenges. They reaffirmed the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including that of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Noting the substantial voluntary pledges of the developing countries towards mitigation, they stressed the importance of the developed countries agreeing to take on a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012 at the forthcoming UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Durban end November 2011. It was agreed to develop and implement programmes for environmental protection



and respond to the challenges of climate change through adaptation. Both Parties shall collaborate on projects of mutual interest to preserve common eco-systems, address vulnerability of the Small Island States to Climate Change and strengthen coastal research.

26. The Prime Minister of India thanked the President of Maldives for the warmth, cordiality and gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in Maldives.

27. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh extended an invitation to President Mohamed Nasheed to pay a visit to India. The invitation was accepted and it was agreed that the dates of the visit would be finalised through diplomatic channels.



**238. Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives.**

**Male, November 12, 2011.**

**The Government of the Republic of India** (hereinafter Government of India) and **the Government of the Republic of Maldives** (hereinafter Government of Maldives), hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties'

**RECALLING** their shared bonds of history, culture and common ethos;

**DESIRIOUS** of maintaining and deepening their unique relationship based on sovereign equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit;

**INSPIRED** by an abiding faith in and commitment to democracy, development and peaceful co-existence;

**REITERATING** their common objective of eradicating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease and promoting social justice and inclusive growth;

**AFFIRMING** their intention to promote comprehensive economic cooperation and develop efficient and enhanced connectivity between their countries:

**DESIROUS** of promoting cooperation in the areas of health, education, tourism, fisheries development, environment protection, new and renewable energy and economic cooperation;

**CONVINCED** that cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region and South Asia;

**HAVE AGREED** as under:

#### **ARTICLE 1**

To promote trade and investment and development of infrastructure in a manner that contributes to sustainable development in both countries, the Parties will work towards closer economic cooperation in sectors such as food security, fisheries development, tourism, transportation, information technology, new and renewable energy, communications and any other areas mutually agreed on. They will develop institutional arrangements to meet the essential commodities requirements of Maldives.

The Parties will undertake all measures needed to strengthen links in the banking and financial sectors, including by improving credit and insurance facilities and establishment of development finance institutions.

#### **ARTICLE 2**

To enhance connectivity between them by air and sea, in particular through shipping links and ferry services, the Parties will encourage the development of appropriate infrastructure, use of sea and air ports, and standardization of means of transport for bilateral as well as sub-regional use.

#### **ARTICLE 3**

To develop and implement programmes for environmental protection and responding to the challenges of climate change through adaptation, both Parties shall collaborate on projects of mutual interest to preserve their common ecosystems, address vulnerability of the Maldives and Indian Islands to Climate Change, strengthen coastal research and, as far as practicable, coordinate their response in international fora.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

To develop and streamline mechanisms for technical cooperation and exchange of advance information with respect to natural disasters. The Parties shall strengthen training and capacity building initiatives and cooperation between respective disaster management authorities, with a view to upgrading their response mechanisms.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

To cooperate on issues of concern to each other arising from their unique geographical location which include piracy, maritime security, terrorism,

organized crime, drugs and human trafficking, the Parties shall strengthen their cooperation to enhance security in the Indian Ocean Region through coordinated patrolling and aerial surveillance, exchange of information, development of effective legal framework and other measures mutually agreed upon. They will intensify their cooperation in the area of training and capacity building of police and security forces.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

To cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests, the Parties shall work together to create a peaceful environment conducive for inclusive economic growth and development. Neither Party shall allow the use of its territory for activities harmful to the national security and interest of the other.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

To promote scientific and educational cooperation between the two countries, the Parties shall cooperate by means of exchange of data, scientific knowledge, collaborative research, training, pilot projects and in any other manner as may be agreed between the two Parties.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

To promote cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, the Parties will promote greater exchanges between their parliaments, youth, sports, academic, cultural and intellectual bodies. They will undertake measures to simplify rules and procedures for travel by citizens of both countries.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

For effective and smooth implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Joint Consultative Commission that shall meet at least once a year.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signing by the two Parties and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual consent. The Agreement may be amended by mutual consent. Either Party may also at any time terminate this Agreement by giving six months advance written notice to the other Party indicating its intentions to terminate this Agreement. The termination shall take effect after six months of the date of such notice.

Actions taken or agreements reached pursuant to this Agreement shall not be affected by its expiry or termination.

**Done** in Male on the 12th day of November 2011, in two originals each in English and Hindi Languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

**Prime Minister  
Government of the  
Republic of India**

**President  
Government of the  
Republic of Maldives**



## **NEPAL**

**239. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to media report on likely resumption of arms supply by India to Nepal.**

**New Delhi, January 17, 2011.**

In response to a question on a media report on the subject the Official Spokesperson said that cooperation in defence and security is an integral part of India's multi-faceted close bilateral relations between India and Nepal. The Indian Army enjoy traditionally close relations. The factual position is that India has not supplied any lethal equipment to Nepal Army since 2005. The report about India resuming supply of lethal equipment to Nepal is speculative. India has consistently supported consensus-based politics and multi-party democracy in Nepal.



**240. Remarks by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on arrival at Kathmandu.**

**January 18, 2011.**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be back in this beautiful city of Kathmandu. It has brought back several fond memories of your hospitality during my previous visits. In the next two days, I look forward to my meetings with the political leaders of Nepal and with my counterpart. I look forward to calling on the President Rt Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Prime Minister Rt Hon'ble Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Chairman of Constituent Assembly and Speaker, Legislature-Parliament, Rt. Hon'ble Subas C. Nembang and Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Bijay Kumar Gachhadar. I will be conveying the greetings and best wishes of our Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister to them and seek their views for deepening our multi-faceted relations. I would like to convey to the leadership in Nepal that India is committed to working with them for a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous Nepal. I also look forward for my meeting with Dr. Madan P Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, where we would review our bilateral cooperation and discuss issues of mutual interest for expanding and strengthening our bilateral ties.

India is convinced of the significance and the great potential of India-Nepal relations. Relations with Nepal are and will continue to be a matter of the highest priority for India.

Thank You



**241. Felicitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Nepalese Prime Minister on his election to the High Office of Prime Minister of Nepal.**

**New Delhi, February 4, 2011.**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh spoke to Prime Minister-elect of Nepal Rt. Hon Jhala Nath Khanal, yesterday evening on telephone, to convey his felicitations. Today PM wrote to Prime Minister-elect Khanal to convey his heartiest congratulations on latter's election as the Prime Minister of Nepal, noting that his 'election to this high office comes at a critical juncture of Nepal's history'. PM also offered his best wishes PM elect to 'build upon and consolidate the gains of democracy that have been achieved by the people of Nepal'.

Prime Minister stated that India attached the highest importance to its relations with Nepal, which was a close neighbour. He referred to the multifaceted bilateral relationship that cut across a wide range of sectors. PM wrote that he looked forward to working with PM elect to 'carry our partnership forward in a way that benefits both our peoples and enables us to create a more prosperous and secure region. I have always held the belief that the potential for our cooperation is vast. India stands ready to partner Nepal to exploit this potential to its fullest on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit'.



**242. Press Release issued by Embassy of India in Kathmandu on the Official Visit of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao to Nepal.**

**Kathmandu, January 20, 2011.**

The Foreign Secretary of India, Smt. Nirupama Rao paid an official visit to Kathmandu from January 18-20, 2011.

2. During the visit, the Foreign Secretary called on the President Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and Prime Minister Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal. She also called on Chairman of Constituent Assembly and Speaker, Legislature-Parliament, Rt. Hon'ble Subas C. Nembang, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning and Works, H.E. Mr. Bijay Kumar Gachhadar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. Ms. Sujata Koirala and Minister for Energy H.E. Mr. Prakash Saran Mahat. These meetings were focused on the

bilateral relations between India and Nepal and measures to further expand and strengthen the close and multi-faceted ties that exist between the two countries. President Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav stated that he was looking forward to his forthcoming official visit to India and his meetings with the Indian political leadership. The Foreign Secretary conveyed greetings of the President of India and said that a warm welcome awaits him in India.

3. The Foreign Secretary conveyed to the Prime Minister Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal the best wishes of the Prime Minister of India. She apprised the Prime Minister of the progress made so far and also conveyed India's commitment to fulfilling the agreements which had been arrived at during his visit to India in August 2009 and expressed the hope that the two Governments will further intensify their cooperation in this regard.

4. The Foreign Secretary met with Nepalese leaders from across the political spectrum including the former Prime Ministers Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa (RJP), Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba (Nepali Congress), Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' (UCPN -Maoist), Chairman of CPN (UML), Mr. Jhala Nath Khanal and President of Nepali Congress, Mr. Sushil Koirala as well as leaders representing other political parties of Nepal including the leaders of the Madhesi parties. In their discussions with her, the political leaders of Nepal stressed the importance they attached to close relations between Nepal and India. She stressed to all the leaders that India stands for a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous Nepal. She also assured them of India's support to the Constitution drafting process while strengthening inclusive multi-party democracy in Nepal and also for successfully concluding the Nepali led peace process.

5. In her meeting with her counterpart, H E Mr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, there were useful discussions on issues of mutual interest covering the entire gamut of Indian-Nepal relations. The Foreign Secretary of India urged early convening of meetings of various institutional mechanisms and emphasised the speedy implementation of projects being executed in Nepal with Government of India assistance. The Foreign Secretary of Nepal assured that Government of Nepal shall do its utmost to expedite the work of established mechanisms and other initiatives in order to further strengthen and deepen the bilateral relations.

6. The meetings were held in an atmosphere of warmth and friendship reflecting the traditionally close relations between India and Nepal.

7. The Foreign Secretary of Nepal accepted the invitation by the Foreign Secretary of India to visit India at an early date.



**243. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival in Kathmandu.**

**April 20, 2011.**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be back in your beautiful country. I have very fond memories of my visit in January 2010.

I look forward to calling on the President Rt Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Prime Minister Rt Hon'ble Shri Jhala Nath Khanal and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shri Bharat Mohan Adhikari.

I will be conveying the greetings and best wishes of our leadership and the people of India to them and exchange views with them on issues of mutual interest, including on how to deepen and expand our multi-faceted relations. In the next two days, I also look forward to meetings with the political leaders of Nepal. I would like to convey to the leadership of Nepal that India is committed to working with the people of Nepal for a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous Nepal.

It has been India's endeavour to strengthen economic cooperation with Nepal and to contribute to Nepal's development. I will be visiting Birgunj to lay the foundation stone of the Integrated Check Post and the Terai Roads Project. We believe that these projects would facilitate Nepal's international trade and economic development.

I am confident that my visit would help further strengthen and expand our bilateral relations and open more avenues for mutual cooperation. Relations with Nepal are and will continue to be a matter of the highest priority for India.

Thank you.





**244. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during his interaction with Media.**

**Kathmandu, April 21, 2011.**

You are aware of my meetings yesterday with the President and Prime Minister of Nepal and the delegation level talks with Deputy Prime Minister Adhikari. The meetings were useful and cordial.

The Nepalese leadership briefed me about the internal developments in Nepal and about the progress being made towards completing the peace process and drafting of the new Constitution in Nepal. I conveyed that given the special relations shared by India and Nepal, India has an abiding interest in developments in Nepal and remains committed to providing all assistance that Nepal requires in its transition to a stable, inclusive, multi-party democracy.

I conveyed that the peace process must be completed at an early date and that it was essential to moving ahead with resolution of other political issues. I was assured by the Nepalese leadership that they recognized the crucial importance of preserving the professional integrity and apolitical nature of the Nepal Army.

Both the President and Prime Minister of Nepal expressed deep appreciation for India's continued support to Nepal's peace process and emphasized that India must continue to play a supportive role for consolidation of democracy in Nepal

You are aware that I will be travelling to Birgunj tomorrow to lay the foundation stone for the construction of the Integrated Checkpost being built with Indian assistance of '86.9 crores. I will also be laying the foundation stone for the construction of PRN120 road project which is part of the first phase of Terai road projects being built with Indian assistance of '805 crores. These projects aim at strengthening the cross border connectivity between India and Nepal to facilitate better people-to-people contacts and economic opportunities for the people of Nepal.

The Nepalese side agreed that India's continued assistance was vital for Nepal's economic development and assured us that all required assistance to ensure timely completion of these projects and adequate security to Indians working on these projects will be provided.

I conveyed to the Nepalese leadership that terrorism is a common threat to India and Nepal and our security concerns are interlinked because of an open border. We are also concerned about smuggling of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) to India through Nepal. I also asked for the early formalization of the revised Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

that have been pending for last five years as these would enable better coordination and cooperation between the security agencies of the two countries.

The Prime Minister assured us that Nepal would address all of India's security concerns and would not allow Nepalese territory to be used for any anti-India activity. The Nepalese side also conveyed that the revised Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty were pending approval.

I told the Nepalese leadership that it is essential to formalize the boundary strip maps for agreed sector of India Nepal boundary covering 98% of the total boundary, which had been initialed by Surveyors of both the sides. This would create a better frame of reference for boundary management.

I conveyed to the leadership of Nepal that Nepal must develop an environment of trust and confidence to attract investment from India and conveyed that Indian investors, who provided capital and employment opportunities in Nepal should be given all due protections. I conveyed that formalization of the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) at an early date would go a long way in building investor confidence.

India is the largest investors in Nepal. Indian companies are eager to do more to promote Nepal's industrial manufacturing capabilities. In this context, I referred to the harassment being meted out to some of the larger Indian joint ventures in Nepal. The Government of Nepal assured us that it would look into the issues raised by Indian joint ventures. Deputy Prime Minister Adhikari assured me that his government would amicably resolve issues concerning United Telecom Limited (UTL) -an India Nepal Joint Venture in the field of Telecommunications- at an early date in accordance with the earlier understandings between the two governments.

I conveyed our serious concern on the attacks on our Ambassador and requested Government of Nepal to provide adequate safety to Indian diplomats and diplomatic premises in Nepal. The Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Nepal assured that his Government would ensure the safety of Indian diplomats and diplomatic premises in Nepal.

On the issue of the Indian contract teachers in Nepal, the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal promised to work for providing a dignified and honourable solution to the issue of contractual Indian teachers in recognition of their service to the development of human resources in Nepal.

I reviewed the progress in areas of bilateral interest with the Nepalese leadership. We were happy to note that that the dates for the next meeting of

Home Secretaries of the two countries is being finalised shortly. We also agreed that other outstanding bilateral issues could be discussed at the meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries which is to be held shortly in New Delhi.



**245. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media at the end of his visit to Kathmandu.**

**Kathmandu, April 22, 2011.**

Friends from media,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Good afternoon to all of you.

It is an honour and a privilege for me to be in this beautiful city, the capital of Nepal. This visit brought back fond memories of my visit in January 2010. In last two days, I have had very useful meetings with the political leadership in Kathmandu.

You are aware of my meetings with the President Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and Prime Minister Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Jhalanath Khanal and the delegation level talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari. The meetings were useful and cordial. The Nepalese leadership briefed me about the internal developments in Nepal and about the efforts being made towards completing the peace process and drafting of the new Constitution in Nepal. India has an abiding interest in the success of Nepal's transition to inclusive, multi-party democracy and the completion of the peace process. A peaceful, democratic and prosperous Nepal is in the interest of the Nepali people, of India and of our region. India is committed to assist the Government and people of Nepal in these processes of historic change in Nepal.

I emphasized the need to complete the peace process at an early date and that it was essential to move ahead with resolution of other political issues. I was assured by the Nepalese leadership that they recognized the crucial importance of preserving the professional integrity and apolitical nature of the Nepal Army.

Both the President and Prime Minister of Nepal expressed deep appreciation

for India's support to Nepal's peace process and emphasized that India must continue to play a supportive role for consolidation of democracy in Nepal

I met Nepalese leaders across the political spectrum including the former Prime Minister and Chairman of UPCN (Maoists) Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister and senior UML leader Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal and the President of Nepali Congress Mr. Sushil Koirala. I also met the senior leaders of the Madhesi parties. In my discussions with the leaders in Nepal on the present state of bilateral relations they stressed their commitment to good relations between Nepal and India. I assured all the leaders of the strong commitment that India has for a stable, prosperous and democratic Nepal and our support to the Constitution drafting process while strengthening the democratic institutions and an inclusive democratic process.

Today, I inaugurated the new Chancery building at the Indian Embassy. I am happy to see that we have finally built a building that reflects the growing prestige of India at the regional and global level, and is commensurate with the profile of India in Nepal and the relationship between our two countries. It would enable us to provide better services.

I also visited Birgunj to lay the foundation stone for the Integrated Check Post (ICP) being built with GOI assistance of NRs 137 Crores in Birgunj. The ICP at Birgunj would be the counterpart of a similar ICP being built at Raxaul, the foundation stone for which was laid by Minister for Home Affairs of India Mr. P. Chidambaram on 24 April 2010. I also laid the foundation stone for the Birgunj-Thori road. The 53 Kilometere long road is one of the 19 roads totaling 605 kms being built under Phase I of the Terai Roads project with GOI assistance of NRs 1100 Crores. Both these projects would be extremely important for enhancing Nepal's connectivity with India and providing physical infrastructure to the people of Nepal. These projects are a part of the India-Nepal Cooperation Programme which has an imprint in all districts of Nepal with over 400 projects with a total outlay of NRs 5800 Crores in the sectors of education, health, agriculture, roads and bridges and others such infrastructure.

The Nepalese side agreed that India's continued assistance was vital for Nepal's economic development and assured us that all required assistance to ensure timely completion of these projects and adequate security to Indians working on these projects will be provided.

I conveyed to the Nepalese leadership that terrorism is a common threat to India and Nepal and our security concerns are interlinked because of an open border. We are also concerned about smuggling of Fake Indian Currency Notes

(FICN) to India through Nepal. I also stressed the importance of the early formalization of the revised Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) that have been pending for over six years as these would enable better coordination and cooperation between the security agencies of the two countries.

The Prime Minister of Nepal assured us that Nepal would address all of India's security concerns and would not allow Nepalese territory to be used for any anti-India activity. The Nepalese side also conveyed that the revised Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty were pending approval.

I stressed to the Nepalese leadership that it is essential to formalize the boundary strip maps for agreed sectors of India Nepal boundary covering 98% of the total boundary, which had been initiated by Surveyors General of both the sides. This would create a better frame of reference for boundary management.

I conveyed to the leadership of Nepal that they must develop an environment of trust and confidence to attract investment from India and Indian investors, who provided capital and employment opportunities in Nepal should be given all due protection. I conveyed that formalization of the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) at an early date would go a long way in building investor confidence.

India is the largest investor in Nepal. Indian companies are eager to do more to promote Nepal's industrial and manufacturing capabilities. A delegation from Nepal India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) met me and appraised me of their difficulties. In my discussions with the Nepalese leadership, I referred to the harassment being meted out to some of the larger Indian joint ventures in Nepal. The Government of Nepal assured us that it would look into the issues raised by Indian joint ventures. Deputy Prime Minister Adhikari assured me that his government would amicably resolve issues concerning United Telecom Limited (UTL) -an India Nepal joint venture in the field of Telecommunications- at an early date in accordance with the earlier understandings between the two governments.

I conveyed our serious concern on the attacks on our Ambassador, which is completely contrary to the rich tradition of hospitality that Nepal is known for and requested Government of Nepal to provide adequate safety to Indian diplomats and diplomatic premises in Nepal. The Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Nepal assured that his Government would ensure the safety of Indian diplomats and diplomatic premises in Nepal.

On the issue of the Indian contract teachers in Nepal, the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Nepal promised to work for providing a dignified and honourable solution to the issue of contractual Indian teachers in recognition of their service to the development of human resources in Nepal.

I reviewed the progress in various areas of bilateral interest with the Nepalese leadership. We were happy to note that the dates for the next meeting of Home Secretaries of the two countries are being finalized shortly. We also agreed that other outstanding bilateral issues could be discussed at the meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries which is to be held shortly in New Delhi.

I am convinced of the significance and the great potential of India-Nepal relations, which is heightened in these times of rapid change. Relations with Nepal are and will continue to be a matter of the highest priority for India.

Thank you.



**246. Press Release on the visit of Nepalese woman Parliamentarians to India.**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2011.**

A delegation of fifteen Nepali women Parliamentarians (Constituent Assembly members) are visiting India, at the invitation of PD Division of Ministry. They represent seven political parties including, Nepali Congress, Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) and parties of the Terai region, that are engaged in drafting the Constitution of Nepal.

The delegation called on Speaker of Lok Sabha and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, as well as, interacted with Chairperson of Standing Committee on Rural Development. Their other engagements in New Delhi included meeting with Foreign Secretary Sh. Ranjan Mathai, participation in a seminar organized by CII on hydro-power potential in Nepal and an interaction at the Indian Council for World Affairs. They visited the National Small Industries Cooperation, the Delhi Metro and Akshardham Temple.

The delegation will also travel to Bangalore.



**247. Felicitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for Baburam Bhattarai on his appointment as Prime Minister of Nepal.**

**New Delhi, August 29, 2011.**

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has conveyed his warmest felicitations to Rt. Hon. Baburam Bhattarai on his election as the Prime Minister of Nepal, wishing him all success in the task of consolidating the democratic gains made by the people of Nepal.

PM wrote to say that, 'India attaches the highest priority to its relations with Nepal. Our relations are special and characterized by intense people-to-people interaction and an open border. Indian remains committed to providing all assistance in building a more stable, democratic and prosperous Nepal, which will add to the security and prosperity of the region'.

The Prime Minister of India has extended a most cordial invitation to PM Bhattarai to visit India at his convenience, at dates to be decided through diplomatic channels, adding that he looked forward to working with the latter to "strengthen and deepen the close civilisational and fraternal links" between India and Nepal.



**248. Statement by the Ministry of External Affairs welcoming 7-Point Agreement reached among political parties in Nepal.**

**New Delhi, November 2, 2011.**

Government of India welcomes the 7-Point Agreement reached among the political parties in Nepal to take the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants to its logical conclusion. This Agreement provides a firm basis for successfully concluding the remaining aspects of Nepal's peace process. We congratulate the people and the political parties in Nepal for their commitment to peacefully resolving outstanding issues in a spirit of consensus and for displaying enlightened leadership. India fully supports these efforts to pave the way for Nepal's transition to a pluralistic and inclusive multi-party democracy.



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The Statement was referring to Nepal's political parties agreement on the peace process, constitution writing and power sharing. Besides settling the vexed issue of a deal for former Maoist combatants, the parties also agreed to prepare the first draft of the Constitution by the month end. The parties were also understood to have worked out a power sharing arrangement after the elections to be held under the new Constitution.



**249. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquet hosted in honour of the visiting Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai.**

**New Delhi, October 21, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai,

Madam Hisila Yami,

Distinguished members of the Nepalese delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and people of India, and on my own behalf, I extend a warm welcome to you on your first visit to India as the Prime Minister of Nepal.

We feel honoured to receive you soon after you have assumed your new responsibilities.

Excellency, your association with India goes back to your student days at the College of Architecture in Chandigarh, the School of Planning and Architecture and then the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi.

Your life has been one of struggle and sacrifice. You have fought against the status quo, and today you have joined the mainstream of Nepal's political life.

We are very happy to see you guide the destiny of Nepal, a close friend and neighbour, at this important juncture.

India and Nepal share bonds of kinship and cooperation that are defined by geography and enriched by history. Our peoples have travelled across open borders for decades. Generations of Indians and Nepalese have grown up taking this freedom of movement for granted.

We owe it to our people to build upon this foundation for the development, progress and prosperity of both our countries. The peoples of our countries are extremely talented, enterprising and have a remarkable ability to cope with adversity. Our region therefore has great potential and the time has come for us to realise this potential through cooperative effort.

India has long considered it a privilege to join Nepal in its plans for economic and social development. We both face the same challenge of development. It is in our enlightened self interest that we work in harmony and conduct our affairs with complete transparency. We must understand that by helping each other we only help ourselves. Our prosperity, security and welfare are interlinked.

Nepal is passing through a crucial phase in its quest for peace, stability and multi-party democracy. There should be no foreign interference in this process. The people of Nepal must take their decisions themselves. They have done so in the past and on every occasion have emerged even stronger.

We have full confidence in the wisdom and resilience of the people of Nepal to forge consensus through dialogue and understanding. We are with the people of Nepal in this journey and are ready to provide whatever assistance possible as per the wishes of the people of Nepal.

Distinguished guests, I request you to join me in a toast to:

- The good health and personal well-being of the Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and Madam Hishila Yami,
- the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Nepal;
- and everlasting friendship between India and Nepal.



**250. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the meeting between Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and the visiting Nepalese Finance Minister Barsha Man Pun.**

**New Delhi, October 22, 2011.**

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee assured the Finance Minister of Nepal Mr Barsha Man Pun of India's full cooperation and support in building-up various projects in Nepal. Shri Mukherjee gave this assurance when Mr Pun called on him in his office here today. Shri Mukherjee asked his Nepalese counterpart only to prioritize these projects so that they could be taken-up accordingly.

The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee said that construction work on building Integrated Check posts on Indo –Nepal border has already started on Indian side and asked Mr Pun to get it expedited on Nepal side as well. He said that these check posts once operational would help in both i.e. in expediting the customs clearances as well as immigration clearances in an efficient manner. Shri Mukherjee said that Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA) signed between two countries yesterday would also help in providing necessary institutional frame work for the investors from both sides. However, Shri Mukherjee asked Mr Pun to ensure safety and security of Indian businessmen visiting Nepal for promoting trade and investment between two countries.

The Finance Minister of Nepal Mr. Pun assured Shri Mukherjee about the safety and security of Indian businessmen visiting Nepal. He sought support of the Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee in completing various projects in Nepal. He also assured that finalization of DTAA between two countries would also be got expedited. He thanked Shri Mukherjee for all his support to Nepal and invited him to visit Kathmandu at the earliest.

Shri Mukherjee thanked Mr Pun for his invitation and again assured the support of India in best possible manner.



**251. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the increase in the trade between India and Nepal.**

**New Delhi, October 22, 2011.**

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma has expressed satisfaction that bilateral trade between India and Nepal has increased from US\$ 1985 mn in 2009-10 to around US\$ 2700 in 2010-11 registering an increase of around 36%. Exports from Nepal to India have also grown from US\$ 452mn in 2009-10 to US\$ 476mn in 2010-11 (an increase of around 5.3%). During his meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Shri Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, here today, Shri Sharma singled out hydro power sector for increased cooperation between the two countries. "It is estimated that sale of electricity from the 40,000 MW hydropower potential of Nepal can generate revenues of more than 10 billion US\$ per annum. Nepal could also attract a lot of investment in manufacturing/services sector by overcoming its present power shortage" Said the Indian Minister.

Shri Sharma noted that in the recent past, several Indian private companies/ Joint ventures have been able to secure survey licences for development of about 8,200 MW hydro power projects in Nepal at an estimated cost of Rs.82000 crores. "It is important that the projects are started as early as possible" Shri Sharma said. Indian Minister also pointed out the problem of local disturbances for the Indian Investors.

The Minister also informed that the Government of India has accepted the Nepalese request for use of Vishakhapatnam port and rail route through Singhabad (India) — Rohanpur (Bangladesh). Approval of Government of Nepal for the Letter of Exchange (LOE) sent in this regard is awaited. Nepal's request for further facilitation of Nepal- Bangladesh trade through Kakarbhitta-Phulbari-Banglabandha route had also been agreed.

The meeting also explored India providing Buyers Credit to Nepalese Government agencies for large project exports, especially in the infrastructure sector such as roads, bridges, railways, power lines, sewerage plants, water treatment plants and housing from India. The credit can be provided under National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) through EXIM Bank for a maximum period of 5 -8 years.

Indian firms are the biggest investors in Nepal accounting for about 47.5% of total approved foreign direct investments. There are about 150 operating Indian ventures in Nepal engaged in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries. Indian

joint ventures in Nepal have contributed significantly to increase in Nepal's exports to India. They also provide direct employment to around 30,000 Nepali citizens and indirect employment to more than twice that number. Both Governments have finalized the bilateral investment protection and promotion agreement. Shri Sharma stressed that problems faced by Indian Business in Nepal. He pointed out that Surya Nepal, a subsidiary of ITC Limited, India had to shut down permanently its readymade garment production because of long running labour problems. He also touched upon the problems faced by GMR group. Such incidences will, over a period of time, have a negative effect, Shri Sharma added..



**252. Joint Press Statement issued on the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai.**

**New Delhi, October 23, 2011.**

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai accompanied by his spouse, Hon. Ms. Hisila Yami paid an official visit to India from October 20-23, 2011 at the invitation of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal was accompanied by Hon. Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha "Prakash", Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mr. Jaya Prakash Prasad Gupta, Minister for Information and Communications, Hon. Mr. Hridayesh Tripathi, Minister for Physical Planning and Works, Hon. Mr. Rajendra Mahato, Minister for Health and Population, Hon. Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Minister for Finance, Hon. Mr. Mahendra Prasad Yadav, Minister for Irrigation, Hon. Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, Minister for Industry, Hon. Mr. Deependra Bahadur Chhetri, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Hon. Mr. Hari Roka, Member, Legislature-Parliament, Hon. Mr. Om Prakash Yadav, Member, Legislature-Parliament and senior officials of the Government of Nepal.

2. The Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President and the Vice-President of India. Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri A. K. Antony, Minister of Defence, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition and other Indian dignitaries called on the Prime Minister of Nepal.

3. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India followed by delegation-level talks. During the talks, the two Prime Ministers reviewed the state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on ways and

means to further expand and consolidate the close, multi-faceted relations between the two countries. The talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and warmth. The Prime Minister of India and Smt. Gursharan Kaur hosted a dinner in honour of the Prime Minister of Nepal and Mrs. Hisila Yami.

4. The Prime Minister of Nepal elucidated on the peace process and constitution drafting. He appreciated and expressed thanks to the Government and the people of India for their support and expressed hope to receive India's goodwill and understanding for Nepal's peace process and continued cooperation for its socio-economic development. The Prime Minister of Nepal also highlighted his ongoing efforts for consensus building on the peace process of Nepal. The Prime Minister of India expressed full support for efforts to build consensus on the peace process and constitution drafting to pave way for Nepal's transition to an inclusive, multiparty democracy in Nepal.

5. The two Prime Ministers directed that all the bilateral institutional mechanisms be revitalized and convened regularly. They directed early meetings of the Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources and Home Secretaries.

6. The Nepalese side assured that the Government of Nepal would take further measures for creating and promoting an investor-friendly and enabling business environment to encourage Indian public and private sector investments in Nepal. The two Prime Ministers directed the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) of Commerce Secretaries to convene at the earliest with a view to identifying ways and means of further strengthening mutually beneficial trade and investment ties between the two countries and look into all trade and transit related issues, including trade imbalance, remaining issues of Trade Treaty, Nepal's request for waiver of 4% additional customs duty, issue of fixation of additional one-time lock by Indian customs between Kolkata/Haldia Port and Nepal and operationalisation of Vishakhapatnam port for Nepal's trade. With regard to the issue of Duty Refund Procedure (DRP) under the new Treaty of Trade, the Indian side assured that the necessary notification in this regard is expected to be issued shortly.

7. The two sides directed the relevant officials to hold comprehensive review of the Rail Services Agreement at the earliest to enhance cooperation in the field of railways and explore movement of additional stream of wagons to/from Birgunj ICD in Nepal. The two sides agreed to expeditiously complete procedural requirements for operationalisation of rail transit facility through Rohanpur-Singhabad and transit between Vishakhapatnam and Nepal.

8. In response to Nepal's request for increase in the quantum of electricity export to 200 MW to cope with the power deficit during the dry season, the

Indian side conveyed readiness to supply maximum electricity possible on existing transmission lines and suggested that technical experts of the two countries should meet to explore the options available for enhancing electricity trade between India and Nepal. With reference to the draft MOU on cross-border interconnection for electric power trade, the Indian side conveyed that it would expeditiously examine the draft.

9. The two sides reiterated that the open border between Nepal and India has greatly facilitated exchanges among the peoples of both countries, and that it is equally important to manage the border effectively and efficiently to control cross-border criminal activities. The two sides discussed security concerns related to the open border between the two countries. The Nepalese side assured that it would not allow its territory to be used for any activity against India and the Indian side also gave the same assurance to the Nepalese side.

10. The two Prime Ministers committed to extend all necessary support to facilitate expeditious completion of construction of roads, rail links and the Integrated Check Posts in the India-Nepal border areas.

11. The Nepalese side requested the Government of India to allow three additional inbound air routes from Janakpur, Bhairahawa and Nepalgunj in view of increased air traffic to and from Nepal and for facilitating international air service from the regional airports of Nepal in cost effective manner. The Indian side proposed a meeting of the civil aviation authorities of Nepal and India to discuss and address various issues in this sector.

12. The Prime Minister of Nepal requested the Prime Minister of India for India's assistance in implementing priority development projects in Nepal. The Indian side indicated willingness to favorably consider priority development projects in various sectors as requested by Nepal and suggested that these may be reviewed and considered in detail at a meeting of the Joint Commission at the earliest.

13. The Prime Minister of India offered to increase the ITEC slots for Nepal to 200 every year.

14. In presence of the two Prime Ministers, the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments, Agreement for dollar credit line of US\$ 250 million between Government of Nepal and Export-Import Bank of India and Memorandum of Understanding regarding Indian grant assistance of ' 1.875 crore for the goitre control programme in Nepal were signed.

15. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the two sides have considered and reached agreement on the text of the Double Taxation

Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and committed to sign the DTAA at the earliest possible on completion of the respective legal procedures.

16. The two sides expressed concern at the human suffering and loss of lives and property caused by floods and inundation at the border areas during the monsoon and agreed to strengthen coordination and consultation to deal with the problem. They agreed that the Joint Ministerial Commission and Joint Commission on Water Resources should convene at the earliest and discuss the current pressing issues and identify the measures for immediate correction.

17. The two sides agreed to further promote exchange of Parliamentarians.

18. The two sides proposed establishment of an Eminent Persons Group to look into the totality of India-Nepal relations and suggest measures to further expand and consolidate the close, multi-faceted relations between the two countries. The modalities of the proposed Group would be worked out through mutual consultation at the earliest.

19. Both sides noted that the multi faceted and deep rooted relationships between the two countries needed further consolidation and expansion in a forward looking manner to better reflect the current realities. It was in this broader context that the two Prime Ministers agreed to review, adjust and update the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other agreements, while giving due recognition to the special features of the bilateral relationship. A High-Level Committee at the level of Foreign Secretaries will be set up for this purpose.

20. The Prime Minister of Nepal addressed a business luncheon meeting jointly organised by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI and attended a programme at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

21. The Prime Minister of Nepal also visited Dehradun and visited the State Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarkhand in Haridwar. The Hon'ble Governor of Uttarkhand hosted a lunch in honour of the Prime Minister.

22. The Prime Minister of Nepal renewed the invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The Prime Minister of India accepted it with pleasure. The dates of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

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## Agreements signed during the visit of PM of Nepal.

**October 21, 2011.**

Name of MOU/Agreement	Nepalese Signatory	Indian Signatory
Agreement between the two Governments for the Promotion and Protection of Investments	<b>H.E. Mr. Anil Kumar Jha</b> Minister for Industry	<b>Shri Pranab Mukherjee</b> Minister of Finance
MOU between the two Governments regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Goitre Control Programme in Nepal	<b>Mr. Purushottam Ojha</b> Secretary Ministry of Commerce & Supply	<b>Shri Ranjan Mathai</b> Foreign Secretary
Dollar Credit Line Agreement between Govt. of Nepal and Export-Import Bank of India	<b>Mr. Lal Shanker Ghimire</b> Joint Secretary Ministry of Finance	<b>Shri TCA Rangathan</b> Executive Director EXIM Bank

Fact Sheet on MOU/Agreements signed during the visit of PM of Nepal  
October 21, 2011

### **(i) Memorandum of Understanding between Government of The Republic of India and Government of Nepal regarding Indian grant assistance for the Goitre Control Programme in Nepal**

A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of The Republic of India and Government of Nepal regarding Indian grant assistance for the Goitre Control Programme in Nepal was signed today (October 21, 2011). Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Mr. Purushottam Ojha, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supply, Government of Nepal signed the agreement on behalf of Government of Nepal.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, Government of India will provide ' 1.875 Crores (Nepali Rs.3 Crores) to Government of Nepal for the control of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Diseases in Nepal under the heads of Re-iodisation Subsidy, Packing Subsidy, Transportation Subsidy and Advocacy Subsidy. The Government of Nepal shall procure iodised granular salt from India for distribution in various parts of Nepal focusing on 22 districts categorized by Nepal as remote and inaccessible. The implementation of the Programme will be monitored by a Programme Monitoring Team of four members, consisting of two representatives of Government of India and two representatives of Government of Nepal. During the period 1973-2010, Government of India has provided grant assistance of ' 41 Crores to Government of Nepal for the control of Goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders in Nepal. Iodine Deficiency Diseases are a major health problem and it is hoped that this assistance will help reduce incidence of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Diseases in Nepal.

**(ii) Dollar Credit Line Agreement between Government of Nepal and Export-Import Bank of India**

A US\$ 250 million Dollar Credit Line Agreement between Government of Nepal and Export-Import Bank of India was signed today (October 21, 2011). Chairman and Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India, Shri T.C.A. Ranganathan and signed the Agreement on behalf of Export-Import Bank of India and Shri Lal Shankar Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance signed the Agreement on behalf of Government of Nepal.

The credit line will be used to finance infrastructure projects such as highways, airports, bridges, irrigation, roads, railways and hydropower projects and carry a concessional rate of interest of 1.75% p.a., with repayment period of 20 years, inclusive of 5 years moratorium.

It may be recalled that during the visit of the President of Nepal, H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav in February 2010, Government of India has agreed to extend the line of credit of US\$ 250 million from EXIM Bank of India to the Government of Nepal on similar terms and conditions as the earlier Line of Credit of US \$ 100 Million extended to Nepal.

**(iii) Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of India for the Promotion and Protection of Investments**

A Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nepal was signed today. Hon'ble Finance Minister has signed the agreement on behalf of India and Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, Minister for Industry on behalf of Government of Nepal.

The Agreement seeks to promote and protect investments from either country in the territory of the other country with the ultimate objective of increasing bilateral investment flow. The agreement requires each country to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other country to make investments in its territory and to admit investments in accordance with its laws.

The term investment includes every kind of asset including intellectual property rights in accordance with laws and regulations of the country in which the investment is made. Principles of Most Favoured Nation Treatment and National Treatment (NT) have been asserted in the agreement. Investments from either country in the territory of the other country are to be accorded NT and MFN treatment which means that the investment shall be provided treatment which shall not be less favourable than that provided by the country to investments of its own investors or investors from any other country. Besides, investors are to be provided MFN treatment in respect of returns on the investment.

Provisions have also been made in the agreement for grant of compensation to the investors whose investments suffer losses owing to war, armed conflict, a state of national emergency, etc. and such investors shall be accorded treatment by the host country, no less than the treatment accorded to its own investors or investors of any third state.

The Agreement provides that nationalisation or expropriation of investments shall not be resorted to except in public interest and in accordance with law on a non-discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation. The agreement also provides for free repatriation of funds of an investor of either country.

The agreement provides elaborate dispute resolution mechanism to guide settlement of disputes between an investor and a host Government as well as between the two Governments. Dispute resolution mechanism includes recourse to negotiations, conciliation and international arbitration.

The Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years. Thereafter, it shall be deemed to have been automatically extended unless either Contracting Party gives to the other Contracting Party a written notice. With respect to investments made prior to the date of termination of the Agreement, the provisions of the Agreement shall continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from the date of its termination.

It is hoped that the Agreement would serve as a catalyst in boosting investment flows between the two countries.



**253. Remarks by Foreign Secretary on arrival at Kathmandu****Kathmandu, November 26, 2011.**

It is a great pleasure for me to be in your beautiful country. This is only my first visit to Kathmandu after assuming charge of Foreign Secretary of India. My current visit is to prepare for the visit of our Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who will be arriving in Kathmandu tomorrow. The Finance Minister and Finance Minister of Nepal are to sign the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) which will replace the old Agreement signed in 1987. I will be accompanying the Indian Finance Minister in his meetings with the leaders of Nepal.

I look forward to meeting the Chief Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Ghimire to review progress in the implementation of the agenda agreed upon during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India, and of ways to expand and strengthen our bilateral ties. Our Prime Ministers met again in the Maldives and agreed that action should be taken to take forward bilateral cooperation.

India has an abiding interest in the peace, stability and prosperity of Nepal, and this motivates our wish to expand the cooperation between our two nations.

I do hope to make more visits to this country and to see more of it in the future.

Thank You

**254. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the remarks by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the signing of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Nepal.****New Delhi, November 27, 2011.**

'It is an honour and a privilege to be in this beautiful city, the capital of Nepal. It brought back fond memories of my previous visits. It has been a very busy but most useful visit to Kathmandu.

During the visit, I called on the Prime Minister Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and will call on the President Rt Hon'ble Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and I also had bilateral consultations with my counterpart Hon'ble Mr. Barsaman Pun, the

Finance Minister of Nepal where we reviewed bilateral economic cooperation and discussed ways and means to expand the economic relations between the two countries. I briefed Rt Hon'ble Prime Minister on the progress made on implementation of the rich and vast agenda agreed upon during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India as contained in the Joint Press Statement.

As you know, I am here primarily to sign the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) as was agreed during the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India on October 20-23, 2011. I am happy that we have revised the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement today. The revised DTAA will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Nepal and facilitate mutual economic cooperation as well as stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services between India and Nepal. In the revised DTAA the threshold withholding tax rates on dividends, interest, etc., are rationalised to reflect the present day situation and developments in the area of international taxation.

India has 81 such DTAA's. In line with the best practices followed, we have incorporated in this DTAA also, the provisions for effective exchange of information, assistance in collection of taxes between tax authorities and the anti-abuse provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement are availed of by the genuine residents and not misused by third country residents. In the area of exchange of information, the revised DTAA provides for internationally accepted standards including sharing of bank information and sharing of information without domestic tax interest. Further, the information received can be shared with other law enforcement agencies with the consent of the information supplying country.

India hosted the most useful meeting of the Joint Commission of Water Resources in New Delhi two days ago. The Commerce Secretaries are going to meet next month. We are also working to fix the dates for holding the next meetings of Secretaries for Home Affairs and Ministers of Water Resources. We have sought preliminary inputs from Nepal as a prelude to the review of treaties and agreements to be undertaken by the Foreign Secretaries. We have agreed that the Bilateral Joint Commission should be convened at an early date to review the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship including the requests from Nepal for Indian assistance for implementation of priority development projects.

I will also have discussions with leaders from a wide cross section of political parties including the President of Nepali Congress Mr. Sushil Koirala, former Prime Minister and Chairman of UCPN (Maoist) Mr. Puspha Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', former Prime Minister and Chairman of CPN (UML) Mr. Jhala Nath Khanal and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and President of MJF-Loktantrik Mr. Bijay Gacchadar. I conveyed to the leadership

that Government of India welcomes the 7-Point Agreement reached among the political parties that provides a firm basis for successfully concluding the remaining aspects of Nepal's peace process. We congratulate the people and the political parties in Nepal for their commitment to peacefully resolving outstanding issues in a spirit of consensus and for displaying enlightened leadership. India fully supports these efforts to pave the way for Nepal's transition to a pluralistic and inclusive multi-party democracy. I assured the Nepalese leaders of India's strong and continued commitment of support to Nepal in its transition to a democratic, prosperous, peaceful and stable future.

India has an abiding interest in the success of Nepal's transition to multi-party democracy and the completion of the peace process. A peaceful, democratic and prosperous Nepal is in the interest of the Nepali people, of India and of our region. India is committed to assist the Government and people of Nepal in these processes of historic change in Nepal.

I am convinced of the significance and the great potential of India-Nepal relations, which is heightened in these times of rapid change. Relations with Nepal are and will continue to be a matter of the highest priority for India.'




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Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who specially visited Kathmandu for this occasion signed the agreement with his Nepalese counterpart, Barshaman Pun 'Ananta,' in the presence of Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai. Mr. Mukherjee told journalists, "The revised DTAA will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Nepal and facilitate mutual economic cooperation as well as stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services between India and Nepal." The agreement has been welcomed by the private sector in Nepal. Sujeev Shakya, head of BEED, a consultancy and financial advisories firm, said: "This is positive and was required as India is our biggest business partner. It will pave way for greater investment, transparency, and allow both countries to avail of each other's comparative advantages." He said that since tax rates were lower in Nepal, investors who had paid taxes in India would not have to do so in Nepal and those who paid taxes in Nepal would only have to pay the differential amount back in India.

It may be recalled that this agreement comes soon after the signing of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) by the two countries during the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister the previous month. The two agreements together are expected to encourage further Indian investment in Nepal, which in turn would lead to greater exports and help bridge the growing trade deficit with India. India accounts for more than 45 per cent of foreign direct investment in Nepal, while two-thirds of Nepal's trade is with India.

In the course of his daylong visit, Mr. Mukherjee called on President Ram Baran Yadav, and Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai. He also met Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' Nepali Congress president Sushil Koirala and senior leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, and leaders of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) and Madhesi Front.

Mr. Mukherjee also took the opportunity to welcome the 7-point agreement and assured Nepal of India's abiding interest in "the success of Nepal's transition to multi-party democracy and the completion of the peace process."

**PAKISTAN****255. Exchange of lists of Nuclear Installations and facilities between India and Pakistan****New Delhi, January 1, 2011.**

India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan.

The Agreement, which was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every calendar year. This is the twentieth consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.

**256. Telephonic Talk between External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Qureshi.****New Delhi, January 25, 2011.**

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan H.E. S. M. Qureshi, called the External Affairs Minister, Shri S. M. Krishna on telephone today evening, to convey felicitations on the occasion of India's Republic Day. The Ministers had a brief exchange of views on bilateral relations. Referring to the forthcoming meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in Thimpu, the Ministers hoped for a positive outcome. EAM reiterated his invitation to FM Qureshi to visit India at a mutually convenient date, to carry forward the dialogue process. FM Qureshi stated that he looked forward to visiting New Delhi. He also thanked EAM for his letter of condolences on the assassination of Governor Salman Taseer. EAM said that it was a tragic incident and once again conveyed his deep sympathies to members of the bereaved family.



**257. Press Release on the meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in Thimphu.****February 6, 2011.**

In pursuance of the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, following their meeting in Thimphu in April, 2010 and the meeting of the Minister of External Affairs of India and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in Islamabad in July, 2010, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Thimphu on February 6, 2011, to carry forward this process. The Foreign Secretaries had useful and frank discussions on the steps required to be taken in this context. They agreed on the need for a constructive dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues.

They affirmed the need to carry forward the dialogue process. They will brief their respective Governments on their discussions.



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Media reports said that during the talks between the two foreign secretaries Pakistan, as was the case in the past, insisted on resuming the composite dialogue on all the subjects, while India was insisting on talks on specific issues like terrorism. New Delhi felt that instead of taking up all issues, both sides should concentrate on issues where there was the largest area of agreement with a view to reach a settlement. There should not be any time line, said India, in response to Pakistan's desire for a result oriented approach.

"We are resuming our contact after interregnum of some time. We have a number of issues to be discussed. As we have always said, dialogue between India and Pakistan is necessary and a must if we are to satisfactorily resolve the outstanding issues between our two countries," said Ms. Nirupama Rao. "We have a number of outstanding issues. So, we are going into this with an open mind and constructive attitude," she added.

On the other hand Pakistan Foreign Secretary Bashir said "My expectations are that we should be working towards continued engagement." "Where there is dialogue, both raise issues of concern to them. This is particularly true of India and Pakistan since 1947". Media quoted unnamed sources pointing out that Samjhauta Express blasts and Mumbai attacks should not be equated. Pakistan too had declined to raise the pitch on Samjhauta though it felt this was one issue on which India can be pushed.



**258. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the Pakistan T.V.**

**Thimphu, February 8, 2011.**

**PTV:** Madam, thank you very much for your time. What is the future of Pak-India relations?

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** I do not have a crystal ball in front of me. I am not a fortune-teller. But if you are asking me what is the future I would like for India-Pakistan relations it is that I would like a future in which Indian children and Pakistani children can look forward to a life of peace and good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

**PTV:** People are looking at the Foreign Secretary talks between you and Mr. Salman Bashir and they are thinking what you have decided. Foreign Secretary: Obviously the media would want to know what we have decided and when the time is ripe you will be informed also about what the outcomes are. But let me tell you that the discussion I had with Mr. Salman Bashir in Thimphu was extremely positive. It was useful, it was constructive.

**PTV:** Madam, are Kashmir, water related issues and all these are part of the dialogue?

**Foreign Secretary:** All outstanding issues are part of the dialogue including what you have just said.

**PTV:** Madam, India has not yet shared investigation of Samjhauta incident with Pakistan. Would you like to comment on it? Foreign Secretary: Yes, I will certainly comment on it. The investigation into the Samjhauta blast is ongoing. I know that your Spokesman has made some comments on this. I want to say that we are a law-abiding country, and justice will be done. Those responsible for perpetrating this crime - this is an act of terrorism that happened and we condemn all acts of terrorism - whoever is responsible for it, would be dealt with. So, please understand that as a law-abiding country, as a country that is very proud of its democratic institutions, that is the way we look at it. The investigation process is on and when that is complete and we are ready to share relevant evidence with Pakistan we will do so. Our Home Minister has himself said that.

**PTV:** Madam, what is your message for those people in India and Pakistan who want peace and stability in the region and friendship between the two countries?

**Foreign Secretary:** For those people in India and Pakistan who want peace, who want good neighbourly relations, and who want dialogue between the two countries I will say - May their tribe increase! PTV: Thank you very much, Madam.



**259. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with the TV channel 'Times Now'.**

**Thimphu, February 8, 2011.**

**Times Now (Ms. Prema Sridevi):** Madam. Both India and Pakistan have said that the talks have been successful, the talks have been fruitful. Now, the next step. How are you going to take the talks forward?

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** We intend to remain in touch in the near term to decide on the sequence of steps that we need to take before the visit of Foreign Minister Qureshi. So, that is the work that we will be engaged in. This is a result-oriented process. We definitely want to engage, each side wants to engage the other, to talk about the outstanding issues in the relationship. And as the two Prime Ministers spoke about in Thimphu last year, we want to reduce the trust deficit and create an atmosphere of better confidence and a more positive environment in which we can discuss the outstanding issues as well as the nitty-gritty. Essentially we are going to roll up our sleeves and we are going to get to work.

**Times Now:** As far as India is concerned, what are the primary concerns going to be this time?

**Foreign Secretary:** There are lots of concerns about the relationship. There are primary concerns obviously as they relate to terrorism. Pakistan will seek to define it in another way. They will talk, they have been talking about Kashmir. Each side may look at it from a certain angle. But I think what is the take away from the talks that we have had in Thimphu this time is that we are prepared to look at the issues and engage with each other in a comprehensive manner looking at all the issues. No issue will be left out of the dialogue.

**Times Now:** As far as 26/11 is concerned, what is India's main concern going to be, what is India going to really ask Pakistan this time?

**Foreign Secretary:** 26/11 is obviously a very important issue on which certain answers have been sought from Pakistan and certain evidence has been sought from Pakistan and there is an ongoing trial of the accused in Pakistan that we want to see finished and justice to be done. So, this is an ongoing communication between the two sides. We have been exchanging notes about it. They have asked to send a Judicial Commission. We have said we would like to send a Commission also because we also have a very legitimate interest in seeking more information and evidence and details about this whole conspiracy behind the Mumbai attacks. So, we hope to see some results out of this. Obviously the people of India are looking very anxiously at this whole process because naturally we need closure on this, we need satisfactory closure, we need for Pakistan to recognise the fact that India's concerns are not rhetorical, certainly not. This is not about rhetoric. This is about the lives that have been lost, victims of terrorism, people whose lives have changed because of what happened in Mumbai. So, we owe it to them to get results.

**Times Now:** As far as Pakistan is concerned, we have been asking more information as to what India has been doing regarding the Samjhauta blast probe. Now, what is India going to give back to Pakistan in terms of investigation, in terms of evidences, in terms of more details as far as Samjhauta blast is concerned?

**Foreign Secretary:** On the Samjhauta blast probe, we have told Pakistan that this is an ongoing investigation. There is a challan that has been now filed and there is an investigation that is going on. At this moment obviously we cannot share anything because the investigation is ongoing. But once the investigation is complete we would, and Home Minister Mr. Chidambaram has said that, be in a position to share whatever relevant evidence there is with Pakistan. So, Pakistan understands that position. I have explained it to Foreign Secretary Bashir also.

**Times Now:** Also, people like Hafiz Saeed had recently held a Kashmir solidarity day where anti-India slogans were shouted. How is India seeing this? Are you also going to raise concerns on people with such backgrounds being given a platform in Pakistan to air their views against India? Do you think this is really going to augur well as far as bilateral relations between both the countries concerned?

**Foreign Secretary:** You have to understand that Hafiz Saeed is not my interlocutor and he can never be an interlocutor on the India-Pakistan relationship. I think intelligent people on both sides understand that, and I think you should also understand that. You are creating a larger than life figure out

of an inconsequential person. And there is no point in giving him the oxygen of publicity.

**Times Now:** Pakistan Foreign Affairs Spokesperson had said that India is using terror as propaganda against Pakistan. Yesterday we spoke to Pakistan Foreign Secretary regarding those comments. We asked his comments on it and he said whatever the Spokesperson had said is in line with what Pakistan has been saying all through about. How do you see that statement?

**Foreign Secretary:** Obviously he has to defend his Spokesperson. He is not going to come before television and criticise his Spokesperson. Be realistic, be real as the slang goes. But the fact is that we have explained our position very clearly on Samjhauta and they understand that position also. I am not going to comment on what the Spokesperson said. Perhaps it should not have been said on the eve of talks such as this. But understand also that on both sides we should not try and kill this process. This is a process that we are trying to revive. It has been in a somewhat moribund state for some time now. We are trying to revive it. Let it learn to breathe on its own a little. And we will have to be very careful and take very calibrated steps as we move forward. And we must understand that there have been many shadows on this relationship. There has been a period of darkness in this relationship. Now we are trying to see how we can chart a course forward, chart a way forward. And I think peace-loving people in both countries, and I am sure Times Now is also a peace-loving constituent as far as we are concerned, would wish us well.

**Times Now:** Pakistan Foreign Minister did not come for these talks. We were given to understand that MoS instead would be coming and he also did not turn up. Do you think that Pakistan was inadequately represented as far as these talks are concerned? **Foreign Secretary:** I think they are having a cabinet reshuffle in Pakistan and apparently that is why there was no Ministerial representation. In Nepal also the cabinet is being formed. So, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and the Foreign Secretary of Nepal were representing their respective governments. This is not unusual in multilateral events.

**Times Now:** My last question. You are going to the US. Regarding Tri Valley, there are so many students who are again suffering, lot of students are still having radio tags on them.

**Foreign Secretary:** Eighteen students.

**Times Now:** Yes. What are you going to do about that?

**Foreign Secretary:** Are you asking me whether I am going there to free those students?

**Times Now:** Are you really going to do anything to help those students? Are you going to take it up?

**Foreign Secretary:** Obviously I will discuss this issue with the State Department. We have periodic consultations with the US State Department, with my counterpart Under Secretary Bill Burns. I am looking forward to these meetings. This is not a single-issue relationship, I am sure you understand that. We have a very important strategic and global partnership with the United States. We have had a very successful visit of President Obama to India. We want to build on those understandings. We have a very large Indian community in the United States that is doing extremely well, that has brought pride and glory to India. So, we must celebrate these affirmatives in the relationship also.

The Tri Valley episode is an unfortunate episode and it has involved some very unscrupulous individuals who ran this racket, this so-called university, and attracted very innocent, hapless, unsuspecting students to study there. So, this whole thing has now, the fact that this was illegal and the fact that our students have been duped is now known to all. So, there is an investigation which the immigration and customs enforcement authorities in US are engaged in at the moment. You must understand that there are certain laws in every country. The US is a democracy just like us. They are a country governed by the rule of law. Their laws would apply in this case also.

Radio-tagging as far as we are concerned, there is a cultural disconnect. It seems very alien, very foreign to us when somebody is walking round with that monitor on their ankles. So, I wish that had not happened. But the US authorities tell us that this is something that they do, they have been doing it in other cases also. That is where the matter rests. There is an investigation going on and obviously we cannot seek to interfere in that process, please understand that. I will not be able to wave a magic wand when I go to Washington and see that the whole investigation is tied up and everything is set at rest. That is not going to happen, let us be realistic, let us be pragmatic. But I will represent to the US Government that we are concerned that this has happened, and there are many youngsters - I am not just talking of the 18 who are radio-tagged, there are over a thousand young people - whose lives have been affected by that. What about their future? Where can they be adjusted? Will they get admitted to other legitimate universities since they went with correct documentation? They were not illegal immigrants. That should be understood. They went with all the right visas and documents. So, our expectation and our effort will be to convey and to impress upon the US authorities that something should be done to help these students who are basically innocent.



**260. Interaction of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao with Media at Thimphu.**

**February 8, 2011,**

**Question:** Ma'am you held talks with your Pak counterpart on 6th. We have seen the brief statement. What next?

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** Somebody in the Pakistani press said 'something old, something borrowed, something new'. Anyway, what next? Obviously we are looking at Foreign Minister Qureshi's visit to India and how we set the stage for that visit and the kind of preparations that we need to make. Essentially as you would have seen from the press statement, we had a good meeting, we had a useful meeting, a constructive meeting. We discussed how to take the dialogue process forward, that this is the best way forward, and how to chart the course ahead. So, let me put it this way. In the next few months things are not going to remain dormant obviously. There will be activity.

**Question:** So, it is no more step by step, it is now full blown, is it?

**Foreign Secretary:** That is simplistic to say that. We can do one thing at a time. We are not multi-armed. Whatever we do, whatever meeting we have, we will have one meeting, we will have another meeting, it will be like that. There will be a sort of a sequence.

**Question:** So, first is Home Secretaries meeting.

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not saying that. But obviously let us put it like this. Let us not get mechanical. India-Pakistan relations is not like Mechano or something that you are putting together. But there are issues to be discussed, put it this way. And when you say all outstanding issues are going to be discussed, you will obviously have to discuss every outstanding issue. Therefore, who discusses the outstanding issues? There are number of stakeholders. Number of government departments would be concerned. So, it has to be a comprehensive exercise, put it that way.

**Question:** So, under composite dialogue various Secretaries would be meeting.

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not going to get stuck in terminology.

**Question:** Not terminology, but various Secretaries would be meeting.

**Foreign Secretary:** When we had the meeting in February last year, you remember when I briefed the press, and even in June we said that there are steps that we could take, confidence building measures, addressing the trust deficit, promoting better people-to-people exchanges, making it easier for trade

and business exchanges, dealing with the subject of terrorism and the counter-terrorism measures that you need to put in place, narcotics, trade across the LOC which is ongoing as you know where you have to talk about how to facilitate this trade in a better fashion so that it becomes easier to transact this trade. So, we have a lot of issues. Then there is Sir Creek, then the issue of Siachen, then Jammu and Kashmir, peace and security, then the promotion of friendly exchanges that is promotion of people-to-people exchanges, let us put it that way. So, there is a lot of activity, a lot of interaction that had been in a sense put in abeyance for many months now. So, the intention from both sides is to resume this process. I am being as frank as I can under the circumstances. I do not want to say more. You will understand my constraints.

**Question:** All the issues that you have mentioned are part of composite dialogue also.

**Foreign Secretary:** 'What is in a name?' as they say.

**Question:** But will it smell as sweet?

**Foreign Secretary:** You know your Shakespeare. You know, roses always come with thorns.

**Question:** Any idea about how soon the visit by Qureshi will take place? Have they made any commitments on the dates?

**Foreign Secretary:** We have to decide mutually what the dates would be. The idea is we should prepare for the visit properly and we should have the right atmosphere, we should be able to build a little more confidence, there should have been more interaction. So, I suppose by the middle of the year. I think probably your people were saying that since there is no date, it means that there is some hassle or there is some complication. There really is nothing.

**Question:** They have just said that they have not made any commitments on the date.

**Foreign Secretary:** But Mr. Bashir also said that his Minister was looking forward to this visit and it is very much on the cards. I know at some stage Mr. Qureshi has been talking that I do not want to come for a photo op. Neither do we want a photo op obviously. India-Pakistan relations are not about photo opportunities. They are about real, hard issues which need to be discussed. So, let us not have any illusions either. We should not be assuming that we have solved everything and everything is fine. We should understand that this discussion, this dialogue between the two sides is going to be a long one, and it will take time for issues to be resolved. The difficulty levels also should not be underestimated. I know, all of you do not do that. You all know the subject through and through, perhaps as well as we do.

**Question:** Are there any firsts in the list which are the issues?

**Foreign Secretary:** You want to extract confessions from me but I am not going to say anything. But an issue like terrorism obviously concerns us. And Pakistan, let me tell you, said it is equally important for them. It is not like they said, why do you talk about terrorism. They said it is equally important for them, they also want to discuss this. So, I do not think there is any problem about discussing counter-terrorism.

**Question:** Did you get any sense whether the Army is involved. Last time in July everything was going well. Last moment, things went wrong. Is the Army involved?

**Foreign Secretary:** What I was told was that all institutions of the Pakistan Government are supportive of dialogue with India.

**Question:** In sequencing issues like peace and security, Siachen, they all come at the last stage?

**Foreign Secretary:** It is a ladder you have to climb.

**Question:** But we can say dialogue is back on track.

**Foreign Secretary:** Yesterday I said when the time is ripe to have that, it will be done. There will be a sequence. And you know the things that need to be done quickly will be done first and the things that need more preparation will be done a little later. But we hope to have all this well in place before Mr. Qureshi's visit. That is as much as I can say.

**Question:** Madam, will Afghanistan be an issue that can be discussed and some sort of common ground found?

**Foreign Secretary:** Why not? One of the ideas that came up was that why should we be just stuck with discussing these issues, why cannot we discuss more issues? Why cannot we discuss cooperation in the United Nations for instance? Why cannot we discuss the situation in our region?

**Question:** But UN, we cooperate quite a lot.

**Foreign Secretary:** On many issues. But in an institutionalised way, in a structured way why do not we do that? Even on Afghanistan, Afghanistan is a neighbour of Pakistan, is a neighbour of India. Rightfully speaking, I mean if things were absolutely normal, nobody should quarrel with the idea that both of us should be concerned about what happens in Afghanistan. And if there is scope for us to cooperate in Afghanistan to help the people of Afghanistan and to bring stability in Afghanistan, why not contemplate the issue. Nothing should be ruled out I think.



**Question:** But do we have any common interest? I know we want stability and all that. Pakistan wants a clout there and to reduce our presence.

**Foreign Secretary:** Let me only tell you when we discussed it what I was told is that Pakistan also wants stability in Afghanistan, they do not want extremism, they are against radicalism, and they would like Afghanistan's independence to be preserved, and without any interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. And if you look at the principles, those principles are principles that we all talk about including India.

**Question:** Madam, in July 2010 Pakistan came with this all-or-nothing approach which led to whatever that happened there. This time in the talks on Sunday have you noticed any shift in their position as far as dealing with politically sensitive issues are concerned? Like are they still insisting on having a timeline for discussing these issues?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think we got into that sort of a bind about timelines. The idea was we will set in motion a process; we will chart a way forward; we will prepare for Mr. Qureshi's visit; and we will engage with each other in a comprehensive way covering all outstanding issues. It was done like that. So, in a way we do not know why in July on their side there was some string that snapped. That is all I can say. It is like you are playing an instrument and some string snapped.

**Question:** On the last day.

**Foreign Secretary:** On the last day. Let us put that behind us. Even EAM, when he spoke to Mr. Bashir said we could have done so much if we had agreed at that time. In June the Foreign Secretaries had essentially worked out a very good sort of way forward. But anyway let us move forward now. Let us not look behind.

**Question:** Madam, did they raise the Samjhauta blast and Hindu terror?

**Foreign Secretary:** They talked about Samjhauta and said that they would also be interested in knowing what happens about the investigation.

**Question:** What was our response to that?

**Foreign Secretary:** We said there is an investigation ongoing; our Home Minister Mr. Chidambaram had said on record that as and when the investigation is completed - because under our laws until investigation is completed you are not going to be able to share evidence. So, once that is done and whatever relevant evidence is there, we would share it with Pakistan because a number of Pakistanis died in that blast. So, Pakistan government has been asking us about it.

**Question:** Madam, when you say that before Mr. Qureshi comes things would be in place. Do you mean to say that the schedule would have been set or some meetings would have taken place?

**Foreign Secretary:** Some meetings would have taken place. Hopefully you are going to see some activity and you will have enough to write about. So, I need not tell you everything now.

**Question:** About 26/11, what is the progress? They talked about the investigation and trial process and all that. Did they get back to you on the December 17 note which you sent them?

**Foreign Secretary:** Recently, I think February 3, they sent us a response.

**Question:** Could you clarify it?

**Foreign Secretary:** They asked us some questions about our Commission. We wanted to send a Commission. They said on the face of it we do not know under what law and under what provision you want to send this Commission because in their mind, they were asking questions as to why this Commission is being sent. And they have added that if you can let us know the law, regulation under which you want to send this, we could look at it.

**Question:** And what about NIA?

**Foreign Secretary:** That is what some reports are referring to as NIA. But when we spoke to Pakistan, when we communicated the request to Pakistan we said it is a Commission that wants to go. We did not spell out who is going.

**Question:** And their Judicial Commission we had sought certain clarifications. Did they reply on what they would be doing?

**Foreign Secretary:** They have provided some answers to that. But we would like this to be governed by the principle of comity. It is a legal parlance: 'comity', that is reciprocity, respect for each other's laws, jurisprudence. It is there in the OED, you can look it up.

**Question:** Meaning both sides should allow.

**Foreign Secretary:** Reciprocity.

**Question:** There was this comment made by their Foreign Minister yesterday. He gave an interview to Gulf News saying that it is time for India to have a fresh look at the issue and probably it is time also to make Kashmiris a part of the India-Pakistan dialogue. How would you react to that?

**Foreign Secretary:** If you are going to ask me to react to everything they say, there is an audience he is addressing in Pakistan obviously, that is all I can say. As far as we are concerned, when India and Pakistan meet to discuss this there is an established way of dealing with it. We discuss it bilaterally, we discuss it between the Foreign Ministries of the two sides. But we discuss it just between India and Pakistan. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are part of the Indian system. There are two parties involved in this - India and Pakistan. There can be no third party. But while I am answering this I also want to say this that I think all of us I am sure are on the same side on this, and that applies to Pakistan also. We should not kill this process now. So much effort has gone into it. So much hard work has gone into it. Let it be able to breathe a little.

**Question:** Madam, has Samjhauta been a blessing in disguise for the peace process?

**Foreign Secretary:** Has it been a blessing for the peace process? I do not know. It is a difficult question to answer. But the line we have taken, and I have told the Pakistani journalists also, terrorism is terrorism, an act of terrorism wherever it happens is an act of terrorism, period. That is how we look at it.

**Question:** Madam, you said that yesterday that Kashmir was discussed. I just want to know one thing. Are the two sides thinking of something out of the box?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am certainly not at that stage.



**261. Agreed Outcome of India Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks in Thimphu.****February 10, 2011.**

In pursuance of the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, following their meeting in Thimphu in April 2010, the Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan had met in Islamabad in July 2010 to review the current state of the bilateral relationship and discuss steps to promote trust and confidence between the two countries. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Thimphu on February 6, 2011 to carry forward this process. They briefed their respective Governments. The two sides have agreed on the following:

- (i) They have agreed to resume dialogue on all issues following the spirit of the Thimphu meeting between the two Prime Ministers.
- (ii) The Foreign Minister of Pakistan will visit India by July 2011 to review progress in the dialogue process with his counterpart. This will be preceded by a meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries.
- (iii) They have agreed that prior to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, meetings at the level of respective Secretaries will be convened on Counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial); Humanitarian issues; Peace & Security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; promotion of friendly exchanges; Siachen; Economic issues; Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; and Sir Creek (at the level of Additional Secretaries/Surveyors General).
- (iv) Dates of the aforementioned meetings will be fixed through diplomatic channels.



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The agreement was reached during a 90-minute meeting between Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao and her Pakistani counterpart Salman Bashir in Thimphu on 6th February on the sidelines of SAARC meeting. The details were revealed on 10th February after both sides had briefed their governments. Media reports said that the Secretary-level talks would as in the past be held on eight subjects.

The subjects on which talks were counter-terrorism (progress in Mumbai trial included), humanitarian issues, peace and security, including confidence building measures, Jammu and Kashmir, promotion of friendly exchanges, Siachen, economic issues and the Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project. The issue of Sir Creek would be discussed at the level of Additional Secretaries or Surveyors-General.

Speaking to the media in Thimphu, Ms. Rao hinted at the talks incorporating a new subject - Afghanistan. "Why not? One of the ideas that came up was that why should we be just stuck with discussing these issues, why cannot we discuss more issues? Why

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cannot we discuss the situation in our region," Ms. Rao said when asked whether both sides were prepared to discuss coordination of positions on Afghanistan.

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir briefing the journalists on return to Islamabad said in Islamabad that the resumption of "full spectrum dialogue" with India, was a "significant breakthrough" with implications beyond the bilateral relationship. The process - which he described as 'Work in Progress' - would begin in March with a series of "carefully sequenced meetings" on all issues over the next three months, leading to a review meeting at the Ministerial level. Factoring in the skepticism triggered by similar thaws in the past which ended in the deep-freezer, Mr. Bashir sought to toe a pragmatic line, stating that while the two countries were dealing with difficult and complex issues, it was important to show that both had the ability to work through them. "It requires patience, responsibility and political will."

As to why the Samjhauta Express blast and Indian role in the turmoil in Balochistan was not included in the segment on counter-terrorism in the document on the outcome of the meeting - particularly since the Mumbai terror attack was mentioned - he said: "It is in our interest to have a special focus on Mumbai under the rubric of counter-terrorism." Stating that communication between the two countries on the issue was voluminous enough to build an archive, he added that if inclusion of Mumbai provided a degree of comfort to the Indians, then so be it. "That does not prevent us from raising our concerns.... We have nothing to hide. We want to expose the reality behind terrorism..."

To a question on whether Pakistan was open to the Indian suggestion to include Afghanistan-related issues in bilateral dialogue, Mr. Bashir noted that the worst thing that can happen to Afghanistan and this region is if Indo-Pak rivalry was super-imposed on an already volatile country. Asked to identify the difference between this thaw in bilateral relations and earlier spells of warmth, he indicated that the attempt this time was to look for common denominators without compromising on national interest. A recurrent thought that he articulated pertained to impact of Indo-Pak relations on regional stability at a time when the centre of gravity in geo-politics is shifting to the greater Asian region. Stating that the resolution of the Kashmir issue as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people was crucial for a self-propelling peace process, he refused to be drawn into commenting on Indian remarks that the geography of the sub-continent would not change. "We will deal with it when we talk on this issue."

**262. Official Spokesperson on remarks by Pak Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee report.**

**New Delhi, February 25, 2011.**

In response to a question the spokesperson said:

"We have seen remarks made by the Spokesperson of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee report "Avoiding water wars: Water Scarcity and Central Asia's Growing importance for stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan".

The Indus Waters Treaty is an example of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, which has withstood the test of time for the past fifty years. India has always strictly adhered to the provisions of the Treaty, even during times when hostilities have broken out between the two countries.

As we embark on re-engagement between the two countries, it is important that we eschew rhetoric that does not create a conducive environment for a comprehensive, sustained and serious dialogue."



**263. Invitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Pakistan President Zardari and Prime Minister Gilani inviting them to watch Mohali cricket match of the World Cup series between India and Pakistan at Mohali.**

**New Delhi, March 25, 2011.**

**Letter to President Zardari-**

"I propose to be at Mohali to watch the World Cup semi-final match between India and Pakistan to be held on 30th March. There is huge excitement over the match and we are all looking forward to a great game of cricket, that will be a victory for sport. It gives me great pleasure to invite you to visit Mohali and join me and the millions of fans from our two countries to watch the match."

**Letter to Prime Minister Gilani-**

"I propose to be at Mohali to watch the World Cup semi-final match between India and Pakistan to be held on 30th March. There is huge excitement over the match and we are all looking forward to a great game of cricket, that will be a victory for sport. It gives me great pleasure to invite you and your gracious wife to visit Mohali and join me, my wife and the millions of fans from our two countries to watch the match."



**264. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs unilaterally extending period of stay in J & K to six months.**

**New Delhi, March 26, 2011.**

At present, the validity of the entry permit is for four weeks and the Designated Authorities for cross-LoC travel (Passport Office, Srinagar and Passport Office, Jammu) extend the stay period by another two weeks. Based on the recommendation of the Government of J & K, Ministry of External Affairs extends the stay for a further period of two weeks in certain cases such as health or family emergencies.

To encourage more people to people contacts across the Line of Control(LOC), Government of India has unilaterally decided to increase the stay period for the persons visiting Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan occupied Kashmir to six months with multiple entries.



**265. Joint Statement issued following India-Pakistan Home/Interior Secretary level talks.**

**New Delhi, March 29, 2011.**

1. The India-Pakistan Home/Interior Secretary level Talks were held in New Delhi on March 28-29, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Gopal K. Pillai, Home Secretary of India, while the Pakistan delegation was headed by Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhary, Interior Secretary of Pakistan.
2. The meeting was held in pursuance of the decision taken in Thimphu (Bhutan) in February 2011 by the Governments of Pakistan and India, to resume the dialogue process and in the backdrop of Bilateral meeting between the Home Minister of India and the Interior Minister of Pakistan held in Islamabad on June 25-26, 2010.
3. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.
4. Both sides exchanged views on the decisions taken in the last round of Talks held in Islamabad in 2008. It was agreed that it was important for both sides to remain engaged on outstanding issues and henceforth the Home/Interior Secretary level Talks would be held bi-annually.
5. Both sides agreed to set up a Hotline between Home Secretary of India and Interior Secretary of Pakistan to facilitate real time information sharing with respect to terrorist threats.
6. Both sides reiterated their commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed the need to bring those responsible for such crimes to justice.
7. Pakistani side provided updates on the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan on the Mumbai Terror Attacks. Pakistan conveyed its readiness, in principle, based upon the principle of comity and reciprocity, to entertain a Commission from India with respect to Mumbai Terror Attack investigations. Modalities and composition in this connection will be worked out through diplomatic channels. Dates for the visit of the Judicial Commission from Pakistan in connection with Mumbai attack trial will be conveyed by India within four-six weeks. NIA and FIA will continue to cooperate in the Mumbai Terror Attack investigations.
8. India provided information on the on-going Samjhautha Express blast case investigation. It was also agreed that after filing of report in the court, updated information will be shared with the concerned Pakistan authorities.
9. Both sides noted and welcomed the release of prisoners and fishermen by each other since the last round of Talks. It was agreed that both sides would release



by April 15, 2011 those civilian prisoners/fishermen who have completed their sentence, whose nationality status has been confirmed by the respective Governments and whose travel documents have been received. Complete list of prisoners in each others' custody will be exchanged by both sides on July 1, 2011.

10. Both sides agreed that the problem and issues of the inadvertent crossers should be viewed sympathetically, and in a focused and sensitive manner. Accordingly, both sides also agreed to task the Coast Guard of India and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to work on setting up a mechanism for release of inadvertent crossers (fishermen) and their boats on the same lines as the inadvertent crossers on land. The Group will submit its report to the Home/Interior Secretaries before the next round of Talks.

11. Both sides commended the work done by the Judicial Committee on Prisoners for the release, repatriation and humane treatment of prisoners and agreed on the need for its continuation. The next meeting of the Judicial Committee would be held from April 19-23, 2011 in Pakistan.

12. Both sides shared the concern of the growing menace of Narcotics/Drugs and agreed that cooperation between NCB of India and ANF of Pakistan should be enhanced to ensure an effective control on drug trafficking. It was further agreed that Talks between DG, NCB and DG ANF would be held annually. Indian side accepted the invitation for DG NCB to visit Pakistan in May 2011 for talks with DG ANF.

13. The MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs/Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and related matters' as finalized will be formally signed at the next DG level meeting of NCB-ANF in May 2011.

14. It was decided that CBI and FIA will schedule a meeting to work out the technical details of moving forward on issues of, human trafficking, counterfeit currency, cyber crimes and Red Corner Notices (RCNs).

15. Both sides agreed to set up a Joint Working Group to examine the modalities for streamlining the visa procedure/modalities and for giving a final shape to revision of the Bilateral Visa Agreement.

16. The Interior Secretary of Pakistan invited the Home Secretary of India for the next Home/Interior Secretary level Talks in Pakistan. The invitation was accepted.

17. Both sides agreed that the visit of the Interior Minister of Pakistan to India will take place on mutually convenient dates, to be decided through diplomatic channels.



**266. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs condemning tragic assassination of Pak Federal Minister Shahbaz Bhatti.**

**New Delhi, March 2, 2011.**

We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, the people and the Government of Pakistan on the tragic assassination\* of H.E. Shahbaz Bhatti, Federal Minister of Minority Affairs of Pakistan. We condemn this dastardly crime. In this difficult hour, our prayers and thoughts are with the bereaved family and the people of Pakistan.

The spokesman was referring to the assassination of Pak Minister reportedly on account of his liberal views and efforts to amend the blasphemy laws.



**267. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the media on the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani.**

**Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.**

I am very grateful to Prime Minister Gilani for having accepted my invitation to join me in watching this beautiful game of cricket. Cricket has been a uniting factor, it has brought our two Prime Ministers together and I dare say that's a very good beginning. Whatever be the differences between our two countries we have to find pathways to resolve them. And Gilani Sahib and I have had extensive discussions on all outstanding issues and we have reaffirmed our resolve that there are difficulties on the way but we will make every honest effort to overcome those difficulties. And the message from Mohali is that the people of India and Pakistan want to live in peace and amity and that the two Prime Ministers have committed their Governments to work in that direction.



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\* The spokesman was referring to the assassination of Pak Minister reportedly on account of his liberal views and efforts to amend the blasphemy laws.

## 268. Statements by Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan.

### Chandigarh/Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.

**Pakistan Prime Minister:** *Fist of all I want to thank the Prime Minister for invitings to watch the cricket match. We watched both the teams playing. All the people of both the countries enjoyed watching them play. It is a game. I think apart from winning orlosing a game, this victory has been for the game of cricket.*

*This is a victory of both the countries. It provided us an opportunity to the two countries to gather together and talks on its sideline. We had an opportunity to talk and talk on all the issues and it is our determination to resolve all the issues. I also congratulate the Prime Minister for resuming the composite dialogue. It was a promise at Thimphu. It is the Thimphu spirit the the talks between the Home Secretaries, which were held yesterday had been a great success and sent out a good message.*

*By the grace of God next month next month Commerce Secretaries will meet and this way eight rounds will be completed and then the foreign ministers will meet. We want that both the countries resolve their problems themselves. We do not want that we are not able to resolve our issues. We have the ability and capacity to resolve our all issues. By the Grace of God talks have been held on all our issues and Prime Minister has been magnanimous to say that we are all prepared to resolve our issues by ourselves. We want that a positive message should go from both our countries. Our common enemies are poverty, hunger, disease, unemployment. Lack of development, and infrastructure-we should give our attention to these problems . By the Grace of God, the Prime Minister's attitude to our problems is that, and he said this earlier also, that we both want our issues to be resolved, so that both the countries prosper and progress leading to development.*

(The text is an unofficial translation of Urdu speech)

**Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh:** I am very grateful to Prime Minister Gilani for having accepted my invitation to join me in watching this beautiful game of cricket. Cricket has been a uniting factor, it has brought our two Prime Ministers together and I dare say that's a very good beginning. Whatever be the differences between our two countries we have to find pathways to resolve them. And Gilani sahib and I have had extensive discussions on all outstanding issues and we have reaffirmed our resolve that there are difficulties on the way but we will make every honest effort to overcome those difficulties. And the message from Mohali is that the people of India and Pakistan want to live in

peace and amity and that the two prime ministers have committed their government to work in that direction.

**Pakistan Prime Minister:** And I have invited Dr Manmohan Singh and Madam Sonia Gandhi to visit Pakistan.



**269. Media briefing by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on talks between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan while watching the India - Pak Cricket Match.**

**Chandigarh/Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening. As you are aware, at the invitation of Hon. Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan arrived today morning. Both Prime Ministers watched the match together. PM also hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting dignitary. Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao is here to brief you about the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan, as also the exchange of views, the discussions between the two Prime Ministers. I would also like to introduce our High Commissioner to Islamabad, Mr. Sharad Sabharwal, who has joined the Foreign Secretary.

I will request Foreign Secretary to make an opening statement and thereafter she will take a few questions. She has just fifteen minutes for this interaction. So, you please bear with us.

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** Thank you, Vishnu.

I know all of you are following the cricket match and the excitement surrounding it. I wanted to say that our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan have had a very wide-ranging conversation today on various issues that are of relevance to the relations between India and Pakistan. I think it would be fair to say that just as we spoke of a Thimphu spirit last April when the two Prime Ministers met on the margins of the SAARC Summit, it would be appropriate to say that there is today a Mohali spirit that pervades our relationship and that this is an extremely positive and encouraging spirit that has been generated as a result of today's meeting.

As I said, this was a wide-ranging conversation and it took place against the backdrop of what is a sporting contact, a cricket match between our two countries. And indeed sporting contacts such as this epitomise the essence of

people-to-people exchange and the spirit of a good game, a constructive - it may be a competitive game but it is also a constructive game, it has a constructive spirit that surrounds it. It truly is cricket, to use that phrase. So, as I said, sporting contacts epitomise in many senses the substance, the essence of people-to-people contact between two countries such as ours. And I think they contribute a great deal to cementing understanding and friendship between the two countries.

In their conversation today the two Prime Ministers also spoke about the importance of such exchanges as those between the parliamentarians of the two countries. The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha have invited their counterparts in Pakistan to send a parliamentary delegation to India. This we believe also can be an extremely good channel of friendly exchange between the two countries, and will help in many ways contribute to strengthening dialogue between two democracies such as ours. And across the political spectrum I think it contributes to better understanding.

As you know, a dialogue process has been set in motion between India and Pakistan after a certain interregnum. The Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan have just concluded a very positive round of discussions. There are a number of issues flowing from that meeting which we intend to follow up on, and that will in a sense also generate a positive momentum. The Commerce Secretaries of the two countries will meet the next month -in April- in Islamabad. This will be followed by a series, a sequence of other meetings including those between our Surveyors General, our Defence Secretaries. We will also of course have the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries. I will meet with my counterpart towards the middle of this year. And this will be followed by the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

So, I think we have begun this year, 2011, with a very positive agenda of contact and exchange between India and Pakistan. It is a good augury for the future. And indeed the meeting of our two leaders here in Mohali today has once again reaffirmed the intention of both Governments to take forward the process of dialogue because dialogue is a process through which we can understand each other better, through which we can resolve outstanding issues, and the goal of this dialogue is normalisation of relations, a pervasive and a more permanent process of normalisation in an uninterrupted manner.

Thank you and I will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** India Pak dialogue has been hostage to the issue of terror. Do you think that the dialogue process has really crossed that hurdle now and we can have a sustained dialogue irrespective of the progress on the terror issue?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would like to emphasise that in the course of the dialogue that we have commenced with Pakistan and indeed even in the meeting that the two Prime Ministers had today, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reiterated, let me say this, reiterated the need for an atmosphere free of violence and terror in order to enable the true normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan; and let me also add that Prime Minister Gilani shared this sentiment. So, I think you must put all this in proper context.

**Question:** *on nature of the conversation*

**Foreign Secretary:** The two Prime Ministers were here to watch the semi-finals of the World Cup, as you know, between India and Pakistan. And as I said, they had a wide-ranging conversation. These were not talks, if you were to look at it in the orthodox sense of the word, it was a wide-ranging conversation in which they touched upon a number of issues of relevance to the relationship.

**Question:** On impact of the meeting between both PMs

**Foreign Secretary:** I think every such meeting between the leaders of the two countries generates an extremely positive momentum. And when we speak of dialogue, I have been using the word reengagement several times over and I would like to emphasise that this is reengagement between India and Pakistan. But the political level contact and the leadership level meetings between the two countries and the understanding that is generated as a result has a very positive impact on the relationship.

**Question:** On desirability of sporting contacts.

**Foreign Secretary:** I would like to emphasise that both Prime Ministers, and in fact at the dinner just now, both the Prime Ministers spoke to the guests present. And one of the points that they emphasised was how good sporting contacts can be between the two countries and once they are resumed the positive impact that they will create for generation of better understanding. So, definitely we would like to see sporting contacts between the two countries resumed. In fact, Prime Minister Gilani also mentioned that it would be very nice if our cricket team could go across to Pakistan and play the Pakistan side in a match in Pakistan.

**Question:** Madam, did Prime Minister Gilani extend an invitation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to visit Pakistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes, he did extend an invitation to our Prime Minister to visit Pakistan. It was at the dinner when Prime Minister Gilani spoke about this and I am sure that this will need to be discussed and finalised through diplomatic channels. But as I said, an exchange of visits between leaders, more contact,

more dialogue, more conversations of this nature, are in themselves a very very positive phenomenon.

**Question:** You mentioned the wide-ranging conversation. Could you specify some of the issues that were touched upon in this conversation?

**Foreign Secretary:** I want to emphasise one aspect in this. I think what came across, the sense that all of us got who were present at this very important occasion was that as two neighbours India and Pakistan have to engage with each other directly in order to seek cooperative solutions to the problems that confront the two countries; that there are challenges and there are opportunities. And what are the challenges and opportunities? I think the focus was on development, on economic growth, on trade, on access to technology, on health, on education, all the issues that concern the future of people in both these countries, and that we should seek a cooperative strategy, a cooperative set of solutions to confronting the challenges that we are faced with and that we should avail of the opportunities before us to enable us to confront these challenges.

**Question:** Has any regional issue been discussed?

**Foreign Secretary:** Not to the best of my knowledge. Of course, I have not had a read-out on the entire range of issues that were discussed. But they did speak of how India and Pakistan can develop cooperative solutions to the problems that confront both our region and in the global sense also. They talked about developments in the Middle-East. Both India and Pakistan have large numbers of our people who work in the Middle-East, who earn a livelihood in the Middle-East, and therefore, instability and turbulence in that region affects our people. Therefore, India and Pakistan need to be also talking to each other about these sorts of issues.

**Question:** *It is a straight question. Have we forgotten 26/11 or what happened in India or it is all behind us? Since, now we have started talking at the level of Commerce, Foreign and Home Secretaries, has India forgotten 26/11?*

**Foreign Secretary:** *No, you cannot say we have left behind 26/11. I think, as I mentioned earlier, our Prime Minister had said that it is very important that there should be an atmosphere free of terrorism and violence, if genuine normalisation is to be achieved between the two countries. In the talks that were held between the Home secretaries we raised the question of 26/11 and we have repeated that in the on-going trial and investigations that it is very important that the evidence is scrutinised properly and that those responsible are brought to justice. So, it is very important that there should be proper closure. Now proper closure does not mean that we set it aside or we have brushed it under the carpet. Not at all!*

(The text in italics is translation from Hindi)

**Question:** Has a date been agreed to for PM's visit to Pakistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** Not any immediate date that I can convey to you at this moment. But I think the intention is to stay in touch to keep up the contact. And as the dialogue process develops, I think there will be further directions from the leadership level naturally to impart positive momentum to it.

**Question:** I just wanted to know if there were any areas of difference.

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, they were here to watch the cricket match. They sat together watching it before dinner, and then they had a dinner meeting, that conversation over dinner. And they are back now watching the final moments of the cricket match. So, that really provided the setting and, in a sense, the locale for this meeting today. So, in a sense I would put it this way that the game of cricket provided the impetus for this meeting. And that game and the manner in which it is being played between the two sides I think has set a sort of a very positive trend that a game played well, played in a spirit of sportsmanship, can indeed provide very a good example for how we can expand contact in a number of fields.

**Question:** You were talking of Mohali spirit, you were talking of closure. My question relates to both of these. We in Punjab have been the biggest sufferers of Pak inspired terror? Should we just forget about it?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think your question is an important one. I think the emphasis here is on getting people to reconnect with each other, and that is people in bordering States also of the two countries. The other thing I would like to mention, since you have brought up the issue of Punjab, Prime Minister mentioned in his conversation with Prime Minister Gilani over dinner that one of Prime Minister Gilani's forefathers, Mian Mir, was involved in the setting up of the Golden Temple which is an abode of peace. And I think that is really the signature for this meeting, it is about peace, it is about reconciliation, it is about healing wounds. I think that is the takeaway from this meeting.

**Question:** *Will India play a cricket match in Pak soon?*

**Foreign Secretary:** Please address that to the cricketing authorities. As I said, we are for sporting contact between the two countries, between India and Pakistan.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.





**270. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the dinner hosted in honour of Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani.**

**Mohali (Punjab), March 30, 2011.**

Cricket has become a uniting factor and I think one thing which we can agree is that the sporting links between our two countries should be normalized as early as possible.

We live in the world of great uncertainty. What is happening in the West Asia - no body could imagine only a month or two ago. And all this makes it all the more necessary that India and Pakistan, placed as we are strategically in this region, should both together exchange views and evolve a cooperative strategy on how to deal with the highly uncertain regional and global environment we live in today. It goes without saying that if oil prices rise, if there is unrest in West Asia it would affect both of us, both our countries, enormously as I mentioned to you this afternoon. It is therefore very important that the two countries should increasingly look at all these developments from the point of view of our peoples' needs, their aspirations and how working together we can find cooperative strategies to deal with these massive challenges that we face.

What has happened in Japan is unthinkable - earthquake followed by tsunami and that followed by nuclear tragedy. But in this increasingly integrated world, peace and prosperity are both indivisible. And we are neighbors. Destiny requires that we should find cooperative solutions to all the problems that we face. When we met in Thimpu last year we both agreed that trust deficit is one area where we need to act, and act fast enough, to create a new climate in which cooperative modes of thinking will flourish and take us on the path of progress.

That you have honored me in accepting my invitation to join me in watching this beautiful match, I am very very grateful to you. India and Pakistan face enormous challenges but also enormous opportunities. Our biggest enemy is poverty, ignorance and disease. If we work together to find cooperative solutions, if we do not allow ancient animosities to affect the possibility of working together in the contemporary setting of our region and the world, I dare say we can write a new chapter in the history of development cooperation in this subcontinent of ours.

Prime Minister, we had a very elaborate and extensive exchange of views on all outstanding issues and the message that should go from Mohali is that the Prime Ministers of both countries are agreed that they are determined to find cooperative solutions to all the outstanding issues that we face. If there are difficulties we have the will to persevere, we have the will to overcome.

And in you we have a leader, a Prime Minister who inspires confidence. As I mentioned to you, you come from a family with the great tradition of Saint Miyan Mir who laid the foundation stone of the Golden Temple, the abode of peace. And God has given me this opportunity and I sincerely hope and pray that under your distinguished leadership democracy will flourish in Pakistan. And that we will find peaceful and productive ways of engaging our two countries in the diverse areas which have enormous bearing on the future of our two countries and the wellbeing of our two people.

With these words I once again extend to you a very warm and cordial welcome. Though your stay here is very brief but you would have sensed how the love for sports is some thing which unites the people of our two countries and we should build on that.

And if we have to bridge the trust deficit, it is essential that at all levels we should work together. Political personalities must visit each others countries more often. Official contacts must be increased; civil society contact must be increased. And I am very happy that the presiding officer of our Lok Sabha and the presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha have sent invitations to their counterparts in Pakistan to come and pay a visit. I dare say in moulding the future climate of opinion, parliamentarians have a very crucial role to play. I sincerely hope that parliamentarians from India and Pakistan would set in motion a process of permanent reconciliation between our two countries so that we can realize the aspirations of our people for a life of dignity and self-respect. Once again, my grateful thanks to you sir for accepting my invitation.

permanent reconciliation between our two countries so that we can realize the aspirations of our people for a life of dignity and self respect. Once again many thanks to you, sir, for accepting my invitation.



**271. Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Mr. Karan Thapar for TV Programme 'India Tonight'.**

**New Delhi, April 5, 2011.**

**Interviewer (Shri Karan Thapar):** Hello and welcome to India Tonight. Have Indo-Pakistan relations turned a page and opened a new chapter, or is that the triumph of euphoria and sentiment over substance? That in a sense is the key issue I shall explore today with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

Mrs. Rao, I want to quote to you something that you said after the two Prime Ministers had met at Mohali. According to The Hindu you said, "This is reengagement. It is about peace, it is about healing wounds, it is about reconciliation. It is a good augury for the future". Those are not just positive but very strong words. What do you say to critics who say you may be overegging the pudding?

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** I certainly do not look at it that way. I think the fact that our two Prime Ministers have met at Mohali generated a very positive impact. And I think every such meeting not just builds atmosphere but it also creates a sense of direction, a sense of positive orientation. Now let us look back at Thimphu. They met in Thimphu in April, our two Prime Ministers, and everybody spoke of a Thimphu spirit and the decision to reengage with Pakistan and to create, if I may use a clichéd term, a roadmap for the way forward. And what we sought to do at Mohali and what the two Prime Ministers indeed through their meeting were able to convey was that at the leadership level, there is a sense of commitment to looking at the entire process of India-Pakistan relations, stressing the need for sustained, serious and comprehensive dialogue. And what is the goal of this dialogue you may ask. The goal of this dialogue is normalisation of relations, something that has eluded us for the last sixty years.

**Interviewer:** In that quotation, you spoke about healing wounds. Have the deep wounds of 26/11 been healed; or is it your position that the time has come to move on; or at least to widen the scope of subjects that the two countries discuss with each other? Which of these three is it?

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes and no. I think my answer would bridge both these concepts. The wounds of 26/11 have not healed as yet. I think we would do wrong to the people who lost their lives and the families who continue to grieve as a result of what happened so tragically in Mumbai, if we were to say that 26/11 is behind us. There is an ongoing trial in Pakistan; there are questions still to be answered; there is evidence to be scrutinised; there is need for agencies in both countries to cooperate better in this regard. The Home Secretary of

India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan have just had a good meeting, a positive meeting. So, we are trying to build on that. Obviously the wounds of 26/11 will not heal easily. I think there is sentiment in this country in India and there is grief still which has not died. Let me put it this way. Our grief cannot die when it comes to 26/11. Interviewer: You said, 'Yes and no'. What is the 'yes' side of the answer? You have given me in a sense the 'no' side. What is the 'yes'?

**Foreign Secretary:** The yes side is that, you mentioned it in your question, we have to engage with each other across a wide range of issues that need to be addressed.

**Interviewer:** And that has started.

**Foreign Secretary:** And that is commencing.

**Interviewer:** So, there is a sense in which India is taking a clear, firm step forward. We are moving on.

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes. And as our Prime Minister has said very aptly and he said this a few years ago, there is a road that we need to walk down in this process of normalisation and a road is made by walking and we are beginning that process of walking.

**Interviewer:** Now, the decision to invite the Pakistan Prime Minister to Mohali took everyone by surprise and some newspapers have said that it was a decision taken by the Prime Minister and possibly even the MEA was not onboard when the decision was taken. Is there any truth in that?

**Foreign Secretary:** The decision was obviously the Prime Minister's. And we in MEA, since we in a sense are practitioners of the policy that the Government sets down in this regard, are obviously part of this process.

**Interviewer:** But this was a personal decision of the Prime Minister.

**Foreign Secretary:** It was a decision of the Prime Minister and I think it was a very good and timely and effective decision.

**Interviewer:** Did it take you by surprise?

**Foreign Secretary:** I have always sensed and I have always supported the vision of the Prime Minister about relations with Pakistan, about the need for the two countries to sit down by themselves, India and Pakistan, without assistance from anybody else to have a serious dialogue. So, I think it fitted very well into this process. And it was completely in consonance with the vision that Prime Minister has outlined for India-Pakistan relations.

**Interviewer:** It is in other words a decision that you and your Ministry totally endorse.

**Foreign Secretary:** Absolutely.

**Interviewer:** There is a certain amount of speculation particularly when something as important as this is announced and takes everyone by surprise that perhaps there was western, perhaps in particular American pressure on India to take a decisive step forward to push Indo-Pakistan relations down that road, as you are saying they need to walk together. Was there any sense in which the western world was leaning on us?

**Foreign Secretary:** Not at all. I do not believe there was any leaning on India. Look at it this way. We are not a country that in a sense is influenced by pressure of that sort. I spoke about the conviction that Prime Minister has about this relationship and the path that he would like both countries to take when it comes to normalisation. So, no question of pressure.

**Interviewer:** Let us then come to the actual talk that the two Prime Ministers had at Mohali. As Foreign Secretary, how would you identify the positives of that conversation?

**Foreign Secretary:** The positives of that conversation are basically that now that we have a sequence in terms of meetings that we plan to see completed over the next few months, we must keep in mind that there is a goal here, which as I said is normalisation of relations, that we must be prepared to discuss all the outstanding issues, all the complexities that have in a sense complicated the relationship all these years. And how do we do it? The approach that the Government of India has consistently maintained is that we need a graduated approach, we need to take one issue at a time, and at the same time understand that we have to address a trust deficit in the relationship, that we have to build a better atmosphere in relations between the two countries. And how do we do that? More people-to-people contact, address the humanitarian issues, look at trade, look at the play of market forces, build better connectivity, and very importantly, address the issue of terrorism and violent extremism that has been directed against our citizens from across the border because otherwise alienation trumps friendship.

**Interviewer:** I come to some of the specific subjects that may or may not have been discussed at Mohali but did Pakistan or does Pakistan share your graduated approach? Are they happy with that? Are they reconciled to it, if I can put it like that?

**Foreign Secretary:** When we say graduated approach we have never at any moment said we are shying away from discussing complex issues.

**Interviewer:** That must have reassured them hugely.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think Pakistan understands that position.

**Interviewer:** All right. Let us then come to certain important specific subjects. Was 26/11 specifically and terror in general discussed? If it was, what did the Pakistani Prime Minister say to Dr. Manmohan Singh?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said in my briefing to the media at Mohali, this is a conversation that the two Prime Ministers had while watching the match at Mohali. It was not talks in the orthodox sense of the word. They were able in their conversation to discuss a number of outstanding issues. And the issue of terrorism and the issue of our concerns about violent extremism were raised by our Prime Minister, and they did have a discussion about this issue and the concerns that we have about this.

**Interviewer:** Did you get reassuring responses on terror and 26/11 from Mr. Gilani?

**Foreign Secretary:** The Pakistanis have been saying for some time that they are equally concerned about the threat of terrorism, that it affects them very deeply; and I concede that point. It does affect people in Pakistan today also. But as far as our concerns on terrorism are of relevance in this dialogue, and they are very relevant, we have consistently sought to put across to Pakistan that they must understand the depth of the seriousness and our concern on this issue. And I think that point has been driven home through the series of meetings that we have had with Pakistan in recent months including at this particular meeting.

**Interviewer:** So, you do sense that understanding from the Pakistani side today.

**Foreign Secretary:** I would say there is much more awareness from Pakistan as far as this issue is concerned.

**Interviewer:** The second critical issue obviously would have been Kashmir. Did the two Prime Ministers discuss Kashmir? And this time what did our Prime Minister say to the Pakistani Prime Minister on the subject?

**Foreign Secretary:** Let me put it this way. The issue of Kashmir has triggered conflict between India and Pakistan and we have seen that over the last sixty years. The pages of history have been written on this. And how do we move forward on this? Are we going to be imprisoned by the history of the conflict that has occurred between India Pakistan on this issue, or are we going to see how - despite the dividing lines of history, the political frontiers - we are going to tackle the issue of better relations between the two countries, despite our differences, and even when it comes to Kashmir. Let us look at economic

contact, let us look at people-to-people contact, let us look at more confidence building. There was a process that we began before 26/11. And I think the gains from that process, the confidence that we were to build through that dialogue should not be lost sight of.

**Interviewer:** And did our Prime Minister find that on all these issues related to Kashmir he got warm, encouraging responses from the other side?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the two Prime Ministers have a very good rapport between themselves and the communication flowed easily between the two when they met at Mohali.

**Interviewer:** They could speak freely and openly to each other.

**Foreign Secretary:** I believe so.

**Interviewer:** This is perhaps your third or fourth meeting with Prime Minister Gilani. How do you assess him? What is the view the Indian Government has of Prime Minister Gilani?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, he is an elected representative of his people; he is the Head of Government in Pakistan; and he represents the democratic forces, if one can put it that way, in Pakistan. If you look at Pakistan, of course there are many problems that confront that country. There is endemic violence; there is turbulence; there are economic difficulties. But also there is a vocal judiciary, there is a media that debates very vociferously on a number of issues that concern relations with India, and there are professionals who man the Ministries. And we deal with all of them. That is the outlook that we have on relations with Pakistan at this point of time. But we have expressed our concern all along that even within this scenario there are voices, there are groups, there are individuals in that country that have an agenda, a rather destructive agenda, that speaks of violence and extremism directed against India. And these are the voices that need to be curbed, need to be controlled, if our relations are to really make significant progress.

**Interviewer:** To use the phrase that Dr. Manmohan Singh several years earlier once used to describe General Musharraf, is Mr. Gilani someone you feel in your bones you can do business with?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are certainly engaging the Government of Pakistan at this point of time, and Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have a positive relationship, have good rapport between themselves. And I think all this is a sum of positives.

**Interviewer:** So, that is a yes.

**Foreign Secretary:** That is a yes.

**Interviewer:** What about the military in Pakistan? You know and I know that it is a shadow that lurks over the civilian government; the civilian government itself is pretty weak. This time round, when perhaps a new chapter is opening, does the civilian government in Pakistan have the support of General Qayani, General Pasha and the military establishment? Or once again are you a little concerned that there may be differences between these two?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not believe we underestimate the complexities involved in the relationship. And there is of course the background, the experience that you build up over the years about dealing with a particular country. Now, what the Government of Pakistan tells us and our interlocutors tell us - and we have to basically judge this on the basis of what they tell us and also our assessment of the environment itself in Pakistan - what is conveyed to us is that the policy of dialogue with India to seek a peaceful resolution of outstanding issues is a policy that is the Government of Pakistan's policy and it is a policy that is shared or is endorsed by all the institutions of government including the army. This is the message that we are getting consistently in the last few meetings.

**Interviewer:** So, you believe General Kayani is on board.

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, we can only go by what the Government of Pakistan is telling us at the moment. We do not have any direct dealings with the army of Pakistan.

**Interviewer:** But for now, you are prepared to accept what you are being told.

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, we are preparing to go into a process of dialogue with utmost seriousness and with sincerity.

**Foreign Secretary:** Two quick questions. Many people feel that maybe the time has come for there to be sporting contacts, for an Indian cricket team to visit Pakistan. The last time when Indian cricket team went in 2004, it sort of changed the atmosphere. The ICC President, a Minister in your own Government Sharad Pawar, has publicly said that the ICC would want cricketing contact. Is the Indian Government now prepared for an Indian cricket team to visit and play in Pakistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** An Indian cricket team has been invited by Prime Minister Gilani to go and play in Pakistan. But let me talk about the general issue of sporting contacts. It is not as if sporting contacts were completely fractured between India and Pakistan in the last few years. We have had many many requests and we process them in the Ministry of External Affairs for teams from Pakistan to come here and play hockey matches or kabaddi matches.



**Interviewer:** But we have not gone there.

**Foreign Secretary:** It is not that we have forbidden our teams from going there. Security is always an issue and we always like to be sure about security when we allow our teams to go there. But when it comes to cricket, I think cricket sometimes becomes an instrument of diplomacy in such situations.

**Interviewer:** Hence my question.

**Foreign Secretary:** And therefore, why not promote cricketing contacts? We have seen how cricket matches have been played between India and Pakistan in the past. People in both countries have supported the idea of such contacts.

**Interviewer:** I am going to take that answer as a positive one. Why not promote cricketing contacts, suggests that you are open to an Indian team visiting Pakistan.

**Foreign Secretary:** We are definitely open. Of course, this has to be discussed between the cricketing fraternities on both sides and taken forward.

**Interviewer:** What about a visit by the Indian Prime Minister to Pakistan? He has had several such invitations. The Business Standard has now in a formal lead has suggested that in fact he should hasten and go quickly. Many people feel that Dr. Manmohan Singh's reluctance to go in 2006, 2007 is one reason why the back channel which people thought was coming to fruition did not actually achieve success. This time round, is our Prime Minister ready and willing to visit Pakistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** Our Prime Minister has been invited by Prime Minister Gilani to visit Pakistan. Obviously a visit of this nature has to be very carefully prepared. We will have to do a lot of groundwork between the Foreign Ministries of the two sides, between the two Governments. We have a series of meetings, a timetable of meetings in the next few months which will culminate in the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India. So, we have some work to be done. In the meantime, in the interregnum, we will obviously be talking about the possibility of such a high-level visit to Pakistan with the Pakistan side through diplomatic channels. But timing is not decided as yet.

**Interviewer:** If I understand you correctly, a date has not been set, it may not be anywhere near being set. But from everything else you are saying, it seems to me as if this time round the Indian Prime Minister is keen to go and it is possible he may go, which is why you are trying to see how quickly it could happen.

**Foreign Secretary:** No, I would put it this way. I think the possibility exists. I do not rule out the possibility of a visit. As far as timing is concerned, it is not

decided. Thirdly I would like to say there is a lot of preparatory work that still needs to be completed before we can have such a visit.

**Interviewer:** But that work is beginning surely, isn't it?

**Foreign Secretary:** That work is beginning.

**Interviewer:** It is not that you are talking about it but not doing the work.

**Foreign Secretary:** We are doing the work, we are doing the work.

**Interviewer:** Foreign Secretary, let us come briefly to the dialogue the two Home Secretaries had just before Mohali. They have agreed to exchange Commissions with each other to further investigate 26/11. They have set up a hotline. They are going to meet biannually. And there is also some possibility of cooperation between India's CBI and NIA and Pakistan's FIA. How significant is all of that?

**Foreign Secretary:** Very significant, very positive, very constructive. The meeting of the Home Secretary and the Interior Secretary went very well. India and Pakistan were meeting to discuss these issues after an interregnum of more than two years, it has been a long time, and they were able to discuss a number of issues - the Mumbai trials, they talked about Samjhauta Express, they talked about cooperation as you said between the NIA and the FIA, and also on the drugs and narcotics front what kind of cooperation, the hotline, the visit of the judicial committee looking at the issue of prisoners, and of course as far as the Mumbai trials are concerned, on the principle of comity and reciprocity the exchange of Judicial Commissions.

**Interviewer:** So, all of this is actually very significant.

**Foreign Secretary:** Extremely so.

**Interviewer:** It is a real, genuine, positive meeting.

**Foreign Secretary:** Yes, and I think it is a very encouraging start to this process of dialogue and reengagement.

**Interviewer:** Two quick questions. The Hindustan Times has reported that the Indian Commission that will sometime in the near future visit Pakistan, would not have access to suspects and witnesses but will only have access to police investigators. Is that true? And if it is true, is that a cause of concern?

**Foreign Secretary:** I spoke about the principle of comity and reciprocity. Now their Judicial Commission is to come here. What they tell us is that they would like access to the Metropolitan Magistrate and the Investigating Officer, and possibly to a few doctors who had conducted the post mortems.

**Interviewer:** And we want reciprocal treatment.

**Foreign Secretary:** We are guided by the principle of reciprocity and comity and we would expect the same from Pakistan.

**Interviewer:** So, in fact, the Hindustan Times story may well end up being wrong.

**Foreign Secretary:** (Smiles) Well, do not be guided by media reports on such issues.

**Interviewer:** The second area of concern is India's request for voice samples of the 26/11 accused. Already a lower court in Pakistan has refused it but Pakistan is now appealing to a higher court. That appeal will depend critically on the strength of case a Pakistani prosecutor puts up. How confident are you that the Pakistanis will put up a good, effective case and not fob you off?

**Foreign Secretary:** We do not want them to fob us off obviously on this. We are very serious about this matter. When the Home Secretary met his counterpart this was reiterated. And as you know, when our Home Minister was in Pakistan last June and when he spoke to Mr. Rahman Mallick this point was emphasised. So, we would like the Pakistanis to treat this with the utmost seriousness.

**Interviewer:** But are you confident they will?

**Foreign Secretary:** We would expect that they should treat it with the utmost seriousness.

**Interviewer:** So, it is expectation rather than confidence.

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, it is up to them to act with seriousness and commitment when it comes to acceding to our request.

**Interviewer:** Foreign Secretary, after the two Prime Ministers met, the Commerce Secretaries will meet, the Defence Secretaries will meet, then the Foreign Secretaries will meet, and finally the Foreign Ministers will meet. Even though India is reluctant to call this the resumption of the full-scale composite dialogue, isn't that really what it amounts to?

**Foreign Secretary:** It is reengagement, I called it that. I am not getting stuck on nomenclatures, I have said before. But we are talking of a serious dialogue, a sustained dialogue, a comprehensive dialogue.

**Interviewer:** Comprehensive is the new word.

**Foreign Secretary:** A comprehensive dialogue. That is the way we look at it.

**Interviewer:** Not composite but comprehensive.

**Foreign Secretary:** Comprehensive and in an uninterrupted manner.

**Interviewer:** My last question. I began with this in my introduction, let me now put it to you bluntly. Has a new page turned, has a new chapter opened in our relationship?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are inscribing the pages of history here. I think it is too early to say that we have opened a new chapter. I do not want to get stuck in rhetoric or language of that nature. I think we are making a serious and sincere effort to reduce divergence, differences in our relationship and to build convergence.

**Interviewer:** And your fingers are crossed.

**Foreign Secretary:** I hope for the best.

**Interviewer:** Foreign Secretary, a pleasure talking to you.

**Foreign Secretary:** Thank you so much.



**272. Response of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to questions on reports of presence of foreign troops in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.**

**New Delhi, April 6, 2011.**

We have seen media reports on the subject\*. Government closely and regularly monitors all developments along our borders, which can have a bearing on our security. We continuously review and take all measures necessary to ensure the safety and security of our people, as well as, territorial integrity of the nation."



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\* Shri Krishna was responding to media reports about the presence of Chinese troops in Occupied Kashmir, who were engaged in various projects of strategic value in that area, which was a cause for concern.

**273. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to reported plea taken by Tahawwur Hussain Rana in a U. S court.**

**New Delhi, April 14, 2011.**

"It is our expectation that all those responsible for the Mumbai terrorist attack will be brought to justice expeditiously. This position is shared by the international community at large, particularly those countries whose nationals were killed during this horrific attack. Meanwhile, Government has embarked on a dialogue process with Pakistan with the aim of normalising relations. This dialogue will naturally seek to address our terrorism related concerns, particularly with respect to the Mumbai terrorist attack. This issue figured prominently in the recently concluded Home Secretary-level talks as also in various recent interactions with the Government of Pakistan. Clearly, there is no dilution of our position in this regard".



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Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case, had taken a plea in the US court that he had acted at the behest of Islamabad and its spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and not the Lashkar-e-Taiba. "We will certainly take it up," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna told reporters while replying to a question. "We are in constant touch with the Pakistan government through our diplomatic channels," Mr. Krishna said. However, he added that the dialogue process with Pakistan would continue. "These are two different aspects. Peace talks will go on, cricket matches will go on and simultaneously our relentless efforts will continue to bring to justice all those responsible for the heinous crime," the Minister said.

"There are no contradictions in that position," Mr. Krishna said when asked if the revelations made by Rana would have an impact on India-Pakistan peace talks. "I have said that both these things will have to go on," he said. Referring to efforts made by India to extradite Abdul Rauf, a Pakistani national detained in Chile on suspicion of his involvement in the conspiracy behind the IC-814 hijacking in December 1999, Mr. Krishna said: "Our intelligence agencies have already deputed personnel to go to that country and then make an assessment whether it is the same person who was responsible for the hijacking. If it is so, necessary follow-up action would be initiated." Media quoted sources in the Home Ministry in New Delhi to suggest that the disclosures only corroborated what India had been stating about the role of ISI in the 26/11 attacks. David Coleman Headley, an American citizen of Pakistani descent and an accomplice of Rana, was also arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for his involvement in the attacks.

**274. Joint Press Statement of Fourth Meeting of India Pak Judicial Committee on Prisoners.**

**Lahore, April 22, 2011.**

Members of the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners visited Pakistan from 18-23 April 2011 and visited jails in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore. The members of the Committee are Justice (Retd) Mr. Nagendra Rai, Justice (Retd) Mr. Amarjeet Chaudhary, Justice (Retd) Mr. A. S. Gill and Justice (Retd) Mr. M. A. Khan from the Indian side and Justice (Retd) Mr. Abdul Qadeer Chaudhary, Justice (Retd) Mr. Fazal Karim, Justice (Retd) Mr. Nasir Aslam Zahid and Justice (Retd) Mr. Mian Muhammad Ajmal from the Pakistani side.

2. During the visit, the Pakistani side shared the lists of Indian Fishermen and civilian prisoners. Consular Access was conducted in respect of some of the fishermen and prisoners on the spot. Further it was recommended by the Committee to reconcile the figures of the prisoners and the fishermen at the earliest and to allow consular access to rest of the fishermen and prisoners in the second week of May 2011.

3. The Committee appreciated the release of 89 fishermen by Pakistani authorities and 1 Pakistani fisherman and 44 civil prisoners by Indian authorities. The Committee also appreciated the recommendations of the Home/Interior Secretary level talks held on 28-29 March 2011 at New Delhi to task the Coast Guard of India and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to work on setting up a mechanism for release of inadvertent crossers (fishermen) and their boats on the same lines as the inadvertent crossers on land. The Group will submit its report to the Home/Interior Secretaries before the next round of Talks.

4. The Committee suggested that the Nationality verification process should be facilitated and all those prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose travel documents are available should be repatriated to their respective countries at the earliest.

5. The Committee also recommended humane approach in dealing with the cases of fishermen, women and juvenile prisoners, prisoners terminally ill or suffering from serious illness or physical disability and mentally disabled persons.

6. The Committee also recommended that all the prisoners shall be provided legal aid at all stages of their cases by the respective government.

7. The Committee suggested that the next visit to Indian jails by the Committee may be scheduled preferably during the second half of June, 2011 subject to the confirmation of dates by both the sides through diplomatic channels at an early date.

**Lahore**  
**April 22, 2011**



**275. Agreed minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> round of talks on commercial and economic cooperation between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan.**

**Islamabad, April 28, 2011.**

The 5th round of India-Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Co-operation was held on 27-28 April 2011, in Islamabad.

2. The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary, Rahul Khullar and the Pakistan delegation was led by Zafar Mahmood, Secretary, Commerce, List of participants is annexed.

3. Both sides agreed that increase in trade and economic engagement would help not only in the mutual quest for national development, but also contribute to building trust between the two countries. The discussions were guided by the mutual desire to realize the full potential of bilateral trade. To facilitate this objective, they agreed to make efforts to create an enabling environment for trade on both sides. The two sides also agreed to encourage greater engagement between the private sectors of the two countries.

With this in view, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) To build confidence, dispel misunderstandings and allay and misapprehensions, it is essential that government in both countries support the business communities in promotion of bilateral trade. Further efforts would be made to make the bilateral trading environment more business friendly. Necessary outreach activities would be undertaken to bridge information gaps relating to the trade environment and economic opportunities.

- (ii) To promote trade, both tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) need to be reduced/removed. It was decided to establish a working Group (WG) specifically dedicated to address and resolve clearly identified sector-specific barriers to trade. The WG would comprise technical experts and representatives of regulatory bodies directly concerned with the clearly identified barriers. The first meeting of the WG shall be held by September 2011.
- (ii) Both sides appreciated the significant progress made in developing physical infrastructure for trade through the Wagah-Attari land route. Closer coordination needs to be ensured to open the second gate and new dedicated roads for passenger and freight traffic. The India side intimated that its new Integrated Check Post is expected to be fully functional by October, 2011. To facilitate the coordinated effort of both sides, it was agreed that the Joint Technical Group for promotion of trade and travel would meet in June 2011 and thereafter every month to ensure adherence to the October 2011 timeline on both sides.
- (iv) Both sides agreed to expand trade through Wagah - Attari by inter-alia
  - (a) increasing trading hours taking advantage of the new infrastructure
  - (b) expeditious clearance of cargo and
  - (c) facilitating movement of large vehicles and containerized traffic.
- (v) It was also agreed that Pakistan side would remove its present restrictions on trade by land route as soon as the infrastructure to facilitate mutual trade is completed. The timeline for this purpose would be before October, 2011.
- (vi) It was noted that an informal and effective Customs liaison arrangement is already operating at Wagah-Attari. It was decided to formalise the arrangements in the form of a Customs liaison Border Committee which would meet at least once in two months to resolve any operational issue at the field level.
- (vii) For harmonization in customs procedures, facilitation of trade consignments, exchange of trade data and information, both sides agreed that the Sub Group on Customs Cooperation would meet in New Delhi before 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2011. Nodal officers shall be notified by both sides before 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2011– to establish regular direct contact by email/fax/telephone on all matters relating to delay in clearance of trade consignments, trade document requirements, and other customs



cooperation. It was agreed that Pakistan would send a draft Customs cooperation agreement within a month.

- (viii) It was decided to undertake a new initiative to enable trade to electricity between both countries. To this end, a group of experts from both sides would examine feasibility, scope and modalities of such trading. Inter alia, the group may also address itself to issues such as suitable site (s) and routes for transmission lines, funding mechanisms and other related issues. The composition of the Group would be finalized before the end of June 2011 and the first meeting would be scheduled by October 2011.
- (ix) Both sides also agreed to work out how to initiate and substantially expand trade in all types of petroleum products. A group of experts from both sides would be set up for this purpose before 15 June 2011. The Group would inter alia discuss trade arrangements, building of cross border pipelines and use of road/rail route, including the Munabao-Khokrapar route. The Group's first meeting would be held before September 2011.
- (x) A new initiative to promote bilateral trade in Bt. Cotton seeds was identified. This would help Pakistan's farmers and its textile industry by significantly raising cotton yields and ensuring better cotton security. It was agreed to take this process forward by enabling Business-to-Business contact and governmental regulatory clearances.
- (xi) Cooperation in the information Technology (IT) sector would be encouraged through the private sector route.
- (xii) Pakistan recognized that grant of MFN status to India would help in expanding the bilateral trade relations.
- (xiii) It was informed by Pakistan side that it would take immediate necessary steps to ensure that non-discriminatory trade regime is operationalized at the earliest. The consultative process in this regard has been set in motion and information from all stakeholders including business chambers and trade bodies is being collected to replace the present "Positive list" with a "Negative list". It was agreed that this process would be completed by October, 2011.
- (xiv) Both sides expressed the intent to explore the possibility of entering into a mutually agreed preferential trade arrangement to further promote bilateral trade by extending tariff concessions on products of export interest to both countries.

- (xv) Both sides agreed that facilitating grant of Business Visas was essential to expansion of trade. It was noted that during the recent meeting of the Home Secretaries, it was decided to set up a joint Working Group to look at the Visa regime. Suitable inputs would be provided by both sides to this JWG, to realize the goal of easier access to Business Visas. In this regard the possibility of effective involvement of private sector through officially recognized joint chambers would be explored.
- (xvi) While appreciating the need for business-to-business contact, both sides desired to create an enabling environment and encourage Chambers of Commerce and Industry on both sides to form officially recognised Joint Chambers at the apex and regional levels.
- (xvii) Both sides agreed on the desirability of promoting bilateral investments and removing any impediments for such investments.
- (xviii) On opening of bank branches in each other's countries, both sides agreed that banking channels are important and the process needs to be fast tracked.
- (xix) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and its counterpart organization, India Trade Promotion Authority (ITPO) will collaborate on trade promotional activities. TDAP will send a draft MOU to ITPO for mutual cooperation by June 2011.

A Joint Working Group on "Economic and Commercial Cooperation and Trade promotion" will be co-chaired by the Joint Secretaries of the respective Departments of Commerce. Implementation of decisions taken in this round and any other trade promotion issues that may arise from time to time will be reviewed by this JWG.

Commerce Secretaries of both countries would meet bi-annually to oversee the functioning of this JWG. The talks were held in a very cordial and constructive atmosphere.



**276. Joint Statement on India-Pakistan Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project/Wullar Barrage.****Islamabad, May 13, 2011.**

Under the resumed dialogue process between India and Pakistan, delegations of the two countries met in Islamabad from 12-13 May 2011 to discuss the Tulbul Navigation project/Wullar Barrage. The Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Javed Iqbal, Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, Government of Pakistan and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. Secretary Singh and members of the Indian delegation also called on Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Water and Power, Government of Pakistan.

2. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The two sides reiterated their commitment to bilateral engagement in a spirit of constructive cooperation. They discussed their respective positions on the Tulbul Navigation Project / Wullar Barrage while reaffirming the commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty 1960.

3. Both sides emphasised the need for an early and amicable resolution of the issue within the ambit of the Indus Waters Treaty. In order to address the concerns of both countries, it was agreed that the Indian side shall forward comprehensive technical data to Pakistan within one month. The Pakistan side shall examine the said data and furnish its views to the Indian side by 15 September 2011. Both sides further agreed to take the matter forward in the light of the outcome of such technical consultations and in accordance with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.



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It may be recalled that the work on the project was suspended in October 2007 after Islamabad imposed it as a pre-condition for talks at the government-level. Before that, the matter was being handled at the level of the Permanent Indus Commission.

India was keen on early resolution of the issue to resume work on the project, which is located on the Jhelum river in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramullah district. Eight rounds of secretary-level talks have been held since work was suspended on the project, followed by five more meetings in 1998, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 under Composite Dialogue between the two countries. In the last meeting in August 2007, it was decided that technical-level talks would form part of the officials' dialogue.

The Tulbul navigation project was located just below the exit of the Wular Lake, a natural lake. India envisaged controlled release of water from the lake during the lean-season months of October to February to facilitate year-round navigation for commercial trade, employment and tourism. New Delhi maintained that the regulating structure was permitted under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 for the non-consumptive use of

**277. Joint Statement issued on Pakistan - India Talks on Sir Creek Issue.**

**Rawalpindi, May 21, 2011.**

Under the resumed dialogue process between Pakistan and India, delegations of the two countries met in Rawalpindi from 20-21 May 2011 to discuss the Sir Creek Issue. The Pakistan delegation was led by Rear Admiral Shah Sohail Masood, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. S. Subba Rao, Surveyor General of India. During the visit, the Indian delegation also called on Lt. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, Secretary Defence.

2. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The two sides discussed the Pakistan-India land boundary in the Sir Creek area and the delimitation of International Maritime Boundary between Pakistan and India.

3. Both sides exchanged non-papers in order to take their discussions forward, with a view to finding an amicable settlement of the issue. They agreed to meet again at a mutually convenient date.




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It may be recalled that the last meeting on Sir Creek, in May 2007, had seen the two countries discuss the delimitation of the maritime boundary as well as the delineation of the boundary in Sir Creek in the light of the results of a joint survey conducted earlier that year. Maps and charts, which showed respective positions on the twin issues, had been exchanged. The joint survey of Sir Creek - a 96-km strip of water in the Rann of Kutch marshlands - was conducted from mid-January, 2007, as per an understanding reached between the two sides in May, 2006, to undertake an exercise that would verify the outermost points of the coastlines of both countries with regard to the equidistance method.

Having triggered the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the disputed marshland, which separates Pakistan's Sindh province from Gujarat on the Indian side, has been the bane of the fishermen of both countries as they are often caught straying into contested waters, ending up in long prison stints that are further stretched if there is a freeze in bilateral relations.

navigation. Moreover, it held that the project was beneficial for Pakistan as well as to firm up lean-season water supplies for its proposed projects and the Mangala dam in the PoK region.

Pakistan, on the other hand, contested India's position and called it a "storage project" and charged India with violation of the provisions under the Treaty

Though the Pakistani media reported that the Indian delegation had walked out of the talks on the first day, but both sides maintained that that was far from true and flagged the joint statement as evidence of the effort to move forward on the issue.

**278. Joint Statement issued on Defence Secretary Level Talks between India and Pakistan on Siachen.**

**New Delhi, May 31, 2011.**

The Defence Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on Siachen were held on May 30-31, 2011 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Pradeep Kumar, Defence Secretary, and the Pakistan delegation was led by Lt. Gen (Retired) Syed Athar Ali, Defence Secretary. The Defence Secretary of Pakistan also called on Shri AK Antony, Defence Minister of India.

2. Both sides welcomed the ongoing dialogue process. The discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere, contributing to an enhanced understanding of each other's position on Siachen. They also acknowledged that the ceasefire was holding since November 2003. Both sides presented their positions and suggestions towards the resolution of Siachen.

3. The Pakistan side presented a non-paper on Siachen.

4. Both sides agreed to continue the discussions in a meaningful and result oriented manner. They agreed to meet again at a mutually convenient date in Islamabad.



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Media quoted sources in Pakistan delegation to suggest that a non-paper was handed over to the Indian side towards the conclusion of the discussions which would be perused in due course. While the Pakistan side sought to push for demilitarising the glacier, described as the highest battleground in the world, India had conveyed that Islamabad needed to dismantle the terror camps operating on its soil

Among the issues that remained to be sorted out, according to unnamed official sources was modalities to authenticate the 110-km Actual Ground Position Line in the Saltro-Ridge-Siachen region. The Indian Army holds a dominant position on the ridge.

**279. Joint Press Statement issued by the India - Pakistan Joint Working Group on Visa Matters.**

**Islamabad, June 3, 2011**

In pursuance of the decision taken during the Pakistan-India Interior/Home Secretaries level talks held in New Delhi on 28-29 March 2011, the first meeting of the Joint Working Group was held in Islamabad on 2-3 June 2011 to examine the modalities for streamlining the visa procedures and to finalize the draft of Bilateral Visa Agreement. The Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Nasar Hayat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan while the Indian delegation was led by Mr. G.V.V. Sarma, Joint Secretary (Foreigners), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

The two sides discussed details and modalities of visa facilitation with a view to easing travel for nationals of either country desiring to visit the other.

The two sides also discussed amendments in the existing visa agreement and agreed to continue the discussions on the new visa Agreement in the next meeting of Joint Working Group at New Delhi before the end of August, 2011 for finalization at the next Home/Interior Secretary level talks in Islamabad.



**280. Security Provided to ship MV Suez released by Pirates and safe return of Indian sailors.**

**Response of Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs on the role of Indian navy ships in providing security to MV SUEZ.**

**New Delhi, June 17, 2011.**

In response to questions the Official Spokesperson said,

The Indian Navy coordinated with other navies in the region so that security cover could be provided to MV Suez, the ship which was released by pirates recently and which has crew comprising, among others, of Indian and Pakistani nationals. One of our warships, INS Godavari, also closed on MV Suez and monitored her progress.

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**On June 18, 2011, the Spokesperson said:**

"Somalian piracy is a global challenge and menace, which requires a well coordinated response by the international community. MV Suez that was seized in August 2010 has sailors from Egypt, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. During the preceding months, concerned Indian entities have been coordinating with their interlocutors overseas, which has led to the safe release of the sailors and the ship. MV Suez is now heading for Oman. Insinuations to the contrary by a few voices, stem from lack of appreciation of facts, and are totally baseless.

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**On June 18, 2011 India lodged Protest against Pakistan Navy Ship 'Babur's' risky manoeuvres:**

India lodged a protest\* today with the Government of Pakistan through the High Commission of Pakistan, New Delhi against the violation by Pakistan Naval Ship (PNS) Babur of relevant regulations on navigational safety as contained in the 'International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea' and Article 10 of the 'Agreement between India-Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements 1991' involving INS Godavari on high seas. PNS Babur by its risky manoeuvres jeopardised the safety of INS Godavari and its crew.

On June 17, 2011, the Naval Adviser of the Pakistan High Commission was summoned to the Ministry of Defence and our serious concern on this incident was conveyed.

**EAM relieved at safe return of Indian sailors, appreciates Pak assistance****June 23, 2011**

On June 23 in a statement on the release of Indian sailors EAM S M Krishna said:

"The six Indian sailors, who were in captivity of Somali pirates aboard MV Suez, are now headed home from Karachi. We are relieved that their ordeal has ended and they would soon be safely back with their families. We appreciate the timely help extended to them and sailors of other countries, by the Pakistani navy.

However let us not forget that the ordeal of over five hundred sailors from across the world, who are still in captivity of the pirates, is not yet over. The scourge of piracy requires a well coordinated response by all

entities, especially navies of more than two dozen nations that provide security to sea faring vessels in piracy infested waters."



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\* Pakistan had accused the Indian vessel of hampering humanitarian operations being carried out by PNS Babur and making "dangerous manoeuvres," which resulted in the two ships "brushing past" each other. After Pakistan protest against what it called "the aggression by INS Godavari towards PNS Babur", India on 18th June lodged a similar protest with the Pakistan High Commission about its naval vessel. "PNS Babur, by its risky manoeuvres, jeopardizing the safety of INS Godavari and its crew."

{Both countries cited violation of regulations on navigational safety contained in the 'International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea' and Article 10 of the 'Agreement between India-Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements 1991'.}

The Indian Navy had described reports of aggression by INS Godavari as incorrect. This incident was said to have happened in the Gulf of Aden while MV. Suez was being escorted towards Oman.

On 16th June, the Indian Navy had put out a statement claiming that it had been tasked to escort m.v.Suez that very morning. "On reaching m.v. Suez, INS Godavari made every effort through all available means and channels to communicate with Suez. However, the Master of m.v. Suez did not respond." After confirming that m.v. Suez was being escorted by other warships deployed in the Gulf of Aden, INS Godavari returned to its task of protecting two other merchant vessels carrying 21 Indians.



**281. Extract from the Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media prior to his departure for Myanmar.**

**New Delhi, June 20, 2011.**

I would also like to briefly reflect on resumption of our dialogue process with Pakistan as mandated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, in April 2010 at Thimphu.

In the preceding months, meetings of Home Secretary/ Interior Secretary; Commerce Secretaries, Water Resources Secretaries; Additional Secretary/ Surveyor General on Sir Creek and Defence Secretaries on Siachen, have already taken place. We have had a useful exchange of views and have gained a better understanding of each other's positions. We have always approached our discussions in an open and constructive spirit.

Next, Foreign Secretary Rao will be heading for Islamabad to meet her counterpart. The agenda of discussions is already known to you. Her visit and discussions would carry forward the dialogue process with Pakistan. We also expect to have a meeting of Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan by July this year.

We hope to narrow the trust deficit between our nations and pave the way for normalization of relations by addressing all outstanding issues and concerns, particularly those pertaining to terrorism. This menace has to be dealt with firmly and transparently, for the common good of India and Pakistan, as well as, the region beyond.

We have to be patient, realistic and positive. As Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has said on more than one occasion, peace and prosperity of South Asia is interlinked. We owe it to ourselves and generations to follow, to do what it takes, to embark on the path of peace and development.

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**282. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to OIC's incorrect description of Indian state of J&K.**

**New Delhi, June 22, 2011.**

"We have seen reports that the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has again chosen to refer to Jammu & Kashmir incorrectly, in an invitation to an Indian invitee to an OIC meeting. This is most regrettable\*.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. We totally reject any reference or description to the contrary."



**283. Statement by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on arrival in Islamabad.**

**Islamabad, June 23, 2011.**

I am very pleased to be in Pakistan on the invitation of my distinguished colleague, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir. This is an important visit as it marks the penultimate leg of the resumed dialogue process before the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India by July 2011.

I bring with me the best wishes of the people and Government of India for the people and Government of Pakistan. We wish to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan.

During my stay in Islamabad, I am looking forward to my meetings with Foreign Secretary Bashir. We hope to discuss the issues that have been mandated to us by our leadership, namely Peace & Security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges.

I have come to Pakistan with an open mind and a constructive spirit in order to work towards building trust and confidence in our relationship and thereby leading to an eventual normalization of relations for the well being and prosperity of our two peoples.



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\* India was objecting to a letter from the Organisation of Islamic Conference which referred to Jammu and Kashmir as an "occupied" State.

**284. Joint Press Briefing by Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.****Islamabad, June 24, 2011.****Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir**

Well, Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your patience. Let me first of all welcome Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao to Islamabad. We welcome her for many reasons. It was some years ago that we started a process and I think that process is now well on its way. Her visit provided us an opportunity to fulfill the mandate that was given to us by our respective Prime Ministers. And I think on the whole before I say anything more I would like to ask the Spokesperson to read out the text of the Joint Statement that we have agreed to issue.

(Joint statement was read out)

I think the issuance of this Joint Statement indicates that we have had a very productive and constructive engagement which was forward looking and imbued with a sense of purpose. I must underscore here that the quality of the engagement really matters and we have every reason to be satisfied with that quality. Of course, all three segments that have been mentioned in the Joint Statement were the subject of deep deep conversations. I wish to thank here, the Foreign Secretary, my colleague from India, for showing not only great professional ability, sensitivity and understanding. With these words, I would request her to say a few words.

**Foreign Secretary (Mrs. Nirupama Rao)**

Good evening to all of you. Thank you for your patience and waiting for this press briefing. Over the last one and a half days, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Salman Bashir and I have had discussions on a wide range of issues.

The Joint Statement that was issued at the conclusion of our talks has just been released to all of you. In our discussions, we were guided by the vision of our two Prime Ministers to build trust and confidence by discussing various issues in an open and constructive manner and in a forward looking manner.

We have been fully conscious of the complexities in our relationship and the consequent need to take incremental steps to promote mutual confidence and understanding. In doing this, we are inspired by our goal of the eventual normalization of the India-Pakistan relationship and the resolution of outstanding issues through peaceful, sustained and serious bilateral dialogue. The shadow of the gun and the violence it has unleashed has caused untold sufferings for our people in these years past. This needs to end. The ideology of military

conflict should have no place in the paradigm of our relationship in the 21st Century. Indeed, this relationship should be characterized by the vocabulary of peace; on ground cooperation in the interest of our peoples, growing trade and economic interaction as well as people to people contacts, and on this let me emphasize, in an atmosphere free of terror and violence.

The talks that we have held this time were not an event in isolation but part of a dialogue process which is building greater trust between us. We also took this opportunity to exchange views on preparation for the meeting of our Ministers of External and Foreign Affairs in New Delhi next month. This has been a positive meeting and I thank Foreign Secretary Bashir and his colleagues for what has been a constructive and substantive discussion. I thank you.

**Q:** My question is to both Excellencies. Can you please highlight the specifics of the discussions? I am asking this with regard to a move towards the solution of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. What was specifically discussed during these three rounds of talks? Thank you

**Foreign Secretary Bashir:** I think first of all you ought to recognize that we have started again a very substantive process which has various components. Of course the Foreign Secretaries are entrusted with dealing the issue of Jammu and Kashmir as well as peace and security, CBMs and now also friendly exchanges. On the Kashmir Issue we have had deep conversations. This is a process as you would note that we would like to take forward. Of course, there are well known positions of both countries on this issue but nonetheless we have agreed to continue to further discuss matters specifically relating to Jammu and Kashmir with a view to finding common ground. I think the key point here is carrying forward the engagement and making it more purposeful. But that's not all. I think the decision to reconvene the Working Group on LoCs, CBMs on the issue of facilitating further the travel and trade arrangements is all directed to take this process forward with a view to creating more comfort and relief for the Kashmiri people.

**Foreign Secretary Rao:** I think we have to build peace and reconciliation step by step. As I mentioned in my earlier remarks, we must do away with the shadow of the gun and extremist violence because it is only in an atmosphere free of violence that we can discuss the resolution of such a complex issue. The convening of the LOC CBMs Working Group, I think, is a very important step because I have always maintained that people are at the heart of our relationship and we must help the people of Jammu and Kashmir to connect with each other, to trade, to travel more easily and essentially I think this is the process we need to build on, to strengthen, to sustain. And I think the benefits of that process will be there for all of us to see as time goes by.

**Q:** My question is from both the Foreign Secretaries. What about 26/11. Madam Secretary, did you talk about 26/11 terror attacks because there continues to be a tardy progress on the investigations into this issue. Have you raised this

with Mr. Bashir? And Mr. Bashir have you changed your mind about India's evidence as just being a piece of literature?

**Foreign Secretary Rao:** Let me say on the issue of 26/11 which was obviously of critical importance for us. We have already had very useful discussion between the Home and Interior Secretaries of the two countries. That meeting has had very good outcomes. And I did follow up on those discussions. We did talk about matters relating to the 26/11 trial and the pending issues relating to it. And we had good discussions on this matter. I continued to underline and emphasize India's concern that we must have satisfactory closure because that will enable us to move on with the process of normalization.

**Foreign Secretary Bashir:** As the Indian FS has just said this is a matter that has been the subject of talks and engagement between our respective departments i.e. the Interior Ministry and the Home Department of Government of India. I think there has been two way communication between them and I think that the spirit prevails and these communications, we hope, will result in something that is useful. Having said that, I would like to add that while we do understand the concerns in India about Mumbai Incident, we hope and expect that this issue in a generic sense i.e. the issue of terrorism requires objectivity; requires to be addressed in a collaborative approach. I believe that has been the spirit of the engagement between our respective departments. And the Foreign Secretaries agree that it was necessary. Terrorism poses a threat to the two countries and to civilized societies. It must be eliminated. I think that certainly is the sense and the purpose in which this and other related issues were discussed.

**Q:** I will be obliged if the worthy Foreign Secretaries, would like to say something about the progress made in the Samjhota express incident?

**Foreign Secretary Rao:** Well let me say on the Samjhota Train blast issue, this also formed the subject matter of discussion between the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan when they met a few months ago. And we have stated very clearly that once the investigation is completed, we will share the outcomes with the Government of Pakistan.

**Foreign Secretary Bashir:** That certainly is the case. All such matters which relate to the two incidents which are in the terror category are being dealt with by the Interior and Home Secretaries level engagement. I think that is a positive development as far as I can see.

**Q:** This is to both of you. Can you please say something about the specifics as regards to the CBMs. Whether you have agreed to open new trading points? Whether there are chances of increasing the frequency of the bus service? And what are the specifics for the liberalization of Visa regime?

**Foreign Secretary Rao:** Well all these ideas were discussed in our meeting. And as the Joint Statement has stated there will be a meeting of the Cross LOC CBMs Working Group very shortly, before the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India. All these issues that you have referred to including the increase in the number of trading days, the issuance of travel permits, making travel easier, banking facilities, the bus transportation links including road connectivity form the part of Cross LoC CBMs. And they are very much on the agenda of discussion.



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Unlike in the past the two Foreign Secretaries decided to jointly address the news conference after first announcing separate briefings. That the news conference was in addition to the joint statement it was taken to be a signal that there was a bonhomie at the talks.

The Indian officials clarified that Foreign Secretaries remarks that "the ideology of military conflict should have no place in the paradigm of our relationship of the 21st Century" and should be replaced with a "vocabulary of peace," was not a reprimand. "We have resurrected this process; let us not run this aground by rushing to conclusions." The need to remove the shadow of the gun was a recurrent line that Ms. Rao took but without finger-pointing. To a question on the discussions on Jammu and Kashmir, she said peace and reconciliation had to be built step by step and "only in the absence of the gun can we discuss such issues." On specific cross-Line of Control (LoC) confidence-building measures (CBMs), the working group will meet next month to strengthen and streamline trade and travel arrangements and propose modalities for additional measures. The group will look at the demand for more trading days, additional routes, reducing red tape, and specifying the 21 items of trade to ensure that only goods made in Jammu and Kashmir are traded.

While the joint statement did not mention any tangible steps that would be taken immediately, it suggested a process that would be set in motion to create a space for making larger-than-baby steps acceptable. It was with this aim of creating a favourable public opinion for more people-to-people contact that the statement spoke about reducing hostile propaganda against each other. According to Indian officials, people are at the heart of the statement amid a growing realisation that the two countries can either remain permanently bogged down by history or learn from their past. Maintaining that this would be a painstakingly slow process, the two sides advocated patience, with Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao stating that the edifice of this relationship had to be built brick by brick. In a bid to promote people-to-people contact, the statement hinted at the possibility of a liberalised visa regime besides more avenues for business and sporting contacts, and facilitating visits to places of pilgrimage. Media exchanges, sports tournaments besides contacts between think-tanks and military institutions like India's National Defence College and Pakistan's National Defence University were being considered.

"We have been fully conscious of the complexities of our relationship and the consequent need to take incremental steps to promote mutual confidence and understanding," Ms. Rao said. And, to a pointed question on Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir articulated a similar resolve to continue talking till a common ground was found. On terrorism, while India called for a satisfactory closure of the Mumbai terror attack case, Pakistan brought up the Samjhauta Express blast. Mr. Bashir said terror should be addressed with objectivity and called for a collaborative approach while laughing off a question on whether he still stood by his observation that terrorism-related evidence provided by India was "literature."

**285. Joint Statement issued on the Meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.**

**Islamabad, June 24, 2011.**

Under the resumed dialogue process, the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India met in Islamabad, on 23-24 June 2011 for bilateral talks on Peace and Security including CBMs, Jammu and Kashmir and promotion of friendly exchanges. Three sessions of talks were held.

2. The talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. Both sides reiterated their intention to carry forward the dialogue process in a constructive and purposeful manner.

3. The issues of Peace and Security, including CBMs, were discussed in a comprehensive manner. Both sides emphasized the importance of constructive dialogue to promote mutual understanding.

4. They noted the ongoing implementation of various Nuclear and Conventional CBMs. They also decided to convene separate Expert level meetings on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs to discuss implementation and strengthening of existing arrangements and to consider additional measures, which are mutually acceptable, to build trust and confidence and promote peace and security. The dates for the Expert level meetings will be determined through diplomatic channels.

5. The Foreign Secretaries noted that both countries recognize that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and they reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. They agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism.

6. The Foreign Secretaries exchanged views on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to continue discussions in a purposeful and forward looking manner with the view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.

7. Both sides agreed to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs to recommend measures for strengthening and streamlining the existing trade and travel arrangements across the LoC and propose modalities for introducing additional Cross-LoC CBMs. The Working Group will meet in July 2011.

8. Both sides agreed to the need for promoting friendly exchanges between the two countries. They noted with satisfaction the progress made towards finalization of the Visa Agreement which will help liberalize the visa regime and facilitate people-to-people, business-to-business and sports contacts.

9. The two sides also discussed measures for promoting cooperation in various fields including, facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.
10. The Foreign Secretaries agreed that people of the two countries are at the heart of the relationship and that humanitarian issues should be accorded priority and treated with sensitivity.
11. The Foreign Secretary of India called on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar.
12. The Foreign Secretaries will meet again in New Delhi, on a date to be decided through diplomatic channels, to prepare for the meeting of the Foreign/ External Affairs Ministers in New Delhi in July 2011.



**286. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to the gratuitous references by OIC to Indian State of J&K.**

**New Delhi, July 1, 2011.**

“We note with regret that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has once again chosen to comment on Jammu and Kashmir and India’s internal affairs in the Resolutions adopted, during the 38th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Astana, Kazakhstan from June 28-30, 2011.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning internal affairs of India, which is the largest democracy and home to the second largest Muslim population in the world. We reject all such references/resolutions.”





**287. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Interview of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao by Mr. Karan Thapar for Devil's Advocate.**

**New Delhi, July 2, 2011.**

**Interviewer: (Mr. Karan Thapar):** Hello and welcome to Devil's Advocate. Where do relations with Pakistan stand and has the Nuclear Suppliers Group betrayed India? Those are two of the critical issues ... (Inaudible)... in an exclusive interview with the Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao.

Foreign Secretary, let us start with Pakistan. There is a view that the resumption of dialogue with Pakistan has been more to Islamabad's interest than Delhi. One, it has lessened the pressure on Pakistan in terms of terror; it has allowed that country to raise Kashmir; it has raised the domestic profile of the government; and it has helped internationally. What has this process done for India?

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** The process is of benefit to both countries. I do not think you can seek to create a profit and loss statement when it comes to relations between India and Pakistan in the current context. The fact is that the commitment to engagement is based on our shared geography, as Prime Minister said the other day in his conversation with the newspaper editors. And given the shared geography and the fact that there are enormous complexities in the relationship and there are problems to be resolved, it makes sense to engage, it makes sense to resume the dialogue, it makes sense to discuss the complex issues.

**Interviewer:** In other words you are saying that talking to Pakistan is a necessity even if there are not immediate gains from the talks from India's standpoint.

**Foreign Secretary:** I definitely believe that this is a process that is going to take time. I think it would be impractical and unrealistic to expect dramatic breakthroughs just in one round of talks or two rounds of talks.

**Interviewer:** Let me put to you what critics of this talks process say. They say that the 26/11 trial is stalled in Rawalpindi; the judge has been changed four times; you have been repeatedly asking for voice samples; you have not got them and you have no idea when you will get them; and most importantly, even the permission given by the Home Secretary in March for an investigative commission has not been taken up by the Pakistanis. So, all you have got is verbal assurances but nothing substantive and concrete.

**Foreign Secretary:** The point to ponder over in this context is the approach you take to these matters. There is no doubt that on the 26/11 trial we need

satisfactory closure, as I mentioned in Islamabad the other day. We need progress in the trial and we need concrete results. There is no doubt about that. And those concerns have been adequately and more than adequately communicated to the Pakistanis even in this round. And let me tell you what kind of ...

**Interviewer:** Can I interrupt? You are not getting any progress. Former Home Secretary G.K. Pillai to Rediff.com just a couple of days ago has said that the process has not moved an inch.

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, it depends on how you look at it. From one angle certainly it has not moved an inch. I am not denying that. There has been a very glacial pace to this whole process as far as the 26/11 trials are concerned. But let me tell you what kind of feedback we got from the Pakistanis at this round. And they spoke of the need to discuss all the serious and substantive issues between the two countries and that terrorism was at the forefront of this.

**Interviewer:** In other words, you see a change in Pakistan's attitude.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the prism through which they see this issue has definitely been altered.

**Interviewer:** And you see that as a positive outcome.

**Foreign Secretary:** I see that as an outcome that we must take note of, that we must take cognisance of.

**Interviewer:** In other words this was a window of opportunity that we need to take advantage of.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think when they speak of the fact that non-state elements in this relationship need to be tackled, that we must look at safe havens and sanctuaries that we must look at fake currency, we must look at all the aspects that are concerned with the business of terror, I think that is a concrete development.

**Interviewer:** You are putting a positive gloss on what you heard from Islamabad when you visited recently. But let me put this to you, in May and June there was enormous evidence ... (Inaudible)... Headley ... (Inaudible)... how Rana trial ... (Inaudible)... in America which suggested conclusively ISI involvement in 26/11. He provided proof of ISI funding, of ISI training, of ISI instructions, he even named Major Iqbal as an ISI handler. Home Minister Chidambaram said that this was prima facie proof of ISI involvement. But Rehman Malik, the Pakistan Minister of Interior has gone on record to dismiss everything Headley said. He says the man is not trustworthy. So, what you are getting is not positive outcomes, it is not positive responses, you are getting denials.

**Foreign Secretary:** Let me say that we should not read literal outcomes into all this. The fact is that we are engaging each other, India and Pakistan, on all issues including the 26/11 trial. And when I met my counterpart Salman Bashir in Islamabad a few days ago, these are the very issues that I raised with him.

**Interviewer:** You raised with him what Headley had said.

**Foreign Secretary:** I did raise that and I said we need to get satisfactory answers on these linkages.

**Interviewer:** Does Salman Bashir accept what Headley said?

**Foreign Secretary:** Let me tell you, the aim here, and it is not just the aim of India I think it applies to the whole global community, the strategic link between the Pakistani state and militancy and terror needs to be broken.

**Interviewer:** But to begin with, does Salman Bashir accept that there is a strategic link?

**Foreign Secretary:** Well, he is not going to say that in so many words to me. I think it would be unrealistic for me to expect that the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan is going to say that. But let me say that the fact that we are discussing the threat, the scourge, the evil of terrorism and the fact that it has ramifications that extend into the entire region, I think is a development we must take note of. I am not being Pollyanna, I am not trying to sound over optimistic about this.

**Interviewer:** You sound very generous towards the Pakistanis.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think that is again your interpretation, Karan. That is not my interpretation and I do not believe that is the way diplomatic negotiations are transacted. I think we have to be realistic. We have to understand the difficulties in the terrain.

**Interviewer:** When you raised Headley, did he accept that Headley has provided proof of ISI involvement? The former Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan was willing to accept it when he came to India. Does the present incumbent accept that what Headley said is trustworthy or does he take the Rehman Malik line on this visit?

**Foreign Secretary:** First of all I think you are approaching this from the angle as if to suggest that the only focus of my discussions with Salman Bashir in Islamabad last week was the 26/11 trial. There is a Home Secretary-Interior Secretary process which is under way. They have had a good round of talks. There are outcomes from those talks. There is follow-up actually in process at the moment. So, I did allude to all this in my discussions but we also discussed peace and security, we discussed the issue of Kashmir which has always formed

a part of the dialogue, let me say that. Somehow the impression is being created that we have given away the store by discussing Kashmir. I completely refute that allegation.

**Interviewer:** I totally accept that, Madam. Very happy that you are talking so openly and fully about the discussions you have had with Salman Bashir. Let me put to you what once again critics might say. They say, on the one hand there is David Headley revealing in detail the nature of the ISI involvement in 26/11, on the other hand Pakistan Government investigations make no mention whatsoever of any connection between Lashkar and intelligence agencies and officers. Critical people like Sajid Mir and Muzammil Bhat, the chief Lashkar military tactician, do not even feature in the charge-sheet. And Pakistan has taken no steps to pursue the 20 fugitives wanted for their role as crew of the boat that came to Bombay. So, Pakistan is verbally very reassuring but when you look at the concrete steps that they are failing to take, the gap gets wider and wider.

**Foreign Secretary:** I have said it and I say it again we do need closure on all these issues. These are issues of paramount concern to India and very legitimately so. And I think Pakistan is fully aware of this. The rounds of talks that we have had in recent months, and I refer especially to the Home Secretary level talks, have served the purpose of communicating and articulating these concerns very graphically to the Pakistanis. And the fact is that we have sustained the dialogue on these issues, while I agree with you, concrete results seem to be very far off. We have not seen anything actually happening on the Mumbai trial and that is the point of great concern to us. But let me ask you a question. Does it mean that dialogue is not an option that we should pursue with Pakistan?

**Interviewer:** This is very interesting that you should bring that very question up because the point I was going to make is that as I ...(Inaudible)... , and I suspect as the audience ...(Inaudible)... , they will say to themselves that what the Foreign Secretary is really saying is that the previous position that India had taken after 2008 on 26/11 that there can be no dialogue with Pakistan until there is substantive delivery on 26/11 and terror, that position has changed. Even if the Government does not agree to it upfront, the Government has decided that now it can no longer refuse talks, it needs to engage with Pakistan in the hope that engagement will produce the result that earlier ...(Inaudible)... did not produce. Has that change taken place?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think you have to look at policy-making in a dynamic situation. I do not think you are making policy in a laboratory. You take into account the surrounding environment. You take into account the success of a certain approach or not. Did that approach (of not talking) yield too many

dividends? Well, you have to make your assessment of that. I think the decision to reengage with Pakistan and to talk about the issues that divide us, that create a gulf between us, to reduce the trust deficit, as the two Prime Ministers said, I think is a very realistic approach to dealing with problems with Pakistan.

**Interviewer:** Absolutely! I mean ... (Inaudible)... the fact that the world changes, time moves on, and policy needs to move on as well.

**Foreign Secretary:** Especially for us in South Asia.

**(For the second part of the interview relating to Nuclear issue please Document No.37)**



**288. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Cross LoC CBMs.**

**New Delhi, July 18, 2011.**

The Joint Working Group on cross LoC CBMs met in New Delhi on 18th July, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Mr Y K Sinha, Joint Secretary (PAI), Ministry of External Affairs and Ms Zehra H. Akbari, Director General (South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Pakistan delegation.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the existing cross LoC travel and trade arrangements to ensure their effective implementation and exchanged views on additional measures to facilitate cross LoC travel and trade.



**289. Felicitation by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the newly appointed Pakistan Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar.**

**New Delhi, July 20, 2011.**

The External Affairs Minister Sh S. M. Krishna, sent a letter of felicitations to Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar on her appointment as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, soon after learning of the news yesterday.

He said that he looked forward to meeting her in New Delhi soon and to working closely with her in achieving the common goal of establishing friendly and cooperative bilateral relations, which was in the interest of the peoples of both countries.



**290. Joint Statement issued after a meeting between Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Pakistan Interior Minister A Rehman Malik.**

**Thimphu, July 24, 2011.**

"The Home Minister of India, H.E. Mr P Chidambaram and H.E. Senator A. Rehman Malik, Interior Minister of Pakistan, met on 23rd July 2011 in Thimphu on the margins of the Fourth Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

The two Ministers discussed matters of mutual interest and concern. The Indian Home Minister referred to the requests made by the Home Ministry of India, some of which were pending with the Pakistani side since their last meeting. The Interior Minister of Pakistan also sought an early response to some of the queries made in the same context.

The Interior Minister of Pakistan affirmed that his Ministry was working toward an early visit of a Judicial Commission from Pakistan to India. He expressed the hope that the visit would take place at an early date. In response, the Indian Home Minister reaffirmed that India was willing to receive such a visit. India would also send a team to Pakistan, as agreed during the last Home Secretaries' meeting in New Delhi.

The two Ministers agreed to ensure that their Ministries would remain in contact on these and other matters."



**291. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting between Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.**

**New Delhi, July 26, 2011.**

In response to a question the Official Spokesperson said,

"The Foreign Secretary of India Smt. Nirupama Rao and the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Salman Bashir, had very cordial and positive discussions today in New Delhi. They reviewed the progress in talks between different Ministries and organizations, of the two countries in the preceding months. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, would be briefing the External Affairs Minister of India and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan respectively, of their discussions. The Two Ministers are scheduled to hold a meeting tomorrow in New Delhi."



**292. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs with Welcome remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on arrival of Foreign Minister of Pakistan Hina Rabbani Khar.**

**New Delhi, July 27, 2011.**

I am delighted to welcome the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Her Excellency Hina Rabbani Khar and members of her delegation, to India, for bilateral talks.

At the outset, I would also like to congratulate her in person, on her appointment as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and wish her all the very best.

I look forward to working closely with her, in forging a peaceful and cooperative relationship between India and Pakistan, which is in the interest of peace and development of both our countries, the region and beyond. We owe this to ourselves and to the generations to follow.

Excellency, let me categorically state that we would like to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan and wish the people of Pakistan well. The challenges and aspirations of all us South Asians are similar. I visualize a resurgent South Asia, proudly marching forth on a path of development, in a terror free and harmonious atmosphere.

I wish you a wonderful visit to India and would once again like to welcome you to the historical capital city of New Delhi.



**293. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Press Stakeout with Foreign Minister of Pakistan.**

**New Delhi, July 27, 2011.**

Her Excellency Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and I, along with our delegations, have held very useful discussions today. The talks were held in a cordial and positive atmosphere. We have had detailed and fruitful exchange of views on all issues of mutual interest and concern. We have reviewed the progress in the dialogue process since its resumption in February 2011. We have also deliberated on the way forward.

2. I must say that I am satisfied at the progress achieved in this round of the resumed dialogue. The outcomes have been as per our expectations. Above all, we have reaffirmed our commitment to resolve all outstanding issues through a comprehensive, serious and sustained dialogue. While being fully cognisant of the challenges that lie ahead, I can confidently say that our relations are on the right track. We have some distance to travel, but with an open mind and a constructive approach, which has been demonstrated in this round of dialogue, I am sure we can reach our desired destination of having a friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries.

3. We have agreed on a Joint Statement which you will have soon. Nevertheless, I would like to highlight a few important points:

- i) We have agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. We have also agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice.
- ii) On Jammu and Kashmir, we will continue discussions with a view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences. Meanwhile, for the welfare of the people on both sides of the LoC, we have announced additional measures on cross-LoC travel and trade. Details are given in the Joint Statement.
- iii) We have agreed that increase in trade and economic cooperation between the two countries would be mutually beneficial and have noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Commerce Secretary level talks held in Islamabad in April 2011. In this context, we have decided to resume the work of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission.
- iv) We will therefore continue our dialogue process.



v) We have also decided that the two Foreign Ministers will meet again in Islamabad in the first half of 2012 to review progress in the dialogue process.

4. Let me once again thank the Foreign Minister of Pakistan for coming to New Delhi and for her leadership in the dialogue process. I am satisfied at the outcome of our talks. We are listening carefully to each other and giving serious consideration to the ideas and proposals from both sides that are on the table. I also confident about our future course of our relations, which has to be normalised for peace progress and prosperity of our two countries and the region.



#### **294. Press Interaction of Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.**

**New Delhi, July 27, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** The Joint Statement is already on the website but we will try to get you hard copies also.

You already have got a perspective from the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister about how the talks have progressed. We have here Foreign Secretary of India and the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to interact with you and take a few questions. I would also like to introduce my counterpart Director General and Spokesperson of the Pakistani Foreign Office Mrs. Tehmina Janjua who has so graciously agreed to help me out with the interaction. There will be three questions on each side and the first question will go to the Pakistani side.

**Question (Pakistani Media):** It was indeed encouraging to see the statement by the Ministers today. The Ministers stated in the Joint Statement that they will continue discussions on Kashmir for finding convergence and narrowing down divergence. Can you specify how there will be convergence in the views especially with the Kashmiris yesterday they spoke to us they feel dissatisfied. A brief question about the cooperation or intention of cooperation against counterterrorism. What are the dimensions of this cooperation?

**Pakistan Foreign Secretary (Mr. Salman Bashir):** I think we have had a very productive meeting of the two Ministers. Of course we take some satisfaction as the Foreign Secretaries for having participated in the preparatory work. The Joint Statement that you have is of almost four pages. It is comprehensive. It is

forward-looking. It in a way signifies the intent of both Pakistan and India to adopt a cooperative mode to address all matters that will take our relationship forward. So, as far as your question about narrowing down divergences and broadening convergences, I think that is indicative of the desire of the two sides to get to a deeper level of engagement on all issues. There are no simple, straight answers to some of these problems that have seemed to be intractable. It is only through a deeper level of engagement that we build understanding, we build more trust, and we move towards the resolution of the issues that have bedevilled the relationship. But we do that with a clear purpose in mind and that is, as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan said, to establish friendly, cooperative, good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India.

Similarly, on the counterterrorism aspect, it is a matter of satisfaction that there have been good meetings between the two sides, that is the Secretaries of Interior and Home; and more recently at Thimphu the two Ministers responsible for Interior and Home Affairs have met. In fact the Home Minister of India, some of you may recall, had visited Islamabad last year. There is an agreed plan on the modalities for further cooperation. I believe the Joint Statement refers to the cooperation on counterterrorism between the relevant Departments and agencies. So, this is a matter of interest not only to India but also to Pakistan. I think it is certainly Pakistan's intention to broaden this cooperation on all such issues with India, as we do with the rest of the world.

**Foreign Secretary (Shrimati Nirupama Rao):** Let me add to that by saying that you will see from the context of the Joint Statement the direction that has been established for the future of this relationship. There is full awareness of the levels of difficulty involved in relationships as complex as those between India and Pakistan. I think we must be fully aware of that. But what is also important is for the fog to lift from this relationship. And I think the effort, the kind of impulse that has been generated from the recent meetings is essentially to clear the path, to clear the undergrowth from this relationship, and to set a positive trend for the future. Neither of us underestimates the difficulties involved. There are divergences and that divergence was illustrated yesterday by the meeting you referred to. We have a very different view from Pakistan on that particular event and we have expressed our concerns in a frank and candid manner to the Pakistan's side on this. Having said that, let us not lose sight of the fact that we owe it to the peoples of the two countries to understand that there is a future to be built for this relationship, that there has to be coexistence between the two countries, and it has to happen in the atmosphere free from terrorism, from violence, as I said in Islamabad the other day, free from the culture of the gun. So, I believe the political will is there to craft and to forge a new relationship between the two countries. So, the agenda is one of cautious optimism. We have a lot of work to do but we are determined to move forward.

**Question (Indian Media):** My question is to Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir. Sir, I am taking the question of Shaukat forward, again on the Hurriyat meeting with the Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani. Did it cast a shadow over the talks? And also, the tone and tenor was already set by the Foreign Minister herself when she made the statements on Kashmir. When all the issues were already on the table with India, was there a need to meet with the Hurriyat leaders?

And to Madam Foreign Secretary, was there a certain sense of discomfort in holding talks on Kashmir with the Pakistani side given that they were already holding meetings with the Hurriyat? Does India see it as a parallel structure that has been set?

**Pakistan Foreign Secretary:** As far as the question of Foreign Minister's meeting with the Hurriyat leadership, I would just like to very succinctly state that in a democratic polity ... (Unclear)... kept in mind I believe it is our intention to reach out and I think we should not read more into it. Our Foreign Minister has said that this matter of the meeting of yesterday cannot be construed in any manner including intention and ... (Unclear)... by design, to cast any sort of shadow on today's talks. It is in other words actually to the contrary. So, I think reading more into it is perhaps not warranted.

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** I will take up from where Mr. Bashir left this argument. You referred to parallel structures. As far as we are concerned the only structure in this relationship is the structure, the bilateral structure that we seek and have sought to establish in terms of the dialogue between our two Governments to cover all outstanding issues in the relationship, and of course Jammu and Kashmir forms very much a part of that discussion. And I would just draw your attention to paragraph ten of the Joint Statement which speaks of the Ministers having held discussions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and having agreed to the need for continued discussion in a purposeful and forward-looking manner, and that is the emphasis I would like to give in response to you.

**Question (Pakistani Media):** My question is to both Secretaries regarding the water issues between Pakistan and India. India has been continuously constructing dams on the Kashmir water. We had a treaty in 1960 and Pakistan has a serious concern about that, people of Pakistan have a serious concern about that. My second question is to the Hon. Secretary of India regarding the outgoing Indian Air Force Chief's statement yesterday. Do you think that such statements at the time when the two Foreign Ministers were supposed to meet today were a sort of sabotaging the entire process?

**Pakistan Foreign Secretary:** On the water issue, I think this is a matter that

has been discussed and there is of course an ongoing discussion, consultations on such subjects under the auspices of the Indus Waters Commissioner. That it is also taken up at the right level between the two Governments. I think there is a paragraph in the Joint Statement on this essentially. I think the important thing is that both Pakistan and India have reemphasised or underscored the respective commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty.

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** I would only add to that by saying that it is the duty of all of you in the media to educate public opinion properly on this issue. I think to indulge in any campaign of disinformation about matters concerning the sharing of waters between India and Pakistan would do our two peoples no service. In fact it does them disservice. And I think you have an equal responsibility to speak the truth on these matters. There is no question of India taking away from Pakistan's share of the Indus waters as determined under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 which has worked very well for both the countries. And once again I would like to say on the part of India that we are committed to the Indus Waters Treaty and to our cooperation with Pakistan in this regard.

As far as the remarks that you referred to, I would only bring you back centre-stage to the discussions held between the two Foreign Ministers today, the very positive content of those discussions, the kind of direction that has been set as a result of these discussions. We are talking about peaceful coexistence that we need to see established between the two countries for the benefit of the two peoples. So, everything we say must keep in mind that aim that is common for both our peoples.

**Question (Indian Media):** My first question is to the Pakistani Foreign Secretary. Sir, last month in Islamabad it was agreed that Pakistan would not encourage or would not allow anti-India propaganda, and India made the same commitment. And yet, we do not see you take any action against Hafiz Saeed who once again threatened Jihad against India a couple of days ago. We do not see you criticise, in fact we see you defend, Mr. Fai who has carried out anti-India activities in a third country. And we see you encourage the Hurriyat leadership which is a separatist leadership. Do your words not square with your actions?

And for Mrs. Rao the question is, could you elaborate a little bit on this new agreement on strengthening counter terror cooperation? I think the question really is, are we seeing this joint anti-terror mechanism being resurrected in some form or the other?

**Pakistan Foreign Secretary:** I think there is no question this matter of the propaganda was discussed even today. There was conscious effort made by

both sides to refrain from encouraging or allowing anybody to do this. I think there is great clarity on this as far as Pakistan is concerned and I am sure as far as India is concerned. You know, you cannot attribute an individual's views to a state's views. It is important to keep that distinction in mind. Pakistan's position on several issues that are part of these consultations and discussions is well known. Of course, whether it is the Hurriyat or Mr. Fai, our positions on all this is well known. So, I do not think it should be construed as anti-India propaganda.

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** In the discussions today between the two Foreign Ministers we did emphasise the need for the avoidance of any rhetoric or statements that are not conducive to the reduction of the trust deficit between the two countries. That point was emphasised and this I believe was well taken by both sides. I do not want to go further into comments on the issue that you have raised. Now you know our views on that.

As far as counterterrorism cooperation is concerned, I only would like to draw your attention to the discussions that have been held and that are ongoing between the Home Secretary and the Interior Secretary from both countries. There is a certain medium now that has been established for the exchange of views on matters concerning counterterrorism, and that is the way forward on this. The Home Minister of India and the Interior Minister of Pakistan have also had a meeting in Thimphu a few days ago. So, there is contact, there is communication between the two sides.

But in answer to your question, Parul, no this is not the reestablishment of the anti-terror mechanism. As I said, the recommencement of dialogue and the sequence of meetings that we have had very clearly states how we are approaching these issues. We are approaching them at the level of the Ministries concerned. We are very concerned and we have once again reiterated that concern to the Pakistan side about the need for speedy completion of the Mumbai trial and the need to bring those culpable to speedy justice. So, that has also been a very important focus of our approach on these matters.

**Question (Pakistani Media):** Madam Rao, when you are coming with investigation on Samjhauta?

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** You mean when I am coming with ...?

**Question (Pakistani Media):** When you are coming with Samjhauta investigation?

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** On that our position has also been made very clear. I was asked this just last month in Islamabad. Our Home Ministry also made it clear that there is an ongoing investigation into the Samjhauta Express

incident, very tragic incident where a number of lives were lost, and when the investigation is complete all relevant details will be shared with the Pakistan side.

**Pakistani Foreign Secretary:** If you permit of course I just want to make a general point here to enable you to understand what we are trying to do in this process. We want to take this process forward. We agree that it should be a sustained process which is, we believe, in the best interest of our two peoples. But in doing so, we have to make a conscious effort to be respectful to each other and to be mindful of each other's concerns. But that does not in any way mean that either of us could seek some sort of an advantage over the other. That is not the spirit that would guide this dialogue. And I am sure that is the case. Having said that, let me also state very clearly that we do recognise the need that whatever, as referred to, deeper levels of engagement that can only be possible in the process itself and not through the media. And everything that we do is without prejudice to our known positions. That is the case both countries I think is based on that understanding. So, I think just for your reference point, I think it would probably not be appropriate to try to read more into what is said and what is not said. I think it is more important to understand what it is a work in progress and we are sincere and committed to make it a success. Of course, as the Foreign Secretary said a little while ago, we would seek greater understanding and support from our friends in the press for this dialogue.

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** I would just like to add that my mind goes back to that day in Thimphu last year when our Prime Ministers met and we call it the spirit of Thimphu, the Thimphu Spirit. And I would like to thank Foreign Secretary Bashir for this also, our efforts over the last few months particularly have been to infuse our dialogue and the various meetings that have taken place with that spirit of Thimphu which was spelt out by the leaders of both our countries - by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan.

**Question (Indian Media):** My question is to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary. Sir, you talk of deepening engagement on counterterrorism. Can you tell us why nothing has happened on the Mumbai trials? Not a single arrest, voice samples not coming, and as Parul said, Hafiz Saeed going on lecture tours in your country. I understand that you are talking about a feel good factor, but we do not see any feel good out here.

And to the Indian Foreign Secretary, Madam, I would like to ask in the Joint Statement you talk of 'expressed satisfaction on counterterrorism issues including progress on Mumbai trials'. Could you tell us how and why we are satisfied on this issue?

**Pakistan Foreign Secretary:** Of course you are entitled to your views. I detect

that in certain cases there is some sort of an impatience that one sees in some matters. But objectively speaking, a lot has happened that is not on the surface or perhaps not readily available for you to come to a more reasoned conclusion. Of course, it is good to have the feel good factor. We cannot be wired in the past. I think it is counterproductive to keep on coming back to a few phrases or a few words. I do not see the purpose of that because it is up to us how we see our future, a future that is definitely interlinked. And I see no point in getting deeper into acrimonies ...(Unclear)... of deeper engagement.

**Indian Foreign Secretary:** Smita, I was just reading the sentence you referred to. I think you have to read it very very clearly and coherently. It says here, "The Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the holding of meetings". The satisfaction has been expressed on the holding of meetings. Please do not think satisfaction has been expressed in the manner in which you expressed dissatisfaction.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much. This interaction now draws to a close. We appreciate your presence. Thank you.



**295. Joint Statement issued following meeting between External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and Pakistan Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar.**

**New Delhi, July 27, 2011.**

The Minister of External Affairs of India, H.E. S.M. Krishna and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar met in New Delhi on July 27, 2011.

2. The Ministerial level talks were preceded by a meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan on July 26, 2011.
3. The talks were held in a candid, cordial and constructive atmosphere.
4. The Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the holding of meetings on the issues of Counter-Terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and Narcotics Control; Humanitarian issues; Commercial & Economic cooperation; Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; Sir Creek; Siachen; Peace & Security including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; and promotion of friendly exchanges.

5. The Ministers affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues through constructive and result oriented engagement, and to establish friendly, cooperative and good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India.
6. The Ministers underlined the need for sustained effort by both countries to build a relationship of trust and mutually beneficial cooperation in conformity with the determination of the people of both countries to see an end to terrorism and violence and to realise their aspirations for peace and development.
7. The Ministers agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism including among relevant departments as well as agencies to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice.
8. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the fact that since the resumption of dialogue earlier this year, the process of release of prisoners and fishermen from both sides has continued. In this regard, the Ministers agreed with the recommendations of the Judicial Committee on Prisoners regarding (a) early repatriation of the prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose travel documents are available; (b) adoption of a humane approach in dealing with cases of fishermen, women, elderly, juvenile prisoners, prisoners terminally ill or suffering from serious illness or physical / mental disability and (c) need to monitor the welfare of prisoners in order to ensure their humane treatment.
9. The Ministers attached importance to promoting peace and security, including Confidence Building Measures, between India and Pakistan and agreed to convene separate meetings of the Expert Groups on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs, in Islamabad in September 2011.
10. The Ministers held discussions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and agreed to the need for continued discussions, in a purposeful and forward looking manner, with a view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.
11. On Cross-LoC trade and travel facilitation for Jammu & Kashmir the Ministers decided the following:-

**CROSS-LoC TRADE:**

- (i) List of 21 products of permissible items for Cross-LoC trade will be respected by both sides. The Working Group will review the trading list



with a view to further specifying permissible items to facilitate intra-Jammu & Kashmir Cross-LoC trade.

- (ii) Both sides will provide adequate facilities at the trade facilitation centres on each side.
- (iii) The number of trading days stand enhanced from 2 to 4 days per week. Truck movements shall take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, both on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot routes.
- (iv) The Designated Authorities will resolve operational issues concerning cross-LoC trade through regular interaction.
- (v) Regular meetings between the Chambers of Commerce and traders of both sides will be facilitated.
- (vi) Existing telephone communication facilities should be strengthened.
- (vii) The meetings of the Designated Authorities will be held alternately at the Terminal of the Crossing Points on both sides of the LoC every quarter or as and when deemed necessary.

#### **CROSS-LoC TRAVEL**

- i) Cross-LoC travel would be expanded on both sides of the LoC to include visits for tourism and religious pilgrimage. In this regard, the modalities will be worked out by both sides.
- ii) Facilities including waiting area, terminal and clearing procedures at the operational crossing points will be streamlined by both sides for smooth Cross-LoC travel.
- iii) The Cross-LoC bus service between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot routes will henceforth run on every Monday.
- iv) Application forms and requisite documentation in respect of travel across LoC will be exchanged by email between Designated Authorities of both sides. Such email transfer of application forms will be backed up by hard copies.
- v) Both sides will expedite the processing time for applications, which shall not be more than 45 days.
- vi) Six month multiple entry cross-LoC travel permits will be allowed by the Designated Authorities after completion of the required formalities at an early date.

- vii) Coordination meetings between the Designated Authorities will be held at the Terminals alternately on both sides of the LoC every quarter or as and when deemed necessary.

It was agreed that the Joint Working Group will henceforth meet on a bi-annual basis to review existing arrangements and suggest additional measures for Cross-LoC travel and trade.

12. The Ministers agreed that increase in trade and economic engagement between the two countries would be mutually beneficial. In this context, they emphasized the importance of early establishment of a non-discriminatory trade regime between the two countries, including reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. They also emphasised the need for facilitating trade and redressing trade imbalance. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that during their meeting held in Islamabad in April 2011, the Commerce Secretaries of the two countries had decided on a number of important steps to realize the full potential of bilateral trade.

13. The Ministers agreed that discussions will continue on Siachen, Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project and Sir Creek to find a mutually acceptable solution to these issues. They reiterated their commitment to seeking early and amicable solutions to all these issues. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty.

14. The Ministers also agreed that people of the two countries are at the heart of the relationship and that issues of people-to-people contacts and humanitarian issues should be accorded priority and treated with sensitivity. They noted with satisfaction the progress made towards finalization of a revised Visa Agreement which would help liberalise the visa regime and facilitate people-to-people, business-to-business and sports contacts.

15. The Ministers also emphasized promotion of cooperation in various fields including, facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.

16. The Ministers decided to resume the work of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission and agreed that the Technical Level Working Groups should hold their meetings to identify avenues of further cooperation in these fields.

17. They reaffirmed their commitment to the goals and objectives of SAARC and agreed to make joint efforts to promote cooperation for regional development in the SAARC framework.

18. It was also decided that the Foreign Ministers will meet again in Islamabad in the first half of 2012 to review progress in the dialogue process.

19. The Ministers agreed to the continuation of the dialogue process and to the convening series of Secretaries level meetings on Counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and Narcotics Control; Humanitarian issues; Commercial and Economic cooperation; Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; Sir Creek (at the level of Additional Secretaries/Surveyors General); Siachen; Peace & Security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges. Dates of all these meetings will be decided through diplomatic channels and will be held prior to the next Ministerial meeting.

20. The Ministers noted that Shri Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry of India, has extended an invitation to his counterpart, H. E. Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Minister of Commerce of Pakistan to visit India at a mutually convenient date.

21. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan will be calling on Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. She will also be calling on Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition (Lok Sabha).



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#### **Clarification on India-Pakistan Joint Statement**

**July 28, 2011**

In response to a question regarding the India-Pakistan Joint Statement issued following the Foreign Minister level talks on July 27, 2011 wherein paragraph 4, it is mentioned that the "Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the holding of meetings on the issues of Counter-Terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and Narcotics Control....." the Official Spokesperson stated:

In regard to the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan in February 2011, the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan expressed their satisfaction on the holding of meetings, at appropriate levels, on the outstanding issues between the two countries. We categorically reject inferences that there was any expression of satisfaction on "the progress on Mumbai trial". The language of the Statement is very clear in this regard. The holding of the meetings on various issues is a step forward given that for over two years our substantive dialogue had remained suspended and this has been acknowledged in the Statement. It may be recalled that under the resumed dialogue "Counter Terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial)" is the subject of the Home Secretary level talks (as announced on February 10, 2011 in the Agreed Outcome of the Foreign Secretary level talks held on February 6, 2011 in Thimphu). To this we have added Narcotics Control to correctly reflect the scope of Home/Interior Secretary level talks.

India has, time and again, clearly expressed its concern and disappointment with Pakistan about the lack of progress in the Mumbai trial and bringing those responsible for this heinous terrorist attack to justice. The matter was forcefully raised by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister in his meeting with his Pakistani counterpart on July 27, 2011 in New Delhi. This issue was also the focus of the Home Secretary level talks on March 28-29, 2011 in New Delhi and was also taken up vigorously at the Foreign Secretary level talks on June 23-24, 2011 in Islamabad and on July 26, 2011 in New Delhi.

**296. Suo Motu Statement in Parliament by EAM on "Visit of Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India"**

**New Delhi, August 3, 2011**

I rise to inform the House of the visit of Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India.

2. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Foreign Minister of Pakistan visited India from July 26-28, 2011 for the Foreign Minister level talks, which were held in Delhi on July 27. These talks were preceded by a Foreign Secretary level meeting on July 26 to prepare the ground for the ministerial meeting. Foreign Minister level talks were held to review the progress of the first round of the resumed dialogue process which commenced after the meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries in February 2011 in Thimphu.

3. Pakistan Foreign Minister and I, along with our respective delegations, met for delegation level talks on July 27. In the discussion, we took stock of the current state of our bilateral relations and reviewed progress in the dialogue process since its resumption. The talks were held in a candid, friendly and positive atmosphere. I reaffirmed India's desire to work with Pakistan to reduce the trust deficit and move forward in a friendly manner. I conveyed that India desires a stable and prosperous Pakistan, acting as a bulwark against terrorism, and at peace with itself and with its neighbours. India wishes to have constructive relations with Pakistan to enable both countries to effectively address our common developmental priorities.

4. I underscored the importance that we attach to the fulfillment of commitments made by Pakistan during the Home/Interior Secretary level talks in March 2011 on the trial and investigation, underway in Pakistan, in the Mumbai terrorist attacks case. I requested Pakistan to act on the assurance given to our Home Minister by Pakistan Interior Minister in June 2010 on the dossiers regarding seven specific individuals and the need to provide voice samples. Pakistan was asked to investigate the linkages with some elements in the Pakistani security agencies that had emerged from the evidence presented in the Tahawwur Rana trial in the United States. I called for credible and effective action against jihadi leaders such as Hafiz Saeed and terrorist groups such as Jamaat-ud-Daawa and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, who continue to incite violence and hatred against India. I took the opportunity to also convey our displeasure at Pakistan Foreign Minister meeting Hurriyat leaders on July 26, even before bilateral discussions between the two Governments could commence.

5. Pakistan's Foreign Minister stated that we should not let history determine the future course of India-Pakistan relationship. There was a change in mindset in Pakistan which went beyond the present Government or Pakistan People's

Party, which traditionally had good relations with India. She mentioned that the good relations between late Mrs. Benazir Bhutto and late PM Rajiv Gandhi were fondly remembered in Pakistan. She maintained that the resumption of dialogue has improved the atmospherics. The meeting of the Foreign Ministers was a culmination of this round of dialogue and re-engagement in itself could be considered a success.

6. On the Mumbai terrorist attacks trial, underway in Pakistan, the Pakistan Foreign Minister requested India to have patience, trust and confidence in the process. According to her, Pakistan was not trying to abdicate responsibility. On the issue of terrorism emanating from territory under Pakistan's control, she said that no country had suffered as much as Pakistan at the hands of terrorists and therefore Pakistan's commitment to fight terrorism should not be doubted. It was not Pakistan's policy to support terrorism in any country. Pakistan was ready to have a dialogue with India on the issue and there was a need for cooperation to combat terrorism. There was an opportunity in the new environment of Pakistan and a consensus that it is in Pakistan's national interest to have good relations with India. On her meeting with Hurriyat leaders, she informed me that Pakistan wanted to engage all the stakeholders.

7. On Jammu & Kashmir, both sides reiterated their respective positions which are well known and agreed to continue discussions for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir issue, by narrowing divergences and building on convergences. Meanwhile, in order to facilitate travel and trade across the Line of Control, for the welfare of the people on both sides, we announced some additional Confidence Building Measures, which are listed in the Joint Statement that was issued after the talks.

8. On economic and commercial cooperation, I expressed satisfaction that Pakistan had recognized that grant of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India would help in expanding bilateral trade relations and had also committed to operationalise a non-discriminatory trade regime with India, by replacing the present "positive list" with a "negative list" by October 2011. I called for diligent follow up on decisions taken during the Commerce Secretary level talks held in April 2011. Pakistan Foreign Minister said that Pakistan's approach on the matter was very positive and constructive. Mutually beneficial mechanisms for linkages of trade and commerce could be discussed. To give further impetus to our economic and commercial relations, we agreed to convene the next meeting of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission next year, to be preceded by the meetings of the 8 technical level working groups.

9. On issues like Sir Creek, Siachen and Tulbul Navigation Project/Wullar Barrage, there have been serious discussions in this round of the resumed dialogue. We have understood better each other's positions but more needs to

be done. We decided to continue working together with an open mind and a problem solving approach to eventually arrive at mutually acceptable solutions. We also agreed that the bedrock of India-Pakistan relations were people of the two countries and therefore promotion of friendly exchanges in fields of culture, sports, media, parliamentary exchanges and so on to enhance people-to-people contacts, was of particular importance. In this regard, we acknowledged the need for finalization of the revised Bilateral Visa Agreement and revision of the Bilateral Protocol on visit to Religious Shrines. We emphasized the need to address pressing humanitarian issues like the release of prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody and supported the work of India-Pakistan Judicial Committee in this regard.

10. As an outcome of the talks, it was decided to continue the dialogue process on all issues. In this regard, it was agreed to convene a series of Secretary level meetings on the issues of Counter-Terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and Narcotics Control; Humanitarian issues; Commercial & Economic cooperation; Tulbul Navigation Project/Wullar Barrage; Sir Creek (at the level of Surveyor General/Additional Secretary) ; Siachen; Peace & Security including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; and promotion of friendly exchanges. The exact dates for these meetings would be decided through diplomatic channels. We also agreed that the meetings would be completed prior to my visit to Pakistan in the first half of 2012.

11. During her stay in Delhi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister called on Hon'ble Prime Minister and handed over a letter of invitation from Prime Minister Gilani to visit Pakistan. She also called on Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Shri L.K. Advani, Chairman, BJP Parliamentary Board.

12. The visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan was aimed at resolving peacefully all outstanding issues through a constructive and forward looking dialogue and to establish cooperative and good neighbourly relations between the two countries, in an environment free from terrorism and violence. In this regard, we are committed to build a relationship of trust and mutually beneficial cooperation in conformity with the determination of the people of both countries to see an end to terrorism and violence and to realise their aspirations for peace and development.

Thank you.



**297. Statement made by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur in Lok Sabha in reply to a question on Pakistan.**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2011.**

Ensuring a peaceful and secure neighbourhood is central to India's foreign policy objectives. Government constantly monitors the prevailing and emerging situation in the neighbourhood including Pakistan.

India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan in an atmosphere free from terror and violence. We have consistently conveyed to Pakistan that it must fulfill its solemn commitment of not allowing territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India in any manner. Pakistan's credible and effective action against terrorism is in its own interest and in the interest of the region.

During the meeting of External Affairs Minister with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in New Delhi on July 27, 2011, we forcefully conveyed our terrorism related concerns to Pakistan. In the Joint Statement issued after the talks, both sides agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations and in this regard agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice.

Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary steps to meet our legitimate strategic and security requirements.



**297A. Statement made by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jyotiraditya Scindia in Rajya Sabha on trade with Pakistan.**

**New Delhi, August 10, 2011.**

Bilateral trade and commerce talks were held between Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan on 27-28 April 2011, in Islamabad. The two sides, *inter-alia*, agreed to improve trade infrastructure and expand trade through Attari-Wagha land route. It was agreed to set up a Working Group to address and resolve clearly identified sector-specific barriers to trade. Both sides agreed to undertake new initiatives to enable trade in electricity and Bt. Cotton seeds as

also expand trade in petroleum products. It was agreed that cooperation in Information Technology sector would be encouraged through the private sector. Both sides agreed to facilitate grant of Business Visas to encourage expansion of trade. Pakistan recognized that grant of MFN status to India would help in expanding bilateral trade relations. It agreed to replace its present 'Positive List' with 'Negative List', by October 2011.

Joint Working Groups have been set up for Customs cooperation, trade in electricity and trade in all types of Petroleum Products. A Joint Working Group on 'Economic and Commercial Cooperation & Trade Promotion' to be co-chaired by the Joint Secretaries of the respective Departments of Commerce has been set up for reviewing the implementation of the decisions taken during the meeting of the two Commerce Secretaries and also other trade promotion issues.

Pakistan recognized that grant of MFN status to India would help in expanding bilateral trade relations. It has agreed to replace its present 'Positive List' with 'Negative List', by October 2011.



**298. Information provided by Ministry of Commerce & Industry regarding India - Pakistan Trade in the Rajya Sabha.**

**New Delhi, September 7, 2011.**

The data relates to trade passing through Attari-Wagha border.

(Value in Rupees Crore )

Year	Attari Road Land Custom Station		Attari Rail Cargo Land Custom Station	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
2008-09	421.18	410.30	588.55	491.22
2009-10	395.92	798.05	417.89	640.36
2010-11	452.86	1170.46	306.31	892.23

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today





**299. Joint Statement issued at the end of talks between the Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan.**

**New Delhi, September 28, 2011.**

1. At the invitation of the Commerce Minister of India, Shri Anand Sharma, the Commerce Minister of Pakistan, Makhdoom Mohammad Amin Fahim is visiting India from 26th September to 2nd October, 2011.
2. After more than three and a half decades, this is the first visit by a Pakistan Commerce Minister to India. Accompanying the Minister is a high level official delegation including the Commerce Secretary of Pakistan; and more than fifty business delegates from Pakistan. The composition of this delegation underscores the importance that both sides attach to this visit and the mutual desire for better bilateral trade and commercial relations.
3. The official level discussions were held today (28th September) between the Commerce Ministers and their respective official delegations. Both Ministers noted with satisfaction that India and Pakistan are entering a new phase of full normalization of bilateral trade relations. This augurs well for enhancing mutual trust and understanding.
4. The Ministers agreed to jointly work to more than double bilateral trade within three years, from current levels of 2.7 Billion US dollars per annum to about 6 Billion dollars. This goal shall also be facilitated through the Memorandum of Understanding signed today between the India Trade Promotion Organization and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. The MoU shall foster better trade promotional activities, for the benefit of business communities of both countries.
5. The Ministers affirmed that fully normalized commercial links between both countries would strengthen the bilateral relationship and build the bridges of friendship, trust and understanding - for mutual benefit of their people and promotion of prosperity in South Asia.
6. The Ministers mandated their Commerce Secretaries to pursue with vigor the task of fully normalizing bilateral trade relations. They agreed that their countries would cooperate for a high ambition of preferential trade relations under the framework of the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). They noted with satisfaction the joint and collaborative efforts already being made by India and Pakistan to liberalize trade in goods and services under SAFTA. They agreed that all mutual obligations contracted under SAFTA would be implemented with full sincerity.
7. The Ministers appreciated the progress made and roadmap laid for trade

liberalization in the April 2011 meeting of the Commerce Secretaries. They further mandated their respective Commerce Secretaries that when they meet in November, 2011 they shall lay down specific timelines to normalize all trade relationships including dismantling of all non-tariff barriers. Full implementation of SAFTA obligations was also mandated. Commerce Secretaries were also directed to prepare the roadmaps for greater preferential trading arrangements between India and Pakistan. Both Ministers agreed that joint and concerted efforts will be made in all areas to create an enabling environment for trade and to encourage greater engagement between the business communities of both countries. They agreed to further promote greater intra-regional connectivity through road, rail, shipping and air.

8. Ministers noted with satisfaction the comprehensive ground covered in the August 2011 bilateral trade review held in New Delhi. This meeting has been an important milestone in identification of issues impeding trade (in sectors such as cement, textiles, surgical instruments) as perceived by the business communities of both countries. Customs arrangements have also been significantly synchronized and both sides are vigorously addressing issues of infrastructure, to further promote bilateral trade through the land route of Attari-Wagah.

9. The Ministers noted that in the past few months, India and Pakistan have constructively engaged towards a liberalized business visa regime. They expressed that they now expect this matter to be expeditiously concluded before November 2011. The new business visa regime would allow multiple entry and could be for a period up to one year. The Ministers expressed the hope that such a new visa regime would rapidly expand the vistas of bilateral commerce. They emphasized that a more secure regional environment would progressively help both countries to keep liberalizing the visa arrangements for businesspersons.

10. Both Ministers reaffirmed that all decisions taken by them and their respective officers to improve trade relations would be closely monitored to ensure adherence to all agreed timelines. Both sides would maintain frequent contact in this mutual quest for a better trade relationship, underpinned on the

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At the heart of the India - Pakistan trade relations is the question of Pakistan extending MFN status to India which India granted to Pakistan long back. Though Pakistan Cabinet decided in favour of MFN for India and asked its Ministry of Commerce to move "positively" towards granting Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India there are some hurdles to be crossed before the bridge is crossed. However Pakistan in another positive step also announced its intention to move over from the positive list to negative list on trade with India. Currently, Pakistan has given access to 1,940 product lines on its positive list and has 12,000 on the negative list. But half of the items on the positive list are not exported by India or it imports these items.

principles of sincerity, mutual respect and trust. The Ministers agreed that the bilateral trade liberalization process should be uninterrupted and irreversible. They affirmed that both countries would cooperate and work in close coordination at multilateral forum, such as WTO and SAARC, to support each other, thereby strengthening their economies.



**300. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the India – Pakistan Business Conclave.**

**New Delhi, September 29, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma the Union Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles and Makhdoom Muhammed Amin Fahim, Commerce Minister of Pakistan addressed the India- Pakistan business conclave, here today. Shri Sharma during his address stated that “Both of us agreed that a meaningful economic engagement necessarily requires greater movement of business people and there is a need for liberalizing business visa regime. We have urged the concerned officials on both sides to expeditiously conclude the liberal business visa regime by November which will rapidly expand the vistas of bilateral commerce.” Shri Sharma informed that, Minister Fahim has recognized that the grant of MFN status to India would be a key step in expanding bilateral trade relations and the Indian business community has been looking forward to implementation of non-discriminatory market access by Pakistan for India. “We hope that the Minister Fahim would carry home the message of goodwill from Indian business community and secure political mandate for greater trade liberalization with India”, he added.

The Minister expressed the need to look afresh and work together to change the paradigm. He said that this visit is a defining moment which will give an opportunity to look at our relationship with freshness and frankness. The Minister said that he was mindful of the fact that the entire world was watching this visit. He stated that we have to learn from our painful history and learn to co-exist in harmony, peace & friendship. In order to raise the ambition of trade, we must create a conducive environment of trust. This will entail frequent high level visits from the sides, regular exchange of business delegations and an agenda of trade liberalization catalyzed by these exchanges. Commerce Minister said that he has accepted the invitation from Pakistan counterpart and will be going to Pakistan with a big business delegation soon.

The Indian Minister recognized the need to build partnerships which are the defining theme of this age. Shri Sharma said that, "South Asia must not remain a prisoner of the past and find its own equilibrium to realize its true potential". Early next year, Pakistan will be chairing the SAFTA Ministerial meeting and this meeting holds the potential of giving a new direction to SAFTA regional framework. The Indian Minister urged Minister Fahim to lend his leadership to providing new life and energy to the process of SAARC economic integration. Shri Sharma assured that, "India will reciprocate in equal measure. I heard the Commerce Secretary of Pakistan saying yesterday that we should aspire for an economic community which links SAARC with ASEAN. It is indeed a bold vision and we must strive towards achieving this objective. The first step would be to enforce the mutual obligations contracted under SAFTA at the earliest"

Shri Sharma later informed that, "Together, we have set a target of doubling trade to reach US \$ 6 billion in three years. This indeed is by no means is an extremely ambitious target given the fact that India's global trade in goods last year stood at US \$ 600 billion". He pointed out that Trade in petroleum, energy and commodities would be significant steps for building long term stake in each other's economy. Strengthening the border infrastructure remains a high priority for us and I was happy to be informed that the Integrated Check Post which is being constructed at the Attari-Wagah Border at a cost of Rs. 150 crores will be operational by the end of the current year.



**301. Joint Press Statement issued after the meeting of the India - Pakistan Joint Working Group on Visa Matters.**

**New Delhi, October 14, 2011.**

In pursuance of the decision taken during the India-Pakistan Home/ Interior Secretary level talks held at New Delhi on 28-29 March 2011, the second meeting of the Joint Working Group was held at New Delhi on October 13-14, 2011 to examine the modalities for streamlining the visa procedures and to finalize the draft of the new Bilateral Visa Agreement with a view to easing travel for the nationals of either country desiring to visit the other. This meeting was a follow-up on the deliberations held in the first meeting of the Joint Working Group at Islamabad on June 2-3, 2011.

The meeting commenced with introductory remarks by Mr. Anil Goswami, Additional Secretary(Foreigners), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The leader of Pakistan delegation, Mr. Nasar Hayat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan made the opening remarks from the Pakistan side. The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

The two sides finalized the draft text of the Agreement, which will be submitted to the respective Governments for obtaining necessary approvals in order to sign the Agreement at an early date.



**302. Appreciation by India of Pakistan's role in the safe return of Indian Army Helicopter which had strayed across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.**

**New Delhi, October 23, 2011.**

It is understood that an army Cheetah helicopter, flying from Leh to Bhimbat, earlier in the day, with four officers on board, strayed across the Line of Control (LOC) due to inclement weather and landed in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).

Efforts are underway to establish contact with Pakistani DGMO to retrieve the personnel and helicopter. Our High Commission in Islamabad is also in touch with the Pakistani side.



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The Indian helicopter which had strayed into POK, was allowed to return to India by the Pakistani authorities, about five hours after it was forced to land in Skardu. The helicopter was allowed to return after the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the two countries "exchanged views." The Pakistan Military spokesman Athar Abbas told the Indian daily *The Hindu* that the Indian DGMO clarified that the chopper lost its way because of bad weather and the GHQ then decided that it should be allowed to return after refuelling. "The helicopter had come deep into our airspace; about 20 km inside. We followed the standard operating practice (SOP) and sent across a message that it would be shot down if it did not land," Maj. Gen. Abbas said. The Ministry of External Affairs appreciated the speedy return of the Army personnel and the helicopter. "We are relieved that our officers and helicopter are back in India. We greatly appreciate the manner in which Pakistan worked with us in resolving the matter," MEA spokesperson said.

**303. Press Statements made by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan after their meeting on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit.**

**Addu (Maldives), November 10, 2011.**

**Prime Minister of Pakistan (Mr. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani):** Today I had a very good meeting with Hon. Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. We had the earlier meeting in Thimphu, and we decided to resume dialogue, and we are moving in a positive direction.

Our two Foreign Ministers have met. Our Interior Ministers have met. Our Commerce Ministers have met. Interior Secretaries and Secretaries Defence have also met each other. The Prime Minister and myself have been meeting on the sidelines several times. We have discussed all issues concerning India and Pakistan. We have very openly discussed all issues including all core issues. We have discussed, the Prime Minister and we have been very open.

The two Foreign Ministers were also called in. They were also briefed so that they are the face of the countries and further whenever they have to have interactions with the media they can give you more details. I can only assure that I have discussed all issues, all core issues, and also the issues related to water, related to terrorism, related to Sir Creek, related to Siachen, related to trade, related to Kashmir. We have discussed all core issues, and the Prime Minister has always been open and he said that put all the cards on the table, I am ready to discuss each and every issue. And I think that the next round of the talks would be more constructive, more positive, and will open a new chapter in the history of both the countries.

Thank you very much. Once again I thank the Prime Minister for supporting Pakistan in the Security Council and also for access to the EU market. Thank you very much, Prime Minister.

**Prime Minister of India (Dr. Manmohan Singh):** Ladies and gentlemen, I have always regarded Prime Minister Gilani as a man of peace. Every time I have met him in the last three years, this belief has been further strengthened.

We have today had a very extensive discussion of relations of our two countries. We started a new process in Thimphu last year. That dialogue process has yielded some positive results. But more needs to be done. And, therefore, we have decided that we will resume this dialogue with the expectation that all issues which have bedeviled the relations between our two countries will be discussed with all the sincerity that our two countries can bring to bear on these talks.

I have always believed that the destinies of people of India and Pakistan are very closely linked, interlinked that we have wasted lot of time in the past in acrimonious debates. The time has come to write a new chapter in the history of our relationship. And I am very happy that Prime Minister Gilani fully endorses this view that we have a unique opportunity, and, therefore, the next round of talks should be far more productive, far more result-oriented in bringing the two countries closer to each other than ever before.

I thank you.



**304. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on Prime Minister's meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister.**

**Addu (Maldives), November 10, 2011.**

I have always regarded Prime Minister Gilani as a man of peace. Every time I have met him in the last three years, this belief has been further strengthened.

We have today had a very extensive discussion of relations of our two countries. We started a new process in Thimphu last year. That dialogue process has yielded some positive results. But more needs to be done. And, therefore, we have decided that we will resume this dialogue with the expectation that all issues which have bedeviled the relations between our two countries will be discussed with all the sincerity that our two countries can bring to bear on these talks.

I have always believed that the destinies of people of India and Pakistan are very closely linked, interlinked that we have wasted lot of time in the past in acrimonious debates. The time has come to write a new chapter in the history of our relationship. And I am very happy that Prime Minister Gilani fully endorses this view that we have a unique opportunity, and, therefore, the next round of talks should be far more productive, far more result-oriented in bringing the two countries closer to each other than ever before.

I thank you.





**305. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the media briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's engagement during the SAARC Summit.**

**Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.**

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**Question:** Sir, today there was an important opportunity to speak to the Interior Minister of Pakistan, who today yet again said that India has till now not provided any evidence against Hafiz Saeed or Jamaat-ud-Dawa. As far as Hafiz Saeed is concerned, is it the end of the road for India? How can we achieve our goal of seeing 26/11 perpetrators behind bars or being brought to justice unless anything happens on Hafiz Saeed?

Prime Minister Gilani said Kashmir and Siachen were also discussed. Could you elaborate on what discussion has taken place?

**Foreign Secretary:** We have provided extensive documentation on Hafiz Saeed and those who are under trial for their involvement in the Mumbai attacks. This evidence has been provided, a number of dossiers have been handed over. We believe there is enough information in that for Pakistan to be able to take forward their case against those seven accused.

As regards your question about Siachen, there is a process of dialogue on various themes. We have plans to have meetings between the Commerce Secretaries, in fact in a few days' time, meetings between the Home Secretary and the Pakistani Interior Secretary, and the discussions on Tulbul between the Secretaries of Water Resources, perhaps also in December but these have still to be worked out. Prime Minister Gilani did mention that among the other dialogue processes which we have to engage in, Sir Creek and Siachen are among those. He did raise that in that context saying that this is part of the dialogue and we need to make progress on those issues also.

**Question:** Sir, this is again about Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik equating the demand for justice for 26/11 to the Samjhauta case, linking it up with the Samjhauta case, and also very specifically equating the demand for sending Ajmal Kasab to the gallows and to also giving similar treatment to the accused in the Samjhauta blast. Is there a possibility of India's case that it is a victim of terror sponsored from across the border getting diluted in the process?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think there is any possibility of India's case getting diluted. The Samjhauta Express issue to which you refer is a terrible attack that took place in India and there is no question of any cross-border element being involved in that. So, I frankly do not see how these two can be linked in

terms of diluting India's concerns on cross-border terrorism. It is interesting that you have quoted the Interior Minister as having said that Mr. Kasab should be sent to the gallows. It would seem that he then believes that there is evidence against him.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, just to start with I would like to ask if India now believes that now Pakistan has taken any steps in terms of cracking down on the groups responsible for 26/11, whether they think that Pakistan is in fact serious about taking the 26/11 trial ahead because it would seem that the fact that the bilateral dialogue has now been resumed comes on the back of positive steps which, I think, you have spoken about, the Prime Minister spoke about. I would like to get your assessment of what are those steps. Secondly, did that long-pending invitation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to visit Pakistan come up in talks, and is there any date for that?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think if one were to talk in terms of steps, the fact that Pakistan has now said it would send a Judicial Commission to India to record the statements of the Chief Investigating Officer, the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, and two doctors - that is the list of those whose statements have to be recorded - that this is part of the action being taken by them to make some progress on the case against these people. We have to set up a court, or appoint a judge to receive this Judicial Commission. It seems this is a step forward. They have also indicated that on many of the concerns which we have expressed and which we have expressed again that these could be addressed in the discussions which are scheduled between the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan. So, to that extent, yes there have been some developments even on the cases against those responsible for the Mumbai attacks.

You mentioned resumed dialogue. I would like to clarify that dialogue actually was resumed in the month of February following the Thimphu talks. That first stage, you might say, culminated in the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India in July. And during the meetings with our External Affairs Minister and subsequently the call on Prime Minister it was felt that we need to take this dialogue forward, and another second round of discussions on all these issues in our bilateral relationship would be resumed or taken forward, whichever you like. But that is where we are. And that is why we place a great deal of importance on the outcomes of these dialogues which are now going to take place. As I said, the Commerce Secretaries' dialogue, the Home Secretaries' dialogue, and we have planned also the dialogue between the Water Resources Secretaries on Tulbul.

A mention was also made of the Joint Commission. There is a Joint Commission between our two countries which last met in 2005. It has eight Technical Groups

working under it. There is a proposal to get those Technical Working Groups restarted. Some of them have actually met in the past, and their work and their conclusions are available. But if there is need to restart any of those Technical Groups, we will certainly look at it. That is where we are.

In terms of the invitation, Prime Minister Mr. Gilani said that he was very keen that Prime Minister should visit Pakistan, and he put it in very emotional terms saying this would be an opportunity not only to build the relationship between our two countries and put it on a very firm footing, but also gave Prime Minister an opportunity to visit his ancestral home which happens to be on the other side of the border. Prime Minister said that he certainly does look forward to visiting Pakistan and this would be decided by mutual consultation.

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**Question:** Sir, the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan spent nearly forty to forty-five minutes one on one. Overall, did any new initiatives or confidence-building measures figure in the discussions? Also both the leaders struck a very upbeat note promising to start a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. In what areas can we see a breakthrough or a significant improvement in the coming days or months?

**Foreign Secretary:** The two leaders of course did meet with their delegations as well as one on one. They discussed all issues quite openly. The Prime Minister said there is a need for us to be able to discuss all issues which bedevil our relations or which stand in the way of a normal friendly relationship between our two countries. The Prime Minister believes firmly that ultimately the destinies of us as a people are quite interlinked, and we need to work out a new chapter in our relationships. For this, the next round of our discussions should be made more productive than the first round. But, Prime Minister did mention that there are, as he called it, perennial concerns about terrorism in India. And he stressed the fact that terrorism is a threat to India, it is now a threat to Pakistan also, but acts of terrorism have the capability of being a spoiler in our relationship of setting back any kind of progress that we could make in our dialogue, and that therefore Pakistan needs to address this in all earnestness. These were the specific words Prime Minister conveyed to us.

**Question:** Sir, if I could just press you a little more on the previous question, both Prime Ministers said that they look forward to, as they put it, a new chapter in India-Pakistan relationship. So, before the next meeting comes, along the way will there be any sort of verifiable steps, maybe action against Lashkar camps in PoK, a decrease in infiltration, can there be steps that we can say are verifiable steps which would indicate that Pakistan is delivering on the content of its interactions?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the discussions covered all aspects of our relationship. Certainly we would need to be completely satisfied that the Pakistanis are taking the kind of steps that you have mentioned. The Home Secretary will be meeting, as I said, his counterpart from Pakistan hopefully next month. We are hoping it will take place around the third week. These specifics would be discussed at that level. I think what Prime Minister was trying to stress is that there is a past which hangs on us, there is a future which lies ahead of us if we can work together, but we are in the present now and we need to deal with these issues here and now. The idea is to move towards a more constructive agenda. But as I said, Prime Minister made quite clear that our ability to move such a constructive agenda certainly does require dealing with the concerns which we face in the present.

**Question:** Sir, you said the next round has to be more productive in India-Pakistan talks. Will the next round follow the same structure as that of the Composite Dialogue, or do you plan to rejig a bit, scale it up a bit? Secondly, has the issue of early formalisation of Teesta and Feni water agreements come up during our Prime Minister's discussions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina?

**Foreign Secretary:** I believe here on this question of what kind of dialogue, I happened to glance at what my predecessor Mrs. Rao answered when she was in Thimphu and she said we do not need to get into nomenclature. So, I can take refuge behind my predecessor's comments. So, I will just say that this is a resumed dialogue. Certainly the dialogue is to cover, as I said, all outstanding issues in our relationship. And it is structured in a way that you have different Ministries, Secretaries of different Departments involved in different elements of the dialogue. So, certainly we should be going through all of them. The aim is to culminate, as was mentioned by Hon. External Affairs Minister when he met the Pakistani Foreign Minister in July, in a meeting between the two Foreign Ministers perhaps by the end of the first half of 2012. That was the calendar which they had set. That remains as the target.

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**Question:** Foreign Secretary, when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls Mr. Gilani a man of peace, it is obviously not an assessment made by an individual, it is an assessment made by the Prime Minister of a country. My question is, what has made him come to the conclusion that has further reinforced his belief that he is dealing with a man of peace? And what steps taken by Prime Minister Gilani make him feel that he is a man of peace?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think Prime Minister's assessment is based on the frequent meeting he has had with Prime Minister Gilani. He has met him a number of times now. And it is an assessment based on the nature of his discussions

with Mr. Gilani, and our own Prime Minister's own pursuit of peace, and the fact that he finds a resonance in this. I would presume that is why he has come to this assessment. It is based on a large number of meetings and the desire which Prime Minister Gilani has expressed for resolving all issues between our two countries on the basis of dialogue, and that this dialogue should take place in an atmosphere of peace and free of hostility. This is the express wish of the Pakistanis also.

**Question:** Sir, the Pakistani Interior Minister kept on saying that India gave us only information and dossiers, not credible evidence. What makes credible evidence for them? Have the two sides ever sat together and discuss what would make credible evidence for Pakistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** I am not a lawyer, so, I do not have the benefit of being able to make a legal distinction. But, as I said, the dossiers have provided a great deal of information which should give enough leads to the Pakistani authorities to be able to take the case forward. He says that it is mere information. I am not quite sure what is intended. As far as we are concerned, there is enough information in the dossiers which have been provided for the Pakistanis to be able to take action. I would only say that in these dossiers is also the confession of Mr. Kasab. Somebody mentioned that the Interior Minister has declared him fit for being hanged. So, if his confession is a part of the dossiers which we have given on the basis of which he has decided he should be hanged, maybe he finds there is some evidence after all.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**306. Extract relevant to Pakistan from the Remarks of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on board his special flight from Male to New Delhi.**

**November 12, 2011.**

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I should begin by mentioning my discussions with Prime Minister Gilani. We reviewed the whole gamut of our relationship. We agreed that the resumed round of dialogue should continue. We took note of the encouraging developments in the area of trade, the changing attitude of Pakistan to giving India the status of Most Favoured Treatment and the willingness of Pakistan to discuss all matters including that of terrorism.

So I come back with the expectation that the second round of resumed dialogue which will begin very shortly, will have the advantage of a more informed dialogue.

What will be the outcome of that dialogue, I am optimistic, but India Pakistan relations are subject to accident, and therefore we both recognise that if there is another incident like the Mumbai terror attack, that could give a big setback to the process of normalization\*, I think that is fully understood by Prime Minister Gilani.




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\* Pakistani welcomed the positive trend of interaction and its Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar sounded upbeat with her remarks that Islamabad was willing to bend backward to improve relations with its neighbours. Welcoming the trend she said "the 'Thimphu spirit' has given way to 'Addu hope,' . Refusing to react negatively to Prime Minister's remarks that he would visit Pakistan only if there was forward movement on the Mumbai terror attack case, and that another such strike would be a setback to the accident-prone Indo-Pak relationship, Ms. Khar simply said that "Some statements are made for domestic consumption, but we also heard what he said before the international media. Prime Minister Singh was exceptionally positive. We have managed to create the space we needed to pursue issues meaningfully." Sounding a positive note she said: "Addu onwards trust deficit is zero or it has shrunk to a large extent and now we need to start building on the trust. We have invested far too much in seeking out hostility towards each other and too less in seeking out peace with each other. I told the Indian Foreign Minister that I am competing with you on positivity." While flagging the Kashmir issue she avoided its negativity by saying "Pakistan does not want to remain hostage to disputes. We want to resolve issues and don't want to be pulled backwards."

### **307. Joint Statement issued after India – Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation.**

**New Delhi, November 15, 2011.**

The 6<sup>th</sup> round of India-Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Co-operation was held during 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at New Delhi, between Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan under the dialogue process which started in 2004.

2. The Pakistan delegation was led by Zafar Mahmood, Secretary, Commerce and the Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary, Rahul Khullar.

3. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the overall progress being made to fully normalise the bilateral trading relationship. To take forward the decisions taken during the 5<sup>th</sup> round of talks in April 2011, many bilateral Groups/Sub-groups were set up. Almost all of these Groups/Sub-groups have met and worked on their specific designated tasks. The Working Group to address sector-specific barriers to trade met in August, 2011. The Joint Technical Group to oversee progress in development of physical infrastructure at Attari-Wagah Land Customs Station has met frequently. The Customs Liaison Border Committee was formalised and has met at bi-monthly intervals and done commendable work in facilitation of all trade consignments. The JWG on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, and the Sub-Group on Customs Cooperation met in August 2011. The first meeting of the Group of Experts on trade in electricity was held in October 2011 and the Sub-Group to facilitate trade in petroleum products is slated to meet in December 2011. Both sides agreed that the momentum of work and the determination to move forward had transmitted positive signals about advancing the bilateral trade agenda. In this context, India welcomed the decision taken by Pakistan to accord Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India and to the mandate given for full normalisation of the bilateral trade relations, as also meeting of all legal obligations.

4. The Commerce Ministers of both countries met in September 2011 and gave a clear political mandate to the respective Commerce Secretaries to lay down specific timelines for full normalisation of the trade relationship, dismantling of remaining non-tariff barriers, and full implementation of the legal obligations under the SAARC Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). Both sides agreed that Pakistan's Commerce Minister's visit to India after 35 years and the political ownership of leaders of both the countries has not only given the trade normalization process further strength and direction but a great hope and confidence to the business community also. They

expressed hope that positive developments in the trade track would encourage similar progress in other components of the dialogue process.

5. During the 17<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit held at Maldives (9 – 11 November 2011), the political leadership on both sides directed that the two sides also work on enhancing preferential trading arrangements as part of the shared vision to significantly expand bilateral trade.

6. Pakistan side informed that its Cabinet has given a mandate to the Commerce Ministry for complete normalization of trade with India. It appreciated India's support in WTO for the EU concession package for Pakistan which would give the Pakistani business community confidence and create an environment of trust and cooperation. The Indian side welcomed the Cabinet decision and reiterated its support for the normalization process and building trust.

7. In context of outcomes agreed in the 5<sup>th</sup> round of talks, progress was reviewed and further decisions taken as follows:

**A. Trade Normalisation:**

- (i) The move to full normalisation of trade relations shall be sequenced. In the first stage, Pakistan will transition from the current Positive List approach to a Negative List. The consultation process on devising this Negative List is almost complete. A small Negative List shall be finalised and ratified by February, 2012. Thereafter, all items other than those on the Negative List shall be freely exportable from India to Pakistan. In the second stage, the Negative List shall be phased out. The timing for this phasing out will be announced in February 2012 at the time the List is notified and it is expected that the phasing out will be completed before the end of 2012.
- (ii) In terms of the clear mandate given by the political leadership, both sides agreed to move towards enhancing the preferential trading arrangements under the SAFTA process. As agreed earlier, bilateral trade can be significantly expanded by extending tariff concessions on products of commercial interest. Both sides designated the Joint Secretaries in their respective Ministries of Commerce as Chief Negotiators for working on how to improve preferential trading arrangements under SAFTA.

**B. Trade Infrastructure:**

Both sides reviewed the progress made in developing physical infrastructure for trade through the Attari-Wagah land route. It was agreed that the Joint Technical Group overseeing the work would meet at the end of November



2011 and there would be follow-up monthly meetings in December 2011 and January 2012. It was also agreed that all infrastructure construction would be completed and fully operational no later than the end of February 2012. This timeline would coincide with the announcement of the Negative List (See para 7 A (i) above). The new trading regime will thus be applicable to all trade through the land route after the infrastructure at Attari-Wagah is commissioned.

**C. New Trade Initiatives:**

- (i) The first meeting of the Joint Group of Experts to examine feasibility of trade of electricity was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at New Delhi. Central Electricity Authority and Power Grid Corporation of India limited/Power System Operation Corporation Ltd have been designated as the nodal technical agencies from the Indian side. They are interacting with National Transmission and Dispatch Company Ltd of Pakistan to work out the optimal technical solutions for grid connectivity between both countries. A broad understanding has been reached on possible grid connectivity between Amritsar-Lahore to enable trade of up to 500 MW of power. The second meeting of the Experts is scheduled to be held in Islamabad in the first week of December, 2011. It is expected that the Group of Experts will reach a final understanding on grid connectivity at this meeting.
- (ii) Regarding trade in petroleum products, it was agreed that the Joint Group would hold its first meeting before January 2012.

**D. Non-Tariff Barriers:**

- (i) A JWG meeting was held in August, 2011; co-chaired by the Joint Secretaries of the respective Commerce Ministries. The Pakistan side furnished a specific list of non-tariff barriers, as perceived by their business community, for sectors such as textiles, leather, cement, agricultural produce and surgical instruments. It was agreed that these would be comprehensively examined on the Indian side and interactions would be arranged between the concerned Regulators and Pakistan's business community to discuss and find solutions for all issues raised.
- (ii) A comprehensive discussion, "Nuts and Bolts of Trade Facilitation", was organised in Delhi by FICCI, on 29.09.2011. Participants included Pakistan and Indian business delegates, technical experts, representatives of Indian regulatory bodies, and senior government officials. The feedback received was that this seminar had been

most useful to address issues raised by businesspersons as well as to dispel misapprehensions. It was clarified that all standards and specifications were non-discriminatory, viz., they applied to all countries exporting goods to India. The discussions also explained how insistence on specific standards by importers was due to commercial considerations and not because of any Government requirement.

- (iii) A comprehensive special session was held during this round of talks on matters of concern to Pakistan side. Detailed responses were provided by concerned officers on the Indian side. A summary of issues raised and addressed is at **Annexure**.
- (iv) It was agreed that the JWG would continue interaction to address any clearly identified sector-specific barriers to trade. The Joint Secretaries of the respective Commerce Ministries would convene focused meetings on these issues, as necessary. A delegation comprising officers from various regulatory bodies would visit Lahore/ Karachi in the first quarter of 2012 to provide necessary outreach so that businesspersons in Pakistan can be better informed about India's trade regulations, standards and labeling/ marking requirements.
- (v) Both sides agreed to initiate the process of a limited MRA as a formal mechanism to address the issues of standards and conformity assessment.
- (vi) It was agreed that there was a need to institute a mechanism for redressing grievances arising from clearance of trade consignments at land, sea and airports. Pakistan side proposed that an agreement be concluded between both countries to address the concerns of the business community. Indian side agreed to consider this proposal and undertake further consultations in this matter.

**E. Trade facilitation.**

- (i) Both sides appreciated the work done by the Customs Liaison Border Committee (CLBC) in resolving the operational issues at Wagah-Attari. The CLBC was mandated to undertake a comprehensive overview of the requirements to ensure expeditious clearance of goods including harmonization of customs procedures and to make recommendations to the Joint Working Group on Economic and Commercial cooperation.

- (ii) The Sub Group on Customs Cooperation met in New Delhi on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011. It discussed issues relating to harmonization in customs procedures, facilitation of trade consignments, and exchange of trade data and information. Nodal customs officers on both sides have been notified. They would maintain direct contact on all matters pertaining to delays in trade consignments, trade document requirements, and other matters of customs cooperation.
- (iii) The Pakistan side handed over a draft of the Customs Cooperation Agreement. Both sides agreed that best efforts would be made to finalise the Agreement by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012.

**F. Economic Cooperation.**

- (i) Regarding Bt cotton seed imports from India, it was noted that Government of Pakistan has constituted a committee to examine this issue. The first step may be permitting limited import solely for the purpose of field trials in Pakistan.
- (ii) Both sides realized that there is a potential for cooperation in Information Technology, however, lack of information regarding capacity of Pakistani IT companies, difficulty in availability of visa for technical staff and absence of banking facilities has hindered cooperation in IT between the two countries. It was agreed that NASSCOM in coordination with Pakistan Software Export Development Board would facilitate a road show for Pakistani IT companies at Bangalore, Hyderabad and other Indian IT Hubs in February, 2012.

**G. Business to Business interactions:**

- (i) To boost bilateral business confidence for enhanced bilateral trade, both sides agreed to encourage greater interaction amongst the business entities. It was noted with satisfaction that Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry on both sides have formed a Joint India-Pakistan Chamber at the apex level (FICCI and FPCCI). Similarly, arrangements have been worked out for regional-level Chambers between Bombay and Karachi. It is expected that a similar joint arrangements between the Lahore and PHD Chambers would be worked out.
- (ii) It was agreed to give a greater thrust to this B-to-B interaction of trade delegations. It was necessary to expand outreach and

information dissemination activities to bridge information gaps relating to bilateral trading environment and economic opportunities. The Indian side noted the Pakistan side's request for mounting a Trade Delegation comprising representatives of private sector who are responsible for procurement of goods for departmental stores, large retail shopping chains and whole-sale distributors.

- (iii) It was noted with satisfaction that India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) had entered into a MOU for collaborative efforts to promote bilateral trade. The possibility of FIEO mounting a trade exhibition at Lahore Expo was also explored; this could be done in February, 2012. TDAP intimated that they would like to organise a lifestyle exhibition in New Delhi in March, 2012 and invited Indian participation at the Agro-Processing Value Addition Exhibition scheduled to be held in Karachi.

**H. Other trade related issues:**

- (i) Both sides agreed that the present visa regime for businesspersons was a significant barrier to the rapid expansion of trade. It was noted that the Interior Ministry of Pakistan and India's Ministry of Home Affairs had reached a broad understanding to put in place reciprocal arrangements which shall substantially liberalise the visa provisions for business persons. Discussions were held on how there would be further improvements on the understanding already reached. It was agreed that best efforts would be made by the respective Commerce Secretaries to push for further liberalisation of the business visa arrangements. However, with or without enhanced provisions, both sides would work with their respective authorities to ensure that the liberalised visa provisions already agreed to are put in place before the end of December, 2011.
- (ii) The issue of promotion of bilateral investment was discussed. It was agreed that both sides would continue efforts to remove impediments to such investments.
- (iii) On the opening of bank branches in each other's countries, it was agreed that the Central Banks of both countries need to further discuss this issue. Actual dialogue needs to take place through a bilateral visit.

8. In conclusion, the Commerce Secretaries of both countries expressed faith in the ongoing process for increase in bilateral trade. Institutional arrangements put in place for promoting bilateral trade and commerce would continue and the concerned working groups shall meet as required, to take forward the charted roadmaps in this 6<sup>th</sup> round of talks.
9. The 7<sup>th</sup> round of talks would take place in Pakistan in April/May of 2012.
10. The talks were held in a very cordial and constructive atmosphere.

#### ANNEXURE

In the bilateral talks held today, a specific slot was allotted for discussing the 'non-tariff barriers' perceived by Pakistan side in respect of their exports to India.

Representatives from BIS, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Health and Family welfare, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, and Ministry of External Affairs attended the meeting.

Sl. No.	Issue	Status
1.	Compulsory certification/long time in renewal of BIS certificate for cement	Indian side stated that there are 120 labs recognized by it which are allowed to draw and test samples of cement as per the simplified procedure adopted for the domestic manufacturers. On the basis of these test reports, BIS issues product certificate. A visit by a BIS team is mandatory before a regular license can be issued, as per domestic regulations. Pakistan side was informed that 13 licenses are already operational. One application for grant of license was received in the month of October, 2011. BIS has already nominated an officer for conducting the inspection visit. Both sides agreed that Pakistan side will suggest the date for the visit. Pakistan side was informed that BIS is mandated to give license within six months and the inspection visit has to be completed

within 1-2 months after an application is registered. However, in case of Pakistan site visits, delay mostly occurs because the team is not allowed certain site visits due to security reasons. Pakistan government assured to make required security arrangements so that the inspection visits by BIS team can be conducted in time.

Pakistan side was also informed that BIS has been granting renewal licenses for two years to those Pakistani cement manufacturers who have applied for the same.

2. Opacity of SPS measures/  
import permit/tolerance  
non-availability of labs
  - (i) Indian side stated that the limit specified is 10% and the country of origin needs to certify the total quantity being exported. The only exception is **zero tolerance** in respect of a phyto-sanitary certificate. It is unacceptable if there is a difference in the quantity specified in the phyto-sanitary certificate vis-à-vis the quantity exported. Pakistan also follows the same procedure in case of phyto-sanitary certificate.
  - (ii) Indian side also stated that product source is important for SPS concerns. Fresh fruits and vegetables are tested at the laboratory at Attari and consignments are cleared within 6 hours. Further, all perishable consignments are cleared within the same day and no delays are being reported.
3. Food Products-testing and  
packaging requirements
 

Indian side agreed to send a team for educating the exporters reg. packaging and labelling requirements as and when requested for by the Pakistani authorities.
4. Textile Consumer Protection  
Regulations- Testing for
 

Indian side informed that since Azodyes are banned in India, testing

Azodyes -Marking and labeling requirements for cloth and Ready Made Garments (RMGs).

for these is a mandatory requirement. Pakistan side informed that Azodyes are banned in Pakistan and therefore, no manufacturer uses them. Testing laboratories are available in Mumbai and Delhi. No complaints of delays have been received. The testing procedure includes drawing of a 25% sample (by weight) only if the consignments are not certified by the country of origin. A certificate by accredited Certification Bodies/ Labs of Pakistan National Accreditation Council ([www.pnac.org.pk](http://www.pnac.org.pk)) is acceptable. Pakistan side was also informed that certificates issued by international accredited labs under the WTO International Accreditation Procedures are accepted. India follows the international protocol for testing. If Pakistan has accredited WTO labs, certificates issued by the same can be accepted. BIS informed that it has not prescribed any mandatory requirements as regards standards on Textiles. However, if any country requires a certificate/license it has to apply for it and the certificate/license will be given after an inspection visit. Indian side informed that marking and labeling on cloth is a must which is a national treatment. As regards RMGs, it is mandatory that the brand name and composition of the garment is specified on the label. Both sides agreed that a delegation comprising various wings of the textile ministry will visit Pakistan and educate the potential exporters of the standards being followed by India.

5. Surgical Instruments – Indian Conformity

Indian side stated that Government of India does not regulate import of

Assessment Certificate  
(ICAC) mark

surgical instruments and therefore does not insist on any ICAC mark. BIS certification is sufficient; even this is voluntary and not mandatory. It is the buyers who decide on the specific certificates required or these certificates may be made compulsory by inclusion into the tender conditions.

6. Customs Procedure -  
Delay in Customs clearance  
-Valuation procedures

Indian side stated that no delays have been recorded but if there are any specific cases, the same will be addressed as and when the Pakistani side provides details. Further, the Pakistani side was also informed that all the consignments except which require other mandatory procedures to be followed are cleared within 24 hours. Even those consignments which fault on some customs procedure are cleared immediately with the understanding that the problems will be sorted out in time. Indian side stated that their valuation system is based on the WTO Agreement on Customs value which provides for the transaction value concept and the circumstances for rejection and re-determination of the assessable value. In case of a dispute, an assessment order is issued which can be appealed against through a clearly laid down channel of appeals. Both sides agreed that specific commodities of export interest to Pakistan and their Ports of entry can be identified to facilitate faster clearance of consignments.




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At the press briefing the Pakistan Commerce Secretary Mehmood tried to clarify the issue of MFN and said: "MFN is not an award or a degree which we can give to Khullar Sahab. This would not need any notification or a document. Under WTO, members are to grant MFN to each other. That obligation stands and will be completed when there is



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no list." He added that the Pakistan Cabinet had given a mandate to the Commerce Ministry for complete normalisation of trade with India. He appreciated India's support in WTO for the EU concession package for Pakistan which would give the Pakistani business community confidence and create an environment of trust and cooperation. Commerce Secretary Mr. Khullar responding welcomed the Pak Cabinet decision and reiterated the Indian support for the normalisation process and building trust. Mr. Khullar expected bilateral trade to increase substantially in volume once Pakistan moves from the positive list to the negative list. Pakistan presently has a positive list of 1,900 items.

It may be relevant to point out that on November 1 Commerce Minister Anand Sharma had "deeply appreciated" Pakistan's decision to grant it Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status, stating the move will also help improve political ties between the two neighbours. Mr. Sharma had spoken to his Pakistani counterpart Makhdoom Amin Fahim immediately after the decision was taken by the Pakistani Cabinet. When asked whether the move would help improve political relationship between the countries, he said: "...It will be influencing definitely in positive manner. We need to sustain this in the coming months." He said that when bilateral economic engagement improves, it brings prosperity and growth to both the partners. Mr. Sharma said Mr. Makhdoom's September visit here was a major step forward in this direction. Under MFN status, Pakistan will treat India at par with its other favoured trading partners. India has already granted this status to the neighbouring country way back in 1996.

Prime Minister too welcomed this decision of the Pakistan Government and said "Better late than never. I welcome it." He said "This should have happened 17 years ago!.... As one who believes that, rightly or wrongly, the destinies of countries in South Asia are very closely linked, I welcome the decision of Pakistan to grant us Most Favoured Nation treatment." The Prime Minister reminded the people that India had granted Pakistan MFN status way back in 1996 but Islamabad failed to reciprocate the gesture because of opposition from Pakistani trade lobbies and religious and hard line political parties, which felt such a move could harm their country's stand on the Kashmir issue.

**308. Excerpts from the Interview of Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar with the fortnightly FRONTLINE on MFN.**

**Chennai, November 19 – December 2, 2011.**

**Can you explain the MFN issue and why India could not get this from Pakistan when it had granted the same to Pakistan in 1995?**

MFN is a right available to us from the WTO principle of non-discrimination in trade. Currently Pakistan uses a positive list approach, which means only so many goods can be exported, and this is clearly in breach of the principle of MFN enshrined in the WTO.

We have been arguing with them that what is India's natural right under WTO laws should be given to us. The loss to India and to Pakistan is twofold. From our perspective, the very fact that we are not allowed to export certain goods goes against the principle of non-discrimination in trade and almost singles India out for discriminatory action. Equally, it is not that trade does not take place – it takes place through a third country, which means it goes to the Gulf [countries] or wherever [and] from there to Pakistan. In the end, Pakistan ends up paying higher prices for the goods because there is no direct transaction. How can that possibly do any good to Pakistan?

The moment you do this sort of trade through an intermediary you add on transport cost, which is otherwise unnecessary. For instance, it is cheaper to ship the same goods from here to Karachi instead of going via Dubai, or it is easier to send goods through the Wagah border rather than to ship or airfreight them to Dubai and from there to Karachi. This means the consumer in Pakistan ends up paying higher transport cost and the intermediary profit margin.

**What is the official and informal bilateral trade flow? How does the MFN status make any difference?**

The formal bilateral trade is \$2.5 to 3 billion, while informal trade is at least twice that amount. The latter is legitimate trade going from here to an entrepot centre and from there being routed to Pakistan. So, combining official trade and the trade routed through Dubai, the bilateral trade now stands at \$8 billion.

When you are an MFN, the \$5 billion is not going to go through Dubai but directly to Pakistan. In a sense, official trade to Dubai will go less by \$5 billion. So there is no difference. But the real gain will come from the fact that many people who are not able to export because of the positive list approach will be able to do now, and that will benefit them.

**Is Pakistan's carping on non-tariff barriers (NTB) by India genuine? How will MFN status help solve this irritant on both sides?**

I think it is more a perceptual issue. I suspect that their main concern is not NTBs but tariff barriers. For instance, Pakistan would like to export textiles to India. There are no NTBs but there are tariff barriers preventing textile exports. These tariffs are fixed in terms of specific rates and they tend to be high. So what they are seeking is concession on these tariffs.

The real point is that Pakistan needs to move in two different stages. First, it must accept the principle that MFN is the right of all WTO members and if it gives the benefits to all WTO members, why not to India? In the MFN system there is no such positive/negative list and all items are tradable. The tariffs at which they are traded are MFN tariffs.

The second stage is the derogations from MFN, which are legitimate under the WTO's regional trading arrangements (RTAs). Here you can make trade even freer and more open than the MFN trade by entering into a bilateral agreement where you offer tariff concessions. Should Pakistan be willing to do that at a later stage, it will be possible for us to consider bilaterally. If Pakistan wants to join SAFTA [SAARC preferential trading arrangement] and honour its commitments under SAFTA, then it can consider availing [itself] of the concessions we give to other members of the grouping.

So Pakistan should grant MFN status to India and then seek concessions on tariffs. Just as we extended to Bangladesh zero-tariff concessions on textile items recently, at some point of time these matters can get sorted out through negotiations. I don't think these are NTBs. There was some concern about licensing and standards for export of cement from Pakistan, but many of those issues have been sorted out. I told my counterpart in Pakistan that if they gave lists of sector-specific NTBs they wanted us to address, we would gladly address them.



**309. Homage by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to victims of 26/11.**

**New Delhi, November 26, 2011.**

I join my countrymen in paying respectful homage to the innocent men, women and children whose lives were most tragically snuffed out by the inhuman act of terrorism, inspired and carried out from across our borders, three year ago, on this day, in Mumbai. We also salute the courage and fortitude of the families who lost their loved ones in that senseless act of violence.

I once again call on our neighbor to bring the perpetrators of the crime to speedy justice.

No cause can justify the use of terrorism for attainment of goals, whatsoever they may be ! There also cannot be a selective fight against terror. The scourge of terrorism has to be comprehensively fought and eradicated in all its forms and manifestations. It must be realized that use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy, has no place in today's world and is self destructive.

Issues have to be resolved through a peaceful dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence. India is committed to having a peaceful, friendly and cooperative relationship with all its neighbours for progress and prosperity in our region. We call upon all our neighbours to join us in this endeavour of building a better future for our peoples.



**310. Joint Statement issued on the 5th Round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Talks on Conventional CBMs.**

**Islamabad, December 26, 2011.**

As agreed during the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on July 27, 2011, the Fifth Round of Expert Level Talks on Conventional CBMs between Pakistan and India was held in Islamabad on December 26, 2011.

The Pakistan delegation to the talks was led by Mr. Munawar Saeed Bhatti, Additional Secretary (UN&EC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Y K Sinha, Joint Secretary (PAI) of the Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian delegation.

The talks were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

The two sides reviewed the implementation of existing CBMs, including the ceasefire along the LoC, and reaffirmed their commitment to continue discussions on conventional CBMs.

The two sides will report progress made during the current round of talks to their respective Foreign Secretaries.



**311. Joint Statement on the Sixth Round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Talks on Nuclear CBMs.**

**Islamabad, December 27, 2011.**

Pursuant to the agreement between the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 27 July 2011, the Sixth Round of Expert Level Talks on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures was held in Islamabad on 27 December, 2011

Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Munawar Saeed Bhatti, Additional Secretary (UN&EC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. D. B. Venkatesh Varma, Joint Secretary (DISA), Ministry of External Affairs, led the Indian side.

The talks were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

Both sides reviewed the implementation and strengthening of existing CBMs in the framework of Lahore MoU, and agreed to explore possibilities for mutually acceptable additional CBMs.

The two sides agreed to recommend to their Foreign Secretaries to extend the validity of the "Agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons" for another five years.

Both sides will report the progress in talks to their respective Foreign Secretaries.



**SRI LANKA**

**312. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to reports of death of an Indian fisherman due to firing by Sri Lankan Navy.**

**New Delhi, January 13, 2011.**

In response to a question, the Official Spokesperson said:

We have received reports of the death of an Indian fisherman due to firing by Sri Lankan Navy personnel. Our High Commissioner in Colombo has immediately taken up this matter with the Sri Lankan Government and expressed our deep concern and regret at this incident. We have emphasized that resort to firing in these situations has no justification and called on the Sri Lankan authorities to desist from use of force.

The welfare and the safety of our fishermen in the waters between India and

Sri Lanka have received very high priority by Government. We have consistently emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government to refrain from firing on our fishermen and scrupulously adhere to the October 2008 Understanding reached between the two governments. We call on the Sri Lankan Navy to exercise maximum restraint and avoid use of force in such situations.

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**On January 23 Ministry of External Affairs issued another Statement in which External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna condemned the killing of Indian fisherman.**

In response to a question the Official Spokesperson said, "We have received reports of the tragic killing of another Indian fisherman allegedly due to use of force by Sri Lankan Navy personnel. The External Affairs Minister has expressed Government's strong and unequivocal condemnation of this violent incident and conveyed his deep sympathies to the family of the deceased.

On receiving the news, Government immediately raised the matter with the Sri Lankan Government both in New Delhi and in Colombo. The Sri Lankan Government was requested to seriously investigate this incident and ensure that it does not recur. We have stressed that use of force must be eschewed in all such situations and have reiterated that the welfare and the safety of our fishermen in the waters between India and Sri Lanka will continue to receive very high priority by Government. The October 2008 Understanding reached between the two governments must be scrupulously adhered to in letter and spirit".



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Sri Lanka's response was to promise a serious investigation into the killing of Indian fisherman by its navy. Sri Lankan High Commissioner Prasad Kariyawasam came out with the promise after a meeting with Joint Secretary (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar) in the Ministry of External Affairs T.S. Tirumurti .

In the meantime Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, had in a letter, urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to take up the killing of the fisherman with the Sri Lankan government. External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna sought a detailed report from the Indian High Commissioner on the incident.

**313. Joint Statement issued during the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Sri Lanka.**

**Colombo. January 31, 2011.**

The Foreign Secretary of India, Mrs. Nirupama Rao, visited Sri Lanka on 30-31 January 2011. During her visit, she called on His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Prof. G.L. Peiris, on 31st January 2011. She also met Secretary to the President Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Defence Secretary Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa and External Affairs Secretary Mr. C.R. Jayasinghe.

During the discussions, Foreign Secretary Rao expressed the deep concern of the Government of India at the recent violent incidents in the waters between India and Sri Lanka, which had resulted in the tragic death of two Indian fishermen. She stressed that these incidents should be fully investigated and all steps taken to prevent their recurrence in future. The Sri Lanka authorities emphasized in this regard that it is the consistent policy of Sri Lanka to treat in a humanitarian manner all fishermen, including those from the Indian fishing community, who cross into Sri Lanka waters. Given the very close bilateral relationship between the two countries, any development which impacts on the wellbeing of the Indian fishing community pursuing their livelihoods in the waters between the two countries, is of the utmost concern to Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka is therefore committed to ascertaining the facts behind the incidents. While continuing with further inquiries, the Sri Lankan authorities have requested that additional information be made available by the Indian side. Both sides agreed that the use of force cannot be justified under any circumstances.

The two sides noted that the Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of 26th October 2008, which had put in place practical arrangements to deal with bona fide fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), had led to a decrease in incidents. They agreed on the need to discuss arrangements

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Fishing the Palk Straits was the main subject of discussion during the present visit and in the discussions with Sri Lankan leaders including President Mahinda Rajapaksa she stressed that the killing of fishermen should be fully investigated and all steps taken to prevent their recurrence. "I conveyed these concerns [on the killing of fishermen] to him [the Sri Lankan President], and he was very receptive. He agreed completely that violence should be avoided and that such incidents should not take place, and he told me that the Sri Lankan side was conducting a serious investigation in this matter," she told journalists at the India House later. Asked about the theory of a third force in the region that is being floated in Sri Lanka, she said: "I don't have anything to say about it... We are proceeding on the information we have; what our fishermen have given to us. What we have with us, we have nothing to corroborate what the Sri Lankans have claimed [on the existence of a third force in the region]."



based on the current situation so as to strengthen the safety and security of the fishermen.

Accordingly, it was decided that the next meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fishing would be convened at an early date, which would, inter-alia, address various issues relating to fishing by the two sides. The Joint Working Group would also address the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on development and cooperation in the field of fisheries. It was decided as well to enhance and promote contacts between the fishermen's associations on both sides, since such contacts have proved to be mutually beneficial.



**314. Press Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister's meetings in Thimphu.**

**Thimphu, February 7, 2011.**

Please see Document No. 227.



**315. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting convened by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao on the question of fishing in the waters between India and Sri Lanka.**

**New Delhi, February 26, 2011.**

A meeting was convened today, under the Chairmanship of the Foreign Secretary, to discuss matters relating to fishing in the waters between India and Sri Lanka. The Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, the Director General of Coast Guard, Secretary (Animal Husbandry & Fisheries) of Tamil Nadu, and officials from the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs participated in the meeting.

The meeting was convened against the background of the recent developments concerning the violent incidents in the waters between India and Sri Lanka and

the arrests of Indian fishermen. While satisfaction was expressed at the release of the 136 Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Government, it was nevertheless emphasised that resort to firing and use of force in such situations, as had happened in January 2011, had no justification.

It was decided that the Governments of India and Tamil Nadu would encourage a delegation of local fishermen's associations from Tamil Nadu to visit Sri Lanka in March to meet with their Sri Lankan counterparts. Such contacts have proved to be mutually beneficial and should be strengthened.

The meeting welcomed the convening of the Joint Working Group on Fishing proposed for March, which would also discuss the proposed draft Memorandum of Understanding on development and cooperation in the field of fisheries.

The Government of Tamil Nadu referred to the ongoing efforts to inform their fishermen about the need to observe security and safety parameters while engaging in fishing activities in the waters between India and Sri Lanka. Measures to further augment security in the vicinity of the International Maritime Boundary Line were also focussed on.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will finalise the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the Government of India, to facilitate the participation of Indian pilgrims at the St. Anthony's festival at Kachchativu Island.

The welfare, safety and security of our fishermen will continue to receive the highest priority of both the Central and State Governments.



**316. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Construction of a Hospital at Dickoya in Sri Lanka.**

**New Delhi, March 9, 2011.**

An Agreement was signed today 9th March of 2011 in the Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi for awarding the work related to construction of 150 bed hospital at Dickoya near Hatton in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The Agreement was signed by Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Joint Secretary (BSM) on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Shri. K. R. Tirumurahan, Managing Director, Green Valley's Shelters (P) Limited, Chennai.

The hospital will be constructed under grant of Government of India. Government of India has allocated an amount of INR 47.27 crores for setting up of the hospital. Hospital Services Consultation Corporation Ltd (HSCC) India is the Project Management Consultant for the project. The project is expected to be completed in twenty-two months.

Recognizing the need for establishment of a well equipped general hospital at Dickoya near Hatton the Government of India agreed to render assistance to Government of Sri Lanka. The establishment of a new hospital in the Central Province in Sri Lanka will augment the facilities in the existing hospital and provide health services to a large number of people of Indian origin living in this area. India has continued to extend extensive assistance to the Indian Origin Tamils living in that area especially in the area of education, health, housing and public transportation.



**317. Joint Statement issued on the Meeting of India - Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries.**

**New Delhi, March 29, 2011.**

The 3rd Meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held in New Delhi on March 28-29, 2011. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by Mr. Ranjith Uyangoda, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Indian delegation by Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Joint Secretary (BSM), Ministry of External Affairs of India. The leader of the Sri Lankan delegation called on the Foreign Secretary of India, Smt. Nirupama Rao on 29th March 2011.

Both sides welcomed the convening of the Joint Working Group on Fisheries, the last meeting of which was held in January 2006 in Colombo. The two sides reviewed developments since 2006.

Both sides reiterated the high priority given by their respective Governments to issues of fishermen and their livelihood. They stressed the need for all fishermen to be treated in a humane manner. To ensure the safety and security of fishermen, both sides agreed that the use of force cannot be justified under any circumstances. The need to respect the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) when fishing was stressed by the Sri Lankan side.

The Sri Lankan side informed that the recent violent incidents in January 2011, which resulted in the death of two Indian fishermen, are being further investigated. In this context, the two sides noted that the Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of 26th October 2008 had led to a decrease in violent incidents in 2009-2010. They welcomed the Joint Statement issued during the visit of the Foreign Secretary of India to Sri Lanka in January 2011.

The two sides noted that given the socio-economic and livelihood dimensions to the issue, there was need for enhancing cooperation by building on the agreements reached earlier. They agreed on the need to discuss arrangements based on the current situation so as to further strengthen the safety, security and livelihood of the fishermen.

Both sides welcomed the visit of a group of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka between 20-23 March 2011. They had called on the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka and had also meetings with Hon'ble Minister of Small and Traditional Industries of Sri Lanka and their counterparts from the Northern Province. Recalling the initiatives taken earlier in August 2010 by the fishermen of both countries, where a Sri Lankan fishermen delegation visited India, both sides agreed on the need to foster greater understanding between their respective fishermen and fishermen associations.

Noting the invitation extended by the Indian fishermen to their Sri Lankan counterparts, the two sides agreed that a return visit to India would be important to take this process forward.

Both sides discussed the various regulatory measures being put in place to manage the fishery resources in their respective waters. They noted the growing importance of fisheries to the livelihood of the coastal communities in Northern Sri Lanka. The two sides agreed that a road map needs to be put in place to ensure resource sustainability, livelihood, safety and security of the fishermen of both countries. Both sides also discussed measures to expedite the release of bonafide detained fishermen from both countries.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding on Development and Cooperation in the field of Fisheries was also discussed and it was decided to continue discussion on the draft. The Indian side offered to continue its assistance to the fisheries sector in Sri Lanka, which was welcomed by the Sri Lankan side.

The Indian delegation also thanked the Sri Lankan authorities for facilitating the visit of Indian fishermen and pilgrims to Kachchativu for the festival of St. Anthony earlier this month.



**318. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to the Report on Sri Lankan conflict by panel appointed by UN Secretary General.**

**April 26, 2011.**

In response to questions the Official Spokesperson said,

"The Government has seen the Report of the Panel of Experts appointed by the UN Secretary General to advise him on accountability-related issues in the context of the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009. The issues raised in the Report\* need to be studied carefully. As a first step, we intend to engage with the Government of Sri Lanka on the issues contained in the Report".



**319. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna welcoming Sri Lankan Minister for External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris.**

**New Delhi, May 16, 2011.**

I am delighted to welcome the distinguished Minister for External Affairs of Sri Lanka Prof. Peiris. It has always been a pleasure meeting Prof. Peiris. I vividly recall my visit to Sri Lanka and the hospitality and the graciousness with which I was received by Prof. Peiris in particular. What touched me most was that throughout my five-day sojourn of Sri Lanka Prof. Peiris was with me. I think that speaks so eloquently about Prof. Peiris's attitude towards India.

Our relationship with Sri Lanka is of critical importance not only to India but to Sri Lanka also. We have always found that in Sri Lanka we have a reliable partner, a steadfast friend of India and we wish well for Sri Lanka. They have gone through very tumultuous times in the last three decades and now they are settling down. India would be willing to do everything that is possible, depending upon the comfort level of Sri Lanka, to help them, to assist them in whatever manner they want us to help them to settle down.

Once again, it is with great pleasure that I extend a very warm welcome to Prof. Peiris.



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\* In the report prepared by a panel of UN there were reports of violation of human rights by the Sri Lanka army and the LTTE during the closing days of the war against the LTTE in the north in May 2009.

**320. Joint Press Statement issued on the visit of Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris.**

**New Delhi, May 17, 2011.**

The Minister of External Affairs of the Government of Sri Lanka, Prof. G L Peiris visited India from 15-17 May, 2011.

2. During his visit, the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka called on Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and met with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister, Shri S M Krishna, External Affairs Minister and Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor. Smt Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary, called on the visiting dignitary.

3. Delegation-level talks, led by the two External Affairs Ministers, were held on May 16, 2011. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They assessed the developments that had taken place since the visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India in June, 2010 and the bilateral Joint Commission meeting at the level of the Ministers of External Affairs held in Colombo in November, 2010. Issues relating to regional and international issues of common concern were also discussed.

4. Both sides agreed that the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka created a historic opportunity to address all outstanding issues in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation imbued with political vision to work towards genuine national reconciliation. In this context, the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka affirmed his Government's commitment to ensuring expeditious and concrete progress in the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Sri Lanka and representatives of Tamil parties. A devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would contribute towards creating the necessary conditions for such reconciliation.

5. The Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka reiterated the commitment of his Government to continue to address issues related to resettlement and reconciliation in a focused and progressive manner. In this regard the Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka referred to the work of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and set out the steps taken by the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee (IAAC) chaired by the Attorney General in implementing the Interim Recommendations of the LLRC in relation to detention, law and order, administration and language issues and socio-economic and livelihood issues. In response, The External Affairs Minister of India urged the expeditious implementation of measures by the Government of Sri Lanka, to ensure resettlement and genuine reconciliation, including early return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their respective homes, early withdrawal

of emergency regulations, investigations into allegations of human rights violations, restoration of normalcy in affected areas and redress of humanitarian concerns of affected families.

6. The External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation of the humanitarian and other assistance including demining and livelihood support measures extended by the Government of India for early relief and resettlement of IDPs. In this context, both sides noted that forward movement had taken place towards construction of houses for IDPs and other infrastructure development projects, including rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai harbour, rehabilitation of Palaly Airport, repair and construction of hospital and schools, setting up of Vocational Training Centres, construction of the Cultural Centre in Jaffna, restoration of railway lines and restoration of the Duraiappah stadium in Jaffna.

7. Expressing satisfaction at the progress of work on various railway projects in Sri Lanka undertaken with India's assistance, both sides agreed to facilitate the work for their timely completion. In keeping with the understanding contained in the Joint Declaration of June 9, 2010, both sides agreed to the early conclusion of Agreements related to the Joint Venture Thermal Power Project between NTPC and CEB at Sampur, Trincomalee; finalisation of remaining agreements including reconstruction of the Palali-KKS railway line, establishment of a new signalling and telecommunication system and procurement of rolling stock from India; and to continue ongoing dialogue for early finalisation of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Progress on the feasibility study for the interconnection of India Sri Lanka electricity grids was reviewed. It was also agreed to enhance cooperation in the energy sector and to promote dialogue on security and defence issues of relevance to the bilateral relationship.

8. Reviewing the outcome of the Joint Working Group meeting on Fisheries held in New Delhi on 28-29 March, 2011, both sides agreed that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstances and that all fishermen should be treated in a humane manner. The Indian side conveyed that the incidents of continued violence against Indian fishermen in the vicinity of Sri Lanka were of serious concern. In this context, both sides noted that the Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of 26th October 2008 had led to a decrease in violent incidents. Furthermore, the two sides emphasised the importance of an early conclusion of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on Development and Cooperation in the field of Fisheries between India and Sri Lanka.

9. Both sides reiterated their commitment to promote cultural and people-to-people contacts and enhance connectivity including through early operationalisation of the ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo and



Rameswaram and Talaimannar. The two sides also agreed to encourage two-way flow of investments including in the development of ports and ports related services in Sri Lanka.

10. Both countries agreed on the need for reform of the UN Security Council.
11. Sri Lanka reiterated its strong support for India's legitimate claim for permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council.



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On the crucial question of ethnic reconciliation Prof. Peiris said that Sri Lankan government had six rounds of talks with Tamil representatives and had begun to address substantive issues on devolution of power. The government, he said, has proposed a bicameral legislature to share power at the Centre since 50 per cent of Tamils live outside the northern part of Sri Lanka. The Tamil representatives have also given some proposals to the government, to which it would respond. "It is an ongoing dialogue," he said. On the question of human rights Professor Peiris explained why Sri Lanka did not agree with the United Nations Panel report on the war against the LTTE, and charged it contained several contradictions. He reiterated his government's stand that the report "puts obstacles" in the reconciliation effort among its people. On the attitude of the large Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora, Professor Peiris said the government did not wish to demonise or isolate them but engage them in the process of rebuilding. On the problems being faced by fishermen from Tamil Nadu, he said the Joint Working Group had been revived to deal with the issue, especially since fishermen in Sri Lanka now had access to marine resources that they had earlier been denied due to the war with the LTTE. He said the fishing communities of both sides have been in touch, adding that the Sri Lankan Navy has taken a series of measures and put rigid controls on ammunition issued to its personnel.

**321. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to Channel - 4 News Documentary on 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields.**

**New Delhi, July 15, 2011.**

In response to a question on the Channel 4 Documentary entitled "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields", the Official Spokesperson said:

"Our focus is on the welfare and the well being of the Tamil speaking minorities of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. We have consistently emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government that their rehabilitation should be of the highest and most immediate priority. A fair and reasonable settlement of the political issues concerning the minorities in Sri Lanka is of utmost importance and the historic opportunity offered by the end of the conflict should be availed of at the earliest. The sequence of events during the last days of the conflict is unclear. The Government of Sri Lanka would need to go into the matter in greater detail. The concerns that are being expressed in this regard need to be examined".



**322. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to questions on UN Secretary General's Panel of Expert's Report on Sri Lanka.**

**New Delhi, July 15, 2011.**

In response to a question on UNSG's Panel of Experts report on Sri Lanka and the issue of Sri Lanka's Tamil population, the Official Spokesperson said,

"Sri Lanka is home to a number of ethnic groups of which about twenty percent are Tamil speaking. They have friends and relatives in Tamil Nadu and other parts of India. It is but natural that we are concerned for their wellbeing, as well as that of all of the people of Sri Lanka with whom we enjoy historical ties of affinity.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh observed recently that, "The Tamil population (in Sri Lanka) has legitimate grievances. --- And our emphasis has been to persuade the Sri Lankan government that we must move towards a new system of institutional reforms, where the Tamil people will have a feeling that they are equal citizens of Sri Lanka, and they can lead and live a life of dignity and self-respect. That is our outlook towards the issue".

As far as the report of the UNSG's panel of experts on Sri Lanka is concerned, we have heard the views of the Sri Lankan Government on various occasions, including during the visit of their Foreign Minister to New Delhi in May 2011 and again during the Troika meeting last month in Colombo.

In general, there are still questions on the report. Some countries have raised this in the UN Human Rights Council. It may be recalled that the Panel was set up by the UN Secretary General with the objective of advising him on the developments in Sri Lanka in the last stages of the conflict."



**323. Address by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao at the Inaugural Session of the International Conference on Fisheries organized by the Observer Research Foundation.**

**New Delhi, July 18, 2011.**

Ambassador Rasgotra

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Prasad Kariyawasam

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure to be in your midst this evening. At the outset, allow me to thank the Observer Research Foundation for taking this important initiative to conduct a Round Table Conference on a relevant and topical subject like fisheries. I wish to, in particular, thank Mr. Sathiya Moorthy for conceptualizing and preparing for this international conference.

2. I am also happy to see that the ORF has brought together experts and intellectuals from Sri Lanka, Thailand, USA, Europe and Australia, apart from academics, experts and officials from India. I extend a special welcome to those who have travelled from distant places to be here for this International Conference.

3. Many of us present this evening would undoubtedly have seen a recent issue of the Time Magazine on "The future of fish". Unfortunately, the conclusions are not very encouraging. Overfishing has depleted as much as 90% of the large species such as tuna and marlin, while according to the United Nations, 32% of our global fish stocks are overexploited. The article refers to a

recent report by the International Programme on the State of the Ocean that found that the world's marine species faced threats "unprecedented in human history", attributable mainly to overfishing. It is, therefore, both timely and relevant for an international conference such as ours to examine the issue of our dwindling fisheries resources, the problems associated with it and the solutions that can offer themselves.

4. I have no doubt that the eminent panelists and speakers at the conference will examine a number of situations in which competition for scarce fisheries resources and overlapping claims have had an impact on relations between States. It would be eminently useful if a thorough examination of the lessons learned and best practices from different parts of the world could form a part of the cornucopia of relevant material on the issue.

5. The conference has particular relevance for India with its long and extended coastline of 7,500 kilometers. India shares a maritime boundary with several of its neighbours, including Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia. I note that many of the sessions of the conference will focus on fishing issues involving India and its neighbours, particularly Sri Lanka. I have no doubt that these will be very useful for all concerned.

6. India and Sri Lanka are consistently engaged in working out a practical solution to the issues involving their fishermen. As we all know, fishing is a major livelihood activity on both sides of the International Maritime Boundary Line between India and Sri Lanka, particularly from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the Northern Sri Lankan area. Both these areas are linked by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. For centuries, fishing communities from these areas have lived in harmony, maintaining cultural and matrimonial ties.

7. Given the close proximity between the two coastlines, and the depleting fisheries resources in the area, as also the livelihood issue involving fishermen on both sides, our two governments are giving special attention to the problems that have arisen concerning what is called the fishermen issue between the two countries.

8. When I visited Sri Lanka earlier this year to take up the issue of Indian fishermen apprehended in Sri Lankan waters, my Sri Lankan interlocutors emphasized that it was the consistent policy of their government to treat all fishermen crossing into Sri Lankan waters in a humane manner. They also conveyed that the wellbeing of the Indian fishing community was of the utmost concern to Sri Lanka and that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstances.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. India and Sri Lanka have always maintained the closest of neighbourly relations based on trust and friendship. In order to find a solution to this particular issue, both India and Sri Lanka are engaged in a dialogue at all levels aimed at addressing it comprehensively and working out a practical arrangement which would allow the fishing communities on both sides to coexist peacefully. In this regard, Fishermen's Associations from both countries have a major role to play as they interact with each other, understand each others' problems better and have the ability to come out with ideas to resolve the issue at hand. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome the representatives of fishermen to this conference. I have no doubt that they will be heard carefully.

10. There are always solutions to every issue. The issue of fisheries is definitely not a zero-sum game. A solution can never manifest itself if it comes at the cost of one or other party. I have no doubt that the Conference will help us in brainstorming on a subject which involves the livelihood of many of our people. We need to consider alternative methods of fishing, examine alternative livelihoods, identify different areas for fishing, explore joint management of resources and allow interim fishing arrangements for fishing communities to live in harmony and also in harmony with the delicate marine environment that surrounds them and from which they eke their livelihoods. .

11. Our situation is not unique in this regard. Many countries around the world regard fisheries resources as so called "common pool resources" since fish care nothing about political boundaries demarcated between countries. Fish migrate across political boundaries. The exploitation of fisheries resources in such a situation can only be managed effectively by cooperation between the States concerned. In the case of India and Sri Lanka, we need to understand the characteristics of the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar. These are narrow stretches of waters between our two coastlines. Historically, this has been a traditional fishing area for both Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen.

12. We also need more scientific study of the fishery resources in the area and how to better conserve, manage and exploit transboundary stocks of fish. Furthermore, in the context of India and Sri Lanka, and their fishermen, we will have to pay special attention to small sized fishing boats, some of them not even motorized, let alone with GPS. Special measures have been put in place to deal with this category of fishing boats by countries like China and Vietnam in their traditional fishing grounds. We can study the experience of fellow Asian countries in this regard. For instance, some countries have set up common fishery zones. Are there lessons to be learnt from such experiences? Let us explore the answers available. For example in cases where there are fishing agreements, a Joint Fisheries Committee is also set up, which maintains the

equilibrium and order in fishing activity between the two countries concerned. Cases where fishermen stray into territorial waters of the other country are dealt with efficiently, with the straying fishermen and their vessels released promptly on posting a bond or other form of security. There is also the practice of granting fishing licences for a permissible and stipulated number of vessels with contracting parties exchanging information on the number of vessels which have been granted such license or permits. China and Vietnam also, for instance, prohibit destructive fishing, like use of explosives. Bottom sea trawling also faces restrictions. Great importance should also be attached to maintaining the biodiversity of the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar areas. Especially since we have a mutually agreed maritime boundary in these areas, we should be able to learn from international best practices on how to establish a fisheries management system between the two countries. For instance, three categories of waters are designed in the Sino-Vietnam agreement, namely the 15-year Common Fishery Zone, the 4-year Waters in Transitional Arrangements, and the Buffer Zone for Small-sized Fishing Boats. Are there lessons to be learnt from these examples? I hope the Conference will discuss these matters in greater depth. I have no doubt that you will impart intellectual objectivity to such discussions. Our aim should be to ensure a peaceful settlement of these issues and stability of existence of our fishing communities on both sides. This will involve some degree of political compromise. Reciprocal fishing access and cooperative management of shared fishery resources are other ideas that come from bilateral agreements entered into by other countries. Sustainable development is the key. Let me emphasize that I am merely providing some "bait" for a meaningful debate and discussion of such issues in the framework of the deliberations of this Conference! Nothing more, nothing less!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. Before I conclude, I wish to once again convey my gratitude to ORF and Ambassador Rasgotra for allowing me the privilege of speaking at the inaugural function of this Conference. I wish the organizers and participants all success in their deliberations.

Thank you



**324. Suo Motu Statement in Lok Sabha by External Affairs Minister on "The Situation in Sri Lanka".**

**New Delhi, August 4, 2011.**

Madam Speaker,

There have been a number of requests for Calling Attention Motion and Short Duration Discussions as well as Parliamentary Questions on issues relating to Sri Lanka in both the Houses of Parliament. I, therefore, propose to make a Suo Moto statement which, I hope, will respond to most, if not all, issues of interest and concern to my fellow Parliamentarians.

Madam Speaker,

2. The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is based upon shared historical, cultural, ethnic and civilizational ties and extensive people-to-people interaction. In recent years, the relationship has become multifaceted and diverse, encompassing all areas of contemporary relevance.

3. Sri Lanka has borne the brunt of terrorism for nearly three-decades. The end of the long period of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, left around 3,00,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in camps in Northern Sri Lanka and general devastation of infrastructure in the affected areas.

4. The Government of India has accorded the highest priority to the welfare of IDPs in Sri Lanka. In June 2009, the Prime Minister announced a grant of Rs. 500 crores for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement work in Sri Lanka. Towards this humanitarian effort, India dispatched family relief packs, deployed an emergency field hospital, conducted an artificial limb fitment camp and deployed seven de-mining teams in Northern Sri Lanka. It also gifted more than 10,400 MT of shelter material, 4 lakh cement bags, 95,000 agricultural starter packs and 500 tractors to revive agricultural activities in Northern Sri Lanka.

5. India also announced the construction of 50,000 houses, mainly for IDPs in Sri Lanka. During my visit to Sri Lanka in November 2010, I inaugurated the pilot project for construction of 1000 houses at Ariyalai in Jaffna. I am happy to convey that work on ground has already started and houses are beginning to come up in what is being seen as a model project. I also carried out the ground breaking for railway line restoration projects in Northern Sri Lanka, under a Government of India Line of Credit of about US \$ 800 million. India is also assisting in the rehabilitation of the Kanakesanthurai (KKS) harbour, restoration of Duraiappa stadium, construction of a Cultural Centre at Jaffna and vocational training centres at Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya.

Our primary objective in all that we are doing in Sri Lanka is to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of Sri Lankan Tamils, including IDPs, and to assist in the

development of Northern Sri Lanka. In a Joint Press Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of the Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister to India on 17 May, 2011, I urged the expeditious implementation of measures by the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure resettlement and genuine reconciliation, including early return of IDPs to their respective homes. I am happy to convey to the House that according to information available to us around 2,90,000 IDPs have already been resettled and only around 10,000 IDPs remain in the camps.

6. Government has also articulated its position that the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka created a historic opportunity to address all outstanding issues relating to minority communities in Sri Lanka, including Tamils. The Joint Press Release of May 17, 2011, states that all such outstanding issues had to be settled in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation imbued with political vision to work towards genuine national reconciliation. The External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka affirmed his Government's commitment to ensuring expeditious and concrete progress in the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Sri Lanka and representatives of Tamil parties and that a devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would contribute towards creating the necessary conditions for such reconciliation.

7. The end of the long conflict in Sri Lanka has also raised questions relating to the conduct of the war. We have, in this context, noted a report issued by a Panel of Experts constituted by the UN Secretary General on Accountability in Sri Lanka. There have also been public reactions to the telecast of the 'Channel 4' documentary entitled "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields". Presently, our focus should be on the welfare and well being of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Their rehabilitation and rebuilding should be of the highest and most immediate priority. A just and fair settlement of the political problem is of utmost importance. I have, nonetheless, stressed to my Sri Lankan counterpart, the need for an early withdrawal of emergency regulations, investigations into allegations of human rights violations, restoration of normalcy in affected areas and redress of humanitarian concerns of affected families.

Madam Speaker,

8. On the concerns expressed by some Members on the issue of Indian fishermen in waters between India and Sri Lanka, allow me to reiterate, at the outset, that the welfare, safety and security of our fishermen have always received the highest priority by Government.

9. There have been reports of incidents of attacks on Indian fishermen, allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. Government, through Diplomatic Channels, has consistently and immediately taken up any reported incident involving arrest or violence against Indian fishermen to ensure their safety, security, early release and repatriation. The Government has conveyed to the Sri Lankan



Government that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstance and that all fishermen should be treated in a humane manner. The Sri Lankan side, while denying that their Navy was involved, has promised to seriously investigate these incidents.

10. During the meetings with my Sri Lankan counterpart in February 2011 in Thimpu and in May 2011 in New Delhi, I not only conveyed our deep concern at the violence against our fishermen but also stressed the need to ensure that these incidents do not recur. In the Joint Press Release issued in May 2011, India and Sri Lanka agreed that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstances and that all fishermen should be treated in a humane manner.

Madam Speaker,

11. Through you I would like to inform this august House that we have emphasized that there is no justification for the use of force against our fishermen even though almost all instances of arrest and harassment of our fishermen seem to have occurred in Sri Lankan waters. We do need to be conscious of the sensitivities of Sri Lanka and of the many Sri Lankan fishermen who have, after a long hiatus, started fishing in that area. We are also working with concerned State Governments on our side keeping in mind that issues of fishermen affect both sides. In 2010, a total of 137 Indian fishermen were apprehended and released by Sri Lanka. Till 3rd August 2011, a total of 164 Indian fishermen were apprehended by Sri Lanka and all were subsequently released. At the same time, in 2010 a total of 352, and in 2011, a total of 131 Sri Lankan fishermen, have been apprehended by our authorities. A total of 104 Sri Lankan fishermen are still in Indian custody whereas all Indian fishermen apprehended on charges of fishing related violations in Sri Lanka have been released.

12. While the Government of India is of the view that the end of conflict in Sri Lanka provides an opportunity to pursue a lasting political settlement in Sri Lanka within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, acceptable to all the communities in Sri Lanka including the Tamils, it has to be kept in mind that this is a long standing issue and Sri Lanka is going through its internal processes, including structured dialogue between the Government and representatives of Tamil parties. The sooner Sri Lanka can come to a political arrangement within which all the communities feel comfortable, and which works for all of them, the better. In this context, the commencement of a structured dialogue on pursuing a political solution for national reconciliation as well as reconstruction and development is a laudable development. We will do whatever we can to support this process.

Thank you.



**325. Excerpts from the Statement by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in the Lok Sabha on "the steps taken by GOI for relief and resettlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka".**

**New Delhi, August 26, 2011.**

Hon'ble Madam Speaker,

At the outset, allow me to mention that I fully share the concerns and sentiments raised by the Hon'ble Members of the House during the discussion regarding Sri Lanka Tamils. India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations are based upon shared historical, cultural, ethnic and civilizational ties and extensive people-to-people interaction. In recent years, this relationship has become multifaceted and diverse, encompassing all areas of contemporary relevance.

For nearly three-decades, Sri Lanka has borne the brunt of terrorism. The end of the long period of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, left around 3,00,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in camps in Northern Sri Lanka and general devastation of infrastructure in the affected areas.

Let me assure the Hon'ble Members that since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka, our focus has been on the welfare and well being of the Tamils citizens of Sri Lanka. Their rehabilitation and rebuilding have been of the highest and most immediate priority.

The Prime Minister announced in June 2009 a grant of Rs. 500 crores for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement work in Sri Lanka. Towards this humanitarian effort, India dispatched 2.5 lakh family relief packs, deployed an emergency field hospital, two consignments of medicines for the use of IDPs, conducted an artificial limb fitment camp and deployed seven de-mining teams in Northern Sri Lanka. India also gifted more than 10,400 metric tons of shelter material and 4 lakh cement bags for the IDPs. To revive the agricultural activities in Northern Sri Lanka India gifted 95,000 agricultural starter packs, seeds and 500 tractors for the use of IDPs to revive agricultural activities in Northern Sri Lanka. We have been informed by representatives of Sri Lankan Tamils that the tractors, seeds, agricultural implements gifted by the Government of India has greatly benefited the resettlement of people and has contributed to lowering the cost of food production in the area.

India also announced the construction of 50,000 houses, mainly for IDPs in Sri Lanka. In November 2010, I inaugurated a pilot project for construction of 1000 houses at Ariyalai in Jaffna. Work on ground has started and houses are beginning to come up. It has to be kept in mind that construction is taking place in largely inaccessible areas, in many cases has to be freed of mines and other explosive ordinance.

Government of India has given Line of Credit of about US \$ 800 million for restoration of Northern Railway Lines. Apart from the above India is also assisting in the rehabilitation of the Kanakesanthurai (KKS) harbour, restoration of Duraiappa stadium and construction of Cultural Centre at Jaffna and vocational training centres at Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya.

Government of India is also taking up projects in Northern Sri Lanka in the fields of education and health, for the repair of school buildings and supply of equipment to upgrade hospitals. Government has set aside funds for taking up these projects of a humanitarian nature. In 2009-10, it spent Rs. 69 crores and in 2010-11 Rs 94 crores towards the welfare, relief, resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs and the reconstruction of Northern Sri Lanka. The Government has allocated Rs 290 crores for the purpose in 2011-12.

Our primary objective in all that we are doing in Sri Lanka is to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of Sri Lankan Tamils, including IDPs, and to assist in the development of Northern Sri Lanka.

I am happy to convey to the House that according to information available to us around 2,90,000 IDPs have already been resettled and leaving only around 10,000 IDPs remaining in the camps.

Some Members have raised the issue of the Report of the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka. India has taken note of the Report. We have heard the views of the Sri Lankan Government, including during the visit of their External Affairs Minister to New Delhi in May 2011 and during the meeting of the TROIKA in Colombo in June 2011.

It may be recalled that the Panel was set up by the UN Secretary General with the objective of advising him on developments in Sri Lanka in the last stages of the conflict. In general, there are still questions on the Report, and the issue has not so far come up for discussion in the formal agenda of any of the relevant UN intergovernmental bodies.

To the extent that concerns have been expressed by various quarters on the UNSG's Panel Report or the Channel 4 documentary, it is for the Sri Lankan Government, in the first instance to investigate and inquire into them and establish their veracity or otherwise through a transparent process. We note that it is also doing so through its Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC).

The Government of India has and will continue to reiterate to the Government of Sri Lanka the urgent and imperative need for expeditious steps towards genuine national reconciliation, including early return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their respective homes, early withdrawal of emergency

regulations, investigations into allegation of human rights violations, restoration of normalcy in affected areas, reduction of 'high security zones', accountability for the list of missing persons and redress humanitarian concerns of affected families.

Some Members have also raised questions on the safety and protection of civilians during the conflict. I wish to emphatically state that during the conflict, particularly its last phase, Government of India repeatedly called upon the Government of Sri Lanka to be mindful of the welfare and safety of civilians caught in the crossfire and consistently emphasised that the rights and the welfare of the Tamil community of Sri Lanka should not get enmeshed in the on-going hostilities.

Members have also referred to a media interview by the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka. We have noted that some specific comments were made about a Chief Minister, which are without justification, and we reject them.

On the concerns expressed by some Members on the issue of Indian fishermen in waters between India and Sri Lanka, allow me to reiterate, at the outset, that the welfare, safety and security of our fishermen have always received the highest priority by Government.

There have been reports of incidents of attacks on Indian fishermen, allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy. Government of India, through Diplomatic Channels, has consistently and immediately taken up any reported incident involving arrest or violence against Indian fishermen to ensure their safety, security, early release and repatriation.

Government has conveyed to the Sri Lankan Government that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstance and that all fishermen should be treated in a humane manner. The Sri Lankan side, while denying that their Navy was involved, has promised to seriously investigate these incidents.

During the meetings with my Sri Lankan counterpart in February 2011 in Thimpu and in May 2011 in New Delhi, I not only conveyed our deep concern at the violence against our fishermen but also stressed the need to ensure that these incidents do not recur. In the Joint Press Release issued in May 2011, India and Sri Lanka agreed that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstances and that all fishermen should be treated in a humane manner.

I would like to inform this august House that almost all instances of arrest and harassment of our fishermen seem to have occurred in Sri Lankan waters, when our fishermen stray across the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

23. There were six cases of Indian fishermen who died during 2011. We learnt about the death of Shri Pandiyan on 12th January 2011 and that of Shri Jayakumar on 23rd January 2011. Four other fishermen from Tamil Nadu were reported missing on 5th April 2011, and their bodies were found subsequently. In all these cases, the High Commission of India in Colombo took up the matter on the same day of receipt of information about the death of Indian fishermen.

It is very important to note here that, following the India-Sri Lanka Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of 26th October 2008, the incidents involving Indian fishermen declined significantly.

<b>Number of Indian fishermen</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Arrested and released subsequently</b>	<b>Reported Missing</b>	<b>Reported Dead</b>
2008	1456	1	5
2009	127	NIL	NIL
2010	34	NIL	1
2011 (till August 16th)	164	NIL	6

As per information available, as of now there are no Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails on charges of fishing related violations.

At the same time, in 2010 a total of 352, and in 2011, till 16th August 2011, 131 Sri Lankan fishermen were apprehended by our authorities. A total of 104 Sri Lankan fishermen are still in Indian custody.

We have been encouraged by the existence of the structured dialogue mechanism between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA). We were concerned with the recent breakdown and the resulting stalemate and we encourage both parties to the dialogue to resume purposeful discussions towards a genuine political settlement.

The Government of India is of the view that the end of conflict in Sri Lanka provided an opportunity to pursue a lasting political settlement in Sri Lanka within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, acceptable to all the communities in Sri Lanka including the Tamils. It has to be, however, kept in mind this is a long standing issue and Sri Lanka is going through its internal processes. The sooner Sri Lanka can come to a political arrangement within which all the communities feel comfortable, and which works for all of them, the better. Government of India will do whatever it can to support this process.

In this context, our emphasis has been to persuade the Sri Lankan Government to move towards a new system of institutional reforms, including a devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment. The Joint Press Statement issued on May 17 after Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister's visit to Delhi stated this position. We would continue to impress on the Sri Lankan Government to pursue these institutional reforms, so that Tamil people will have a feeling that they are equal citizens of Sri Lanka and that they can lead a life of dignity and self respect.

We have also noted the President of Sri Lanka's decision announced yesterday to withdraw the state of emergency when it lapses at the end of this month. This, in our view, is a welcome step. We hope that this will be followed by effective steps leading to genuine national reconciliation in the country.

Hon'ble Members also referred to fishing rights for Indian fishermen at Kachchativu Island. I wish to bring to the attention of the august House that our fishermen have access to visit the Island for rest, for drying of nets and for the annual St. Anthony's Festival, and that the rights do not cover fishing around Kachchativu Island.

We will have to also bear in mind the fact that as per the Agreements we have concluded with Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976, Kachchativu Island lies on the Sri Lankan side of the Maritime boundary. These Agreements were laid before the Parliament. Therefore, as far as the Government of India is concerned, the issue of Maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka, and consequently, that of sovereignty over Kachchativu Island is a settled matter.

In October 2009, a delegation of Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu visited Sri Lanka, including the camps where the Internally Displaced Persons were staying. In their report they had mentioned that the facilities at the camps were reasonable.

During his recent meeting with Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in Chennai, Sri Lankan High Commissioner to New Delhi has conveyed the invitation of President of Sri Lanka to Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to visit Sri Lanka. He has also invited a Parliamentary team, not only from Tamil Nadu but also from other areas to visit Sri Lanka, including Northern Sri Lanka.

Hon'ble Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt Sushma Swaraj has been invited by the Hon'ble Speaker of Sri Lankan Parliament to visit Sri Lanka. Smt. Sushma Swaraj has accepted the invitation. She is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka from 16-20 September 2011.

I also welcome the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Members regarding the visit of a joint Parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka to get first hand information

on various developments there. We would work out a suitable time frame for the visit in consultation with the Sri Lankan Government.

Thank you.



**326. Extract relevant to Sri Lanka from the Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary in Addu City, Maldives during the SAARC Summit.**

**Addu City (Maldives), November 10, 2011.**

\* \* \* \*

...(Prime Minister) had a bilateral meeting with President Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka. During this discussion, essentially three issues were discussed. One was the issue of the fishermen which continues to be an issue between our two countries. The Prime Minister stressed the need to ensure that the waters between India and Sri Lanka are free of violence, and that any incidences of attacks on Indian fishermen are a matter of great concern to India. The Sri Lankan President assured the Prime Minister that Sri Lankan Navy have been under very strict instructions to ensure that there is no violence, that in fact it had been instructed to provide assistance to fishermen in case they are in distress. He highlighted the fact that the Sri Lankan fishermen were again very active after a long time in their own waters, and that there was some evidence of large scale crossing of the international boundary line between India and Sri Lanka\*.

\* Earlier in October during the familiarization visit of Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai to Colombo, the fishermen question had come up for consideration. Mr. Mathai had indicated that the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries would meet "as soon as possible" to sort out outstanding issues on fishing in the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay. Meetings between fishermen associations from the two sides was also expected to be resumed shortly. Mr. Mathai had said that the fishermen's issue was a question of livelihood. "The whole issue has to be studied as a livelihood matter... The issue has to be examined in terms of what is sustainable in the long run," he said. Speaking to representatives of the Indian media stationed in Colombo, Mr. Mathai had said that he had raised the fishermen's issue in his discussions with Sri Lankan leaders. "We have emphasised the need to maintain a peaceful atmosphere in this area," he said and added that he had stressed the need for investigating the reports of attacks on Indian fishermen to ensure that these did not recur.

Foreign Secretary had also visited the Housing Project but found the progress "somewhat slow than what was originally conceived". He was of the opinion that some "further refinement" of the project was required and the company had assured that this would be done. "We would like to inaugurate the first wave of occupancy of these houses in the next few months," he said.

The two leaders discussed this further and it was felt that it would be appropriate for the Joint Working Group between India and Sri Lanka to actually meet and see what measures could be taken to ensure that there is peace and harmony in the waters. It was also felt, and both leaders agreed, that the fishermen's associations between the associations of fishermen of India and associations of fishermen in Northern Sri Lanka, who are also Tamils, that these groups of people should meet together and talk about their common interests, their common concerns.

The second issue which was discussed was that of the resettlement of internally displaced persons. Prime Minister spoke on the importance in terms of opinion in India, sentiment in India on the resettlement of those who had become internally displaced. President Rajapaksa mentioned that of the very large number which had been internally displaced a year and a half ago or two years ago, there are about 7,000 still awaiting resettlement. And he expected that this process of resettling them would be completed by the end of December. The two leaders also reviewed Indian economic projects in Sri Lanka and also had a general discussion on other matters of mutual interest and concern.

\* \* \* \*

On November 12 the prime minister in his remarks to the media traveling with him on the return journey to New Delhi on board his special flight again referred to his meeting with Sri Lanka President and said

“With regard to my meeting with Sri Lanka, we reviewed with President Rajapaksa, the problems of Indian fishermen, who stray into Sri Lankan waters and then are arrested by Sri Lankan authorities. We explained this to President Rajapaksa and he agreed that the use of force to deal with Indian fishermen is totally unacceptable, that it is a human problem and it must be dealt in a humane manner. And we explored various options like growing involvement of fishermen of two countries in discussing their mutual problems. Also there is a bilateral working group to discuss these issues. We agreed that the working group should accelerate its work.

Principally, my concern was with regard to resettlement of internally displaced Tamil refugees, and the treatment of fishermen. President Rajapaksa gave me assurances that Sri Lanka will and has been moving forward. How far that satisfies the common public opinion, there is now a structured dialogue between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil National Alliance and also there is a Parliamentary Select Committee which has been appointed to go into this question of what can be done to find a permanent political and acceptable solution to the Tamil problem.





**327. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Cabinet decision conveying approval to the reconstruction and repair of houses for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Tamil Origin in Sri Lanka.**

**New Delhi, December 1, 2011.**

The Union Cabinet today approved the reconstruction and repair of 49,000 house for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Northern and Eastern Provinces and for Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs) in Sri Lanka under grant assistance from the Government of India.

The Cabinet has also approved the following:

- (a) Reconstruction of 38,000 houses under the owner-driven model for IDPs
- (b) Repairs of 5000 houses under the owner-driven model for IDPs
- (c) Construction of 6000 houses under the agency-driven model for vulnerable sections of IDPs in the Northern and Eastern provinces and for IOTs in the Central and Uva Provinces.

A total expenditure of Rs.1319 crore will be incurred on this.

The project will benefit 49,000 internally displaced persons and Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The project will primarily be implemented under the owner-driven model wherein the beneficiaries themselves will undertake the reconstruction work and funds will be released into their bank accounts based on certification of work. A few houses will also be constructed for the vulnerable sections of the IDPs like physically handicapped, single women households, widows etc. under the Agency model.

**Background :**

The construction of 49,000 houses for resettlement and rehabilitation of internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka is part of the overall commitment announced by the Prime Minister during the state visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India in June 2010. This commitment was reflected in the joint declaration issued at the end of the visit on June 9, 2010. A pilot project for the construction of 1000 houses in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka is already under implementation.



**328. Response of Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to the 'Report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission of Sri Lanka'.**

**New Delhi, December 25, 2011.**

The report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), was tabled by the Government of Sri Lanka in its Parliament on 16 December. While we are still studying the report which runs into over 400 pages, I can share with you some initial comments on its contents.

2. The Government of India welcomes the public release of the LLRC report and takes note of the assurance given by the Government of Sri Lanka in Parliament about implementation of many of its recommendations.

3. The LLRC has recommended various constructive measures for addressing issues related to healing the wounds of the conflict and fostering a process of lasting peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. In particular, we have noted the proposed measures pertaining to information on missing persons and detainees, investigation of cases of disappearances and abductions, promotion of a trilingual policy, deployment of Tamil-speaking officers in all offices, curbing activities of illegal armed groups, reduction of high security zones, return of private lands by the military and demilitarization, including phasing out of the involvement of the security forces in civilian activities and restoration of civilian administration in the Northern Province. We have noted the assurance given by the Government of Sri Lanka in Parliament that it will ensure the withdrawal of security forces from all aspects of community life and confine their role exclusively to security matters.

4. Implementation of assurances to ensure speedy resettlement and genuine reconciliation, including early completion of the process of the return of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees to their respective homes, restoration of normal civilian life in affected areas would mark a major step forward in the process of reconciliation.

5. The LLRC report has underlined that the present situation provides a great window of opportunity to forge a consensual way forward towards reconciliation through a political settlement based on devolution of power. It recognises that a political solution is imperative to addressing the root cause of the conflict and notes that the Government should provide leadership to a political process which must be pursued for the purpose of establishing a framework for ensuring sustainable peace and security in the post-conflict environment

6. In this context, we have been assured by the Government of Sri Lanka on several occasions in the past, of its commitment towards pursuit of a political process, through a broader dialogue with all parties, including the Tamil National Alliance, leading to the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, and to go beyond, so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers and genuine national reconciliation. We hope that the Government of Sri Lanka recognising the critical importance of this issue acts decisively and with vision in this regard. We will remain engaged with them through this process and offer our support in the spirit of partnership.

7. We have also noted the Government of Sri Lanka's intention to set up a mechanism to carry out further investigations relating to instances of alleged human rights violations and incidents involving loss of civilian life. It is important to ensure that an independent and credible mechanism is put in place to investigate allegations of human rights violations, as brought out the LLRC, in a time-bound manner.



**329. Response of Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to questions on 'Indian fishermen currently stranded in Sri Lanka due to adverse weather conditions'.**

**New Delhi, December 27, 2011.**

Due to adverse weather conditions presently obtaining in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar, seven fishing trawlers with 29 Indian fishermen which had set off from Tamil Nadu had run aground or got damaged in Sri Lankan waters and have been rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy. Our High Commission in Colombo and the Consulate General in Jaffna have worked closely with the concerned local authorities to secure their immediate release and welfare. The fishermen are presently in Jaffna in an accommodation leased for this purpose by the Consulate, which has also arranged food, clothing, medical attention and other basic amenities for them.

The concerned authorities of the Government of Sri Lanka have agreed to provide their full cooperation in ensuring the repatriation of the fishermen to India as soon as weather conditions improve. Efforts are also being made for salvage boats from India to travel to Sri Lanka to repair the damaged boats and bring them back, if possible.



**(iii) SOUTH EAST & EAST ASIA  
AND PACIFIC**

## **AUSTRALIA**

### **330. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (South) Arun Goel on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Australia.**

**New Delhi, January 18, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to you all. My colleague Mr. Arun Goel, Joint Secretary (South) and I would like to brief you about External Affairs Minister's visit to Melbourne, Australia for the Seventh Round of Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue from the 19th to the 21st of January, 2011.

This is External Affairs Minister's second visit to Australia. He had last visited in August 2009. The previous Framework Dialogue was held in New Delhi in October, 2009 between EAM and then Foreign Minister Mr. Stephen Smith who is presently the Defence Minister of Australia.

Let me take you through the highlights of the programme and also the delegation. The External Affairs Minister would be assisted by Secretary (East) Ms. Latha Reddy; our High Commissioner Mrs. Sujata Singh; and the Advisor to EAM, in addition to other officials.

Tomorrow, on the 19th, EAM would be meeting with Mr. Martin Ferguson Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism. Minister Ferguson had visited India last year. In the evening, the Governor of Victoria and the Premier of Victoria would be hosting a dinner in honour EAM. On Thursday, the 20th of January, in the forenoon the 7th round of Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue will take place. EAM's counterpart, as you are aware, is the former Prime Minister and the present Foreign Minister Mr. Kevin Rudd. This would be followed by a joint press conference at 2 pm Australian time.

There would also be a formal meeting between EAM and the Premier of Victoria as well as other State Government Ministers. In the evening EAM will interact with members of the Indian community. He leaves Melbourne in the morning of Friday, 21st January for Delhi.

India and Australia are both vibrant, secular, multicultural and democratic societies. We speak the same language and share the same love for cricket. We are both members of the Commonwealth. Australia also became an Observer of SAARC in 2008. We have traditionally cooperated quite well at the international fora being members of the G20, East Asian Summit, Asian Regional Forum, and of course the Commonwealth. You are aware that the next Commonwealth Summit would be held in Perth, Australia in October this year.

Australia has been supportive of India's candidature for the permanent membership of the UN Security Council, as well as, for India's membership of APEC. Over the years, a good foundation for close and cooperative multifaceted ties has been laid between the two countries. The visit of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to India in November 2009 was a milestone, when both sides decided to elevate our relations to the level of Strategic Partnership. We have since seen a marked increase in bilateral contacts and exchanges last year.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard assumed office in June 2010. You would recall that prior to that she had visited India in September 2009 as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, when she had also called on Prime Minister. After becoming the Prime Minister, she has already had two meetings with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the margins, first of the East Asian Summit at Hanoi in October, and next in November at Seoul during the G20 Summit.

Trade and economic relations are an important component of our ties. In 1989, a Joint Ministerial Commission on Trade and Economic Relations was established, which has held twelve meetings, including the latest, which was in May 2010, when Trade Minister Simon Crane visited India. One of the highlights of the meeting was the submission of the report of the Joint Study Group, that was constituted in August 2007, to look at the feasibility of beginning the negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

The bilateral trade relations have shown a robust growth. From a mere seven billion Australian dollars in 2003-04, it has touched 22.4 billion Australian dollars including goods and services in 2009-10. Australia is already our sixth largest trading partner, and India is going to be Australia's fourth largest trading partner soon. We are among the biggest importers of items like gold, coal, lentils, copper, lead, wool, etc., from Australia.

The energy sector has fast emerged as a very important area of bilateral cooperation. I mentioned the visit of Minister of Energy Resources and Tourism Mr. Martin Ferguson, whom EAM is going to meet tomorrow. He was here in February last year when a MOU on cooperation on New and Renewable Energy was concluded. The first ever Australia-India Energy and Minerals Forum meeting took place at Perth in June last year when our Minister of Power visited Australia. Indian companies have evinced strong interest in sourcing LNG from Australia, as well as, investing in the oil and gas sector. In fact a number of agreements and contracts have already been concluded.

In addition to those visits that I have mentioned, our Minister of Human Resource Development visited Australia in April; Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs was there in June; and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia was there in November. We are also seeking to enhance

people-to-people and Parliamentary exchanges. And for the first time ever we received a group of young political leaders from Australia between 28th of November to 4th of December last year.

An MoU on defence cooperation was signed in 2006. We have had regular meetings. A Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation was signed in November 2009, during the visit of then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. As an offshoot, the first Defence Policy Dialogue, at Additional Secretary level was held in New Delhi last month. We also had a Strategic Dialogue at the level of Secretaries in New Delhi last month. Australia is partnering with us supporting India's initiative on the Nalanda University Project, inter alia, through the setting up of an Australian Chair for ecology and environmental studies.

Indian students continue to head for higher education to Australia although the numbers have dipped somewhat. India is also now the third largest source of immigrants for Australia after UK and New Zealand. Indian population is close to half a million, which is over two per cent of the Australian population.

As such, we have close and multifaceted ties with Australia which are growing quite rapidly, which are deepening rapidly in important areas including, as I mentioned, trade, energy, education, science and technology, agriculture, minerals, defence, IT, travel and tourism. Both sides would very much like to maintain the momentum of this engagement and further expand our cooperative ties.

EA and Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd will review the progress of cooperation in all areas of our bilateral relations. They would also exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take a few questions.

**Question:** Do you discern any change on the part of new Australian Government *vis-à-vis* uranium sale to India? Will this issue be on the table?

**Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Arun K. Goel):** I think the Australian High Commissioner day before has already hinted at this question specifically. He has said that at present there is no change in the Australian Government's well-known position on supply of uranium to non-NPT signatory countries. But we have made our interest known all along to Australia that we do expect Australian Government to revisit its stated position. In terms of our quest for energy resources, access to uranium supply remains a core issue for us. So, we are hopeful that in the near future they will be in a position to review their earlier standpoint.

**Official Spokesperson:** I would just like to add that energy is one of the vital areas of cooperation. I did touch upon certain facets. I would like to recall that



in 2008 Australia supported us in our quest for a civil nuclear energy arrangement at IAEA as well as at NSG. And as my colleague mentioned, we have already evinced interest and we are ready when our Australian friends are ready, specifically on the issue of furthering our understanding on civil nuclear cooperation.

**Question:** As you know, the Australian Government does have a uranium supply agreement with China. Does the Indian Government feel that that is undue discrimination against India which has shown obvious restraint over the years in terms of its nuclear position?

**Official Spokesperson:** I mentioned that India and Australia are strategic partners. We are pleased at the trajectory of our relations, the breadth and sweep of our relations. I did mention the numerous areas in which we are cooperating very well. We have already touched upon the vital area of energy cooperation and my colleague and I have endeavoured to share our views or our thinking, on the important area of further cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy.

**Question:** You said the number of Indian students going to Australia has dipped. What are the reasons behind that dip? And can you share some numbers as to how many students were going in 2008, in 2009 and now?

**Official Spokesperson:** I would be happy to do so. According to figures that I have for comparison purposes, in the year 2009 approximately 120,000 Indian students had enrolled in Australian educational institutions. But enrolment is one and actual commencements is another, as the Australians call it. According to the figures of the Australian Ministry of Education the actual commencements in 2009 were 67,974. In 2010, between January and November 2010 - we still are awaiting figures for December - the enrolments were 100,236, and the actual commencements were 42,447. So, approximately there has been a dip of about 30 per cent. The reason you are very well aware of. There have been issues pertaining to the Indian students. But we are very appreciative of a number of steps taken in close coordination with the Indian Government by the Government of Australia to overcome or tackle those constraints, and to further the safety and security of the Indian students which is certainly a matter of prime concern and interest for us.

**Question:** Talking about the Indian students' issue that was obviously a very serious diplomatic issue between the two countries, how would you categorize the relationship now, twelve months on after the heat has essentially left that issue?

**Official Spokesperson:** Very good, but let me have my colleague elaborate on that.

**Joint Secretary (South):** Let me go back to the previous question. If I may add to what has already been said, currently there are around 400,000 persons of Indian descent in Australia. Indian community is Australia's fourth biggest migrant community, and students are a significant proportion of that. As of last year there were approximately 110,000 Indian students and the number of Indian students has been growing rapidly, especially over the last four years. Much of this increase took place in the vocational education sector. If I could give some numbers, 2010 we see a drop from 2009 when there were 68,000 students who went to Australia. Last year it dipped to 42,000. One of the main reasons is not only because of the problems associated with the students issue but also the strength of Australian dollar. It has risen dramatically and today is almost one to one with the US dollar. So, the cost of education in Australia has also commensurately risen. The vocational education sector accounted for over two-thirds of the number of Indian students in 2009-10. Ever since this issue came up over the last two years, the fallout has been that the number of prospective students has been falling. Overall we can say that the drop is approximately of the level of 40 per cent of students going to Australia.

Coming to your specific question, yes, this issue was at the centre-stage over the last two years or so in our bilateral relations, but thanks to a series of measures which Australian Government took, both at the Federal and the State level, the number of incidents reported came down drastically. They are far fewer though the problems are not totally over, and there are some lingering issues connected with students' welfare which are under discussion between the two Governments.

**Official Spokesperson:** Let me add that, as I mentioned, we are very appreciative of the quality of response by Australia. India and Australia have worked in close concert to tackle this issue. And we have seen a series of steps being taken by Australia on whether it is more policing, whether it is more patrolling, whether it is audit of educational institutions, whether it is review of visa procedures, establishment of helpline, counseling, and so on. But it is work in progress. As my colleague said, we have seen a marked improvement in the situation and we are, as I said and I repeat that, we are very appreciative of the approach taken and the manner in which the Australian Government have looked into this issue.

**Question:** As you have already said there are long negotiations and implementation of mutual understandings between Australia and India over the issue of conflicts among the students of Indian origin and Australians.

**Official Spokesperson:** Conflicts! I never said anything about conflicts between...

**Question:** It is my word. What was your finding? Was it a racial conflict or was this just something that happens everywhere else in the country?

**Official Spokesperson:** I mentioned in the very opening remarks of mine that India and Australia are fellow democracies, we are multicultural, multiethnic, vibrant and open societies, and both sides have the ability, desire and confidence to take up any issue that crops up in the relationship, and both sides, in close concert as friends would, have looked into the issue and already we have seen a marked improvement in the issue.

**Question:** Sir, I would just like to get some clarity on the status of FTA. You did say that there is a report by a Joint Study Group. Has that been accepted? If it has been, when are we likely to see the launch of it?

**Official Spokesperson:** Very important question. The report of the Joint Study Group has been submitted to the Ministers, and the respective Governments are now looking into their recommendations. Once the internal procedures are complete, a further view would be taken on the matter.

**Question:** Is the Indian Prime Minister likely to visit Australia this year?

**Joint Secretary (South):** As has just been said, this year's CHOGM Summit is scheduled to be held in Perth, Australia in October. And as a leading country of CHOGM, India participates in each Summit. So, it is on the cards that our Prime Minister would be visiting to attend the Summit.

**Question:** Sir, this relates to what action the MEA or the Government is contemplating in the Anil Verma case, and if there is any clarification on the role of Rajesh Prasad, as has come out in the media, and if his wife is also accompanying him on his way back.

**Official Spokesperson:** Let me say at the outset that the Ministry of External Affairs has taken a serious view in the matter. As I mentioned in my earlier remarks, the matter has been looked into actively and with all the seriousness that it deserves. The officer and members of the family have been transferred back to headquarters. Let me also say categorically that there is no question of condoning domestic violence which is totally unacceptable. Once the officer is back, the matter will be thoroughly investigated and acted upon appropriately. The laws of the land would take care of any acts that need to be taken care of, consequent to the inquiry.

About the other matter that you mentioned, let me again clarify that the High Commission has the responsibility towards the welfare and wellbeing of the officers and members of the family. I have already mentioned that domestic violence is unacceptable and there is no question of condoning the domestic

violence. At the same time, the High Commission has encouraged both sides to sort out any marital issues or differences between the two of them, which is the best way of going about it. But let me reiterate that we take a serious view of the matter that there is no question of condoning domestic violence and the matter will be investigated thoroughly.

Thank you.



**331. Opening Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Seventh India-Australia Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue.**

**Melbourne, January 20, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr. Kevin Rudd, Foreign Minister of Australia,  
distinguished members of the Australian delegation,

I am pleased to be here for the Framework Dialogue. I and my delegation members would like to thank you for the warm welcome and kind hospitality.

I recall my last visit to Australia in August 2009. We warmly recall your own visit to India in November 2009, which saw our relations upgraded to the status of a strategic partnership. We look forward to our relations achieving such a strategic level in all senses of the term and to continued exchanges of visits at the political and official level.

I look forward to discussing with you today various facets of our bilateral relationship and regional co-operation and exploring avenues for further expansion of our interaction.

But first I would like to offer condolences on my behalf as well as on behalf of the people and the Government of India for the loss of life and property in Queensland caused by the recent floods. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by these floods, especially the families of the victims, and with the people of Australia.

Excellency, India attaches importance to its relations with Australia.

We are happy to note the priority that you and your Government have placed on enhancing this relationship. I would also like to thank you for the measures that your Government has put in place, at state as well as at federal level to

improve the safety and security of our students. However, there are some other issues as well, to which I shall return.

Our relations have been expanding rapidly in recent years in virtually all areas. Both countries are focused on expanding cooperation in areas such as trade & economic cooperation, energy & resources, education, science & technology. The inaugural visit of young political leaders from Australia in December 2010 is most welcome. It would be good to set up a regular exchange programme in this regard.

We are committed to further strengthening and expanding our strategic partnership. Our relationship already encompasses diverse areas that can act as building blocks for such a partnership.

While the relationship is progressing well, I think it is important to realize that the strategic partnership will not reach its full potential without some progress being made in the area of nuclear energy. I would be interested in hearing from you, at some point today, on how you see the issue evolving in Australia over the next few months.

It is also good to see that our interactions in multilateral fora are growing stronger. Both India and Australia are important members of the G-20 and the East Asia Summit, where we have had substantive interactions. The entry of the US and Russia into EAS is a welcome development. We look forward to working closely with you and other like-minded countries towards an open, inclusive and mutually beneficial framework of interactions in the Asia Pacific region. We welcome Australia's announcement made at the last East Asia Summit in Hanoi, for creation of an Australian Chair for Ecology and Environment Studies at the Nalanda University. We also deeply appreciate Australia's support to India's candidature as a Permanent Member of the Security Council and the support that it extended to India's membership of the FATF last year.

We look forward to the next Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting at Perth in October. Your Prime Minister has invited our PM to attend and to combine this with a bilateral visit. Our Prime Minister has accepted the invitation in principle and is looking forward to the visit. We very much hope that this works out. If this visit takes place, it would be a very important visit – the first Prime Ministerial visit to Australia in 25 years. It would provide a significant opportunity to take our bilateral relations to a significant level. The fact that the CHOGM is being held in the city of Perth on the Indian Ocean adds, I believe, a special salience to the occasion.

Excellency, India has taken over the Chairmanship of IOR-ARC this year. Australia is the Vice Chair. We believe that the IOR-ARC has significant potential to be a force for development and stability in the region. India hopes to work actively with Australia and other important countries to realize this potential, which is also important from a strategic point of view.

Excellency, there are many issues on which we are to exchange views today. I look forward to fruitful and constructive discussions, starting with bilateral issues.



**332. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community function.**

**Melbourne, January 20, 2011.**

Members of the Indian community, my friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I have met many of you when I visited Melbourne in August 2009 and it is a pleasure to meet you again.

In August 2009, you will remember, the issue of the attacks on Indian students and members of the Indian community was at its height. I had assumed charge as EAM barely three months earlier, when I visited Australia then.

My discussions then with the Australian Government, both at the State and the Federal levels, focused on issues of concern to the students, such as security, availability of accommodation and other support services, transport concession, greater financial assistance, regulation of rogue agents and dodgy institutions and introduction of effective orientation and assimilation processes both in India and Australia.

Since then both the federal Government of Australia and the Government of Victoria Province have introduced many measures to improve the safety and security of the students and these measures have had a positive effect.

However, I do note that revised immigration policies have had an adverse impact on Indian students. Here, while we must realize that being a student does not automatically mean entitlement to permanent residency, I have requested for consideration to be given to our affected students. Foreign Minister Rudd has assured me that he will keep our concerns in mind.

I have also just met with the new Premier of Victoria Province, who had made the law and order situation in Melbourne as one of the major issues of his election campaign. Premier Ted Baillieu has assured me that the safety and security of the Indian community will continue to be addressed pro-actively and that he has already initiated moves to increase the number of police and guards on the transport system, introduce tougher sentencing, improve the system of compensating victims of crime etc.

The Government of India has also taken quite a few measures to address the concern of our communities living abroad. We have introduced bills seeking to punish those who have provided false or misleading information to student and make it mandatory for all education agents to register themselves. We have also proposed that all Indian students proceeding abroad for studies enter their details with GOI.

We have recently introduced the Indian Community Welfare Fund to provide financial assistance to Indian citizens in need and have used this to assist several needy citizens and students in Australia.

The Indian community in Australia is playing an important and constructive role here in building bridges of friendship and understanding between our two countries. All the Australian Ministers I have met, including the Victoria Province's Premier have had very good and positive things to say about the Indian community in Victoria and its positive contribution to Australia.

The purpose of my visit to Melbourne was the for annual framework dialogue held between the Foreign Ministers of India and Australia. I had very good and constructive discussions with Foreign Minister Rudd. We covered the entire range of bilateral issues as also regional and multilateral issues.

Besides the students issue, we discussed all the bilateral issues. We also discussed the uranium issue; I drew attention to our requirements, particularly in the context of climate change and India's energy and development requirements. We have agreed to continue to discuss this matter.

Our discussions revealed considerable areas of convergence where both of us together could play a constructive role in multilateral institutions such as the East Asia Summit, the Indian Ocean and the IOR-ARC. To sum up, I believe this was a constructive meeting that has contributed towards a fuller realization of our strategic partnership. Foreign Minister Rudd has accepted my invitation to visit India this year, where this dialogue shall be continued.

I also interacted with the Governor of Victoria Province, the federal Minister for Resources Energy and Tourism, and senior members of the Victorian Government.

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate our sincere condolences and sympathy for losses suffered by Australia and Australians in the recent floods, including here in Victoria. On behalf of the people and Government of India, I express the hope that the situation will not deteriorate further and we pray for speedy recovery for all those affected.

Thank you for taking the time to be present here today. Please do continue the good work that you are all doing. I now look forward to moving around meeting with you individually.



**333. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the Indian Media at Melbourne.**

**Melbourne, January 20, 2011.**

Friends,

I am very happy to see all of you.

This has been a brief but productive visit. Over the last couple of days, I have had a series of excellent meetings with Australian Federal Ministers, such as Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and the Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism, Mr Martin Ferguson, as also with the Hon'ble Governor and Premier of the Victoria Province.

Discussions have covered areas of mutual concern and interest. Naturally, this has included our interest in nuclear energy, uranium and the question of the problems faced by Indian students, which have fortunately improved.

With Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd, my interaction was part of the on-going Framework Dialogue between the Foreign Ministers, in which we not only had free and frank discussions on a host of bilateral issues but also where we could bilaterally contribute towards global and regional issues that are critical to our strategic interest. I believe this has been a constructive and fruitful engagement. I am happy that Foreign Minister Rudd has accepted my invitation to visit India later this year, so that we might continue our sharing of views and in identifying how our bilateral efforts might contribute towards global good and regional security.

The Joint Statement has been circulated and clearly identifies the host of issues that this round of the Framework Dialogue covered.



As you would have just witnessed, I have had a productive and useful interaction with the Indian community, whose welfare remains a paramount concern to the Government of India and the Ministries of External Affairs and of Overseas Indian Affairs.



**334. Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the Australia-India Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue.**

**Melbourne, January 20, 2011.**

At the Australia-India Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue in Melbourne on 20 January, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, and the Indian Minister of External Affairs, S.M. Krishna, had detailed discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The discussions reinforced the growing convergence of interests, perspectives and assessments on the part of Australia and India.

The Ministers reiterated their firm commitment to developing and expanding the Strategic Partnership agreed at Prime Ministerial level in November 2009. They underlined the importance of maintaining regular two-way high-level political and official dialogue to deepen bilateral relations.

**International and regional cooperation**

The Ministers had extensive and detailed discussions about international and regional issues.

They noted the significant capacity for enhanced regional cooperation, including through the East Asia Summit (EAS). The Ministers welcomed the recent admission of the United States and Russia into the EAS and looked forward to working together to strengthen the EAS agenda in 2011. Mr Rudd welcomed India's Nalanda University initiative as an important step for promoting deeper understanding throughout the region. Ministers agreed to regular senior officials consultations on the East Asia Summit.

The Ministers looked forward to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth in October 2011, noting that the Commonwealth brings together countries from every continent to work together in addressing the challenges which confront all of us. Mr Rudd said Australia looked forward to hosting a visit by Prime Minister Singh at the time of CHOGM.

The Ministers reiterated their intention to continue working together closely in the G20, the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Noting that Australia and India both have resilient and strongly performing economies, the Ministers stressed that the G-20 had a vital role to play in working towards continued prosperity and stability in the global economy. The Ministers agreed that the recent reforms to the International Financial Institutions constituted a landmark achievement for the G20.

The Ministers noted that India's participation in both the G20 and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in 2011-12 presented an opportunity for increased cooperation to meet global challenges. Mr Rudd reiterated Australia's strong and long-standing support for a permanent seat for India on the UNSC.

The Ministers welcomed the decision to establish a Defence Policy Dialogue, the inaugural Talks of which were held in New Delhi in December 2010.

The Ministers reiterated their strong support for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Mr. S.M. Krishna welcomed Australia's participation as an Observer in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) for the first time in 2010 at the Summit in Bhutan. Mr Rudd confirmed Australia's commitment to its engagement with South Asia and the Indian Ocean region and referred to the contribution Australia was making within SAARC, through a project to promote food security, better water usage and agricultural production.

Mr. S.M. Krishna said India looked forward to hosting the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers meeting in mid-2011 and to working closely with Australia and other members to drive forward projects of regional interest, which will provide practical benefits to the full range of IOR-ARC membership. The Ministers underlined that Australia and India have a common interest in the Indian Ocean and open sea lines of communication. Mr Rudd reiterated Australia's commitment, as Vice Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), to supporting India in its role of Chair in 2010 and 2011. Ministers agreed to regular senior officials consultations on IOR-ARC.

The Ministers stressed the importance of an effective and comprehensive global response to climate change and noted India's key role in achieving a successful outcome at the Cancun conference of parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2010.

Mr Rudd and Mr. S.M. Krishna noted that India and Australia were united in the fight against terrorism. Looking forward to the next meeting of the bilateral

Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in 2011, they noted the need for practical cooperation in areas such as intelligence, police cooperation, terrorist financing and money laundering.

They welcomed the entry into force of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Treaty and the Extradition Treaty on 20 January 2011.

### **Political links**

Political links continue to expand with a new young political leaders' exchange program in place. Ministers welcomed the visit to India from 29 November to 3 December 2010 by rising political leaders from Australia, building strong links and helping to deepen mutual understanding. Mr Rudd said that Australia looked forward to hosting a Parliamentary delegation in the near future.

### **Economic links**

The bilateral economic relationship has continued to strengthen. India is now Australia's third largest overall export market and fifth largest trade partner. Australia is India's 6th largest trading partner.

There were significant new two-way investments in 2010, particularly by India in the resources and energy sector. Mr Rudd welcomed the growing interest by Indian companies in investing in Australia.

In May 2010 the Australian and Indian Governments had noted the recommendations of the Australia-India Free Trade Agreement Joint Feasibility Study and that both sides were undertaking further internal processes. Mr. S.M. Krishna noted that the trade imbalance with Australia was the second largest that India had with any of its trading partners. He urged greater flexibility and requested for early action and on issues that impacted on India's exports to Australia, especially in service exports (information technology) and products such as pharmaceuticals, mangoes and table grapes.

Mr Rudd noted that Australia had an open market and welcomed Indian trade and investment.

Australia and India are committed to cooperating closely in efforts to bring the Doha Round to a successful, ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion within the 2011 window of opportunity identified by G20 Leaders at their Seoul Summit.

Mr Rudd said Australia looked forward to hosting in 2011 the next Joint Ministerial Commission on trade and economic issues and an Indian delegation to the inaugural CEOs Forum.

The Ministers noted the importance of cooperation in the resources and energy sector. The first biennial Australia-India Energy and Minerals Forum, held in Perth in 2010, set the stage for closer collaboration, building on the five strategic Action Plans (Coal, New and Renewable Energy, Mining and Minerals, Power, Petroleum and Natural Gas) signed in 2008.

### **Education cooperation**

The Ministers noted measures taken by the Australian Government and states and territories in 2010 to address concerns over the safety and well being of Indian students in Australia. They welcomed the Council of Australian Governments' International Students Strategy for Australia, launched in October 2010, and progress with implementation of recommendations from the Baird Review of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act to improve further the experience of international students in Australia. This includes strengthening students' consumer protection rights and cooperation between the two countries to support the regulation of education agents.

The Ministers also noted that the next Joint Working Group on Education and Training is expected to be held in Australia in April 2011 and the annual Education Minister's dialogue in India in September 2011. The establishment of a new Australia-India Education Council will be further progressed through these meetings.

Mr. S.M. Krishna noted that the changes in the skilled migration programme had significantly impacted on Indian students already studying in Australia, many of whom had taken heavy loans to pursue their studies. He requested consideration of Indian students who had come to Australia under the old rules being placed in a special category that allowed them to fulfil the demand that existed in Australia for their skills.

Mr Rudd noted the components of the 8 February 2010 changes to skilled migration in Australia and highlighted the generous transition arrangements for most holders of international student visas at the time of the changes. Mr Rudd also noted Australia's review of its student visa program, announced in December 2010 and expected to be completed in mid-2011.

### **Scientific cooperation**

The Ministers welcomed the contribution, which the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is making to the strong growth in cooperation in science and research, one of the most dynamic parts of the bilateral relationship. They noted that since its launch in 2006, the AISRF had supported over seventy

innovative joint projects between Indian and Australian researchers and leading Australian and Indian institutions in strategically selected areas of scientific endeavours, including renewable energy, nanotechnology, agricultural research and biotechnology.

Mr Rudd highlighted that Australia's commitment of \$65 million over the current life of the Fund, which is matched by the Government of India, made the AISRF Australia's largest fund dedicated to bilateral research with any country. Mr. S.M. Krishna noted that the Fund was one of India's largest sources of support for international science.

### **People-to-people links**

The India - Australia relationship is underpinned by diverse and growing people-to-people links. The Indian community in Australia now numbers over 300,000 people and is making a most valuable contribution to building Australian society. Cultural and artistic links continue apace. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has been increasingly supporting these links. In November 2010, it sponsored a Rajasthani folk music and dance troupe to visit 9 cities in Australia including towns hitherto not covered such as Townsville and Ballarat.

2012 has been designated as the Year of Australia in India.

Mr Rudd conveyed his felicitations for India's successful hosting of the New Delhi Commonwealth Games.

Sport has long been an enduring bond between India and Australia. These links have been strengthened by the Australian Sports Outreach Program in India, launched in New Delhi during the 2010 Commonwealth Games and the growing interaction between sportsmen of the two countries across a wide range of sporting disciplines. Mr. S.M. Krishna said India was looking forward to hosting Australia at the 2011 Cricket World Cup.



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On the question of sale of Uranium to India, media reports said that Australia would "continue to discuss" with India its "differences" on whether to allow access to Australian uranium for civil nuclear purposes. The discussion are expected to take place "within the framework" of the "strategic partnership" that Canberra established with New Delhi in 2009, Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd said after holding talks with External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna in Melbourne. Mr. Krishna later told *The Hindu* correspondent based in Singapore from Melbourne that he had suggested to Mr. Rudd that Australia would be "well advised to revisit its policy" of not selling uranium to countries such as India, which did not accede to the discriminatory Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The

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issue was “discussed in all its implications,” especially in the perspective of India’s “developmental angle and climate change angle,” Mr. Krishna said.

It may be recalled that at the media briefing on January 18 in New Delhi before the start of the visit questions were raised on this supply of Uranium. These were:

**Question:** Do you discern any change on the part of new Australian Government *vis-à-vis* uranium sale to India? Will this issue be on the table?

**Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Arun K. Goel):** I think the Australian High Commissioner day before has already hinted at this question specifically. He has said that at present there is no change in the Australian Government’s well-known position on supply of uranium to non-NPT signatory countries. But we have made our interest known all along to Australia that we do expect Australian Government to revisit its stated position. In terms of our quest for energy resources, access to uranium supply remains a core issue for us. So, we are hopeful that in the near future they will be in a position to review their earlier standpoint.

**Official Spokesperson:** I would just like to add that energy is one of the vital areas of cooperation. I did touch upon certain facets. I would like to recall that in 2008 Australia supported us in our quest for a civil nuclear energy arrangement at IAEA as well as at NSG. And as my colleague mentioned, we have already evinced interest and we are ready when our Australian friends are ready, specifically on the issue of furthering our understanding on civil nuclear cooperation.

**Question:** As you know, the Australian Government does have a uranium supply agreement with China. Does the Indian Government feel that that is undue discrimination against India which has shown obvious restraint over the years in terms of its nuclear position?

**Official Spokesperson:** I mentioned that India and Australia are strategic partners. We are pleased at the trajectory of our relations, the breadth and sweep of our relations. I did mention the numerous areas in which we are cooperating very well. We have already touched upon the vital area of energy cooperation and my colleague and I have endeavoured to share our views or our thinking, on the important area of further cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy.

**335. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Cabinet approval for the opening of a new Consulate General at Perth in Australia.**

**New Delhi, April 6, 2011.**

The Union Cabinet today approved the opening of Consulate General of India in Perth, Australia and creation of six India-based posts (including 1 post of Consul General in the Level of Joint Secretary) and six local posts.

There is a requirement for formal Indian diplomatic presence in Perth in view of the strategic importance of Western Australia from the political, economic and defence viewpoint and its important location with respect to sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean.

The establishment of a Consulate General of India in Perth will immensely benefit the growing Indian community in Western Australia, which numbers around 40,000-45,000. This will also provide easier consular access to the populace of Western Australia and Northern Territory.



**336. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the conclusion of the 13th Session of the Australia – India Joint Ministerial Commission in Canberra.**

**New Delhi, May 12, 2011.**

India and Australia have launched negotiations to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). The announcement came today in a joint press conference at Canberra by Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Craig Emerson, Minister for Trade of Australia. The press conference followed the 13th Session of the Australia-India Joint Ministerial Commission, held in Canberra on May 12, 2011. Speaking on the occasion Shri Sharma, termed the proposed CECA a “high-quality, truly-liberalising” pathway to closer economic integration between India and Australia. The CECA, when concluded, is expected to assist in broadening the base of merchandise trade, remove non-tariff barriers impeding trade in services, and facilitate two-way investment. The first round of negotiations is expected to take place in India in June 2011. Both the Ministers also stressed the critical role of the private sector in creating a parallel pathway to closer bilateral economic integration, and announced the launch of a CEOs Forum; Shri Naveen

Jindal was co-chairing CEO Forum from the Indian side, and Mr. Lindsay Fox as co-chair from the Australian side. First meeting of the forum is expected to take place later this year.

India is presently Australia's third largest export destination after China and Japan. Australia is India's eighth largest trading partner. In the last financial year, two way trade in goods and services was of the order of Australian \$ 20 billion. Trade has been growing by an average of 25% per annum over the last five years and is driven by the strong complementarities between the two economies. The imports from Australia are overwhelmingly of mineral resources such as coal, copper, nickel and gold, serving as critical components in India's economic growth. LNG imports are also due to start in a few years, as Australia's importance grows as a supplier of natural gas.

Other areas of importance are clean and renewable energy technologies and skills development programmes in the identified priority sectors of mining, construction, hospitality and retail. Co-operation in the agricultural sector is expected to be given a big boost, with the export of mangoes to Australia set to start from June this year and co-operation in wool production and quality improvement in the offing.

Shri Anand Sharma followed up on his meetings with five senior Australian Cabinet Ministers in Canberra yesterday with a meeting today with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who expressed her satisfaction at the outcome of Shri Sharma's visit and re-affirmed her strong commitment to the India Australia strategic partnership.





**337. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the ICCR's Annual 'Rajiv Gandhi Visiting Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies' at the University of Technology, Sydney.**

**New Delhi, May 20, 2011.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and University of Technology (UTS), Sydney signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 19th, 2011 for establishment of ICCR's Annual 'Rajiv Gandhi Visiting Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies' in the UTS. High Commissioner of India to Australia, Mrs. Sujatha Singh signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR alongwith Prof. Ross Milbourne, Vice Chancellor & President of the University of Technology, Sydney.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the UTS, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician as Visiting Professor to hold the Chair for a period of one semester in each academic year. During the period, the Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the UTS by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring. The Chair would commence from September 2011 and the MoU will remain valid for 4 year till 2015.

This Chair is ICCR's first ever Chair in Australia and can be considered a major step in propagation of India related studies in Australia and thereby fulfilling ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural links and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



**338. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd Meeting of India-Australia Joint Working Group on Consular, Passport and Visa Matters.**

**New Delhi, June 23, 2011.**

The 3rd Meeting of India-Australia Joint Working Group on Consular, Passport and Visa Matters was held in New Delhi from 20-22 June, 2011. The 17 member-strong Australian side included representatives from the Department of Migration and Visa Policy, Labor Market, Border and Case Systems, Foreign Ministry, Attorney General's Office, South and Central Asia Division, Immigration, L&T and senior officials from the Australian High Commission.

The Australian delegation was led by First Assistant Secretary, Migration & Visa Policy, Mr. Kruno Kukoc. The Indian side was led by AS (CPV), Shri B.K. Gupta.

During their stay in India, besides the delegation-level talks, the Australian delegation had one-to-one meetings in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs. Members of the Australian delegation were also given the opportunity to visit the Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI) and the Regional Passport Seva Kendra in Chandigarh, in what was the first visit by any foreign delegation to any Indian Passport Seva Kendra. These visits demonstrate the strength of the relationship between India and Australia on CPV matters that has been built over the past three years.

A broad range of issues were discussed covering visa, migration, citizenship, irregular people movement, surrogacy, extradition, mutual legal assistance requests, consular access and crisis management. There are about 90,000 Indian students in Australia. The Australian side gave a detailed briefing on various steps taken by the Australian government to ensure security and welfare of these students.

Outcomes from the meeting included agreement to exchange information and best practice on issues such as identity documentation, biometrics, irregular migration and people smuggling legislation.

India will organize a meeting of the Australian officials with the Ministry of Law and Justice on their understanding of the new surrogacy legislation proposed by the Government of India. Also, India and Australia will exchange their expertise on Consular Crisis Management and will organize a Joint Workshop.

India will regularize its participation in various Workshops, Conferences and meetings of the Bali Process.

Australian side requested for locating an Australian airline officer in India in case Air India commences its direct flight to Australia. This will help in their providing and sharing information on peoples movement between the two territories.

Both sides welcomed the Indian announcement that it would process and shortly issue notification on establishment of RILON (Regional Immigration Liaison Officer Network) in India. Next meeting of the RILON will be held in India. RILON is a forum for immigration and border management specialists in India from a range of regional countries to share information and best practice policies and procedures.

For all Consular, Passport and Visa issues both sides identified nodal points and the mode and the institutionalization systems for sharing information.

Both sides also agreed to discuss on the Agreement on International Transfer of Sentenced Persons as well as Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs' Human Resources Mobility Agreement.

On the issue of biometrics identity documents and other security related documents, a cooperation mechanism will also be established between Unique Identity Authority and Australian authorities.

The size and scope of this third meeting reflects the significance of these issues in strengthening the people-to-people links between India and Australia and the importance of a whole-of-government approach to both bilateral and international movement of people issues.

The 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Consular, Passport and Visa Matters (will be held ) in Canberra in 2012.



**339. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Inauguration of Consulate General of India at Perth, Perth, October 26, 2011.**

Hon'ble Defence Minister Stephen Smith, Minister for Mines, Petroleum and Fisheries in Western Australia, Hon. Norman Moore

The Hon'ble Dr. Mike Nahan representing the Premier of Western Australia

Mr. Brendan Grylls, Mr. John Castrilli

The Hon'ble Liz Behjat heading the Western Australia Parliament Friends of India Group

High Commissioner Sujatha Singh, Consul General Subbarayadu,

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank all of you, and especially Minister Stephen Smith and Premier Colin Barnett for making the time to be with us here today and honoring us your presence. This is notwithstanding the hectic schedule of Commonwealth-related meetings.

The state of Western Australia has a special role to play in the growth of strategic partnership between India and Australia. The opening of a Consulate General of India in Perth is testimony to the importance we attach to the relationship with Australia, and within Australia, to a state on an Ocean whose shores we share.

Today marks yet another important milestone in India-Australia bilateral relations. The inauguration of the new Indian Consulate in the vibrant city of Perth, on the eve of the CHOGM, is truly historic. This also marks the establishment of a second Indian Consulate in Australia in the space of five years.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

India-Australia relations have been expanding rapidly in recent years in all areas – in trade, in investment, in energy and resources, in education, in science and technology, in defence, and in people-to-people contacts.

Australia is India's 8th largest trading partner today; Indian investment into Australia has been growing substantially in recent months. I understand seventeen IT companies are present in Australia for several years, operating

13 software development centres. There is now growing interest among Indian companies in Australia's minerals resources. I am particularly glad to note that a significant portion of this investment has come to Western Australia.

We have commenced negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Australia. The recently-constituted India-Australia CEOs Forum will help increase contacts between private sectors in our two countries.

Under the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund, one of the largest that we have with any country, we are undertaking collaborative research in the "Grand Challenges" that face us – energy security, food security, health, sustainable development, innovative projects in renewable energy and the marine sciences.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few weeks time, India assumes the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim – Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). Australia takes over as the Vice Chair. I shall have the privilege of welcoming the Foreign Minister of Australia in Bengaluru next month for the 11th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting.

India and Australia view the Indian Ocean as a potential area for greater cooperation among the countries of the region. We have to work closely together to realize the potential of IOR-ARC and also to transform it into an active and vibrant forum.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith once pointed out "It is under-appreciated that Perth and Chennai are closer to each other than Sydney is to Seoul, Shanghai, or to Tokyo." This statement focuses on an aspect of the geo-strategic realities of this region that is often overlooked. Our setting up this Consulate in Perth flows naturally from the geography and also from the importance we attach to the Indian Ocean region.

We are conscious of the strength, strategic importance and potential of Western Australia. Western Australia accounted for 56% of total exports from Australia to India in 2009-10, of which more than 85% are minerals. As I noted earlier, Indian companies have been investing in Western Australia in various sectors. India seeks to further accelerate the pace of economic and commercial engagement with Western Australia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Western Australia is also home to a substantial section of the Indian community in Australia. I understand these numbers are rapidly increasing. I am happy to note that the Indian community has adapted well and is contributing to the economic and social life of Western Australia.

Before I conclude, I would like to place on record my deep appreciation to the Government of Australia as well as the Perth City Council for opening of this Consulate General.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today is a day of celebration in India, where people all over the country celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. On this auspicious occasion, permit me to convey our greetings and good cheer to all of you. The inauguration of the Indian Consulate on such a festive occasion and on the eve of CHOGM augurs well for our bilateral engagement.

Thank you



**340. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the Australian proposal to sell Uranium to India and cooperation in other fields.**

**New Delhi, November 7, 2011.**

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma has welcomed the Australian decision of reversing its ban on selling uranium to India. In a meeting with Mr. Barry O'Farrell the Premier of New South Wales, Australia, Shri Sharma said this decision will be welcomed all around and is in line with the strategic nature of the relationship between the two countries.

Shri Sharma further mentioned that India is going through a decade of innovation and for this purpose, India has institutional linkages with Germany, Switzerland and U.K. in the sectors of agriculture, pharmaceuticals and precision engineering. India and Australia have huge potential in collaborating in this area . Shri Sharma recalled his meeting with Senator Kim Carr, Australia's Minister for Technology where both sides expressed willingness to collaborate in the fields of bio technology, Automobile sector ICT and mines.

Minister Sharma raised the concerns regarding pharmaceutical exports from India to Australia require approvals from Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA approval process is a long drawn out and expensive process. There is no recognition or concession to Indian companies who have FDA approval or GMP certificate, which allows a faster process. Minister suggested that using the services of Australian professionals to draw out a standard which when followed by the Indian companies would result in obtaining permission to

export their medicines to Australia. This would only help in improving the standards of our industry as well as make it easier for Indian companies to enter the Australian market which is very lucrative for the pharmaceutical sector of India.

Bilateral Trade between India and Australia in 2010 has been US \$ 13.708 billion. Total trade between January to August 2011 has been US \$ 9.351 billion. India is engaged with Australia in negotiations Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. Shri Sharma emphasized that both sides must aim for concluding the agreement latest by middle of 2012.



**341. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs regarding Australian proposal on trilateral pact between India, US and Australia.**

**New Delhi, December 1, 2011.**

“We have seen media reports about the comments attributed to the Australian Foreign Minister Mr. Kevin Rudd on a possible three-way economic and security pact with the US and India. We are not aware of any such proposal”.




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The Spokesperson was referring to the interview of the Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd to an Australian Newspaper that India would be roped into the trilateral pact, which would seek to “contain” China in the Asia-Pacific region and that New Delhi’s response to the proposal “has really been quite positive”. Media reports in New Delhi said that India was completely taken aback by the proposal. Media reports quoting Defence Ministry sources said that New Delhi was “not keen” on hopping onto “any multi-lateral security constructs” in the region. “The only exceptions are those which come under the UN Flag or are broad-based arrangements like ARF ( ASEAN Regional Forum ) and ADMM-Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers plus eight countries like India, China, the US, Russia , Australia, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.”

In the wake of the impending visit of Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith Defence Ministry sources said while “We are definitely looking to further expand our defence cooperation with Australia, especially in counter-terrorism and maritime security, but on a one-to-one basis. There is no security grouping in the offing.” Defence Minister A.K. Antony had also said that while India had expansive defence ties with the US, there was no grander design of collaborating with Washington, Tokyo and Canberra to forge a trilateral or quadrilateral strategic axis to target China. Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith during his visit to New Delhi later in the week termed reports of the move to hold an India-U.S.-Australia trilateral strategic dialogue “misreporting,” which arose from some think tanks coming out with a paper proposing such a course. The only government-level formal expression in terms of trilateral engagement was a communiqué issued at the end of Australia-U.S. Ministerial consultations, which said given the

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importance of India and the Indian Ocean Rim, there should be more cooperation in humanitarian operations and disaster relief. Mr. Smith said India was briefed in advance about plans to base a U.S. military contingent in Australia.

It may be recalled that India had even reacted negatively to overtures by NATO for formal cooperation in fields like missile defence or even anti-piracy patrols in Gulf of Aden. After the Indo-US 'Malabar' naval exercise in Bay of Bengal in 2007, which was expanded to include Australian, Japanese and Singaporean navies, India largely restricted the exercise to a bilateral one.

Mr. Smith's focus during his visit and interaction with Defence Minister A.K. Antony, National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon and the Service chiefs was to build India-Australia bilateral defence ties by adding "practical cooperation" to the Strategic Partnership and Security Framework pact inked by the two countries. Both Australia and India agreed that it is "absolutely essential" for maritime issues to be sorted out in accordance with laws of the sea. At the same time, Mr. Smith did not want the media to excessively focus on China and the South China Sea "because there are maritime disputes in the world that don't involve China." During Smith's discussions in New Delhi the two sides touched upon the prospect of increasing their interaction at regional and multilateral institutions such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, the CHOGM discussions on piracy and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus.



**342. Response of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to the decision of the Australian Labour Party to clear path for Uranium sales to India.**

**Frankfurt, December 4, 2011.**

“It is learnt that the Australian Labour Party agreed today, to allow sale of Uranium to India for power generation. Bilateral cooperation in the energy sector is one of the important facets of our multifaceted ties with Australia. We welcome this initiative”.

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*Last month on November 15 speaking to journalists in Bangaluru, when the proposal was in the air, External Affairs Minister had said:*

“We attach importance to our relations with Australia which are growing across the board. Energy is one of the key areas of bilateral cooperation.

We understand that Prime Minister Gillard proposes to seek a change in Australian Labour Party’s policy on sale of Uranium to India, in recognition of our growing energy needs, our impeccable non-proliferation record and the strategic partnership between our two countries. We welcome this initiative.”




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The External Affairs Minister was referring to the endorsement of the Australian Labour Party to the proposal of Prime Minister Julia Gillard to reverse the ban on sale of uranium to India by that country. The decision was particularly welcomed by New Delhi since Ms. Gillard and her party were earlier in opposition to such sales to India. Ms. Gillard made a forceful plea at the party conference for selling uranium to India. It was good for business, she argued, and withholding the sale was not going to make India give up nuclear weapons. At the conference, she made the point that “...we can — under the most stringent of agreements — sell uranium to India if we so choose and, I believe that we should make that choice.” Ms. Gillard won most of the Labour Party delegates over to her side, a fortnight after meeting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and days after a summit with U.S. President Barack Obama. Media reports said a favourable atmosphere was created when Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met Mr. Obama at the Association of South East Nations (ASEAN) summit in Bali after New Delhi announced the fine print of the nuclear liability legislation a night earlier. Australia is home to 40 per cent of the world’s economically extractable uranium and would secure supplies for several reactors India plans to build with foreign assistance. India has been traditionally buying high quality Australian coal, and has recently entered into a multi-billion-dollar deal to import gas. Uranium would add to India-Australia energy ties. Ministry of Commerce and Industry too has warmly welcomed the Australian proposal in this regard.

**343. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the discussions with the visiting Australian Defence Minister Stephen Smith.**

**New Delhi, December 7, 2011.**

India and Australia held fruitful discussion on Defence Cooperation today with the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony stressing that New Delhi looks forward to developing its exchanges with Australia both at the bilateral and multilateral fora such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) etc.

Describing the visit of the Australian Defence Minister Mr. Stephen Smith as an important milestone in the evolution of the Indo-Australia Strategic Partnership, Shri Antony said the two countries are important members of the Commonwealth and the Asia-Pacific Region. India and Australia are currently Chair and Vice-Chair of IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Region Association for Regional Cooperation).

Mr. Smith is on a three-day visit to India. On his arrival at the South Block, he was warmly received by Shri Antony, the Defence Secretary Shri Shashikant Sharma and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence. A tri-Services Guard of Honour was presented to Mr. Smith.

During the talks, both sides noted that the bilateral Defence Cooperation activities are gradually strengthening. They noted that the inaugural session of the Defence Policy Talks held in New Delhi in December last year and the ongoing Service-to-Service Staff Talks are important mechanisms for developing constructive and mutually beneficial interactions between the Defence Establishments of both the countries. The two sides also noted that the practice of the respective Navies conducting Passage Exercises (PASSEX) during Naval Ship Visits to each other's ports have proved to be beneficial and that these should continue. Both Ministers also agreed to examine the possibility of undertaking a full-fledged bilateral Naval Exercise in the future.

The two Defence Ministers agreed to institute Track 1.5 Dialogues (semi-government level) on Defence Matters between suitable institutions of both sides. Mr. Smith invited Shri Antony to visit Australia next year, which has been accepted by the latter.

Regional Security issues also came up for discussion at the 40-minute meeting. Both sides agreed that the challenges in the area of Maritime Security like piracy and freedom of navigation are important issues which required concerted efforts of the global community.



**BRUNEI****344. Press Release issued by High Commission of India in Brunei on the visit of Minister of State E. Ahamed to Brunei.****Bandar Seri Begawan, September 26, 2011.**

Minister of State for External Affairs and HRD, Shri E. Ahamed, called on Sultan of Brunei H.E. Hassanal Bolkiah, at his Palace in Brunei today.

In the call, lasting over half an hour MOS and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah reviewed the excellent relations between the two countries. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah fondly recalled his visit to India in May 2008.

MOS reiterated India's interest in enhancing all around cooperation including sourcing Natural Gas from Brunei. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah said that Brunei welcomed greater cooperation with India and also that the matter was under consideration of his government. MOS also expressed gratitude to Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and his Government for showing the highest consideration to the Indian population in Brunei.

Shri Ahamed is the first Indian Minister to visit Brunei in a decade. He also called on Foreign Affairs Minister, Communication Minister and Education Minister.



**CHINA****345. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to reports of alleged Chinese intrusion in the Demchok area in Ladakh.****New Delhi, January 10, 2011.**

Government have seen media reports alleging Chinese troop intrusion in the Demchok area of Leh District in Jammu & Kashmir. These reports are baseless and do not conform to fact. They are, therefore, not a cause for concern. It will be recollected that there are differences in perception, between India and China, on the Line of Actual Control in this area



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The Spokesperson was responding to media reports which said that Chinese troops entered Indian territory at the fag end of 2010 along the Line of Actual Control in south-eastern Ladakh region and threatened a contractor and his team to halt work on constructing a "passenger shed." The Chinese troops, which included motor-cycle borne personnel of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), entered Gombir area in Demchok region in Jammu and Kashmir and threatened the civilian workers who were building the shed, the plan for which was cleared by the State Rural Development Department. The incident took place in September-October last year in a village about 300 km south-east of Leh district headquarters. Concerned with such repeated media reports Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao herself intervened to say that "We have time and again said that there are differences in perception of the Line of Actual Control in this segment... As far as this particular incident, we are not aware of specific transgression..." Army Chief General V K Singh however said, "Unfortunately, some people for various local gains have pushed construction activity in that area. We patrol up to our perception of the LAC which is further east of this (the area reported to have been transgressed) and the Chinese come to the LAC as perceived by them... I am quite sure on the Chinese side also they would call it a transgression when our patrols go up to our line of perception."

**346. Statement of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs in response to questions on stapled Chinese visa for Indian citizens domiciled in Arunachal Pradesh.**

**New Delhi, January 12, 2011.**

“We have seen media reports on issuance of stapled visas, to an athlete Mr. Sibi Yukar and his coach Mr. Abraham Kaya, by the Chinese Embassy to India. Both of them, reportedly, are domiciled in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, which is an integral part of India.

We have unequivocally conveyed to the Chinese side that a uniform practice on issuance of visas to Indian nationals must be followed, regardless of the applicant's ethnicity or place of domicile. Ministry had also issued a travel advisory on 12 November 2009 cautioning Indian citizens that Chinese paper visas, stapled to the passport, were not considered valid for travel out of the country”.



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It may be recalled that on November 12, 2009, the Ministry of External Affairs had issued a travel advisory, cautioning Indian citizens that Chinese visas issued on separate papers stapled to passports would not be considered valid for travel out of the country. [Sibi Yukar and Abraham Kaya were not allowed to travel on the staple visa as per the existing policy] Media quoted official sources to say that “This practice is certainly tied to China's position on Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. One could infer various conclusions, but as far as India is concerned, anything that questions the status of these two States won't be acceptable. These States are as important to us as the Tibet issue is to China,” said sources in the government. At the same time, the sources said, the relationship with China was complex: it was India's largest trading partner in goods, and both countries were cooperating closely on major international issues such as reforms to the world financial system and climate change. “One has to take stock of the situation and state one's position clearly as in the case of stapled visas,” the sources said.

**347. Speech by Foreign Secretary on “Prospects and Challenges of India - China Interactions in the 21st Century” at the India China Institute, The New School, New York.**

**New York, February 12, 2011.**

Thank you Prof. Van Zandt for those words of welcome. Thank you Ashok, it is wonderful to be back here, wonderful to see Jianying, my good friend, and I remember the many occasions we met in Beijing when you brought the scholars over from the India China Institute and the discussions were fascinating because we got to see a cross section of Chinese scholars, that we normally would not have interacted with within the normal government to government situations. I also see a lot of old friends in the audience and it is wonderful to be back in New York to meet with all of you and to speak on India-China relations.

My good friend Tansen Sen is here and I think the inspiration for this lecture draws in many senses from a speech I gave in Singapore less than a month ago on Rabindranath Tagore's vision of India-China with a 21st century perspective. So when I spoke to Ashok, the impression I got was that you would like me also take a cue from that lecture and speak to you on what the scholar Tan Chung has called the geo-civilization paradigm of India-China relations.

Let me first start by saying that just in the last year, 2010, India and China have commemorated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. In December 2010, at the fag end of the year, Premier Wen Jiabao was in Delhi to participate in the closing ceremony of the Festival of China in India and this brought to a close, a calendar of activities organized in both countries, to commemorate the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations.

Of course the relations between the two countries date back many millennia and that's where the Tagore aspect comes in because when I spoke in Singapore I drew reference to the fact that Tagore saw this relationship in civilizational terms. He made that visit to China 87 years ago and he went to China with a message of brotherhood and of fraternal partnership which he felt symbolized the relations between the two countries.

His vision was of a mutually beneficial interactive relationship between two great civilizations and he passionately advocated the opening of a path between the two countries. So in a sense what we try to do today and the path we seek to chart in the relationship can I believe draw inspiration from the work of scholars like Tagore. Tagore is important also because it was his effort that really initiated a more scientific study of China and India. He set up the “Cheena

Bhavana" in Shantiniketan, which is the university town where he established the Vishwabharati, literally a world Indian university.

Something of that spirit we try to revive today when we look at the re-establishment of the Nalanda University in Bihar. Nalanda University again was the world university in the Buddhist era of our history and was destroyed a few centuries ago and out of the East Asia Summit, in which India is involved, has come this idea that we should revive the Nalanda University and make it once again the world centre of learning.

The Chinese scholar Ji Xianlin, who died two years ago, and one of China's most famous modern Indologist, spoke about "lives being mortgaged to pilgrimage", and the pilgrims of the Buddhist era between India and China did just that - they mortgaged their lives to pilgrimage, to scholarship and to debate. When you talk of today, it is fashionable to talk about the competition between India and China. But when you look back at that time, the centuries of contact at that particular period of history, it was more defined not so much in terms of contest or conflict or competition but in terms of debate and the traffic of ideas.

That is really what Tagore and his outlook on China was all about. In fact, I would like to also quote something that Ji Xianlin said when he spoke of China and India standing simultaneously on the Asian continent with their relationship created by heaven and constructed by earth.

So I thought I would speak about the interactions in the 21st century but before that I wanted to give you an idea about the matrix in which this relationship is placed today and for that you really have to go back to the fifties of the last century when India was newly independent and the People's Republic of China had just been established and this was the time when both our countries in the sense re-discovered each other seeking to grasp the sense of synergy between two of the largest populated countries in the world on a global stage.

This sense of developing a synergy is an unfinished agenda because today as India and China regain our place in Asia and the world as leading global economies, we are trying through the relationship that we have, to craft that sense of synergy while being aware constantly of the complexities in the relationship and the unfinished agenda when it comes to complete normalization.

There is awareness of course of the muffled footsteps, as Tagore said of historical contact between our two peoples. The fact was this inspired the well intentioned efforts in the fifties to build the Panchsheela or the five principles of peaceful co-existence, an attempt that was star crossed in many senses, because it faltered and telescoped into the troubled phase which enveloped

our relationship in the sixties and up until the mid-seventies because of the conflict over the boundary.

Through those difficult days, however, the leadership in both countries, in essence understood the untenability of protracted estrangement between India and China. And so in the last three decades, we have made concerted efforts to establish a framework for a stable, a more productive and a multi-sectoral relationship between India and China; where we have sought to manage contradictions and where differences have not prevented our expanding bilateral engagement and the building of congruent scenarios where we can build such congruence. So, in a sense, the warp and weft of the relationship, have elements of cooperation and elements of competition. And let me speak to you a little about the specifics of that engagement.

Why I think it is important that we focus more intensively on this relationship between India and China is because also today there is a very heightened sense of awareness of what Asia's identity can be in the 21st century. When it comes to focusing on Asia, you are bound to focus on these two largest countries of Asia, India and China. And there again, I think, ancient ideas don't need to be antiquated and the sense of Asia, the Asia of the past where people spoke of literally a common economic space, where you had an approach that was defined by secularism and a complementariness of interests, a balanced commercial equilibrium, enhanced by a concept of spiritual unity, this is really what our forefathers engaged in when they looked at the interactions between countries in Asia; marked by a sense of tolerance, openness and lack of prejudice to outsiders, a spirit of enterprise and absence of trade barriers. In a sense, the past should serve as a rough guide to the future. That is exactly what people like Tagore had in mind when they spoke of India and China coming together.

Let me come back to the current relationship between India and China. When you look at the challenges between the two countries that confront us, we also see opportunities. As our Prime Minister said, "you have an image before you of India and China continuing to grow very fast simultaneously and our policies will have to cater to these emerging realities of the rise of these two countries, just of the two countries themselves".

For us, the situation is definitely complex since China is our largest neighbor and also because China is today a major power in the world, both from the traditional geopolitical point of view as well as the more current geo economic point of view. In the world of today, China is a factor in several equations and, therefore, it is intellectually satisfying, once again let me come back to the subject of scholarship, to look more closely at all facets of China.



As a nation we therefore believe we would like to encourage more efforts to accelerate an intellectual drive to understand China better. In fact when Premier Wen Jiabao came, one of the announcements that is reflected in the joint statement, issued at the end of that visit, is that Mandarin Chinese will be taught as a subject in our schools from middle school onwards, commencing with this year. So this is a reflection of the interest that Indians take in China today and the desire to understand China more comprehensively and more profoundly.

Now we all know China's rapid economic growth over the last three decades has been spectacular and riveting. It is now the second largest economy in the world with a huge GDP of roughly 5.5 trillion US Dollars and its youth, particularly, among its people seem focused on improving their living standards in the quest for a more prosperous future and certainly politics does not seem to define their everyday if you look at the contrast between India and China.

China has, of course, begun to deal in the currency of global power and its economic success is impacting its foreign defense and security policies. Now the appellation of assertiveness is frequently applied to China's global profile today. The question that I'm always asked is whether our relationship with China will be one dominated by increasing competition for influence and for resources as our economic needs also grow. But I really believe that neither of us have a luxury of seeing each other in purely antagonistic terms. The view that India and China are rivals to me is a over generalization as well as an over simplification of a complex relationship which encompasses so many diverse issues.

I believe that the proposition of competition and rivalries should not be exaggerated in a manner that it over shadows our genuine attempts to manage and transact a rationally determined relationship between India and China. The reality is that both our countries have worked hard over the last two decades to enhance dialogue in a number of fields and we must maintain and build on that trend. At the same time, it is true that divergences persist, and that there is no denying the fact that we have a disputed border. There are legacies as well as lessons bequeathed to us by history.

The boundary question is a complex problem. The cartographies that define national identity are internalized in the minds of people of both countries. At the same time, we are making a serious attempt to arrive at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution of the boundary question as the recent fourteenth round of talks of the special representatives, appointed by both governments, will testify.

The absence of a solution to the question is not due to lack of effort; instead it arises from the difficulty of the question itself, as any analyst in the audience

would surely appreciate. What also needs to be appreciated is that the India-China boundary is, one of the most peaceful of all borders. We have in place an organized set of measures or what we call the confidence building measures, or CBMs, to ensure peace or tranquility in the border areas. We are currently talking to each other on establishing more such mechanisms. I believe there is maturity on both sides to understand the complexity of the issue and to insulate it from affecting our boarder relationship. I believe this policy has paid dividends and has contributed towards reducing the possibility of conflict.

I would like to delve briefly on defence exchanges between India and China because when you talk about the boundary question, you also dwell on the role of what the respective defense establishments would be. We have had defence exchanges between India and China, including small scale anti-terrorism related military exercises. At present, our high level military exchanges are on hold and I do not know how many of you are following this debate in the media, of late, but some differences have arisen over the fact that China recently did not accept an army delegation from our northern command. The northern command covers Jammu and Kashmir and the Chinese said that they would not be in a position to accept that delegation which was a point of view that we did not agree with. So consequent upon that, defence exchanges have not moved forward because there has been a certain trough that has been created by this. But, all the same, flag meetings of border personnel along the line of actual control have continued. So, the situation in the border areas remains tranquil.

So, when it comes to defence exchanges I believe it would be right for me to say that there is desire to slowly expand these exchanges that there have been limits to this process. And, I think that a question here again which is debated quite often these days is about the role of the Peoples Liberation Army. Is it more assertive than before? What is the contribution it makes to the formation of foreign policy vis-à-vis China's neighbours? I think this is a subject we can talk about at length but if I were to dwell on it for longer my speech would be too extended.

Talking about brighter spots in our relationship I would look at the economic interaction or commercial interaction. China as you know is now India's largest trading partner. Trade was 61.7 billion US dollars at the end of last year, 2010. There is an imbalance in trade, however, our exports were 20.8 billion dollars to China while our imports from China were 40.9 billion dollars. So the trade deficit is a worrying. Given the composition of our trade, we export a lot of raw materials and raw commodities to China and China exports a lot of finished goods, machinery and huge infrastructure related machinery to India.

We would like to sell more value added products to China including pharmaceuticals and computer software. However, the Chinese Government, in our view, will have to dismantle non-tariff barriers to such trade and provide us greater market access. Challenges in the medium term include attracting Chinese companies to invest in and manufacture from India. This will provide jobs and this is a huge thing in India as it is in the United States. I think this would be a good move for the Chinese to make in order to address some of the misgivings we have as far as the imbalance in the business and commercial relationship is concerned. We would like to see greater Chinese participation in building infrastructure in India including financing of such projects.

Similarly, science and technology exchanges are not very vibrant and both sides again have much to learn from each other. There is potential for the future, here I would just like to dwell on something that would be of interest. When Premier Wen Jiabao was in India last December, he met with a section of media and academic and cultural personalities on how to improve perceptions of Indians and Chinese about each other. You see there is also an information and perceptual gap between the two countries. When you talk to the average Chinese, they do not know very much about India and the idea of Indian democracy and the seeming chaos that they associate with Indian democracy seems very foreign to the Chinese mind and that, I think, comes from a lack of understanding of the way these processes work and a distance in terms of really seeing India up and close, visiting India more often and trying to engage with Indian society.

I think there is a gulf to be bridged there and I think this is what Premier Wen set out to do when he met with a cross section of these people. One of the ideas that came out from that meeting was that we should really be looking at more interaction between the two countries in innovation in technology and scientific exchanges which we are not doing very much at the moment. For instance, India and Japan cooperate now a great deal in this area. Not just in infrastructure creation but also between scientific and academic institutions. Japan is setting up a new IIT in India in Hyderabad. So there is a lot of interaction that goes on with many of our other partners. With China that has not yet taken off.

Similarly, people to people exchanges are not very sizeable at present and we should expand these contacts. Tourism from China is still very small. However, there are 7000 Indian students studying in China today and most of them study medicine, what's interesting is, apart from the fact that they are studying western medicine in China, they are located all over China and they come from every part of India. It is not that they come from the big cities of Delhi, Mumbai or Chennai or Calcutta. They come from the small district towns, small provincial areas and they are in the heartland of China, right in the interior studying and

spending four to five years there. So there is a whole new generation of Indians being exposed to China in that way.

Similarly there are a number of Chinese students in India but nowhere near the numbers that we have in China. As I mentioned we've also introduced Chinese as a foreign language for study in our schools and we want to prepare our younger generation for this new relationship that we are building with China.

Similarly in the global area in organizations such as the Brazil, Russia, India, China, BRIC forum, which will soon be expanded to include South Africa when the BRIC countries meet in China two months from now, and also in the BASIC group the field of environment in the Conference of Parties on the environment, China and India have been cooperating very closely as also in the G-20 where we are both important member countries that discuss and influence reform of international financial institutions.

So, here again, multilaterally the scope for cooperation has broadened and deepened and at the leadership level, it may or may not come as a surprise to you that our leaders have been meeting very frequently. In fact, Prime Minister met Mr. Hu Jintao twelve times between 2005 and 2010 and he met Premier Wen Jiabao eleven times, in that same period. So there is very frequent communication and contact between the two sides.

Today we are called strategic and cooperative partners for peace and prosperity. That is how India and China define their relations and the relationship as I said has become increasingly multi-faceted where closely interacting with each other in a number of areas and also as I said on issues concerning the global economic situation.

Just recently as a follow up as a result of Premier Wen Jiabao's visit in December, our two Governments have decided to institute a strategic economic dialogue, as a measure of the increasing complexity and sophistication of the dialogue on economic issues. So we will just commence that new dialogue this year. This is a new addition to what we do in the relationship.

The challenge I believe in this century, when it comes to India and China, and this is a relationship that is really going to be, I would not be exaggerating when I draw reference to what a Chinese scholar Tan Yun Shan said about Sino-Indian relations being "the most important of the most important". I think when it comes to the relationship between these two big Asian giants, a lot of what happens in this relationship will impact the situation in our region and particularly when it comes to the economic strength the rising economic strength of both these countries the world certainly is watching and assessing the impact of this relationship.

Before I conclude, I should also refer to the fact of China's relationship with Pakistan. There is also that question that comes up and most people who follow this whole issue would be interested in hearing our views on it.

Pakistan is one of our important neighbours and we believe that a stable Pakistan, a prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest. And we are not against Pakistan's relations with other countries. We do not believe relationships with countries are zero sum games. At the same time we do not hesitate to stress our genuine concerns regarding some aspects of the Pakistan-China relationship particularly when it comes to China's presence in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, China's policy on Jammu and Kashmir and China-Pakistan security and nuclear relationship. Here we have welcomed a more open discussion with China on these issues and I believe as mutual confidence grows in this relationship we will have more opportunities to discuss these issues and also to seek more clarity and more transparency in regard to the concerns that we have raised.

The issue of giving stapled visas to Indian nationals from the state of Jammu and Kashmir also arises in a similar context. So these are issues that are of concern to us when it comes to the China-Pakistan relationship. Because when China gives the stapled visa to an Indian living in Jammu and Kashmir, the inference that we draw out of this is somehow the status of Jammu and Kashmir is being questioned by China. The issue of Indian sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir is being questioned by China. This is an issue that we need to resolve. The Chinese Government has told us that they are giving serious attention to this and they would like to see this resolved and we are hoping that there would be satisfactory resolution to this.

We believe that the India-China relationship will grow even stronger once China show more sensitivity on these core issues that we feel impinge our sovereignty and our territorial integrity and we hope that this can be realized.

Finally, what I would like to say is that, people talk about security architectures for Asia. Here again there is immense scope for India and China to engage in closer dialogue with each other. Because there are issues of maritime security, the issues concerning global commerce in our region, the issue of terrorism, the issue of just ensuring that we have a peaceful periphery; all these we share common concerns. We have stressed rather than excluding China from any debate or discussion on security in our region, it would be rational to follow up more inclusive approach that involves more engagement with China, more discussion, more exchange of ideas with Chinese stakeholders, so that we have a balanced and inclusive security architecture in our region. And this will support India and China.

As India and China pursue their interests, so long as their overwhelming preoccupation remains their domestic transformation, both of us will understand that the realization of this goal requires a peaceful environment around us. As I said before, there will be elements of competition in our bilateral relationship but these can be managed so that the are elements of congruence or common ground, as Permier Chou en Lai said so long ago, can be built upon.

As our interests gets progressively more complex, at the same time the costs of any withdrawal from engagement will also rise. So, I believe ultimately that this is a big relationship with the clear possibility of both sides pursuing an ambitious agenda for mutual engagement that will make this relationship one of the most important bilateral equations of our century. It is in our interest, therefore, I believe to view it in a more wide angled and a higher definition manner than we have never done before.

I will stop here and take questions.

**Question:** you gave a wonderful description of the India and China relationship starting from before Christ. In the beginning, it was a very good relationship between India and China. and now we are making effort to get back to that stage. In between, the friction, I think, occurred due to the border problem started in the early 60s. That was because General Mac Mahon drew up a line between these two countries. When he drew up, was China aware of the problem that it was not acceptable to them? If so, why suddenly did this issue come up later and even when Nehru was talking to Chou en Lai, Hindi-Chini bhai bhai, did they bring up this issue at all? If you can throw some light on this.

**Answer:** I will try to answer this as brief as I can because it is a subject of very lengthy expositions of who is right and who is wrong. But as far as the MacMahon line is concerned, this is something that goes back to 1913-14. It was a line that was drawn on the map in the eastern sector of the India-China border in the early years of the 20th century. When India became independent that was recognized as the border in the eastern sector between India and China. Now, it so happened that in the 50s was India and China began to talk about these issues for the first time, previous to that, in the British colonial period up until 1947, China and India had never spoken about these issues.

There was some correspondence that was exchanged with the Tibetan establishment in Lhasa between the British Indian Government and the Tibetan establishment in Lhasa, but not really with the Chinese Government to discuss how they saw this particular delineation of the boundary in the particular location I referred to.

In the 50s when it began to be discussed for the first time that is when the Chinese ventilated their objections, or their views about this section of the

boundary saying that it would not be possible for them to accept it. But, however, let me add that at that time when we discussed it, between the two sides the impression or the indication given by the Chinese were that they were prepared to take a realistic view of the situation and they did that, in fact, with Burma. The section of the Mac Mahon Line that covers the Burma-Tibet frontier was in a sense settled on the basis of that Line in the discussions held between the Burmese and the Chinese Governments in the late 1950's and signed, sealed and settled in 1960 when they had their boundary agreement. But when it comes to the Indian section of that Mac Mahon Line it is still to be recognized by China. China has said that they do not accept the Mac Mahon Line in the eastern sector.

**Question:** I am the faculty member who teaches the course on Indo-Chinese interactions and I have many students here and I can tell you each year I teach the course more and more students attend of their interest in this relationship. Of particular concern in this relationship as you mentioned is the border war. In trips to both India and China I've heard the members of the military establishment, particularly in India take a very hawkish stand on this border issue. Given your commitment to the fact that there are segments of Indian and Chinese leadership who see this border issue in broader terms and do seek the possibilities of reconciliation, I wonder how much has the Indian Government as well as the Chinese Government put money to the fostering a new generation of thinkers about this border war. Because if there is no commitment by the governments to develop this new generation of thinkers then the leadership establishment will continue to think in old terms. And we will just be talking past one another.

**Answer:** I think you have raised an extremely important issue and how do you break down certain approaches to a very difficult and complex problem. Obviously it will not go away easily, you have to find a way to not allow it to acquire dimensions that will only aggravate tensions between the two countries. So the challenge is to manage this problem and manage the situation in a manner that enables you to broaden engagement in many areas and to encourage scholars on both sides to discuss and to come out with solutions that take into account current realities and make it possible for relationships that have existed for centuries between the border communities on both sides to be revived once again.

And in fact I don't know if you know Dr Patricia Oberoi. She had a very interesting take on this very recently. Right now the institution of the nation state is defined by territorial boundaries. Patricia talks about this, "how with this concept, come notions of center and periphery, mainland and margins and the justified use of force in their defence". As she says, maybe somebody like Tagore, would

have thought of frontier zones between the two countries as revolving doors as creative spaces where civilizations meet, not as troubled spots of contemporary geo-politics. So with this sort of sustainability if we can create a relationship would be I think useful, but it will require immense rethinking for both our countries to look it that way. That will be the challenge. When you talk about the military establishment in India, I would hesitate using the word hawkish, as I deal with them constantly. They are committed to an engagement with China that enables the better understanding of each others positions, with the goal being that we do not allow tensions to escalate along our common borders.

We have many ideas that I think if were put into practice, which involves a pragmatic recognition of realities as they exist today - how can we improve communication, how can we strengthen border trade, how do we enable contact between communities on both sides and how do we put in place confidence building measures that enables the armies of the two sides to be able to operate in a manner that does not increase tension.

It is a question of management of border regime that is effective and enables normalcy to prevail even if you have not really drawn a line on the map that is mutually agreed between the two countries which may take time.

**Question:** This is Betwa Sharma from the Press Trust of India. Madam, could you speak a little bit about how China feels about India becoming a permanent member of the Security Council and also last year President Obama was very forthright in his endorsement of India. Does India want such an endorsement from China? Is it forthcoming and what is the current status like?

**Answer:** Since this question is from PTI, I am sure that you are looking at the next newspaper headline. But I would answer in as matter of fact manner as I can. Of course, it will be useful for China to endorse India's desire and claim to be a permanent member of Security Council. What China has said so far is that it understands India's aspirations to play a greater role in the United Nations and it has basically stopped there.

Following President Obama's endorsement of India's candidature, you had Premier Wen Jiabao come to India. Let me say that the discussions we had with Premier Wen on that occasion were useful and certainly I think there is much greater awareness on China's part about India's aspirations to become a permanent member of the Security Council. Indeed, the ground swell support within the United Nations -we were just doing a tally the other day that, I think, 128 member countries of the United Nations have expressed their support for India's candidature in terms of just India's candidature. Of course, I am very conscious about the realities and much more work has to be done in this regard



and it is not going to happen tomorrow or day after tomorrow. But my own feeling is that when it really comes, and I am accused of being unduly optimistic, but if it comes to the decision making point, where it is the question of the Security Council being expanded and India being admitted, I doubt very much if China would oppose that move when it comes to that. But as of now, China is not expressing itself openly in favour of India's candidature.

**Question:** One of the faculty here and also an India-China fellow. I visited Yunnan last year and I was quite struck by the senior policy makers and their eagerness to improve their ties with the border regions of India. At the same time within India, there has been some muted disappointment on our improvement in interactions across North-East India. Perhaps our expectations were too high. My question is can you tell a little bit about the challenges in the normalizing the situation in North-East India.

**Answer:** When I look at North-East India, I say India is a South-East Asian nation. Honestly, because South-East Asia begins in North-East India because of the similarities between the eight states of North-East India and the South-East Asia. When you look at Yunnan, it is still a little distant. Yes, in history, there have been a lot of cross cultural links, ethnic mixtures between North-Eastern India, South-East Asia and South-West China. Geo-politics has today created a lot of distances - political, geographic and emotional. There are a lot of gaps that we need to bridge, that may not happen immediately. But let us start with closer linkages between North-East India and South-East Asia, for instance. Already to link Burma with Manipur, we are talking of better roads, border trade and connectivity through Myanmar, through Burma to Thailand and then onwards to the rest of South-East Asia. If relations between India and China, particularly on the boundary question, improve and there is greater level of confidence, one can think of more communication with those parts of China that are close to South-East Asia and to North-East India. But I do not believe it is going to happen immediately.



**348. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chinese news agency Xinhua.**

**April 12, 2011.**

**Question 1:** India and China are two countries with the fastest growth rates of their economies in the world in 2010. As “BRICS” countries, what role do you think the two countries are playing in helping bringing about the recovery of world economy?

**Answer:** As two large and broad-based economies India and China are contributing significantly as engines of economic growth in the world. We are both witnessing rapid growth, addressing the aspirations of our peoples and stimulating global demand.

We work together in various international fora on issues of interest to us and other fellow developing countries. These include issues such as comprehensive and inclusive round of trade talks and reform of international financial institutions. Our shared objective remains to ensure sustainable and balanced growth of the world economy and employment creation.

**Question 2:** Compared with other groups of economic cooperation, BRICS is still staying at a preliminary stage of development as a new international cooperative institution. What do you think BRICS countries should do to strengthen construction of their institution of cooperation, so that they can play a bigger role on the stage of global economy?

**Answer:** BRICS is a relatively new grouping, and the contours of our cooperation are in the process of evolution. We have however done well despite being such a young grouping.

BRICS countries have huge potential individually. We should aim to combine these strengths and pool them together. Regular Summit meetings have enhanced mutual understanding and cooperation at all levels and across a wide range of sectors.

We should continue to enhance coordination on major issues such as the nature of the world economy we wish to see, a democratic and equitable world order, global governance reform and issues like food and energy security and climate change.

We should build upon cooperation and exchanges through meetings of Foreign Ministers, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Agriculture Ministers, National Statistical Authorities and other sectors which touch upon the economic well-being of our people. We could, for example, share experiences on the management of large urban cities.

We should also enhance dialogue and exchanges among our civil societies, media, businesses, scholars and youth.

We should use the opportunity provided by the presence of all the BRICS countries on the UN Security Council to shape and guide the international discourse on issues of importance to us.

**Question 3:** What do you expect from the upcoming summit of BRICS countries in Sanya, China, in terms of pushing forward the cooperation among BRICS nations?

**Answer:** I am very happy that the Summit is taking place for the first time in Asia, and in the fastest growing economy of the world. This is a matter of great encouragement for all BRICS countries.

We have a substantive agenda for the Summit. This includes discussions on the international situation, international economic and financial issues, development and sectoral cooperation. I look forward to reviewing the decisions we took at the last G-20 Summit in Seoul.

Our hosts are organizing a number of meetings on the sidelines of the Summit, including those of the Trade and Economic Ministers, Business Forum and BRICS Development Banks. A meeting of BRICS Think Tanks has already taken place. All these will certainly help in giving more concrete shape to our cooperation.

**Question 4:** How do you regard the participation of South Africa as a new BRICS country? What impact do you think this will have on the economic development of African countries?

**Answer:** South Africa is a valued friend and partner of India. It is a large and vibrant economy and plays an important role in global affairs. Its presence will lend weight to BRICS and introduce the African perspective to the burning issues of our times. India, therefore, warmly welcomes South Africa's membership of BRICS.

If we as the BRICS can contribute to the development of Africa, and articulate its priorities in international forums, this would benefit not just Africa but the entire world.

**Question 5:** How do you evaluate Sino-India economic cooperation in terms of its role in contributing to economic cooperation among BRICS countries and global economic cooperation as a whole?

**Answer:** As the two largest developing countries in the world, India and China bear an important responsibility of ensuring their allround and sustainable socio-

economic development. During Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in December last year, we have agreed to a series of measures to broad base and balance our trade and economic cooperation. I am confident that we will surpass our bilateral trade target of US 100 billion dollars by 2015, but we have to make more efforts to promote greater Indian exports to China to reduce the trade deficit. The peaceful development of India and China will strengthen BRICS as well as be good for the global economy.



**349. Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's meetings with Chinese and Russian Presidents.**

**Sanya (China), April 13, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good evening to all of you and welcome. As you are aware, Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh is in Sanya for the Third BRICS Summit meeting. Today, the Prime Minister had two important bilateral meetings, first with President Hu Jintao and next with President Medvedev of the Russian Federation.

The National Security Advisor, Mr. Shivshankar Menon, is here to brief you about Prime Minister's meetings. Let me also introduce the Ambassador of India to Beijing, Dr. S. Jaishankar, who is to the right of the National Security Advisor (NSA) . And to his right is Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia). I would request NSA to make an opening statement and, thereafter, he will be happy to take your questions.

**National Security Advisor (Shri Shivshankar Menon):** Thank you.

As JS (XP) told you, Prime Minister met with President Hu Jintao this evening and after that he had a meeting with President Medvedev of Russia. I will just run over the main points and then maybe answer any questions that you have.

The meeting with President Hu Jintao lasted about 50 minutes. It was a very productive, warm, friendly meeting, covering the entire range of bilateral relations and covered international issues. There was naturally a brief mention also of BRICS meeting that will be tomorrow. Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the steady growth in the bilateral relationship. They looked forward to a further expansion of the relationship and they formally launched the Year

of India-China Exchange in 2011 where there will be a series of exchanges. This will include visits by senior political leaders, the holding of the Strategic Economic Dialogue which we hope to do as soon as possible, bilateral official consultations, defence exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.

They also reviewed the economic relationship, the trade relationship between the two countries, and expressed confidence that we are well on our way to achieving the target that the leaders had set last year of a 100 billion dollars of total two-way trade by 2015.

They also reached agreement in principle on establishing a working mechanism for consultation and coordination on border affairs. This will handle important border affairs relating to maintaining peace and tranquility. You would remember this was an idea which had been suggested during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit last December, and we have worked on it and reached agreement in principle. It will also explore cooperation in the border areas.

On the economic side, they also in fact instructed the Special Representatives (SRs) to continue their work towards a boundary settlement. Since BRICS provides a setting to develop the economic complementarities among the member-states, bilateral economic cooperation was also discussed. PM spoke of taking our relationship to a higher level focusing more on cross investment; and also spoke of China providing better market access for Indian exports particularly in the IT, in pharmaceuticals, agro-products, and in engineering sectors.

There was also a discussion on the international political situation and some issues of mutual concern. This I am sure will be discussed further tomorrow during the BRICS meeting. Prime Minister conveyed an invitation to President Hu Jintao to visit India, which he accepted and said he would like to come at a mutually convenient time. President Hu Jintao also extended an invitation to Prime Minister to come to China, which Prime Minister also accepted. I think that is really a summary of what happened in the meeting with the Chinese President Hu Jintao.

In the meeting with President Medvedev, again they reviewed the bilateral relationship, the strategic relationship which PM described as unique, which it is both in terms of how longstanding and in terms of its quality and the depth of this relationship. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the development in the relationship in recent years, particularly the visit last December of President Medvedev to Delhi when we had taken several decisions for the relationship all of which are in the process of being implemented. They expressed satisfaction at the range of relations. We have a long-term integrated cooperative programme in S&T, and it went from S&T to the economy, to all the fields in the relationship.

One issue which was I think a response to the recent events in Japan, was a discussion on nuclear safety because we have a very active programme of cooperation between India and Russia in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They both discussed the need for international efforts to re-examine nuclear safety, standards, and to see what can be done internationally quite apart from internal procedures which both of us have put into place, internal reviews which both have put into place as a result of what happened in Fukushima. There both sides have committed to carry that relationship forward and both are convinced actually that nuclear energy still offers, if the safety and security can be assured, there is today no real economic alternative and environmentally sound alternative to nuclear energy; that we will go through this process together; we will work together on examining this.

There was a discussion also on cooperation in hydrocarbons. As you know, we have signed an inter-governmental agreement last December when President Medvedev came to India. We talked about how that is being carried forward. Overall, there was satisfaction at the way in which the bilateral relationship is not only growing and all the strategic cooperation that we are undertaking, but also at the way it is being deepened and extending into new fields.

There was a discussion also on the situation in West Asia and North Africa, and the effects that will have not only on the international system but also on energy security and on how it will affect the future. That is a discussion which, as I said, is likely to continue tomorrow when the leaders of BRICS are together because it affects us all. I think it is a discussion which will continue.

I will stop there and maybe answer any questions you might have.

**Question:** *Mr. Menon, was there any discussion on stapled visas which was a matter of some concern to you?*

**National Security Advisor:** *You are aware of what is being done on this issue, there was no mention of this now.*

**Question:** Sir, from what you said it seems that, have you agreed in principle to resume the defence exchanges which were frozen after China denying a visa to a senior army commander?

**National Security Advisor:** Just to clarify, we never froze defence exchanges; we have always continued defence exchanges. For instance, meetings of our commanders, flag meetings, or the border commanders' meetings, the regular ones, all that has gone on. We have maintained communication in the defence field also between us. But following the discussions in the last few months

about these exchanges, it has been agreed that a multi-command Indian Army delegation will be visiting China later this year; and we are also discussing further exchanges and visits in this sector during the year.

**Question:** Was the issue of trade imbalance raised in the Prime Minister's meeting?

**National Security Advisor:** It was.

**Question:** And how was the Chinese response?

**National Security Advisor:** The Chinese side said that they took this very seriously. This is an issue that has been discussed at various levels between the two Governments including at the highest level in the past as well. And there is a series of measures which have been agreed not only for increasing Chinese imports from India but also for identifying new ways of dealing with this issue. This is one of the issues which the Strategic Economic Dialogue, which we have agreed will take place very soon, this is one of the issues which will be considered there as well. But there are a series of steps. I think in the first few months of this year for instance, Indian exports to China have grown much faster than Indian imports from China have grown. Both have grown but Indian exports to China have grown faster. But it is an issue that both sides are very aware of, very concerned about, and that we are both trying to address.

**Question:** So, that was the Prime Minister bringing it up directly with President Hu Jintao about the trade imbalances.

**National Security Advisor:** He did.

**Question:** And when you were at the pharmaceutical, IT and cultural exports, how was that characterized by the Prime Minister and what was the Chinese reaction?

**National Security Advisor:** I think the Prime Minister mentioned these are the areas which would conceivably help to reduce the imbalance, if there were more access, and it was not disputed. In fact, on the Chinese side President Hu Jintao also said this was an issue that concerned them and they will be looking forward to finding solutions to it.

**Question:** Could you give us some clarity on this working mechanism on border issues?

**National Security Advisor:** The agreement in principle is that we will have a mechanism at the official level which will consult and coordinate on border affairs relating to the maintenance of peace and tranquility, if there are any issues; and will explore cooperation in the border areas. That is the definition

of the job. It will implement the agreements that we already have in place to maintain peace and tranquility – 1993 and 1996 Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement and the CBM agreement. So, we see it as a useful mechanism to ensure that we will continue to maintain peace and tranquility. I have said this before. It is in practice. It is one of the most peaceful borders that we have.

**Question:** Would say this is the biggest achievement of this meeting?

**National Security Advisor:** It is something we have been discussing, as I said, for some months, and we have agreement in principle. We now have to reduce it to an actual detailed agreement.

**Question:** Sir, one question on the SDRs. There was talk on the economic front that a couple of countries are pushing for Chinese currency to be included in the SDR. Did that issue come up, and what was India's position on that?

**National Security Advisor:** I would expect that that sort of issue will probably be discussed tomorrow. These were primarily bilateral meetings. They will get into that.

**Question:** Sir, can you again explain what was the need to set up this mechanism on the border and what does cooperation on border mean? We have two treaties on that which defined everything - movement, exercises, the lot.

**National Security Advisor:** I think cooperation includes more than that. It also includes border trade which we have; it also includes the exchange of mails across the border which we do; also there is a question of whether people travel across that border; a whole series of other issues are also involved in cooperating across the border. So, that is something that we will look at together at the official level and then see what the potential is. One part of it is the peace and tranquility, and the other part is this.

**Question:** On the Russian side, when Mr. Medvedev had come last there was an agreement to do joint work on reactor technology. Does this kind of review put this into the background?

**National Security Advisor:** That continues and we are looking forward to continuing that work. Just to make it clear, we have certain agreements in place which are being implemented. We will look at all these together and see whether there is a need to add safety features or not. We will do this exercise together. But nothing stops and it does not replace anything that we have already agreed in the long-term, roadmap that we had agreed last year.

**Question:** Will defence exchanges include holding of joint exercises between the armies and the navies?



**National Security Advisor:** It could, certainly. We have done so in the past and we will probably do so in the future.

**Question:** So, joint naval and army exercises will happen in the future.

**National Security Advisor:** The specifics and so on you will get over time as we work our way through.

**Question:** Did the Chinese raise any concerns over the kind of security questions Chinese investments in India have been raising?

**National Security Advisor:** No.

**Question:** Sir, can the mechanism be a joint consultative committee or any concrete thing like that?

**National Security Advisor:** A Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination. As I said, this is an agreement in principle. We still need to actually reduce it and then we will give you the details.

**Question:** Sir, could you give little more specifics on the cooperation in hydrocarbons deal with Russia including Sakhalin-III?

**National Security Advisor:** Many of these were discussed but at that level they do not go into the details of it. Our interest was flagged and so was the Russian interest, in continuing and expanding that cooperation, much of which has been discussed in the past between our companies whether it is ONGC Videsh or the others. And so, they will continue that discussion. I think the important thing is that there is a very high-level interest and support for expanding and deepening that cooperation which started with Sakhalin-I where, as you know, we have a share.

**Question:** Can you just elaborate on the exchange of high level of senior political leaders? There are political leaders who are going. Many political parties had their party leaders tour. Is there any institutional mechanism? Can you elaborate on that?

**National Security Advisor:** No, I do not think there is an institutional mechanism. We have an understanding that we will maintain a momentum of high-level visits and exchanges. And that is what we will do not just in the course of this year - this year because it is the Year of India-China Exchange, I think we will do two or three very high-level visits - but in the future also we hope to maintain that momentum.

**Question:** Sir, has the next round of SR meeting been scheduled?

**National Security Advisor:** No dates yet.

**Question:** Is it expected soon?

**National Security Advisor:** No dates yet. So, I cannot say soon, quickly, when.

**Question:** And you are expected to go to Beijing this time?

**National Security Advisor:** I think it is their turn to come.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Sir, thank you very much for your ...



**350. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and Chinese Governor of Sichuan Province Jiang Jufeng.**

**New Delhi, April 25, 2011.**

While staying concerned over the huge trade deficit with China, The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma expressed optimism that recently unveiled 12th Five Year Plan for 2012-14 of China, with a strong slant for a domestic consumer driven economy will give enormous opportunity for Indian exporters to access China's huge consumer market in the coming years. The trade deficit for India for 2010 stood at USD 20.02 billion, more than USD 15.87 billion trade deficit in year 2009 with China which is an export driven economy. He met the Mr Jiang Jufeng, Governor of Sichuan Province of China, a province with which India's trade relations date back to 444 B.C.

During the meeting Shri Sharma said "Sichuan Province of China is very important from Indian point of view and that there is great potential for cooperation between the two regions. India is an important partner to Sichuan Province, in terms of trade, engineering contracting, and service outsourcing cooperation, as well as an emerging investment destination and source." Sichuan cuisine is well known in India. By 2010, India has invested in 7 projects in Sichuan, with a contracted foreign investment of USD 10.59 million and actual paid-in foreign capital of USD 6.55 million. The Province has annual trade of US\$ 1.2 Billion with US\$ 1.1 billion in exports to India. Exported products mainly included electrical and mechanical equipment, audio and video equipment, textiles, metalware and chemicals. Imports from India were USD 98.39 million, including minerals, chemicals and electrical and mechanical products. In January 2011, total volume of import and export between Sichuan

and India soared 41.64% over the previous year, to USD 129 million, including exports of USD 127 million, up 37.2%.

Trade between India and China has witnessed exponential growth in last few years. China has now emerged one of India's largest trading partners with trade crossing the target of USD 60 billion (total trade USD 61.74 billion) during 2010 and expected to reach USD 100 billion by 2015.



**351. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence regarding role of Indian Navy in rescuing Chinese merchant vessel.**

**New Delhi, May 6, 2011.**

On the morning of 05 May, an Indian Navy's TU 142 aircraft's persistent efforts led to pirates fleeing from a Chinese merchant vessel MV Full City.

At about 0845 hrs on 05 May 11, the Indian Navy received an SOS call regarding a pirate attack on Chinese merchant vessel MV Full City about 450 nm (850 kms) West of Karwar. The Indian Navy immediately diverted an IN aircraft and a CG ship.

The TU 142 (Maritime Reconnaissance) aircraft of the Indian Navy, which was on anti piracy patrol, arrived overhead MV Full City in less than 30 minutes. The aircraft observed a pirate mother ship next to MV Full City and an empty skiff alongside the ship.

The aircraft made a number of low passes over the ship and strongly warned the pirates, on radio, to leave the merchant ship immediately, stating that Naval warships were closing in the area. The aircraft observed that the warning had the desired effect and the skiff was seen fleeing from the ship along with the pirates and heading for its mother ship nearby.

As there were no surface forces in the immediate vicinity to board MV Full City and sanitise the ship, the IN aircraft maintained overhead MV Full City for over three hours assisting the rescue operation by coordinating with the NATO Task Force.

The TU aircraft finally left the area after over four hours, having successfully freed MV Full City from the pirate attack and, ensuring that surface forces were within range to proceed with the boarding and sanitizing operations.

The operation highlighted the alacrity of the Indian Navy and also reflected adept international co-operation maintained by the Indian Navy as this operation involved co-operation with the NATO Task Force, the Chinese Task Force and the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Beijing. The Chinese TF also thanked the Indian Navy for its prompt and persistent action leading to neutralising the pirate attack on MV Full City.

MV Full City now continues its passage through the waters of the Eastern Arabian Sea its safety assured by the sustained anti-piracy vigil being maintained by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.

With independent as well as collaborative efforts the Indian Maritime Forces have reduced the threat of piracy in the Arabian Sea in general and the Eastern Arabian Sea in particular. It is particularly noteworthy that there has been a drop of over 80% in the number of piracy attacks in the Eastern Arabian Sea. As a matter of fact, in the month of April 2011, there was not a single reported piracy attack in the Eastern Arabian Sea. This demonstrates the nation's continued determination to assure safety of merchant shipping in the International Sea Lanes in the Arabian Sea.



### **352. Reports of construction of a Dam on Brahmaputra River by China**

**June 14, 2011**

In response to a media query on reports of construction of a Chinese Dam on Brahmaputra River and Possibility of Diversion, EAM stated the following:

“Recent reports about Chinese plans to construct a dam on the Brahmaputra and possibly divert the river waters to Northern China are not new but based on previously known facts.

It is a fact that China is constructing a dam at Zangmu in the middle reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (as the Brahmaputra is called in Tibet). We have ascertained from our own sources that this is a run of the river hydro-electric project, which does not store water and will not adversely impact the downstream areas in India.

Therefore, I believe there is no cause for immediate alarm.

I would like to share with you the fact that a large proportion of the catchment of the Brahmaputra is within Indian territory. It is important that the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam of India harness and utilize the waters of the Brahmaputra. This is the really important issue.”



**353. Information provided to Rajya Sabha on the bilateral trade between India and China.**

**New Delhi, August 3, 2011.**

As per the current trend of trade between India and China, the bilateral trade is likely to reach the US\$ 100 billion mark in next four years.

The share of India's export in India-China bilateral trade as per the current trend is about 31%. With the continued efforts to increase our exports to China, this share is likely to increase.

With the increasing trade, the gross trade deficit may further increase. With a view to achieve balance in the bilateral trade, efforts are being made to diversify the trade basket with emphasis on manufactured goods. The issue of trade deficit was raised by the Indian side during the 8th session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade Science and Technology (JEG) held on 19th January 2010. As an outcome of JEG a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and China, where the Chinese side assured the Indian side that it would increase its imports from India. Indian Companies are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China to show-case Indian products in the Chinese market and increase engagement with Chinese companies.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.



**354. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on an incident involving INS Airavat in South China Sea.**

**New Delhi, September 1, 2011.**

In response to questions on a report in a leading international daily, the Official Spokesperson said,

“The Ministry has seen news reports about an alleged confrontation between an Indian Navy ship and a Chinese vessel off the coast of Vietnam in July 2011.

2. The Indian Naval vessel, INS Airavat paid a friendly visit to Vietnam between 19 to 28 July 2011. On July 22, INS Airavat sailed from the Vietnamese port of Nha Trang towards Hai Phong, where it was to make a port call. At a distance of 45 nautical miles from the Vietnamese coast in the South China Sea, it was contacted on open radio channel by a caller *identifying himself as the “Chinese Navy” stating that “you are entering Chinese waters”*. No ship or aircraft was visible from INS Airavat, which proceeded on her onward journey as scheduled.

3. There was no confrontation involving the INS Airavat.

4. India supports freedom of navigation in international waters, including in the South China Sea, and the right of passage in accordance with accepted principles of international law. These principles should be respected by all.



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The Ministry of Defence separately same day clarified that INS Airavat was on a scheduled visit to Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries in July 2011. Media reports of INS Airavat being stopped by a Chinese vessel in South China Sea are incorrect. There was no confrontation with any vessel. INS Airavat has since returned after its visit.

### **355. Agreed Minutes of the 1st India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue held in Beijing.**

**Beijing, September 26, 2011.**

The 1st India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (hereinafter referred to as 'the Dialogue') was held at Beijing, China on September 26, 2011. The Indian side was led by H.E. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Republic of India and the Chinese side was led by H.E. Mr. Zhang Ping, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the 'two sides').

2. Based on the consensus reached by the governments of India and China, the establishment of the Dialogue was announced in the India-China Joint Communiqué issued during the visit to India by H.E. Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in December 2010.

3. The two sides had an in-depth and frank exchange of views on the world economic situation, respective domestic macro-economic situations, the goals and implementation of the mid and long-term economic and social development plans of the two countries as well as their respective industrial, fiscal and monetary policies and agreed to enhance pragmatic cooperation in economic sectors. The two sides agreed that the Dialogue was highly productive and successful.

#### **A. World Economic Situation**

4. The two sides shared views on the current world economic situation, and agreed that since the beginning of the year, the world economy is picking-up, but with weak momentum. The process of recovery is not firmly established and neither is it balanced. Escalated risk with respect to sovereign debts in major developed economies; large fluctuations in international financial and commodity markets; and growing global inflation, which is particularly acute in emerging markets have brought about additional uncertainties to the global economic outlook. In this scenario, India and China must continue to focus their efforts on domestic economic growth, which can provide stability to the world economy.

#### **B. Respective Domestic Macro-economic Situations**

5. The two sides introduced their respective domestic macro-economic situations, enumerated the challenges encountered in the course of economic development, and expounded on the policies they would adopt in the coming years. They agreed that, though new problems and issues emerged in the domestic economic operations of the two countries and in the international

environment, India and China have continued to maintain sound economic development. The two sides also agreed to strengthen communication on macro-economic policies, share development experiences and enhance coordination in addressing economic challenges.

### **C. Mid and Long-term Development Plans**

6. The two sides introduced the major goals, strategic tasks and implementation framework outlined in the respective mid and long-term social and economic development plans of the two countries. The two sides agreed that India and China face the common task of advancing reform and promoting the comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development of each country. The formulation and effective implementation of their mid and long-term development plans are of great significance in sustaining rapid and stable economic and social development in the long run. The two sides will learn from each other and conduct mutually beneficial cooperation in formulating and carrying out their respective mid and long-term development plans.

### **D. Improving Investment Environment**

7. The two sides agreed to stay committed to deepening bilateral investment cooperation, further opening markets, and improving the investment environment in India and China so as to lay a solid foundation for pragmatic cooperation between the businesses of the two countries on the basis of complementarities, mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

### **E. Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Environmental Protection**

8. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on energy efficiency and conservation as well as on environmental protection and actively develop cooperation in energy matters including in the renewable energy sector in order to promote sustainable development. Enhanced exchanges in these spheres would be the new engine for greater cooperation between the two sides.

### **F. Infrastructure Cooperation**

9. The two sides discussed the current status of infrastructure development in the two countries as well as prospects of cooperation. They agreed to enhance cooperation in these sectors, particularly in the railway sector on the basis of mutual complementarities and benefit.

### **G. Water Use Efficiency**

10. The two sides agreed to enhance communication, encourage bilateral cooperation on water conservation and clean water technologies.



11. The two sides agreed that the 2nd India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue will be convened in India in 2012. They also agreed that prior to the 2nd Dialogue, there would be a working group meeting to implement the consensus and decisions agreed to by the two sides at the 1st Strategic Economic Dialogue.

**(Montek Singh Ahluwalia)**  
**Deputy Chairman**  
**Planning Commission of the**  
**Republic of India**

**(Zhang Ping)**  
**Chairman National Development and**  
**Reform Commission of the People's**  
**Republic of China**



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Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission described the talks as an important first step of a "knowledge transfer" that could bring substantial benefits to both countries. "China's economic reforms began a decade and more before those of India," he told his Chinese counterpart Zhang Ping, who heads China's National and Development Reform Commission (NDRC), China's top planning body, at the start of the dialogue. "We in India are deeply impressed by your progress and we believe there are many lessons from your experience that may be valuable to us." The dialogue, said Mr. Zhang, would enhance trust and promote the "long-term and steady development" of both economies and have a "profound impact" on both the countries. The next round will be held in New Delhi in April 2012. The SED was set up with the objective of increasing coordination on macro-economic policies and to provide a platform for both countries to leverage common interests and shared developmental experiences. The idea behind the dialogue, it was stated, was to look at the larger picture and go beyond trade. A separate Joint Economic Group Dialogue, between both Commerce Ministers, has been set up to tackle trade issues, including the widening imbalance in China's favour. According to officials participating in the dialogue the railways hold particular potential for cooperation paving the way for Chinese involvement in building high speed rail corridors in India.

**356. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to media report of Chinese intrusions on India - China border.**

**New Delhi, September 29, 2011.**

In response to a question on 'Headlines Today's' report about MEA calling for the Indian Army 'not to challenge Chinese aggression', the Official Spokesperson said,

"This report is factually incorrect and misleading.

As we have said before, there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. The two countries have put into place elaborate mechanisms to resolve any situations resulting from this reality. Due to these measures, the India-China border areas have been peaceful and tranquil for a number of years".



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In this connection it is relevant to refer to the questions answered by Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha later in the year on December 13 that India's border with China "by and large remain peaceful. Prime Minister's response was in answer to questions from the Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh alleging that China was making all-out efforts to attack India. Prime Minister had said, "Our government does not share the view that China is out to attack India. There are problems on the border. But by and large, the border remains peaceful. Peace and tranquillity has been maintained in the border areas." He also added: "There are sometimes intrusions according to us. But the Chinese perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) sometimes differs. Therefore, I think, some confusion is created. These matters are sorted out between the area commanders on both the sides."

**357. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on India – China Trade.**

**New Delhi, November 3, 2011.**

The Union Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma has expressed confidence that India China are on course to achieve the bilateral trade target of US\$ 100 billion by 2015. Trade between India and China has seen exponential growth in the last few years. As per the trade statistics of DGCI&S the total trade volume has gone up from US \$ 2.3 billion in 2000-01 to US \$ **59.62 billion** in 2010-11 (April-March). The Minister met the Governor of Xinjiang province of China Mr Nur Baki here today.

However, The Indian Minister raised the issue of Indian concern for the trade deficit. Trade deficit for the Indian side has increased from US \$ 9.1 billion in 2006-07 to US \$ 20.8 billion in 2010-11. A balanced trade is needed for long term, sustainable and harmonious development of economic cooperation between the two countries. Shri Sharma said that the area of drugs and pharmaceuticals is an important segment of our efforts to diversify our bilateral trade basket. Both sides need to work aggressively towards removing administrative bottlenecks and overly restrictive regulatory measures, in order to boost development of all round cooperation in this area. The Indian Minister also highlighted renewable energy where Chinese Government has fixed a target of 100 GW by 2020, as another area with great potential for export from Indian side.

Both the leaders agreed that an Indian delegation should visit Xingjiang province for exploring the possibilities of promoting Indian products in handicrafts, handloom and films.

Both the Minister also witnessed the signing of MoU between Government of Gujarat and TBEA (India) Private Limited. TBEA Energy (India) Private Limited is proposing a FDI investment of Indian Rs 500 crore during first phase of a three phase of a three phase 'TBEA Green Energy Park' Project with a projected total investment of Rs 2500 Crores.



**358. Extract Relevant to China from the Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh at Bali.**

**Bali, November 18, 2011.**

\* \* \* \*

Prime Minister also met thereafter Premier Wen Jiabao. It was a very good meeting covering a range of bilateral, regional and international issues; and that lasted 55 minutes. They recalled Premier Wen's landmark visit to India in December 2010. Premier Wen also recalled Prime Minister's observation that there was enough space in the world to accommodate the developmental aspirations of both India and China. Premier Wen added that there were enough areas where India and China could enhance mutually beneficial cooperation. He termed 21st century as an Asian century beckoning India and China to work hand in hand to promote economic development and growth.

Both of them recognized our robust trade, economic and business ties constituted the core of our bilateral relationship. They expressed happiness that trade had crossed US\$ 60 billion in 2010, and was likely to touch US\$ 70 billion this year, and was expected to attain US\$ 100 billion target by 2015. Prime Minister welcomed greater Chinese economic engagement with India and mentioned that China was among India's partners which were executing a large number of projects in India. Prime Minister also underlined the need for balanced trade to create a more conducive environment pertaining to the realisation of the considerably untapped economic potential.

Prime Minister and Premier Wen welcomed the holding of the first Strategic Economic Dialogue between Indian and China in Beijing last September led by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission from our side, who had been received by Premier Wen. They called for greater people-to-people contacts as well as a continued and closer dialogue on regional and international issues. Premier Wen recalled with considerable warmth his interaction with the Indian youth delegation which had visited China earlier this year. The two also noted the convergence of views on a number of global issues such as climate change.

Prime Minister valued India's role at EAS and spoke for closer coordination between the two sides. He also welcomed India's interest to enhance cooperation with the SCO. They also exchanged views on global economic situation agreeing to keep in touch on a regular basis. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the relationship based on mutual respect and equality was on a firm footing and that was in the interest of both countries.

Foreign Minister Yang, and NSA and Principal Secretary were present. In the meeting in the morning with President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton was present.

\* \* \* \*

Thank you.

**Question:** How long was the Prime Minister's meeting with Premier Wen?

**Secretary (East):** Fifty five minutes.

**Question:** .....And in the meeting with China, given the backdrop of what is happening in the South China Sea and some of the statements we have seen on troop deployment on the border, was any of that discussed between the two leaders?

**Secretary (East):** .....

On the South China Sea, this matter did come up in the context of the East Asia Summit.

**Question:** With Wen?

**Secretary (East):** Yes. And Prime Minister observed that exploration of oil and gas in the South China Sea by India was purely a commercial activity, and that the issues of sovereignty should be resolved according to international law and practice.

\* \* \* \*

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, in the context of the talks with Premier Wen you said that the South China Sea issue came up. Was it for a proposal to discuss the South China Sea in the summit, and what has India said?

**Secretary (East):** I will repeat that the matter did come up in the context of the EAS and Prime Minister observed that Indian exploration of oil and gas in the South China Sea was purely a commercial activity and that issues of sovereignty should be resolved according to international law and practice.

**Question:** The Chinese side raised it or we raised it?

**Official Spokesperson:** As the Secretary has mentioned, they spoke about the East Asia Summit, they spoke about the desirability of keeping in touch, talking to each other on the East Asia Summit. Premier Wen appreciated, in fact what Secretary has said exactly is, Premier Wen said that he valued the role that India is playing in the EAS. And in that context there was a mention about the South China Sea, to which Prime Minister said that our interests were purely commercial. And the rest you have heard from the Secretary.

**Question:** "I explained to him that we have a law in place and rules have been formulated. These will lie in Parliament for thirty days." This is what the Prime

Minister has said. "Lie in Parliament for thirty days", there is a lot of confusion on that statement. Could you clarify what the Prime Minister has said?

**Secretary (East):** I am not an expert on this. So, I would not like to clarify on what the Prime Minister has said.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, you mentioned that in the meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao, the issue of the economy was raised ...(Inaudible)... was this issue also discussed in the meeting with President Obama earlier on the ...(Inaudible)... the next summit? Can you just share ...(Inaudible)...

**Secretary (East):** As you know, both of them had been at Cannes for the G20 Summit and they exchanged views on the present state of the global economy, the developments in Europe and in the Euro zone, and the need for concerted global action to deal with the challenges that arise.

\* \* \* \*

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, there have been reports in the Chinese media. Did Premier Wen raise this issue of the military build up with the Prime Minister, were there any discussions on any of the outstanding issues as far as border talks are concerned?

**Secretary (East):** Nothing on the issue that you raised but both sides welcomed the resumption of defence exchanges. In the context of the boundary, they referred to the decision for the Joint mechanism which is to be set up and which was taken during Premier Wen's visit last year. And they also noted with satisfaction that the boundary was peaceful and tranquil.

**Question:** Just an addition to the question on the angle that the Prime Minister talked about his meeting with Gilani. Did President Obama talk about their issues with Pakistan? Did he say anything about the US-Pakistan relationship?

**Secretary (East):** Prime Minister basically spoke about his meeting with Prime Minister Gilani.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, during the meetings with President Obama and also Premier Wen, was the Prime Minister's view on increasing US military ties with Australia ...(Inaudible)... What is India's view? Was India ...(Inaudible)... increasing its partnership with ASEAN in ...(Inaudible)...

**Secretary (East):** As I said right in the beginning, we look at ASEAN as central to the East Asia Summit process which should we feel be led by ASEAN. We have, as I mentioned, a long relationship with ASEAN and we would be commemorating the twentieth anniversary of our dialogue partnership next year, and the tenth anniversary of our summit level partnership which we will be commemorating in India.

**Question:** Was South China Sea referred to in the discussion between Prime Minister Singh and President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** As I said right in the beginning, they discussed cooperation in maritime issues.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, did the question of American bases in Australia come up when Obama spoke to Prime Minister?

**Secretary (East):** No.

**Question:** In his meeting with Mr. Wen, did the Prime Minister raise the issue of Chinese activity in POK?

**Official Spokesperson:** That issue did not come up. What Secretary has mentioned is that both sides expressed satisfaction that the India-China Line of Control is peaceful and tranquil. They also welcomed the process of the SR talks and they spoke in that refrain.

Thank you very much. Have a good day!



**359. Response of Official Spokesperson to questions of dates for the India and China Border Talks between the Special Representatives of the two countries.**

**New Delhi, November 25, 2011.**

In response to a question on the dates of the 15th round of talks between the Special Representatives (SR) of India and China, the Official Spokesperson said,

“We are looking forward to the 15th round of SR talks in the near future and the two sides remain in touch to find convenient dates for the meeting”



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The response of the official spokesperson was necessitated because of the media speculation that the talks said to have been scheduled on 27th November 2011 were suddenly postponed particularly within a week of the meeting between Premier Wen Jianbao and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Bali on the sidelines of the India - ASEAN and EAS Summits. The media speculation was because no official announcement of the dates for the talks was made.

**INDONESIA****360. Speech by President Pratibha Devisigh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.****New Delhi, January 25, 2011.**

Your Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,

President of the Republic of Indonesia,

Madam Ani Bambang Yudhoyono,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend a very warm welcome to you Mr. President and to Madam Yudhoyono on your State Visit to India.

Mr. President, on 26 January 1950 on the occasion of the proclamation of the Indian Republic, we were honoured with the presence of your first President, Dr. Sukarno and Mrs. Fatmawati Sukarno as our State Guests. Today, we are honoured and happy to have you with us as the Chief Guest on the occasion of India's 62nd Republic Day Celebrations.

Your presence here today is symbolic of the spirit of mutual solidarity in which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Sukarno, convened the Bandung Conference in 1955. Together, they represented the voice of the oppressed peoples of the world in their struggle for freedom against colonial domination. The quest for freedom brought our nations close to each other, and together we wrote the concluding chapters of colonialism, and laid the foundations of the Afro-Asian Movement.

Excellency, India and Indonesia have enjoyed two millennia of close cultural and commercial ties. The shared cultural history can be seen in common elements in our languages, literature, visual and performing arts and handicrafts. We must continue to promote active cultural exchanges, so that future generations are also made aware of our age old ties. India and Indonesia share common values, interests and priorities including our commitment to pluralism and diversity. Perhaps, there is no other country with which India shares so much in common as with Indonesia. Today, India and Indonesia stand proudly together as the largest pluralistic democracies of Asia.

Our modern relationship had drawn strength from the many commonalities between our two countries, and has made rapid progress since the



establishment of the Strategic Partnership during your visit to India in 2005. We have developed strong ties and institutional frameworks for dialogue and co-operation in the political, security, science and technology and cultural fields. Indonesia is a major trading partner of India in the ASEAN region and also an important destination for our investment. I fondly recall my own visit to Indonesia and my discussions with Your Excellency in December 2008, on further consolidating our relationship.

We are pleased that during your current visit, our two countries have signed a range of new Agreements and MoUs that will further consolidate our ties in these areas and indeed, take it to a new level. The new frameworks at the Government to Government level have been supplemented by a number of significant business to business agreements that will bring our industrial sectors into close co-operation with each other.

We attach great importance to our relations with Indonesia, not only at the bilateral level but also as a regional partner and as a friend in ASEAN. Relations with ASEAN are at the heart of India's "Look East Policy" and Indonesia is central to ASEAN. We deeply value the support Indonesia has extended to India in promoting India-ASEAN engagement. I would like to extend our congratulations on Indonesia taking over the chairmanship of ASEAN next year. We are confident that under your Chairmanship, the achievements of ASEAN, the progress of our dialogue partnership and the outcomes of the East Asia Summit will reach new heights.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on your sagacious and wise leadership of Indonesia, as also for the immense progress that has been made by Indonesia in recent years. Indonesia is now universally acknowledged as amongst the fastest growing economies in Asia, and is playing an important role in discussions on the many global issues of our times. As major countries, India and Indonesia can and must work together in fora like the UN, WTO and G-20 on global issues. Terrorism is a threat to global peace and security. Our two countries have suffered from terrorist attacks targeting innocent civilians. These tragic events remind us that we must remain resolute and persevere in our determination to root out terrorism.

Mr. President your visit is significant as it reaffirms that the destinies of our two great nations are bound together. Our partnership has stood the test of time, and we must continue to synergise our strengths and complementarities, to give a new momentum to our relations.

Distinguished Guests, may I now request you to join me in raising a toast to:-

- the health, happiness and success of His Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Madam Ani Bambang Yudhoyono;

- the progress and prosperity of the fraternal and peace loving people of Indonesia; and
- the close and abiding friendship and co-operation between India and Indonesi



**361. Joint Statement issued on the visit of Indonesian President: “Vision for the India-Indonesia New Strategic Partnership over the coming decade”.**

**New Delhi, January 25, 2011**

1. The Prime Minister of India H.E Dr. Manmohan Singh welcomed the President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on a State Visit to India from January 24-26, 2011 and as the Chief Guest on the occasion of India’s Republic Day on January 26, 2011. The two leaders held extensive talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of shared concern on January 25, 2011. The two leaders recalled the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries six decades earlier and decided to mark the year 2011 as the celebration of six decades of diplomatic relations between the two countries and to hold related events to mark the anniversary in the two capitals.
2. The two leaders reaffirmed the political commitment of both countries for upgrading bilateral relations in order to achieve sustained progress and prosperity for the two countries in the rapidly evolving and dynamic regional and global political and economic situation. They also acknowledged that Indonesia and India are natural partners as two developing democratic countries in the region, committed to multiculturalism, pluralism and diversity. They have responsibility for, and are capable of, responding to global and regional challenges, and they must play an active role in the promotion of democracy, peace and stability in Asia Pacific region and the world at large.
3. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Indonesia expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of political, security, economic, science and technology and cultural exchanges between the two countries. They noted the development of active cooperation through numerous frameworks governing defense, science and technology, space cooperation, agricultural science, culture, tourism, and youth affairs & sports. The two leaders also acknowledged

cooperation in education, media, air services, energy resources including oil, gas, coal, and renewable energy, prevention of smuggling, prevention of illegal trade in narcotics, disaster management, cooperation in the area of small and medium enterprises, meteorology, climatology and geophysics including climate change, health, marine and fisheries. They reiterated their common desire for accelerating the implementation of cooperation in these areas and monitoring such cooperation through the mechanism of Action Plan on Implementing the New Strategic Partnership drawn up during the Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in June 2007.

4. With a view to facing the challenges in food security as means of providing basic human needs for the two countries, both leaders encouraged the implementation of the MoU in the field of agriculture and allied sectors that was signed on December 1st, 2008, and also the implementation of work plan for period of 2009-2013 in the area of agriculture development, joint research in agriculture science, technology development on post harvest and processing, agriculture marketing system and export, joint research on Animal Diseases and capacity building.

5. The two leaders realized the importance of education on human resource, economic and social development in both countries, therefore committed to strengthen it through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Education which covers all level of education.

6. The two leaders agreed to have summit level meetings on the sidelines of multilateral events. Both sides recognized the importance of the biennial Joint Commission Meetings (JCM) at the level of the Foreign Ministers, and agreed that the next JCM should be held in the first half of 2011. While welcoming the steady exchange of Ministerial visits between the two countries, the two sides encouraged to promote regular exchanges at the Cabinet level, inter alia, between the Ministers of Energy including Oil, Gas, Coal, Power and Renewable Energy, Commerce and Industry, Health, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Defense, Education, Home/ Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, and Tourism. The two leaders also encouraged regular exchanges between Parliament as another brick to strengthen bilateral ties and solidify democratic values.

7. With a view to developing a 'Vision Statement 2025' for the Indonesia-India Strategic Partnership, the President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of India announced the establishment of an Eminent Persons' Group (EPG). The deliberations of the EPG would guide the future progress and prepare a blue-print of Indonesia-India relations over the next 15 years.

8. The two leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there could be no justification whatsoever for

any act of terrorism. Recognizing the common threats to national security from transnational crimes, including international terrorism, the President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of India resolved to significantly enhance bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism. The two leaders resolved to commit their countries in improving sharing of intelligence, the development of more effective counter terrorism policies, enhance liaison between law enforcement agencies, provide assistance in the areas of border and immigration control to stem the flow of terrorist related material, money and people and specific measures against transnational crimes, including international terrorism through the already existing mechanism between Indonesia and India. The two leaders desired that the next meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism should be held in the first half of 2011.

9. The President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of India noted that Indonesia and India are strategic partners, neighbouring countries sharing a common maritime boundary, with a common interest in cooperating in the maintenance of regional peace and security. They expressed satisfaction at the steady expansion of bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries and stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, through regular exchanges between the defence establishments of both countries. The two leaders welcomed institutionalization of biennial dialogue at the level of Defence Ministers.

10. The two leaders stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the areas of science and technology. They expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved during the 2nd Joint Science and Technology Committee Meeting in October 2010. The agreed areas of cooperation are in the field of biotechnology, marine, agriculture, information and communication technology, health and medicine, energy, disaster management, aeronautic and space technology.

11. The two leaders noted the importance of and agreed to establish a cooperation between Indonesia and India in the fields of meteorology, climatology, including climate variability and change, geophysics and Early Warning of Coastal Hazards as well as related issues through the science and technology development and application and efficient management in creating disaster risk management community effectively and in a timely manner.

12. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing trade and investment ties between Indonesia and India. Noting that the bilateral trade volume between Indonesia and India had increased nearly threefold since the establishment of the Strategic Partnership between the two countries in 2005, the two leaders agreed to set the new target for bilateral trade volume of US\$ 25 billion by 2015.

13. The two leaders also noticed the importance of encouraging outward investment from both countries. In this regard, Indonesia stressed India as a potential partner because its investment realization in Indonesia has steadily increased for the last twenty years. With regard to the National Investment Roadmap, Indonesia would also welcome further investments from India, especially in the fields of energy, food and infrastructure.

14. The two leaders announced a number of important initiatives to further tap the potential of bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. It was agreed to have a Biennial Trade Ministers Forum, including the establishment of a 'Trade and Investment Forum' between the Trade Ministers to exploit the potential of trade and investment opportunities in both countries.

15. The two leaders welcomed the entry into force of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods on October 1, 2010, and expected the utilization of the Agreement would increase in the following years.

16. Both leaders were pleased to announce the commencement of negotiation on Indonesia - India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (II-CECA), building on what has already been achieved under the India-ASEAN FTA. The decision to embark on negotiations will take forward the shared goal in the New Strategic Partnership 2005 of increasing the volume of bilateral trade and investment. Both leaders agreed that the CECA would be a comprehensive agreement, covering economic cooperation, trade in goods and services, and investment and hoped that it would further contribute to building a higher-level and mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the two countries.

17. Noting the mutual interest of both countries in the development of energy resources and the introduction of investment associated with such resources along with new technologies, the two leaders announced the establishment of an Energy Forum co-chaired by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia and the Minister of Coal of India, supported by expert forums in the respective countries to accelerate the implementation of programs of mutual interest.

18. The two leaders reiterated that as major countries deliberating the great issues of our time - the reform of the United Nations, tackling the global economic and financial crisis and working together on global issues like climate change, Indonesia and India can and must work together effectively in fora like the UN, UNFCCC, WMO, WTO and the G-20 to make a difference and to help achieve consensus on these important issues.

19. The President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of the India were pleased to note the growing cultural ties between the two countries. Recalling

the long history of cultural and historical links between the two countries, they stressed the importance of cultural exchanges in building strong people-to-people ties which would reinforce ties in all areas. They agreed on a number of new initiatives including the exchange of cultural festivals. Ramayana festivals, reciprocal seminars on historical and cultural ties between India and Indonesia and cooperation in tourism promotion.

20. With a view to enhancing people-to-people links, both leaders agreed to enhance and strengthen cooperation in the cultural sector as means to promote extensive people-to-people contacts by committing to implement cultural exchange programme for 2011-2014.

21. The two leaders recognized that a quantum leap in tourism between India and Indonesia is desirable to strengthen vibrant and longstanding people to people ties. As a step towards this objective, the Prime Minister announced a scheme of granting visa on arrival to the citizens of Indonesia.

22. In order to strengthen and reinforce consular cooperation and traditional friendly relations between India and Indonesia, the Prime Minister of India announced the establishment of a Consulate General of India in the Province of Bali which was warmly welcomed by the President of Indonesia. The establishment of the Consulate will reinforce the strong cultural links between Indonesia and India.

23. President Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Singh concluded that their meeting was a historic milestone as they sought to elevate their new Strategic Partnership to a higher level for the benefit of their nations and the entire mankind. President Yudhoyono invited Prime Minister Singh to visit Indonesia, which was graciously accepted.

24. President Yudhoyono expressed his appreciation and gratitude to President Patil, Prime Minister Singh and the people of India for their extraordinary warmth and hospitality during the visit.



### 362. Agreements signed during the State Visit of President of Indonesia.

**New Delhi, January 25, 2011.**

SI No.	Details of the MOU/Treaty	Signatory from Indian side	Signatory from Indonesian side
1.	Extradition Treaty	<b>Shri S.M. Krishna</b> Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs	<b>H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs
2.	Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty	<b>Shri S.M. Krishna</b> Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs	<b>H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs
3.	MoU for cooperation in the field of Education	<b>Shri Kapil Sibal</b> Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development	<b>H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nuh</b> Minister of National Education
4.	MoU on the Establishment of Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum	<b>Shri Anand Sharma</b> Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry	<b>H.E. Ms. Mari Elka Pangestu</b> Minister of Trade
5.	Protocol for extension of the MoU on Cooperation in Marine & Fisheries	<b>Shri R. Gangadharan</b> Secretary Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture	<b>H.E. Mr. Fadel Muhammad</b> Minister of Marine Affairs & Fisheries
6.	MoU for the Development of Urea Manufacture Plant in Indonesia	<b>Dr. Sutanu Behuria</b> Secretary, Deptt of Fertilizers	<b>H.E. Mr. M.S. Hidayat</b> Minister of Industry
7.	Air Services Agreement	<b>Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy</b> Secretary (East) Ministry of External Affairs	<b>H.E. Mr. Freddy Numberi</b> Minister of Transportation
8.	MoU on Cooperation in Oil and Gas	<b>Shri S. Sundareshan</b> Secretary Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	<b>H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs
9.	MoU on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises	<b>Shri Uday Kumar Varma</b> Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for MSME	<b>H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs
10.	MoU on Cooperation in Science & Technology	<b>Dr. T. Ramasami</b> Secretary, Department of Science & Technology	<b>H.E. Dr. H. Suharna Surapranata</b> Minister for Science and Technology
11.	MoU between Press Council of India and Press Council of Indonesia	<b>Justice G.N. Ray</b> Chairman Press Council of India	<b>Dr. Bagir Manan</b> Chairman Press Council of Indonesia

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**II. List of Business MoUs signed during the State Visit of President of Indonesia.**

**January 25, 2011.**

No	MOU	SIGNATORIES
	Development of Industrial Complex Based on Heavy Minerals Resource Utilisation	<p><b>Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia</b> Mr.Panggah Susanto,Director General of Base Manufacturer Industries, Ministry of Industry, Republic of Indonesia and</p> <p><b>Trimex Sands Pvt. Ltd. India</b> Mr. Pradeep Koneru, Trimex Pvt. Ltd. India</p>
2.	Railway Line for Transporting Coal and Coal Terminal from Tanjung Enim to Tanjung Api-api	<p><b>Provincial Government of South Sumatera</b> H.E. Mr. Alex Noerdin, Governor of South Sumatera, Indonesia –</p> <p><b>PT. Bukit Asam Tbk - Indonesia</b> Mr. Soekrisno Soekoer, President Director of PT Bukit Asam Tbk, Indonesia – and <b>Adani Holding Ltd.</b> Mr. Gautam S. Adani, Adani Holding Ltd., India</p>
3	Infrastructure (railway and seaport)	<p><b>Provincial Government of South Sumatera</b> H.E. Mr. Alex Noerdin, Governor of South Sumatera, Indonesia</p> <p><b>Reliance Coal Resources Private Ltd</b> A.N.Sethuraman–Group President</p>
4.	Aluminium Smelter	<p><b>Provincial Government of South Sumatera</b> H.E. Mr. Alex Noerdin, Governor of South Sumatera, Indonesia</p> <p>and</p> <p><b>National Aluminium Company Limited</b></p>
5.	Setting up and Operationalized	<b>Regency Government of Kendal,</b>



- Gas Based Power Plant with Capacity 2x1100 MW or 3X660 MW
- Central Java Province**  
Ms. Widya Kandi Susanti, Regent of Kendal
- PT. Megra Urip Pesona Indonesia**  
Mr. Teddy Garnadi, Director and  
**Adani Global**  
Mr. Gautam S. Adani
6. Training and Internship for Civil Servants and National Electric Company
- Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board**  
Mr. Gita Irawan Wirjawan, Chairman of Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) and
- Tata Power**  
Mr. Prasad R. Menon, Managing Director of Tata Power, India
7. Mining, construction of steel plant and its infrastructure
- Provincial Government of Central Kalimantan**  
H.E. Agustin Teras Narang – Governor of Central Kalimantan and
- International Coal Ventures Private Ltd.**  
Mr. Chandra Shekhar Verma – Chairman
8. Setting up of Airport at Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta
- PT Angkasa Pural**  
Tommy Soetomo – President Director and
- GVK - India**  
Dr. GVK Reddy – Chairman & Managing Director
9. Off Take Fertilizer
- PT Pupuk Sriwijaya - Indonesia**  
Arifin Tasrif – President Director and
- National Fertilizers Limited – India**  
V.K Sharma – Chairman & Managing Director
10. Information Technology (IT)
- Lippo Group – Indonesia**  
Theo Sambuaga – President

- PT Multipolar Technology (Lippo Group) - Indonesia**  
 Harijono Suwarno – President Director  
 and
- HCL Technologies - India**  
 Rajiv Sodhi – Senior Corp Vice  
 President
11. Financing of Coal Based Plant **PT Eastern Infrastructure International – Indonesia**  
 Kris Wiluan – Chairman & Managing  
 Director  
 and  
**Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited - India**  
 B Prasada Rao - Chairman &  
 Managing Director
12. Setting up of Airport at Buleleng,  
 Bali **Indonesia Investment Coordinating  
 Board**  
 Gita Wirjawan – Chairman  
**PT Pembangunan Bali Mandiri**  
 Ketut Suardhana Linggih – President  
 Director  
 and  
**GVK – India**  
 Dr. GVK Reddy – Chairman &  
 Managing Director
13. Cargo Ship Building and Oil and  
 Gas Terminal **PT. PAL – Indonesia**  
 Harsusanto Soenawar – President  
 Director  
 and  
**Pipavav Shipyard Ltd**  
 Bavesh Gandhi – Vice Chairman  
**SKIL Infrastructure Ltd.**  
 Nikhil Gandhi - Chairman
14. Road Infrastructure for Mine  
 and Port **PT Surya Kepanjen**  
 D.W Soewondho – Director  
 and

- SEW Trident Global Pte Ltd**  
Srikanth Chilappagari – President  
Director
15. Information Technology Security  
Transfer of Technology **PT. Walden Global Services**  
Ikin Wirawan  
and  
**Secure Matrix India Private Ltd.**  
Saurabh B Dani – Vice Chairman
16. Dredging of Batanghari River  
and construction of Coal Terminal in Jambi  
**Governor of Jambi**  
Mr. Hasan Basri Agus  
and  
**Archean**  
Mr. Erumbala Pradeep
17. Establishment and  
Management and Innovation **Institute  
Indorama**  
Mr. Sri Prakash Lohia, Chairman  
and  
**DAV College Trust & Management  
Society**  
Mr. Prabodh Mahajar
18. Free Trade Zone Cooperation **Batam Free Zone Authority**  
Mr. Mustofa Widjaja, Chairman  
and  
**Santacruz Special Economic Zone**

New Delhi  
January 25, 2011



**363. Joint Statement issued on the visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma to Indonesia.**

**Jakarta, October 4, 2011.**

1. The Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri Anand Sharma, accompanied by an official and business delegation, visited Indonesia on 3-4 October 2011 and met the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu. They discussed ways of expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries at the 1st Indonesia – India Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum.
2. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the Pre-Negotiation Consultations of Indonesia India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (II-CECA), held in Jakarta, 3 October 2011. The Ministers emphasized the need to constructively engage in II-CECA negotiations which would result in mutual and beneficial outcomes for both countries.
3. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and hoped for increasing and diversifying bilateral trade as well as promoting and stimulating bilateral investment flows. The Ministers hoped that these efforts would help achieve the bilateral trade volume target of US\$ 25 billion by 2015.
4. The Ministers reviewed the deliberations of the two Working Groups: (1) Working Group on Trade and Investment Forum and (2) Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Resolution.
5. The Ministers looked forward to the early operationalization of the Indonesia-India CEOs' Forum.
6. The Ministers welcomed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor of East Kalimantan Province and National Aluminum

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India and Indonesia are aiming to enhance economic cooperation to a new level by achieving a bilateral trade target of \$25 billion by 2015. Trade and investment between India and Indonesia had seen a massive rise in the last few years with investment by Indian companies having touched \$3.50 billion and another \$25-billion worth of investments in the pipeline. The two countries surpassed the 2005 target of bilateral trade of \$10 billion by 2010 they surpassed it by 40 per cent reaching the \$14-billion level. The proposed CECA will not only break tariff walls on merchandise trade but also enable professionals from the two countries to take up short-term business assignments in each other's markets. The scope would also cover easing of bilateral investment regime. The CECA with Indonesia would go beyond the trade liberalisation already achieved through the India-ASEAN agreement. Though the bilateral trade between India and Indonesia stood at \$13.2 billion in 2010, it is highly skewed in favour of Indonesia. India's exports to Indonesia were \$3.3 billion against imports of \$10 billion.

Company of India on Technical Cooperation on Aluminum Smelter Industry and Coal Based Thermal Power Plant.

Done and signed in two original in Jakarta on October 4, 2011 in English language, both texts being equally authentic.

**H.E. Mari Elka Pangestu**  
**Minister of Trade**  
**The Republic of Indonesia**

**H.E. Shri Anand Sharma**  
**Minister of Commerce**  
**and Industry**  
**The Republic of India**



## **JAPAN**

**364. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the call by Minister Anand Sharma on Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan prior to the signing of the the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).**

**February 15, 2011.**

Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma called on Japanese Prime Minister Mr Naoto Kan today in Tokyo. During his meeting, Prime Minister Kan expressed satisfaction on the conclusion of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan, which is being signed tomorrow. Prime Minister Kan underscored the significance of Indo Japanese technology collaboration for research and innovation. He called for a partnership in development of India's infrastructure, specifically referring to Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor project. While responding, Mr Sharma highlighted the importance attached by India to of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project which has now decisively moved from the stage of master planning to project implementation. This project will see investments of over \$100 billion and is being seen as a flagship initiative of Indo-Japan partnership. Minister Sharma proposed the establishment of a revolving fund of \$ 9 billion with matching contribution from Indian and Japanese side to kickstart the implementation process. Japanese Prime Minister agreed to enhance the financial contribution of Japan and was positively receptive to the suggestion. Mr Sharma urged for greater Japanese investments in areas of core infrastructure and capital goods equipment including power generation where Japanese companies have a technological edge. During the twenty minute long meeting, Minister Sharma

said the India viewed a partnership with Japan as a 'strategic engagement' in the region and in the global context. This would be central to the vision of Asian integration articulated by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Mr Sharma is in Tokyo on a two day visit, accompanied by a high level official delegation including the Commerce Secretary and a CII CEO's delegation led by CII President Hari Bharatia. Tomorrow, Minister Sharma will be signing the CEPA along with the Japanese Foreign Minister Maehara. Later in the day, he will be holding substantive bilateral meetings with the METI minister to review the progress of DMICDC project. He will be interacting with top Japanese CEOs to seek Japanese investments in India in areas of priority as identified at the Summit level interaction between the Prime Ministers.



**365. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CEPA) with Japan.**

**New Delhi, February 16, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Seiji Maehara signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan today. This Agreement is the most ambitious agreement signed by India so far and covers trade in goods, services and investment under its ambit. This Agreement follows from the commitment of the two Prime Ministers in October, 2010. India stands to gain significantly through this Agreement and 90% of tariff lines are covered while Japan has covered 5% more lines than India. The Agreement has ensured that the sensitive sectors for India are fully protected including agriculture, fruits, spices, wheat, basmati rice, edible oils, wines and spirits and also certain categories of industrial products such as auto and auto parts.

The Agreement will ensure access to a highly developed Japanese market for the pharmaceutical sector and for the first time ever Japan has committed to give the same treatment for Indian generics as their domestic industry. Apart from this, Indian agricultural produce including instant tea, seafood will find their way in the Japanese market. The textile products including readymade garments stand to gain significantly in terms of market access. The Japanese side have also lowered their tariffs for petrochemicals and chemical products, jewellery and cement.

In the services sector India has obtained considerable concessions including commitments for providing greater access for contractual suppliers, professionals such as accountants, researchers, tourist guides and management consultants who will now be able to provide their services in Japan. Japan has also committed to cover not only computer engineers but whole range of engineering services such as mechanical, electrical, construction, industrial, design engineers and project management specialists. For the first time ever, Japan has agreed to grant additional category of instructors for yoga practitioners, classical musical and dance practitioners, chefs and English language teachers.

The Agreement also envisages the conclusion of a social security agreement within three years and the negotiations have commenced in Jan, 2011. The negotiations are also on for creating greater openings for Indian nurses and care givers. For bilateral investment, India has committed to the current national policy on foreign investment and this signals the greater participation of Japanese investors into Indian economy. Similarly the Agreement also covers intellectual property rights for the first time and the parameters of our commitments on these are circumscribed by national legislation and agreement in trips.

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Maehara, Shri Sharma set a target of doubling bilateral trade to US \$ 25 billion by 2014 and reiterated his suggestion of establishment a Joint Revolving Fund of US \$ 9 billion for kick starting the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project.

Later in the day, Shri Sharma had bilateral discussions with his counterpart METI Minister Mr. Banri Kaieda. The two Ministers reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral trade and investments relations and agreed that there would be significant enhancement in Japanese investment and technology collaboration especially in infrastructure and value added manufacturing. The two Ministers also addressed a Business-Government Dialogue, which has emerged out of the suggestion by Japanese Prime Minister at the Summit in October, 2010. This dialogue focused on the progress of DMICDC Project and greater SME collaboration.

Shri Sharma also addressed CEOs from India and Japan at a business event organized jointly by CII and Nippon Keidanren.



**366. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to his Japanese counterpart condoling loss of life during the Tsunami and earth quack and offering necessary help.**

**New Delhi, March 11, 2011.**

In a letter to PM Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, expressed shock at the devastating earthquake that had hit the coast of Japan, resulting in great damage to life and property. He extended his heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Kan and to all those who had suffered or lost their near and dear ones in the tragic disaster.

Prime Minister conveyed that India stood in full solidarity with the Government and people of Japan at this hour. He also expressed India's readiness to 'help Japan in any way required' adding that India's resources were at the disposal of Japan.



**367. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in Parliament on the earth quake and tsunami in Japan.**

**New Delhi, March 14, 2011.**

As Honourable Members are aware, the north eastern part of Japan was hit by a massive earthquake and tsunami on the 11th of March.

Images of destruction and human misery are being flashed on television channels. These are heart rending and deeply disturbing sights. It is becoming evident that the scale of destruction and loss of human lives are likely to be far higher than initially expected. This is a moment of immense and grave tragedy for Japan.

I have already conveyed, on behalf of the government and people of India, our deepest condolences to the Prime Minister of Japan. I have told him that India stands in full solidarity with the people of Japan, and that our resources are at the disposal of Japan for any assistance they may require.

I am confident that this House will join me in reiterating the heartfelt condolences of the people of India to the friendly people of Japan, and extending our prayers and thoughts to them during this most horrific disaster.



We can never forget that India has been the largest recipient of Japan's overseas development assistance. We have the best of relations with Japan. We are in touch with the Government of Japan to ascertain the kind of assistance they need. As an immediate step, we are airlifting 25,000 blankets to Japan. We are ready to send search and rescue teams and relief material. We stand ready to help in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. Our Navy is on standby to send its ships to Japan as part of such an exercise.

We will spare no effort in assisting the Japanese authorities in dealing with the aftermath of this disaster.

There are about 25,000 Indian nationals in Japan. Most of them were not living in the areas affected by the tsunami. About 70 Indians are in the shelters established by Japanese authorities in the tsunami affected areas. We are monitoring their welfare. So far we do not have any reports of casualties.

The disaster has affected some of the nuclear power plants in Japan. The Government of India is in constant touch with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Japanese Atomic Industrial Forum, and the World Association of Nuclear Operators.

In India, we are currently operating 20 nuclear power reactors. 18 of these are the indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors. Two reactors at Tarapur, TAPS-1& TAPS-2 are Boiling Water Reactors of the type being operated in Japan. A safety audit of these reactors has been completed recently. Indian nuclear plants have in the past met their safety standards. Following the earthquake in Bhuj on 26 January 2002 the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station continued to operate safely without interruption. Following the 2004 tsunami, the Madras Atomic Power Station was safely shutdown without any radiological consequences. It was possible to restart the plant in a few days after regulatory review.

I would like to assure Honourable Members of the House that the Government attaches the highest importance to nuclear safety. The Department of Atomic Energy and its agencies including the Nuclear Power Corporation of India have been instructed to undertake an immediate technical review of all safety systems of our nuclear power plants particularly with a view to ensuring that they would be able to withstand the impact of large natural disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes.

I would also like to inform the House that work is underway in the Department of Atomic Energy towards further strengthening India's national nuclear safety regulatory authority.

A Press Release issued in New Delhi on March 24 said that Prime on March 23 had a telephonic conversation with the Japanese Naoto Kan to convey his condolences and sympathies for the loss of life and property in the Tsunami and earth quack which struck Japan.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (PM) had a telephonic conversation yesterday with Prime Minister Naoto Kan of Japan. PM expressed deepest condolences at the loss of life and property in Japan consequent to the recent earthquake and tsunami. He reiterated that the people and Government of India stood solidly with the friendly people of Japan in their hour of grief. He also offered to make available any additional assistance that Japan may require. PM expressed confidence that Japan would emerge from the calamity as an even stronger nation.

The Japanese Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for India's solidarity and support, as the country coped with an enormous natural disaster. He was touched by Prime Minister's gesture of visiting the Japanese Embassy to sign the Condolence Book. He thanked PM for the assistance that India had provided. Similar sentiments were expressed by him in a letter to PM, in response to the latter's message of condolence sent on 11 March 2011.



**368. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the wide-ranging Foreign Office consultations held by Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao in Tokyo.**

**Tokyo, April 8, 2011.**

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao today held constructive and useful discussions with Japanese Vice-Foreign Minister Kenichiro Sasae and Deputy Foreign Minister Koro Bessho in Tokyo on bilateral, regional and global issues. She also called on Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto.

2. Foreign Secretary conveyed India's condolences at the loss of life and damage to property due to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, and reiterated India's offer to assist Japan in any way required. The Japanese side expressed their appreciation for the assistance provided by India for relief and rehabilitation including the sterling efforts of the 46-member team from the National Disaster Response Force of India.

3. Foreign Secretary conveyed that the Government of India had not yet

taken a decision on banning Japanese food imports. India will consult Japan prior to taking a decision on the advisory issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

4. The two sides agreed that the new Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue, announced by the Prime Ministers at their Annual Summit in Tokyo in October 2010, will be led by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. The first meeting of the Dialogue will take place later this year.

5. It was also agreed to establish an India-Japan-United States trilateral dialogue on regional and global issues of shared interest. These consultations, agreed to earlier by the U.S., will be conducted by the Foreign Ministries of the three countries.

6. Foreign Secretary reaffirmed the importance of nuclear power as a clean source of energy for India's continued growth. The two sides exchanged views on various aspects related to nuclear energy. Both sides will continue to discuss the way forward for cooperation in this sphere.

7. Foreign Secretary's wide-ranging consultations in Tokyo have provided a momentum to the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.



**369. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's talks with the Japanese Finance Minister.**

**Hanoi, May 5, 2011.**

In a bilateral meeting with the Japanese Finance Minister at Hanoi, Vietnam the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee expressed deep concern and sympathy over the recent natural calamities in Japan and extended all possible assistance. Shri Mukherjee said that India attach great priority to Strategic & Global Partnership with Japan and there is strong political consensus in India on the importance of advancing this partnership in all areas. He expressed confidence about continuity of India's Japan policy despite changes in Japan's government. He pointed out that in recent years, the bilateral relationship between the two countries have moved from strength to strength. Both the countries have a mutual stake in each other's prosperity and progress, particularly during these times of economic crisis, added the Minister.

The Finance Minister said that signing of CEPA on 16th Feb. 2011 (Yet to be ratified by Japanese Parliament) is an important mile stone in trade and economic relations between the two countries. After the CEPA comes into force, the bilateral trade is likely to increase substantially as has happened in the case of South Korea where after coming in to force of CEPA the bilateral trade during the first year increased by more than 40%, said Shri Mukherjee. Emphasizing that CEPA will provide win-win situation for both the countries, the Finance Minister said that with CEPA there will be more investment flow from Japan to India and Japan will get access to huge Indian market for its products. Indian professionals will be able to provide their services in Japan. Indian pharmaceutical companies will get treatment similar to Japanese companies in the matter of registration and release of generic medicine in the Japanese market.

The Finance Minister invited the Japanese Finance Minister to India for the 25th (silver jubilee) Anniversary of ADB's interface with India which is likely to be held from 17th to 19th October, 2011.

The Finance Minister said that in the wake of Chinese policy of raising the prices of rare earths and stopping supplies globally, collaboration in exploring rare earths reserves in India will be beneficial for both countries.

Shri Mukherjee emphasized that India and Japan need to work together to ensure that the Doha round of negotiations are concluded in a mutually beneficial way at the earliest possible and extended full support for the Japanese initiative for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in East Asia (CEPEA), aimed at building a more inclusive trade alliance in East Asia.

Finance Minister expressed happiness at Japanese support for big infrastructure projects such as dedicated freight corridor & Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. He also appreciated Japan's active involvement in the establishment of a new IIT in Hyderabad.

It may be recalled that India has been the largest recipient of ODA (Official Development Assistance) from Japan for the seventh consecutive year. As on March, 2011, 59 projects are under implementation with Japanese loan assistance & amount committed is approx Rs. 58000 crores (3.3 Trillion Yen). Trade statistics have also shown a marked increase in calendar year 2010. India's exports to Japan increased 51% to reach US\$ 5.64 Billion while India's imports from Japan increased 42.2% to reach US\$ 9.02 Billion. Japan ranks 6th largest in FDI inflow into India accounting for 3.62% of total FDI inflows into India.

India has also received good cooperation from Japan in International forums, including on the issue of reform of UN Security Council & regional architecture building in Asia.



**370. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the joint media interaction with Japanese Foreign Minister.**

**Tokyo, October 29, 2011.**

Foreign Minister Gemba

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

I am delighted to be in Tokyo once again. I am here for the 5th India – Japan Strategic Dialogue with Foreign Minister Gemba. We have already had discussions for over one hour and immediately after this press interaction we will continue our talks.

First, I conveyed the deep sympathy of the people and Government of India at the loss of life and property in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami of March 11. I told the Hon'ble Foreign Minister that India stands ready to help in whatever way required.

Second, I conveyed to Minister Gemba that the India – Japan Strategic & Global Partnership is stronger than ever before. My aim during this round of talks is to take our Partnership to an even higher level.

I suggested that the Indian and Japanese Navies conduct bilateral exercises apart from multilateral ones. Our Defence Minister will be in Tokyo in a few days and will discuss this subject in greater detail with his counterpart.

We also discussed the India-Japan-United States trilateral dialogue. We agreed that it will be held very soon. It will cover regional and international issues of concern to all three countries.

I thanked the Government of Japan for its consistent support to India's developmental effort by means of its ODA or Official Development Assistance. This year, Japan has maintained the level of ODA for India despite its focus on reconstruction activity after the earthquake and tsunami. This is a strong vote of confidence in India's growth story and exhibits the importance Japan attaches to our Strategic Partnership.

India is delighted with the implementation of our bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement since August 1 this year. We are confident that trade and investment between our countries will increase exponentially as a result of this measure.

The Government of Japan has removed 7 Indian entities from its Foreign End User List this year. This will boost high-technology trade between us. One of the entities removed from this List is Indian Rare Earths Limited. We now look forward to greater cooperation between Indian and Japanese firms in the rare earth sector.

I also discussed with Foreign Minister Gemba the status of civil nuclear cooperation between our countries. As you are aware we have had 3 rounds of negotiations on this subject. After my discussions today, I am optimistic on this score.

2012 will mark the 60th Anniversary year of the establishment of India – Japan diplomatic relations. We discussed how to celebrate this momentous occasion in both countries.

I will meet Prime Minister Noda later today. I have already conveyed that we look forward to welcoming him in India later this year for the Annual Summit between the Prime Ministers of India and Japan.

I am very happy with the results of my visit to Tokyo. I am confident that the India – Japan Strategic Partnership is stronger as a result of our talks today.

Thank You.



**371. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of Commerce Minister Anand Sharma with a Delegation of Senior Japanese Editors.**

**New Delhi, November 1, 2011.**

The Union Minister of Trade Industry and Textiles met a delegation of 13 editors and senior journalists from Kyodo News and its members representing different media organizations in Japan here today. During his interaction Shri Sharma appraised the delegation about the various steps that have been taken in the recent times to maintain the momentum of economic growth in India and steps taken to deepen the trade ties with the world in general and in Japan in particular.

The Minister informed that the bilateral trade between India and Japan during the year 2008-09 was of the volume of USD 10.91 billion. During the year 2009-10 the bilateral trade slightly declined to USD 10.36 billion. The bilateral trade during the year 2010-11 was of USD 13.362 billion. He also highlighted that historic Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed between India and Japan on 16th February 2011. This Agreement has come into force from 1st August, 2011. The CEPA is most comprehensive of all the agreements concluded by India so far as it covers more than 90% of the trade. The Japanese side has put 87% of their tariff lines under immediate tariff liberalization (zero duty when CEPA comes into force). A large number of these items are of India's export interest e.g. seafood, agricultural products such as mangoes, citrus fruits, spices, instant tea, most spirits such as rum, whiskies, vodka, etc. textile products such as woven fabrics, yarns, synthetic yarn, readymade garments, petro chemical & chemicals products, cement jewellery, etc. Under India-Japan CEPA the Japanese government shall accord no less favorable treatment to the applications of Indian companies than that it accords to the like applications of its own persons. This will greatly help Indian Pharmaceutical companies. Under India-Japan CEPA, Indian professionals will be able to provide their services and contribute towards further development of Japan's IT Sector. The Minister said that the agreement signifies the stability of our policy regime to our investment partner. Japanese investment is important not only from the financial resources point of view but also due to the embodied high technology and quality management practices. Under India-Japan CEPA India will be benefited by Japanese investments, technology and the world class management practices that come with it. Japan's Business community will get access to huge Indian market for their manufactured goods.

Shri Sharma lauded Japan's contribution in many infrastructure projects such as Delhi Metro and Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor. He also appreciated

Japan's interest in recently approved National manufacturing Policy. He praised the Japan's resilience in the aftermath of recent natural calamity and expressed India's solidarity with Japan.



**372. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd India-Japan Dialogue on Africa.**

**New Delhi, November 28, 2011.**

The 3rd round of India-Japan Dialogue on Africa took place in Tokyo, Japan during 24-25 November 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Gurjit Singh, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs while the Japanese side was led by Ambassador Sumio Kusaka, Director General for African Affairs in Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for Africa.

The two sides held wide ranging discussions on their respective cooperation with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa; economic cooperation with select African countries; issues of mutual political interest including regional affairs in Africa; UN Security Council Reforms and impact on Africa of major political developments in the region.

India and Japan also explored avenues of mutual cooperation for contributing to Africa's socio-economic development, peace and security. In this regard, the Indian delegation also held meetings with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).





**373. Briefing by Officer on Special Duty (XP) Syed Akbaruddin and Joint Secretary (East Asia) Gautam Bambawale on Japanese Prime Minister's visit.**

**New Delhi, December 26, 2011.**

**Officer on Special Duty (XP) (Shri Syed Akbaruddin):** Good afternoon everyone. I want to begin with an apology as inadvertently we are starting a little late. Sometimes there are things beyond our control. In any case, good afternoon and I wanted to thank all of you for attending this briefing.

While I have met some of you during the course of the last few days, I may not have met all of you. So, for those of you who may wonder about what an interloper like me is doing here, I wanted to introduce myself, just in case I have not met some of you previously. My name is Syed Akbaruddin and I hope to be your official interlocutor upon the departure of my good friend and predecessor Mr. Vishnu Prakash as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. On my right is Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia), who is familiar to many of you. I will, as is usual, make a few initial remarks and then we will open up to questions that you may have.

As you are aware, at the invitation of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Yoshiko Noda will be in Delhi on 27th and 28th December for the annual India-Japan Summit. It is the sixth annual meeting of the leaders of India and Japan since the institutionalization of this practice in 2006.

This is Prime Minister Noda's first visit to India, although he had met our Prime Minister on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September this year.

Prime Minister Noda is expected to hold extensive discussions with our Prime Minister both in restricted and delegation-level sessions. Following this a Joint Statement will be issued and there will be a brief media event. Prime Minister and Shrimati Gursharan Kaur will host a banquet for Prime Minister and Mrs. Hitomi Noda.

Apart from meetings with Prime Minister Singh who is his host, as is customary Prime Minister Noda will call on the Vice-President, meet EAM, Leader of the Opposition, and Chairperson of the UPA. Prime Minister Noda is also expected to speak at two events – one is at the ICWA and the other is a business luncheon. The logistical details and timings of all these activities will be provided separately to you.

India-Japan relations have rapidly diversified and significantly strengthened in recent years. As you are aware, India and Japan established a Strategic and

Global Partnership in 2006. This has been further strengthened by the vision for the Strategic and Global Partnership in the next decade set out in the Joint Statement issued last year at the conclusion of talks between Prime Minister and Prime Minister Noto Kan in Tokyo.

In accordance with the intensive engagement that characterizes the bilateral relationship, Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Noda are expected to discuss various bilateral, regional and global issues. Let me try and elaborate on some of these aspects.

Besides the annual summit meetings which have imparted the ties sustained momentum and strategic convergence, India and Japan have been holding regular interactions at various levels and in diverse areas. For example, Foreign Office consultations involving the Foreign Secretary and the Japanese Vice Foreign Minister were held in April this year. The External Affairs Minister was in Tokyo in October for the fifth round of the Strategic Dialogue. Raksha Mantri visited Tokyo in November for the Defence Dialogue. The India-Japan Dialogue on Africa took place also in the latter half of November. Finally, senior officials met for the first India-Japan-US trilateral dialogue last week in Washington.

India continues to be the largest recipient of Japanese ODA, of which we are very appreciative. There are more than sixty projects under implementation with Japanese loan assistance. The two leaders are likely to discuss Japanese involvement and assistance to major infrastructure development projects in India such as the Dedicated Freight Corridor West and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

Since the last India-Japan Summit, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been signed in February this year and has been operationalized on 1st August, 2011. The agreement which covers a vast gamut of trade, services, investment, intellectual property rights, customs and other trade related issues signifies the economic alignment of two of the largest economies in Asia and is expected to lead to a marked increase in our business and economic ties. Bilateral trade has shown a robust increase of 24 per cent during the period January-September this year over the corresponding period of last year, and it has reached US\$ 13.2 billion during that period. Currently, more than 800 Japanese companies operate in India. In 2010-11 Japanese FDI totaled US\$ 3.62 billion.

High technology trade and energy cooperation, including energy efficiency, renewable and civil nuclear energy, are also subjects that have been receiving high-level attention. Science and technology cooperation is emerging as a key element of the relationship.

India and Japan have a similar outlook on a host of regional and global issues. We have consulted on matters relating to maritime security and antipiracy measures, counterterrorism and disaster relief, as well as the regional architecture in East Asia. As fellow G4 members we have enunciated a common vision of an enlarged Security Council for the 21st century by expansion both in permanent and nonpermanent categories on the basis of contributions made to the maintenance of peace and security as well as the need for increased representation of developing countries in both categories.

In 2012 India and Japan will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in a befitting manner.

It is expected that the Joint Statement will be encompassing the broad canvas of issues which are the focus of our Strategic and Global Partnership.

With that I conclude my initial remarks. The floor is open for you to ask any questions to Gautam and to me.

**Question:** My question is to you, Akbar, as well as to Gautam. What is the current status of the nuclear deal negotiations? Obviously it is going to come up. But from what the Japanese media is writing about it, it is as good as over from the Japanese perspective. Can you throw some light on that? Secondly, can you talk about the bullet trains technology which Mr. Noda is going to hard sell during his trip and during his talks with the Prime Minister?

**Officer on Special Duty (XP):** Since Gautam was involved in both these, I will ask him to respond.

**Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale):** As all of you know, the DPJ Government announced in June of 2010 that they will commence negotiations with India on an agreement on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Since then we have had three formal rounds of negotiations. Unfortunately in the early part of 2011 the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident took place after the massive earthquake and tsunami which hit that country. Since then I think Japan has been focused inwardly including on how to address the issues which have been raised from the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. But I think I can be candid with you and tell you that there have been some informal consultations between the two sides even after the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. I think this is a subject which will be discussed between the two Prime Ministers at this annual summit.

On the bullet train or Shinkansen idea, I think when our External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna visited Tokyo on the 29th of October this year, Foreign Minister Gemba conveyed to him that the Japanese Government and the Japanese companies were very keen to leverage any possibilities there are in India for

bullet train technology and for actually having bullet trains in India. I believe - and you will have to check with the Ministry of Railways I am not certain about this - our Ministry of Railways also have within their perspective planning for the future the possibility of having bullet train technologies especially for short run passenger sectors in India. So, we will have to see how we can move forward on this and whether there is any scope for cooperation between India and Japan in this field.

**Question:** Sir, you have referred to the trilateral dialogue between India, US and Japan. Can you give us a brief of that dialogue and what is the future plan of action?

**Officer on Special Duty (XP):** Once again, since Gautam was part of that dialogue, maybe I will ask him to answer.

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** You are right. The dialogue took place in Washington on December 19th. This was the first of this kind of a trilateral dialogue between our three countries. So, to a certain extent it was a dialogue where we were trying to break the ice, trying to feel our way around. We had some very good discussions. I think all three countries at the working level decided that it was a fairly good discussion. Some of the issues which were discussed included counterterrorism; maritime security; how the three countries could work together in the East Asia Summit process; and it also focused on UN Security Council reform. The three countries have agreed that there will be a second round of these discussions at Tokyo sometime next year.

**Question:** Yesterday in Beijing the two countries have decided to have a Yuan and Yen direct trade. The newspapers this morning carried a report saying that there is going to be a ten billion dollar Rupee-Yuan agreement of some kind. Can you kindly give some details?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** What I can say is that I know that there are some discussions and negotiations which are ongoing between our Ministry of Finance and the Japanese Ministry of Finance. But my economics is not that good. So, I am afraid I will have to direct you to our Ministry of Finance for more details. Of course if it is discussed between the two Prime Ministers at the forthcoming annual summit, you can ask the two Prime Ministers directly at the media interaction that Akbar spoke about.

**Question:** I have a question on the civil nuclear agreement. Can I say that during the bilateral meeting Indian side will call on Japan to resume the official negotiations?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** I would just like to repeat what I said earlier that I am quite sure that this is a subject which will be discussed between the two

Prime Ministers. What will be the outcome of those discussions, I cannot tell you because I do not know and how the discussions will go. So, we can leave it to the two Prime Ministers and once again after their discussions I am sure they will convey to you what their decisions were.

**Question:** The Japanese Prime Minister will be in Beijing before he comes here. Is China likely to figure during the talks because there have been a lot of speculations about the Chinese rise? And will the developments in North Korea be discussed?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** The bilateral agenda between India and Japan is so vast and so extensive that I think most of the time that the two Prime Ministers talk to each other will be spent on our bilateral relations, will be spent on discussing issues between India and Japan. I am not sure as far as regional issues or global issues are concerned what exactly will come up. It is possible that North Korea could be discussed especially because this is a recent development. I think on the question of North Korea, we will be wanting to listen to what Prime Minister Noda has to convey to us, especially the assessments that Japanese Government has about the future course of events in North Korea. But I am not certain whether that will be discussed. It all depends on the time and what priority both sides place on this issue.

**Question:** In your preliminary remarks you said that FDI from Japan is going up. Could you give a sense of which are the areas where we are seeing more FDI investments from Japan? Are there some economic related pacts which will probably be signed during the visit?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Most of Japanese FDI in India is in the manufacturing sector and I think that is a good thing. We are hoping to see more Japanese FDI coming to India. We tell the Japanese side from time to time that we are making our own moves to improve the investment environment in India. The main sectors in which Japanese FDI comes is automobiles, electronics, and a few other related sectors. But we are hoping to see an increase across the board in Japanese FDI into India. And we are quite certain that the recently implemented Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between our two countries will help in increasing Japanese FDI into India.

**Officer on Special Duty (XP):** Just to add to what Gautam mentioned, apart from automobiles and electronics, it is also in the service sector, which is financial and nonfinancial services, and in the telecommunications sector.

**Question:** Gautam, not so long ago when it was decided that there will be a quadrilateral dialogue between the United States, India, Japan and Australia, the Chinese had expressed certain concerns and that idea was dropped. When

the trilateral meeting was taking place in Washington, Karl Inderfurth had made a certain statement that this is not really meant against any particular country and all that. Did the Chinese raise any concerns about the trilateral dialogue that started last week?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Let me repeat that the trilateral dialogue between India, Japan and the United States is not aimed at any third country. It is aimed at leveraging some of the possibilities of cooperation between our three countries. And no, the Chinese did not raise any concerns, at least with us. I am not aware of whether they raised anything with the other countries involved. But with India they have not raised this question at all.

**Question:** I just wanted to ask what is the kind of outcome we are expecting on the sixty ongoing projects like the Delhi Corridor? What will come out of these bilateral meetings? Exactly what are the objectives we are seeking to achieve on this?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** You are absolutely right. Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) has made a big difference to the people of India. And we are sitting in the city of Delhi and you all know what an important development the Delhi Metro has been. It has made life much easier for ordinary citizens of the city. Now Japanese ODA is all going into other similar projects. I can at least recount two others – one is the Bengaluru Metro and the second is the Kolkata Metro. We think that these projects are going to make infrastructure development in India move ahead faster which in turn has a direct impact on not just economic activities within the country but also has a direct impact on the quality of life of ordinary citizens in India. So, I think each of these projects including the flagship projects of Dedicated Freight Corridor West and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor are going to contribute immeasurably to the development of India, are going to contribute to the wellbeing of our people.

**Question:** Sir, I would like to ask about any MoUs that are likely to be signed between the two Prime Ministers. And on the ODA, any assurances from the Japanese side on some ODA through JITA over the Delhi Metro project which apparently India has apprehension that might not go forward because of the Fukushima?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Let me start with the ODA question first. At the start of this calendar year, especially after the tsunami and the nuclear power plant accident at Fukushima took place, we realized that Japan would have tremendous requirements of resources for its own relief and reconstruction. So, we had thought at that point in time that there may be a cut in Official Development Assistance this year to India. But the fact is that the Japanese

have maintained the level of ODA to India despite the need for resources internally within Japan. That is something I think which we are very happy about, we are very glad about, and we thank the Government of Japan for maintaining this ODA.

**Question:** Can you give us the latest figure of ODA?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Let me give you a rough and ready figure. I must direct you to the Ministry of Finance for more precise figures, but the amount of ODA committed by Japan over the last four financial years has roughly been of the magnitude of 200 billion yen every year. Exchange rates fluctuate so often. So, you can make the calculation.

On the MoUs, let us see what is the outcome. I do not want to foretell or forecast what the outcomes of the annual summit will be. So, let us wait for the summit to be done and then you will have an opportunity to talk to the two Prime Ministers about outcomes and so on.

**Question:** Areas?

**Officer on Special Duty (XP):** We have never prejudged the outcome of any summit. So, we will leave it at that.

Thank you very much.



**374. Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during the Address by the Japanese Prime Minister on India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.**

**New Delhi, December 28, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan,  
Ambassador Sudhir Devare, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs,  
Distinguished members of the delegation from Japan,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Vice-President of the Indian Council of World Affairs, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr Yoshihiko Noda, Prime Minister of Japan to this event. We are grateful to His Excellency Noda for sparing his valuable time to address the gathering today.

I am strongly of the view that the India-Japan bilateral relationship is a splendid example of a successful and effective foreign policy working for the benefit of the people of the two countries. We also are extremely privileged as Prime Minister Noda is addressing us at a time when our two countries are set to celebrate the year 2012 as the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

I am confident that Prime Minister Noda's message and vision for the future of our relations, both at the bilateral as well as at the global level, will find great resonance and meaning with the people of India.

Excellency, we have much to celebrate in our bilateral relationship. Although India-Japan relations have roots in history, the contemporary and dynamic nature of our engagement makes it one of the important pillars of strength for the global order. The strength of our relationship lies not only in the past but also very much in the modern ideals of democracy, freedom of expression, human rights and rule of law. This provides us the conviction and moral authority to work closely together for the benefit of our peoples.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

India-Japan relations have transcended the bilateral context and have acquired relevance for maintaining regional and global peace, security and well-being. Accordingly, it gives me great pleasure to note that the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership for peace and prosperity is being continuously energized and invigorated with new dimensions as we jointly countenance the challenges of the 21st century.



There are various aspects of our bilateral relationship which are unique to India and Japan, such as effective utilization of overseas development assistance and have now become the model for similar cooperation with other countries.

India and Japan may be geographically far apart, but I believe that our two countries live in the hearts and minds of our peoples. We in India have great admiration for Japan and the people of Japan.

Excellency, our appreciation of the strength and resilience of the Japanese people rose when we witnessed how you dealt with consequences of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. We are even more impressed by your response to the tragedy and by your determination to maintain the level of development assistance to India.

Japan's support has helped us to make a difference to the lives of many people in India. Just across the street from where we are standing Mr. Prime Minister, stands a lasting symbol of India-Japan cooperation i.e. the airport express line of the Delhi Metro.

More such cooperative endeavours are taking shape all over the country and will change India's economic and social landscape forever. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project and the Delhi and Bengaluru Metros are outstanding projects, which touch the lives of people and bring home the fruits of a responsive foreign policy. ...



**375. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during joint media interaction with Prime Minister of Japan.**

**New Delhi, December 28, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Noda,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

I am delighted to welcome Prime Minister Noda on his first visit to India for the Annual India-Japan Summit. This summit has become one of the most productive and substantive events in our diplomatic calendar.

Prime Minister Noda and I have completed very fruitful and wide-ranging discussions aimed at further expanding and strengthening the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

Our partnership has gone beyond just its traditional but very important economic dimensions. It now includes cooperation in the political and security and high technology spheres. Since our last summit, Japan has removed seven Indian entities from the End User List.

Our cooperation on regional and global issues and non-traditional threats to security, such as piracy and maritime security has significantly strengthened. We have a complete meeting of minds on most issues of concern to us.

We expressed satisfaction at the progress in our economic partnership. Our Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement has come into force since August 2011. After a dip in the previous year, trade turnover reached almost 15 billion US dollars in 2010 and the trend in 2011 is equally encouraging.

Negotiations have begun on a Social Security Agreement, and the first Ministerial Level Economic Dialogue is scheduled for 2012.

Over 700 Japanese affiliated companies have operations in India. Yet Japanese FDI inflows to India account for just over one percent of Japan's total outward foreign direct investment flows. We would like to see much more Japanese investment and technology transfer in India, which we will facilitate.

I thanked Prime Minister Noda for maintaining the level of Official Development Assistance despite the demand for resources for the reconstruction of areas in northern Japan following the earthquake and tsunami earlier this year.

We reviewed the progress of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. We both recognize the importance of completing the DFC-West project by December 2016. This will significantly enhance our railway infrastructure. The DMIC is now moving from the planning

to the implementation stage. The Government of India has allocated long-term financial resources for this major project. We look forward to a similar commitment from the Japanese side.

Prime Minister Noda and I discussed the possibility of a new Chennai – Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project in south India, where many Japanese firms have invested. We have instructed our officials to look into the modalities of cooperation.

Japan has offered India high speed rail technology for our passenger networks. We welcome Japan's interest in this new area.

As part of our energy cooperation, we reviewed the ongoing discussions on furthering civil nuclear cooperation between our countries. These are moving in the right direction.

We have agreed to encourage Indian and Japanese firms to cooperate in the area of rare earths and rare metals.

We have reviewed important regional and global issues, including the situation in Afghanistan and the challenges posed by the slowdown of the international economy. If India and Japan can build virtuous cycles of growth, this will contribute immensely to the early revival of the global economy.

We have agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation within the East Asia Summit process and in creating conditions for a prosperous, open and inclusive architecture for regional cooperation.

We renewed our intention to work both bilaterally and within the G-4 for the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

I am extremely happy with this year's Annual Summit and its outcomes which are reflected in the Joint Statement signed by Prime Minister Noda and me.

I thank you.



**376. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on trade with Japan.****New Delhi, December 28, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma the Union Minister for Commerce, Industry & Textiles in his address to business delegation led by Mr. Yoshihiko Noda the Prime Minister of Japan, said that, "The year 2011 is a watershed year in our relations as we signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) during my visit to Japan in February. The signing of CEPA has begun a whole new chapter in our economic partnership, unlocking the true potential of trade between our two countries. I am hopeful that CEPA will further deepen economic engagement in terms of Trade in Goods, Services, and Investment; contributing immensely to mutual prosperity". Japan is an invaluable & strategic partner in the process of India's development. India-Japan has to play major role in the globally changing economic landscape, he added.

Shri Sharma stated that, as a result of coming in to force of CEPA, the bilateral trade is likely to increase substantially and expressed hope that the target of US \$ 25 billion by 2014 will be achieved during the specified period. The bilateral trade between India and Japan during the year 2009-10 was of the volume of US \$ 10.36 billion. The bilateral trade during the year 2010-11 reached to US \$ 13.823

Informing about the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor the Commerce Minister said, "The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor envisages investment of US \$ 100 billion and we have now decisively moved from the stage of planning and design to the stage of implementation." On 24th October 2011, the National Manufacturing Policy was unveiled and seven industrial townships have been identified as the first National Investment and Manufacturing Zones based on models of sustainable development and smart communities, which has been perfected in Japan. The Japanese Government is committing US \$ 4.5 billion for implementation of this project.

Asking for Japanese Government to invest in infrastructure sector, Shri Sharma expressed that, "Over the next couple of decades, we will see massive expansion in Indian infrastructure. In the coming 5 years itself, we have targeted to invest over a trillion dollars in creating capacities of infrastructure which will further catalyze India's economic growth. India has a structured energy dialogue with Japan which seeks to promote a structured cooperation in this sector. India has made rapid strides in the renewable energy sector.

In the field of agro-processing, we aim to double our food processing capabilities in the next 5 years and the establishment of 64 fully equipped Agro Processing Zones and Food Parks provides an area of immense opportunities. This is a segment where Japan can be an able partner to develop cross sectoral linkages in the entire value addition chain from agriculture to retail, packaging and logistics, the Minister said.

The Minister observed that, India's pharmaceutical sector is acquiring a global leadership position and Indian generics today constitute nearly a fifth of global supplies. Our pharmaceutical companies can be of immense value in providing affordable healthcare which is much needed in a country of Japan's demographic profile. India also has a huge pool of trained pharmaceutical scientists, doctors and researchers, which opens up avenues for joint collaborative research for new drug discoveries along with joint IPRs.



**377. Joint Statement on the 'Vision for the Enhancement of India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership' upon entering the year of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations.**

**New Delhi, December 28, 2011.**

1. The Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, is currently paying a State Visit to India for the Annual Summit of the Prime Ministers on 27-28 December 2011 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh. The two Prime Ministers held extensive talks on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest on 28 December 2011.
2. In the context of the two countries commemorating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2012, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that India and Japan enjoy deep mutual understanding and vibrant people-to-people contact as the relationship is based on universal values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law, as well as wide-ranging strategic and economic interests. They stressed the need to enhance the Strategic and Global Partnership for peace and prosperity.
3. Prime Minister Noda expressed, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, his profound gratitude for the heartfelt sympathy and support extended to them from the Government and people of India following the Great East Japan Earthquake, and emphasised his resolve to make utmost efforts for a reconstruction open to the world. Prime Minister Singh reiterated his solidarity with Japan and expressed his confidence that the people of Japan will overcome the calamity with their unwavering spirit and that Japan's economy will recover to its full strength soon. Prime Minister Singh welcomed Japan's initiative to strengthen international cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction, including the holding of an international conference in the Tohoku region in 2012. Prime Minister Noda conveyed his decision to invite approximately six hundred Indian youth under the new "Kizuna (bond) Project" aimed at promoting global understanding of Japan's revival in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. Prime Minister Singh welcomed the project and assured cooperation by the Government of India for its success.
4. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the significance of Annual Summits between them. They expressed satisfaction at Ministerial-level and other policy dialogues such as those between Foreign Ministers and Defense Ministers. They noted that the Ministerial Level Economic Dialogue, to be held at the earliest possible opportunity in 2012, would further enhance their economic partnership by giving it strategic and long-term policy orientation. The two Prime Ministers expressed hope that the India-Japan Ministerial Business-Government

Policy Dialogue between the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan will be held in 2012. The two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of various working-level discussions between the two countries, and welcomed the launch of the India-Japan-US trilateral dialogue, which would deepen strategic and global partnership amongst the three countries.

5. Recognising the growing security and defense cooperation between the two countries, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force to be held in 2012.

6. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the entry into force of India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 1 August 2011. Asserting that CEPA is an important milestone in the trade and economic relations between the two countries, they expressed hope that CEPA will further deepen their economic engagement in terms of trade in goods, services, investment and contribute immensely to mutual prosperity.

7. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the commencement of negotiations on an agreement between India and Japan on Social Security, which will contribute to the promotion of economic activities by private sectors of both countries. They instructed their relevant authorities to work towards an early conclusion of the negotiations.

8. Prime Minister Singh expressed his appreciation to the Government and the people of Japan for their unwavering support to India's development, even in the midst of Japan's reconstruction efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake. Prime Minister Noda reaffirmed that the Government of Japan would continue to provide its Official Development Assistance (ODA) at a substantial level to encourage India's efforts towards social and economic development including in the area of infrastructure development. In this context, Prime Minister Noda pledged that the Government of Japan would extend loans totaling 134.288 billion yen to two new projects, namely, "Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project Phase III" and "West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project" as the projects of first batch in the fiscal year 2011. Prime Minister Singh appreciated the commitment by Prime Minister Noda.

9. The two Prime Ministers emphasised the importance of an early realisation of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) which runs through the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) with Japan's support. In this context, both sides will expedite work on Phase II of the DFC with a view to starting implementation of the project as early as possible.

10. The two Prime Ministers shared the vision for the development of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) that the governments and private

sectors of the two countries cooperate in a mutually complementary manner to develop an environmentally sustainable, long-lasting and technologically advanced infrastructure in the region of DMIC. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the launch of a 9 billion dollar India-Japan DMIC facility. Noting the significant progress made by India's contribution of a 175 billion rupee fund for development of trunk infrastructure, Prime Minister Noda announced the intention of the Government of Japan to make available for DMIC projects Japan's public and private finance totaling 4.5 billion dollars in the next five years, which includes appropriate financing from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) as well as ODA loan. The two Prime Ministers felt that the DMIC Project would redefine the character of infrastructure growth in India through advanced technology and green growth.

They also felt that active involvement of Japanese agencies and companies would provide an impetus for the development of DMIC. Towards this end, they welcomed Japan's active involvement through equity participation in DMIC Development Corporation (DMICDC) as well as provision of technical expertise, board members and experts. In order to effectively utilise the facility and to facilitate investments by Japanese companies, India will endeavour to resolve issues within the existing regulatory framework and guidelines of capital regulations, and an inter-departmental consultation mechanism will also be established by India to provide expeditious solutions to issues raised by Japan during the course of implementation of the DMIC Project. To meet the energy requirements in the DMIC region, adequate gas for power projects of DMIC would be made available at reasonable rates and in a timely manner. They expressed satisfaction at the steady progress of the individual Early Bird Projects and Smart Community Projects in the DMIC. In particular, the two Prime Ministers decided to accelerate the efforts by the relevant authorities for an early realisation of the following projects: seawater desalination at Dahej, Gujarat; a microgrid system using large-scale photo-voltaic (PV) power generation at Neemrana Industrial Area in Rajasthan; and gas-fired independent power producer (IPP) in Maharashtra, recognising their potential to serve as a successful model of India-Japan cooperation on the DMIC.

11. The two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of infrastructure development in the areas between Chennai and Bengaluru, where an increasing number of Japanese companies including SMEs have made direct investments to establish their manufacturing base or other forms of business presence. Against this background, they decided to strengthen efforts to improve infrastructure such as ports, industrial parks and their surrounding facilities in Ennore, Chennai and the adjoining areas. Prime Minister Noda conveyed Japan's intention to extend financial and technical support to the preparation of India's Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan of this region based on which



planned development and work on related facilities could be taken up expeditiously. The two Prime Ministers directed their officials concerned to speedily operationalise the modalities for preparation of the Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan and get it completed at the earliest.

12. Prime Minister Noda expressed his desire that Japan's technologies and expertise be utilised in the development of India's high-speed railway system. Prime Minister Singh welcomed Japan's interest in promoting the development of high-speed railway system in India.

13. Recognising the importance of upgradation of speed of passenger trains to 160-200 kmph on existing Delhi-Mumbai route of the western leg of the Golden Rail Corridor for India's economic development, the two Prime Ministers looked forward to continued cooperation. They welcomed the progress of pre-feasibility study with Japan's financial and technical assistance, and expressed hope that the final report will be ready by February 2012 and feasibility study of the project will be undertaken with Japan's cooperation in 2012.

14. The two Prime Ministers recognised the importance of cooperation in the development of expressways in India including through capacity building.

15. Amid global economic uncertainties, ensuring the stability of the financial markets is all the more important for the stable economic development of the two countries. To this end, the two Prime Ministers decided to enhance the earlier bilateral currency swap arrangement from 3 to 15 billion US dollars. The two Prime Ministers expressed hope that this enhancement will further strengthen financial cooperation, contribute to ensuring financial market stability and further develop growing economic and trade ties between the two countries.

16. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance of civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Noda stated that Japan would provide information with transparency regarding the status of the ongoing investigation on the causes of the nuclear accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, as well as its efforts to enhance nuclear safety. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress made to date in negotiations between India and Japan on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and directed their negotiators to exert further efforts towards a conclusion of the Agreement, having due regard to each side's relevant interests, including nuclear safety. In this regard, Prime Minister Noda explained Japan's position.

17. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of energy cooperation. In this context, they expressed hope that the 5th meeting of the India-Japan Energy Dialogue will be held in 2012.

18. Recognising the importance of rare earths and rare metals in industries of both countries, the two Prime Ministers decided to enhance bilateral cooperation in this area by enterprises of their countries. They decided that Indian and Japanese enterprises would jointly undertake industrial activities to produce and export rare earths at the earliest.

19. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress made in 2011 on facilitation of trade in high technology between the two countries. They asked the relevant authorities to maintain dialogue to maximise the potential of high technology trade keeping in mind the strategic partnership between the two countries.

20. The two Prime Ministers welcomed progress on bilateral engagements in Science and Technology (S&T), including the India-Japan Cooperative Science Programme. The maturity of the S&T relationship is reflected in the cutting edge joint R&D projects being implemented in frontier areas like molecular sciences, advanced materials including surface & interface sciences, modern biology & biotechnology, astronomy & space sciences, and manufacturing sciences. The establishment of a beam-line facility at the Photon Factory of KEK, Tsukuba preferentially for use by Indian researchers in the area of material sciences is another aspect of the mature S&T relationship. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the developments under “Committee on India-Japan ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Strategy for Economic Growth”, including joint researches in the fields of mobile broadcasting and e-learning systems. They shared the view that they will further enhance business tie-ups, explore opportunities for Japanese industries in electronics system design and manufacturing in India, collaborative R&D activities and policy cooperation in the field of ICT including smart network and digital contents, through close bilateral cooperation.

21. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the expansion of India-Japan collaboration for the development of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) including campus development, and the steady progress in the establishment of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing Jabalpur (IIITDM-J) with Japan’s support. The two Prime Ministers appreciated the progress of the Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM) Programme and acknowledged that the programme not only helps India’s manufacturing sector but has become a showcase of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. They welcomed the extension of the programme till March 2013. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that since 2007, approximately 2,300 Indian youth have visited Japan through “Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth” (JENESYS) programme, and expressed their resolve to continue efforts to facilitate people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

22. The two Prime Ministers expressed their expectation that the strengthening of cooperation in creative industries, which range from design, apparel, fashion, food, house-hold goods, music, movies, animation and manga, and traditional craft, would further promote and deepen mutual understanding of the two countries.

23. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit (EAS) as a forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. They acknowledged the significant role the EAS can play as a forum for building an open, inclusive and transparent architecture of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. They welcomed the participation of the United States of America and the Russian Federation in the EAS. They expressed support for the EAS as a Leaders-led forum with ASEAN as the driving force. In the context of the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations and the Declaration on ASEAN Connectivity adopted at the 6th EAS, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to the promotion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) as a step towards attaining economic integration in East Asia. They also welcomed the progress to establish ASEAN Plus Working Groups and decided to cooperate in the Groups. They also expressed their support for ASEAN Connectivity and considered the possibility of having a "Connectivity Master Plan Plus" which would develop further linkages between ASEAN and its partners, with appropriate reference to the "Comprehensive Asia Development Plan", and welcomed support and inputs from Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for attaining economic integration in East Asia. They noted with satisfaction that CEPA between India and Japan is an important step for regional integration.

24. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of India and Japan, as two maritime nations in Asia, to the universally-agreed principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other relevant international maritime law. They affirmed expansion of cooperation in maritime security including safety and freedom of navigation and anti-piracy activities, by promoting bilateral and multilateral exercises, and through information sharing, as well as dialogues. In this context, they also welcomed the joint exercise between the Indian Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard to be held in January 2012.

25. The two Prime Ministers appreciated the progress made with regard to the establishment of the Nalanda University and reiterated their support to its revival as an icon of Asian renaissance and as an international institute of excellence. India welcomed Japan's intention to provide tangible contribution

to this initiative including through measures to enhance academic exchange and human resource development.

26. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that three rounds of India-Japan Dialogue on Africa have been concluded. They expressed satisfaction that areas of cooperation on Africa have been identified including peace keeping operations and economic development.

27. The two Prime Ministers expressed their commitment to continuing their assistance to Afghanistan so that it would become a stable, democratic and pluralistic state, free from terrorism and extremism. They emphasised the importance of a coherent and united international commitment to Afghan-led initiatives, in order to make transition irreversible through reconciliation and re-integration, sustainable development and regional cooperation, while adhering to the principles expressed in the Bonn Conference. In this context, Prime Minister Singh welcomed Japan's intention to host a ministerial conference in Tokyo in July 2012. The two Prime Ministers pledged to explore opportunities for consultation on their respective assistance projects, including those projects implemented in the neighbouring countries, that advance Afghanistan's mid- and long-term development and build its civilian capacity.

28. The two Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. Prime Minister Noda strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on 13 July 2011 and in Delhi on 7 September 2011. They resolved to develop greater cooperation in combating terrorism through sharing information and utilising the India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, as well as cooperation in multilateral forums such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF). Reaffirming the importance of counter-terrorism cooperation at the United Nations, the two Prime Ministers recognised the urgent need to finalise and adopt the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations and called upon all States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues expeditiously.

29. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Noda stressed the importance of bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date. Prime Minister Singh reiterated India's commitment to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to working together for immediate commencement and an early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament, bearing in mind the United Nations

General Assembly resolution on "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" (A/RES/66/44). They decided that both countries would enhance cooperation in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through dialogues, including at bilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation meetings as well as at the Conference on Disarmament. They reiterated that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. They called upon the need to address the challenges of nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation. They also reaffirmed the importance of working together towards the success of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012.

30. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the outcome of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban in December 2011 and stressed the need for maintaining close cooperation to ensure a mutually acceptable outcome of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. Prime Minister Noda emphasised the importance of global efforts toward low-carbon growth and climate resilient world, referring to Japan's vision and actions to that end. In this context, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the need to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation to promote sustainable development, including actions for GHG emissions reductions, promotion of low-carbon technologies, products and services, etc. Prime Minister Singh noted the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Initiative proposed by Prime Minister Noda at the East Asia Summit. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that the two countries cooperate with each other for a successful outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. The two Prime Ministers expressed their hope for the success of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP11) to be held in Hyderabad, India in 2012.

31. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to realise reform of the United Nations Security Council, including its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories. They concurred in participating actively on this basis in the intergovernmental negotiations in the UN General Assembly and decided to redouble their efforts, so as to make the Security Council more representative, legitimate, effective, and responsive to the realities of the international community in the 21st century.

32. The two Prime Ministers expressed their resolve to continue to maintain and strengthen multilateral trading system, based on the outcome of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Geneva this month.

33. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the role of the G-20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation that offers opportunities for developed and emerging countries to have discussions and promote

cooperation. Considering various risks that the world economy is facing today, they reiterated their commitment to ensure effective implementation of the G-20 Cannes Summit decisions including the Cannes Action Plan, which aims to achieve the Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. They expressed concern over the slowing of global economic growth and tensions in the financial markets due to sovereign risks in Europe. They shared an expectation that the decisions of the European Council of 9 December 2011 towards stabilisation of the financial markets and strengthening of economic policy coordination and governance would be implemented effectively and in a timely manner through coordinated efforts by the European leaders. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at G-20 Cannes Summit on anti-protectionism.

34. The two Prime Ministers expressed their determination to promote their cooperative efforts in the remaining period for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and even beyond 2015, focusing on individuals and human welfare.

35. Prime Minister Noda expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality of Prime Minister Singh and the Government of India. Prime Minister Noda extended an invitation to Prime Minister Singh for the next Annual Bilateral Summit in Japan in 2012 at a mutually convenient date to be decided through diplomatic channels. Prime Minister Singh accepted the invitation with pleasure.

**Dr. Manmohan Singh**  
Prime Minister of the Republic of India

**Mr. Yoshihiko Noda**  
Prime Minister of Japan



**KOREA, REPUBLIC OF****378. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of the India – Korea Business Forum.****New Delhi, January 20, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, speaking at the India-Korea Business forum along with Mr. Kim Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea here today said that the signing of CEPA with Republic of Korea in August 2009 underscored our strong commitment to deepening trade and investment linkages between our two countries. He further stated that it has now been a year since the agreement has come into force and in 2010 the bilateral trade between our two countries stood at nearly US \$ 15 billion, witnessing a growth of nearly 44% over the previous year. Though in a recessionary backdrop the trade between our two countries has grown five fold in the last 8 years. Shri Sharma also informed that: "I am confident that as exporters on both sides develop a better understanding of the advantages presented by this agreement through a liberal tariff regime, we should easily be in a position to achieve the trade target of US\$ 30 billion by 2014. The services economy will, particularly benefit from a liberalized regime on both sides and will form an important building block for augmenting the bilateral trade between our two countries. We view the agreement with the Republic of Korea to serve as an economic bridge between South Asia and the larger East Asian economy, paving the way for a larger regional economic integration across the continent of Asia". The Forum was attended by senior officials from both the countries and representatives from trade and apex chambers.

Shri Sharma said that in the next decade, India is set to absorb investment of over US \$ 1.7 trillion in infrastructure alone. He informed that the Korean Steel Major POSCO Project in the State of Orissa will not only produce 12 million tonnes of steel, bringing in an investment of over US \$ 12 billion, but would also create nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs. It will also have considerable spin off for large scale mineral development, infrastructure development through captive port, road hubs, downstream activities in automobile and construction, he added.

During the interaction, Shri Sharma mentioned that over the last three years, India has received FDI in excess of US \$ 100 billion and we expect that in the next five years we should be receiving FDI equity inflows in excess of US \$ 250 billion. "I would like to particularly mention that Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project represents a whole range of opportunity for establishing new urban townships, investment regions, logistic hubs in an economically

vibrant part of India. We welcome Korean business community to join hands with us in our endeavour to develop this Corridor". Shri Sharma also said that we are in the process of establishing large investment regions - National Manufacturing Investment Zones to attract investments in the entire gamut of manufacturing industry. "We invite Korean investments in these investment regions for the development of these regions and also for establishment of manufacturing bases", he added.

In the automobile sector, India is fast emerging as a global design hub for small auto manufacture. Korean auto major like Hyundai have gained considerable popularity in the Indian market. Working together, Indian and Korean companies can develop a model which reaches out to the larger markets in East Asian region. Hyundai Automobiles through its plant in Chennai has expanded operations in the last decade and today is producing 600,000 units a year.

While concluding his address at the Forum, Shri Sharma noted that Asia decisively will have a pivotal role to play in the emerging order and there is no doubt in my mind that partnership between India and Korea will be one of the defining themes of this trend. "Our relationship with South Korea forms the corner stone of India's 'Look East policy' which has defined our engagement with the larger East Asian region", he further added.





**379. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on India – Korea Ministerial joint Committee discussion on Bilateral Trade, Economic Cooperation and Progress in Doha Round.**

**New Delhi, January 20, 2011.**

The first meeting of the Joint Committee at the Ministerial Level (“Ministerial Joint Committee”) to review the implementation of the India-Korea CEPA was held here today. Mr. KIM Jong-Hoon, Minister for Trade and Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, had extensive discussion on bilateral trade and economic relations, trade policy and progress in the Doha Round of WTO talks. The Korean minister led a high-level delegation comprises business, professionals and government officials. The Ministers reviewed the progress in trade between the two countries since the entry into force of the CEPA from January 1, 2010 and expressed satisfaction that as per the trade statistics bilateral trade had increased by approximately 40% during the first year. They expressed hope that bilateral investment would also increase further as a result of the CEPA. A Joint Committee at the Joint Secretary level for India and Director General level for Korea as envisaged under the CEPA was formally established to assist the Ministerial Joint Committee in ensuring the effective operation and implementation of the Agreement. The Ministers took note of the difficulties faced by the business communities of both countries relating to visa procedures and hoped that the current negotiation on simplification of visa procedures would soon be concluded. The Ministers also expressed hope that, after completion of necessary formalities, the Social Security Agreement, which was signed in October 2010, would come into force in the near future that would help both Indian and Korean professionals working in each other’s country. The Ministers shared the view that both countries should work further to encourage mutual investment. The two sides identified measures to be taken for enhancing Korea’s investment in India. The Ministers also welcomed the fact that the two countries agreed, in principle, to conclude an agreement on co-production of broadcasting programmes and to expedite the necessary procedures in signing and bringing it into force as early as possible. They expressed hope that the agreement would enhance bilateral cooperation in the audio-visual sector. The Ministers shared the view that a strong multilateral trading system is vital for ensuring future growth in the world economy and committed themselves to continue their cooperation to achieve an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive conclusion of the Doha Development Round as early as possible. It was decided that the next Ministerial Joint Committee meeting would be convened in Seoul in 2012.



**380. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson & Joint Secretary (East Asia) on President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil's State visits to Republic of Korea and Mongolia.**

**New Delhi, July 22, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. My colleague Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale and I would like to brief you on the forthcoming state visits of Rashtrapatiji first to the Republic of Korea and next to Mongolia from the 24th to 30th July, at the invitation of her counterparts.

Let me give you an idea of the delegation and the broad programme. She would be accompanied by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Mr. Mahadeo Singh Khandela; parliamentarians including Mr. Manikrao Gavit from Lok Sabha; Ms. Sushila Tiriya; and Shri Lepcha from the Rajya Sabha, besides a number of senior officials including Secretary to the President, Secretary (East) MEA, Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale and others. She would also be accompanied by a large business delegation to both the countries.

Rashtrapatiji leaves on Sunday the 24th for Seoul. On Monday the 25th there would be a ceremonial welcome by the President of South Korea followed by delegation-level talks, signing of agreements, meeting the press. She next goes to pay floral tributes at Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's statue. On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev, as a very special gesture and with the encouragement of President Lee a bust of Gurudev was installed in Seoul and was unveiled by Hon. Speaker Shrimati Meira Kumar when she was in Seoul in May this year.

In the evening, a banquet would be hosted in her honour by the President of South Korea and the First Lady. On 26th she would be visiting Samsung company. Next, there will be a business meeting, there will be a meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly, and in the evening a reception by the Ambassador. On Wednesday the 27th, the Foreign Minister would be paying a courtesy call on her where after she leaves for Ulaanbaatar.

On Thursday the 28th there is the ceremonial welcome and thereafter there would be delegation-level talks, signing of agreements. Next she would pay homage at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. There will be calls on her by senior leaders and dignitaries of Mongolia including a representative of Mongolian women parliamentarians.

On July 29, there will be a call on her by the Chairman of Parliament which would be followed by the India-Mongolia Business Forum. Next she would witness the national festival called Nadam, where a cultural show would be put

up in her honour. She would be visiting a couple of prominent monasteries. And on Saturday the 30th she would head back for New Delhi.

**First, Republic of Korea.** As you know, we have excellent relations with South Korea. You would recall the landmark visit of President Lee in January 2010 when he was also the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. During the visit it was decided to upgrade our Long-term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security, which was established in October 2004, to a Strategic Partnership. We see our strategic partnership with South Korea as a factor of peace, development and stability in Asia. Robust relations with ROK are not only a foreign policy priority, but one of the key objectives of our Look East policy that was unveiled in 1992.

Soon thereafter the first ever visit by the Indian Prime Minister then Shri Narasimha Rao was paid to South Korea in 1993, which paved the way for building an edifice of cooperative partnership. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Seoul in November last year for the G20 Summit. One of the very effective mechanisms for imparting greater momentum to our ties, that have grown exponentially, is the India-ROK Joint Commission which was established in 1996. And the sixth meeting of the Joint Commission co - chaired by EAM and the Foreign Minister of South Korea – was held in Seoul in June 2010.

On the economic side we have the Joint Trade Committee and the Joint Investment Committee which is headed by the Finance Ministers of both countries and which aims at imparting direction and stimulus, to our economic and trade ties that constitute the bedrock of the relationship. The last meeting of the two Committees was held in January 2011, this year, in New Delhi.

While we have witnessed a steady strengthening of political partnership, this has also created an even more enabling environment, for expanding our trade and economic partnership. I would like to note that the corporate sectors, both in India and South Korea were the first to see the potential and they have gone about harnessing it in a systematic fashion.

It is indeed satisfying to note that our bilateral trade grew more than 40 per cent in 2010 consequent to the operationalisation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with effect from 1st of January 2010, and the trade touched 21 billion dollars. It is well on course to attain the 30 billion dollar mark by 2014 which was agreed to during the visit of the President of ROK. Now India has already become the seventh largest export destination for the Republic of Korea.

The country is also amongst our ten largest investors and over 300 South Korean companies including the corporate giants like Hyundai, Daewoo, LG,

Samsung, etc., are present in India and providing employment to something like 40,000 Indian workers. We welcome greater investments in India from South Korea. At the same time Indian investments to South Korea have been keeping pace with sizeable investments having been made in recent years by companies like Tata Motors, Hindalco Industries and Mahindra Group.

In addition to trade and economic relations there are a number of areas like IT and knowledge-based industries, science and technology, energy, defence, space and culture amongst others where we are working closely, and I would like to say effectively. CEPA also covers services, which is opening up new avenues, especially for IT and pharmaceuticals companies. All the Indian IT majors are present in South Korea.

It is also heartening that simultaneously our cultural contacts are blossoming and keeping pace with the overall development in the relationship. We are currently celebrating the year of India in the Republic of Korea which would be reciprocated next year by ROK. An Indian Cultural Centre was established in Seoul in June this year. We are also told that a South Korean Cultural Centre would be opening up in Delhi in the coming months.

I have already spoken about the remarkable gesture of South Korea to have the bust of Gurudev installed in Seoul. Also, Buddhism is a vital link, a common link, a bond not only between India and the Republic of Korea, but also the region including especially Mongolia.

Let me then turn to **Mongolia** where Rashtrapatiji would be paying a state visit from 27th to the 30th of this month. India and Mongolia are two ancient civilizations which have interacted with each other since antiquity especially through the vehicle of Buddhism. Mongolians have great affection for India and see India as their spiritual home. Every year hundreds of Buddhist monks travel to India for pilgrimage and for studying Buddhist theology.

The advent of democracy in Mongolia in the early 1990s added another vital bond between our countries and soon thereafter a Treaty of Friendly Relations and Cooperation was concluded in 1994 between our countries laying a firmer foundation for bilateral relations with democratic Mongolia. And it is not fortuitous that President Elbegdorj chose India for his very first overseas visit soon after being elected the President of the country in September 2009. During his visit it was decided to elevate our bilateral relationship to Comprehensive Partnership.

President Patil is paying a return visit and this is happening after a gap of 23 years. So, in a way this is the first visit of the Indian President to democratic Mongolia and it assumes added significance because it is not only a recognition

of the important ties that we have, the historical ties that we have, but also signals a mutual desire to expand our bilateral relationship, to new areas including human resource development, capacity-building, education, agriculture, defence, energy, mineral resources and so on. In fact, several Mongolian students who have studied in India have risen to high positions to become Ministers, Governors, and Parliamentarians in Mongolia.

We also have a close identity of views on regional and international issues. Mongolia fully supports our candidature for the permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council.

The India-Mongolian Joint Committee on Cooperation is now the principal mechanism to regularly review the entire gamut of bilateral relationship. The third meeting of the Committee co-chaired by our Minister of State and their Foreign Minister was held in Mongolia in May this year.

To conclude, I would like to say that a number of important agreements are likely to be signed both at Seoul and at Ulaanbaatar during the visit of the President. Her visit to two of our key partners in East Asia is rather significant and would serve to renew and strengthen our broad-based relations with both the countries.

My colleague and I will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** Can you tell us the nature of the agreements that are going to be signed?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale):** I am not as diplomatic as JS(XP). My answer is no. I am sorry I cannot tell you right now. Let it emanate out of Seoul and Ulan Bator. We will brief the travelling media as we go along. So, the outcomes of the visit we will let you know once the discussions with the two countries, the Presidents, the leaders of the two countries have taken place.

**Question:** What is the status of the proposed nuclear agreement between India and South Korea?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Let me say that we have had a few rounds of discussions and negotiations. Let us see how it proceeds during the visit. Let us see what happens during this visit.

**Question:** Likely to be signed?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** I cannot say that right now. I do not know. Let us find out.

**Question:** Will it be discussed during the visit?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Yes, it is a topic which will definitely be discussed. I think both countries have an interest in discussing this subject and it will definitely come up for discussion between the two Presidents.

**Question:** Wanted to check on the progress of uranium exploration pact beside the civil nuclear pact we signed with Mongolia. Has any Indian company so far been awarded a joint venture?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Good question. You are absolutely right. An agreement to this effect on radioactive minerals was signed in September 2009 when the President of Mongolia President Elbegdorj visited India. There have been discussions between the atomic energy establishments of the two countries and we are now planning for a visit by the Chairperson of the Mongolian Atomic Energy Commission to India maybe sometime in August. So, that will progress the matter further. But at this point in time I do not think there are any Indian companies which are actively mining for this particular item in Mongolia.

**Official Spokesperson:** I would also just like to add here that cooperation in the energy sector is one of the important areas because Mongolia also has coking coal, coal and other minerals. So, this is something in which both sides are interested to cooperate.

**Question:** Has MEA been talking ...(Inaudible)...

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Let me just tell you that there is a fairly large delegation of business people accompanying the President, not on the flight but they will go separately, to Mongolia. The size of the delegation I believe – you can get the details from the Confederation of Indian Industry which is leading this effort – but I was quite pleasantly surprised by the size of the delegation. It numbers almost 30 and it includes a very senior representative of the Steel Authority of India Limited, which has made an offer to build a three million tonne steel plant in Mongolia.

**Question:** This is a question relating to Pakistan. The Pakistan Government has come out with the official release which says that Kashmir is still a disputed territory and there are many Resolutions to that effect.

**Official Spokesperson:** The status of Jammu and Kashmir is very clear. You know that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

**Question:** Adding to that previous question, following the FBI revelations of the ISI role in channeling funds to lobby for the Kashmir cause, is the Government of India planning to launch a formal protest with the Pakistani delegation next week, or is there any response expected as well?

**Official Spokesperson:** I have no comment on that except to say that the facts speak for themselves.

**Question:** Just a follow up on that. Is the Ministry of External Affairs going to write to UK for another Group that works on the Kashmir cause affiliated to Ghulam Fai?

**Official Spokesperson:** As I said, I would not like to comment on that. Suffice it to say that the facts speak for themselves.

I think you have run out of questions. Thank you very much.



**381. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her Special Flight to South Korea and Mongolia.**

**July 24, 2011.**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

I warmly welcome you on-board, as I begin my State Visits to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia, which are two important partners of India in North East Asia. These countries are key pillars of our Look East Policy, as well as of our growing integration with the Asia - Pacific region. We are linked to both these countries by bonds of culture and civilization. Buddhism spread from India to both these countries many centuries ago. Today, we also share several core values with them. All three countries are democracies, where periodic and fair elections are held, there is adherence to the rule of law, as well as respect for individual freedoms.

Presidents of both these important countries visited India in the last two years, and my visit is a part of the process of high level engagement with these friendly countries. It takes place in a year that is being celebrated as the Year of India in Korea and the Year of Korea in India. Also, this year, Mongolia is observing many important anniversaries of its history.

My first stop will be in Seoul. It would be recalled that President Lee Myung-Bak of the Republic of Korea, was the Chief Guest for our Republic Day celebrations in January 2010. During his visit, India and the Republic of Korea elevated bilateral ties to the level of a Strategic Partnership. My objective will be to accelerate the momentum of our relations.

I look forward to holding discussions with President Lee, both in restricted and delegation-level formats. We will cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues. I will also be meeting Speaker Park of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Economics is the foundation of the India-Korea relationship. We implemented a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement from January 2010. The results have been encouraging. Two-way trade rose by approximately 40 percent in 2010, and is growing equally fast this year. As per projections, it will reach 21 billion US Dollars in 2011. Korean companies such as LG, Samsung and Hyundai are household names in India. They have done extremely well in our domestic market, and are now using India as a manufacturing base for exports to third countries. We look forward to receiving more Korean investment in our country. Similarly, Indian firms are also investing in Korea.

An Indian business delegation will be in Seoul and Ulaanbaatar during my visit, to explore trade and investment opportunities.

My visit to Mongolia, the first by a President of India in 23 years, aims at signaling the importance we attach to this bilateral relationship, and to further expand and strengthen our ties. We were pleased that after his election, President Elbegdorj made India, the destination of his first foreign visit in September 2009. Our relations were, during that visit, elevated to a Comprehensive Partnership.

In Mongolia, I will hold deliberations with President Elbegdorj on all issues of importance to both countries. I also look forward to meeting Prime Minister Batbold. I will be interacting with Parliamentarians of the State Great Hural, including women politicians.

You may be aware that India has established the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School for vocational education in Ulaanbaatar. Similarly, there is the A.B. Vajpayee Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology. India has been, and is committed to, assisting Mongolia in capacity building and human resource development.

It is important to promote people-to-people exchanges with both the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. One of the ways of doing so is by increasing the number of direct flights between our countries. I look forward to discussing this subject with President Lee in Seoul and President Elbegdorj in Ulaanbaatar.

I am confident that my State Visits to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia will further enhance the close partnership that exists between India and these countries.

Thank you.





**382. Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil's engagements in Republic of Korea.**

**Seoul, July 25, 2011.**

**Lady Officer:** Good afternoon friends. We have with us today Secretary (East) Mr. Sanjay Singh; Ambassador of India to ROK Mr. Ranjan Tayal; Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale. Today was the President's first day of official engagements in ROK. It was a very important day. Secretary (East) will brief you about today's events.

**Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh):** Good afternoon everybody.

The Presidents of India and of the Republic of Korea have just concluded a very productive round of official talks which were held in a cordial, friendly and constructive atmosphere. There was a restricted meeting for approximately twenty minutes followed by delegation-level talks for over an hour. This reflects the Strategic Partnership which exists between India and the Republic of Korea.

Hon. President warmly recalled the state visit of President Lee to India last January as Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations. She stated that her own visit aims at accelerating the momentum of our bilateral relations, with which the Hon. Korean President agreed. He recalled the warm welcome he had received in India which had resulted in the upgradation of the relation to a Strategic Partnership. He said that the present visit will provide momentum to help elevate our strategic partnership which is multifaceted.

Friends, India and Republic of Korea have shared values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human values, which provide a very firm foundation for our partnership. The two Presidents discussed ways to add substance and content to our bilateral relations. The two countries have just concluded and signed a bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

They also discussed the possibilities of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. India looks forward to once again launching Korean satellites on Indian rockets. Hon. President conveyed to President of the Republic of Korea that our facilities are of high quality and are available at competitive prices.

The two Presidents also discussed the expansion of defence cooperation between our countries. We look forward to welcoming the Defence Minister of the Republic of Korea in India later this year. India will soon open a Defence Attache's office at our Embassy in Seoul. This will provide a fillip to our defence ties. Increased naval and Coast Guard cooperation was a possibility that was touched upon in the discussion, especially in the context of the threats posed to shipping in the Indian Ocean.

The economic cooperation provides the ballast for our relationship. Both Presidents expressed their satisfaction at the increase in bilateral trade which has resulted from the implementation of the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Hon. President conveyed that India is willing to work with the Republic of Korea to further upgrade this Agreement, which is the sentiment expressed by the President of the Republic of Korea also.

Hon. President also pointed out that Indian pharmaceuticals and IT services are of a high quality and requested the Government of Republic of Korea to provide greater access for these products in the Korean market. The President of the Republic of Korea said that they would take necessary action.

Hon. President also conveyed to President of the Republic of Korea that the investment environment in India facilitates foreign investment in the country, and invited more Korean companies to invest in India and make it their base for manufacturing operations including for export to third countries. The Korean President welcomed this and also noted what Rashtrapati had said about the presence of blue chip Indian companies in Korea.

Both Presidents were unanimous that it is extremely important to encourage greater people-to-people exchanges. In this connection it is important to have more direct flights between our countries, and we have to revisit the civil aviation agreement so as to grant each other's carriers fifth freedom rights. Both Presidents agreed to direct their civil aviation authorities to look into this.

The Korean President expressed satisfaction that movement of people between the two countries had increased considerably and today apparently a 100,000 Koreans are visiting India every year, and about 50,000 Indians are visiting Korea every year. This could increase. We can check the figures in due course.

President also thanked the President of the Republic of Korea and through him the people of Seoul for having done India the great honour of installing a bust of our Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore at a public location in the city. Earlier today she visited the site, I believe a lot of you were present there, and this is a very busy thoroughfare we were told where the university students, especially younger generations of Koreans are present. I for myself found this a very important, a very fitting memorial for the Great Poet.

As you know, the Festival of India was inaugurated in Korea on the 1st of July this year and it is ongoing. The Festival of Korea in India began sometime in end of March in Delhi and that has been going around India. We have just inaugurated a cultural centre in the city, and the Koreans also are likely to put up a cultural centre in New Delhi.

The Korean President specially remarked about there being more than just an economic relationship between the countries; he said that our two countries are linked in a spiritual context, that we have certain common civilisational and cultural ties. He also said that he had followed India's proposal for the revival of the Nalanda University. As you know, Korea is a part of the East Asia Summit Process. It is also our partner in ARF and ADMM Plus, and we deal with it in that context, in the context in which we have sought support for the Nalanda University.

The Presidents also discussed regional and international issues. In particular they agreed to enhance cooperation and coordination in the East Asia Summit Process as also on issues pertaining to the Asia Pacific. They also examined ways of working together in other international fora. The President of Korea is likely to meet PM at various international events which are likely to come up in the near future, and he conveyed his best wishes to him.

Two other agreements were signed today in the presence of the two Presidents and these include an MoU on media exchanges which will help strengthen ties in the field of media. It envisages exchange of delegations. We also have an important agreement on administrative arrangement to implement the India-ROK social security agreement, which will help our professionals who come here to work.

That ends as far as I have to say and I will leave the floor to JS (EA) and our Ambassador, if there is anything else they would like to add.

**Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale):** Nothing to add really. I think you have covered it all.

**Question:** On the nuclear agreement, is there any clause on the ENR?

**Secretary (East):** I am not at liberty to discuss the agreement in details. I think Chairman, AEC is here in our delegation. I do not want to second guess him. So, please let him brief you.

**Question:** But surely the text would be made public once the agreement is signed. Normally it is put on the website or something like that.

**Secretary (East):** Is that a fact?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** Some of the agreements have been made public, not all. It is up to the Department of Atomic Energy.

**Question:** Could you just tell us who were the Indians who took part in the proceedings were?

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** We have a list of the agreements signed and the signatories on both sides, which are with XP Division and I think we are going to circulate it to you.

**Question:** But were they the same terms which were finalized at Hanoi which have been signed now or there was a further movement between Hanoi and now? In Hanoi some announcement was made that in principle we agreed and only the signing and the formality remains. So, was there a lot of ground which had to covered? .

**Secretary (East):** As there had been a change in incumbency, I would not like to comment on that as to what happened in Hanoi and what is happening today. .

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** But I think I can add that this is a civil nuclear agreement between India and the ROK, like other civil nuclear agreements between India and other countries which have been signed. So, we look forward to the ROK now becoming one more partner in the development of civil nuclear energy in India. .

**Question:** What generally would be the mandate of that partnership? .

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** I do not understand your question. .

**Question:** What is the area covered? What is the ground covered? .

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** The ground is civil nuclear energy. .

**Question:** It is a very wide spectrum with everything under it. .

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** What is a very wide spectrum? .

**Question:** When you say civil nuclear ....

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** It is for civil nuclear energy production in India.

**Question:** Okay, is it specifically to reactors? .

**Joint Secretary (East Asia):** It is like any other civil nuclear agreement signed with any other country. .

**Question:** Mr. Bambawale, you know that civil nuclear liability Bill and various other issues including nuclear liability Bill especially, issues have been raised by the US and various other countries even after signing similar pacts. .

**Secretary (East):** I think we will confine this to the discussions held between the two Hon. Presidents. We will not stray on to something which is very interesting but outside the ambit of our talks today. .

**Question:** I happened to read one report filed by a local agency here after the agreement was signed between the two Presidents which says that this agreement will help Korean companies, and it named one state-run company,

I do not recollect the name right now. It said that it will help that company in taking part in the nuclear reactor construction space in India. The report seemed to give an impression that it is only help Korean companies who have some sort of play in the Indian civil nuclear space. What do we have in it? Do we also sort of stand to gain something out of this agreement that is signed today? .

**Secretary (East):** As you know, our major requirements in India are infrastructural in nature. Energy is a very important aspect of it. As part of our growth story, we need increasing amounts of energy of which there is a mix of hydrocarbon-based, coal-based, nuclear, renewable, etc. And anything that helps in increasing energy production and Government of India's energy policies, our production of electricity is that on Ministry of Power's plans and this envisages a very prominent role for nuclear energy which is also very clean. And, therefore, anything which helps increase energy production in India is to be welcomed. I would not say it is a one way process. We hope and we think that it will be a win-win process in which both sides will have mutually advantageous benefits from this process.

Thank you.



**383. Agreements signed during the visit of the President of India to Republic of Korea.****Seoul, July 25, 2011.**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Agreement</b>	<b>Korean Signatory</b>	<b>Indian Signatory</b>
1.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Korea for Cooperation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy.	<b>H.E. Mr. Kim Sung-hwan</b> , Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea	<b>Dr. Srikumar Banerjee</b> , Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy
2.	MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea on Media Exchanges	<b>H.E. Mr. Choung Byoung-gug</b> , Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea	<b>Sh. Sanjay Singh</b> , Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs
3.	Administrative Arrangements for Social Security Agreement. Health and Welfare	<b>H.E. Mrs. Chin Soo Hee</b> , Minister of the Republic of Korea	<b>Sh. S.R. Tayal</b> , Ambassador of India



**384. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung – Bak.**

**Seoul, July 25, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Lee,

Madam Kim,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be with all of you this evening in your beautiful capital city of Seoul.

The people of my country fondly recall Your Excellency's successful landmark visit to India last year, as Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations. My own State Visit to the Republic of Korea aims at accelerating the momentum of our bilateral relations.

Ties of history and culture between India and Korea provide a very good foundation for our efforts. Many of us in India know of the legendary Princess from Ayodhya, who traveled to Korea to marry King Kim Suro. Buddhism provides an enduring link between our societies. More recently, the visits to Korea of India's Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and his description of Korea as the 'Lamp of the East' are an abiding bond between us. Let me thank President Lee, his Government as well as the city authorities of Seoul, for permitting the installation of a bust of Gurudev Tagore, at a public location in the city, where I paid homage this morning. We thank you for the honor you have done to India, with this gesture.

Our countries share values including democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, which make it easy for us to work together, and cooperate in almost all areas of human endeavor.

In contemporary times, Korean industry has become legendary, and coupled with India's dynamically growing market, we have new economic opportunities which did not exist earlier. That we are making full use of such openings, can be seen from the fact that our bilateral trade grew 40 percent in 2010, and is continuing to show a similar trajectory this year too. Korean companies have become household names in India, and some of our best business houses are also investing in your country. We will work towards maintaining and enhancing these trends.

The conclusion earlier today of a bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, exhibits the strategic direction our partnership

is taking. We are confident that our nations can also cooperate in areas such as defence and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Year of India in Korea and a similar Year of Korea in India, have got off to a good start. The reciprocal establishment of Cultural Centers in our capitals is another good decision aimed at expanding our people-to-people exchanges. We are also working to promote greater direct air links between us, so as to encourage more tourist flows.

We congratulate Korea on its successful hosting of the last G - 20 Summit, and for steering in this premier forum, discussions of international economic issues, in a direction which serves the interests of the international community. We are confident that similarly, Korea will successfully host the Nuclear Security Summit in March next year. India will participate in that meeting.

Excellency, India is an integral part of the emerging economic and security architecture in East Asia. We are both members of the East Asia Summit process. As we are two countries with similar values, we look forward to stepping up our discussions and have closer coordination on regional issues. Similarly, I am very sure that our cooperation in international institutions, including the United Nations is set to expand.

Therefore, Excellency, the prospects for our Strategic Partnership are very bright indeed. India looks forward to taking our ties to a higher level.

May I conclude by raising a toast:-

- to the good health of President Lee and Madam Kim
- to the continued progress of the friendly people of the Republic of Korea; and
- to expanding and closer cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea.





**385. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Business Interaction by Korean Business Chambers.**

**Seoul, July 26, 2011.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be with representatives of Korean and Indian industry here in Seoul today. I am aware that the Strategic Partnership between India and the Republic of Korea, has been driven to a large extent by the efforts of all of you gathered here.

To us, in India, the Korean economic miracle is inspiring. It was the hard work of the people of this country, coupled with the successful business model that was adopted, which has created the incredible economic success that the Republic of Korea today represents. I want to congratulate you for that.

In India too, you spotted the economic opportunities long before others, and this first-mover advantage has enabled Korean companies to reap great profits in our country. Hyundai, Samsung and LG are household names in India today.

The rapid growth of the Indian economy over the past few years, and the fact that we have been able to weather the storm of the global financial crisis reasonably well, is creating a huge market in India. Korean companies have adjusted extremely well to conditions in India. You are also making India the manufacturing hub for exports to third countries in South Asia, the Middle East and even Eastern Europe.

India attaches great importance to improving its infrastructure, for which about 1 trillion US Dollars will be required in the coming years. This provides a great investment opportunity for foreign companies, including those from Korea. In expanding and modernizing our roads, highways, airports, sea ports and railways, we will require investment from foreign entities and firms. We look forward to greater participation in this endeavour by Korean companies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of my State Visit to your beautiful country is to accelerate our bilateral relations. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) implemented by us since January 2010 has yielded good results. Our bilateral trade rose by 40 percent last year, and by current projections is slated to reach 21 billion US Dollars during the current calendar year, and would comfortably reach the level of 30 billion US Dollars by 2014, the target we have set for ourselves. President Lee and I discussed the possibility of further upgrading our CEPA. Expert level discussions will commence from late-September this year.

Several representatives of the Indian industry have travelled to Seoul to be present here, during my visit and are participating in today's function. I urge

them to fully utilize CEPA to expand exports to the Republic of Korea. Our IT companies are some of the best in the world, and will be able to help Korean businesses in reducing costs and enhancing competitiveness. Similarly, Indian pharmaceuticals are of high quality coupled with low prices, and will be beneficial to Korean consumers.

I am very happy to see that Indian companies are willingly participating in the further growth and development of the Korean economy. There have been substantial investments by the the TATA Group, the Mahindra Group and Hindalco Industries here in Korea. These are all blue chip firms from India, and I can assure you, that they will make positive contributions in the further growth of your country.

An India-Korea Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was also signed yesterday. The Indian civil nuclear energy market is now open for Korean companies providing a new sector for our bilateral economic cooperation.

In my discussions with President Lee, I informed him of India's capabilities in the peaceful uses of outer space, and urged greater cooperation between our countries in this sphere. We look forward to the day when Korean satellites can once again be launched by Indian rockets. The Governments of India and RoK have also established a Joint Science and Technology Fund amounting to 10 million US Dollars for joint research between our scientists, in areas such as Information Technology, Biotechnology, energy-efficient technologies and nanotechnology. I am confident that their joint efforts will result in new products for both Korean and Indian industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need more direct flights between our countries. This is an aspect that we need to look at in all seriousness, if we are to expand trade and enhance people-to-people exchanges. Indian carriers have been requesting Korea for 5th Freedom Rights to enable them to fly to points beyond Incheon. President Lee and I have agreed, that our civil aviation authorities will meet soon to discuss this possibility.

I am happy that an Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea was launched last year, which brings companies from both our countries together. I believe there is much that we can learn from each other and do together.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you can see, there is tremendous potential to expand the India-RoK bilateral partnership. I urge you to fully utilize the opportunity of meeting today, to impart further momentum to business relations between our two countries.

I thank you for your attention.



**386. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception.**

**Seoul, July 26, 2011.**

I am delighted to have this opportunity to interact with the Indian community and with Korean Friends of India.

In all my visits abroad, I accord a special value to my interactions with the Indian community, and foreign friends and well-wishers of India. After all, relations between countries are built and nurtured by the people on both sides. The goodwill generated by the Indian Diaspora contributes profoundly to the relationship between India and the Republic of Korea. If our Tri-colour is flying high in Korea, a large part of the credit goes to you, and to your contribution to the land you have adopted as your karmabhoomi. Indians abroad numbering over 25 million across the world are law-abiding, hardworking, and enterprising. All of you in the Republic of Korea are no exception.

The Republic of Korea and India share not just historical ties, but cultural affinities underlined by age-old traditions and the philosophy of the Buddha. India was present here at the dawn of Korean independence, and in fact Indian representatives oversaw the first democratic elections in this country in 1948. Our Medical Unit and Field Ambulances offered medical care and succour, to both sides during the Korean War. There is natural empathy between our two countries, as both suffered the pain caused by colonialism. Our countries now share a Strategic Partnership and values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human dignity, which binds our two peoples together.

My own visit to the Republic of Korea is aimed at accelerating the momentum of our bilateral relations. All of you can also contribute to this goal. I urge you to give your best to strengthen Korea, and help expand the bilateral partnership.

You may be aware of the gracious gesture of the Government of the Republic of Korea, in providing a permanent place for a bust of India's Poet Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in the centre of Seoul. He had described Korea as the 'Lamp of the East', and all of you who live here are testimony to the accuracy of his prediction.

I understand that the Indian community in Korea is about seven thousand strong. This number may be relatively small, but you are making a perceptible contribution to various walks of life of this proud and thriving nation. Amongst you are successful businessmen, academics, scientists, students and researchers, as well as management and engineering professionals. As you would be aware, India and Korea have a Social Security Agreement which

would protect the retirement benefits of professionals and others. The administrative arrangements to operationalise this important Agreement have been finalized during my visit. We wish that all of you flourish and at the same time make a contribution to Korea's cultural, economic and social milieu. It is important that whatever your line of work, you remain committed to the integrity, prosperity and well-being of this wonderful country and its people.

We, in India, are proud of all of you. With your energy, your dynamism, your entrepreneurship and your skills you have contributed much to the country of your birth as well as the country you have selected to live in.

The world is changing and India is changing too. In the last few years, our economy has begun to grow rapidly due to the efforts and creative energies of our people. This has raised India's profile among the comity of nations. Our Government is committed to remove poverty, hunger and disease. We want our growth process to be inclusive, so that all sections of our populace can have improved standards of living. I am sure that the Indian diaspora will contribute in these efforts. We have a full-fledged Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the benefit and welfare of the Indian Diaspora. Each year, we celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. I hope many of you are able to participate in such activities.

It is a matter of great joy for me to learn about the incredible individual Korean stories of affection for India, our culture, and our values. I recognize two such Korean citizens who are present here with us this evening.

First, Dr. Kim Yang Shik, the President of the Tagore Society, who was conferred the Padmashree award for her exceptional contribution, by translating Gurudev Tagore's works into Korean. The Indian Art Museum that she has established recently in Seoul, with her personal collection of artefacts from India selected over fifty years, can only be described as an amazing act of friendship and love towards India.

Dr. Thok-kyu Limb, the President of the India-Korea Society, you have been a pillar of the India-Korea partnership for more than twenty years. Your association with Indian leaders, over more than a generation, and your contribution through your writings, to promoting understanding and solidarity between our two countries evokes admiration for your efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the strong and vibrant political and economic partnership between India and the Republic of Korea can only benefit from endeavours of people who forge ties of friendship.

Thank you for being with me here this evening, and thank you for your invaluable contribution to the India-Korea friendship.

I wish you, your families, and all our Korean friends, success, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!



### **KOREA, D.P.R.**

#### **387. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on humanitarian assistance provided to Democratic People's Republic of Korea.**

**New Delhi, July 5, 2011.**

India's humanitarian food assistance to DPR Korea amounting to US \$ 1 million has arrived in that country.

India's Ambassador to DPR Korea Shri Pratap Singh traveled to the North Korean port of Nampo recently to witness the off-loading of 900 metric tons of soya beans and 373 tons of wheat, which has been made available by India, especially for women and children in DPRK, through the World Food Programme (WFP).

Ambassador Singh stated that he was "very happy to see the safe arrival of the food consignment which is needed so urgently here".

WFP Country Director for DPRK Claudia von Roehl said that, "WFP is enormously grateful to the Government and people of India for this contribution which comes at a critical time for the people we are helping here in DPRK".



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The above assistance was provided to North Korea in response to the request by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. While handing over the assistance ceremonially on March 25 Minister of State E.Ahamed said: "Relations between India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea have traditionally been cordial. We value our relationship with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

India is integrating itself with East Asia and South East Asia and India takes active interest in developments in these regions. India is sensitive to the scarcity of food in Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in this hour of need, the Government of India has decided to grant humanitarian food assistance of US\$ 1 million which will provide for 1300 metric tonnes of pulses.

Since the United Nations World Food Programme has an ongoing programme for providing food assistance in the country, we are happy associate with the World Food Programme to reach the food assistance to the people of Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

**388. Condolence message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the demise of General Secretary Kim Jong Il of the DPRK.**

**New Delhi, December 20, 2011.**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has condoled the passing away of General Secretary of the Worker's Party, Chairman of the National Defence Commission and Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army of Democratic People's Republic of Korea H.E. Kim Jong Il. In his message PM conveyed his condolences to the family of the deceased leader, as well as, the people and government of DPRK, hoping that they will overcome their grief with courage and fortitude.

[Separately MOS Shri E. Ahamed signed the condolence book at the Embassy of DPRK in New Delhi today observing that "it is with a deep sense of sorrow that we have learnt about the sad demise of H.E Kim Jong Il." He also conveyed assurances of India's commitment to India DPRK relations.]



**MALAYSIA**

**389. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the signing of the India - Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).**

**Kuala Lumpur, February 18, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Mr. Mustapa Mohamed, Minister for International Trade & Industry, Malaysia, signed the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in the presence of Malaysian Prime Minister, Mr. Mohd Najib Razak at Putrajaya in Kuala Lumpur today. The Agreement will come into effect on 1st July 2011 and the first review will be held within a year of coming into force

The India-Malaysia CECA is a comprehensive and ambitious agreement that envisages liberal trade in goods and services and a stable and competitive investment regime to promote foreign investment between the two countries. The goods package under the CECA takes the tariff liberalization beyond the India-ASEAN FTA commitments on items of mutual interest for both the countries. Under the agreement, India will get market access in the Malaysian market for goods including fruits such as mangoes, banana and guava, basmati rice, two wheelers and cotton garments. At the same time, protection continues

to be provided for the sensitive sectors. Under the services agreement, India and Malaysia have provided commercially meaningful commitments in sectors and modes of interest to each other which should result in enhanced services trade. Sectors such as accounting and auditing, architecture, urban planning, engineering services, medical and dental, IT & ITES, Management Consulting Services etc. would get Malaysian market access.

Malaysia has offered comparatively higher level of FDI in key sectors of interest to India such as construction services (51%), computer and related services (100%), management and consultancy services (100%). This is a breakthrough in investments, given that Malaysia has a Bhoomiputra policy which mandates 30% equity participation by local companies. . Malaysia is the 3rd largest trading partner of India amongst the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries. India-Malaysia trade increased from US \$ 3.52 billion to US \$ 9.03 billion between 2005 and 2010 after reaching a peak of US \$ 10.65 billion in 2008. Earlier, Shri Anand Sharma called on the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mr. Mohd Najib Tun Razak and of the steady growth in the bilateral economic engagement and the excellent relations between the two countries. Shri Sharma hoped that the bilateral trade target of US \$ 15 billion by 2015 set during the

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A Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on June 30 said that the CECA will come into effect on 1 July 2011. It said:

"India-Malaysia CECA is India's fourth bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, after Singapore, South Korea and Japan. The CECA envisages liberalisation of trade in goods, trade in services, investments and other areas of economic cooperation.

Trade between India and Malaysia has reached US\$ 10 billion in 2010-11, an increase of 26% from the previous year. It is expected that the implementation of this agreement will boost bilateral trade to US\$15 billion by 2015.

The trade in goods package under India-Malaysia CECA takes the tariff liberalization beyond the India-ASEAN FTA commitments, which were implemented by both countries on 1 January 2010. Under India-Malaysia CECA, the items on which India has obtained market access from Malaysia include basmati rice, mangoes, eggs, trucks, motorcycles and cotton garments, which are all items of considerable export interest to India. At the same time, adequate protection has been provided by the Indian side for sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, textiles, chemicals, auto, etc. Under the services agreement of the CECA, India and Malaysia have provided commercially meaningful commitments in sectors and modes of interest to each other which should result in enhanced services trade. The CECA also facilitates the temporary movement of business people including contractual service suppliers, and independent professionals in commercially meaningful sectors including accounting and auditing, architecture, urban planning, engineering services, medical and dental, nursing and pharmacy, Computer and Related Services (CRS), and Management Consulting Services.

The India-Malaysia CECA also facilitates cross-border investments between the two countries. It aims to promote investments and create a liberal, facilitative, transparent and competitive investment regime. The CECA creates an attractive operating environment for the business communities of both countries to increase bilateral trade and investment."

visit of Indian Prime Minister to Malaysia in October 2010 should be achievable with the signing of the bilateral CECA. During his meeting with Mr. Mustapa Mohamed, Shri Sharma discussed wide range of bilateral and regional matters including DMIC, the progress under the India-ASEAN Services & Investment Agreement negotiations and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA).



**390. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Malaysian Dy. Prime Minister.**

**New Delhi, March 10, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good evening to all of you. My colleagues, Mr. Arun Goel, Joint Secretary (South) and our High Commissioner to Malaysia Mr. Vijay Gokhale, join me for briefing you about the ongoing visit of the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Education Minister of Malaysia Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who arrived in Mumbai day before yesterday and has reached New Delhi today. He is on a five day visit at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister.

He is the second highest ranking political leader in Malaysia. Let me take you briefly through his programme and also apprise you of the composition of his Delegation. DPM is accompanied by the Chief Minister of Sabah; the Minister of Works; the Minister of Human Resources who is of Indian origin; the Special Envoy on Infrastructure to India and South Asia; among senior officials.

DPM arrived in Mumbai on the 8th. Yesterday he had several important meetings including with the Chairman of the Reliance Industries Limited Mr. Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Tata Group Mr. Ratan Tata and our Chief Minister in Maharashtra.

Today, he has already met with Dr. C.P. Joshi, our Minister for Road Transport and Highways. He would be visiting and inaugurating a new Construction Industries Development Board office of Malaysia. He would also be visiting a highway infrastructure project which is being executed by Malaysian companies along with Indian companies.

Infrastructure is one sector where the Malaysian companies are doing a lot of work. They have already executed or are in the process of executing infrastructure projects of over five billion dollars in India.



DPM would be calling on the Prime Minister of India and also would have a meeting later on with our Minister of Human Resource Development. Tomorrow there will be a meeting with EAM who would also be hosting a lunch in the honour of the visiting dignitary. Later in the afternoon, he addresses foreign diplomats at a programme organized by Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation; and then emplanes for Chennai, where he has a number of engagements including participating in the Malaysian Night and Cultural Show, that is being hosted to celebrate the establishment of the Twin City Relationship between Kuala Lumpur and Chennai. That is broadly the programme of DPM .

He last visited India in the year 2000. Last year in October when Prime Minister of India paid a state visit to Malaysia he had a very good exchange of views with the former. Malaysia is a part of India's extended neighbourhood. We also see Malaysia as an important gateway to ASEAN. India and Malaysia have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. The country is home to more than two million people of Indian origin which is among the largest anywhere in the world.

Our bilateral relations were taken to a qualitatively new level in the last fifteen months after the landmark state visit of Prime Minister Najib in January 2010. Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh paid a return visit to Kuala Lumpur in October itself last year, thus signaling the intention to usher in a new era in our ties. The two Prime Ministers have also charted out the future course of our relations through a Joint Statement on the framework for a strategic partnership. Prime Minister referred to his visit to Malaysia as a turning point in our relations and also underlined that stronger ties with Malaysia is fundamental to the success of India's Look-East Policy.

I would like to note here that both sides have worked with great alacrity to implement the initiatives taken and the targets set, during the visits of the two Prime Ministers. This has also been helped by regular high-level exchanges. To give you an idea, just in two months of this year, in February and March, we have seen the visits of four Ministers from Malaysia to India including the Minister of Health, IT, Trade and Industry, and the Minister of Works.

One of the decisions taken was to have a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement covering goods, services and investment. I am happy to say that a formal agreement was signed on the 18th of February, 2011 and both sides are expecting the agreement to come into force on 1st of July, 2011. We have no doubt that this would literally transform the relationship, the economic and trade relationship between our two countries.

To give you an example of the efficacy and impact of such an agreement, I may mention that a similar agreement was operationalised with South Korea

with effect from the 1st of January, 2010. In one year, just in one year, during 2010, our trade with ROK went up 44 per cent. No wonder Prime Minister Najib remarked about CECA that it is a strategic and economic umbrella to present Malaysia and India with enormous economic opportunities to enhance investment and market access.

We have also in the last few months concluded an extradition treaty which has been ratified by Malaysia. And India-Malaysia CEO's business forum was set up in October, 2010. Also, significantly and as committed by President Najib, permission has been received for the first Indian banking consortium to commence commercial operations in Malaysia, which is expected in the second quarter of this year. These are just a few examples to illustrate how both sides have gone about building the edifice of our relationship.

Here, economic and commercial ties have emerged as one of the mainstay of our relations. Malaysia is already one of our largest trading partners in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade doubled between 2005 and 2008 crossing 10 billion dollars. Thereafter it did take a dip in 2009 because of the global economic woes. But we believe that in 2010 it has almost inched close to the \$ 10 billion mark and, as I said, there is no looking back.

India has also become the seventh largest investor in Malaysia and there have been sizeable investments in the last three years between 2007 and 2010 including major acquisitions by Reliance, Ballarpur Industries of the Thapar Group, Mahindra, Satyam, Larsen & Toubro. During the visit of our Prime Minister, fresh investments were announced by Biocon India of the tune of 400 million dollars, and Manipal University of 200 million dollars. More than 100 Indian companies including 60 joint ventures are operational in Malaysia. By the same token Malaysia has also made sizeable investments in India which add up to more than 1.8 billion dollars, and more are on the way.

I mentioned the infrastructure sector and I would like here to underscore that the Malaysian construction companies have the largest presence in India outside Malaysia. They have already executed or executing projects worth more than \$ 5 billion. Currently, 35 projects are under execution and 52 have already been undertaken. One of the prime examples is that of the teaming up between GMR group and Malaysian Airport Holding Berhad for development of airports and other facilities. They have successfully established the airports at Hyderabad and New Delhi, and are currently working on the Monorail Project in Mumbai which would be a first in the country.

To give this process a further impetus, an MoU of cooperation on technical assistance services in highway management and development was signed in 2010, which will certainly open up a slew of new opportunities for Malaysian companies.

Another promising sector is railways where IRCON has been quite active for the last 20 years in modernization and development of railway infrastructure in Malaysia. And they are currently executing a double-tracking project worth a \$ 1.5 billion. But these are only some areas in which we are cooperating. The spectrum is indeed quite wide and getting wider which includes areas like education, human resource development, communications, IT, defence, security, tourism and culture.

Our cooperation in the vital area of defence and security is getting strengthened. We had concluded an agreement on defence cooperation way back in 1993. Our Raksha Mantriji had visited Malaysia in January 2008. We have also established a practice of having annual meetings of the Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee which is co-chaired by the Defence Secretaries of the two countries, and the last meeting was held in New Delhi in March 2010.

Our cooperation in maritime security is getting strengthened. Indian ships regularly make port calls at Malaysia. Malaysian officers have been undergoing training programmes in India. I mentioned that a bilateral extradition treaty has also been signed.

In the area of education, we have more than 2000 Indian students studying in Malaysia, and over 3000 Malaysian students studying in India. A MOU on cooperation in higher education was signed in January last year during the visit of Prime Minister Najib, and a Memorandum on IT cooperation was signed when our Prime Minister visited Malaysia in October. India has been offering 55 training slots under the ITEC and Colombo Plan which are fully utilized.

Both sides see considerable potential for cooperation in teaching of English language and in IT education where we can share our experience and expertise with our Malaysian friends. Over 60 Indian IT companies have offices in Malaysia.

We have also signed a cultural exchange programme for the year 2010-2013 after the establishment of a full-fledged Indian Cultural Centre in Kuala Lumpur on the 10th of February, 2010.

I did mention the sizeable Indian population. It is little surprise therefore that we are well connected. 115 weekly flights already operate between the two countries and we are now discussing a revised Air Services Agreement to further increase the frequency.

Indian tourists are also heading for Malaysia in large numbers and constitute the sixth largest segment of incoming tourists in Malaysia. In 2009, 650,000 Indian tourists went to Malaysia. And in 2008, we received close to 120,000 tourists from Malaysia. We have also signed a bilateral MOU on Tourism in recognition of the considerable potential in this area.

Before I wrap up and invite your questions, let me mention that there are a number of international fora in which we closely cooperate and coordinate including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asian Summit, NAM, Commonwealth, ASEM and so on.

We welcome the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia which we are confident, would help in not only maintaining but enhancing the broad-based engagement that we have between India and Malaysia.

Thank you. My colleagues and I would be happy to take a few questions on the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia to India.

**Question:** Is the Revised Air Services Agreement to be finalized during this visit?

**High Commissioner:** It would not be signed during the visit. It is in the process of finalization.

**Question:** It was asking for your response to the announcement by the Dalai Lama this morning that he would be handing power over to some sort of elected institution or individual. My question would be, what your response is to that and whether India will continue to be happy to host the Tibetan Government in Exile after the Dalai Lama steps down.

**Official Spokesperson:** My response is that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is an honoured guest in India and he is a spiritual and religious leader.

**Question:** Just to carry on from there, does it mean that the Government has no problem with the Dalai Lama continuing to stay in India?

**Official Spokesperson:** I have already answered the question.

**Question:** Can you give us an update on the Somalian pirates issue?

**Official Spokesperson:** Yes. You would have perhaps seen the detailed press release that we have just issued. I would basically like to note here that the safety and security of Indian nationals remains a matter of high priority for the country. The nodal Indian agency, which is the Director-General of Shipping is the main contact points with the ship owners. The Ministry of External Affairs comes into the picture when the ship owners or the management are based in a foreign country. Our Missions also play a vital role in coordinating and in ascertaining information, in encouraging the ship owners to assist in the matter. As of now, we have 53 Indian sailors who are still captive. 11 Indian sailors who were on Rak Africana were released yesterday by the Somali pirates. In the preceding years, we have had 21 Indian nationals similarly released in 2008; 34 in 2009; and 56 in 2010.

**Question:** Just a follow up on the Dalai Lama's status. I just want to understand if India has a position on the Dalai Lama giving up political cause. Do we have view on that? You have not talked about that.

The second question is on the sailors. Your press release also talks about the fact that the Missions are in touch with the ship owners themselves and with the Governments in which these ship owners and managements are based. So, what is the feedback? Your Release is talking about them being in touch with all those five cases. What is the feedback that you are getting on all of those cases?

**Official Spokesperson:** On the first question, I have already told you how we view His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He is an honoured guest, he is a spiritual and religious leader.

As to your second question, yes, and that is why we have put out the details. Basically in these cases it is the ship owners who reach out to the pirates. We have given details of the five ships in which there are still 53 Indian sailors - are all foreign flag carriers. Four of them are Panamanian and one of them is Italian. So, as necessary what the Mission does is it reaches out to the owners or the companies who manage the ships and encourage them to do what is needed to get the sailors released safely and as early as possible. Obviously this is the responsibility of the carriers to ensure that their crew is safe.

**Question:** What is the feedback that you have got?

**Official Spokesperson:** About?

**Question:** From the nations that you are in touch with.

**Official Spokesperson:** Precisely that the Missions are in touch. We have brought it out in the public domain. We have, therefore, mentioned that it is this kind of coordination between the DG (Shipping), Ministry of Defence, and the External Affairs Ministry, including our Missions, that has resulted in the release of sailors, during the last few years. We have even given out the figures. Certainly as I said at the very outset, the safety, security and the wellbeing of the sailors who are Indian nationals, is of the highest priority of the Government of India and that is how we have been going about it.

**Question:** Sri Lankan Prime Minister has said that LTTE is trying to revive its secret camps in Tamil Nadu. Any comment?

**Official Spokesperson:** We have seen reports from Sri Lanka referring to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister's statement in their Parliament alluding to the presence of LTTE training camps in Tamil Nadu. We categorically deny the existence of any such camps. The Government of Sri Lanka have also not

taken up this issue with us. Such a reference is indeed unfortunate and we urge the Government of Sri Lanka to desist from reacting to speculative and uncorroborated reports.

Thank you.



**391. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Indian Community Function.**

**Kuala Lumpur, May 2, 2011.**

High Commissioner Gokhale,

Distinguished representatives of the Indian community in Malaysia,

A very good evening to all of you.

I am happy to meet members of the Indian community in Malaysia. You are among the largest communities of overseas Indians anywhere in the world, and hold a very special place in our hearts. Your achievements are numerous and cover every aspect of Malaysian life. The Malaysian Government's decision last year to dedicate an area in Brickfields as 'Little India' is a tribute to your contributions to this country. Our Prime Minister was delighted to be present on that happy occasion.

We also admire and very much value the way in which you have preserved your connections with the land of your ancestors. We hope that each succeeding generation will make a special effort to preserve these ties.

We would like to harness your talent and experiences for our development. Our economic growth will create opportunities for business and enterprise, and this will in turn generate a new platform for collaboration between Indians and overseas Indian communities. I invite you to make use of new investment and business opportunities in India. The Ministry of Overseas Indians has started the Overseas Indians Facilitation Centre (OIFC) for Overseas Indians who want to invest or partner with Indian companies. I hope this will lead to greater participation and involvement in business and investment with India.

India has been making good progress on all fronts. Although there is a long way to go before we can call ourselves a developed country, those of you who have visited India recently would have seen signs of progress and development.

The entire nation is going through a fundamental transformation. We are addressing our problems through democratic means, and by promoting inclusive growth and social justice for all Indians. Our objective is nothing less than the elimination of poverty in India within a generation. The road ahead will not be easy. But we are confident about the future.

At the same time, we are also outward looking. We have begun to re-connect with the diaspora that is spread throughout the globe. We take this task very seriously. The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas brings all of us together on the same platform each year, year after year. I am delighted that Malaysia sends the largest contingent to this annual event.

We enjoy excellent bilateral relations with Malaysia. We have concluded the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. We will continue to work with Malaysia to expand our economic and trade relations. I believe that our growing friendship and collaboration will also benefit the Indian community. With your cultural and social links to India and your understanding of our language, our culture and the way we do things, the Malaysian Indian community can serve as the bridge for business and industry between our two countries.

We opened a Cultural Centre in Kuala Lumpur last year to supplement your efforts. I request the Indian community's support and encouragement for our Cultural Centre. I also hope that your children, the future of this country, will want to experience Indian culture by visiting the Centre.

I am also pleased to know that you are availing the educational facilities which we offer in India. Our Prime Minister, during his meeting with the community last October, announced a contribution of over One Million US Dollars (Rs. 5 crores) to augment the Indian Scholarship Trust Fund that was set up by our first Prime Minister in 1946 to provide assistance to Malaysian Indian students. I am happy to inform you that the money pledged by the Prime Minister has been made available in the designated bank account. It will allow more students to receive financial assistance hereafter.

It has been a special pleasure to meet such distinguished people. I thank you all for warmly responding to the invitation of our High Commissioner.

Thank you all.



**392. Interview of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna with Paul Gabriel of the Malaysian Paper *The Star of Malaysia*.**

**Kuala Lumpur, May 3, 2011.**

[Indian Foreign Minister explains his country's targets and hurdles External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna has been raising the tempo with strategic speeches around the world as India attempts to place itself as a centre of power. Appointed to the post fairly recently in 2009, the prominent 79-year-old politician from Karnataka is galvanising support from the international community for India's campaign for inclusion as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Indian officials already count the support of at least 120 countries and are confident of a UNSC reform by early 2012, although most others expect that it will be a long-drawn affair.

"We will expand our outreach to other member states to convince them if they are not already convinced," Krishna told a meeting in Washington recently.

The candidature of the world's largest democracy for a UNSC permanent seat was endorsed by US President Barack Obama during the latter's state visit to India last November.

Besides his appetite for global engagement, Krishna, a former Chief Minister of Karnataka (1999-2004) and Governor of Maharashtra (2004-2008) has other delicate foreign policy scenarios to deal with and assess.

Ministerial-level talks with Pakistan have only just resumed following the deadly Mumbai blasts in 2008 which India blames on Pakistani terrorists. And there is also the race for India to climb up the ranks of the world's most powerful nations.

Krishna, who is in Kuala Lumpur for the 5th India-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting, speaks to *The Star* on a wide-range of issues, such as its strategic relations with the US and Russia, a pending historic Ombudsman legislation, the inevitable India-China comparison and the high-priority his government attaches to its relations with Malaysia.]

**Can India rise to become the fourth most powerful nation by 2025, as your revised National Security Index suggests?**

Over the course of about 65 years, our country has emerged stronger. Our GDP has increased from low double digit in billion US dollars to over a trillion US dollars.

Even as the population has grown about four times, we produce more than



four times food grain than we produced in 1950. Hundreds of millions have been pulled out of poverty and illiteracy and the resultant death and disease. Sustained high growth since economic reforms and liberalisation introduced in the early 1990s has put India as the fourth largest economy in the world, behind the EU, US, China and Japan, on Purchasing Power Parity. As a result of these historical achievements, which are underpinned by the strength of our democratic institutions, we are well prepared to address our own developmental challenges and also to contribute to global peace and development. Rankings are secondary and only consequential to meeting these objectives well. It is also clear that in this century, there is a perceptible and growing shift in global power to Asia.

**When will your economic achievements match that of China's?**

We are aware of the stellar economic achievements of China which is now the second largest economy in the world. There is great admiration in India for China's economic achievements. However, I would like to clearly point out that India does not view its relations with China in a competitive construct. We are not in any kind of race with China. Both India and China place high priority on economic development amongst their national priorities. This is because each of us wants to raise the living standards of our people. India desires to eradicate hunger, illiteracy and disease. However, we have different political, social and economic systems in India as compared to China.

Therefore, we will tread our own path towards inclusive economic growth and prosperity. We will work towards an economically vibrant, socially cohesive and politically plural India.

**India retains a security relationship with Russia and a strategic partnership with the United States. From the Indian perspective, how is this crucial in maintaining a proper balance of the international order?**

India has a strategic relationship with Russia, as it does with the United States, Britain, France and several other countries. These strategic partnerships help India to build on our common perceptions on major issues of international relations. Such cooperation is crucial for meeting the objectives of India's foreign policy, especially our desire to ensure a conducive atmosphere of peace and security in order to achieve strategic autonomy, external and internal security and the need for sustained and inclusive economic growth.

**The Indian Government recently succumbed to public outcry for legislation to create the Lokayukta, an Ombudsman that will guarantee accountability of its ruling class and politicians. How do you describe this development, coming after four decades of pressure from civil society?**

Our Government has always been responsive to the concerns of our citizens. This has been the essence of the functioning of India's parliamentary democracy since our Independence. The Government intends to introduce the Lokpal Bill in Parliament during the forthcoming Monsoon Session.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has said, "The fact that civil society and Government have joined hands to evolve a consensus to move this historic legislation augurs well for our democracy."

**India's campaign to be included as a permanent member of the UN Security Council has received the support of the G4 and L69, with President Obama also endorsing your bid. But many say it is going to be a long, tedious process for India to join the UNSC elite club. Do you concur?**

The process of reform of the UN Security Council has been a long and arduous one.

The issue of expansion of the Security Council to reflect geopolitical realities and to give voice and representation to countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean has been under consideration in the UN for almost 20 years. Over all these years, India, its G4 partners (Brazil, Germany and Japan) and other like-minded countries have ensured that this issue remains on top of the table in the UN.

The recent initiatives taken by the G4 countries have imparted a new momentum to the process of Security Council reform.

Their efforts resulted in the UN General Assembly's decision in September 2008 to launch inter-governmental negotiations in its informal plenary. In December 2009, the G4 and other like-minded countries again took initiative to ensure that the negotiations were text-based to record progress made in the course of negotiations.

In inter-governmental negotiations, seven rounds of which have taken place so far, a majority of the member states expressed support for expansion of the Security Council in the permanent and non-permanent categories and improvement of the working methods of the Council. Many countries have expressed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat. As in any inter-governmental process involving important issues, the process of Security Council reform will take its time.

India looks forward to working closely with Malaysia and other UN member states to take the process to its logical conclusion as early as possible.

India is nuclear armed but your country has decided to lead global efforts for non-proliferation and universal and non-discriminatory global nuclear disarmament. How do you explain this?

India has been consistent in its support for global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and like Malaysia has promoted this objective as members of the Non-Aligned Movement. In 1988, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented an Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon Free and Non-Violent World.

We remain committed to its vision and objectives. In fact, India is the only nuclear power which has supported the complete and global elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

India supports global non-proliferation objectives. We believe that nuclear disarmament will enhance global security and can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament in a verifiable manner. India and Malaysia should continue to lend their support for this noble objective.

**In your own words, Pakistan is the "epicentre of terrorism." Much delayed bilateral talks at the ministerial level is set to resume since the Mumbai 2008 attacks. Are you confident of a constructive and productive dialogue with your neighbour with so much suspicion in the air?**

We are committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral dialogue, in an environment free from terrorism and violence. Normalisation of India-Pakistan relationship is critical for peace, progress and prosperity of our peoples. We are cautiously optimistic about the dialogue that we have recently embarked upon with Pakistan. However, we must keep in mind that we are dealing with complex issues and should not have unrealistic expectations.

**Your visit to Malaysia is a follow up to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's successful trip last October. How do you see your strategic relationship with Malaysia developing?**

Malaysia has steadily grown in importance for India both bilaterally and in the regional context. We consider Malaysia a close friend and partner. This is evident from the exchange of visits by the Prime Ministers in 2010, and the decision to establish a Strategic Partnership. We attach high priority to this relationship. My visit is intended to progress our Strategic Partnership. The holding of the 5th Joint Commission in six months after our Prime Minister's visit is also a reflection of this desire. The Malaysian Foreign Minister and I will review the progress in the implementation of understandings reached at the highest level. We will be directing the concerned ministries and departments to expedite discussions in all areas, and we also discuss new proposals. We will work closely in all matters of common interest, including economic, defence and security fields, with a view to achieving a long-term strategic partnership.

**Under a new global visa ruling enforced by the Indian Government in January, Malaysian tourists can only visit India twice within the six-month visa period. Many here have expressed dismay over this restriction, which is meant to plug loopholes to prevent terrorists from entering India. Will there be a review of the rules to restore our people-to-people ties?**

To counter growing terrorist threats to India's security, the new tourist visa policy was introduced in 2010 which prescribes the second visit of a tourist to take place after a gap of two months. This is not applicable to any other category of visas. Also, this is a policy which is not specific to Malaysia but applies to all countries. Exceptions are made to bona-fide tourists and visitors on certain bases.

Aspects of this policy are being reviewed by our government.



**393. Statement to media by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the conclusion of the 5th India - Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting.**

**Kuala Lumpur, May 3, 2011.**

My distinguished colleague, Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Anifah Aman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to begin by thanking the Foreign Minister, Dato' Sri Anifah Aman for welcoming my delegation to Malaysia. I am delighted to be here and to see the progress and achievements that Malaysians have made.

India attaches high priority to our relations with Malaysia. We have established a Strategic Partnership. Our respective Prime Ministers exchanged visits last year. We have signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. These recent developments have deepened our friendship and we are on the path to stronger and more diverse cooperation in both bilateral and regional fields.

In the Joint Commission Meeting that has just concluded, I emphasized India's keenness to progress our relationship. I received similar assurances from the Malaysian leaders and we are satisfied and happy that there is a common desire to make the India-Malaysia partnership into a pillar of our respective foreign policies.

Foreign Minister Anifah and I have agreed that the early implementation of all the understandings and agreements enshrined in the Joint Statement on the Framework for a Strategic Partnership, should be our foremost priority. We reviewed progress over the past six months.

We have had an in-depth exchange of views on how we can make early progress on issues such as a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and a MoU on Customs Cooperation, as well as operationalization of the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

We have also requested the Malaysian side to consider greater imports from India as a way of having balanced and sustainable trade in the long term.

People-to-people exchanges are also developing satisfactorily. We have agreed on ways to sustain these trends in the coming year.

We also exchanged views on regional and multilateral matters. We regard Malaysia as one of our key interlocutors in ASEAN and we discussed the importance of strengthening India-ASEAN ties. The early completion of the Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investments, which, we hope that Malaysia, as ASEAN coordinator, will facilitate, is desirable. We also look forward to the participation of Prime Minister Najib in the Special India-ASEAN Summit that India will host in 2012.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has very graciously agreed to receiving me and I will be calling on him shortly. I will be conveying to him warm greetings from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and our great desire to support the further enhancement of our bilateral relations.

I have invited His Excellency the Foreign Minister to visit India at a mutually convenient time. I have enjoyed my brief visit to your country and I would like to once again thank Dato' Sri Anifah for his warm hospitality.



**MONGOLIA****394. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Third Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation.****Ulaanbaatar , May 31, 2011.**

Shri E Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs paid an official visit to Mongolia to participate in the Third Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation from 29-31 May 2011. He was accompanied by an official-delegation. Shri Ahamed and Mr. Yo Otgonbayar, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia co-Chaired the Third Meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation. The Joint Committee meeting reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relationship particularly implementation of the decisions taken during the previous two meetings of the Joint Committee and for making progress on the ground with regard to bilateral cooperation. Shri Ahamed also called on H.E Mr. Sukhbaataryn Batbold, the Prime Minister of Mongolia on 31 May and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Reconfirming that the traditional relationship between Mongolia and India in the educational and cultural sector is strengthening and rapidly growing and noting that the Indian assistance and contributions to this sector in Mongolia play significant role, both sides agreed on further broadening this cooperation. Indian side agreed on considering options of supporting certain projects with the purpose of renovation and expansion of Rajiv Gandhi Arts and Production Centre in Ulaanbaatar. Both sides noted the importance of expediting the construction of the India-Mongolia Joint School in Ulaanbaatar, for which Mongolian side will provide a suitable plot of land and the Indian side agreed to support construction of the School.

Both sides also agreed to expedite the realization of the US\$ 20 million line of credit extended by India to Mongolia for establishing the 'Joint Information Technology Education and Outsourcing Centre' in Mongolia.

Acknowledging the importance of bilateral cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy, both sides have indicated the need of organizing Joint Working Group meeting in 2011 for the purpose of implementing the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Peaceful Use of Radioactive Minerals and Nuclear Energy, signed in 2009.

Both sides confirmed the significance and the need of the development of cooperation in the field of agriculture. Mongolian side expressed their aspiration to study Indian expertise in processing dairy products, milk supply means and biotechnology. Mongolian side proposed to Indian side to consider possibility

of setting up joint factory for processing sea-buckthorn products. The Indian side suggested to the Mongolian side to present concrete proposals in the matter.

The two sides noted the importance of furthering the bilateral cooperation in the field of defence, social welfare and labour, health and environment protection. The two sides also agreed on continuation of joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant", on training Mongolian personnel specialized in ecological evaluation, developing software and data processing related to the environment protection and on possibility of collaboration in the field of labour statistics, labour force analyses and brokerage.

Supporting the cooperation in the field of mineral resources and mining, both sides agreed on exploring possibilities of implementing joint projects in Mongolia.

The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Mongolia-India Joint Committee on Cooperation in New Delhi in 2012.



**395. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson & Joint Secretary (East Asia) on President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil's State visits to Republic of Korea and Mongolia.**

**New Delhi, July 22,2011.**

Please see Document N.380



**396. Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Press at Ulaanbaatar.**

**July 28, 2011.**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

President Elbegdorj and I have just concluded our discussions, which were held in a warm, friendly and cordial atmosphere. My visit seeks to strengthen our relationship, building upon the momentum generated by the visit of President Elbegdorj to India in September 2009, when our ties were expanded to a Comprehensive Partnership.

I conveyed to the President that I was privileged to make this State Visit when Mongolia was commemorating the "Year of Anniversaries" including the 805th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Great Mongolian State under the leadership of the legendary Chinggis Khan and the 90th Anniversary of Mongolian Independence and Sovereignty.

I also recalled the bonds of culture, civilization and religion which bind our two countries together. I emphasized that we should reaffirm and strengthen our age-old ties in these fields, including by reviving contacts with Nalanda University, which is being rejuvenated as a regional seat of learning and excellence in particular, of Buddhist studies.

Today, it is encouraging that we also share other values such as democracy, rule of law and upholding the rights of the individual. This forms the bedrock of our bilateral cooperation.

My discussions with President Elbegdorj today were wide-ranging and covered the entire gamut of our bilateral relations as well regional and global issues of mutual interest.

I confirmed that India will extend a Line of Credit of 20 Million U.S.Dollars for the "India - Mongolia Joint Information Technology, Education and Outsourcing Center" to be established in Ulaanbaatar.

India will also upgrade and modernize the Rajiv Gandhi Art and Production School as well as the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology. We will complete this work soon. Further, we have agreed to work together on a Joint India - Mongolia School.

I conveyed that the number of slots available to Mongolia under our ITEC Program will be increased to 150. The number of ICCR scholarships available to Mongolia will be increased to 50. In this way, India will assist in human resource development and capacity building efforts of Mongolia.



We have signed an Agreement of Cooperation between the Planning Commission of India and its Mongolian counterpart. There is considerable expertise on plan formulation and implementation in India. We look forward to sharing our experience in this area with Mongolia.

A bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed. May I state that India is willing and ready to expand collaboration in this sphere.

President Elbegdorj and I discussed ways to further our cooperation in the peaceful use of radioactive minerals and nuclear energy.

With a Memorandum on Media Exchanges signed between the two Governments, we can now hope to see more media persons from Mongolia in India. We will also send more Indian journalists here.

We also agreed to explore the possibilities of improving air connectivity between our two countries so as to enhance contacts between our peoples, including through tourism.

Mongolia has just taken over as the Chair of the Community of Democracies. I promised President Elbegdorj to assist in any way required in ensuring the success of his Chairmanship.

I thanked Mongolia for its support extended to India in becoming a Permanent Member of a reformed and expanded United Nations Security Council.

My State Visit aims at conveying the importance India attaches to its relationship with Mongolia. Our two Governments will work together in expanding this partnership.

I thank President Elbegdorj for his very warm hospitality. I invite him to visit India soon.

Thank You.



**397. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by the Mongolian President T. Elbegdorj.**

**Ulaanbaatar, July 28, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Elbegdorj

Madam Bolormaa

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here in Mongolia, the land of the “Blue Skies”.

Excellency, we in India consider Mongolia as a close and trusted friend and I am confident that my visit will give a strong impetus to the Comprehensive Partnership between India and Mongolia. Mongolia is an important strategic partner of India in North East Asia. We cherish and value our partnership.

India's ties with Mongolia straddle centuries. Chords of Buddhism not only bind us together but also resonate within our hearts. The message of the Buddha that was carried by Indians to Central, East and South East Asia, also made its way to the vast steppes of Mongolia where it has found a permanent home for over two millennia. Mongolian monks studied at Nalanda University during its heyday. And over the centuries, some of the great works of Indian spiritual and secular literature, including the Ramayana and Kalidas' Megha Doota were to find their way into the body of sacred literature - the Tanjur and the Kanjur - that is now considered as part of Mongolia's civilizational heritage. We are deeply honoured and privileged that the Mongolian people describe India as their “spiritual home”. This is, indeed, a great tribute when one considers the great distances that separates us geographically. Undoubtedly, the Silk Route, which connected India with Mongolia for centuries, brought together our traders, artists, musicians and artisans. It has been a highway for goods as well as ideas.

Mr. President, all of us in India have read about the adventures and exploits of the great Mongol leader Chinggis Khaan. His overland journey through Asia and into Europe in the 13th century was as historically significant as the sea journeys of Vasco Da Gama or Christopher Columbus in heralding a new age that was to change the world forever. His descendants founded the great Mughal Empire, whose invaluable contributions to India are many and symbolized most eloquently by its great monument - the Taj Mahal.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and other leaders of modern India had a very

special regard for the Mongolian people. It was at Prime Minister Nehru's behest that a Mongolian delegation visited India for the 'Asian Relations Conference' in 1947. On the sound foundation of this rich legacy, we have built a relationship woven around common values. We share a democratic outlook with respect for rule of law and human rights as well as a vision of peace and stability in our region. Our ties have been steadily reinforced and nurtured through exchange of high level political visits and through cooperation in diverse areas, including in the field of education, training, agriculture and information technology. Today, we wish to further strengthen these as well as forge new ties in the field of trade and investment.

Since 1990, Mongolia's transition to market economy and democracy has opened new opportunities for multi-faceted cooperation. A business delegation is accompanying me. They have expressed optimism and have a number of ideas to take forward our economic engagement and I hope they would be given full support.

We, in India, have followed the journey of Mongolia in the last two decades with great interest. We rejoice in your achievements, as Mongolia today stands tall as a strong and vibrant democracy. We congratulate Mongolia for assuming the Chair of the Community of Democracies. We stand ready to assist in ensuring the success of your Chairmanship.

In 2009, during your visit to India, we established our 'Comprehensive Partnership' to symbolize our shared commitment to ever-expanding ties at all levels between our two peoples and two countries. We work together in regional and multilateral forums. We are committed to enhance these multi-faceted ties in the years ahead.

Excellency, we have together built an impressive edifice of multi-faceted cooperation. My meetings with the Mongolian leadership today have given a strong impetus to these ties. India remains resolute in its endeavor to further deepen and diversify relations with Mongolia drawing deeply from the fountain of our common heritage and building on our common aspirations of prosperity and democracy.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast:-

- to the health of His Excellency President Elbegdorj and Madam Bolormaa;
- to the prosperity and progress of the people of Mongolia; and
- to the abiding friendship between our two countries and peoples.



**398. Agreements signed during the visit of the President of India to Mongolia****Ulaanbaatar, July 28, 2011.**

<b>Name of Agreement</b>	<b>Indian Signatory</b>	<b>Mongolian Signatory</b>
Agreement on Cooperation in Defence Matters between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia.	Shri Satbir Singh Ambassador of India to Mongolia	Mr. Zandanshatar Gombojav, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia on Media Exchanges.	Shri Sanjay Singh Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs	Mr. Enkhbold Voroshilov Ambassador of Mongolia to India
Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Planning Commission of the Republic of India and the National Development Innovation Committee of Mongolia.	Smt. Sudha Pillai Member-Secretary, Planning Commission of India	Mr. Khashchuluun Chuluundorj Chairman, National Development Innovation Committee of Mongolia



**399. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Business meeting.**

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, July 29, 2011**

I am delighted by this opportunity to interact with the representatives of business and industry of India and Mongolia during my visit to this enchanting land, the land of the 'blue skies'.

Although this is my first visit to Mongolia, I feel very much at home amongst the friendly people of this country. Our relationship is unique and special. The friendship between our countries percolates down, operating and resonating at the level of our people. India and Mongolia have interacted since antiquity through the vehicle of Buddhism traversing the Great Silk Route, which connected India with Mongolia for centuries. It brought together our traders, artists, musicians and artisans. Our centuries' old contact and inter-exchange of ideas, people, and goods have imparted a timeless dimension to our relations. In the more contemporary times, we have sought to build on these bonds. Our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was never hesitant in championing the cause of Mongolia. India is proud to have supported the membership of Mongolia to the United Nations in 1961. As we forge ahead, this enduring legacy provides us with a solid foundation for economic, scientific and technological cooperation between our two countries.

During the visit of President Elbegdorj to India in September 2009, our bilateral relations were elevated to a "Comprehensive Partnership". My visit, while continuing the process of high level contacts and exchange of views, seeks to further reinforce our ties in mutually beneficial fields. Economic and commercial ties are a major driver of any partnership between nations. I would even go to the extent of saying that economics are the bricks and mortar of any enduring political relationship. I am confident that today's event will be a forerunner of a greatly strengthened business relationship between India and Mongolia. I am convinced that there exist many opportunities for co-operation in the economic and commercial fields, and with enterprise and innovation we can construct a new Silk Route to weave together our economic destinies.

Over the last few days, I have had the opportunity to discuss various issues of bilateral and regional importance with the leadership of Mongolia. We have shared values of democracy, human dignity and economic freedom. Our goal is to further strengthen our deep and enduring friendship, on the basis of our shared values. Our ties are acquiring multi-dimensionality but there is still some way to go before we can have strong economic pillars to our ties. In this context, you as representatives of business and industry, have the role, responsibility and capacities to find complementarities between our two economies, and

increase the space for business and trade, so that the close relationship between our countries is translated into economic opportunity and prosperity, for our peoples.

As a close friend of Mongolia, we in India are deeply impressed with its commitment to democracy and the strides made in the development of its people. We, in India, are conscious that Mongolia is an economy on the march, and therein manifests opportunity for cooperation and collaboration with India. The mining boom that Mongolia is presently experiencing, is predicted to make Mongolia's economy the fastest growing in the world by 2013. The World Bank's annual GDP growth rate projection for Mongolia in 2013 is 22.9 percent. Such predictions, indeed, are staggering and Indian business must take due notice. Mongolia's mineral wealth, including significant reserves of coal, copper, gold, and uranium, offers investment opportunities for Indian companies. We are impressed and applaud Mongolia's decision to put forth for development, the three major flagship mining projects namely the Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold deposit, the Tavan Tolgoi coking coal deposit and the uranium deposit at Dornod. These projects are becoming important drivers of foreign direct investment into Mongolia, and will serve the purpose of meeting the growing demands of the world economy in general, and major Asian economies such as India in particular. Implementation of these projects will generate significant demand for construction and mining equipment, as well as in such areas as power generation, water supply, and rail transport. I would recommend the Indian business delegation to look closely at these opportunities.

The global economy is at a stage of profound transformation. India is a part of the shifting global economic landscape, and its economic weight is set to increase in the years ahead. The Indian economy faced the global financial meltdown with alacrity and persisted with a high growth trajectory. Today, it is not only one of the major economies of the world, but it is also one of the fastest growing. We seek to achieve our goals of inclusive growth and nation building. We have in place an ambitious programme, for the expansion of our social and infrastructure sectors. All this offers many opportunities for other countries. I invite Mongolian entrepreneurs to join us in our socio-economic transformation as investors, financiers and traders, or to enter into joint ventures with Indian entrepreneurs to develop Mongolia's resources.

The Indian business delegation present here should, along with Mongolian industry, explore business opportunities and seek to establish contacts with commercial and industrial houses. I encourage greater and more frequent exchange of ideas and interaction between Chambers and business leaders of the two countries. This can be the only way to move ahead, to ensure

that we understand and appreciate each other, in surmounting the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.

I am confident that an accelerated development of economic and commercial ties will become the principal component of the India-Mongolia Comprehensive Partnership upon which we have embarked. There is considerable enthusiasm here. Indian business delegates would not have got all the answers for their questions. But it is only the beginning. You should keep up the efforts continuously. The Mongolian Government is quite positive and responsive. So you should take follow-up actions. This will not only develop and strengthen the strong and enduring areas of partnership, but will also enhance and promote the socio-economic advancement of our peoples.

I wish your deliberations success.

Thank you.



**400. Statement to the Media by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil onboard the special air craft on her way back from her state visits to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia.**

**On Board Special Aircraft, July 30,2011.**

I have just concluded my State visits to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. As I mentioned on my outward journey, for India both these countries are important partners in North East Asia and an integral part of our 'Look East' policy. People in both nations are believers in Buddhism, which spread there from India, and we have ancient cultural and historical links, as well as shared values. These commonalities enhance our relations.

The Presidents of both Republic of Korea and Mongolia had paid State visits to India in the last two years. Therefore, my return visits were being looked forward to by their Governments.

I was received with great warmth and cordiality in Seoul as also in Ulaanbaatar. My meetings with the Presidents and other leaders of both nations were friendly and productive; and there was a clear desire to expand and deepen relations with India. I fully reciprocated these sentiments and indicated that we wanted to take our Strategic Partnership with the Republic of Korea and our Comprehensive Partnership with Mongolia to a higher trajectory. In both Seoul and Ulaanbaatar, three inter-governmental agreements each were signed. You have already been briefed about these in detail.

In Korea, the Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed during my visit will enable our two countries to cooperate with each other in a new sector. President Lee and I agreed to enhance defence and security cooperation between our two countries including naval cooperation to protect the sea lanes of communication. President Lee was highly appreciative of the first ever visit to Republic of Korea by our Raksha Mantri last year and assured that his Defence Minister will visit India this year to maintain the momentum of our cooperation. Focusing on India's capabilities in the peaceful uses of outer space, I told President Lee that we look forward to launching Korean satellites on Indian rockets, as our launch vehicles are of high quality and competitive price. I indicated our desire to explore the possibility of upgrading the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, pressed for greater market access in Korea for Indian goods particularly pharmaceuticals and IT enabled services and invited enhanced Korean investment in India. The Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade will visit



India later this year for the meeting of the India - ROK Joint Commission. I am confident that the upward trend in economic relations between India and Republic of Korea will strengthen immeasurably as a result of my visit.

Similarly, I believe that my visit to Mongolia will strengthen the economic partnership between our countries. The 20 million US Dollar Line of Credit for establishing an IT education and outsourcing centre in Ulaanbaatar will assist in creating new business and job opportunities for the friendly Mongolian people. India, considered as the Third neighbor by Mongolia, will continue helping in capacity building and human resource development in all sectors required by them. The MoU between the Planning Commission of India and the National Development and Innovation Committee of Mongolia will enable our two countries to share experiences in Plan formulation and implementation.

Indian business delegation which accompanied me to Ulaanbaatar had good discussions with their Mongolian counterparts as part of the India - Mongolia Business Forum. You heard for yourself some of their experiences in Mongolia, which provides us with hope for future economic and commercial relations.

The Agreement on Cooperation in Defence Matters signed during my visit to Ulaanbaatar signals the desire of both countries to strengthen security cooperation. We are confident that the conclusion of this very important Agreement will add depth and substance to India - Mongolia ties.

I invited both countries to actively involve themselves with the rejuvenation and rebuilding of Nalanda University as a centre of excellence in Asia. The leadership of both countries referred to India as the spiritual home for many of their nationals. I conveyed to the Mongolian leadership that India has liberalized its visa regime for Mongolian monks coming to India for Buddhist studies. They will now be eligible for visas for the duration of their studies or for five years, whichever is shorter.

With both countries we have signed Memoranda of Understanding on Media Exchanges which will help contribute to greater trust and understanding between our peoples. There is urgent need to enhance people-to-people exchanges with both nations. Therefore, in both capitals, I highlighted the need to commence direct air links.

Mongolia has recently assumed the Chair of the Community of Democracies in which India and the Republic of Korea are also members. On my part, I promised President Elbegdorj of Mongolia our full assistance in ensuring the success of his leadership of this organization and for promoting education for democracy.

In both Republic of Korea and Mongolia, I was able to meet with the leaders of their national legislative bodies where we discussed means of expanding parliamentary exchanges. The accompanying Minister and Members of Parliament who were part of my delegation actively participated in these interactions.

In my discussions in both the countries, there were references to the support provided by India's political leadership during difficult times in the course of their history - whether during the Korean war or while extending support to the admission of Mongolia to the United Nations. This high esteem is evident in the honour accorded to them. In Seoul, the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is an acknowledgment of his vision of Korea as the Lamp of the East; and in Ulaanbaatar, the statue of Mahatma Gandhi is a recognition of his universal message of peace and non-violence. I paid tribute at both these places at ceremonies marked with solemnity.

My visits to the Republic of Korea and Mongolia have been a clear indication to them of the importance India attaches to our relations which have an enormous potential. With momentum imparted to our ties through high level exchanges, I believe that our partnership with both these countries will we move forward purposefully and will also give a boost to our Look East policy. I have invited President Lee of the Republic of Korea and President Elbegdorj of Mongolia to visit India.

Thank You.



**MYANMAR****401. Earth Quack in Myanmar and India's sympathies, condolences and offer of help:****Prime Minister's message to Chairman Than Shwe****March 26, 2011**

In a letter today, to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman, State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, conveyed heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of Myanmar, on the loss of lives and property, in the severe earthquake that afflicted the country on 24th March.

PM assured that India stood ready to render any assistance that Myanmar may require.

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**Statement by the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs:.****New Delhi, March 25, 2011.**

"We are saddened to learn about the loss of lives and damage to property in the recent earthquake in Myanmar. India has conveyed its deep condolences to the Government of Myanmar and expressed readiness to assist them in whatever way we can in their relief efforts. We are in close touch with the Government of Myanmar in this connection".

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**India provides assistance of \$1 million to Myanmar for earthquake relief****March 29, 2011**

Following the earthquake in the northeastern part of Myanmar on 24th March 2011, in his message to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman, State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar, the Prime Minister condoled the loss of lives and damage to property and infrastructure caused by this natural calamity and assured the Government of Myanmar of any assistance that Myanmar may require from India. Following up on this assurance, Government have announced an assistance of US \$1 million for relief and rehabilitation in the affected areas.



**402. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to media prior to his departure for Myanmar.**

**New Delhi, June 20, 2011.**

I will be paying an official visit to Myanmar from 20-22 June 2011 at the invitation of my counterpart. This will be our first high level engagement with the newly established civilian government in Myanmar after its assumption of office of on 30th March, 2011.

The visit will give us an opportunity to further vitalize our multi-faceted relationship in the new political environment. We will have an exchange of views on enhancing security cooperation as well as our collaboration in the fields of Connectivity, IT, Energy, Agriculture, Power, Telecommunications and Infrastructure.

We have had regular high level exchanges with Myanmar. The most recent visit was that of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in July 2010.

We have made considerable progress in implementing decisions and agreements emanating from that visit. Construction had commenced on Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project. We also propose to initiate a few new projects.

I will be inaugurating three of the ten Rice Silos (Warehouses) being set up in Myanmar and with India's assistance following the devastating Cyclone Nargis that hit the country 3 years ago. We are likely to sign a number of MOUs of cooperation to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. I will be travelling both to Yangon and Nay Phi Taw, the capital of Myanmar, and would return to New Delhi on 22 June.

I would also like to briefly reflect on resumption of our dialogue process with Pakistan as mandated by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, in April 2010 at Thimphu.

In the preceding months, meetings of Home Secretary/ Interior Secretary; Commerce Secretaries, Water Resources Secretaries; Additional Secretary/ Surveyor General on Sir Creek and Defence Secretaries on Siachen, have already taken place. We have had a useful exchange of views and have gained a better understanding of each other's positions. We have always approached our discussions in an open and constructive spirit.

Next, Foreign Secretary Rao will be heading for Islamabad to meet her counterpart. The agenda of discussions is already known to you. Her visit and

discussions would carry forward the dialogue process with Pakistan. We also expect to have a meeting of Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan by July this year.

We hope to narrow the trust deficit between our nations and pave the way for normalization of relations by addressing all outstanding issues and concerns, particularly those pertaining to terrorism. This menace has to be dealt with firmly and transparently, for the common good of India and Pakistan, as well as, the region beyond.

We have to be patient, realistic and positive. As Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has said on more than one occasion, peace and prosperity of South Asia is interlinked. We owe it to ourselves and generations to follow, to do what it takes, to embark on the path of peace and development.



**403. Extract from the Statement of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna to media prior to his departure for Myanmar.**

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#### **404. Media Report on the visit of External Affairs Minister to Myanmar.**

**May Pyi Taw, June 22, 2011.**

Myanmar gave "firm assurances" to India on June 21 that its territory would not be used for anti-India activities, even as their Foreign Ministers held a series of "positive and constructive" meetings with focus on cooperation in security, energy and agriculture.

External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna, who is on a three-day visit to the country to talk and understand the "priorities and thinking" of the recently formed civilian government, held bilateral talks with the country's Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin.

On the issue of security cooperation, it was believed that Myanmar had reiterated its "firm assurances" that the country's territory would not be allowed to be used for anti-India activities. Security cooperation has been a major part of bilateral relations because of the long border that Myanmar shares with four northeast States. Many insurgent groups operating in the area are known to take advantage of the thick jungles along the border in Myanmar to take refuge.

Mr. Krishna also called on Vice-President U Tin Aung Myint Oo in the evening besides holding meeting with the Minister for Electric Power. "The talks were excellent, positive, constructive and forward-looking," a member of the Indian delegation said when asked about the bilateral meetings held.

While the meetings were a bid to foster strategic and economic ties between the neighbours, sources said a number of issues with regard to cooperation in the field of health and agriculture were also discussed. India also congratulated

Myanmar on holding successful elections that saw the formation of the first civilian government in years

India has in principle agreed to modernise the children's hospital in Yangon by supplying latest equipment and offering other help. Talks are also on to build a state-of-the-art general hospital in Sittwe with Indian help.

Extending a helping hand to cyclone-prone Myanmar, India handed over 10 modern and disaster-proof rice silos built at a cost of \$2 million to preserve grains during natural calamities. Mr. Krishna inaugurated the silos, having a combined storage capacity of 5,000 tonnes.

While cooperation in the agriculture field is an ongoing phenomenon, sources said a team from the Ministry of Agriculture led by agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan would soon be visiting Myanmar to understand the country's needs and the possible help that can be extended.

India has already agreed to provide a grant of \$10 million for procurement of agricultural tools, besides providing 100 computers to the Central Land Records, as requested by Myanmar. Sources said discussions were also held on setting up an Agricultural Research Centre in Yezin

India has agreed to send a team from the Archaeological Survey of India to render its services in the restoration of 11th century Ananda temple in Bagan in Mandalay region.

On the economic side, both countries expressed happiness at the rapid growth of trade but noted that there was also a large untapped market, sources said.

(The item is based on the *Hindu* of June 22, 2011.)



**405. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the 4th meeting of the India – Myanmar Joint Trade Commission.**

**New Delhi, September 27, 2011.**

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma has set the target of doubling the existing US\$1.5 billion trade between India and Myanmar by 2015. Chairing the 4th meeting of Joint Trade Commission along with Mr U Win Myint, Union Minister of Commerce, Myanmar, Shri Sharma said “I propose that we work towards doubling of bilateral trade by 2015. We also need to work towards broad-basing our trade basket. .... Let us encourage businesses of both sides need to be encouraged to utilize Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme and ASEAN FTA channels to diversify trade.”

Shri Sharma said construction of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project comprising of a waterway component and a roadway component by 2013 will completely transform the trade between North East India and the rest of the world. Cost of the project is US\$ 120 million. The Project envisages a direct trade corridor between Indian Ports on the eastern seaboard and Sittwe Port in Myanmar and then through riverine transport and by road to Mizoram, thereby providing an alternate route for transport of goods to North-East India. The two countries recognized the need to start collaborating to build a Land Customs Station at India-Myanmar Border (at Mizoram) to facilitate the movement of vehicles and goods entering and leaving Mizoram state.

On the issue of border trade it was noted that the border trade point at Moreh, on Indian side, and Tamu, on Myanmar side, is stabilising and has immense potential for normal trade. Shri Sharma invited his counterpart to inaugurate the second border trade point at Zowkhatar(Mizoram) that will connect to Rhi in Myanmar. Both the Ministers stressed the need for working on two additional border trade points – Pangsau Pass (in Arunachal Pradesh) and Avangkhang (in Nagaland). India and Myanmar have also expanded the list of items for border trade from 22 to 40.

Shri Sharma also informed India’s assistance for capacity building in agricultural research and improving the seed variety in Myanmar.

India is keen to participate in the gas sector of Myanmar. Indian companies have shown interest in setting up of gas based units, invest in LNG infrastructure, etc. The Indian Minister pushed for Indian participation in allocation of gas blocks in Myanmar. Myanmar side showed strong support for the proposal. To strengthen the economic relationship both sides agreed to set up a ‘Joint Trade & Investment Forum’ which would include both businessman and Government officials and would meet along with the Joint Trade Committee.



One third of India's imports in pulses and one-fifth of India's imports of timber are from Myanmar. With the implementation of India-ASEAN FTA and the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme, Shri Sharma expressed the confidence that India can become one of the leading trade partners of Myanmar. Currently, two items – pulses and wood products accounted for 97.5% of Myanmar's total exports to India. Similarly, buffalo meat and pharmaceuticals accounted for 45% of India's total exports to Myanmar.



**406. Media briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (BSM) on the State Visit of President of Myanmar.**

**New Delhi, October 13, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you. Welcome. Nice to see a number of old friends today! President of Myanmar H.E. Thein Sein arrived yesterday, the 12th of October, on a State visit to India, and would be in the country till the 15th of October. My colleague Mr. Harsh Shringla, Joint Secretary (BSM) and I would be happy to brief you about this very important ongoing visit.

The President assumed office on the 30th of March this year after general elections and this is the first high-level visit from Myanmar to India, of the new civilian government. The President is accompanied by his spouse and is leading a high-level delegation that includes a number of his Cabinet colleagues such as the Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar's Industrial Development, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Minister for Religious Affairs, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Electric Power, the Minister of National Planning and Economic Development as well as the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, the Union Minister for Transport, the Union Minister for Energy, the Minister of Science and Technology, the Union Minister of Commerce, the Chief of General Staff in the Ministry of Defence, the Deputy Minister of Health, a number of senior officials, and other members of the delegation.

He arrived yesterday at Gaya and is presently undertaking a pilgrimage of the holy Buddhist sites at Gaya, Khushinagar and Sarnath. He will be arriving later in the evening at New Delhi. Tomorrow there will be a ceremonial reception and welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There will be a call on him by the External

Affairs Minister followed by delegation-level talks at noon with the Prime Minister of India, signing of some agreements. He would be paying a visit to Akshardham Temple. In the evening he meets the President who also hosts a banquet in the honour of the visiting dignitary.

Given that agriculture is an important area of cooperation between our countries, he is also visiting the Indian Agricultural Research Institute on Saturday the 15th before emplaning for Myanmar. That is the brief programme of the President.

This is his third visit to India. He first visited India in 2004 during the state visit of Sr. General Than Shwe as Secretary-1 as he was called then. He next visited in November 2008 as the Prime Minister of Myanmar to participate in the BIMSTEC Summit in New Delhi.

Given our geographical proximity, India and Myanmar have enjoyed a longstanding relationship underpinned by ethnic, cultural and linguistic proximities, affinities. A large section of the Myanmar population is Buddhist and naturally sees India as their spiritual home. By various counts, something like a million people in Myanmar are of Indian origin.

Four of India's Northeastern States – Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram – share a land border with Myanmar which is more than 1600 kilometres. In fact, Myanmar is the only Southeast Asian State with which we have a land boundary, and as such it is a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, and also a gateway to the ASEAN region. Naturally connectivity through Myanmar can play a valuable role in spurring economic development in our northeastern region.

Myanmar is also an integral part in our Look East Policy. India and Myanmar are members of a number of regional fora including BIMSTEC, the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Plus Six, as well as other international fora. In 2008, Myanmar became an Observer at the SAARC.

Recent years have not only witnessed robust bilateral cooperation but also a number of high-level visits which include that of our Vice-President in February, 2009. Senior General Than Shwe paid the second state visit to India in July 2010 and, as I mentioned, before that he had visited India in October 2004. After the elections this year, the External Affairs Minister visited Myanmar in June, and now we are in the process of welcoming President Thein Sein. Our relations with Myanmar encompass a number of important areas like security, trade and investments, energy, capacity-building, health and education, science and technology, as well as infrastructure development.

With respect to security we have ongoing cooperation with Myanmar. We have

also received assurances that Myanmar territory will not be allowed to be used for insurgent activities against India. Both sides remained in close and regular contact in this regard.

Enhanced connectivity between the two countries is of mutual interest. I would like to note that work is under way in establishing the Kaladan Multi Modal Transport Corridor which would connect our eastern ports to Mizoram through the Sittwe Port in Myanmar and from Sittwe Port the corridor moves North via the riverine and the road segments. A number of other initiatives are also in the pipeline.

India and Myanmar in 2010-11 had a bilateral trade of 1.28 billion dollars which is much below the potential. There was a Joint Trade Committee meeting recently in Delhi on the 27th of September, which was chaired by the Commerce Ministers on both sides. They have established a target of three billion dollars in trade by 2015. We are the biggest importer of pulses from Myanmar. Indian pharmaceutical companies play a lead role, they have a sizeable presence in Myanmar, providing quality pharmaceutical products at very competitive prices. To boost trade and commercial ties it has been decided to have an Enterprise India show at Yangon between the 10th and the 13th of November this year which we hope would become a regular feature in the years ahead.

Myanmar is also emerging as an important partner in India's quest for energy security. Indian companies like ONGC Videsh Limited, GAIL, the Essar Group already have a presence in the country.

India has been pleased, we believe it is a privilege of ours, to be Myanmar's developmental partner including in the agriculture sector which is important to both our countries. At the request of Myanmar, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan visited the country recently to ascertain the requirements for setting up an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education at a place called Yezin. A Detailed Project Report is currently under preparation. We will also be supplying tractors and other agricultural implements to Myanmar.

Myanmar has been quite pleased by the success of an Industrial Training Centre to develop skilled manpower that was established and handed over by India recently at a place called Pakokku. Myanmar has requested India's assistance for another India-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Mying Yan. A MoU for establishment of the same was concluded during the visit of our External Affairs Minister to Myanmar in June this year. We are similarly working closely with Myanmar in fields like IT education, culture, health, disaster relief as well as other areas.

We are pleased at the manner in which our mutually beneficial ties with Myanmar are acquiring momentum. We do attach the highest importance to the state

visit of the President of Myanmar and are confident that this would place our relationship on an even more stronger footing.

Thank you. We will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** You said that the Minister for Border Development is accompanying the Myanmar President. What is exactly happening so far as the border concerned? We have been discussing this insurgency for a long time and you said that they have assured us that their territory would not be used for insurgency. What exactly is happening on the border? Secondly, what kind of trade opening is there at the border?

**Joint Secretary (BSM) (Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla):** Cooperation along the border is a very important part of our bilateral engagement with Myanmar. To that effect we have focused a lot of our efforts in joint projects which are designed to improve connectivity such as Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Project, construction of roads along the border, construction of border points, land customs stations, integrated check-posts and so on and so forth. I think that the emphasis on border trade is also increasing. The recent meeting of the Joint Trade Committee, which Joint Secretary (XP) spoke about, did take into account the need to expand border trade and to bring it under some better organisation and to also see if Indian imports and exports from and to Myanmar can be facilitated through some exchange rate mechanisms that our banks can work on. This is something that we are working on extensively. I think there will be some major developments in that regard in the months to come. One example I will just give you is the Kaladan project in which recently a delegation, of which I was a part, visited the Port of Sittwe where we hope goods from the eastern seaboard of India will come in and will be unloaded at Sittwe on to barges and then would go up the Kaladan river upstream until a point called Paletwa where it will be loaded directly into trucks. We are creating a road through Myanmar territory to join up with the link road in Mizoram. These two roads will join in Mizoram and will link up directly to National Highway 54. As a result we are creating another access road right from our eastern seaboard into northeastern Myanmar thereby using Myanmar to increase connectivity within India. That is just an example. There is also the trilateral highway which links India to Southeast Asia through Myanmar and into Thailand. That is also a road that we are working on. I think that also is something that could facilitate the implementation of our Look East Policy.

**Question:** Do you have anything to say on insurgency? Is there going to be any discussion during this visit on the aspect of insurgency as well as on the security aspect?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** On security cooperation we already have some fairly

extensive existing mechanisms. We have a national level mechanism which is headed by the Home Secretary. We have a border level mechanism that is between the two militaries. We have a sector level mechanism at the Joint Secretary level of the Ministry of Home Affairs. We have Foreign Office consultations which also goes into security cooperation. Obviously this is an important element of our bilateral cooperation and this element I expect will be discussed during the visit.

**Question:** What are the deadlines for these projects?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** On the Kaladan project the work has already begun. The companies concerned, that is Inland Waterways Authority of India and Essar, have mobilized fully. They have got equipment, they have got specialists from India, they have hired people from there. We expect that the entire riverine project which means construction of a port in Sittwe, construction of an inland port in Paletwa as well as dredging of the river, will be completed by June 2013. The road section of the project is something that some companies have done a DPR on. That is something that we are working on. We expect that that could also be completed in time to link up with the highway on the Mizoram side which is being constructed by the Government of Mizoram.

**Question:** When will the Sittwe start operating?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** I think the port will be functional by June 2013 and we have every expectation that the deadline will be met. It means that goods from India can already come into a part of Myanmar which is today somewhat inaccessible. Those goods can also go to different interior parts of Myanmar from these ports. The highway itself we expect will be completed sometime around 2014. I think this particular project should be on stream by 2014. Of course there are many elements that have to be tied in. One is that you have to create a completely new road through what is today jungle and hilly terrain. Secondly, you have to ensure that work on both ends coincides. Thirdly, we have to create border facilities on both sides which means land customs stations, immigration check points, etc. So, there are a number of variable factors which are not always within control. But the expectation is that at the earliest this will be set up.

**Question:** Going on for so long!

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** Yes, but you will be happy to know it is actually happening now. That is the difference.

**Question:** Sittwe is a deepwater port, right?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** The port will allow a draft of about eight to nine metres.

**Question:** The quiet diplomacy that India has been engaging in with Myanmar seems to have worked with the elections, and also the kind of steps that he has been taking which has been hailed by many countries. We have been against sanctions. Since Myanmar is often discussed with our western interlocutors, the US and UK, are we also going to ask them now to, it is about time, to lift the sanctions on Myanmar to ensure that they keep on this track?

**Official Spokesperson:** Our views on the sanctions are very well known. You have very rightly said that we have a distaste for sanctions because we always believe that sanctions do not serve the desired purpose and they affect those sections of the society which are as it is vulnerable. So, that is a very consistent position of the Government of India on the issue of sanctions.

**Question:** Where are we in terms of matching up with China in the engagement with Myanmar, especially when it comes to energy? On a related note, how are the talks for the India-Myanmar energy pipeline going? I think that is the biggest obstacle for India to invest more in energy in the Bay of Bengal sector. I think even though we have investments in A1 and A3, we have not been able to get them back to India and we are forced to sell them to China.

**Official Spokesperson:** Let me take the first part of your question and happily turn to him for the second part.

As far as China is concerned let me say it categorically that there is no competition going on there. Relations amongst nations are not a zero sum game. The Prime Minister of India has said it in a different context, but it applies everywhere including here that there is enough room for everybody. We have our relations with Myanmar. I have already tried to elaborate on this important relationship that we have with Myanmar. We similarly have a very important relationship with China. That is how it is. Myanmar has similarly a flourishing relationship with ASEAN region. So, there is no disconnect or there is no competition out there.

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** Energy cooperation with Myanmar is quite extensive and is expected to increase. You have correctly pointed out that we already have ONGC and Essar that are there in the A1 block and they are doing quite well. The Myanmar Government has also put out tenders for additional onshore blocks in which Indian companies have also expressed interest. Obviously, the companies themselves, these are commercial ventures, look at ways to evacuate energy from wherever they are. This does not have to come necessarily to India, it can also go elsewhere. There can be other arrangements that are worked out which can result in some sort of exchange in terms of resources that are available. There are various things being talked about, but I think it is premature to comment on those. I can only say that the fact that

energy cooperation was increasing significantly and that Indian companies are showing greater interest in the energy sector in Myanmar, to which Myanmar is very receptive, indicates that there are good prospects in that area.

**Question:** As Pranay pointed out, India has been engaging with Myanmar for a long time unlike many western governments which have been very prickly about any great contact. I would like to ask you whether you detect from the Myanmar side a change in the kind of the nature of the engagement that they are seeking, the nature of the kind of relationship they want to have post election, since March. I do not know whether they have ever come with such a huge delegation before for example. Do you sense that their interest in the engagement is kind of diversifying and deepening and that they are looking for different kinds of support and assistance from India?

**Official Spokesperson:** Amy, I can only speak for India. It is slightly difficult for me to give you a perspective of what Myanmar may or may not be looking outside. But you and I read the same reports and we get a sense of what is happening. Certainly as we see it, there are changes that are coming about; there are reforms that are taking place which is there for everybody to see. As far as the relationship with India is concerned, the contours of the relationship, the thrust of the relationship, the direction of the relationship I think I have given you a sense. If you have any specific question on that, we will be most happy to try and attempt an answer.

**Question:** Do not you think that they are basically looking for a much stronger relationship with India than maybe they had in the past. I know that there were state visits previously, but do you think their interest in say technical supports, a kind of broader range of cooperation on a broader range of issues is increasing?

**Official Spokesperson:** Most certainly. Relationships are a process. It is a building process. That is precisely why we have looked at very briefly, given the constraints of time and the trajectory, and I consciously did note that both in terms of content and substance and the breadth and the sweep of the relationship is certainly that it is an upward trajectory there is no doubt about that.

**Question:** I draw your attention to two recent political developments. One, since yesterday the Myanmar Government started releasing political prisoners, thousands of them. A few days back Myanmar suspended a China-driven construction project. Against the backdrop of these two political developments, how do you look at this visit? Does it connote that Myanmar is looking for more proactive help and cooperation from India in comparison to what they had been receiving from China? Secondly, what is the current status of Hanoi to

New Delhi rail project which was to pass through Myanmar and which was pending because of some construction which is yet to be done there?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** I can answer the last part of the question. Essentially there were some existing railway linkages which we are looking at rebuilding as far Myanmar is concerned. That is only at an examination stage. As far as the railway link from Hanoi down is concerned, that has to be seen in the ASEAN rubric and I am not aware of any development in that regard. I think there are talks but I am not sure whether it has reached the level of implementation.

**Official Spokesperson:** I think I have already answered that question. We look at India-Myanmar relationship through the prism of India-Myanmar relationship. We do not look at it in terms of competition. There is no zero sum game here.

**Question:** Regarding the human rights issue, I do not know if in India there will be some diplomatic pressure about releasing more of these political prisoners that is going on. Will some human rights issues also be discussed or it is not the policy of yours to discuss these?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** We do not normally comment on the internal affairs of states. But it is a fact that Myanmar has made certain significant steps towards political and economic reform. They have allowed the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Myanmar. After a very long period he has been given unfettered access to whoever he wanted to meet. As has been pointed out just now, they have taken steps to release prisoners including political prisoners. They have reached out to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They have started a dialogue with her. They have encouraged her to join the political process and the National League for Democracy. They have unblocked a number of websites, 30,000 websites, which were earlier proscribed. So, they have taken some significant steps towards a certain direction and we have taken note of that. But I do not think we would be in the business of telling them what they should and should not do. Generally we supportive of the transition towards democracy and we certainly do believe that that transition should be broad-based and inclusive. We also have committed that we would assist them in sharing our experiences in parliamentary democracy. We have invited a delegation of parliamentarians to come to India and we believe that that is an area in which we can be of some assistance to a nascent parliamentary democracy.

**Question:** I have one question related to what Pranay asked. Does India see the changes that are happening in the neighbouring country as a success for its own efforts over the years in engagement with the Government there? And,



has there been any contact in this changed environment, with Aung San Suu Kyi by the Indian Ambassador in Yangon?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** Again, I do not think we would be attributing these changes to anything that might be influenced by an external environment. As far as Aung San Suu Kyi is concerned, yes, our Ambassador has been in contact, our Ambassador has always been in contact over a period of time. As you are aware, the previous Foreign Secretary when she visited Myanmar in June had called on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, had a meeting with her. Recently our Ambassador invited Aung San Suu Kyi for a painting exhibition on Rabindranath Tagore in Yangon which she gracefully accepted. So, basically we have been in touch at a diplomatic level.

**Question:** Is there a plan for Aung San Suu Kyi to come to India? Could I get your sense that ...(Unclear)... ongoing political reforms by the Myanmar Government, has it made easier for India to scale up our relationship with Myanmar?

**Official Spokesperson:** To your first question, as and when there is a visit of any dignitary we will keep you posted. As far as your second question is concerned, you appreciate that we deal with the Government of the day which is in power. Regardless of the complexion of the Government in our neighbourhood, it is for the people of a country to decide what kind of a government they want, we deal with the Government of the day.

**Question:** Sir, is there any sort of enhancing of strategic partnership with Myanmar? Would any MoUs be signed on defence and security during the visit since their Chief of General Staff and their Border Minister are here?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** As Joint Secretary (XP) has pointed out, we will have as many as thirteen Ministers accompanying the President. There would be extensive discussions. We also hope that there would be discussions between the Ministers themselves and their counterparts in India during their stay here. As far as the outcome of the visit, I think there will be a joint statement that will be issued immediately following the talks tomorrow. Obviously you will see what the various outcomes are that are still under discussion at that time. But we have some plans in terms of projects that we are going to do together, the sort of cooperation that we are going to undertake.

**Question:** You mentioned the importance of developing transport links. I was just wondering if there are any plans to develop the StilWell road and if not, why not?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** Of course we cannot do everything at the same time and we have taken on some fairly heavy commitments in terms of developing

connectivity along our border with Myanmar. StilWell road is certainly one of those roads that could be taken up in future, but there is no decision on that as of now.

**Question:** Is it a coincidence that we are seeing consecutive state visits from the Southeast Asian nations? Also, do you have any information whether other high ranking leaders of Myanmar will be visiting China soon, like Vietnam did?

**Official Spokesperson:** On the second question, I would suggest you can ask either the Chinese or the Myanmar. That is an easier question to answer. In respect to your first question, we unveiled our Look East Policy in 1992. We have historical affinities, we have great affinities – linguistic, cultural, ethnic – with the ASEAN region which we consider to be a part of our extended neighbourhood. With many of the countries we have maritime boundaries, etc. So, it is very natural for us to engage closely with our ASEAN neighbours and friends. You are aware that we have an annual summit with the ASEAN and next year for the first time the India-ASEAN Summit will be held in New Delhi. You are aware that we already have a free trade agreement in goods with ASEAN, and we are very actively negotiating a free trade agreement on services and investments. We have had comprehensive economic partnership agreements with a number of countries in the ASEAN region. More are being negotiated. All that I am trying to say is it is very natural and we welcome the kind of engagement that is taking place with the ASEAN region.

**Question:** As a country which has already invested and has plans of investing more in Myanmar, is there a lesson for India on the Chinese hydel project which has been stopped worth 3.6 billion? What is the lesson that we draw?

**Official Spokesperson:** We have been engaging and we are looking at continuing the close engagement with Myanmar. One of the areas of cooperation is also the energy sector, which I mentioned. So, both sides find the cooperation of the kind that obtains between our two countries to be mutually beneficial, and we hope to continue on that path.

**Question:** Have there been any talks with Myanmar regarding counterterrorist activities and stopping insurgency, etc.?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** I told you there are already institutional mechanisms in which security cooperation is discussed. This has been continuing on a sort of a regular, ongoing basis. And obviously any high-level visit would also be an occasion on which to review the arrangements for security cooperation and it should be undertaken during this visit as well.

**Question:** What is the total Indian investment in Myanmar? Besides oil exploration as you mentioned by ONGC and Essar, are there other kinds of investments by other companies?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** There are a number of investments that are in the pipeline. Buses ... (Unclear) ... plant by the Tatas. There are investments in the agricultural sector. There are various sectors in which Indian companies have an interest. I think in the manufacturing sector a number of areas of interest have come up to our companies but much of this is in the pipeline, and I do not think we can go into that now. All I can say is that there is far greater interest by Indian industry in cooperating with Myanmar on the economic side. There will be a meeting that will be taken by FICCI also tomorrow in which some of the Economic Ministers of Myanmar will make presentations and will address business people from FICCI. I think many of our companies will be interested in that engagement.

**Question:** Sir, in the last two, three months there have been some statements made by Myanmar authorities saying that Myanmar does not have any plan to acquire nuclear weapons. In fact, they have gone ahead and said that they do not even have any plan to pursue any programme for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Do you share your perception on this? Can we take these claims on face value?

**Official Spokesperson:** I do not have any information one way or the other to react or comment on what you are asking. For you the best is to address this question to the country concerned.

**Question:** Would Mr. Shringla just be able to quantify the volume of Indian investment in Myanmar at the moment? What if any are the agreements that are going to be signed - MoUs, agreements, what have you - and broadly the areas that they represent?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** We have extended a number of lines of credit to Myanmar in the past, and we expect also to have some lines of credit extended during the visit.

**Question:** Approximate size?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** It is being worked out. We will know tomorrow. But clearly that is also expected to encourage Indian investments in Myanmar. It is expected to encourage bilateral trade. It is expected to encourage projects that are being undertaken jointly by the two countries. I think all of this is designed to stimulate economic activity between the two countries. As I said, there are other projects also particularly in the agricultural sector. All of this is again an effort to increase the economic cooperation between the two countries.

**Question:** Any agreements?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** There will be some agreements signed. It is a matter of detail.

**Question:** Is there any service and support that our armed forces will be providing to the Myanmar military? I understand they are procuring a lot of Russian equipment. And also in terms of nuclear cooperation, are we discussing anything since energy is of course an area of interest and cooperation? Are we looking at nuclear energy cooperation?

**Official Spokesperson:** As far as I know, in the field of energy what we are looking at and what we are collaborating with each other, is in the hydrocarbons sector and the hydroelectric power.

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** Our cooperation in the military sector is mainly through capacity-building, training, assistance in terms of some non-lethal equipment that the Myanmar military has vested us including road-building equipment and that sort of thing. That has been the nature of our defence cooperation.

**Question:** Sir, you have mentioned about Myanmar promising New Delhi that its territory will not be used for anti-India activities. What about Myanmar's response to the proposal from Indian side about a joint military operation against these forces operating out of Myanmar?

**Official Spokesperson:** We have already given you a sense of the nature of cooperation with Myanmar on this very important aspect of security and defence. We have shared with you what the position is of the Government of Myanmar. I have mentioned in my opening remarks that we are in regular and close touch in the matter. It is an ongoing dialogue, ongoing cooperation in the matter. So, that is all that I can say. You will appreciate that for me to get into specific details is not at all feasible.

**Question:** Sir, are we having some kind of a discussion with them on the security plan, when we talk about cross-border highway roads, even the StilWell project, because Chinese have some interest in this? Correct me if I am wrong.

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** We have worked with them on a number of road projects and we are continuing to do that, and we have not felt the need for any security cover or security cooperation in that regard. These efforts have been mainly to improve trade and improve people-to-people contacts and there has been no real threat assessment as far as I am aware of. Obviously if there is, then we will take it up and both sides will have to address that. But so far this has been essentially good for people living in the area. A lot of these roads that are being constructed are really in areas which have been relatively isolated and relatively away from the centres of economic activity. So, in a sense it has been welcomed by the local populations wherever these activities have been undertaken. And a lot of it is also to strengthen development of communities, etc., so that they have access to hospitals, schools, they get goods, etc. So, I

do not think this involved any conflict of interest or that we have come into any areas of security concern.

**Question:** Do we have an extradition treaty with Myanmar? I understand we have a mutual legal assistance treaty but does it cover extradition, or whether there are plans to have an extradition treaty?

**Joint Secretary (BSM):** As you said, we have a mutual legal assistance treaty. As far as extradition treaty is concerned, I do not think that is on the cards right now.

**Question:** Some of the ULFA leaders, one or two of them, are supposed to be in Myanmar. Will it come up for talks? Will we ask them to return them, as Bangladesh has done?

**Official Spokesperson:** I think on this important issue, what could be said and shared, we have shared with you. You will kindly excuse us if we are not in a position to get into more specific details with you and you can understand that.

**Question:** Is there any development regarding extradition process for Iqbal Mirchi?

**Official Spokesperson:** You would have seen the statement I made yesterday to say that the Red Corner Notice that has been issued in respect of Mr. Iqbal Mirchi continues to be valid, which means that he is a person of interest to us, that he is wanted in India, and that we do seek his extradition. I had also said there that we are now initiating the process of extradition because it is, as I said, a process.

Thank you very much.



**407. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the State Visit of the President of Myanmar U Thein Sein.**

**New Delhi, October 14, 2011.**

1. At the invitation of the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thein Sein, is paying a State Visit to India from October 12-15, 2011. He is accompanied by his wife Daw Khin Khin Win. Apart from his official engagements in New Delhi, President U Thein Sein visited places of economic, historical and religious interest, including Bodhgaya, Kushinagar and Varanasi.
2. In New Delhi, President U Thein Sein was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on October 14, 2011. The President of Myanmar will meet with the President of India who will host a banquet in his honour.
3. The President of Myanmar paid tribute and respect to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.
4. External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna called on President U Thein Sein.
5. President U Thein Sein had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, which was followed by delegation level talks. The meetings and exchanges were held in a warm, cordial and constructive atmosphere, reflecting the close and friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries and peoples.
6. During the official talks, the Prime Minister of India was assisted by Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram, External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Power Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Science and Technology Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of State for Defence Shri M.M. Pallam Raju, National Security Adviser Shri Shivshankar Menon, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Shri Pulok Chatterji, Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai, Secretary to the Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region Ms Jayati Chandra and other senior officials.
7. The President of Myanmar was assisted by Chief of General Staff Lt Gen. Hla Htay Win, Minister for Border Affairs and Myanmar Industrial Development Lt. Gen Thein Htay, Minister for Foreign Affairs U. Wunna Maung Lwin, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Minister for Industry (1) and (2) U Soe Thane,

Minister for Electric Power (1) U Zaw Min, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and Livestock and Fisheries U Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Minister for Science and Technology U Aye Myint, Minister of Commerce U Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr. Win Myint, and other senior officials.

8. The visit represented the first State visit to India following the swearing in of a new Government in Myanmar in March 2011 that marks welcome progress in moving towards an open and democratic framework.

9. The Prime Minister of India congratulated the President of Myanmar on the transition towards democratic Government and offered all necessary assistance in further strengthening this democratic transition in an inclusive and broad based manner. He welcomed the ongoing efforts at political, economic and social reform in Myanmar. He also welcomed the convening of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw (National Parliament of Myanmar) and the elected assemblies in all the States and Regions in Myanmar and expressed readiness to share India's own experiences in evolving parliamentary rules, procedures and practices. In this context it was noted that the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House of Myanmar's Parliament) has been invited to lead a delegation to India in December 2011.

10. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Myanmar reiterated their shared commitment to strengthening and broadening the multifaceted relationship based on shared history, civilizational ties and close religious, linguistic and cultural affinities and to take it to a new level. While acknowledging the fact that both sides have a responsibility to promote peace, security and stability in the region, they emphasized the need to intensify economic, social and developmental engagement in order to bring about overall socio-economic betterment and inclusive growth.

11. With a view to carrying forward the momentum of bilateral exchanges, it was agreed that a meeting of the External Affairs / Foreign Minister of the two countries would be held in New Delhi in early 2012 and the next round of Foreign Office Consultations would be held in India at mutually convenient dates in 2012.

12. Both sides reaffirmed their unequivocal and uncompromising position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They agreed on enhancing effective cooperation and coordination between the security forces of the two countries in tackling the deadly menace of insurgency and terrorism, which has caused countless loss of innocent lives. Both sides also underscored the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms for sharing of intelligence to combat the menace of insurgency, arms smuggling and drug trafficking. In this context,

they discussed matters relating to further strengthening of border management mechanisms. The two leaders reiterated the assurance that the territory of either would not be allowed for activities inimical to the other and resolved not to allow their respective territory to be used for training, sanctuary and other operations by terrorist and insurgent organizations and their operatives.

13. They welcomed the scheduling of meeting of the Heads of Survey Department of India and Myanmar in November 2011, directed the Heads to jointly work out and implement a schedule for inspection and maintenance of boundary pillars in the open season in 2011-12 in a time bound manner.

14. Both sides reiterated their common desire to complete the repatriation process of Myanmar fishermen who drifted into Indian maritime territory and who are being looked after by Indian authorities in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar.

15. The two sides reviewed the infrastructure development and cooperation projects that are being undertaken in Myanmar with technical and financial assistance from Government of India, including in the field of roads, waterways, power, health, education and industrial training, telecommunications, and others.

16. During the visit, the following documents were signed:

1. **Memorandum of Understanding** for the upgradation of the Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital; and
2. **Programme of Cooperation** in Science & Technology for the period of 2012-2015.

17. The Myanmar side conveyed its gratitude for Lines of Credit amounting to nearly US\$ 300 million that had been extended by India, including for the development of railways, transport, power transmission lines, oil refinery, OFC link, etc. The President of Myanmar welcomed the interest of Indian companies to invest in Myanmar.

18. The Prime Minister of India announced the extension of a new concessional facility of US\$500 million Line of Credit to Myanmar for specific projects, including irrigation projects, each of which will be duly processed and approved in accordance with the modalities applicable for LDCs for such lines of credit. The President of Myanmar thanked the Prime Minister of India for extending the new credit facility.

19. The two leaders welcomed the progress made towards enhancing connectivity between the two countries to mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries. They expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project, especially the port development and



Inland waterways. It was decided that the road component of the project be started at the earliest, a study be undertaken on the commercial usages of the Kaladan project and necessary agreements to operationalise the route finalised. It was also decided to open an additional Land Customs Station / border trade point on the India-Myanmar border to allow for the smooth flow of goods generated by the Kaladan Project.

20. Both sides reiterated their commitment for an early implementation of the Rhi-Tiddim Road Development Project with grant assistance from India.

21. Reviewing the progress in establishing trilateral connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar, it was noted that substantial progress had been achieved in the preparation of a DPR for roads and causeways in Myanmar. Both sides reiterated the commitment to realize this project.

22. The two leaders also expressed their commitment to enhance cooperation in the area of Science & Technology. They noted that following the renewal of Science & Technology Agreement in 2010 the Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology for the period of 2012-15 was signed during the current visit. The Prime Minister of India announced India's support for training of Myanmar researchers in the areas of mutual interest and twinning of Indian and Myanmar institutions under India-Myanmar Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology.

23. The two sides also expressed their commitment to enhance cooperation in the area of agriculture. They noted that the contract for the supply of agricultural machinery under the US\$ 10 million grant assistance from India had been awarded. The Prime Minister of India announced that India would extend technical and financial support for following new projects:

- (i) Setting up an **Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education** (ACARE) in Yezin; and
- (ii) Setting up a **Rice Bio Park** demonstrating the various techniques in rice biomass utilisation in the Integrated Demonstration Farm at Nay Pyi Taw.

The President of Myanmar expressed gratitude for the assistance being extended by the Government of India and emphasised that these institutions could play a vital role in reviving the country's agricultural sector, on which over 70% of the population is dependent.

24. Recognising the fundamental place of education and human resource development in bringing about overall economic development, and the

importance of IT in today's global scenario, the Prime Minister of India announced India's support for setting up an Information Technology Institute in Mandalay in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

25. Welcoming the successful completion of the Industrial Training Centre in Pakokku, with India's assistance, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress on the setting up of another Industrial Training Centre at Myingyan with technical support from M/s HMTI.

26. The Myanmar side expressed appreciation for India's assistance in the relief and rehabilitation efforts that followed the severe earthquake that struck North-Eastern Shan State in March 2011. It was noted that the assistance of over US\$ 1million from India, which included assistance in the reconstruction of a high school and 6 primary schools in the affected area, was timely and catered to urgent requirements of the people of the area.

27. The two sides agreed to promote trade, investment and economic cooperation in a sustainable manner. In this context, the two leaders endorsed the understandings arrived at the 4th meeting of the bilateral Joint Trade Committee that was held in New Delhi recently, and called for the expeditious implementation of decision taken, including the proposal to establish a Trade and Investment Forum at the business level, expand the basket of goods under border trade, visit of an Indian banking delegation to Myanmar to facilitate better trade and payment arrangements, etc. The two sides also welcomed the decision to hold the 'Enterprise India' Show in Yangon on November 10-14, 2011 and urged companies on both sides to look seriously at opportunities in the other. The two sides encouraged business associations in their respective countries to enter into closer ties with their counterparts and also participate in each other's trade fairs.

28. With a view to promoting border trade, the two sides agreed that meetings between Indian and Myanmar customs, immigration, border chambers of commerce, officials of bank branches at the border, border trade officials (Tamu and Rhi –OSS Team) and Government officials would take place at Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zowkhathar at regular intervals. The business representatives of the Manipur/Sagaing Region and of Mizoram/Chin State will also participate in these meetings.

29. It was agreed to consider opening up new Border Trading points along the border for the economic upliftment of the people of the area. It was also agreed to consider better functioning of the existing points and to facilitate movement of people and goods between the two countries.

30. Recognising the importance of the power sector as a major area of cooperation, the two sides reiterated their commitment to cooperate in the implementation of the Tamanthi and Shwezaye projects on the Chindwin River Basin in Myanmar. They welcomed the successful completion of the task of updating the DPR on the Tamanthi project by NHPC on the basis of essential additional investigations. They noted that the final updated DPR for Shwezaye would be available by March 2012. They directed the concerned officials on both sides to finalise plans for implementation of the project within six months.
31. Both leaders underscored the need for energy security and expressed satisfaction at ongoing bilateral cooperation in the area. They agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of oil and natural gas. In this context, the Myanmar side welcomed the substantial investments made by Indian companies like GAIL, ESSAR, ONGC and others in off-shore and on-shore blocks, and construction of natural gas pipelines. Myanmar agreed to encourage further investments by Indian companies, both in public and private sector, in the oil and natural gas sectors.
32. It was also agreed to extend bilateral cooperation to generation of electricity from renewable energy sources, including solar and wind. In this regard, companies, both in public and private sectors, in India and Myanmar would be encouraged to set up joint projects.
33. Appreciating the importance of people-to-people contacts in forging even closer ties, the two sides agreed to take steps to ease the movement of people between India and Myanmar. The Myanmar side thanked India for the facilities and courtesies being extended to Myanmar pilgrims visiting India.
34. The two sides agreed on the need for expansion of air connectivity between the two countries, and directed the concerned officials to work towards enhancing air services which could cover more carriers, flights and destinations. It was noted that this would transform business and cultural ties between the two nations.
35. Both sides agreed to examine feasibility of establishing railway links, ferry and bus services between the two countries. In this context, both sides agreed to examine commencement of ferry services on the Kolkata-Yangon and Chennai-Yangon routes.
36. The two leaders agreed for early upgradation of the microwave link between Moreh and Mandalay or other necessary link under the Indian line of Credit, and directed the concerned officials to work towards establishment of the new Optical Fibre link between Monywa to Rhi-Zawkhatar with Indian assistance.

37. The Myanmar side expressed gratitude for the training offered by India under the ITEC and TCS schemes to Myanmar scholars and Government officials. The Indian side agreed to Myanmar's request to increasing the number of training slots offered annually to Myanmar nationals to 250 from 2012-2013.

38. Both sides agreed to support joint research projects and exchanges of a historical, archaeological, cultural and educational nature. In this context, it was agreed to enter into a comprehensive Cultural Exchange Programme to promote bilateral exchanges with special emphasis on the four Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram and cooperation in the fields of art, archaeology, museology, sports, media, etc. Both sides agreed to review the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the Republic of India, for expeditious implementation. It was agreed that both sides would jointly organise a high level International conference of Buddhist Philosophy in Myanmar in 2012.

39. It was noted with satisfaction that two teams of professionals from the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) visited Myanmar and carried out detailed studies on the conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan, Myanmar. It was agreed that restoration work on the site would start at the earliest based on the report by ASI.

40. With a view to strengthen diplomatic and consular presence in each other's countries, it was noted with appreciation that the Myanmar side had agreed that it shall make available the identified plots of land in Nay Pyi Taw, its Capital city, on a lease in perpetuity, and shall transfer the ownership of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) properties in Yangon in the name of the Government of India on a lease for 60 years extendable further by a block period of 30 years each time, on the same terms, as long as India maintains its Diplomatic/Consular Mission in Myanmar. With regard to transfer of the ownership of the LIC properties in Yangon, it was agreed in principle that the Government of Myanmar, in exercise of the powers vested in it under the Article 14 of the Transfer of Immovable Property Restriction Law 1987 authorized the LIC to handover the land and building thereon at 545-547 Merchant Street and 654-666 Merchant Street, Yangon. The Government of India agreed to the request of the Government of Myanmar to facilitate allocation of land in Bodh Gaya for setting up a Buddhist monastery for use of pilgrims and monks from Myanmar.

41. While discussing international developments, the two sides emphasized the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they stressed the urgent need to pursue the reform of the United Nations including

the Security Council, to make it more representative, credible and effective. The President of Myanmar reiterated his country's support for India's candidature for the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

42. The two sides emphasized the importance of close coordination towards the cause of regional cooperation. The Indian leadership offered its good wishes to Myanmar for a successful term as BIMSTEC Chair, including its proposal to host the next BIMSTEC Summit meeting. The Indian side also offered to deepen its engagement with Myanmar under its "Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) programme". Myanmar being a natural bridge between the ASEAN and India, the Indian side reiterated its intention of building upon the commonalities and synergies between the two countries to advance its 'Look East' Policy.

43. The President of Myanmar thanked the President of India for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during their stay in India.

44. President U Thein Sein extended invitations to the President and Prime Minister of India to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time. The invitations were accepted and it was agreed that the dates of the visits would be decided by mutual consultations through diplomatic channels.



**408. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of the President of the Republic of Myanmar U. Thein Sein.**

**New Delhi, October 14, 2011.**

Your Excellency U Thein Sein,

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

Madame Khin Khin Win,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and to Madame Khin Khin Win a very warm welcome to India. It is a momentous occasion to receive the leader of a neighbouring country with whom India shares historic bonds. Our joy is redoubled as you come to India soon after assuming the Presidency of the newly elected Government.

The relationship between India and Myanmar has stood the test of time. We have deep and abiding historical, cultural, religious and societal bonds. We also have the shared experience of our respective independence movements where our leaders fought against and succeeded in ending British colonial rule. We rejoiced when Myanmar attained independence. This achievement was aptly described by our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as, "an event of significance to the whole of Asia." Both our Governments pursued non-aligned and independent foreign policies in the decades following our independence.

The Buddhist legacy we share has brought us closer. Tradition has it that Emperor Ashoka sent two monks, Sona and Uttara, to *Suvarna-bhumi*, the golden land of Myanmar. They went as messengers of peace, friendship and goodwill. The legacy of Buddhism has bequeathed to us a common heritage, imparting an enduring quality to our interaction.

India's 'Look East' Policy has in practical terms been a voyage of rediscovery. We are engaged in rejuvenating the historical, cultural and commercial bonds between India and Southeast Asia. When we look eastwards, we first see Myanmar. You occupy a central place in our vision and approach of rebuilding our Eastern connections. Our bilateral relationship is a factor of peace and stability for the region and has an important bearing on initiatives for regional co-operation. We share common interests in security and border management. We should assign special attention to the economic progress of the areas

along the border between our two countries. Myanmar would then truly emerge as our gateway to ASEAN, and we hope India can act as your bridge to the entire South Asian Region.

Excellency,

Today, Myanmar stands at the dawn of a new era in its history. You have brought about significant changes in your political system by introducing a Constitutional government, with features of parliamentary democracy. We applaud these efforts. In these early days of your Presidency, you have also emphasized the rule of law and good governance. You have further indicated your Government will be putting in place a market economy while also focusing on agricultural development.

As a close and well disposed neighbour, we remain willing to offer any assistance in implementing these steps. We share your desire for a democratic, stable and prosperous Myanmar. We support your aim of revitalizing the agricultural base of your country, building up industrial centres and enhancing educational capacities. We will extend a hand of assistance to your endeavours.

Excellency, you began your visit to India by paying a visit to the holiest of Buddhist sites, Bodhgaya, on the auspicious Full Moon Day of Thadingyut, which is an auspicious day in the Buddhist calendar. I take this opportunity to convey my good wishes to you and to the people of Myanmar.

Our discussions today have been fruitful. We have signed agreements and launched many new initiatives. It will be our endeavour to take our bilateral relations to new heights. Your visit has opened a new and more dynamic chapter in our bilateral ties.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast: -

- to the health and happiness of His Excellency President U Thein Sein and Madame Khin Khin Win;
- to the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar; and
- to the continuing friendship and co-operation between India and Myanmar.



**409. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Myanmar Parliament.**

**New Delhi, December 12, 2011.**

Thura U. Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Lower House of the Myanmar Parliament, is leading a high level parliamentary delegation to India from December 11-17, 2011. The visit is taking place in response to a joint invitation extended by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India/Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha,

Thura U. Shwe Mann was elected Speaker of the Lower House when the Hluttaw (Parliament of Myanmar) was convened for the first time on January 31, 2011 following general elections in Myanmar on November 7, 2010.

The visit of the parliamentary delegation led by Thura U. Shwe Mann follows the State Visit of President U. Thein Sein of Myanmar to India in October this year. During the visit of the President of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of India had offered all necessary assistance in further strengthening the democratic transition of Myanmar in an inclusive and broad based manner and expressed readiness to share India's own experiences in evolving parliamentary rules, procedures and practices.

The delegation is expected to call on the Vice President/Chairman Rajya Sabha, and meet the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister, Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The delegation is also scheduled to interact with the Chairman and members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, meet with the Chief Minister of Delhi and observe proceedings in both Houses of Parliament.

The delegation would also visit places of economic, cultural and historic importance in New Delhi and Mumbai during their stay in India.





**NEW ZEALAND****410. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Prime Minister of New Zealand,****New Delhi, June 27, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. Let me start with an important announcement. (regarding appointment of new Foreign Secretary (See Document Nos.13&19).

Next, my colleague Mr. Arun Goel and I would like to brief you about the ongoing maiden state visit of Prime Minister John Key to India. He arrived yesterday. Today he is visiting Agra. Tomorrow morning there will be a ceremonial reception by the Prime Minister of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There will be a call on him by the External Affairs Minister. He next calls on Hon. Rashtrapatiiji. Tomorrow at 1300 hours the three apex business chambers - CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM - will be hosting a luncheon in his honour.

By the way the Prime Minister would be accompanied by his spouse, the Trade Minister and a large business delegation, in addition to senior officials.

Again tomorrow, in the second half of the day there will be a call on him by the Leader of Opposition. He next calls on the Vice-President and also holds a meeting with Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

In the evening, he would meet the Prime Minister of India and hold delegation-level talks. There will be signing of some agreements and the Prime Minister, along with his spouse Shrimati Gursharan Kaur, will host a banquet in the honour of the visiting dignitary and members of his delegation.

On Wednesday 29th he emplanes for Mumbai where he would call on the Governor of Maharashtra who would also host a dinner for him. In addition, there will be a number of engagements in Mumbai which include the visit to the Film City, and a business luncheon. He leaves Mumbai on Thursday 30th morning.

We have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations with New Zealand based on a number of complementarities such as membership of the Commonwealth; we are both parliamentary democracies; we speak the same language; and also share a passion for cricket.

We have also enjoyed active people-to-people relationship given the fact that two and a half per cent of the New Zealand population constitutes people of Indian origin, who have been there for long periods, many of whom have assumed key positions in the New Zealand society. This includes the Governor-

General of New Zealand Hon. Anand Satyanand.

You would recall that Governor-General Satyanand had paid a state visit to India in 2008 and has since visited two more times in October 2010 last year for the Commonwealth Games and in January this year as the Chief Guest of the Pravasi Bharatiya Convention where he was also bestowed with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman.

Their Parliament comprises of 122 members of which two are of Indian origin including one Member of Parliament from the Labour Party and another from the ruling National Party.

Prime Ministers of India and New Zealand have been meeting regularly on the margins of the international fora including during CHOGM, in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 and again last year on the margins of the EAS Summit in Hanoi.

In recent years our high-level contacts and exchanges have increased noticeably. Just in the preceding months we have had visits from New Zealand of their Minister of Trade, of their Ministers of Immigration, Defence, Education, besides the Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament. On the other hand our Commerce and Industries Minister, Minister of Power, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Minister of Fertiliser and other dignitaries have visited New Zealand.

During the Governor-General's state visit to India in 2008, the Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowships were instituted to promote visits from India to New Zealand of distinguished persons. Within that framework, as the inaugural Sir Edmund Hillary Fellow, Shri Rahul Gandhi had visited New Zealand in February last year.

As I mentioned, the Trade Minister is visiting along with the Prime Minister, which is indicative of the emphasis that New Zealand accords to trade and economic relations with India. New Zealand has designated or sees India as a core trade, economic and political partner by 2015 and is collaborating actively with India to attain that objective.

We not only reciprocate that vision but would also like to benefit from New Zealand's world-class expertise in sectors like food processing, nano-engineering, robotics, dairy farming, earthquake resistant engineering, post-harvest technologies and logistic management in the agricultural sector.

Our bilateral trade has been growing steadily which was NZ \$ 1.265 billion in 2010. It does not do justice to our potential. However, as I have already pointed out, the economic and commercial dimension of the bilateral relationship is

now poised for a significant growth. New Zealand is also a reliable source for us for high quality raw materials such as coking coke, timber, wool, leather and skin.

It is regarded as an ideal destination for India's ODI in sectors like forestry, mining and IT. By the same token, New Zealand sees India's large market offering great promise for long-term partnership. They would like to service the market with quality goods and services, transfer of technology and foreign direct investment.

In addition, dairy and agriculture are two of the focus areas for New Zealand. They see a huge and growing demand for milk and milk products in India given the fact that we have 20 per cent of world's children and 17 per cent of the world's population. You are aware that while the world is aging, India is growing younger with one of the youngest populations in the world.

We can also benefit from New Zealand's known prowess in food processing, agricultural productivity, cold chains and the others. And this explains the strong interest in both countries to conclude a free trade agreement at the earliest. Already four rounds of discussions beginning in April 2010 in Wellington have taken place, the last being in March this year in New Delhi.

After the fourth round, the Commerce and Industry Minister visited New Zealand in May this year when several areas of cooperation were identified. I mentioned the potential in the IT sector and no wonder our IT majors including Mahindra, Satyam, HCL, Wipro, Infosys, TCS are already present in New Zealand. We have Indian banks there, Indian insurance companies there. So, we do have already important and growing presence of Indian industries in New Zealand.

Also in recent years New Zealand has become a favourite destination for Indian students who are currently estimated at close to 10,000 from a mere 163 about ten years ago. During the visit of our Minister of Human Resource Development last year, an Education Cooperation Arrangement between India and New Zealand was renewed for a further period of five years. We also have a Joint Working Group on Education which meets regularly, and the last meeting was in New Delhi on the 9th of February 2010, when specific areas of cooperation were identified, including technical and vocational training, distance learning, higher education, cooperation in research and so on.

I mentioned that we have robust people-to-people relations, and let me add sporting and cultural links to this. India conferred the Padma Vibhushan on the late Sir Edmund Hillary, during our Republic Day in 2008.

You will be interested to know that some 120 Indian feature films have been shot in some of the beautiful locales in New Zealand. And given the sizeable percentage of PIOs in New Zealand, Divali is celebrated as a national festival and last year the Governor-Generals of Auckland and Wellington opened the Divali celebrations.

New Zealand is among the first few countries whose nationals are given tourist visas on arrival. And a sizeable number of Indian tourists have been going to New Zealand.

To sum up, the thrust of PM John Key's visit will revolve around economic and commercial aspects. Both sides see good prospects for enhanced engagement in sectors like education, agriculture, dairy farming, food processing, besides of course learning from, benefiting from New Zealand's expertise and world-class technologies in various sectors including industries.

Some agreements will also be concluded during the visit.



**411. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the State Visit of Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand  
New Delhi, June 28, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister John Key

Distinguished Representatives of the media,

I am very happy to welcome the Prime Minister of New Zealand, His Excellency John Key on his first visit to our country.

India's relations with New Zealand are warm, cordial and friendly. We share many common values, in particular our commitment to democracy, freedom and the rule of law. These make us natural partners in working with each other and in meeting global challenges.

My discussions with Prime Minister Key were wide ranging and forward looking.

India welcomes increased trade and investment flows between India and New Zealand and would like to expand our trade significantly beyond current levels. The Prime Minister and I reviewed the status of our negotiations on the bilateral Free Trade Agreement. These are proceeding well and in the right direction.

New Zealand has proven strengths in the dairy, agriculture, food processing and renewable energy sectors. These are areas of great relevance to our development priorities. The Indian services sector can similarly contribute to New Zealand's economic competitiveness.

People to people exchanges, sports and tourism have emerged as major growth sectors in our relations. We have decided to encourage cooperation in these areas to the maximum extent possible.

Prime Minister Key and I have agreed on a new Education Cooperation Initiative. This jointly-funded Initiative will promote partnerships in two key streams - higher education and research and skills and vocational education. I am confident this will receive an enthusiastic response from students on both sides.

Two agreements on Audio-visual co-productions and a Protocol for Cooperation on Science and Innovation have been signed. These will facilitate cooperation at the industry and academic levels.

New Zealand is an influential and active participant in the regional processes in the Asia Pacific region. India and New Zealand are members of the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus and the Asia Europe Meeting, ASEM, mechanisms. We both

recognise that the time has come for us to intensify our cooperation and consultations on issues relating to the Asia Pacific region.

New Zealand, like us, has a stake in ensuring the safety of sea lanes of communications and combating piracy. We have agreed to explore possibilities for greater cooperation in these areas.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Prime Minister Key for his important leadership in forging closer links with India. This is a sentiment that I fully reciprocate.

Given the goodwill that exists in our countries for each other, I am confident that the India-New Zealand relationship is poised for all-round expansion in the years ahead.

I thank you.



**412. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key to enhance prospects of greater trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.**

**New Delhi, June 28, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma met the visiting prime Minister of New Zealand Mr. John Key along with the Trade Minister of New Zealand Mr. Tim Groser. The PM is leading a large business delegation in his first visit to India. While delivering his keynote address with the business session with the P M of New Zealand, Shri Sharma said, "India and New Zealand have a longstanding and positive bilateral relationship. The two economies are essentially complementary and there is considerable potential to increase bilateral trade and economic relations. It's time to give depth and width to our partnership. India is looking forward to partner with New Zealand in Infrastructure sector, agro- food processing, renewable energy and IT. " The Commerce Minister appreciated the state of art technology being used by dairy industry and renewal energy and asked for bringing such technology to India. He also appreciated New Zealand for taking forward the Doha development round and believing in rule based and rule governed multilateral system.

Shri Sharma later informed that, "We had covered all aspects of bilateral economic engagement, India-New Zealand FTA progress and the state of play

in the WTO negotiations. We had also indentified several areas of possible bilateral cooperation-including post harvest technologies/logistic management for agriculture sector, renewable energy sectors including wind and geo-thermal energy, tourism, films (including animation films), pharmaceuticals, education; IT enabled services, financial services and others".

He further said, "During my business forum meetings in New Zealand, I had stressed India's core competence in IT related services, pharmaceuticals, film technology, green technologies and others. I had also stressed the complementarities which can be fruitfully enjoyed in sectors such as tourism and education":

India and New Zealand trade has more than trebled between 2004-05 and 2010-11. In 2010-11, Indian exports to New Zealand were US \$ 191.39 million and Indian imports from New Zealand were US \$ 621.55 million. Total bilateral trade was thus about US \$ 812.94 million and grew 7.83% over the previous year.

Top ten items of India's exports include parts of engineering goods, mineral fuels, pharmaceutical products, natural or cultured pearls, precious & semi precious stones, items of jewellery set in gold and diamonds, textiles, inorganic chemicals and electrical machinery and equipment. These top ten items explain 68.17% of India's total exports to New Zealand. And major items of India's imports are mineral fuels and mineral oils and products of their distillation, wood and articles of wood, dairy products, papers and paperboard, wool, engineering goods, raw hides and skins and leather, iron and steel, electrical machinery and edible fruit and nuts. These top 10 items explain 94.09% of India's total imports from New Zealand.



**413. Joint Statement issued on the State Visit of Prime Minister of New Zealand John Key.****New Delhi, June 28, 2011.**

The Prime Minister of New Zealand H.E. Mr John Key paid a state visit to India from 26-30 June at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The New Zealand Prime Minister was accompanied by the Trade Minister Hon Tim Groser, M.P. Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi and a high level business delegation.

Commonwealth ties, shared democratic values, people-to-people and sporting links underpin the vibrant bilateral relationship between India and New Zealand. The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the strength of the ties and agreed there was great potential for further growth in the relationship. They welcomed the enhanced engagement across a range of trade and economic sectors, including science and innovation, education and defence.

Prime Minister Key thanked Prime Minister Singh for the support and sympathy extended by the Government of India to New Zealand, and especially to the residents of Christchurch, following the devastating earthquake on February 22 2011. The two Leaders affirmed the importance of cooperation on disaster preparedness and emergency response management systems, a shared area of focus for the two countries working together in regional forums such as the East Asia Summit.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the increased trade and investment flows between India and New Zealand and noted the potential to expand bilateral trade significantly. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the commitment to early conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, noting that the ongoing negotiations were proceeding well. Successful conclusion of a high quality and comprehensive FTA would provide the platform for stronger economic interaction to the benefit of both economies.

The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the complementary nature of the key exports from each country and noted the role that bilateral trade and sharing of expertise between them could play in ensuring food security for the future.

Building on existing film industry links, an Agreement on Audio-Visual Co-Productions was signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers. This Agreement will allow both sides to encourage industry level cooperation, share creative talent, and support the vibrant film industry in both countries.

The two Prime Ministers announced a new Education Cooperation Initiative. This jointly-funded Initiative, worth NZ \$ 1 million annually (i.e. around Rs 3.6 crores)



to be shared equally by New Zealand and India, will promote partnerships in two key streams; higher education and research, and skills and vocational education. The Initiative will focus on areas such as academic and student exchanges, joint research activities, and industry collaborations. The Initiative also includes sports scholarships and provides opportunities to share expertise and experience in tribal and indigenous higher education. A Joint Education Council will be established to implement the Prime Ministers' Initiative.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of a Science and Innovation Protocol for Cooperation, which will provide a framework for future scientific exchanges and research collaboration. The two Leaders welcomed the first joint science initiative, the Science Research Workshop on Food Technologies and Dairy, held recently in New Zealand at the Riddet Institute/Massey University and Lincoln University.

The two Leaders also acknowledged the good cooperation developing in the civil aviation sector. Both sides are exploring cooperation in the aviation field, including the furthering of relationships in the training area.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation. Prime Minister Key announced that New Zealand will appoint a Defence Adviser to India to better facilitate defence linkages. Both sides noted the need for ensuring the safety and security of sea lanes and agreed that regional and global cooperation should continue to ensure maritime security. The two Leaders agreed that ship visits and staff college exchanges had deepened bilateral defence cooperation to the benefit of both sides.

The two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of reform of the United Nations Security Council to ensure it reflects the realities of the 21st century. Prime Minister Key announced the support of New Zealand for India's membership in a reformed Security Council, including in any expansion of permanent membership.

Both sides share the vision of a nuclear weapon free world. New Zealand welcomes increased engagement between India and the multilateral export control regimes.

The two Prime Ministers discussed global security challenges and agreed on the importance of working in international and regional contexts to achieve stability and prosperity for all. Both Prime Ministers strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms.

India and New Zealand cooperate in regional bodies such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus and the Asia Europe Meeting. The two Leaders reaffirmed the importance of these bodies for furthering regional security, economic partnership and

political linkages. They agreed to work together to progress the Comprehensive Economic Partnership under the EAS.

People-to-people exchanges form the backbone of the bilateral relationship. The two Prime Ministers agreed that strengthening these enduring personal linkages was a key part of ensuring continued vitality and growth in the relationship. To encourage a deeper understanding of each others' countries New Zealand created the Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship in memory of one of New Zealand's most inspiring citizens. Prime Minister Key announced that the fellowship recipient for 2011 would be a prominent Indian businessperson.

The Indian community in New Zealand is a vibrant platform for the two-way flow of visitors, migrants and students between New Zealand and India. In further strengthening these valuable ties, in January this year the Government of India conferred on the New Zealand Governor-General the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA), the highest honour for overseas Indians.

India and New Zealand share strong sporting ties, particularly in the games of cricket and hockey, which are slowly expanding to a range of sports. Cricket is an example of India's and New Zealand's shared heritage, close sporting ties and bilateral friendship. Prime Minister Key congratulated India on its hosting of the Cricket World Cup with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh this year and the Indian team's victory. The two Leaders looked forward to the next World Cup in 2015, co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia. The two Leaders agreed to work together towards building stronger sporting ties between the two countries as a means to promoting stronger people-to-people links.

#### AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING NEWZEALAND PM VISIT

Sl. No.	Name of the MOU/Agreement	New Zealand Signatory	Indian Signatory
1.	Agreement between the two Governments on Audio-Visual Co-Production	H.E. MRS. JAN HENDERSON High Commissioner of of New Zealand to India	SHRI RAGHU MENON Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
2.	Protocol for Cooperation between the two Governments on Science and Innovation	H.E. MRS. JAN HENDERSON High Commissioner of New Zealand to India	DR. T. RAMASAMI Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology

New Delhi

June 28, 2011



**PHILIPPINES****414. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the visit of Finance Minister of the Philippines Cesar V. Purisima.****New Delhi, October 17, 2011.**

Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that there is a need for transparent arrangement with a legal framework for exchange of information between India and Philippines relating to banking and tax related matters. The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee raised this issue during his bilateral meeting with his Philippines' counterpart Mr. Cesar V. Purisima when the later called on him, here today. Negotiations are already on for revising the Convention between the two countries for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes and Income. The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee hoped that this Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement may be signed in January next year.

The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee also expressed his satisfaction at the issuance of notification by both countries operationalising the India-ASEAN FTA on Trade in Goods w.e.f. 1st June, 2011. The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee stated that there is a steady growth of bilateral trade which has increased from US\$ 443.63 million in 2003-04 to US\$ 1061.84 million in 2009-10. He said that bilateral trade will certainly increase even further with the scaling down of tariff lines by both the countries under the India ASEAN FTA on Trade in Goods.

The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee said that the Indian side would be happy to further strengthen the banking links between the two countries. He said that the State Bank of India has already proposed for opening a branch in Manila. He said that India would welcome a conducive environment for stronger banking links between the two countries.

The Philippines' Finance Secretary, Mr. Purisima said that he would take up the matter with concerned Department back home in order to expedite the finalization of DTAA between the two countries. He also said that role of ADB now needs to be revisited in the light of changes in the status of different member countries over the years. Mr. Purisima said that there is a lot of potentials for further strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two countries especially in the field of education, tourism and manufacturing sector among others. He also endorsed the views of Shri Mukherjee for establishment of stronger banking links between the two countries. He thanked the Union Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee for his contribution in the development of this region and invited him to visit Philippines in near future.



**SINGAPORE****415. Remarks of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the presentation of a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the Indian Heritage Centre, Singapore.****Singapore, May 5, 2011.**

Ambassador Kesavapany,  
Ambassador Gopinath Pillai,  
Prof Saranindranath Tagore,  
Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour for me to present Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's bust to the India Heritage Centre on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of the great poet, thinker, philosopher and educationist.

While embarking on his voyage to Southeast Asian Countries in 1927, Gurudev Tagore had said, and I quote, "We have embarked on a pilgrimage to India beyond its modern political boundaries, to see the signs of the history of India's entry into the universal". Unquote.

The objective of Tagore's voyage was to explore India's millennia old cultural & historical links with Southeast Asia with humanistic ideas, religious values, music, philosophy and culture. The chief motive of his journey was a desire to renew Indian cultural links with Southeast Asian countries.

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies is indeed is the most appropriate place to hold today's event. The final destination of the bust would be the Indian Heritage Centre and I am grateful to all those associated with it for this wonderful initiative.

Realizing the historical and cultural linkage of India with the region, Tagore had said, and I quote "India's true history, reflected in the many stories of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, will be seen more clearly, when we are able to compare with the texts that are to found here" (that is, Southeast Asia) Unquote.

Through his tour, Tagore wanted to prepare the ground for cultural cooperation with the region through the appreciation of the ideals of Visva Bharati. And those so called ideals of Visva Bharati were "yatra vishvam bhavati ek nidam" (where the world makes its home in a single nest). If we summarize this idea, we may come to the very prominent term of present era 'Globalization' which gives us a glimpse of the farsightedness of this great personality who understood the need of the world way back in 1920s.

I take this opportunity to commend the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, and Tagore Society for being actively involved in organizing events to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Singapore.

I would also like to congratulate Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi for its efforts to prepare this wonderful piece of art and assist Government of India to carry forward and promote the rich cultural heritage of India. ICCR is working on the intrinsic philosophy of Gurudev Tagore to bring the world to one common platform by opening new cultural centres and to receive the vibrant cultures from other shores with open arms.

At the beginning of his voyage to this region, Gurudev Tagore had written, and I quote, "We have embarked on this pilgrimage to see the signs of the history of India's entry into the universal." Unquote. I am confident that Gurudev's bust here will serve as a symbol of his universalist expression.

Thank you.



**416. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visits to Bali for the India – ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit.**

**New Delhi, November 16, 2011.**

Please see Document No.67.



**417. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for the India – ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit and to Singapore for a bilateral visit.**

**New Delhi, November 17, 2011.**

Please see Document No.68.



**418. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Unveiling of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bust and Commemorative Marker in Singapore.**

**Singapore, November 20, 2011.**

His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister,

Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts,

Mr. Ong Yew Huat, Chairman, National Heritage Board,

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I feel deeply honoured to be here this afternoon at this ceremony to unveil the bust of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the Marker commemorating his association with Singapore.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was not just India's first Prime Minister. He was a visionary, scholar and the builder of modern India. He was a humanist and an internationalist, and a champion of the post-colonial world.

Singapore today is an embodiment of human progress and the spirit of internationalism. Jawaharlal Nehru was prescient when he said in 1946 that Singapore will become the city where Asian unity is forged. We are witnessing such unity being forged. Singapore's great cultural and intellectual institutions are playing a vital role in this process. I therefore most warmly congratulate the National Heritage Board of Singapore on this initiative, and wish it all success in its future activities.

In honouring Pandit Nehru today, you honour India and all the values that India stands for – secularism, democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

These are the values that continue to unite our two nations today. The Bust and Commemorative Marker will serve as a symbol of our friendship and our respect for each other's achievements. In celebrating our past, we enhance understanding of each other's cultures, inspire the younger generation and better prepare ourselves for the future.

Singapore stands at the crossroads of East Asia. It is today one of the most advanced economies of the world and an engine of growth for Asia. It has led by example, and by the exceptional qualities and skills of its people and society. These are successes which Jawaharlal Nehru would have been very happy to see. There is a lot that India can learn from Singapore.

This Bust and Marker will stand as yet another symbol of the close relations between India and Singapore, and will inspire even greater interest about each other among our peoples.

I most sincerely thank Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim and Mr. Ong Yew Huat for being present here to honour a great son of India and a great statesman.

I thank you.



**419. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the lunch hosted by the Prime Minister of Singapore.**

**Singapore, November 20, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong,

Mrs. Lee,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for the warm hospitality with which my wife and I have been received in Singapore.

Excellency, we in India regard you as an ardent advocate and supporter of our strong partnership. It was during your visit to India in 2005 that we signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and Singapore. That Agreement has led to a qualitative upgradation of our trade and investment relations with Singapore.

I look forward to your visit to India next year. This will give you an opportunity to see for yourself the developments that have taken place in India in the last several years, and the manner in which Singapore has contributed to India's progress.

Excellency, our government places the highest priority on our relations with Singapore. Ours is a partnership that stands on the foundation of shared values of pluralism, secularism and democracy, and convergence of our perspectives on regional and international issues.

It was the opening of our relations with Singapore which led to a strategic shift in India's foreign and economic policies and which today have evolved into our 'Look East' policy. Singapore opened new horizons for India.

Singapore's rapid transformation and economic growth model is a beacon of hope in the uncertain world we live in today. You serve as an example not only for Asia but for the world at large. Your investments in human resources, education and infrastructure are examples worthy of emulation.

Singapore has emerged as a valued partner for our ambitious plans for infrastructure development. It is India's largest trade and investment partner in ASEAN. We welcome greater investment and technology flows from Singapore.

Our people to people exchanges, tourism and the revolution in connectivity has brought us closer to each other than we have ever been.

Today, eleven Indian cities are directly connected by air to Singapore. I am greatly encouraged to see the linkages being established between our Museums and Universities. Singapore's consistent support to the Nalanda University Project is a matter of great encouragement for us. I would also like to thank you for the warm welcome that has been given to thousands of Indians working and studying in Singapore.

Our relations also encompass political, security and defence cooperation. We value our engagement with Singapore in these areas.

Next year, we will observe twenty years of full dialogue partnership between India and the ASEAN. We look forward to working closely with Singapore to commemorate these twenty years, and to evolve an even more ambitious roadmap for the period ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I request you to join me in raising a toast to:

- The health and happiness of Prime Minister Lee and Mrs. Lee,
- The progress and prosperity of our two countries, and
- The deepening friendship between India and Singapore.





**420. Statement on the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Singapore.**

**Singapore, November 20, 2011.**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh accompanied by Smt. Gursharan Kaur paid an official visit to Singapore on 19-20 November, 2011. He paid a courtesy call on President of Singapore Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam and also held talks with his counterpart, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Mrs. Lee Hsien Loong hosted a lunch in honour of Prime Minister and Smt. Gursharan Kaur and the accompanying delegation. During his stay in Singapore, Prime Minister also met with former Prime Ministers of Singapore Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Prime Minister had wide ranging discussions with his counterpart covering international, regional and bilateral issues. The Prime Minister emphasised that Singapore is an important pillar of India's Look East Policy and the two countries shared a close understanding in regional and multilateral fora. Both leaders affirmed the strong bilateral ties between India and Singapore and agreed that there had been a remarkable deepening of bilateral relationship since the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005. They discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in fields such as Trade, Investment, Skills Development, Education, Infrastructure and Township Development. They took note of the ongoing second CECA review and underlined the need for it to be purposeful and covering all aspects of trade, investment and services. Prior to the visit the Governments of India and Singapore signed a MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Personnel Management and Public Administration and an Executive Programme on Cooperation in the Fields of Arts, Heritage, Archives and Library. The Parliaments of India and Singapore have also agreed to establish respective Parliamentary Friendship Groups.

Both Prime Ministers took note of the strong intergovernmental links between India and Singapore and continued regular high level institutional exchanges such as the Foreign Office Consultations, Ministerial Meetings, the Defence Policy Dialogue and the Security Round Table. Prime Minister extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Singapore to pay a bilateral visit to India and also said that we looked forward to Singapore's participation in the India-ASEAN Summit in India in December- 2012 to commemorate 20 years of our partnership with ASEAN and in the series of activities India is planning in the run up to the Summit.

During his stay in Singapore the Prime Minister and Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong unveiled a Marker and Bust of Jawaharlal Nehru at the Asian Civilisation Museum Greens.



## THAILAND

### **421. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on Thai Prime Minister's visit to India.**

**New Delhi, April 4, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and good to see all of you. Let me start off by introducing my colleague Joint Secretary (South) Mr. Arun Goyal, who is responsible for our relations with ASEAN countries including Thailand.

You are aware that Prime Minister of Thailand HE Abhisit Vejjajiva is coming tomorrow on a state visit at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. This would be his first visit to India. He leads a delegation that includes the Foreign Minister of Thailand, the President of Thai Trade Representative, Secretary-General to the Prime Minister, Vice-Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a number of other senior officials.

In the delegation-level talks the Prime Minister of India would be assisted by the External Affairs Minister, Home Minister, Commerce and Industries Minister, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, National Security Advisor, Secretary (East) Shri Sanjay Singh, my colleague Mr. Arun Goyal, and a number of other senior officials.

A brief overview of the programme: Tomorrow he has a breakfast meeting with CEO's of Indian companies. Thereafter there is a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by the Prime Minister of India. EAM will call on the visiting dignitary, who himself would be calling on the President and Vice-President of India. The three Chambers of Commerce - FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM - would be hosting a business luncheon for the Prime Minister with captains of Indian trade and industry. In the evening he holds delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister of India, who would also be hosting a banquet in his honour. The visiting Prime Minister emplanes for Bangkok late in the evening tomorrow.

Thailand is effectively a neighbour of India. We share a maritime boundary.

Our unique civilisational links date back many a millennia, and we have traditionally enjoyed close, cultural, religious and linguistic affinities. Buddhism has been one of the enduring bonds between the two countries. Currently some 40,000 tourists from Thailand mostly come for pilgrimage to Buddhist sites. Thai language incorporates Pali and Sanskrit influences. And what is more, Thailand is home to a large Indian diaspora which is close to 150,000.

In recent years, political exchanges and high-level political contacts have intensified and we have seen excellent results on ground in terms of deepening and expansion of our multifaceted ties. The present Prime Minister assumed office in December 2008 and this is his first visit. But the two Prime Ministers have been meeting regularly. Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Thai Prime Minister met in October 2009 at Hua Hin, Thailand, during the Seventh India-ASEAN Summit meeting. Next, they also met in Hanoi during the East Asia Summit and Eighth India-ASEAN Summit meeting in October, 2010. This high-level attention has led to a robust expansion on our cooperation including in areas like economics and trade, security, defence, culture, people-to-people contacts, and the others.

India and Thailand are important regional partners linking south and southeast Asia. We are members of and cooperate closely in a number of international fora including ASEAN, the East-Asia Summit, BIMSTEC, and others. The economic and trade relationship does constitute one of the important elements of our relationship. I am pleased to note that our bilateral trade grew six times in ten years from 2000, and last year crossed 6.6 billion dollars. In fact, last year alone saw a spike of something like 34 per cent.

Investments in both directions have been growing. Indian companies have invested over 1.5 billion dollars. And the Thai companies, according to the Thai statistics, have invested more than half of that amount at about 800 million dollars. Major Indian companies and business houses are established in Thailand, doing very good business in Thailand. That includes the Tata Group, the Aditya Birla Group. By the way the Tata Group is in a variety of sectors including automobile, steel, software. Aditya Birla Group is in chemicals and textiles. There is the Indorama Group; Ranbaxy, Dabur, Lupin in pharmaceuticals; Bharti Airtel, NIIT, Punj Lloyd. So, you note that some of the well-known names in the Indian industrial circles have a good presence in Thailand.

Likewise, Thai companies are present in India in diverse fields including agro processing, infrastructure - where they have a number of core strengths - automobile, engineering, banking, housing, and so on. Thai companies, do have core strengths in infrastructure development including roads, elevated highways, metros, housing complexes. And a number Thai companies have

actually been awarded infrastructure projects and are currently executing them including the Kolkata International Airport, some sections of Delhi Metro, hydro projects, national highways, and others.

But there is still a lot of untapped potential both in trade and economic sides and that is what both sides seek to harness. In that direction, in October 2003 a Framework Agreement on India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement was signed in Bangkok and we had 82 products that were identified under the Early Harvest Scheme for eliminating duties. We have been discussing a comprehensive India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement on Goods, Services, and Investments as a single undertaking. The last round has just been concluded on the 1st of April. Parallel to that has been the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods that came into being on the 1st of January last year, and we are currently negotiating the FTA in Services and Investments. So, we have these agreements with ASEAN and specifically with Thailand which are aimed at giving our economic and commercial ties a substantial boost.

As I said, India and Thailand share a maritime boundary. We have similar challenges and concerns. And it is natural that we coordinate and cooperate in areas of security and defence, which includes joint exercises, coordinated patrolling, ship calls, training of officers in each other's armed forces institutions, and so on.

Given our proximity and the civilisational links that we have had, it is not surprising that Thailand is one of the most attractive destinations for Indian tourists. Last year we had upwards of 700,000 Indian tourists that went to Thailand. I am told that Thailand sees Indian tourists as one of the fastest growing segments. Currently, we have 140 flights between Thailand and multiple cities in India.

We also have an active cultural exchange programme and an Indian Cultural Centre was established in Bangkok in September 2009. Similarly, we have a Memorandum of Understanding on Education Cooperation. And last year we had offered 130 scholarships under ITEC and ICCR to our Thai friends. In addition, a large number of Thai students have been studying in India on self-financing basis. We are in contact; we are working with Thai educational institutes and universities for setting up of Centre of Indian Studies. We also have an important Thailand-India Joint Commission, which is led by the Foreign Ministers of the two sides, which oversees the active programme of cooperation between the two countries. We expect the next round of the Joint Commission meeting to take place soon.

In short, Thailand is one of India's valuable partners, close partners in the ASEAN region. The visit of the Prime Minister of Thailand reflects a tradition of regular high-level exchanges and contacts between the two countries and

serves to underscore the commitment and the importance the two sides attach to the relationship. We are confident that his visit and the discussions here will impart a new momentum to our excellent relations.

Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Thailand are expected to have wide-ranging discussions on an array of bilateral, regional and international issues. We expect to issue a joint statement tomorrow at the conclusion of the visit.

Thank you. My colleague and I will be happy to take questions on the visit of the Prime Minister of Thailand to India.

**Question:** Can we have names of some of the major Thai companies that have invested in India?

**Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Arun Goyal):** Thai companies are especially strong in the infrastructure sector whether tourism, roads, bridges, complexes, housing, and so on, and that is one area where Indian economy is looking actively to have foreign companies come and bring in the expertise. Currently, Thai companies are doing the Kolkata Airport, some portions of the Delhi Metro, but we are trying that they take more and more projects in the tourism sector, especially on the Buddhist circuit. Some of the leading companies presently in India from Thailand are, C P Aquaculture (India) Ltd., Ital Thai Development Pcl., Krung Thai Bank Pcl., Charoen Pokphand (India) Private Limited, Stanley Electric Engineering India Pvt. Ltd., Thai Summit Neel Auto Pvt. Ltd., Thai Airways International Pcl., Precious Shipping (PSL) of Thailand, Preuksa Real Estate, Dusit and Amari group of hotels.

**Question:** Sir, is India likely to bring up the Red Shirts issue especially since the elections are on card in Thailand soon?

**Joint Secretary (South):** No, we do not comment on the internal developments in another country. As you are well aware, Thailand has been going through a period of difficulty with opposition groups publicly coming out in protest. Yes, in the near future they are going in for elections and which have to be held before the end of this year. But we do not intend siding with any faction.

**Question:** Negotiations for FTA are concluded or continuing?

**Official Spokesperson:** As I said, we had the last round of negotiations just three days ago, that was on Friday, on the 31st of March to the 1st of April. This is something that both the sides are interested in. Therefore, I very consciously gave you the figure of 34 per cent hike in trade last year. And it was not fortuitous, it was partly due to the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Goods that was signed. So, both sides do see a lot of potential because our economies in so many ways are complementary and there is the desire on both sides to work towards concluding a comprehensive FTA covering all segments of trade, investments, services, and so on.

**Question:** Is this to be signed during the visit of the Prime Minister?

**Official Spokesperson:** We are negotiating it. I think we need to work on it together. It should happen in the near future.

**Question:** Thai investment is 400 million dollars while our investment is 1.5 billion dollars. Why the mismatch? And, is coordinated patrolling going to start any time soon? And, what are the initiatives that are being taken in security cooperation?

**Official Spokesperson:** The Indian investments, you are right, since 1970 are in the range of 1.5 billion dollars. The figure of Thai investments as per the Thai authorities is in the range of 800 million dollars. Certainly we would welcome more Thai investments to India.

The coordinated patrolling is taking place already. That is for the simple reason that we share a maritime boundary, we have similar concerns on issues like counter-terrorism, piracy and smuggling. The coordinated patrolling has been found useful by both sides.

Security and defence is one area which both sides are looking at enhancing cooperation. We mentioned the joint patrolling. We have joint exercises. There are regular port calls by ships from both countries. We have exchange of representatives of the armed forces on both sides. There is joint training in each other's armed forces institutions. So, in short, both India and Thailand do find that security and defence cooperation is of mutual benefit.

**Question:** Can you identify the maritime areas where patrolling is going on?

**Joint Secretary (South):** The north of Bay of Bengal. Once you have a look at the map you will realize that Thailand occupies a very strategic position as far as the Straits of Malacca are concerned. So, this is the area where the Naval passage and for commercial shipping it is extremely important. These are the areas.

**Official Spokesperson:** And in addition, piracy. I think piracy is an issue which concerns not just India but Thailand and a number of other countries. Our Navy has come to the rescue of Thai sailors some of who have been abducted by the Somali pirates in the last few years.

**Question:** Does the patrolling area extend up to Malacca Straits?

**Joint Secretary (South):** The mouth of Malacca Straits.

**Question:** Any new initiative for this cooperation of the Ocean information to avert the international phenomena like tsunami and other things? Any real time information-sharing with Thailand?

**Joint Secretary (South):** This is already an area of collaboration, sharing of

information. Tsunami early-warning system and earthquake prediction etc., is an ongoing thing.

**Question:** Could you elaborate on education? You said there would be lots of cooperation as far as education is concerned. Indians are going there to train, opening universities. Would you elaborate a bit on that?

**Joint Secretary (South):** It was not said that Indians are going there to open universities. It was merely mentioned that we have long historical links with Thailand in the field of culture. Now recently we have assisted Thai universities in the field of Sanskrit language school and provision of Sanskrit professors in three different universities. We have opened up a cultural centre on September 2009 in Bangkok. So, in specialized niche areas where Indian studies or Sanskrit studies are concerned, naturally the way to move forward is provision of professors from India on a short-term basis.

**Official Spokesperson:** If I may, I will just like to add a few bits here. I said that we are offering about 130 scholarships. In addition to that a number of Thai students come to study in Indian universities especially in areas like management studies, IT, some even in English, on a self-financing basis. There is a growing interest in Indian studies. Therefore, we are working with the Thai education institutions in setting up centres or Chairs on Indian studies. My colleague did mention the names. To get into specifics, we have an India Study Centre at Thammasat University in Bangkok since April 1993. In 2008, a Master of Arts course on Indian studies was instituted by the Mahidol University of Bangkok. In 2008 again we contributed about ten million Thai Bhat for construction of new building for Sanskrit Studies in Silpakorn University, Bangkok. We also, as my colleague said, deputed a Sanskrit Professor. Now, to impart more momentum to this aspect of engagement of education and culture, we have an Indian Cultural Centre which was set up just about a year and a half ago. And we have an active cultural exchange programme also. These are some of the elements that we wanted to mention to just give you a sense of our cooperation in this vital sector because people-to-people contacts are something which go at the heart of any relationship.

Thank you very much.



**422. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to media during the visit of Thai Prime Minister.**

**New Delhi, April 5, 2011.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva,  
adies and Gentleman of the media

It is my privilege to welcome Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on his first visit to India.

Prime Minister Vejjajiva has an extremely distinguished political and academic career and has led Thailand with great distinction through difficult times. I deeply value his personal commitment to a strong partnership between our two countries.

Thailand is a close friend and a valued regional partner for India. We share civilizational links with Thailand, and we are maritime neighbours.

The Prime Minister and I have had wide ranging discussions covering the entire gamut of our bilateral relations. We have had a meeting of minds on how to move our relations forward.

We have agreed to intensify our cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, education, tourism and culture. Our bilateral trade turnover has reached 6 billion US dollars. We have agreed to aim towards doubling of our trade by 2014. We have agreed to expedite the conclusion of negotiations on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement that would include goods, services and investment. I conveyed to the Prime Minister that we welcome more Thai investment into India.

We see Thailand as playing a positive role in our efforts to catalyse development and improve connectivity of our Northeastern States with the ASEAN region.

India and Thailand have active exchanges in the fields of defence, counter-terrorism and security. We have agreed to further strengthen them, and to initiate a senior official level dialogue between our Defence Ministries. We both expressed our desire to cooperate with each other to secure the vital sea-lanes of communications which pass through the Indian Ocean. We have identified other areas of cooperation such as space technology, disaster management and science and technology.

We have agreed that the Ministerial level Joint Commission will meet this year to follow up on the range of bilateral initiatives.



Developing close relations with Thailand is an important component of our 'Look East' Policy. We work together in a number of regional mechanisms such as BIMSTEC, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asia Summit and the Mekong Ganga Cooperation initiative. The Prime Minister and I are of the unanimous view that a strong India-Thailand partnership is a factor of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Vejjajiva's visit has provided the political impetus and direction for a closer and more broad-based partnership between our countries. This is an important visit, and will enhance the national interests of both our countries.

I thank you.



**423. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the growing economic cooperation between India and Thailand.**

**New Delhi, April 5, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, in a business meeting with Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand, here today, expressed optimism over the growing trade and investment between the two countries. Shri Sharma in his inaugural address stated that, "Economic engagement between the two countries paved the way for rapid economic liberalization and the implementation of the Early Harvest Scheme led to robust growth. Bilateral trade between India and Thailand has grown 6 fold in the last decade and touched US \$ 6 billion last year, growing at over 30% from the previous year." While reiterating India's commitment to deepening integration with South-East Asia, he said that, "Enhancing the share of manufacturing in the GDP is a priority for India and Thailand can play a major role in enhancing the share of manufacturing as they have a proven expertise in the area and has a significant share in their GDP" .

Shri Sharma, focusing on the development of North-East Region and its inclusion and integration with the rest of the world, said, India's look-East and Thailand look-West policy to work in unison for the development of North- East region. The region can work as the link between these two countries. Both the sides view the partnership being integral to the goal of industrial development of the North- East region. He further informed, "We recognize that Thailand

has also identified this part of the country as an important investment destination, holding the potential to emerge a sub-regional market centre and a land bridge which would connect Thailand with the mainstream in India. This part of the country is home to rich forest produce and investments in bamboo and rubber industry in the North East would be mutually rewarding for our people".

Prime Minister of Thailand while speaking on the occasion said, "Thailand's Look- West Policy sets the stage in consolidating our substantive bilateral engagement. The last decade has seen a considerable expansion in our economic and political ties with the exchange of several high-level visits from both sides underscoring our mutual commitment for elevating the economic engagement." He expressed the hope that the trade between the two countries will hit US\$ 10 billion mark by the end of next year.

During the business conclave both the sides highlighted the need to cooperate in sectors like Pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, food processing, automobiles sector and chemical and allied industry. Shri Sharma highlighted that, Indian companies have invested US \$ 2 billion in the Thai economy and companies from Thailand have invested nearly US \$ 1 billion. "Complementary strengths of our industry make us natural partners and the advantages of geography only reinforce this relationship' he added.

The field of infrastructure is an area of high priority for India and the next 5 years will see investments of over US \$ 1 trillion in this sector. Shri Sharma invited Thai companies for a partnership in this critical sector. The Minister said, over 8,00,000 Indian tourists visit Thailand and almost an equal number of tourists from Thailand visit India. We would like to take this beyond just air connectivity and in this context, the tri-lateral highway project linking India and Thailand through Myanmar is an area of high priority for us, he informed.

The Minister stressed the value of Thai partnership in developing the entire value chain of agriculture including investments in agro-processing to curb

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Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on April 5 while speaking to Indian businessmen in a meeting organized by the CII made an impassioned plea to choose Thailand as their destination for investment promising to make significant cuts in corporate income-tax rates. He called upon them to cash in on the economic complementarities offered by the two countries to raise bilateral trade to \$10 billion in the next two years. To increase the attractiveness of his country as an investment destination, Mr. Vejjajiva proposed to significantly cut corporate income-tax rates and sought Indian participation in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, auto parts, chemicals, software and ICT. Emphasising that the Thailand market for medical equipment was around \$800 million, the Thailand Prime Minister hoped that being a world leader in manufacture of drugs and in modern healthcare India would cash in on the opportunity. Noting that investment applications from India were valued at \$60 million last year alone, Mr. Vejjajiva hoped that the inexorable force pushing trade between the two countries would result in more applications for investments in his country. In return, he wanted investment opportunities for Thai businessmen in sectors such as construction, food processing and services in India.

post-harvest wastage which is unacceptably high (30-35% of the total produce). The Minister called for Thai companies to invest in developing cold-chains, warehouses and food processing facilities which will be a contribution not just to the Indian economy but also to global food security. We expect investments of US \$ 200 billion in the agro processing sector and growth of 20% in the next five years. In this sector, we have allowed 100% foreign direct investment and Thai investors with their strengths in agro-processing would be invaluable partners, he added.



**424. Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the State visit of Prime Minister of Thailand Abhisit Vejjajiva.**

**New Delhi, April 5, 2011.**

1. H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Prime Minister of Thailand paid a State visit to India during 4-5 April 2011 at the invitation of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Thailand was accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister of Industry, Deputy Minister of Commerce, the President of the Thai Trade Representative Office and an official delegation.
2. During the visit, the Prime Minister of Thailand held bilateral talks with Dr. Manmohan Singh who also hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary. The Thai Prime Minister called on Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of India and Shri Hamid Ansari, the Vice-President of India. Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India called on the Thai leader. The Thai Prime Minister attended a business luncheon hosted by the three chambers of commerce.
3. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues, including on the need to energize bilateral institutional mechanisms, to enhance cooperation in security matters and to upgrade the bilateral dialogue on defence matters. The two leaders stressed the significance of enhancing connectivity between the two countries and regions, and the importance of further enhancing bilateral trade and investment. In this context the two leaders noted that the next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in 2011 during which new initiative for enhancing cooperation would be identified. Discussions were also held on cooperation between the two sides to minimize the damage caused by natural disasters

such as earthquake and tsunami and to deploy effective multilateral early warning systems against them.

4. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the importance attached to the strengthening and enhancement of trade and economic through the bilateral and regional frameworks viz. ASEAN-India, BIMSTEC and MGC

5. At bilateral level, the two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the growing trend of bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. They noted that the bilateral trade turnover had reached US\$ 6.7 billion in 2010 and agreed to double the trade volume by 2014. Noting that ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between India and Thailand that would promote trade in goods and services, and investment were proceeding well, they directed the negotiators to finalize the text of the Agreement by the end of 2011. They also desired that the Second Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area between Thailand and India founded in 2003 be signed at the earliest possible date.

6. The Leaders reiterated their commitment to realization of the Trilateral Highway connecting India to Thailand via Myanmar to enhance regional transport networks. The highway while promoting trade and people to people contacts will also help revive the shared civilizational and cultural contacts and the ancient routes of knowledge and pilgrimage.

7. The two Prime Ministers noted that India and Thailand have an on-going programme of defence cooperation, characterized by a number of exchanges between the Armed Forces of both countries, joint exercises and participation in each others' defence training programmes. In order to strengthen this cooperation further, the two leaders agreed to establish a regular High-Level Dialogue on Defence Cooperation between the Ministries of Defence of both countries in the near future, details of which would be further finalized. It was agreed that this Dialogue would regularly review all the elements of bilateral defence cooperation including in the area of defence industry and technology. The Dialogue would also include discussions on a bilateral MoU on Defence Cooperation.

8. The Prime Minister of Thailand expressed his appreciation at the successive recent actions by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard that had led to the successful release of several Thai nationals who had been the victims of piracy in the Indian Ocean. The two leaders, noting that coordinated patrolling was already being carried out jointly by the Indian and Thai navies, agreed to further enhance this cooperation. including by increasing the duration and frequency of such patrols. Both leaders also noted the possibility of experience sharing on Coast Guard Operations.

9. The two leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there could be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism. Recognizing the common threats to national security from transnational crimes, including international terrorism, the two Prime Ministers resolved to significantly enhance bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism, including in restricting transnational movement and unauthorized stay of known terrorists in each other's countries. The two leaders resolved to commit their countries to improve sharing of intelligence, the development of more effective counter-terrorism policies, enhance liaison between law enforcement agencies, provide assistance in the areas of border and immigration control to stem the flow of terrorist related material, money and people and specific measures against transnational crimes, through the already existing mechanisms between Thailand and India. Both leaders agreed that the next (6th) meeting of the Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation be held within the next six months.

10. Noting that India and Thailand are discussing Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Civil and Commercial Matters and Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, the two sides agreed that the above mentioned agreements may be concluded at the earliest.

11. The Prime Minister of Thailand welcomed the fact that almost 800,000 Indian tourists had visited Thailand in the year 2010 and observed that visitors from India were the fastest-growing segment in the tourist inflow into Thailand.

12. The two leaders, recognizing that there was great unrealized potential for increasing the inflow of Thai tourists into India, agreed to provide greater facilitation to Thai Buddhist monks, pilgrims, students and tourists visiting India.

13. India announced support to the India Studies Centre set up at the Thammasat University in Thailand recently through visiting Chairs in areas to be selected jointly by the University and the ICCR, collaboration in India related research programmes through exchange of senior scholars for a period of one year and extending scholarships to the students from the Centre for Studies in India at the Post Graduate level and for Ph. D programmes. He expressed the hope that the India Study Centre would ignite a new interest in young Thai people in the great currents of contemporary India as well as renew interest in the ideas, values, arts and philosophy of the India of times past.

14. Recalling the long history of cultural and historical ties between the two countries, the two leaders agreed that to lift relations to a higher level, the two countries shall increase and expand existing cultural exchanges and strengthen people-to-people contacts to raise visibility and profile of the other country. The two countries will also continue to explore opportunities to promote cultural exchanges in fields such as conservation, traditional art, contemporary art,

literature, film making, music, dance, theatre etc. In this context, Thailand and India mutually agreed that the Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange between the two countries should be renewed at the earliest opportunity for the year 2011-2013 in order to facilitate and promote deeper and varied cultural exchanges."

15. The two leaders welcomed the recent progress made towards the revival of the Nalanda University, including the passage by Indian Parliament of the Nalanda University Bill and the regular meetings of the Nalanda Mentor Group. The Prime Ministers were pleased to note that the revival of the Nalanda University would rejuvenate the close cultural and religious ties that link India and Thailand since the ancient period.

16. The two leaders held discussions on regional cooperation within ASEAN. The Prime Minister of India expressed his appreciation for Thailand's role as a valued partner within ASEAN and expressed his satisfaction that Thailand was one of the largest participants at the successful India-ASEAN Business Fair that was held in New Delhi in March 2011. The two Leaders noted that the Fair has also witnessed the first meeting of India-ASEAN Trade/Commerce Ministers in India. He also appreciated the visit of Foreign Minister of Thailand to deliver the key note address at the recently held Delhi Dialogue - III Conference focusing on India-ASEAN Engagement. The two leaders recalled the Action Plan for ASEAN-India Partnership 2010-15 that was adopted in Hanoi in November 2010 and reiterated their resolve to further promote a multi-faceted India-ASEAN relationship. The two Prime Ministers looked forward to the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi in 2012.

17. At regional level, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement on Trade in Goods on 1 January 2010 and the increase in bilateral trade as a result thereof, and hoped that the Agreement would further contribute to the envisaged trade target of USD 70 billion as set by ASEAN and India. The two Prime Ministers looked forward to an early finalization of the India-ASEAN services and investment agreements currently under negotiation.

18. The two leaders also discussed regional cooperation in other formats such as BIMSTEC and Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC). Both the leaders expressed satisfaction that the last BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting held in January 2011 had agreed to locate the Permanent Secretariat of BIMSTEC in Bangladesh and looked forward to greater progress in realizing a need based programme of regional cooperation suited to the needs of the BIMSTEC member countries. The two leaders also looked forward to synergizing economic cooperation and capacity building in the Mekong region under the MGC.

19. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of Thailand expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and to the people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality that had been extended to him and to the members of his delegation on his State visit.



**425. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Thailand.**

**New Delhi, December 27, 2011.**

H.E. Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by a high level delegation, paid an official visit to India from 26th-27th, December, 2011 for the 6th meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission (JCM). The JCM co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri S M Krishna, was held on December 27, 2011.

2. EAM had wide range of discussions with the Foreign Minister of Thailand H.E. Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, covering bilateral, regional and international issues. Both leaders affirmed the strong bilateral ties between India and Thailand and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in diverse areas such as trade, investment, security & defence cooperation, tourism, education, culture, science & technology, energy, infrastructure and civil aviation etc.

3. Both sides took note of the growing trend in bilateral trade and investment. Bilateral trade has multiplied around 6 times over past decades and having reached US \$ 6.6 bn in 2010, is poised to touch US\$ 8 bn in 2011. The two countries are also negotiating a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. Culture and tourism are other important areas of cooperation. The two sides finalized the cultural exchange programme for 2012-14. India and Thailand welcomed the idea of setting up of an India-Thailand foundation and agreed to work out the modalities of the foundation at the earliest. Around one million Indians visited Thailand for tourism this year. The two sides have agreed to form an ad-hoc working group to discuss various issues pertaining to bilateral visa and consular matters.

4. It was also agreed to revive the bilateral MoU on cooperation in Information Technology and Services. Thailand proposes to host the first meeting of JWG on Agricultural Cooperation in 2012. The next meeting of JWG on Education will be hosted in India. India and Thailand have formed a

Joint Committee for enhancing cooperation in the field of renewable energy under a bilateral MoU.

5. Both sides expressed their desire to further deepen their valued partnership and cooperation in the context of India's deepening ties with ASEAN, EAS, BIMSTEC and MGC. India considers Thailand as a crucial component of its Look East Policy. The Thai Foreign Minister described expanding relations with India as central to Thailand's Look West Policy.



## **VIETNAM**

### **426. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the bilateral meeting between Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Vietnamese Prime Minister in Hanoi.**

**May 4, 2011.**

The Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung in Hanoi, Vietnam, today. During the meeting, Shri Mukherjee said that the Strategic Partnership established between the two countries is based on implicit mutual trust, a convergence of interests including in the field of defence and security and similar approaches on global and regional issues. As two dynamic and fast growing economies of Asia, our effort is to add greater content, through concrete programmes and projects, to our Strategic Partnership, he said.

Mentioning that defence cooperation between the two countries is robust and growing satisfactorily, he said that India will continue to assist Vietnam in the modernization of its armed forces, particularly the Navy and Air Force. India is also prepared to strengthen intelligence cooperation with Vietnam, he added.

Shri Mukherjee said that he is not satisfied with the level of economic cooperation between the two countries which, though growing, is far below potential. The bilateral trade is not even 5% of India's overall trade with ASEAN. Saying that this year we have already achieved US\$ 1 billion trade in the first quarter, he expressed hope to sustain and further develop this momentum. Mentioning that the entry into force of the ASEAN-India FTA-in-Goods has contributed towards this buoyancy in trade, he said that he hopes to conclude the ASEAN-India FTA-in-Services and Investment at an early date.

The Minister expressed concern that the investment partnership between the



two countries is limited. Though there are several small Indian investors, total Indian investment is not large (US\$ 200mn), he said. He expressed hope that the US\$ 5 billion TATA Steel investment would be realized soon. The Minister said that this project has the potential to become a symbol of Strategic Partnership between the two countries. Mentioning that some progress has been made in recent weeks, he urged the Vietnam Prime Minister to ensure that a level playing field is provided to TATA Steel and that there is no discrimination against Indian investment. He hoped that the remaining issue of re-settlement costs for the land would be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all sides and the Investment Certificate for the project would be issued soon. To this, the Prime Minister of Vietnam said that he has already asked the concerned officials to resolve the matter at the earliest.

The Finance Minister expected the Vietnam Government to facilitate the request of two Indian public sector banks, Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank to open Branch Offices in Vietnam saying that the step would strengthen the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Shri Mukherjee said that India has provided several Lines of Credit to Vietnam and is willing to consider additional Lines of Credit, especially for infrastructure projects in Vietnam.



**427. Extract from Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on EAM visit to Hanoi.**

**New Delhi, September 15, 2011.**

**Question:** Sir, there are reports of China objecting to ONGC Videsh's venture in Vietnam. Can you shed some light on that please?

**Official Spokesperson:** I did allude to the fact that we have a very active programme of trade and economic cooperation with Vietnam. One of the facets of this cooperation is our cooperation in the area of energy, hydrocarbons, as well as renewable energy. ONGC Videsh has been present in Vietnam for quite some time, including in a major joint venture for offshore oil and natural gas exploration. They are in the process of further expanding their cooperation and operations in Vietnam. Also ESSAR Exploration and Production Limited, which is a subsidiary of ESSAR Oil, has been awarded an oil and gas block in Vietnam. So, as I said, this is one important area of cooperation and we would like to see this cooperation grow. Suffice it to say that our cooperation with

Vietnam, and for that matter with any country in the world is always as per international laws, norms and conventions.

**Question:** China has also warned Indian vessels to stay out of their waters in South China Sea. Do you believe it is linked to this current issue of India prospecting for oil in the seas which China also claims as its own or something else?

**Official Spokesperson:** As far as this - you are calling it an issue, I am not - facet of economic cooperation in the energy sector is concerned, I have already touched upon that. As far as navigation in the South China Sea is concerned, you would have seen my statement where we had outlined our views on the matter. I will be happy to reiterate that India supports freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and hopes that all parties to the dispute will abide by the 2002 Declaration of Conduct in the South China Sea.

**Question:** According to reports, China's Foreign Affairs Ministry has today objected to India's plans to go forward on oil exploration through ONGC Videsh, and said it will be illegal and the companies will have to be prepared for the consequences. What is your reaction?

**Official Spokesperson:** I have already responded to this question in considerable detail. I have outlined the nature of our cooperation with Vietnam. I have emphasized that cooperation in the field of energy - after all for us energy security is very important - hydrocarbons, renewable energy is an important facet of our cooperation. I have mentioned to you that a number of Indian companies are already cooperating closely. We are looking at further enhancing cooperation in the years ahead.

**Question:** ...(Inaudible)...

**Official Spokesperson:** Do not you think you should be asking that question to China? I can only tell you what I know, and I have given you my position.

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**Official Spokesperson:** I can only tell you how we view the position, right? I do not think I need to say any more because I have elaborated on how we view our relation and cooperation in this important area with Vietnam.

**Question:** In what way will this visit change the strategic paradigm of India's Look East Policy as far as Vietnam is concerned? In what way are we going to intensify our defence relationship with Vietnam? And is a formal strategic partnership with Vietnam on the anvil?

**Official Spokesperson:** I thought I have mentioned that in 2007, during the visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam we had unveiled a strategic partnership with Vietnam. That was four years ago. The relationship which has always

been close, which has been cordial, which has been substantive, has been acquiring greater momentum, greater depth. We have had unprecedented high-level attention to the relationship. We have had high-level visits of Prime Ministers, Presidents, Secretary-General of Vietnam. I have already touched upon various facets of cooperation. For us, our relationship with Vietnam, is an important pillar, a vital pillar, a key pillar of our Look East Policy. If you see how our relationship since 1992 in particular has evolved with the ASEAN countries, it is quite evident that this has been a resounding success. Last year, we operationalised the Free Trade Agreement in Goods with ASEAN. How much is the trade with ASEAN?




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The Official Spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Official media had during the course of last couple of weeks been insisting that the area which has been leased to Indian Company ONGC Videsh for oil prospecting falls within the Chinese territorial waters and therefore any operation by the Indian company would be infringement of its sovereignty and termed it even "serious political provocation". "China should resolutely stop [ONGC] from pursuing this course of action." said the *Global Times*, Chinese tabloid on September 15.

Even as Chinese officials on September 16 sought to play down the row over projects in the South China Sea, the Communist Party-run paper, while stressing Chinese "sincere" peaceful intentions, however said "it will not give up the right to use other means to protect its interest."

On September 15, Chinese Foreign Ministry officials had said they were opposed to any project in the disputed South China Sea

On September 19 the Chinese government reiterated its opposition to exploration projects by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Videsh and Vietnam in the South China Sea, saying any deal without its approval would be "illegal and invalid" and an infringement on China's sovereignty. The comments from the Foreign Ministry came as Indian officials said ONGC Videsh would continue with exploration projects in two blocks, located near the Paracel Islands, over which Vietnam claims sovereignty. India has reportedly taken the position that Vietnamese claims were in accordance with international laws. Media report said China has conveyed its opposition to the Indian government about the project, citing its claims of sovereignty over all the South China Sea and the disputed islands. Asked about India's reported decision to go ahead with the projects, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei, without directly referring to India, said that China enjoyed "indisputable sovereignty" over the South China Sea islands. "Any country engaging in oil and gas exploration activities in this jurisdiction without the approval of the Chinese government," he said, "constitutes an infringement upon China's sovereignty and national interest. The projects, he added, would be "illegal and invalid". China, he said, hoped that "relevant countries" kept its claims in mind, and refrained from "unilateral actions that may complicate and magnify the dispute". Mr. Hong was asked whether China's claims extended to the whole of the sea, or only to waters around disputed islands", he said "historical evidence" showed that China was the first to discover and administer the islands, and was committed to resolving the dispute on the basis of historical facts and international law. Asked if China would not object to any projects in waters outside of 12 nautical miles from the islands China claims, he only said any country or company that engaged in projects "in waters in China's jurisdiction" infringed on China's sovereignty. Countries from outside the region, he said, needed "to respect efforts by regional countries" to solve the dispute through bilateral negotiations. Other countries claiming *locus standi* in these waters are Vietnam, Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia.

**428. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to Hanoi for the 14th India - Vietnam Joint Commission meeting.**

**New Delhi, September 15, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to you and welcome. External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M.Krishna is on his way to Hanoi to co-chair the 14th India Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation which will take place tomorrow.

My colleague Dr. Neena Malhotra, Director (South) is here with me to apprise you about this important event that is taking place in our relationship with Vietnam.

The last meeting of the Joint Commission (JCM) was held in New Delhi on the 27th of February, 2007. EAM would be leading an inter-Ministerial delegation which would include senior representatives of the Ministries of Information Technology, Science and Technology and Home Affairs, ONGC Videsh, Indian Council of Cultural Relations, and our Joint Secretary (South) Arun Goyal, as well as a number of other senior colleagues from MEA.

The Vietnamese Delegation will be led by the newly appointed Foreign Minister of Vietnam His Excellency Pham Binh Minh. By the way, he was born in India, and this was more than fifty years ago when his father, who later became the Foreign Minister of Vietnam, was the Consul-General of Vietnam in India.

The JCM was preceded by the meeting of the senior officials of MEA led by Joint Secretary (South) and his counterpart DG of the Foreign Office. On 14th - 15th September 2011.

Earlier, the Second India-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue and the Fifth Foreign Office Consultations had taken place - on 8-9 August, which was led by Secretary (East) Mr. Sanjay Singh with Dr. Neena Malhotra, Director assisting him.

Briefly EAM's programme includes, a meeting with his counterpart, followed by JCM. Then, along with the Chairman of Hanoi People's Committee, EAM would be inaugurating the India-Vietnam Advanced Resource Centre which is being financed by India at a cost of more than \$ 2 million with technical support from C-DAC. This is a quality IT training centre which will be operational almost immediately. EAM will also be calling on a number of leaders of Vietnam including the President; and he returns thereafter the next day.

India and Vietnam have traditionally enjoyed very close and cordial relations which have historical roots. Our ties are marked by a remarkable and even strategic similarity of views and outlooks on regional as well as international issues. During the visit of PM Nguyen Tan Dung to India in July 2007, India and Vietnam decided to elevate bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership.

We firmly believe that our cooperation bilaterally as well as at international and regional level, is also conducive to peace, stability and prosperity in our respective regions, as well as beyond. We are pleased that our relations are steadily intensifying in a substantive manner and have been receiving the highest level attention. You are aware of a number of high level visits that have been taking place with regularity.

I may add that vibrant relations with Vietnam is a vital pillar of our Look East Policy. We are very appreciative of the role played by Vietnam in helping strengthen our relations with the ASEAN countries and the regional cooperation mechanisms, including during their Chairmanship of ASEAN last year. And it is last year when PM Dr. Manmohan Singh had visited Hanoi in October to participate in the ASEAN and EAS Summits.

Vietnam has always been a steadfast supporter of India's permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council. We are pleased that our ties are expanding rapidly and in practically all areas including trade, investments, energy, security, human resource development, capacity-building, IT, science and technology, culture and so on.

Talking of trade, we are pleased that in the last six years our trade has grown five times clocking a cumulative annual increase of something like 34 per cent in the last five years. This year, in fact the pace of increase has further gone up. We had a target of two billion dollars by 2010, but actual trade in 2010-11 was almost double that figure at \$ 3.65 billion. We are quite hopeful that the modest target of five billion by 2015 is eminently achievable.

Vietnam has also ratified the India-ASEAN FTA on Goods on 1st June, 2010, which is imparting a boost to our trade ties. We are also in the process of setting up a Vietnam-India Business Forum. Given the conducive investment environment in Vietnam, a number of Indian companies have already made investments, more investments are in the pipeline. Vietnam particularly seeks Indian investments in sectors like high technology, IT, biotechnology, energy including renewable energy, iron and steel, auto components, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, food processing, and other areas.

Another important area of cooperation is capacity-building, human resource development, and skill enhancement. We are offering 100 ITEC slots a year to

Vietnam which are fully utilized. I have already mentioned that EAM will be inaugurating the Advanced IT Resource Centre at Hanoi.

The 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with Vietnam falls next year, and the two countries are keen to celebrate this landmark in a befitting manner. We also have an active cultural programme between the two countries. Earlier this year with effect from 1 January, we have extended the visa-on-arrival facility to Vietnam. Currently I think we extended this facility to eleven countries.

The visit of EAM and JCM Meeting will also be preparatory to the forthcoming visit of the President of Vietnam to India. During JCM both sides will take stock of the implementations of the initiatives and decisions that have taken place in the preceding years and also would look at a roadmap to take our relationship further, to maintain the momentum in our bilateral ties. The visit and JCM are expected to further solidify our traditional friendship and inject greater substance in our strategic partnership.

Thank you. We will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** Sir, there are reports of China objecting to ONGC Videsh's venture in Vietnam. Can you shed some light on that please?

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operationalised the Free Trade Agreement in Goods with ASEAN. How much is the trade with ASEAN?

**Director (South) (Dr. Neena Malhotra):** The India-ASEAN trade currently is 57.1 billion dollars.

**Official Spokesperson:** So, you have very robust trade and economic cooperation. We are looking at concluding a FTA in Services and Investments with ASEAN. We have a number of comprehensive economic partnerships already signed with Malaysia, with Singapore, FTA with Thailand. Next year for the first time the India-ASEAN Summit will be held in India. I have only touched upon a few facets, but this is quite indicative of how closely we are engaging with ASEAN countries in general and Vietnam in particular. I may also add that building of relationships with any country is a process, and every major visit adds to substance and content in the relationship between the country and the region.

**Question:** You did mention about this expanding cooperation in the field of oil exploration and ONGC Videsh is looking at certain pockets. Could you just explain what the areas they have been looking at and what the pockets are?

**Official Spokesperson:** This is work in progress. We are discussing various options, various possibilities. This is an ongoing exercise. I can tell you what has already taken place, what is taking place, and how we view that cooperation.

**Question:** What is the total investment ...(Inaudible)...ONGC ...(Inaudible)...

**Director (South):** The total Indian investment in Vietnam is over 400 million dollars. OVL is one of the largest investors. I think it is over 225 million dollars. They have been doing exploratory drilling in some of the blocks awarded to them already. The other major investor is Phillips Carbon Black. I think they have recently signed an agreement on this 84 million dollar project on this carbon black which would be the first project of that nature in Vietnam. Then of course there are other various investors like ESSAR, Nagarjuna, Venkateshwara Hatcheries, and ...(Inaudible)...

**Question:** Since all these explorations are happening in South China Sea, what are the security arrangements for these projects? What is the government doing?

**Official Spokesperson:** Any commercial venture, onshore or offshore, will take the necessary precautions and arrangements that are deemed necessary by the joint venture or the commercial venture. This is standard operating procedure anywhere in the world. Whatever is the need of the hour, depending on the nature of the business, the investment environment, the country in which you are, an entrepreneur takes his decisions.



**Question:** The Vietnamese port in ...(Unclear)... I believe, we have facilities there. Could you elaborate on that?

**Official Spokesperson:** What I know is that security and defence cooperation is again an important facet of cooperation with Vietnam. We have a memorandum of defence cooperation that was concluded in 2009. We have regular high-level exchanges, visits - both mil to mil, as well as at the political and official levels. Our Defence Minister was in Vietnam last year in October. Our ships regularly pay port calls in Vietnam and vice versa. We have joint training. We have exchange of information. With any friendly country the kind of security and defence cooperation that we have, we have with Vietnam.

Thank you.



**429. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at inauguration of IT Advanced Resource Center at Hanoi.**

**September 16, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Mr. Nguyen The Thao, Chairman of the Hanoi Peoples Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be in Hanoi today. Through its 1000 year history, Hanoi has seen the rise and fall of empires, turned back invaders and witnessed revolutionary movements. Today, it combines modernity with historicity. It symbolizes a culture that cherishes learning and academic excellence. I am delighted to inaugurate a modern temple of learning, the Vietnam-India Advanced Resource Centre in Information and Communications Technology.

2. India and Vietnam emphasize on development of knowledge-based industries to meet the demands of 21st Century. This calls for development of highly skilled human resources. We are happy to cooperate with Vietnam in this endeavour.

3. The cooperation in the 21st Century between our two countries follows in the footsteps of our great leaders, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Pham Van dong.

4. The Information Technology sector in India has grown from strength to strength in recent years. The entire gamut of Information Technology related services - including software, data and business processing services and IT enabled services - have emerged as the backbone of the Services sector of our economy. I am from the State of Karnataka. The capital city Bengaluru is known as the Silicon Valley of India. As the Chief Minister of Karnataka, I had an opportunity to strengthen the enabling environment for IT to flourish in Bengaluru. I am therefore particularly glad to see that this sector is emerging as an important element in our partnership with Vietnam also.

5. We have worked closely with Vietnam in the areas of capacity-building and human resource development through several projects. I am glad that we have together established a State-of-the-Art ICT facility in Hanoi. I would like to compliment the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing of India for setting up the single largest capacity-building project under bilateral assistance to Vietnam from India.

6. I am confident that this hi-tech Centre will not only train students and professionals aspiring to make a career in the field of ICT but also emerge as

a hub for training of trainers and teachers in IT and IT-based teaching tools. I also understand the Centre will also provide specialized assistance in identifying e-governance solutions for various departments in Government of Vietnam.

7. I am confident that this Center will become a lasting symbol of our Strategic Partnership with Vietnam. I wish the Centre all success in its future endeavors.

Thank you.



**430. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (South) Arun Goel on the visit of Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang.**

**New Delhi, October 11, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you and welcome.

My colleague Joint Secretary (South) Mr. Arun Goel and I would like to brief you about the state visit of the President of Vietnam His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, who has arrived today at Bangalore. He would be in India till the 13th of October.

President Sang assumed office in August 2011 and this is his very first visit outside the ASEAN region. We look forward to rolling out a red carpet welcome for the President. He is accompanied by his spouse and a number of dignitaries including the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, Vice Ministers of Defence, Public Security, Foreign Affairs, Vice Minister of Information Technology, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Vice Minister of Communications and Science and Technology, Rural Development, and a number of other senior officials as well as a large media component.

Briefly his programme. He is already in Bangalore, has met with the Governor who hosted a lunch in his honour. He has visited Infosys and would be emplaning for New Delhi Shortly.

Tomorrow there will be a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan followed by a call on him by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna. Thereafter he would be proceeding to Hyderabad House for delegation-level talks which

would be followed by signing of agreements and press statements. It is expected that the Prime Minister of India and the President of Vietnam would be making statements to the media.

Later in the afternoon, the apex chambers of commerce CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM will be hosting a joint business luncheon. In the evening Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj will call on him. And later in the evening he meets with the President of India who also hosts a banquet in his honour.

On Thursday the 13th, he leaves for Mumbai where there would be a meeting organized by the Indo-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, a meeting with the Governor of Maharashtra. And later he leaves Mumbai. That is broadly the programme.

India and Vietnam share a long tradition of close and friendly relations, anchored in the vision of the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ho Chi Minh. Our ties are marked by mutual trust and a near identity of outlook on bilateral, regional and international issues, and matters of common interest. The relations are free of any divergences.

In 2007, both sides decided to elevate the relationship to the level of strategic partnership. I am happy to say that our mutually beneficial multifaceted bilateral cooperation, is also conducive to peace, stability and prosperity in our respective regions and beyond.

In recent years, high-level bilateral exchanges have been stepped up further which have helped nurture the ties. I would like to highlight some of the important visits, in the last couple of years which include the state visit of our President in November 2008. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had visited Hanoi in October 2010 for the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Summit. Raksha Mantri Mr. Anthony was in Hanoi in October last year. The Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam was in India last year. Speaker of Lok Sabha Shrimati Meira Kumar was in Hanoi in May this year. And last month the External Affairs Minister was in Hanoi for the 14th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. We have also had the Second India Vietnam Strategic Dialogue last August.

We particularly appreciate Vietnam's support in imparting content and depth to our Look East Policy. They have played a constructive role, a helpful role in forging closer linkages between India and ASEAN including the regional cooperation mechanisms, also during their ASEAN Chairmanship in 2010. We work closely in regional and international forums including ASEAN, the East Asia Summit, ASEM or the Asia Europe Meeting, besides of course UN and

WTO. We greatly appreciate the steadfast support extended by Vietnam for our permanent membership of the expanded UN Security Council.

Vietnam is a fellow developing country with a dynamic and youthful population like we have in India, and is today the third largest country in ASEAN, growing rapidly at six to seven per cent per annum. Naturally our economic and commercial ties constitute one of the thrust areas of bilateral cooperation. I would like to underscore that during the last five years trade has grown at an average of 34 per cent per annum. This increased further by 39 per cent in the first six months of 2011 to touch 1.8 billion dollars. We expect it to close at something like 3.5 billion dollars in 2011, and would rise to seven billion dollars by 2015. We are already among the ten largest trading partners of Vietnam.

It is encouraging to note that consequent to the conclusion of the India-ASEAN FTA in Goods which Vietnam ratified on the 1st of June, 2010, their exports to India, in just a matter of months, have spurted by 136 per cent. This has made the trade much more balanced. It is still in India's favour but the two-way trade has become much more balanced.

We are now in the process of establishing the India-Vietnam Business Forum which we are confident, would give a further boost to our trade ties. Recognizing the rapid economic development in India, recognizing our strengths in a variety of sectors including services, knowledge industries and the manufacturing sectors, Vietnam has been actively seeking Indian investments including in sectors like information technology, energy including renewable energy, chemicals and petrochemicals, fertilizers, iron and steel, health, education. By the way health and education are among two of the sectors where Vietnam respects the achievements of India and would like to see Indian companies and organisations play a much larger role in their country. Other areas include pharmaceuticals and medical components, food processing, auto components, etc.

Already close to quarter billion dollars have been invested by Indian companies in 54 ventures in Vietnam in a number of sectors such as sugar. Here, Nagarjuna Group has set up a venture. Tea that is McLeod Russel; Coffee Company Limited of India has a unit. Recently Venkateshwara Hatcheries made an important investment for setting up a poultry feed unit, marble, steel furniture the Godrej Group is involved there, carbon black that is the first carbon black unit which has been set up by Philips Carbon. Tyres - JK Group is establishing a venture. IT sector - we have already about 60 franchised IT centres of NIIT, APTEC, and Tata Infotec, which are operating all over Vietnam and many more are in the pipeline, and also hydrocarbons where OVL and Essar Group have a presence.

India is also cooperating closely with Vietnam in skill enhancement and human resource development. I am happy to say that 100 ITEC fellowships, and thirty scholarships annually to Vietnamese students are on offer. EAM during his visit last month, inaugurated the Vietnam-India Advanced Technology Resource Centre at Hanoi which has been constructed with the help of C-DAC at a cost of two million dollars.

It has since been decided to establish a new Vietnam-India Centre for English language training at the Diplomatic Academy in Vietnam. We are also working together closely to expand ties in areas like energy, security and defence, science and technology, culture and so on. We had concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on defence cooperation in 2009.

Talking culture, we are planning to set up an Indian Cultural Centre in Hanoi soon. Vietnam and India also share civilisational, cultural and Buddhist links. And India has agreed to undertake restoration of Cham cultural monuments in MY SON, which is the ancient capital of the Champa Kingdom.

The full diplomatic relations were established in 1972 and the 40th anniversary falls next year which both sides have decided to celebrate as the Year of Friendship in each other's countries and we also area planning to have a Festival of India in Vietnam.

Vietnamese are among nationals of 11 countries who can get visas on arrival in India. Of the 11 countries, interestingly seven are from the ASEAN region whose nationals can get visas on arrival.

In sum, we attach considerable importance to the state visit of the President of Vietnam. He would be holding in-depth and substantive discussions with the Indian dignitaries to qualitatively enhance our strategic partnership. Some agreements, as I mentioned, are also likely to be signed during the visit.

We will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** Any details of the agreements to be signed?

**Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Arun K Goel):** We are expecting some agreements to celebrate the 2012 as the year of friendship marking the fortieth anniversary, also in the field of extradition.

**Question:** Anything on defence?

**Joint Secretary (South):** No.

**Question:** Sir, any agreement likely on fisheries and naval cooperation?

**Joint Secretary (South):** Not at present.

**Question:** *Why are the relations between India and Vietnam important for us?*

**Official Spokesperson:** *I just now spoke to you on this subject. I told you why our relations are so important. Our relations with Vietnam are historical and they are getting strengthened. In 2007 our two countries entered into strategic partnership. Our relations cover almost all sectors—business, economic, security, defence, culture. Every year we have high level visits. We are happy that these relations are getting strengthened every year.*

**Question:** *A big delegation is visiting, then why no agreement is being signed?*

**Official Spokesperson:** *My colleague just now told you, there shall be agreements, and these will be signed. As is our practice, we discuss them after they are signed and give you the details.*

**Question:** Can you elaborate on the defence and security ties between India and Vietnam? Also, will the sale of Brahmos figure in the talks?

**Joint Secretary (South):** We have ongoing cooperation with Vietnam mainly to train their police in internal policing and also wherever they expect training facilities, whether in India or through our trainers in Vietnam. But there is no discussion on any missile cooperation.

**Official Spokesperson:** Can I just add to that a bit?

As I mentioned, we have a Memorandum of Understanding of defence cooperation in 2009. We have had and have regular high-level exchanges. Our Defence Minister was in Vietnam in October last year. We have military-to-military cooperation, we have regular ship calls on both sides. My colleague mentioned training. We have exchange of information. We have exchange of visits. So, this is the kind of defence cooperation that obtains. And we have similar defence cooperation with a number of our key partners.

**Question:** How many trainers will go from here?

**Official Spokesperson:** This is on the basis of requirement. Depending on our capacity, the need, etc., the training takes place from time to time.

**Question:** Are we planning to enhance our defence cooperation, and if so, in which area?

**Joint Secretary (South):** It is an ongoing thing depending upon their request. For example, for all the three wings of the armed forces of Vietnam, because both countries have similar equipment originating from Russia, Vietnam would like to use our expertise in maintaining and servicing that equipment including spares, etc. This has been going on for some time. Depending on their requirement, we are happy to assist them.

**Official Spokesperson:** And also Vietnam and India are strategic partners. We have, as I said, a near identity of views and outlooks including on issues like terrorism, issues of piracy, keeping sea lanes of communications open, so obviously there are a number of areas where our views converge and we have mentioned that we are steadily looking at expanding our relations in all spheres.

**Question:** Since you talked about piracy, there are reports that MV Montecristo has been hijacked and there are ten Indians on board. What details at this moment can you share with us?

**Official Spokesperson:** We are aware of this incident. I believe that our Directorate General of Shipping which is the nodal organization are in the know of the matter, and at this stage that they would have details because the DG(Shipping) is the nodal Department.

**Question:** Sir, is any strategic partnership between OVL and its Vietnam counterpart going to be signed during the visit?

**Joint Secretary (South):** Cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, as already mentioned, has been ongoing. In fact, ONGC Videsh has been in Vietnam probably the longest, from 1998 onwards. Of the three places where they have been in partnership in oil and gas exploration, they have been successful since 1993 and for gas production which Vietnam utilizes for electricity production. So, it is an ongoing venture.

**Question:** Sir, do you see any kind of joint naval exercise between the two countries, off the coast of both countries in the near future, either off the coast of India or Vietnam?

**Joint Secretary (South):** I do not think we have anything on the table right now. Vietnam has been undertaking efforts to build up its naval and coastguard arms of their defence forces. Our naval ships do make routine port calls in Vietnam. But what you are mentioning is I think way off in the future.

**Question:** Sir, this is a state visit and you are only talking about two agreements one on extradition and one on ...(Inaudible)... Is there more to it or is it just these two agreements? Anything on trade, anything on defence?

**Official Spokesperson:** Can I interject? The standard operating procedure is that we do not share details till the agreements are signed. It is not a question of numbers that if there is a state visit there has to be 'x' number and if it is an official visit there has to be 'y' number. Agreements are basically a reflection of the commonality of interest. As I said, we do expect a number of agreements to be concluded and we will be very happy to share them with you in due course.



**Question:** But can you mention the broad areas, if you do not have a problem discussing the areas, in which the agreements would be signed?

**Joint Secretary (South):** I just mentioned that in the field of culture, etc. You will get to know tomorrow because many are done at the last minute.

**Question:** Not even the areas like IT, health, pharma?

**Official Spokesperson:** Culture, others, we have already told you.

**Question:** You mentioned that Vietnam and India share a similar vision on matters of foreign affairs amongst other things. Obviously, we have not mentioned today China which is something that has come up in the media recently and it has ... (Inaudible)... relations in oil exploration and so possibly. I just wonder will China be something that we talk about in the visit and how would it influence India-Vietnam relations? How does China influence India and Vietnam's relationship?

**Official Spokesperson:** As to the latter part of your question, I think every country has its relationships. Vietnam has its relationship with China, we have our relationship with China. We have a strategic and cooperative partnership with China. Our relationship with Vietnam or Vietnam's relationship with India is not directed at any country. That is as far as this aspect is concerned. When there are Heads of States or Governments visiting, of course the entire gamut of issues of interest is discussed. Cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector is one of the important areas of cooperation and ongoing area of cooperation. My colleague has also already mentioned the presence of OVL since 1988. I really do not know what they will discuss but normally all issues of mutual interest are taken up.

**Question:** Will issues relating to current situation in South China Sea come up for discussion?

**Official Spokesperson:** I do not know any issue as you call it. You will have to remind me if there is any issue pertaining to the South China Sea\*. I do not know of any issue. But as far as I am concerned, and we have just mentioned, all matters of interest that the two sides would like to take up, they will do so.

\* The Journalist had in mind the Chinese unease on India's public sector company ONGC engaging in oil and gas exploration projects in the South China Sea. "Our consistent position is that we are opposed to any country engaging in oil and gas exploration and development activities in waters under China's jurisdiction," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu had said. While Ms. Jiang said she was not aware of reports of Indian involvement in any projects, she stressed China enjoyed "indisputable sovereignty" over the South China Sea and its islands. "We hope foreign countries will not get involved in the dispute," she said. "For countries outside the region, we hope they will respect and support countries in the region to solve this dispute through bilateral channels."

**Question:** Sir, this is not directly related to Vietnam visit, but this week obviously there is also a visit by the President of Myanmar.

**Official Spokesperson:** We had yesterday announced the visit of the President of Myanmar. The announcement is on the website. We are planning to do a briefing on the visit most probably on day after tomorrow. Once we take a view on the time and the date, we will be making announcement. But as we said yesterday, we attach the highest importance to our relationship with Myanmar. It is a neighbouring country. It is a very important neighbour of ours. We are eagerly looking forward to the visit of the President of Myanmar who would be heading a high-level delegation when he visits India on the 13th.

**Question:** On Vietnam, could you just tell us what is our nuclear cooperation with them and the space cooperation?

**Joint Secretary (South):** At present there is no cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, but Vietnam like many other countries does plan to look for peaceful uses of energy in the field of nuclear, possibly for electricity production for which they are looking around which technology to adopt and if thought so maybe they will come back to us. And in space field also they are aware of our capabilities in launching satellites including for remote sensing and would like to utilize that for a better flood forecasting and use in the field of agriculture.

**Question:** Sir, it is not related to the Vietnam visit but to the TASMAC University that has shut shop in the United Kingdom and 500 Indian students are affected. If you could give your reaction on what the Ministry is doing?

**Official Spokesperson:** We believe that the UK Border Agency had decided to close down the London Campus of the TASMAC School of Business on Thursday the 6th of October. Again we understand that this campus was established in 2004 and TASMAC does have reportedly two other campuses – one in Bangalore and one in Kolkata. Immediately upon learning of this development, the High Commission of India got in touch with TASMAC as well as with the British authorities. And we have been shown an email that has been sent out by TASMAC to its students to basically say that they are trying to work with the University of Wales to transfer the students to other educational institutions so that their studies do not suffer. The High Commission of India has already put up an advisory on the website asking the affected Indian students to get in touch with them for assistance if any. I am told by our Acting High Commissioner that so far nobody has contacted the High Commission. Also as I have said, we have sought meetings with the British authorities including with the UK Border Agency, which is likely to materialize very soon. I can assure you that the High Commission of India will do everything possible to try and ensure that the students are not adversely affected. As per present

information we believe that there are about 200 – not 500 – Indian students who could be affected by the closure of the London Campus of TASMACH School. Does it answer your question? Good.

**Question:** Do we have military exercises with Vietnam?

**Joint Secretary (South):** I think all three wings of the armed forces have ongoing cooperation, but nothing of the kind which you are implying. Let me add a word or two in the field of hydrocarbons. One possible area where we could be assisting Vietnam is in city gas distribution. There is a request from their side to utilize the expertise of GAIL in city gas network distribution or CNG for public transport in which we have well developed expertise. So, possibly in the future GAIL would be looking at entering into a joint venture to share expertise. And also ONGC Videsh is not the only company but Essar Oil also has been active in Vietnam since 2008 investing in exploration blocks offshore. Also, PetroVietnam, the Vietnamese counterpart, periodically offers some blocks for exploration to international firms in which OVL and many other foreign companies are expected to bid for exploration in these blocks.

Thank you very much.

*(text in italics is unofficial translation from Hindi text)*



**431. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Media during the visit of President of Vietnam.**

**New Delhi, October 12, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Truong Tan Sang

Ladies and gentlemen of the media.

I am delighted to welcome His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang, the President of Vietnam on his State visit to India.

This is the first visit by the President outside the ASEAN region and reflects the importance attached by both sides to our relationship.

India's relations with Vietnam are rooted in antiquity. They have been strengthened by successive generations of leaders and strong mutual trust and goodwill. Today, our relations cover the areas of trade and economic cooperation, capacity building and assistance, cultural exchanges, energy, defence and security.

Vietnam is among the most dynamic economies in Asia and we wish to build a strategic partnership with Vietnam that responds to the aspirations of both our peoples.

In our talks today the President and I have agreed to intensify cooperation across a broad range of sectors.

Our bilateral trade has reached 2.7 billion US dollars last year. We have set ourselves the target to increase it to 7 billion US dollars by 2015. We have agreed to work towards an early finalization of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investment.

I conveyed to the President that we are committed to greater investment flows between our two countries. Several Indian companies are working in Vietnam, and we similarly welcome Vietnamese investments in India. We will continue to render assistance to Vietnam in its capacity building and human resource development efforts.

India and Vietnam are maritime neighbours. We face common security challenges from terrorism, piracy and natural disasters. We believe that it is important to ensure the safety and security of the vital sea lanes of communication. We have agreed to continue and strengthen our exchanges in these fields.

We have instituted a mechanism of a biennial dialogue on security issues

between our Ministry of Home Affairs and its Vietnamese counterpart. The Extradition Treaty signed today will provide a legal and institutional basis for our cooperation.

We have identified several other areas of cooperation such as people-to-people exchanges, energy, science and technology, information and communications technology and conservation and restoration of Indian cultural relics in Vietnam.

Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between our two countries. It will also mark twenty years of India's Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN. We have agreed to celebrate 2012 as the Year of Friendship between India and Vietnam. We will also organize the 'Year of India in Vietnam' in 2012.

Developing close relations with Vietnam is an important component of our Look East Policy. We have agreed to strengthen our cooperation in regional mechanisms such as the ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asia Summit and the Asean Defence Ministers Plus Eight Dialogue.

A strong India-Vietnam partnership is a factor of peace, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region. It is a partnership that stands on its own merits.

The President's visit has given a new thrust and direction to our partnership. I once again extend a very cordial welcome to him and wish him a pleasant and fruitful stay in India.

I thank you.



**432. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the visit of the President of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang.**

**New Delhi, October 12, 2011.**

1. At the invitation of H.E. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India, H.E. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Madame Mai Thi Hanh paid a State visit to India on 11-13 October 2011.
2. The President was accorded an official ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in the capital New Delhi on 12th October 2011. The President laid a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. During the visit, President Truong Tan Sang called on the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil who hosted a Banquet in his honour. He held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, and Shri A.K. Antony, Minister of Defence and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of the Opposition called on the President.
3. President Truong Tan Sang visited Bangalore and met the Governor of the state of Karnataka. He also visited Mumbai where he met the Governor of the state of Maharashtra. President Sang met leaders of Indian business enterprises in New Delhi and Mumbai.
4. President Truong Tan Sang and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also witnessed signing of Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on bilateral cooperation.
5. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh congratulated Viet Nam on the success of the 11th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the elections to the 13th National Assembly. President Truong Tan Sang highly valued the remarkable achievements made by the State, the Government and people of India in all fields in the course of national development which has increasingly enhanced the role and standing of India in the region and the world.
6. The leaders of the two countries exchanged views in an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality and mutual trust on all aspects of bilateral cooperation as well as on the regional and international issues of mutual interest. They welcomed the sustained development of the traditional friendship and strategic partnership between India and Viet Nam. They recalled the glorious contributions of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ho Chi Minh for the development of India-Viet Nam Friendship that had been preserved, nurtured and further developed by generations of leaders and people of the two countries and had

gone from strength to strength. Both countries agreed to celebrate 2012 as “the India - Viet Nam Friendship Year” to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the full diplomatic relations (07/01/1972 - 07/01/2012) and the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the strategic partnership (06/07/2007 - 06/07/2012). The Indian side would also organize the “Year of India in Viet Nam” in 2012 with a series of cultural events including performing arts, film festivals, and other events in various cities across Viet Nam.

7. Both sides valued and agreed to further enhance high-level visits and meetings between the two countries. The leaders noted that there still remains considerable potential for cooperation and agreed to strongly enhance the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, based on the main pillars of security, economic, cultural and HRD cooperation. Both sides highly appreciated the results of the 14th Meeting of Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation at the Foreign Minister level, the 5th Political Consultation and the 2nd Strategic Dialogue at the Deputy Foreign Minister level.

8. The leaders agreed to further deepen the strategic partnership, by adding more concrete programs and projects and broadening it to new areas for cooperation, taking into account the changing political and economic situation both at regional and international levels. Both sides agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in the areas of politics, economy, trade and investment, finance, science and technology, human resource development, culture, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture etc., while striving to expand cooperation into other potential areas such as frontier areas of science and technology, justice, public health, information and communication, tourism, sports, press, and other areas of mutual interest. The two sides noted with satisfaction the establishment of the India-Viet Nam Business Forum, Advanced Resource Centre in Information and Communications Technologies (ARC-ICT) and the Institute for Indian and South-West Asian Studies under the Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences. Viet Nam welcomed the announcement of India to establish a Cultural Centre in Hanoi.

9. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the two-way trade had increased steadily in the recent years and the trade deficit of the Vietnamese side had declined. President Truong Tan Sang affirmed that Viet Nam would create favourable conditions for Indian enterprises to invest in the country. Both sides agreed to step up trade and investment linkages, inter-alia by encouraging cooperation between the private sectors. Both sides set a target of US\$ 7 billion of bilateral trade by 2015. Both sides welcomed the entry into force of the India-ASEAN FTA in Goods and agreed to work for the early finalization of the India-ASEAN FTA in Services and Investments.

10. The two sides welcomed the further strengthening of cooperation in the fields of defense and security. They expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the 6th Indo-Viet Nam Security Dialogue at the Deputy Defense Minister level and the establishment of a mechanism of biennial dialogue on security issues between the Ministry of Home Affairs of India and Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam and agreed to work towards the early completion of the Indira Gandhi Hi-tech Forensic Laboratory in Ho Chi Minh City. The Vietnamese side welcomed the offer for training and capacity building of Vietnamese police forces.

11. Both sides welcomed the signing of the Extradition Treaty, Memorandum of Understanding on India-Viet Nam Friendship Year 2012, Agreement on Cooperation between Petrovietnam and ONGC Videsh Limited, Work Plan for the years 2011-2013 in the fields of agricultural and fishery research and education, Protocol of Cultural Activities in India-Vietnam Friendship Year 2012, and agreed to expedite negotiations for early signing of documents of cooperation in other fields as had been agreed in the 14th Meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The Vietnamese side welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister of India to double the number of ITEC scholarships from 75 to 150 from the year 2012.

12. President Truong Tan Sang highly appreciated the support and assistance of the State, the Government and people of India rendered to Viet Nam in the past years, which was a vivid manifestation of the fine traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The Government of India agreed to extend new Lines of Credit to Viet Nam on favorable terms and conditions for projects in infrastructure, oil and gas, power generation and transmission projects and in other areas as requested by the Vietnamese side; and agreed to consider earmaking another Line of credit under the buyer's credit Scheme.

13. The leaders affirmed their desire and determination to work together for peace and stability in the region and the world, and agreed to further strengthen cooperation at regional and international fora, especially the ASEAN-India and Mekong-Ganga fora as well as in EAS, ASEM, ARF, WTO, UN and the Non-aligned Movement. The Vietnamese side reaffirmed its strong support for India's Look East Policy and the strengthening of ASEAN-India relationship. The Indian side congratulated Viet Nam for its success in fulfilling its role as ASEAN Chair in 2010 and thanked Viet Nam for its support to India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council and the G4 short draft resolution on reform of UNSC.



14. The two sides stressed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and of ensuring the safety and security of navigation in the high seas. The two sides agreed that disputes in the East Sea/South China Sea should be resolved by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force by the parties concerned, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

15. Both sides agreed to step up cooperation in the field of capacity building, technical assistance and information sharing between their respective relevant agencies for ensuring security of sea-lanes, including combating piracy, preventing pollution, conducting search and rescue, etc. on sea.

16. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation to effectively address the challenges posed by non-traditional security threats such as climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters, energy security, HIV/AIDS and avian influenza.

17. Both sides also agreed to closely cooperate to promote dialogue and cooperation within the EAS with the aim of promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity in East Asia.

18. The two sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and resolved to increase cooperation in the common efforts of the international community in preventing this scourge in a comprehensive manner. Both sides agreed to closely cooperate for an early finalization of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, for which India had presented a draft at the United Nations in 1996.

19. President Truong Tan Sang and Madame Mai Thi Hanh expressed their gratitude to the State and friendly people of India for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to the President and the Vietnamese delegation during their State visit to the Republic of India.



**433. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted by her in honour of Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang.**

**New Delhi, October 12, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Mr. Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Madam Mai Thi Hanh,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a very warm welcome to Your Excellency, on your State Visit to India. Allow me to felicitate you on the successful conclusion of your elections to the 13th National Assembly in May this year. I would also like to congratulate you personally on your election as the President of Vietnam. I have very fond memories of my visit to your great country in November 2008, where I witnessed the remarkable strides being made for the progress and prosperity of your people.

Vietnam has a special place in the hearts of the Indian people. We have great admiration for the indomitable spirit of the Vietnamese people, for their determination to succeed against all odds, and for their tenacity and courage. Today, the same attributes of the national character are driving your reconstruction and economic development. I would like to compliment the Vietnamese leadership and people for these remarkable achievements.

India and Vietnam share a long tradition of close and cordial relations, whose foundations were laid by our great leaders Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ho Chi Minh. Successive generations of our leaders have nurtured our friendship, which has now been elevated to the level of a "Strategic Partnership".

Our Strategic Partnership is founded on a common vision, shared interests and mutual trust and long-standing friendship. We are convinced that it will promote peace, stability and security in this region and the world. We stand ready to impart greater content to our partnership for mutual benefit. The agreements and MoUs that we have signed today will open new avenues for bilateral co-operation.

Excellency, Our bilateral economic and trade ties have grown significantly in recent years. Bilateral trade is expected to exceed US \$ 3.5 billion this year. We have set a target of US \$ 7 billion by 2015. This will require sustained

efforts from both countries. The newly launched India-Vietnam Business Forum will generate greater awareness about mutually beneficial business opportunities, thereby facilitating trade and investment. I am confident that the Government of Vietnam will continue to provide a congenial atmosphere for Indian investors and businesses to operate in Vietnam.

We welcome our strategic understanding and co-operation at regional and multilateral forums like ASEAN, Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, East Asia Summit, ASEM and international organisations like the UN and WTO. We deeply appreciate Vietnam's support to India's candidature as a permanent member of an expanded UN Security Council. As two developing countries with a stake in the future, we must take advantage of our synergies to jointly face emerging challenges and also to exploit new opportunities.

India has always considered it a privilege to be a partner in Vietnam's development process. We enjoy robust co-operation in the spheres of defence and security. We are happy to assist in the modernisation of your armed forces. Our co-operation in diverse areas such as agriculture, science and technology, education, capacity building and human resource development is growing. We should learn from each others experiences and expertise in these areas. I am pleased to learn that the India-Vietnam Advanced Resource Centre in Information and Communication Technology has recently been inaugurated in Hanoi. As two rapidly developing countries with a young, dynamic population, we must seize new avenues for co-operation that will take our partnership from strength to strength.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to invite you all to join me in a toast:-

- to the good health and happiness of His Excellency Mr. Truong Tan Sang and Madam Mai Thi Hanh;
- to the well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Vietnam; and
- to the everlasting friendship between India and Vietnam.



**(iv) WEST & CENTRAL ASIA**

**434. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate on the Middle East at the Security Council.**

**New York, January 19, 2011.**

Please see Document No.682.



**435. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the UN Security Council open debate on the Middle East.**

**New York, July 26, 2011.**

Please see Document No.743.



**436. Statement by India at The High Level Event on Conflict Prevention Being Organised by Lebanon, Presidency of the Security Council.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

Please see Document No.754.



**437. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on the Conference of Heads of Mission to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.**

**New Delhi, November 25, 2011.**

The Union Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi inaugurated two-day 6th Annual Conference of Heads of Indian Missions of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as Jordan, Yemen, Malaysia, Maldives, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa and Iraq, here today. Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs delivered the Key Note Address. The two day Conference is an important institutional initiative to discuss various issues and problems relating to the Overseas Indian Community, especially the expatriate workers and to further develop an institutional framework and operational mechanism to effectively address the concerns of Overseas Indians.

The Agenda of the Conference will include the new initiatives in the Emigration Policy being framed by the Ministry, review of various welfare measures at the Mission level, strengthening Grievance Redressal Mechanism at the Mission level, follow up on the Joint Working Group meetings' decisions, pursuant to labour MoUs with five GCC countries etc. Several important decisions taken by the Ministry for the protection and welfare of migrant workers will also be discussed for effective implementation and follow-up. The recommendations of the Conference would give guidance to the Ministry of Overseas Indian affairs for setting the Agenda for future course of action for addressing the concerns of the overseas Indian community.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is the nodal ministry for protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers. An estimated five million semi-skilled and unskilled Indian nationals are working on temporary employment/contract visas, predominantly in the construction, healthcare and household services sectors, mostly in the GCC countries and Malaysia. The Ministry had entered into bilateral labour agreements with Jordan, Bahrain, Malaysia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and UAE to protect the welfare and security of Indian workers working in ECR countries. The Ministry would like to expand bilateral labour agreements with the remaining ECR countries. Indian Community Welfare Fund which was originally for ECR countries has been extended to Missions in all the countries. The Missions are making use of this fund to provide immediate relief to Indian workers in need and distress. The Heads of Missions would be requested to suggest modalities as to how the use of funds can be made broader.



**ARMENIA****438. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of the Fifth India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Education Cooperation and the Foreign Office Consultations at Yerevan from October 31 to November 1, 2011.****New Delhi, November 2, 2011.**

The Fifth Session of India-Armenia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific & Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC), India-Armenia Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), and in conjunction with IGC an India-Armenia Business Forum were held in Yerevan on 31 October – 01 November 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs. The Armenian delegation was led by Mr. Sergey Manassarian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Armenia. The Indian Business delegation was mounted by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Secretary (East) was received by H.E. Edward Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. He conveyed the warm wishes of the Government of India to the Republic of Armenia on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of its independence in 1991. Both sides expressed their satisfaction that considerable substance and contents had been added to bilateral relations in the last two decades and reiterated their mutual desire and commitment to further strengthen the existing cordial relations and all-round bilateral cooperation. Secretary (East) also called on Mr. Artur Baghdasaryan, Secretary, National Security Council of Armenia.

The deliberations at the IGC meeting provided an excellent opportunity to review the current state of ongoing cooperation in diverse fields such as Trade and Investment, Science and Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Health, Development Cooperation etc; the two sides also identified Agriculture, Small and Medium Enterprises and Social and Labour issues as new areas where potential for cooperation exists. A Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology for the period 2012-2015 was signed during the visit. It was also agreed to expedite the finalization of other bilateral agreements currently under discussion. The two sides also decided to suitably commemorate

during 2012 the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Armenia.

During the Business Forum, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry( FICCI) and Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen (Employers) of Armenia [UMB(E)A] signed an MoU to establish a Joint Business Council which is expected to serve as a platform for enhanced business interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

At the Foreign Office Consultations, the two sides discussed at length bilateral relations, including cooperation at UN and International Organizations and also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Indian side reiterated that it supports the principle of resolution of conflicts through peaceful negotiations. The Armenian side reiterated its support for G-4 Model for UNSC expansion in both Permanent and Non-Permanent categories of Seats and also reaffirmed support for India's candidature for a Permanent seat in the expanded UNSC.





**AZERBAIJAN****439. Press Release issued by Embassy of India in Baku regarding India-Azerbaijan Foreign Office Consultations.****Baku, September 24, 2011.**

The third round of the India-Azerbaijan Foreign Office Consultations were held in Baku on 22-24 September 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs. The Azerbaijani delegation was led by Mr. Khalaf Khalafov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Secretary (East) held meetings with H.E. Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister for Economic Development and with Mr. Natig Abbasov, Deputy Minister for Industry and Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the Consultations, the two sides discussed in detail bilateral relations with particular focus on strengthening cooperation in the political, trade, economic, and cultural fields and people to people exchanges. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to strengthen the institutional framework between the two countries, and sign documents, currently under discussion, at the earliest.

Secretary (East) conveyed the warm wishes of the Government of India to the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of its independence in 2011, and reaffirmed India's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the development of all round relations between the two countries in the last two decades and decided to suitably commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations in 2012.

At the Consultations, Secretary (East) emphasized the fact that as an energy importing and fast developing country, India had an interest in Azerbaijan's oil and gas sector, a fruitful partnership in its upstream and downstream projects, and possible utilization of energy surpluses for production of end products of interest to India, such as fertilizers. The Azerbaijan side welcomed India's interest in these sectors. India is equally committed to a mutually beneficial partnership in Azerbaijan's non-oil sectors particularly in agriculture, information technology, communications, pharmaceuticals, textiles and garments, jewellery, processed food products, infrastructure development and education. Both sides are not only keen to restore the direct communications connectivity of the old by land and water, but also to establish air connectivity and reliable banking, shipping and digital links. Both sides also discussed developments with regard to the International North-South Corridor. Both sides expressed their hope that

the forthcoming second session of the Inter-Governmental Commission in Baku will deliberate upon these issues in detail and generate action that facilitates this vision of closer cooperation between the two countries and its peoples in future.



## **BAHRAIN**

### **440. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Call by Ambassador of India in Bahrain on Prime Minister of Bahrain on the safety of Indian nationals in that country.**

**New Delhi, March 17, 2011.**

The Ambassador of India, Bahrain called on the Prime Minister H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa today. He was assured by the Prime Minister that the Bahraini authorities will do everything in their power to ensure the safety and security of Indians living in the country.

2. The Government continues to carefully monitor the security situation in Bahrain and will issue suitable travel advisories should it become necessary. Until then, the present advisory which asks Indians in Bahrain to keep a low profile, stay indoors and to avoid all non-essential travel within the country stands. The Indian Embassy has also advised the Indian associations that those family members and others whose presence in Bahrain is not necessary should consider leaving the country, if so inclined.



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The call was made by the Ambassador in the wake of large scale demonstrations against the local government asking for democratic reforms in the wake of similar developments in Egypt and Tunisia and consequent sense of insecurity created in the island in which the Indian community felt vulnerable.

**441. Remarks of Minister of State E. Ahamed welcoming the Foreign Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed on his visit to India.**

**New Delhi, March 30, 2011.**

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain to India.

India and Bahrain enjoy warm and friendly relations which are based on our historical and civilisational ties. The presence of a large Indian community in Bahrain represents a living link which nurtures this long-standing relationship. We are indeed thankful to the Government and the people of Bahrain for extending a warm welcome to the sizeable Indian community there who in turn have contributed through their dedication and hard work to Bahrain's development. This contribution has been recognized by the Bahraini leadership and we thank them for their continued support to the Indian community.

The visit of H.E. Shaikh Khalid is part of the tradition of having high level visits in order to exchange views on matters of mutual interest. I once again extend him a very warm welcome and invite him to share his thoughts with you.

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*Giving the details of the visit of the Minister a press release of the Ministry of External Affairs issued on March 30 said:*

“As part of the regular high level exchanges between India and Bahrain, H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al-Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain is visiting India from March 29-31, 2011.

2. India and Bahrain enjoy traditionally friendly relations which are based on historical and civilisational ties. The presence of a large Indian community in Bahrain represents a living link which nurtures this long standing relationship.

3. The Bahraini Foreign Minister met External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna on 30th March 2011 and had detailed discussions on issues of mutual interest including recent developments in Bahrain and the region. The External Affairs Minister also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary.

4. The Bahraini Foreign Minister conveyed the firm assurance of the Bahraini leadership about ensuring the safety and security of the Indian community numbering well over 350,000 and appreciated their contribution to the progress and development of Bahrain. In this context, the Bahraini Foreign Minister referred to his meeting with over 200 members of the Indian community on

26th March 2011 in Manama. External Affairs Minister thanked his counterpart for this reassurance with regard to the Indian community's well-being and expressed confidence that the law-abiding Indian community would continue to be a partner in Bahrain's growth story well into the future.

5. The Bahraini Foreign Minister briefed External Affairs Minister about the recent developments in the country. External Affairs Minister expressed the hope that the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue would pave the way for the continued economic development and prosperity of the friendly people of Bahrain.

6. The Deputy National Security Advisor Ms. Vijaya Latha Reddy called on the Bahraini Foreign Minister in the morning of 30th March 2011 and discussed issues of bilateral interest. The visit of the Bahraini Foreign Minister has further reinforced and strengthened the excellent relationship existing between the two countries”.



## **IRAN**

**442. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Hardeep Singh Puri in the UN Security Council meeting to hear the briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1737 (Iran Sanctions Committee).**

**New York, March 17, 2011.**

Please see Document No.698.



**443. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Harddeep Singh Puri at the Security Council briefing on the Iranian Sanctions (1737) Committee.**

**New York, June 23, 2011.**

Please see Document No.733.



**444. Press Release issued by Embassy of India in Iran on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Iran for Foreign Office Consultations.**

**Tehran, July 6, 2011.**

Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign Secretary, Government of India, accompanied by Shri Y.K. Sinha, Joint Secretary (PAI) is on a visit to Tehran from 5-7 July, 2011 for the 9th round of Foreign Office Consultations at the invitation of her counterpart Dr. Mohammad Ali Fathollahi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia & Oceania of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During her stay in Tehran, besides holding the Foreign Office Consultations, she called on Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi and Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Saeed Jalili.

Foreign Secretary's discussions covered issues pertaining to bilateral, regional and international developments. Views were exchanged on combating global terrorism, energy security, the North-South Transport Corridor, developments in Afghanistan and regional security and stability. It was agreed that the next meeting of the India-Iran Joint Commission will be held in Tehran at an early date. In her meeting with Foreign Minister

During the visit, both sides exchanged the Instrument of Ratification for the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners signed in July 2010 thereby operationalizing the Agreement.



**KAZAKHSTAN****445. Media Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh and Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visit to China for the BRICS Summit and Kazakhstan for the bilateral visit.****New Delhi, April 11, 2011.**

Please see Document No. 79.

**446. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to *Kazakhstanskya Pravda and Egremen Kazakhstan*.****Astana, April 15, 2011.****Question 1:** What do you think of current status and prospects of political and strategic cooperation between India and Kazakhstan?**Answer:** Relations between India and Kazakhstan go back in history and have been marked by warmth and friendliness in modern times. The "Silk route" brought our peoples much closer through trade and culture. Our countries represent multi-ethnic, diverse societies and shared oriental values, culture, traditions and even food. So, we consider ourselves natural friends and enjoy a huge reservoir of mutual goodwill. India was one of the first countries in the world to recognize the independence of Kazakhstan and to establish diplomatic relations. Since then, our political, economic, trade and people-to-people contacts have graduated to evolve into a firm strategic partnership.

During the visit of President Nazarbayev to India as the Chief Guest for our Republic Day celebrations in January 2009, a joint declaration on strategic partnership was adopted and it has become the guiding document for consolidation of our bilateral cooperation with Kazakhstan. His visit provided a significant impetus to our relationship at all levels. We have had an intensive exchange of delegations to each other's countries for exploring possibilities to enhance cooperation. I met President Nazarbayev twice in recent years at various multilateral events and our External Affairs Minister was in Astana last year to craft a plan charting the future course of our cooperation in all strategic sectors of mutual interest. President Nazarbaev and I will review the status of bilateral cooperation and discuss the roadmap of our future bilateral cooperation.

Our views on regional and global issues converge and we have been supportive of each other's initiatives at the international fora and have also been cooperating within the aegis of multilateral bodies like the United Nations, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

**Question 2:** What do you think could promote the growth of Indian export to Kazakhstan and diversification of bilateral trade?

**Answer:** India and Kazakhstan are both fast growing economies. India grew at an average growth rate of 8% even during the global recession and Kazakhstan has been able to successfully weather the global economic crisis to embark on to a strong economic growth path. Bilateral trade between our two countries which currently stands at less than about \$300 million is much below potential and there is an immense scope for its expansion.

I intend to discuss intensification of our economic engagement during my meeting with President Nazarbayev. I am aware that Kazakhstan has launched a programme of industrial innovation and India would be happy to participate and share its technical capabilities to mutual benefit. Both India and Kazakhstan could put their efforts together in implementation of joint projects. We are keen to expand our economic relationship in the energy sector, space, agriculture, information technology, health and pharmaceuticals.

Regrettably, bilateral trade has not picked up to meet our expectations primarily due to lack of direct land connectivity. The implementation of the International North-South Transport Corridor project would provide one way for faster and cheaper movement of goods between the two countries.

**Question 3:** Role of alternative sources of energy and nuclear energy to reduce reliance of countries on import and satisfy requirements of growing economies is being actively discussed in Asian developing countries. What are the prospects of development of these two areas amidst the tragedy in Japan? Could you please tell us about the model of further cooperation between Astana and Delhi on search and exploration of oil deposits?

**Answer:** The impact of conventional sources of energy on the environment and their finite quantities have stimulated us to explore alternative sources of energy as an urgent imperative. India being one of the largest global consumers of energy, has also been exploring alternative sources of energy, including solar and wind power.

In our view, nuclear energy is an important component of our energy mix in our national strategy to meet our future energy needs. In the light of the tragedy in Japan, we have embarked on a comprehensive review of the security and safeguard procedures at our nuclear plants. We look forward to our continuing cooperation with Kazakhstan in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The hydrocarbon sector is another strategic sector for our cooperation. During the visit of President Nazarbayev to India in January, 2009, KazMunaiGaz company signed an agreement on transfer of 25% stake in the Satpayev oil block to OVL, one of our state-owned oil companies. Commercial negotiations on implementation of this agreement have been proceeding smoothly and we hope to reach an understanding during my visit to Astana. We are also keen to cooperate with Kazakhstan in construction of oil refineries and other downstream and upstream projects in the energy sector.

**Question 4:** In your opinion, what are the prospects for cooperation in such areas as science, advanced technologies, nano-technologies and space?

**Answer:** Cooperation between India and Kazakhstan in high technology areas holds immense promise. India has a pool of highly trained manpower in the scientific field and is also in the forefront of advanced technologies like bio technology, nano-technologies and space. We build and launch our own satellites for communications and remote sensing purposes and have been utilising these satellites successfully. India and Kazakhstan could cooperate in these fields and India would be happy to share its experiences in this regard.

Both countries could also carry out joint research in advanced technology areas and explore possibilities of setting up joint projects in these fields. In the field of communication and information technology we could cooperate in research in high end computing and in training and education of personnel in Kazakhstan in advanced computer technologies. We would also be happy to work with Kazakhstan in setting up of Software Technology Parks in the country.

**Question 5:** Mr Singh, you have congratulated President Nazarbayev on his landslide victory in the presidential elections and wished for prosperity and peace. How do you see Kazakh-Indian relations in the next five years?

**Answer:** I have already congratulated President Nazarbayev on his landslide victory in the Presidential elections and am confident that Kazakhstan will continue to progress and prosper under his wise and visionary leadership.

This is my first visit to Kazakhstan as Prime Minister. It is a reflection of the importance we attach to our relations with Kazakhstan and the very important and positive role it plays in Central Asia and beyond.

I am confident that India-Kazakhstan relations will continue to develop dynamically in the next five years. I hope that the 'Road Map' that we chart out during my visit to Astana will guide our two sides to build a genuine and long-term strategic partnership that will benefit the peoples in our two countries.





**447. Interaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Kazakh Media.****Astana, April 15, 2011.**

**Prime Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh):** It is a great pleasure having you with us.

**Kazakh Media:** Mr. Prime Minister, how do you assess the current state of bilateral relationship between India and Kazakhstan, and what kind of dynamism of the relations do you envisage?

**Prime Minister:** Kazakhstan is a very important and influential player in Central Asia. Our links with Kazakhstan go back to centuries old times of culture and civilization, and these relations have developed dynamically ever since Kazakhstan became a sovereign state. President Nazarbayev has visited India many times. Last time he was here was as the Chief Guest of India's Republic Day Celebrations in January, 2009. We agreed at that time to upgrade our relationship to strategic partnership. And I am looking forward to my visit to Kazakhstan to give added thrust, meaning and content to the strategic partnership that we have with this very friendly and very important country of Kazakhstan.

**Kazakh Media:** Mr. Prime Minister, in which spheres India and Kazakhstan intend to develop their further cooperation?

**Prime Minister:** We wish to develop our partnership in diverse fields. There is a convergence of views on political issues and global issues. And we would like to intensify our cooperation in economic issues, in space technologies, in science and technology, in health, education, pharmaceuticals and in peaceful uses of atomic energy. These are some of the issues which are under discussion among our experts. I hope to formalize some of these arrangements during my visit to Kazakhstan later this week.

**Kazakh Media:** Mr. Prime Minister, what kind of agreements do you intend to get signed during your visit to Kazakhstan?

**Prime Minister:** As I have mentioned, we would like to give added thrust to our relations in the field of energy, hydrocarbons. I am looking forward to signing some agreements with regard to our oil companies acquiring equity stake in Caspian oilfields. Also we would like to intensify cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy as well as in development of our space programmes.

**Kazakh Media:** Mr. Prime Minister, as you are aware, very recently we had our Presidential elections in Kazakhstan in which President Nazarbayev was elected overwhelmingly. How do you look at his election?

**Prime Minister:** President Nazarbayev has provided very powerful leadership to the people of Kazakhstan. Under his distinguished leadership Kazakhstan has developed in diverse fields. It is today a very important player globally as well as in Central Asia. The fact that President Nazarbayev has won with such enormous majority is a tribute to the esteem in which he is held by the people of Kazakhstan. We regard him as a great friend of India who knows India well. He has been here several times and I am looking forward to my visit to intensify our relationship with Kazakhstan.

**Kazakh Media:** We would like to extend our deep gratitude for the time that you have found to talk to us.

**Prime Minister:** It is always a pleasure. Kazakhstan is a very important and friendly country for us. We greatly welcome your visit to our country. And as I said I am very much looking forward to my own visit to your great country.



**448. Opening Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the media interaction.**

**Istana, April 16, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr. President,

Distinguished representatives of the media,

I wish to begin by thanking your Excellency Mr. President, for your very warm words of welcome, and for the extraordinary hospitality that you and the government of Kazakhstan have accorded to me.

I bring to the friendly people of Kazakhstan the fraternal greetings of the people of India.

This is my first visit to Kazakhstan. I have discovered first hand the tremendous goodwill that exists here for India. I have seen the most impressive progress made by the people of Kazakhstan, the richness of their culture and the determination to build a bright future for themselves.

Kazakhstan is a country blessed with vast potential. It has a key role to play in bringing peace and development to Central Asia. India would like to work with Kazakhstan in this noble endeavour.

My talks with the President have been most productive. We reviewed the entire range of issues of mutual interest. We have had a complete meeting of minds. We have achieved a high level of political understanding, and we have agreed to encourage regular high level exchanges between our two countries.

President Nazarbayev's visit to India in 2009 was a landmark event. It launched our strategic partnership and paved the way for the important agreements signed during my visit.

These are the agreements on the Satpaev oil block, cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, mutual legal assistance, agriculture, cyber security and healthcare. They represent solid and substantive outcomes in sectors where we have complementary strengths.

In addition we have agreed on the need to diversify our cooperation, particularly in pharmaceuticals, information technology, mining, fertilizers and science and technology. I conveyed our offer to set up a joint Information Technology Centre of Excellence in the Eurasian University in Astana.

We have agreed to intensify people to people exchanges and links between our businesses and companies, including through the establishment of joint ventures. I also conveyed our interest to benefit from the Customs Union between Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus.

I am particularly happy about the signing of the Roadmap for projects and activities to be undertaken between 2011 and 2014. This reflects the seriousness of both sides and serves as a model of inter-state cooperation.

We also reviewed developments in the region. We have agreed on the need to improve land connectivity so that trade and transit between India and Central Asia in general and Kazakhstan in particular can become the vehicle of integration and prosperity in the region.

We discussed the situation in Afghanistan and cooperation in international forums, including the United Nations and regional processes. We have agreed that our agencies will intensify their dialogue in the fields of counter-terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and extremism.

I am very satisfied with my discussions with the President today. I look forward to meeting His Excellency Prime Minister Karim Massimov later in the day.

I have invited His Excellency the President to India and we look forward to an early visit by this very distinguished leader and a great friend of India.

I thank you.



**449. Briefing by Secretary (East) on Prime Minister's meeting with the Kazakh President.**

**Astana, April 16, 201**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to you, and first of all apologies to keep you waiting.

The meetings between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Kazakhstan and their delegations have just gotten over, and Secretary (East) Mr. Sanjay Singh has rushed across from the venue of the interaction to give you a perspective on this very important visit of Prime Minister of India to Kazakhstan. You are aware that the two sides have issued a joint statement. The Joint Statement will be available with you.

A number of agreements have also been signed and you have the details of those agreements. I would request Secretary (East) to share some thoughts with you on the interactions. Given the paucity of time - because you have to leave for the airport and Secretary (East) has to get back, he has to join the Prime Minister for a couple of other meetings - if there are any important questions, Secretary (East) will be happy to take them. Let me also introduce Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia) who is with Secretary (East).

**Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh):** Good afternoon. You would be seeing the Joint Statement and the agreements that are going to be signed, some have been signed and some will be signed. I would like to basically brief you on the meeting that took place. It was a one-to-one restricted meeting followed by delegation-level talks. The one-to-one restricted meeting took over one hour forty minutes. After that, you would have seen the statement made to the press by both the leaders which broadly covered the areas they had discussed. The meeting was between two leaders who have met six times before and this was their sixth meeting, even though PM was on his first official visit to Kazakhstan. He was the first foreign leader to visit Kazakhstan after the President elections.

You could classify the meeting as between friends. PM congratulated President Nazarbayev on his reelection. We consider President Nazarbayev as a close and valued friend of India. The meeting was warm, friendly and constructive. We have a similarity of views on regional and international issues.

The meeting by and large concentrated on bilateral issues, and putting flesh to the various areas of bilateral cooperation which have been identified by the two countries. To shortlist them, they consist of hydrocarbons, energy, agriculture, IT.

President Nazarbayev gave an exposition of the development philosophy of

Kazakhstan, how Kazakhstan is inviting investments into the country, how it provides special facilities for foreign investors. Kazakhstan provides special facilities for foreign investors, and given Kazakhstan's special resource base, it would provide for a good place to invest given that the market that you look at from Kazakhstan covers now the whole area of the Customs Union which would be Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan. This opens up possibilities in the field of pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, fertilizers, strategic minerals, information technology.

President Nazarbayev had visited India in 2009 when he was the Chief Guest at our Republic Day Parade. After that he had a very constructive visit to Bangalore. To some extent President Nazarbayev has shown his great interest in developing information technology and software parks in Kazakhstan. This is an obvious area of cooperation and you would have seen that we are going to set up a Centre of Excellence in Astana, and that would be a forward step in that area.

Since PM had come from Sanya, obviously he apprised President Kazakhstan of the discussions at the BRICS meeting. They also discussed various regional and international issues including activities of various regional fora to develop peace and stability in Central Asia and that region. It would be interesting for you to note that Kazakhstan is nearly an equidistant neighbor of three of the BRICS countries.

PM briefed President Nazarbayev of the assistance that we are providing to Afghanistan; and likewise President Nazarbayev briefed PM of the assistance that Kazakhstan is providing Afghanistan. They also discussed the common fight against terrorism. All this, you would see, finds mention in the Joint Statement and in the various agreements that we have signed.

I would like to end there. Since by and large we have had so many briefings on this visit, I would like the Spokesman if he would like to add a few words and our Ambassador to say a few words and then we will take a few questions.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Sir, this has been very comprehensive. Questions, if any?

**Question:** Can you elaborate on the nuclear cooperation agreement for design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants?

**Secretary (East):** It is an agreement on the peaceful uses of civil nuclear energy and covers the area of R&D, science and technology and various things associated with nuclear energy. It is an umbrella agreement.

**Question:** In his remarks, President Nazarbayev mentioned that Kazakhstan would supply 2100 tonnes of uranium by 2030. Could you elaborate on that?

**Secretary (East):** What would you like? I think it is self-evident.

**Question:** Is that a part of the nuclear agreement?

**Secretary (East):** The nuclear agreement is an umbrella agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of civil nuclear energy.

**Question:** One clarification. What has been the financial consideration that ONGC Videsh paid to the KMG for getting the ...(Inaudible)... in the block?

**Secretary (East):** I do not want to give you wrong figures on that. I will ask Secretary (Petroleum) for the figures and we will pass it on to you.

**Question:** Could you tell us the strategic significance of Satpayev, what it means to India, why?

**Secretary (East):** With the Indian energy consumption rising at the rate at which it is, and given that we will be expanding - our economy will continue expanding at the rate of nine to ten per cent - our total electricity production will go up by five times and energy security becomes very important. Therefore, sourcing of oil and gas from diverse sources in the world becomes absolutely essential. India is sourcing oil and gas from different parts of the world. We are getting it from Latin America, Africa, primarily we get it from the Persian Gulf, we also get something from the ex-CIS states, Vietnam and so on and so forth. So, this is another area where we are expanding into.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**450. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the luncheon hosted by President of Kazakhstan.**

**Istana, April 16, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Nazarbayev,

Distinguished Ministers,

Distinguished guests,

Thank you very much for your most generous hospitality and warm words of welcome. I am delighted to be in Astana, the beautiful capital of Kazakhstan.

My visit takes place soon after your historic re-election as the President of Kazakhstan, for which I heartily congratulate you. Since independence, Kazakhstan has made remarkable progress in every sphere. I wish you and the friendly people of Kazakhstan even greater success in the years ahead under your wise leadership.

Relations between India and Kazakhstan date back to antiquity. The Great Silk Route bound our countries together through the exchange of knowledge and ideas. There is shared cultural affinity between our peoples.

In more recent times, Kazakhstan was one of the first Central Asian States with which India established diplomatic relations. Today, our two countries enjoy a multi-faceted, vibrant strategic partnership. We cooperate closely on regional and global issues and in several international forums. We attach high priority to our relations with Kazakhstan and want to see their all round development.

I am convinced that a strong partnership between India and Kazakhstan will contribute to peace, stability and development in Central Asia and beyond. Your landmark visit to India in 2009 laid the basis for the development of a strategic partnership between us.

Excellency, the people of India regard you as a close and valued friend. I have myself enjoyed every interaction with you, including our meeting in Washington in April last year.

You have consistently provided inspiring leadership to our relations, for which we owe deep gratitude to you.

The Roadmap and other agreements that have been signed today herald a new beginning for us.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I request you to join me in a toast:

- To the health and well-being of His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev;
- To peace and prosperity of the friendly people of Kazakhstan; and
- To the strategic partnership between India and Kazakhstan.



**451. Joint Statement issued on the conclusion of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Kazakhstan.**

**Astana, April 16, 2011.**

1. His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, paid an Official Visit to Kazakhstan on 15-16 April, 2011 on the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
2. During the visit Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India held discussions with Mr. N. Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and met with Prime Minister Mr. K. Massimov. The leaders noted with satisfaction the high level of relation between India and Kazakhstan and expressed their firm commitment to further consolidate the strategic partnership, the foundation for which was laid during the State Visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to the Republic of India in January, 2009.
3. Prime Minister of the Republic of India and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan met in a friendly atmosphere and exchanged views on India-Kazakhstan relations, as well as on international and regional issues. They noted the convergence of their views on most of these issues.
4. Prime Minister of the Republic of India appreciated the important role of the Republic of Kazakhstan promoting regional and international peace & security, successful chairmanship of Kazakhstan of the OSCE in 2010, and the stable political and economic development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which was reflected in the results of the Presidential Elections held on 3 April, 2011.



5. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan appreciated the growing role of the Republic of India in world affairs, which has been contributing to strengthening peace, stability and mutual understanding between peoples, as well as India's ever-growing political, economic, and scientific stature and potential.
6. The sides stressed that the consistent growth in India-Kazakhstan relations has been promoted by recent meetings at the highest and senior levels, and appreciated increasing mutual understanding and trust, expansion of cooperation in the spheres of trade, economy, energy, socio-cultural activities as well as interaction on international and regional issues. The sides decided to reinvigorate mechanisms for regular meetings at the level of Ministers of the two countries.
7. The sides expressed satisfaction with the activity of India-Kazakhstan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation. The sides resolved to improve the mechanism of the Commission's activity through increasing its coordinating role in different spheres of interaction.
8. The sides noted with satisfaction the progress in various fields of cooperation. They welcomed the signing of the "Joint Action Plan" on furthering the strategic partnership between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan ("Road Map") for the period of 2011-2014.
9. The sides highly appreciated the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The sides noted the need for expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation in this area while adhering to their existing obligations under multilateral nuclear regimes.
10. The sides expressed satisfaction with signing of a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters between the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan which promotes interaction in legal issues.
11. The sides agreed on the importance of cooperation in food security and welcomed the signing of the Agreement on cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.
12. The sides welcomed the signing of the Memorandum in the area of information security as also the Indian initiative to set up a Indian-Kazakhstan Center of Excellence in the Eurasian University in Astana.

13. The sides underlined the importance of cooperation in the energy sector to be developed on the basis of equal rights and mutual benefit. The sides expressed satisfaction at the signing of a package of documents between Indian company "ONGC Videsh Limited" and "NC "KazMunaiGaz" JSC on joint exploration of the "Satpayev" oil block.
14. The sides noted the need to enhance interaction in implementation of prospective projects in the area of exploration of new oil and gas deposits, oil refining and petrochemicals, as well as transportation of hydrocarbons, and establishment of science-based industries in the Republic of Kazakhstan with the application of Indian know-how and new technologies.
15. The sides noted with satisfaction the establishment of cooperation between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the National Space Agency of Kazakhstan (NSAC), and agreed to work towards fruitful cooperation in the field of space.
16. The sides noted their interest in continued interaction in healthcare and medicine, science and technology, including nano, bio and innovative technologies.
17. The Republic of Kazakhstan recognized India's achievements in the pharmaceuticals sector and welcomed joint ventures in Kazakhstan for production of high quality pharmaceutical drugs.
18. The sides welcomed development of cultural and people-to-people contacts and reiterated their intention to strengthen cooperation in educational, scientific, technical, cultural, tourism and other spheres. They expressed readiness to exchange experts, hold days of culture, exhibitions, symposiums and other events.
19. The sides noted the importance of identifying secure and cost-effective transport connectivity between the two countries, including for transportation of cargo with the participation of transit countries.
20. The sides agreed to enhance collaboration in international economic and financial organizations and to use new opportunities arising as a result of integration processes in the global economy, for the benefit of both countries.
21. The sides expressed interest in strengthening contacts and coordination in international and regional organizations (UN, SCO, CICA and ACD). They emphasized that continuous strengthening of cooperation in the framework of these multilateral structures should contribute to stability and development in the region and in the world.

22. The sides expressed interest in the early settlement of the Afghanistan situation and positively assessed the contribution by both countries to the reconstruction in Afghanistan. They agreed that the global community had rightly noted in the Kabul Communiqué (July 2010) the importance of ensuring that terrorists were denied sanctuaries. They also underscored the importance of eliminating the narco-trafficking infrastructure that still existed in that country. The sides further assessed that for peace and stability to be restored, it was essential that renewed efforts were made to sufficiently build up the capacity of the Afghan National Security Forces.

23. The sides reaffirmed their view that international terrorism was a serious threat to global peace and security and condemned those who supported terrorism. They strongly condemned the recent act of terrorism (11 April 2011) in the Minsk Metro station, which had led to the loss of several innocent lives and had left hundreds of people injured. They hoped that the perpetrators of this heinous crime would be speedily brought to justice.

24. The Republic of India highly appreciated the Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and noted that the forthcoming Jubilee meeting of the Council of Heads of member-states of SCO dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Organization to be held in Astana on 15th June 2011 would become a milestone event in the further development of the SCO. The Republic of Kazakhstan welcomed India's constructive participation in the SCO as an observer country and expressed support for India's intention to play a larger role in the organization.

25. The Republic of India highly appreciated the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to convene a Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia - an important forum for the maintenance of peace, stability and security in Asian continent. The Republic of Kazakhstan noted that the Republic of India had been actively and constructively participating in the CICA.

26. The Republic of India welcomed the forthcoming Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the 38th Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference. It expressed confidence that the Republic of Kazakhstan would play a balanced and constructive role in the functioning of the OIC.

27. The sides affirmed the need to strengthen the UN role in international affairs and consider the organization as a universal tool in the implementation of equitable relations among the members of international community as well as strengthening stability and security in the world. The Republic of Kazakhstan reaffirmed support of the candidature of the Republic of India for permanent

membership in the UN Security Council. Noting the strong credentials of Kazakhstan, the Republic of India expressed support to the candidature of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018. The sides agreed to support each other within the framework of UN and other multilateral fora.

28. The Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh expressed deep gratitude to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. N. Nazarbayev and to the Kazakhstan side for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and to the Indian delegation during his official visit to Kazakhstan.



#### **452. Bilateral agreements concluded during PM's visit to Kazakhstan.**

**Astana, April 16, 2011.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement/MoU	Scope of the Document
1.	<b>Package of 3 Agreements between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and National Company "Kazmunaigas" on Satpayev Exploration Block:</b>	The three Agreements are to give effect to the transfer of participating interest in the Satpayev Exploration Block from "Kazmunaigas" (KMG) to ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL).
	<b>(i) Participating Share Assignment Agreement</b>	-Participating Share Assignment Agreement defines transfer of
	<b>(ii) Carry Agreement</b>	25% stake from KMG to OVL and terms governing this transfer.
	<b>(iii) Joint Operating Agreement-</b>	Carry Agreement defines the key features of OVL's "carry" and  KMG's repayment of the carried amount in case of commercial discovery and development of the discovered fields.  -Joint Operating Agreement defines the relationship between the Parties and the way operations are to be conducted.
		Satpayev exploration block, located in the Kazakhstan sector of the Caspian Sea, covers an area of 1482 sq. km and is at a water depth

of 6-8 mts. It is situated in a highly prospective region of the North Caspian Sea and is in close proximity to major discoveries. The block contains two prospective structures, namely Satpayev and Satpayev Vostochni(East) with 256 MMT in estimated hydrocarbon resources.

This transaction marks the entry of OVL in Kazakhstan's hydrocarbon sector. Although OVL has been trying to gain a foothold in Kazakhstan since 1995, the efforts got a boost when OVL entered into a MoU with KMG in February 2005 for cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. Heads of Agreement

(HOA) was signed between OVL and KMG in 2009 and the Exploration Contract was signed between Ministry of Oil and Gas of Kazakhstan and KMG in 2010. Now, on signing of the definitive agreements, KMG will assign 25% participating interest in the Satpayev Block to OVL as a strategic foreign partner in the Project.

2. **Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy**

The Agreement envisages a legal framework for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy including fuel supply, nuclear medicine, use of radiation technologies for healthcare including isotopes, reactor safety mechanisms, exchange of scientific & research information, exploration and joint mining of uranium, design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants etc.,
3. **Joint Action Plan for furthering the Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakhstan (Road Map) for the period of 2011-2014**

The Roadmap outlines the joint action plan for implementation of projects to be undertaken by both sides during the period 2011-14 for the implementation of Inter-Governmental Agreements. The Roadmap details specific milestones in a range of areas of bilateral cooperation including hydrocarbons, civilian nuclear energy, space, information technology & cyber security; high-tech and innovative technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, agriculture and cultural exchanges.
4. **MoU between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In), Dept of Information Technology of India and Kazakhstan Computer Emergency Response Team (Kz-CERT), Republic of Kazakhstan**

The MoU envisages development of cooperation in the area of Information Security and covers the scope of mutual response to cyber security incidents, exchange of information on spam and other cyber-attacks, exchange of information on prevalent cyber security policies and exchange of human resources.
5. **Treaty between the Republic of India**

The Treaty envisages a wide range of measures

- and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil Matters** for mutual legal assistance in civil matters in accordance with laws of both countries. These measures include service of summons and other judicial documents or processes, taking of evidence by means of letters or request or commissions, recognition and execution of court decisions and arbitral awards.
6. **Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of agriculture and allied sectors** The document envisages cooperation between the two Ministries in the field of agricultural research and technologies, food and agricultural production. It also envisages cooperation in the spheres of agricultural science, food processing, crop production, plant protection and agricultural trade.
7. **Agreement between the Ministry of Health of India and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan cooperation in the field of healthcare** The Agreement envisages cooperation in the field of healthcare, medical services and pharmacy. It proposes establishment of direct cooperation between public health organizations as also scientific research and medical institutes. It covers exchange of information and data about communicable diseases. It also envisages joint scientific research, visits of experts and specialists, exchange of information in the field of health services and medicine.

**Astana(Kazakhstan)  
April 16, 2011**



**KYRGYZSTAN****453. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the training of Kyrgyz Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Operations to expand Defence Cooperation.****New Delhi, July 5, 2011.**

India has offered its assistance to Kyrgyzstan in a wide range of areas to strengthen its defence and security capabilities. The Defence Minister Shri AK Antony made this offer at the extensive talks he held with his Kyrgyz counterpart Major General Abibilla Kudayberdiev in Bishkek on Monday (04 July 2011). The talks took place between the delegations of the two countries immediately after the arrival of Shri Antony in the Kyrgyz capital.

As a first step, India will be sending a team to train Kyrgyz Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Operations and impart English language skills. The team will be arriving in Kyrgyzstan by the end of this month itself.

During the talks, Shri Antony said though the present level of defence engagements are rather limited, there is potential to mutually enhance the scope and scale of activities in a gradual manner in areas of mutual interest particularly in the field of military training, defence research and development and production of defence armaments.

Shri Antony is leading a high level defence delegation including the DRDO Chief Dr VK Saraswat, Special Secretary Shri RK Mathur, Secretary and Defence Finance Ms Vijay Lakshmi Gupta and Chief Controller of Research and Development Dr William Selvamurthy. The Indian Ambassador to Bishkek, Shri P Stobdan also joined the deliberations.

Shri Antony said India has a wide network of research establishments not only in armaments but also in physiology, medicine, animal husbandry, nutrition etc under defence establishments. He offered New Delhi's assistance to Bishkek for undertaking joint research and production in non-military sectors also.

'We can explore areas for cooperation in research and development in high-altitude base agriculture, plantation, animal husbandry, poultry, food processing that would also help generate rural employment and remove poverty', he said.

Appreciating the support of the Kyrgyz authorities in international efforts against terrorism and drug trafficking in Kyrgyzstan, Shri Antony said the joint working groups on counter- terrorism should meet regularly to share information on the issue.

The Kyrgyz Defence Minister Major General Abibilla Kudayberdiev thanked Shri Antony for his offer of cooperation in both military and non-military areas. He accepted Shri Antony's invitation to visit India shortly to take the cooperation forward. He expressed happiness that the two sides have worked out a cooperation plan for the year 2011.

Earlier, in a show of warmth, Gen Kudayberdiev drove down to the Manas International Airport to receive Shri Antony on his arrival.



**454. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on opening of India-assisted High Altitude Bio-Medical Research Centre in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.**

**New Delhi, July 5, 2011.**

Marking a major milestone in the cooperation between the two countries, the Kyrgyz President Ms Roza Otunbaeva and the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony today inaugurated the Kyrgyz-Indian Mountain Biomedical Research Centre (KIMBMRC) at the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek today.

The Centre will carry out research on the mechanism of short term and long term high altitude adaptation. It will also mobilize and synchronise the expertise of the two countries in the area of high altitude research. The scientists will focus on molecular biology approaches to identify markers for screening of people for high altitude resistance and susceptibility to high altitude sickness and development of mountain maladies. The benefits of these studies will apply to a large population across the globe, as more and more people travel to the mountains every year. India's contribution to the project is Rs 6 Crores.

A large number of dignitaries including the Kyrgyz Minister of Health Dr Sabyrbek Jumabekov, the First Deputy Defence Minister Mr Zamir Suerkulov, the first Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Nurlan Aitmuarzaev, Indian ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Mr P Stobdan Scientific Advisor to Defence Minister Dr VK Saraswat, Special Secretary Shri RK Mathur, Secretary of Defence Finance Ms Vijay Lakshmi Gupta and Chief Controller of Research and Development Dr William Selvamurthy were present on the occasion to witness the historic moment.

The proposal to have a joint collaboration in the area of mountain medicine and establish a Centre was mooted during the visit and discussions held



between the Kyrgyz President Mr A Akaev and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in November 2003.

The realization of that shared vision has finally culminated in the establishment of this Centre. The joint endeavour of our scientists will provide a platform to utilize the expertise of both the institutes in a holistic manner to evaluate, as well as improve the performance and enhance the process of acclimatization at high altitudes using psychological, biochemical and molecular research tools', Shri Antony said.

The Kyrgyz President Dr Roza Otunbaeva thanked the Government of India for taking the initiative for setting up this world class institute in Bishkek. She said 10% of the GDP in Kyrgyzstan is generated by the populace living in high altitudes. The fruits of the research of the scientists of this institute will help in improving the life and health of people living in high altitude areas, she said.

The Centre has a field station at Tuya Ashu, located at a height of 3200 metres. Prof Akpay Sarybaev, a leading cardiologist and expert in mountain medicine is nominated as the Director of KIMBMRC.

A team of scientists including physiologists, biochemists and molecular biologists, headed by the Director of Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), Dr Shashi Bala Singh along with 20 Indian Army soldiers are deputed to KIMBMRC, Bishkek and Tuya Ashu to carry out studies on high altitude acclimatization with special reference to molecular mechanism of human performance promotion and amelioration of maladies in mountain operations. The team will stay for about six weeks.



**455. Press Release issued on the Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kyrgyzstan.**

**New Delhi, August 5, 2011.**

1. Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Nurlan Aitmurzaev led a delegation to New Delhi for Foreign Office Consultations between India and the Kyrgyz Republic, held on 4-5 August 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
2. Shri Sanjay Singh and Mr. Aitmurzaev comprehensively reviewed the current status of bilateral relations including their political, economic, defence and cultural dimensions. They also discussed important regional and global issues including the situation in Afghanistan. The issue of transport connectivity between India and Central Asia was in focus during the consultations. The Kyrgyz side expressed interest in enhancing the training of Kyrgyz experts under India's ITEC program and in increasing technical cooperation in the conduct of elections. The two sides agreed to continue regular consultations on areas of mutual interest.
3. The Kyrgyz dignitary called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed. He also met Shri S.Y. Quraishi, Chief Election Commissioner of India and visited the Foreign Service Institute in the MEA.



**OMAN****456. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the extension of bilateral MOU on Military Cooperation with Oman.****New Delhi, December 28, 2011.**

India, Oman Extend MOU on Military Cooperation to 2015 India and Oman have extended the validity of the existing bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Military Cooperation, signed in December 2005, for a further period of five years. The documents were signed by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and the visiting Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Badar bin Saud bin Harib al Busaidi here today. Bilateral defence cooperation between India and Oman has been growing over the years. The Navies of both countries are conducting a joint exercise "Naseem Al Bahr off the coast of Mumbai from December 26-31, 2011. The IAF and the Royal Air Force of Oman held a joint exercise "Eastern Bridge" at Jamnagar, Gujarat in October earlier this year. During the delegation level talks both sides noted that bilateral defence cooperation activities have been progressing satisfactorily. The 5th meeting of the India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee was held recently in India in September, 2011. Both the Ministers discussed important issues relating to regional and maritime security. Shri Antony noted that incidents of piracy were taking place close to the Oman coast and have also been spreading close to the Lakshadweep Islands. Both Ministers stressed the need for continued and concerted efforts of the world community to effectively address the problem. Shri Antony conveyed that the visit of the Oman Defence Minister is an important step in continuing the dialogue on defence and security issues between the two countries. The Indian delegation included the Defence Secretary Shri Shashikant Sharma and Chief of Integrated Staff to the Chief of Staff Committee (CISC) Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha.



**PALESTINE****457. Speech by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at International Solidarity Day with Palestinians.****New Delhi, January 28, 201**

H.E. Ambassador of Palestine in India, Mr. Adli Hassan Shaban Sadeq,

DG, Indian Council of World Affairs, Shri Sudhir Devare

Excellencies, distinguished invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel honoured to be here today amidst this august gathering to mark the important occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. All of us present here, representing a wide cross-section of countries, in our own ways are here to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle for their legitimate rights. Our gestures of support also convey that it is in the interest of the entire international community that a lasting solution is found at the earliest resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital, side by side and at peace with the State of Israel.

Excellencies,

Indians have always placed Palestine close to their hearts. Even before independence, India had demonstrated its solidarity with the Palestinian people and had looked forward to the emergence of an independent democratic state in Palestine in which the rights of all communities would be protected.

India was the first non-Arab State to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1975 and in 1988 it became one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine. India opened its Representative Office in Palestine in 1996 following the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority. Here I would like to quote from a communication from a cable by then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi addressed to President Yasser Arafat:

"It is with great pleasure that I extend to you on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf our heartiest felicitations on the declaration of an independent State of Palestine to which the Government of India has today extended formal recognition. This has been our cherished and single-minded objective all these years. We share the happiness of the Palestinian people on this auspicious day.

We are conscious that it is not the end of the struggle. It is nevertheless an

important milestone on the path to meeting the legitimate aspirations of Palestinians within and outside the occupied territories. We wish you all success in your task of achieving the logical culmination of this declaration - the restoration of Palestinian land and the assertion of Palestinian sovereignty. India will continue to extend whole-hearted support to efforts to activate early peace negotiations for a just and comprehensive settlement within the framework of a UN-sponsored International Conference."

India has and will always support the Palestinian people in their pursuit of legitimate goals and quest for development based on dignity and self-reliance. I recall my meeting with the then President of Palestine Authority Mr. Yasser Arafat on 17th September, 2004 when I carried the Goodwill Message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India alongwith life saving medicines and special vehicles to the Palestine Authority. India reiterates its unwavering support to the Palestinian cause at every available opportunity and forum and that includes the visit of the Hon'ble President to Syria from 26-29 November 2010 and by Hon'ble Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, organized by the UN on 29 November 2010.

Excellencies,

Since the opening of the Representative Office, India has also extended material assistance to the Palestinian National Authority. The assistance has been for humanitarian relief, development projects, establishment of educational and training facilities, budgetary support etc. India has been involved with training a large number of Palestinian officials from economic, industrial and financial sectors and special courses for Palestinian diplomats have been conducted at our Foreign Service Institute. India extended further budgetary support of US\$ 10 million to the Palestine National Authority earlier this year in addition to a similar contribution last year, to assist in their work of reconstruction and development. As you may also be aware, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), India increased its annual contribution to US\$ 1 million from last year. We have also pledged to contribute this amount next year as well.

Under the IBSA Fund, along with Brazil and South Africa, we are implementing a Sports Complex in Ramallah.

We believe the West Asian region is of vital importance to India with more than 4.5 million Indians making it their home. The region is also an important source of energy for India. India wishes to see the creation of an environment for the earliest possible resumption of dialogue. We share the perception that the conflict in West Asia is essentially political in nature and cannot be resolved by

force. In line with our support for United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital, side by side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1397 & 1515.

India has supported the Arab Peace Plan, which calls for withdrawal of Israel to pre-1967 borders, along with recognition of Israel and the establishment of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital. India has called for an end to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and for an early and significant easing of restrictions on the free movement of persons and goods within Palestine.

India had welcomed the 'direct talks' between Israel and Palestine. The continued stalemate in the situation and hardening of positions is a matter of concern. We hope that the talks would be resumed leading to final resolution of the conflict. As a responsible member of the international community and as a country with long-established ties with West Asia, India desires to see a peaceful resolution to tensions in the region through peaceful dialogue.

I am happy to note that the Palestinian Embassy has started functioning from its new Building in Chanakyapuri, which was built as a gift of the government and people of India. The foundation stone of the Building was laid in the presence of our Prime Minister during the visit of the Palestinian President Mr. Mahmoud Abbas to India in October 2008.

On this occasion, I would like to re-affirm India's consistent and unwavering support to the friendly people of Palestine and reiterate India's belief that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region can be achieved through negotiations and dialogue so that a sovereign, independent, viable State of Palestine living side by side within secured borders, with the State of Israel, becomes a reality.

I thank the Indian Council for World Affairs for organizing this event.

Thank you, Jai Hind.



- 458. Explanation of Vote delivered by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on February 18, 2011 after the Vote on draft resolution S/2011/24 on “Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories.”**

**New York, February 18, 2011.**

Please see Document No.689.



- 459. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the “Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question” in the Security Council.**

**New York, April 21, 2011.**

Please see Document No.709.



- 460. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs welcoming Fatah-Hamas Reconciliation.**

**New Delhi, May 6, 2011.**

The Government of India welcomes the reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas which ends the differences between the West Bank and Gaza and hopes that this would promote the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people, and leads to peace and stability in the region.



**461. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Special Envoy of President of the Palestinian National Authority.**

**New Delhi, August 24, 2011.**

Dr. Nabeel Shaath, former Foreign Minister of Palestine, is on a visit to India from 23-25 August 2011 as Special Envoy of the Palestine National Authority President H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas.

2. Dr. Nabeel Shaath called on External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna and also met Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed. He handed over messages from PNA President addressed to Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister. He sought India's support for the Palestinian cause especially during the forthcoming UN session. Recalling his frequent visits to India when he was Palestine's Foreign Minister, the Special Envoy was very appreciative of India's traditional and long standing support to the Palestinian cause. He also expressed deep appreciation for India's continued support to the Palestinians. India was the first non-Arab state to recognize the state of Palestine in 1988, pursuant to Algiers declaration for a Palestinian State in 1988.

3. EAM reiterated India's strong and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause and assured that India shall continue to adhere to its principled stand on Palestine.



**462. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the UN Security Council's Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question.**

**New York, October 24, 2011.**

Please see Document No.786.





**463. Press Release on the visit of Minister of State E Ahamed to Palestine and Jordan.**

**Ramallah, November 21, 2011.**

Minister of State Mr. E. Ahamed visited State of Palestine from November 18 – 19, 2011 for participating in the handing over ceremony of IBSA Multipurpose Sports Centre at Ramallah. The Sports Centre is the first project completed with IBSA funding for the Palestinian National Authority. It is a gift of people of IBSA countries to the people of Palestine.

Along with IBSA delegations, MOS called President Mr. Mahmoud Abbas and Foreign Minister Dr. Riyad Malki. The Palestinian leadership expressed appreciation for the developmental and humanitarian assistance provided by the IBSA countries, as well as, for their support for Palestinian membership of UN and UNESCO.

MOS reiterated Government of India's continued support to Palestine in their efforts to achieve a just solution to the Middle East conflict. He also assured the Palestinian leadership of India's support in their efforts in state building.

During the visit, the Commissioner General of UNRWA, Mr. Filippo Grandi called on the MOS [18 November]. MOS handed over a cheque of US\$ 1 million as India's annual contribution to the UNRWA for 2011-12 to be utilized for 'providing daily supplement of food assistance to more than 76,000 students attending UNRWA schools in Gaza for 50 school days under the UNRWA's Emergency Programme in Gaza strip'. MOS assured UNRWA of the Government of India's continued support in its operations and in its efforts to alleviate the sufferings of Palestinian refugees.

MOS also met with Sheikh Abdul Azeem Salhab- President of Islamic Endowment Council and Head Imam of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

During his transit visit to Amman, Jordan on 20 November 2011, MOS called on the newly appointed Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan H.E. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh. Issues of bilateral importance and regional developments that included Syria and Palestine were also discussed.



**QATAR****464. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd meeting of India-Qatar High Level Monitoring Mechanism.****New Delhi, January 14, 2011.**

The India-Qatar High Level Monitoring Mechanism (HLMM) was set up pursuant to a decision taken by the Prime Ministers of India and Qatar during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Qatar in November 2008.

Shri T. K. A. Nair, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and H.E. Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al-Attiyah, Minister of State for International Cooperation of the State of Qatar are the two Co-Chairpersons of the HLMM. The HLMM is mandated to monitor the progress in the implementation of the areas of cooperation agreed to by the leaders of the two countries in order to enhance bilateral cooperation. The first two meetings of the HLMM were held in February 2009 and November 2009 respectively.

The Third Meeting of the HLMM was held in New Delhi from 13-14 January 2011. The two sides reviewed the progress made in agreed areas of cooperation and agreed on specific steps to further intensify cooperation in areas such as petrochemicals, fertilizers, power, banking and finance sector, civil aviation and HRD.

In the hydrocarbon sector, the Qatari side conveyed their readiness to increase supply of LNG to meet India's requirements and to facilitate the participation of Indian companies in the oil and gas sector in Qatar. The Joint Working Group on Fertilizer is to meet in Doha shortly in order to discuss long term cooperation in the fertilizer sector. The Qatari side highlighted its interest in getting access to the PSU disinvestments via the Anchor investor route. The investment opportunities in the Kayamkulam expansion project of NTPC would be evaluated by the Qatar Investment Authority as also in renewable energy projects. The Indian side welcomed the proposal of the Qatari side for wide-ranging cooperation in the area of banking supervision and exchange of information to combat money laundering and terror financing. The Joint committee for promoting investment into India will be meeting shortly to discuss investment opportunities.

The two sides agreed that the Fourth Meeting of the HLMM would be held in Doha in the first quarter of 2012.



**SAUDI ARABI****465. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Secretary General of the National Security Council of Saudi Arabia.****New Delhi, March 29, 2011.**

His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Secretary General of the National Security Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on March 28, 2011.

The Saudi Envoy briefed the Prime Minister on recent developments in West Asia, North Africa, and Gulf regions, and in particular the efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the GCC countries to bring peace, stability and prosperity for the people in the region. He indicated the desire of the Gulf States to meet the genuine aspirations of the people in an atmosphere of peace and stability. HRH Prince Bandar reiterated Saudi Arabia's keen interest in further consolidating relations between India and the Kingdom in all areas of cooperation, without reservation.

The Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation to HRH Prince Bandar for his visit, and conveyed India's firm commitment to further developing its strategic partnership with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. West Asia and the Gulf were regions of great interest to India because of the presence of almost six million Indians. The region was a major economic partner and source for energy for India. Cooperation between India and the Kingdom and the GCC States was a factor of peace and stability in the region. The Prime Minister emphasized that differences should be resolved through peaceful dialogue and discussion and countries should be free to determine their own pathways to national development. He expressed confidence that the wisdom and leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdullah will contribute to peace, stability and welfare of the people of the region.



**SYRIA**

- 466. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the 'Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question' in the Security Council.**

**New York, April 21, 2011.**

Please see Document No.709.



- 467. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the United Nations Security Council open briefing on the situation in Syria.**

**New York, April 27, 2011.**

Please see Document No.710.



**468. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Syrian Vice Foreign Minister.**

**New Delhi, August 1, 2011.**

The Syrian Vice Foreign Minister (VFM), Dr. Faisal Mekdad, is on an official visit to India from July 31 to August 2, 2011. Today he called on the External Affairs Minister (EAM) and also met the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed (MOS).

2. VFM briefed EAM about the prevailing situation in Syria, causes for violence in his country, reforms proposed by Syrian President Bashar Al Assad, details of national dialogue between the Syrian government and the opposition groups, as well as, other issues related to public protests in Syria.

3. EAM expressed concern on the recent escalation of violence. He urged the Government of Syria to exercise restraint, abjure violence and expedite the implementation of political reforms taking into account the aspirations of the people of Syria. MOS also reiterated the same during his meeting with VFM.



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Media reports said that Syria had sent out envoys all over the world to argue that elements linked to the Salafists in the Middle East were behind the violence and the government was willing to open talks with opposition groups. But the Opposition, claimed that a heavy Syrian assault on July 31 took a toll of many lives in at least three cities. A rights group has put the death toll since the unrest began at over 1,500.

**469. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a IBSA delegation to Syria.**

**New Delhi, August 11, 2011.**

An IBSA delegation comprising of Mr. Ebrahim Ebrahim, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Mr. Paulo Cordeiro de Andrade Pinto, Under Secretary General for Africa and the Middle East of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil and Mr. Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary for International Organizations, MEA, called on President of Syria H.E. Bashar Al-Assad and FM H.E. Walid Al-Moualem, on 10th August 2011 at Damascus, to discuss the current situation in Syria and the way forward.

The President reassured the delegation of his commitment to the reform process, aimed at ushering in multi-party democracy, including through revision of the constitution. He said that political reforms were being finalized in consultation with the people of Syria and the national dialogue would continue to give shape to the new laws and to arrive at a suitable model for the economy. The process of revision of the constitution would be completed by February/March 2012. He acknowledged that some mistakes had been made by the security forces in the initial stages of the unrest and that efforts were underway to prevent their recurrence.

FM Moualem briefed the delegation about the prevailing situation in Syria, the reasons behind the unrest and violence and explained the steps taken by the Government to bring the situation under control. He said that there were three categories of opposition in Syria: the economically disadvantaged sections; intellectuals and academics; and armed groups. He outlined in detail the political reforms that are in the process of being implemented and said that free and fair elections to the Parliament will be held in Syria before end 2011. He recalled the statement of the President of Syria to rewrite the Constitution of Syria, if considered necessary.

In recalling the adoption of UNSC Presidential Statement of 3 August, the visiting delegation reaffirmed the commitment of India, Brazil and South Africa to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria. They expressed grave concern at the current situation in Syria and condemned violence from all sides. They regretted all loss of life and were concerned over the humanitarian impact of the violence. They called for an immediate end to all violence and urged all sides to act with utmost restraint and respect for human rights and international human rights law. In noting the establishment of an independent judicial committee to investigate the violence, the visiting delegation stressed the importance of ensuring the credibility and impartiality thereof, to which FM

Moualem responded that once the report of the committee became available, those responsible for the violence would be held to account.

They urged the Government to positively consider the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 29 April 2011. They stressed that it is essential for the Syrian Government not to lose momentum and to continue the process of national dialogue and political reforms with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of the population. This will contribute to the full exercise of fundamental freedoms by the Syrian people, including that of expression and peaceful assembly. They expressed the hope that opposition groups will cooperate in this process.

The Syrian FM reiterated that Syria will be a free, pluralistic and multi-party democracy before the end of the year.



**470. Explanation of Vote delivered by Ambassador Hardeep Puri on draft Resolution on Syria at UNSC.**

**New York, October 4, 2011.**

Thank you, Madame President,

I want to start by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. We have no doubt that you will have an extremely successful Presidency. I would also like to take this opportunity to complement Lebanon, Ambassador Nawaf and his team, for their very wise and able stewardship of the Council during September, a difficult month at the best of times.

2. Madame President, Syria has both historically and in contemporary times been an important country in the Middle East. Its role in the Middle East peace process and in the stability of the wider region cannot be overemphasized. Prolonged instability and unrest in Syria, therefore, clearly have ramifications for the region and beyond.

3. India remains concerned at the unfolding events in Syria that have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians and security force personnel. We deplore all violence irrespective of who its perpetrators are.

4. Madame President, we recognize the responsibility of all States to respect

the fundamental rights of their people, address their legitimate aspirations and respond to their grievances through administrative, political, economic and other measures. At the same time, States also have the obligation to protect their citizens from armed groups and militants. While the right of people to protest peacefully is to be respected, States cannot but take appropriate action when militant groups, heavily armed, resort to violence against state authority and infrastructure.

5. Given the complexity of ground realities in Syria, we believe that engaging Syria in a collaborative and constructive dialogue and partnership is the only pragmatic and productive way forward. In our bilateral contacts with the Syrian Government as well as through the IBSA initiative, we have urged them to exercise restraint, abjure violence and pay heed to the aspirations of their people.

6. The international community should give time and space for the Syrian Government to implement the far-reaching reform measures announced by them. For this, it is also necessary that the opposition forces in Syria give up the path of armed insurrection and engage constructively with the authorities. We firmly believe that the actions of the international community should facilitate an engagement of the Syrian government and the opposition in a Syrian-led inclusive political process and not complicate the situation by threats of sanctions, regime change, etc.

7. The resolution under the Council's consideration does not accommodate our concern about threat of sanctions. It does not condemn the violence perpetrated by the Syrian opposition. Nor does it place any responsibility on the opposition to abjure violence and engage with the Syrian authorities for redressal of their grievances through a peaceful political process. We have, therefore, abstained on the resolution.

Thank you.





**UAE****471. Press Release issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on the signing of Treaties on Security Cooperation and Exchange of Sentenced Persons between India and UAE.****New Delhi, November 23, 2011.**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Govt. of UAE H.H. Lt. Gen. Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Union Home Minister, Government of India, Shri P. Chidambaram have signed agreements, on Security Cooperation and on Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The two leaders met at a meeting held here today to discuss issues pertaining to bilateral security cooperation between two countries.

The Agreement on Security Cooperation seeks to strengthen and develop the existing bilateral framework/ mechanism to enhance security cooperation in the areas such as combating terrorism in all forms, addressing activities of organized criminal groups, drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition, explosives, etc.; and initiatives on training of personnel.

The Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons provides the framework to facilitate the social rehabilitation of sentenced persons in their respective countries by giving citizens of the Contracting States, who have been convicted and sentenced as a result of commission of a criminal offence, the opportunity to serve the sentence in their own society.

Issues relating to drug trafficking, security, capacity building so as to enhance

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While the agreement on transfer of sentenced persons provides the framework to allow convicted prisoners to serve the remainder of their sentences in their respective home countries, and thereby facilitate social rehabilitation, the one on security cooperation seeks to strengthen and develop the existing bilateral framework in areas such as combating terrorism in all forms, addressing activities of organised criminal groups, drug-trafficking, and illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives.

There are around 1,200 Indians imprisoned in the UAE for various crimes, including on drugs and finance-related charges. It is not yet clear how many of them were sentenced prisoners. There is only one UAE national at present lodged in an Indian jail. The pact will apply only to those who have already been convicted, and not to under-trials. As per its provisions, any Indian sentenced in the UAE, who is to be transferred to an Indian jail, should have a minimum of six months of jail-term left and there should not be any pending case against him. The two countries discussed issues pertaining to bilateral security cooperation, drug-trafficking, security and capacity-building so as to enhance cooperation for combating organised crime, a Home Ministry spokesperson said in New Delhi soon after the signing of the Agreements. The issue of international terrorism also came up during the discussions. The two sides also stressed their commitments to stepping up cooperation in the investigation of mutually relevant criminal cases and the sharing of relevant information in this regard, the spokesperson said.

cooperation to combat organized crimes and international terrorism were also discussed in the meeting.

Both countries reiterated their commitment for enhanced cooperation in investigation of mutually relevant criminal cases and sharing of relevant information in this regard.



**472. Press Release issued by Ministry of Overseas Indians regarding the signing of the India – UAE revised Memorandum of Understanding on Manpower.**

**New Delhi, September 13, 2011.**

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Union Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Civil Aviation and Mr. Saqr Ghobash Saeed Ghobash, Minister of Labour of United Arab Emirates signed a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on manpower, here today. Addressing on the occasion, Shri Ravi said that this MoU will strengthen the symbiotic relationship and mutual cooperation between the two countries. He said that the e-governance in migration project is a major initiative taken by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. He also hailed the measures taken by the UAE government to improve the condition of workers in UAE. The revised MoU will boost the initiative of the Ministry in implementing Web Based Attestation Procedure for employment contracts for emigrant workers in UAE by the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi. A need has been felt over the years to revise the MoU, which was signed between India and the UAE in December, 2006 to address various problems faced by the Indian emigrant workers in the UAE. After detailed negotiations between the two countries, a revised MoU was finalized and signed today. The MoU in the field of manpower between India and the UAE provides for the following:

- (i) Facilitation of the recruitment of Indian manpower for working in the UAE;
- (ii) Broad procedure for employment of workers;
- (iii) Responsibilities of the employers and workers;
- (iv) Exchange of knowledge and experience in job-creation and generation of employment opportunity;

- (v) Protection and welfare of workers under the labour laws and regulations of the host country;
- (vi) authentication of the work contract between the Employer and the employee by the Ministry of Labour, Government of UAE; and
- (vii) Constitution of a Joint Committee comprising of at least three Members each from both the Governments to implement the provisions of the MoU.

It is estimated that there are approximately 17.5 lakh Indians in the UAE, constituting the largest expatriate community in that country. Out of this, about 13.5 lakh are emigrant workers, mostly employed in construction, services and household sectors. India-UAE trade, valued at US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, is today around US\$44 billion making UAE, India's largest trading partner. There is an estimated US\$6 billion UAE investment in India of which about US\$ 1.92 billion is in the form of foreign direct investment, while the remaining as portfolio investment. UAE is the tenth biggest investor in India in terms of FDI. The annual remittances made by the large Indian community in UAE (estimated to be around 1.75 million) amount to over US \$5 billion. They had actively invested in the past in the various bonds floated by India such as Resurgent India Bonds and the India Millennium Bonds.



**473. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on a meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Ms. Sheikh Bint Al Qasimi.**

**New Delhi, February 10, 2011.**

In a bilateral meeting between Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Ms. Sheikha Lubna Bint Al Qasimi, Minister of Foreign Trade, United Arab Emirates, here today said that bilateral trade between India and UAE has registered an increase over 300% in the last five years. He said that UAE is the topmost trading partner of India representing about 60% of India's export to GCC countries 2009-10. Shri Sharma said that there is lot of business and investment potential which can be further exploited to mutual advantage of both the countries. India-UAE Trade Policy Forum set up by the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade which needs to be further strengthened, he said.

During the interaction, both sides felt that tourism sector is one the areas that has good potential for future growth, especially medical tourism. Another area with considerable scope for cooperation in tourism is construction and maintenance of hotels. Shri Sharma informed his counterpart that there is a good scope for UAE to invest in overall tourism sector in India which would help for both the countries to enhance tourist arrivals.

Shri Sharma said that since UAE is focusing on knowledge based industries and with India emerging as world leaders in space, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and bio-technology, there is considerable scope for co-operation in technology transfer, research and development and for joint-venture. India has a vast market and UAE investors would find industrial partners in India to set up mutually advantageous industrial complexes in the Gulf as well as in India and third countries to cater to the markets worldwide, he added.

The total trade has increased from US \$ 12,945.87 million in 2005-06 to US\$ 43,469.50 million in 2009-10. The exports from India, up from US\$ 8,591.79 million in 2005-06 to US\$ 23,970.40 million in 2009-10. Similarly imports from UAE, up from 4,354.08 in 2005-06 to US\$ 19,499.10 million in 2009-10.

The top five exportable items from India to UAE are Gems & Jewellery; Petroleum (crude & Products); Rice-Basmati; Machinery and Instruments; and Manufactures of Metals. Similarly top five importable items from UAE to India are Petroleum (crude & Products); Gold; Pearls Precious & Semi-precious stones; Metaliferrous Ores & Metal Scrap; and Non-Ferrous Metals.



**474. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Foreign Minister of UAE.**

**New Delhi, June 28, 2011.**

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, paid an official visit to India on 26-27 June 2011. He was accompanied by senior officials and a business delegation comprising CEOs of UAE companies having large investments in India.

On 27th June FM Al Nahyan called on Vice President Shri Mohammed Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He also held official delegation level talks with EAM Shri S. M. Krishna. Both sides reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and discussed recent developments in regional and international issues. FM Al Nahyan reiterated UAE's full support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

Both leaders signed a bilateral MOU on periodic Political Consultations between the two Foreign Offices on bilateral issues, as well as, exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

India and UAE have extensive political, economic and cultural ties that are growing rapidly. During 2009-10, India was UAE's largest trading partner with bilateral trade of US\$ 43 billion.

FM Sheikh Al Nahyan welcomed greater Indian investments in UAE, as well as, the other way around. Both sides agreed to work together to significantly enhance the profile of India-UAE investment relations, particularly in the infrastructure sector. It was also agreed that the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation Meeting will be held in Abu Dhabi later this year.



**UZBEKISTAN****475. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (ERS) on Uzbek President's Visit.****New Delhi, May 17, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. My good friend and colleague Joint Secretary (ERS) Shri Ajay Bisaria and I would like to brief you on the two-day state visit of President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan to India, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. He arrives today evening. I will take you through his programme and the official delegation.

Tomorrow morning there is a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There would be calls on the visiting dignitary by the Vice-President, the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, and the Leader of the Opposition. President Karimov will hold delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister of India when a number of agreements are also likely to be signed. Later in the evening tomorrow he calls on President of India, Rashtrapatiji, who would also be hosting a banquet in his honour.

President Karimov will be accompanied by his spouse Her Excellency Tatyana Karimova, and a number of his cabinet colleagues such as the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Rustam Azimov; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Elyor Ganiev; and the Minister for Economic Affairs, Investments and Trade Her Excellency Galina Saidova; in addition to a number of senior officials.

India's ties with Uzbekistan and for that matter Central Asia go back in history. Cities like Samarkand and Bukhara are indeed household names in India, as are names like Indira and Nehru in Uzbekistan. The silk route which dates back to 100 BC brought several influences from Central Asia to India and also took back Buddhism from India to Central Asia. Thus Buddhism, and later Islam as well as Sufism, has provided the cultural and religious connect between India and Central Asia - and Uzbekistan really lies at the heart of Central Asia - over the centuries.

We have always enjoyed cultural and linguistic affinities with Uzbekistan which have only grown stronger over time. Secular and multiethnic Uzbekistan has tremendous goodwill and affection for India. Uzbeks have always been very interested in Indian languages particularly Hindi as well as Yoga, Indian music, dance, cinema and so on. It is not surprising, therefore, that Hindi is taught presently in six educational institutions in Uzbekistan right from the primary to postgraduate levels. We also have an active Indian Cultural Centre in Tashkent, and a number of Chairs of Indian studies in Uzbek educational institutions.

Uzbek Radio completed 49 years of Hindi broadcasts this year. The TV channels in Uzbekistan have repeatedly shown Ramayana and Mahabharata serials, dubbed of course in Uzbek language.

Such is the foundation on which the two sides have been building an edifice of cooperation and partnership in a steadfast fashion. India and Uzbekistan enjoy close, friendly and cooperative ties which are issue free. These ties have been nurtured by regular high-level exchanges. President Karimov who has been a strong votary of close India-Uzbek relations, will be visiting India the fifth time today evening.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had paid a visit to Uzbekistan in April 2006 which was his first visit to Central Asia, as the Prime Minister of India. Last year in June, External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna visited Tashkent to participate in the SCO Summit when he also called on President Karimov. Earlier, EAM paid a bilateral visit to Uzbekistan in 2009. Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee also visited Tashkent in May 2010 to attend the Asian Development Bank Board of Governors Meet when he met with the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan as well as the First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

I am pleased to note that India and Uzbekistan have a similarity of views on a host of regional and international issues of mutual interest. Inter alia we have a robust dialogue and cooperation in counter-terrorism which poses a grave threat to both our societies. The Joint Working Group on combating international terrorism, which was set up in 2003, has been meeting regularly. The fourth meeting of the JWG was held in February this year in New Delhi.

We have a convergence of views on the situation in Afghanistan and need for stability in Afghanistan. We would in fact like to work together in attaining this objective. We already have a good dialogue on this issue, which is also likely to figure during the summit level discussions between President Karimov and the Prime Minister of India. We also have good defence cooperation and an agreement on defence cooperation was signed in 2005.

Our bilateral trade, which stands at a mere 151 million dollars in 2010, has tremendous potential for growth and both sides are applying themselves to give a boost to our economic and trade relations. Already 59 Indian companies have invested in Uzbekistan including in a four-star hotel which was set up in Tashkent in July 2009.

We do have a mechanism called the Inter-governmental Commission at the level of Secretaries in the Ministry of Commerce which has been meeting regularly to spur mutual bilateral trade and economic ties. The 9th meeting of

the Commission was held earlier this month in Tashkent and was also preparatory to the visit of President Karimov to India.

Uzbekistan is resource-rich and offers a number of areas for deeper engagement between the two countries. Let me take the case of cotton. Uzbekistan produces more than one million tonnes of cotton fibre every year and hence the sector of textiles and cotton fibres is an area in which we see tremendous potential. And recognizing the same, I would like to mention that Spentex Industries Limited, has in fact made an investment of over 88 million dollars in Uzbekistan to modernize and expand domestic capacities to produce cotton yarn and dyed fabrics.

Another sector of great promise is hydrocarbons. You may be aware that Uzbekistan has the tenth largest gas reserves in the world which are estimated at 6.25 trillion cubic metres. They also have some oil.

In addition, Uzbekistan has substantial deposits of gold, silver, copper, uranium, potassium which, combined with gas, is the raw material for fertilizers. Both sides have now identified a broad slate of areas of cooperation which includes sectors like pharmaceuticals. We expect more joint ventures in pharmaceutical sectors to come about shortly - chemicals, textiles, food-processing, leather-processing, strategic metals including rare earth metals. In addition there is the important sector of human resource development, education and IT. I may recall that the Prime Minister during his visit to Tashkent in April 2006 had inaugurated an India-funded IT training centre which we hope to upgrade to a state of the art centre shortly.

We are also planning to set up an entrepreneurship development centre in Tashkent. I am pleased to note that Uzbekistan has been utilizing very effectively some 125 ITEC slots every year for training in areas like IT, banking, textile, human resource development and others.

While connectivity, and especially land connectivity, is an issue which is impacting currently on our trade and economic relations, I may add that we have reasonably good air connectivity with 15 Uzbek Air flights a week between the two sides.

Ladies and gentlemen, we attach considerable significance to the state visit of President Karimov to India which should result in elevating our relationship to a qualitatively high level. A number of agreements are also likely to be signed during the visit.

Thank you. We will be happy to take your questions.

**Question:** Can you elaborate on the agreements that are supposed to be signed?



**Joint Secretary (ERS) (Shri Ajay Bisaria):**

As we speak, there are a number of Uzbek Ministers and senior officials who are here and discussions are ongoing. We expect at the conclusion of the visit to have more than a dozen agreements in place. We had a meeting of the Joint Commission very recently in May and we identified a number of very important sectors. These include pharmaceuticals, IT, oil and gas, and minerals and metals. So, we expect a range of agreements to be concluded in these areas.

**Official Spokesperson:** Would you like to touch upon a couple of agreements which have already been signed?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** Yes, of course. In oil and gas for instance we already have understandings that have been reached between our companies. For instance, our company GAIL has already signed an MoU with a company Uzbekcoal on import of specialized technology on underground coal gasification. This is a specialized technology which Uzbekistan is good at and which is available and which is going to be used by our side in Rajasthan in the case of lignite. This is something on which a commercial contract will be signed in due course but an MoU is already in place. Similarly in the oil sector we have an MoU being talked about between Uzbekneftegaz, the state oil and gas company, and our company ONGC Videsh Limited which would be on exploration of specific blocks in Uzbekistan. A number of other agreements are being talked about.

**Question:** Sir, since you mentioned Afghanistan regarding discussions, can you give an idea what direction you will be talking on? And also will both the countries be reaffirming on the need for having US troops in Afghanistan for a longer term?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** Uzbekistan is in our extended neighbourhood and, therefore, it is also a contiguous neighbour of Afghanistan. Uzbekistan has a lot of interest in the situation in Afghanistan. In a sentence, both India and Uzbekistan are interested in stability being achieved in Afghanistan. We have an ongoing dialogue on these issues. Both of us agree for instance that development is a very important area of activity in Afghanistan and both of us would like to contribute. You are already aware of India's role in the development of Afghanistan. But Uzbekistan is also now for instance supplying electricity to Afghanistan, in fact using transmission lines built by India. So, that is an example of our cooperation in this sector where transmission lines that have been built by India as part of our development projects are being used to supply electricity from Southern Uzbekistan to Kabul. So, we continue to discuss of course the security situation and the situation in terms of international forces. Basically our interest is in discussing this issue and discussing the stability of Afghanistan.

**Question:** On the issue of Taliban integration, what is Uzbek's stand? Also, can you elaborate a bit on how India talks with other Central Asian countries on this issue?

**Official Spokesperson:** On the issue of?

**Question:** Taliban integration and stability in Afghanistan.

**Official Spokesperson:** On the issue of the integration of elements which agree to abjure violence, which agree to abide by the Constitution, which agree to recognize the gains that have accrued to Afghanistan over the last ten years, our views are very well-known. Our Afghan friends have told us that they would like to integrate such elements and we respect their wishes. That is our position. Also during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Afghanistan he has said, and you are aware of that, that we will go by the judgment and preferences of our friends in Afghanistan on how they would like to stabilize their society, how they would like to reconcile or reintegrate different elements. But on a broader issue, my colleague and I have already mentioned that as part of the same neighbourhood, Uzbekistan and we have similar concerns and a similar interest to see a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. And we have been exchanging views on that and we will be happy to do what we can to attain that objective.

**Question:** Uzbekistan is the Chairman of SCO. Would there be talks on SCO? And there were talks between GAIL and Uzbekneftegaz on gas prospecting. Are we going to talk about the northern distribution network and supplies to Afghanistan and our coordination on that?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** On SCO, Uzbekistan is not the current Chair. It was the Chair in 2009-10. The current Chair is in fact Kazakhstan. But we have a very close coordination with Uzbekistan in SCO. As you know, the External Affairs Minister visited Tashkent last year for the SCO Summit, and Uzbekistan has been particularly helpful in pushing India's case in the organization for India to play a larger role in the organization. And we continue to coordinate closely with Uzbekistan in the SCO framework.

The other question you mentioned was on the oil and gas sector, about GAIL. As I mentioned, there are two MoUs being discussed. One has already been signed which was on this underground coal gasification. This is the agreement that GAIL has signed. The other agreement would be between OVL and Uzbekneftegaz. That would be on prospecting both for oil and gas. They have not yet reached a stage of specifics of which particular fields. But we expect and hope that it would lead in that direction.

**Question:** Sir, can we ask a question on another important issue?

**Official Spokesperson:** We are speaking about the important visit of President Karimov. If there is any question on that we will be very happy to answer it.

**Question:** What is the reason for the drop in trade from 2005? It is yet to touch those previous levels.

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** No, there has been no drop. We have been arguing that it has been below potential because in 2005 it was about 60 million dollars and now it is about a 150 million dollars. It is about 124 million dollars of exports from India last year, and a smaller amount of imports from Uzbekistan. Part of the reason as we have been discussing is connectivity. And if you see the composition of the trade, much of the trade from India, 62 per cent, is pharmaceuticals. So, these are goods, textiles, leather, which do not require bulk cargo surface transportation, which could be transported by air, whereas from the Uzbek side goods require transportation in terms of containers and cargo. So, that is a smaller number. That is the issue we are addressing. There is a secular trend of upward movement but we feel that it is well below the potential we can achieve.

**Question:** Could you tell us about our interest in this antiterrorism structure in Tashkent and its linkage with ... (Inaudible)...

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** Certainly. In fact this is a very very interesting body - the RATS which is the Regional Antiterrorism Structure. It is under the aegis of the SCO and is based in Tashkent. India has initiated a dialogue with this body. We invited its Secretary-General to India and he had come to India and we had a robust dialogue on all kinds of issues including those you have mentioned. We have agreed on a structure of exchanging intelligence and information as well as antiterrorism and counterterrorism exercise. So, we plan to engage with this body certainly much more in the future as well as to engage with Uzbekistan bilaterally.

**Question:** The Health Ministry has raised an issue about recognizing the medical degrees from Uzbekistan medical colleges. The Health Ministry officials say that the problem is mainly with the MEA that they are not allowing that kind of recognition. Is there going to be any movement forward on that?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** MEA is not always to blame for these matters. In fact, MEA is working very closely with Health Ministry in evolving an overall policy for recognition of degrees of the former USSR and the current countries of the CIS in this region. In fact we are in dialogue with these countries on exchanging information because the central issue is that the Medical Council of India

requires a certain basic standard in terms of curricula, in terms of approaches, on the basis of which it can recognize these degrees. But many of the students from this region do not have a problem in coming to India and taking the test and passing it and practicing in India. Many of them are practicing. So, it is not correct that there is a problem. There is an ongoing discussion on mutual recognition of degrees and that is proceeding fairly smoothly.

**Official Spokesperson:** I would just like to add here that it is a process and it is not just Uzbekistan but currently there are a number of countries, to which Indian students have been going traditionally for medical studies. Certain countries they have started going in recent years for medical studies. Of course the nodal agency is the Medical Council of India. It is for them to recognize but certainly MEA and our Missions play a role of facilitator, where we help with information being collated, or apprising the government concerned about the Indian standards and requirements. And it is a process which needs to be completed because after all when you are talking of recognition of medical colleges and doctors, you are talking of human lives here. And of course it has to meet the Indian standards.

**Official Spokesperson:** All right. Thank you very much.



**476. Declaration between India and Uzbekistan for a Strategic Partnership.****New Delhi, May 18, 2011.**

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, His Excellency Islam Abduganievich Karimov, President of Republic of Uzbekistan is on a State visit to India. Today, he held talks with PM, both in the restricted and delegation level formats. The leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and international issues. They noted and welcomed a strong similarity of outlook on bilateral, as well as, as a host of regional and global issues.

2. Both leaders agreed to elevate the bilateral relationship to a long term and strategic partnership based on equality and mutual understanding. The partnership envisages active cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas including political, counter-terrorism, economic, education, health, human resource development, energy, science and technology, tourism and culture.

3. Prime Minister and President Karimov condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Both countries have been holding consultations on the issue, under the aegis of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Working Group on combating international terrorism, which they agreed to continue.

4. The leaders had a detailed discussion on the continuing unstable situation in Afghanistan and underlined the importance of early establishment of peace and stability in the country. Prime Minister shared his perspectives on Afghanistan, based on his recent visit to Kabul.

5. Uzbekistan reaffirmed support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council. The two sides also agreed to strengthen their cooperation within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation organisation.

6. More than thirty bilateral agreements were concluded, at the Government level and between business entities, in areas such as Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Standardization, Small and Medium Enterprises, Coal gasification, Oil & Gas, Science & Technology, Textiles, Banking and Tourism. Salient details are given in the fact sheet issued separately.

7. EAM Shri S M Krishna called on President Karimov. Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, will also be calling on the visiting dignitary. In the evening, the Uzbek President will hold talks with President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, who will also host a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.



**477. Joint Statement issued on Strategic Partnership between India and Uzbekistan during the visit of Uzbek President Islam Abduganievich Karimov.**

**New Delhi, May 18, 2011.**

1. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, His Excellency Islam Abduganievich Karimov, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan paid a State visit to India on 17-18 May 2011. During the State visit, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan held talks with Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India and with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Mr. Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India, Mr. S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister and Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha called on President Islam A. Karimov.
2. The sides noted that the visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to India was a welcome continuation of the tradition of regular exchange of high level visits between India and Uzbekistan and was testimony to the close historical and deep cultural ties between the two countries. The sides noted with satisfaction that the discussions took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.
3. The sides reviewed the current status of the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and international issues. They noted the similarity of their positions on bilateral, regional and global issues. The sides agreed that the Foreign Ministries of both countries would continue to hold regular consultations, including exchange of visits by their Ministers.
4. The sides noted with satisfaction that their relations serve their long term national interest and at the same time strengthen bilateral cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.
5. The sides noted that India and Uzbekistan have stakes in mutual progress and prosperity, and expressed their determination to imbue greater dynamism to the relationship through all-round cooperation and engagement. Both leaders declared that bilateral relations had been elevated to the level of a long term and strategic partnership based on equality and mutual understanding. This strategic partnership would encompass active cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas including political, economic, counter-terrorism, education, health, human resource development, science and technology, tourism and culture.

6. The sides noted with satisfaction the conclusion of bilateral documents during the visit on cooperation in a range of areas including Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Standardization, Small and Medium Enterprises, Coal gasification, Oil & Gas, Science & Technology, Textiles and Banking.

7. The sides agreed that the current level of bilateral trade was below the existing potential and underlined the need for increasing the volume of mutual trade and expanding its range. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the 9th session of the India-Uzbek Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation held on May 4-5, 2011 in Tashkent, and declared the necessity of enhancing bilateral trade, economic and investment cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

8. The sides noted opportunities for further significant growth of volumes and diversification of the basket of mutual trade and agreed that the organization of trade fairs in the territories of the two states shall also contribute to the growth of mutual trade. They called upon their respective business communities to avail opportunities for mutually beneficial investments for implementation of major joint projects in promising sectors such as information technology and telecommunications ; pharmaceuticals and biotechnology; production of finished textile, silk and leather goods ; exploration and mining of hydrocarbons; production of household chemicals and plant protection chemicals ; and tourism.

9. The sides noted the importance of strengthening the financial infrastructure for promoting trade and investment. They welcomed in this context the MoU between the EXIM Bank of India and the National Bank of Uzbekistan, aimed at streamlining the flow of credit. They also welcomed the initialling of the Protocol amending the bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement which would help promote investment and cross-border movement of goods, services and technology between the two countries.

10. The Uzbek side welcomed the desire of Indian companies to expand investment cooperation in sectors with advanced industrial potential corresponding to international standards. The Uzbek side informed the Indian side of opportunities for investment in joint projects of mutual interest, in the Free Industrial-Economic Zone "Navoi", where unprecedented favourable conditions for foreign investors had been created. Both sides also noted the capacities of the transcontinental intermodal hub at Navoi airport as a transshipment transit point, which provided favourable terms of transportation of cargo to the countries of Europe, CIS, the Middle East and other regions. More than 40 flights in a week originated from this international hub to key transit centers of the world, including such industrial centers of India as Delhi and Mumbai.

11. The sides highlighted the absence of surface transport connectivity as one of the reasons for the low level of trade between the two countries. To resolve these connectivity problems, the sides discussed implementation of such projects as the Trans-Afghan corridor and the project to establish the Central Asia-Persian Gulf corridor. The implementation of these projects may considerably cut down the distance and costs for transportation of goods between Uzbekistan and India, as well as provide Afghanistan the opportunity to integrate into the regional system of transport connectivity. The sides agreed to continue their work in terms of looking for various options for surface connectivity between India and Uzbekistan.

12. The sides noted the prospects of scientific and technical cooperation between the scientific centers of the two countries on organization of joint researches in the spheres of biotechnology, material science, solar power, laser technologies, and automation of production process.

13. The sides noted the potential of information technology for the improvement of people's lives. The Uzbek side welcomed activities of the Jawaharlal Nehru Uzbek-Indian Centre for Information Technology in Tashkent and noted that the sides had enormous potential to promote cooperation in this sphere.

14. The sides agreed to intensify contacts between educational institutions of both countries and to increase cooperation in human resources development.

15. The sides stressed the need to further intensify cultural cooperation, which would contribute to strengthening ties between their peoples.

16. The sides resolutely condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and reaffirmed that international terrorism was a threat to global peace and security. It was noted with satisfaction that the fourth meeting of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Working Group on combating international terrorism (February 2011, New Delhi) discussed several issues of security and counter-terrorism including exchange of information, data, financing of terrorism and related matters. They emphasized the need for adoption of the "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism" in the near future. The sides expressed the intention in this context to continue consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and to coordinate their efforts within the framework of the JWG on Combating International Terrorism.

17. The sides discussed the continuing unstable situation in Afghanistan and the challenges emanating from the region, including drug trafficking, and reaffirmed the importance of early establishment of peace and stability in the country.



18. The sides expressed their strong commitment to multilateralism, with the United Nations playing a central role in dealing with global challenges and threats. They reaffirmed their commitment to the reform of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, through its expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories, with increased representation of developing countries in both, in order to improve its efficiency, representativeness, and legitimacy, and for it to better meet the contemporary challenges faced by the international community. The Uzbek side reiterated its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council.

19. The Sides underscored the importance of further strengthening mutual cooperation in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, taking into account the active participation of the sides in the activity of this Organization.

20. India welcomed the entry into force of the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia and was prepared to extend the necessary security assurances.

21. H.E. Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, expressed gratitude to the Indian leadership and to the peoples of India for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and to the Uzbekistan delegation during his State visit to the Republic of India. He invited Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of the Republic of India, to visit the Republic of Uzbekistan. The President of Uzbekistan also invited Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, to visit Uzbekistan. The invitations were accepted with pleasure.



## 478. Agreements signed during the State Visit of the President of Uzbekistan.

New Delhi, May 18, 2011.

### SI. Agreements

### Scope of Agreement /MoU

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|---|--|
| 1. Memorandum of Cooperation on Program Development of Joint Scientific and Applied Research in Priority Fields between the Department of Science & Technology, Government of the Republic of India and the Committee for Coordination of S&T Development under the Cabinet of Ministers, Republic of Uzbekistan for the period 2012-2020 | The Memorandum aims to enhance cooperation in the field of science and technology through joint projects, joint workshops, exploratory visits and research fellowships. Areas identified include (i) solar & bio-energy, (ii) pharmaceuticals, (iii) nuclear energy, (iv) nanotechnology, (v) space science, (v) seismology etc. and shall be funded jointly. Under the Memorandum, India will also offer up to 10 fellowships to young Uzbek scholars every year for 6 months in Indian R&D institutions.   |
| 2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology) of the Republic of India and the Communications and Information Agency of Uzbekistan for Cooperation in the field of Information Technology   | IT is a critical area of collaboration between India and Uzbekistan. The MoU aims to build a partnership in the IT sector through facilitating growth of bilateral investments, joint initiatives and technology development. The broad areas of cooperation are : industry-to-industry cooperation, information exchange and skill development. The implementation of the MoU is to be overseen by the India-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information Technology. The JWG is to hold regular consultations and identify future plans and activities. The IPR's arising out of the joint projects conducted under this MoU shall be held jointly by both sides. |
| 3. Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Textiles, Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs, Investments and Trade for Cooperation in the Textile Sector  | Uzbekistan is rich in cotton with a production of over one million tonnes between the per annum. It has plans to significantly enhance cotton processing capacity. The MoU aims at developing such capacity as also developing the textiles and clothing industry in both countries. It includes cooperation in cotton, sericulture and fashion industries. The vehicles of joint development proposed include formation of joint trade missions, investment cooperation, assistance in research and development, participation in each other's exhibitions and formation of a JWG.  |

### Other Agreements involving government entities concluded on the margins of the visit

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| 4. Joint Statement on Strategic partnership between the Republic of India and the Republic of Uzbekistan | The joint statement declares a strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan, details the outcomes of the State Visit and outlines a vision for future cooperation. (It will be released on the MEA website). |
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5. Mutual Cooperation Agreement between National Small Industries Cooperation India and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan  
 Small and Medium enterprise collaboration is seen as a key area to bolster economic cooperation. The agreement aims to facilitate contacts between small enterprises from the two countries. Areas of cooperation include (i) carrying out surveys for identifying thrust areas; (ii) arranging development programmes; (iii) facilitating technology transfer from India to Uzbekistan in specific industrial sectors; and (iv) organizing business missions. A key component of the agreement is to set up "Incubator Centres" in Uzbekistan, where Uzbek entrepreneurs shall be imparted training.
6. Memorandum of Understanding between Open Joint-Stock Company Uzbeko'mir (Uzbekcoal) and GAIL  
 Uzbekistan has developed advanced technologies in coal gasification. The MoU envisages collaboration in underground coal gasification in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The MoU also envisages establishment of a Joint Working Group, and organising visit of specialists of Uzbekistan to India.  
  
 The MoU also forms the basis for concluding mutually beneficial agreements in prospective projects in the sphere of underground coal gasification in the future.
7. Memorandum of Understanding between Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan on Establishment of an India-Uzbekistan Entrepreneurship Development Centre  
 Development of entrepreneurs helps make job creators rather than job seekers in economies. The MoU aims to establish an Uzbekistan-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Tashkent (UIEDC) with the objective of nurturing entrepreneurial talent in Uzbekistan.
8. Agreement on Establishment of Joint Business Council between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan  
 The agreement provides for the establishment of a Joint Business Council as a regular and recognized forum for discussion on promotion of economic activities between businessmen and industrialists of the two countries.
9. Memorandum of Understanding between ONGC Videsh Limited and Uzbekneftegaz on Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector  
 Uzbekistan has vast oil and gas reserves estimated at 594 million barrels and 6.25 trillion cubic meters respectively. The MOU envisages collaboration in oil & gas exploration and production activities; joint participation in oil producing assets in Uzbekistan and in third countries; cooperation in basic and applied research and development in the hydrocarbon sector; and capacity building for professionals and technicians working in the hydrocarbon sector. The activities indicated in the MoU would be coordinated by a Joint Working Group.
10. Action plan of activities under the protocol between India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and the/Uzbek national  
 A steady rise in Uzbek tourists to India has not been matched by a similar rise in Indian tourists going to Uzbekistan. The Action Plan

- Company 'Uzbektourism' between the 'Uzbektourism' of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the /Uzbek national company India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) of the Republic of India under the Protocol of Intention signed in 2005 between both parties aims at promotion of tourism through establishing country offices in each other's countries, and undertaking joint promotional activities.
11. Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification of Uzbekistan Standardization is an instrument of promoting bilateral economic exchanges. The MoU aims to encourage and promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of standardization; certification; exchange of technical information and training of qualified personnel on a reciprocal basis.
12. Agreement for Cooperation between Export Import Bank of India and National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Credit plays a critical role in promoting trade and investment. The MoU envisages exchange of information in the areas of trade and financing of projects, especially in the fields of road-building, house construction and oil & gas sector, which are backed by State guarantees. The two sides will also pool their resources for collaborative research and identification of Project in Uzbekistan.
13. Memorandum of Understanding between Jamia Millia Islamia University and Al-Biruni Institute of Oriental Studies of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan India and Uzbekistan have had a strong tradition of academic research in our common civilizational heritage. Under the MoU, the two academic institutions will organise joint seminars, exchange scholars and faculty, share information and articles and undertake collaborative research & joint projects.
14. Protocol on introducing amendments and addenda into the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of India on avoidance of double taxation and preventing evasion from taxation of Income and capital signed on July 29, 1993 Taxation agreements help create the financial infrastructure to promote trade and investment. The existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) was signed between India and Uzbekistan on 29 July 1993. The proposed protocol amends the article on exchange of information on India Uzbekistan DTAA to meet the internationally accepted standards and other articles for rationalizing the withholding of tax rates in line with our treaty negotiations with other countries to promote investment and cross-border movement of goods, services and technology.

#### Business Contracts Telecom & IT

15. Memorandum of Understanding between "Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd." and national holding company "Uzbekneftegaz" for production of optic cables Investment project

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| 16. Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation for production of smart-phone, tablet computers and Internet accessories between "Uzbek telecom" and Indian company "Olive telecommunication Ltd."                                     | Investment project                        |
| 17. Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the sphere of development and production of alternative means of electricity equipments (solar hybrid technology) between "Uzbektelecom" and Indian company "Shyamapair India Ltd." | Investment project                        |
| 18. Memorandum of Cooperation for development and production of digital TV receivers between "Telex Electornix" and Indian company "Supersoft System" Pharmaceuticals  | Investment project                        |
| 19. Framework agreement on realization of Investment project for production of substances and medical ingredients between "Uzpharmsanoat" and Indian company "Sharon Biomedicine".   | Investment project                        |
| 20. Memorandum of Cooperation for establishment of joint venture for production of hormonal medicines between "Uzpharmsanoat" and Indian company "Sankyo"  | Joint Venture                             |
| 21. Framework agreement on realization of Investment project on production of Anti-tuberculosis and hormonal medicines between "Uzpharmsanoat" and Indian company "Mikro Baks".  | Joint venture for production of medicines |
| 22. Memorandum of Cooperation on establishment of a Joint Venture for production of oncological (cancer) and Anti Virus medicines between "Uzpharmsanoat" and the Indian company "Medicamen Biotex"                                    | Joint venture                             |
| 23. Memorandum of Cooperation for establishment of joint venture for medicines and drugs (antibiotics, anti-inflammatory etc.) between "Uzpharmsanoat" and "VMG Pharmaceuticals" Hydrocarbons  | Joint Venture                             |
| 24. Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in Oil & Gas sector (modernization, gas transport system, electronic reading system) between "Uzbekneftegaz" and "ESSAR Group" Textiles & leather                                      | Investment project                        |
| 25. Agreement on implementing investment project for organizing production of 3000 tons of yarn in Khorezm region of Uzbekistan between "Uzbekengilsanoat" and Indian company "Inovatis"   | Investment project                        |
| 26. Memorandum for realization of Investment project for establishment of enterprise for production of one million meter silk fabric in Namangan region of Uzbekistan between "Uzbekengilsanoat" and Indian company "Vinegroi"         | Investment project                        |

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| 27. Memorandum for realization of investment project for production of 400,000 ready-made garments and 2 million meter fabric in Tashkent region between "Uzbekengilsanoat" and "Ginni International"  | Investment project |
| 28. Memorandum for establishment of Enterprise for production of 3000 pieces of leather material and leather readymade garments and accessories in Andijan region of Uzbekistan between "Uzbekcharmpoiabzali" and Indian company "Fashion Factory International" | Investment project |
| 29. Memorandum of Cooperation for establishment of Textile production facility for processing of 4000 tonnes cotton fibre in Samarkand region of Uzbekistan between "Uzbekengilsanoat" and Indian company "Cosmos International"                                 | Investment project |
| 30. Memorandum for establishment of service centre for repair and service of dyeing and finishing equipment in Tashkent between "Uzbekengilsanoat" and Indian company "Harish Group" Chemicals & fertilizers   | Investment project |
| 31. Joint Venture for production of chemical material for protection of plants at the premises of Novoi Electrochemical factory between "Uzkhimesanoat" and Indian company "Coromondel".   | Joint Venture      |
| 32. Modernisation and reconstruction of facility for production of Ammonia at Fergana-azot between "Uzkhimesanoat" and Indian company "Coromondel"   | Investment project |
| 33. Agreement for cooperation on establishment of joint venture for 25,000 ton shampoo, synthetic detergents, toothpaste and cleaning material between "Uzkhimesanoat" and Indian company "Cosmos International"   | Joint Venture      |
| 34. Memorandum of Cooperation for supply of 50,000 tonnes of Urea and 10,000 ton potassium chloride to India between 2011-2015 between "Markazsanoat Export" and Indian company "Birla Holding"  | Supply Agreement   |

**New Delhi  
May 18, 2011**



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - VII**

**AFRICA**

**479. Address by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the 38th World Marketing Congress on "Business Opportunities and Marketing Strategies for Eastern Africa: A Fresh Look".**

**New Delhi, February 10, 2011.**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am very happy that the Indian Institute of Marketing & Management, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, is organizing this World Marketing Congress on "Business Opportunities and Marketing Strategies for Eastern Africa: A Fresh Look", focusing on six countries in East Africa. This Congress comes at a time when the Government of India's own efforts to enhance its engagement with African countries to a higher threshold is going on and our focus will be fully on Africa in 2011.

2. I was in Addis Ababa recently to attend the meeting of the Executive Council of the African Union. I fully realized how important our engagement with Africa is and the mutual trust and cordiality which exists.

3. India's ties with Africa are historic. While our trade links date back to hundreds of years, it was our struggle against colonialism and imperialism and our shared inspiration and work to resist and defeat them, that forged strong and enduring bonds.

4. In the decades after we attained independence, we have been working together to consolidate our national gains and creating a prosperous future for our peoples. We are still young nations though our civilizations are very old. Our commitment to keep our engagement with African countries at the highest level continues undiminished. East Africa is just across the Indian Ocean and has been a neighbour to India, united by the winds that blow over the sea that link us together.

5. Our partnership is based on the fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect, and understanding between our peoples for our mutual benefit. It is also be guided by the principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of state and commitment to deepen the process of African integration. While India and Africa have come a long way, we both face daunting challenges of poverty, hunger and disease. However, we have no doubt that by working together India and Africa can set an example of fruitful cooperation in the developing world.

6. The India Africa Forum Summit of 2008 was the result of this desire. During that Summit, we decided upon a new path for our cooperation aimed at



achieving sustainable development. We are now working on holding the next India Africa Forum Summit 2011 in Africa this year. That will impart greater momentum to our multi-tiered cooperation.

7. It is noteworthy that some of the pan-African Institutions being established by India under the IAFS-2008 decisions are located in East African countries. Uganda is hosting the India-Africa Institute of Foreign Trade; Burundi is hosting the India-Africa Institute for Educational Planning & Administration; Kenya is hosting one of the five Human Settlement Centres; a Vocational Training Centre each will be set up in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi. Many of your countries have sent nominees for participation in the agricultural scholarships as well as CV Raman Science & Technology scholarships. The ITEC programme is also well received in your countries. The Pan African e-Network Project for cooperation in the field of tele-education and tele-medicine is another milestone in our engagement. Today we are in a transformational phase as we convert our benefits of political goodwill into a modern relationship. In this, trade and economic engagement is very important.

8. Our trade with Africa has been increasing in quantity and widening in variety. Two-way trade which was around \$5.5 billion dollars in 2001-02 has grown almost five-fold in less than a decade. Even so, the true potential is much greater and the spread and composition of the trade has to be substantially diversified. In order to assist the Least Developed Countries in Africa to increase their exports to India, Prime Minister had announced the "Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme" during the IAFS 2008. We are sure this will certainly give the necessary boost to exports to India from these countries. I encourage those eligible countries from East Africa who have not yet acceded to this important scheme to do so soon to enhance their exports to India.

9. East Africa has always been at the forefront of India's economic engagement with Africa and for attracting Indian investment. I am happy that this is expanding to a large number of countries in your region.

10. Indian companies have been investing in a major way in many African countries and their presence is increasing. Major Indian companies in both public sector as well as private sector are executing infrastructure and other projects which are flagship programmes. Some of these projects are funded by Government of India through credit lines in soft terms. Indian companies in the sectors of telecommunication, IT, railways, transport, agriculture etc. have made a great impact with their presence in many African countries.

11. In November 2010, we organized the first-ever meeting of the Secretaries General of eight Regional Economic Committees of Africa. I am happy that East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community

(SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), of which some of you are members, participated. Our engagement with these Regional Economic Communities is yet another important step in our partnership with Africa. This ensures three levels of interaction - at the bilateral, regional and pan-African level - and is unique to India's relations with Africa.

12. We have been encouraging our private sector to look at the immense possibilities that exists in African countries, particularly in East Africa, for trade and investment. I understand that several exploratory initiatives have been made by new investors and fruitful partnerships are developing. The main speakers in this Congress will, no doubt, speak about the potential areas for cooperation which the Indian private sector can take advantage of. I wish the Congress a great success and am confident that this effort will contribute highly to the further enhancement of business relations between India and the target countries of East Africa.



**480. Remarks of External Affairs Minister to a group of African journalists on a visit to India on the occasion of the 7th Confederation of Indian Industry - EXIM Bank Conclave.**

**New Delhi, March 29, 2011.**

Dear friends from Africa,

At the outset, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you to India and the Ministry of External Affairs. You represent ten of our closest friends in Africa and we are delighted to have you in India, at this historical phase in our relationship with your countries and continent.

I am happy that your visit to India takes place at the time of the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership. I was privileged to host and interact with Hon'ble Prime Ministers of Mozambique and Togo and Ministers from about twenty African nations the day before yesterday. I am sure that the Conclave will prove to be of value for you all in learning more about India-Africa partnership.

Africa figures prominently on the foreign policy radar of India. I am happy to note that our relations have blossomed into a multi-faceted association where each one of us contributes significantly.

Our ties with Africa go back centuries and have been nourished by close people-to-people engagement. We have been partners in struggle against colonialism. In the 21st century, we have moved to a new paradigm- one in which we seek to cooperate with each other to build a better life for our peoples. This partnership is anchored in fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit and has derived impetus from the resurgence of Africa and India's sustained economic growth. India's partnership with Africa has been consultative and responsive. We have created a three-tier engagement with Africa: at pan-African, regional and bilateral levels. We have been guided by the wishes and priorities of our African friends in working together in institutional capacity building, human resource development, science and technological cooperation, enhancing agricultural productivity and food security, development of infrastructure, and in other areas.

At the First India Africa Forum Summit, held in April 2008, a series of new initiatives were announced. These include the establishment of four Pan-African institutions: India Africa Institutes on Foreign Trade, Diamond, Educational Planning and Administration, and Information Technology. Besides, ten vocational training centres, 5 human settlement institutes and 2 coal institutions are being set up under our partnership with Africa. The lead in each and every case, on deciding the location of the institution, was taken by the African Union, in consultation with beneficiary countries.

The number of long-term scholarships for African students in undergraduate, post-graduate and higher learning courses has been doubled.

You all would be familiar with the Pan-African e-network project for 53 countries in Africa. It has been implemented so far in 43 of the 47 countries with which agreements have been concluded, and is proving effective in making available tele-medicine and tele-education facilities.

It was decided to double the amount of Lines of Credit to \$ 5.4 billion over five years, to give an impetus to infrastructure development including railways, IT, power generation, physical connectivity, crop diversification and capacity building in agriculture.

The second India-Africa Forum Summit is to take place in May this year. This time, as desired by our African partners, the Summit is being held in Africa at the seat the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa. The agreed theme for the Summit - Enhanced Partnership-Shared Vision - manifests our common desire to further invigorate India-Africa partnership. The preparations for the Summit are in an advanced stage. I am highly optimistic about the outcome of this Summit towards fulfilling our shared objectives.

I too plan to build on my very successful visit to Seychelles, Mauritius and Mozambique last year and visit a few more countries in your beautiful continent. There are other heartening dimensions of India-Africa relationship. In recent years, there has been a surge in Indian investment in Africa, and growth in our trade. We welcome increase in African exports to India. The Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme announced by India for the Least Developed Countries should contribute towards this objective and out of 33 LDCs in Africa 19 have already acceded to this scheme. Indian investment in Africa would also, we expect, play a role in this regard.

In our multilateral engagements as well, India, as a developing nation, is keenly conscious of the need to address a myriad of developmental and other challenges, including those facing our African brethren. Last month we hosted a Ministerial Conference of 48 Least Developed Countries. On a number of challenges confronting us, including those pertaining to trade, environment, global economic situation and reforms and restructuring the global institutions, India and Africa have common objectives, and that is, to ensure that the voice and aspirations of the developing world are given due attention.

Media, in both, countries play, and have to play, a pivotal role in creating better awareness of the openings and possibilities. That is why we are facilitating the visit of three groups of Indian journalists to Africa over the next six weeks. We are similarly pleased to welcome you to India. We would also like to provide more training slots for African media in some of the leading institutions in India.

I understand that during your week-long stay in India, you have visited Agra and will visit Mumbai, apart from having several engagements in New Delhi. Your programme would take you through a number of aspects and possibilities in our relations - from infrastructure to capacity building, from health to information technology, from finance to culture, telecommunication to environment - to name a few. These interactions, I hope, will give you not only a glimpse of the potential, prospects and possibilities for an abiding India-Africa partnership, but also of the special warmth India and her people have for their brothers and sisters from Africa.

I wish you a pleasant and fruitful stay in India and would be happy to hear your comments and take your questions. Thank you.



**481. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry to Cape Town to participate in the 21st meeting of the World Economic Forum on the theme "From Vision to Action, Africa's Next Chapter.**

**Cape Town, May 6, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, led a high-level Indian business delegation to participate in the 21st Meeting of the World Economic Forum on Africa under the theme "From Vision to Action, Africa's Next Chapter" held in Cape Town, South Africa from 4-6 May 2011. During the Forum meeting, Indian Minister participated in two key sessions on climate change and South-South cooperation along with President Jacob Zuma. Shri Sharma while participating in a TV debate with the South African Foreign Minister, Ms Maite E. Nkoana-Mashabane deliberated on building and deepening South-South relations, which addressed the issues of trade and investment, skills, knowledge and technology transfer, alternative development models and BRICSA. The session dealt with the main challenges and opportunities behind deeper South-South interaction and collaboration; economic and political implications of BRICSA for South Africa; and ways to accelerate the South-South trade and investment ties. Shri Sharma during the debate informed that exports from developing countries now constitute 37% of global trade, of which about half relates to south-south trade. He later emphasised the need for deeper South-South interaction and collaboration which will help in having commonality of approaches on the major issues of international importance including climate change, UN reforms, reform of the international financial system, dealing with the global financial crisis, WTO etc.

Minister Sharma took this opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with key South African Ministers, including his counterpart, Mr. Rob Davies, Defence Minister, Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu, Foreign Minister Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and discussed matters of common interest. During the visit, he also called on President Zuma and the Speaker of the National Assembly Max Sisulu. Shri Sharma while highlighting on the India's effort to strengthen mutual cooperation stated that, "Our Ministerial-level participation in the Forum underlined India's long-standing commitment to partner and share best practices with African countries in their socio-economic development, human resource development and capacity-building. The institutional mechanism of the India-Africa Forum Summit meetings has enabled us to further develop mutually beneficial partnerships aimed at the overall progress of the continent".

More than 900 participants from 60 countries, including several African Heads of state and government, Cabinet Ministers, Heads of International Organizations and Captains of Industry attended this high profile event which provided a platform for interaction among key stakeholders on how to advance Africa's socio-economic development. The underlying theme for the meeting focused on how African countries, communities and companies could move the continent forward in view of the unfolding global transformation.



**482. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Second India-Japan Dialogue on Africa**

**New Delhi, June 16, 2011.**

The Second India-Japan Dialogue on Africa was held in New Delhi during 15-16 June 2011. The Japanese delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Sumio Kusaka, Director General for African Affairs in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Kusaka is also Personal Representative of the Japanese Prime Minister, for Africa. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Gurjit Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

The two sides held wide ranging discussions regarding their respective political and economic engagements with Africa; the current security & political situation in various parts of Africa; and issues emanating from Africa with regional and global bearing. The delegations extensively shared their views and experiences with regard to the India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). The two sides also discussed the possibility of devising coordinated efforts directed towards Africa's socio-economic development.

The Japanese delegation had fruitful exchanges on trade and commerce related issues with the CII and also participated in a Round Table Academic Exchange on Africa organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

The India-Japan Dialogue on Africa is now an institutionalized event held biannually. The inaugural dialogue was held in Tokyo in October 2010 and the next round is scheduled to take place in Tokyo.



**483. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on providing humanitarian assistance to countries in the Horn of Africa.**

**New Delhi, September 14, 201**

India will provide humanitarian assistance of US\$ 8 million to the countries afflicted with severe famine and drought in the Horn of Africa i.e. Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti. The assistance will be provided through the World Food Programme.

India has also contributed US \$ 1.5 million to the AU Trust Fund on Somalia and US \$ 0.5 million to the UN Trust Fund. This is part of the assistance announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister for augmenting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) at the India-Africa Forum Summit-II in Addis Ababa, in May this year.

India would be cooperating with Somalia in capacity building in areas such as fisheries, IT and agriculture. India is also considering extending technical assistance to Somalia in developing a counter piracy policy and strategy. The issue of Piracy is of considerable concern for India and has been taken up with the Somali side.

India is firmly committed to the progress and development of Africa. Our economic package of US\$ 5.7 billion for the African countries, over the next three years, is demonstrative of our time tested ties and commitment.



**484. Statement by Minister of State Ms. Preneet Kaur at the UN General Assembly on New Partnership for Africa's Development.**

**New York, October 11, 2011.**

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to address today's Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the promotion of peace and development in Africa, including in its efforts to fight malaria.

In the immortal words of India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Africa is our "sister continent". India's links with Africa are civilizational. They are anchored in centuries of trade across the Indian Ocean; in the shared struggle against the yoke of colonialism; in our endeavour of post-colonial nation-building, and in our common quest to unshackle our people from the bondage of poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and apartheid.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to this great continent for being the political birthplace of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who first tested his central precepts of non-violence and peaceful resistance in South Africa.

Mr. President,

Ten years after the adoption of NEPAD, it is befitting to recognize the noteworthy progress made so far in pursuing sectoral priorities in agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, science, information technology, and environment. Nevertheless, this decadal milestone also offers an opportunity for sober reflection on the unfinished tasks ahead in fulfilling the vision of socio-economic growth and sustainable development that was envisaged when this framework was first conceived.

Particularly relevant to this discussion is the pivotal contribution of international cooperation in Africa's development, especially in its efforts to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and in surmounting the difficult challenges confronting post-conflict and transitional societies in Africa.

As rightly emphasized by the Secretary-General in his Report, the international community needs to step up its efforts and bridge the gap between promise and delivery. The shortfall of 18 billion US dollars in meeting ODA commitments to Africa is a cause of concern. In these times of political uncertainty and fragile transitions in many African countries, it is more incumbent than ever for the continent's development partners to stay the course and help African countries achieve their developmental goals.



Mr. President,

On India's part, we have together with our African partners transformed our age old and special engagement into an enduring and multi-dimensional relationship. After careful nurturing over successive years, today our partnership with Africa is aligned with the priorities integral to the developmental goals of Africa and is built on the foundations of mutual equality and common benefit.

Sectoral areas of cooperation that have been accorded high priority include infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture, health, food security and technology cooperation.

Earlier this year, we reaffirmed our abiding commitment to working with our African partners at the second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. At the Summit, India announced fresh lines of credit worth five billion US dollars over the next three years for Africa and an additional 700 million US dollars grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology, and building new institutions and training programmes, in consultation with the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and our African partners.

In keeping with NEPAD's emphasis on infrastructure development, we have also decided to support the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway line at 300 million US dollars. We are also discussing with the African Union the augmentation of capacities for the development of regional structure in railways.

Building on the success of the Pan African E-network project that shares with all African countries our expertise in the fields of healthcare and education through satellite, fiber optics and wireless links, we are looking at setting up an India-Africa Virtual University. The proposed University will set aside 10,000 new scholarships for African students.

We are further going to significantly raise the number of African beneficiaries of our scholarships and training slots, including under our flagship technical and economic assistance initiative- the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). We have committed ourselves to offering more than 22,000 scholarships to African students over the next three years.

With a view to encouraging trade and investment flows, there is also a proposal to establish an India-Africa Business Council. India is already unilaterally making available duty free and quota free market access for goods from 34 Least Developed Countries in Africa. This covers 94% of India's total tariff lines and provides preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5% of global exports of all LDCs.

India's private sector has played an increasingly important part in recent years in supporting trade and investment flows. Indian companies have made large investments in Africa in industry, agriculture, services, human resource development and infrastructure. The Indian conglomerate Tata has emerged as the second largest investor in Sub-Saharan Africa. New initiatives to establish an India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, an India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster, an India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy, an India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, and an India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development are on the anvil.

Mr. President,

India has also contributed actively in efforts to maintain peace and security on the African continent through our six decade long involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts. Our most substantial presence remains in Africa, including in the latest peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

Further, India will contribute 2 million US dollars for the African Union Mission in Somalia in line with our consistent support to the development of African capacities in the maintenance of peace and security. We have consistently held the position that the international community must further encourage regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa to play a more important role both in peacekeeping and peacebuilding issues within Africa.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, I would like to speak to the global anti-malaria campaign, particularly in Africa, dealt with in the WHO Report transmitted by the Secretary-General. The Report emphasizes the need to intensify efforts to reach the recently revised and more ambitious targets by 2015.

The analysis presented in the Report draws on empirical evidence to suggest a strong link between injection of significant funding and rise in the number of lives saved as a result of anti-malarial efforts. The fact that funding has stagnated in the past two years is therefore particularly worrisome. We would urge all donors to step up efforts at this critical juncture.

India's own cooperation agenda with Africa includes capacity building programmes for medical and health specialists to tackle pandemics like malaria, filarial polio, HIV and TB. India's private sector has been investing in establishing pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in African countries. We are willing to do more.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, India's vision of the 21st century sees a great and dynamic role for Africa as an emerging growth pole of the world. We will offer our fullest cooperation to translate this vision into reality. We will take our partnership from pillar to pillar founded on mutual solidarity and kinship to harness the great potential of the more than 2.1 billion Indians and Africans.

I thank you, Mr. President.



**485. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Second meeting of the India – African Regional Economic Communities (REC).**

**New Delhi, November 9, 2011.**

In order to further enhance institutional engagement between India and Africa, the second meeting between India and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) was held in New Delhi during 8-9 November 2011. The first meeting was held in New Delhi in November 2010.

The meeting was attended by the Secretaries General of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) the Executive Secretary of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and representative from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) along with the senior officials from their delegations.

Africa has a number of Regional Communities and eight of them are recognised by the African Union. These include the above and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). These eight RECs are an integral part of the India Africa Forum Summit structure based on a decision of the African Union Summit taken at Banjul in July 2006. The countries that Chair these eight RECs were invited to the first and second India Africa Forum Summit in April 2008 and May 2011 respectively.

India's multi-layered cooperation with Africa works through the traditional bilateral engagement, with the rapidly involving engagement at the continental

level through the African Union and at the regional level through the RECs. The primary objective of this Meeting was to engage all the RECs together in order to discuss the implementation of various decisions taken under the framework of India Africa Forum Summit.

The RECs were welcomed by Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, on 8 November 2011, who expressed that the RECs were an important element of the India Africa partnership structure and India looked forward to working with them to implement the decisions of the IAFS. The RECs expressed their deep appreciation for the Government of India's initiative in inviting them as integral partners of India in Africa.

The representatives of the RECs met with several Departments/Ministries/Agencies of the Government of India engaged in implementing jointly agreed programme and projects. These include: Ministry of Textiles; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; National Small Industries Corporation; Indian Institute of Foreign Trade et al. The delegation also received presentations from the Department of Agricultural Research and Education on setting up of three regional institutions dealing with capacity building in the field of Agriculture viz., Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Farm Science Centres and Agricultural Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centres; from National Institute For Training of Highway Engineers on Material Testing Laboratories for Highways; and from The Energy and Resources Institute and the Barefoot College on sustainable energy technologies. A special session were organised by the CII to provide a private sector interaction for the delegation from the RECs. A cross-section of Indian investors and entrepreneurs met with the delegates to discuss business opportunities in different regions of Africa. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) organized a special session to provide an update on the Pan-African e-Network Project.

The delegations from the RECs visited Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa and also participated in a meeting with Africanists organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

Africa's Regional Economic Communities have shown concrete movement towards harmonisation of standards and rules and towards creation of common markets. This has an important bearing on the development of India's trade and investment with African countries. They are also working towards better movement of goods and services through enhanced infrastructure development and regional integration along with the development of processing facilities, particularly in agriculture, mining and oil and gas. They are keen to engage with India's private sector to attract them to the greater opportunities for trade and investment. RECs also expressed their desire to sensitise Indian agencies

on Africa's requirements in the field of capacity building, human resource development, food and agriculture processing.

The representatives of the Regional Economic Communities expressed their gratitude to India for continued engagement with them and fully recognising the regional dimension of Africa's development. They considered India an important partner and were happy to have a structured dialogue in this format. The IGAD representative thanked India for supporting regional integration in India through the construction of the new Ethio-Djibouti railway line which would provide the member-states of IGAD with improved connectivity. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Economic Cooperation between India and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was signed on 8 November 2011. India already has MoUs with India EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA and SADC.

It was agreed that the dialogue with the RECs would continue periodically and appropriate action plans, including all decisions taken through the Joint Action Plan with the AU, would be pursued together.



**486. Inaugural address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Conference on "Indian Lines of Credit: An Instrument to Enhance India-Africa Partnership".**

**New Delhi, November 22, 2011.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to be here this morning with you to address this Conference attended by representatives from over 40 African countries. It is indeed heartening to note the overwhelming response to our invitation.

We are here today on a common platform to discuss how India and African countries can work together to achieve the goals of ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development. We face similar challenges in transforming our economies for the well-being and prosperity of our people.

There are striking complementarities that exist between Africa's requirements and India's capabilities in many areas. I am confident that our partnership will continue to grow as we move forward on this path. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, while addressing the Second India-Africa Forum Summit earlier this

year, observed “India will work with Africa to realize its vast potential. We believe that a new vision is required for Africa’s development and participation in global affairs”. In this spirit, India is ready to share its experience with our African brothers and sisters.

African economy expanded by 4.5% in 2010. Indian economy expanded by around 8% in the same period. India and Africa together comprise a market of 2.2 billion people with a combined GDP of 3 trillion US Dollars. Trade between India and Africa, which stood at 11.9 billion Dollars in 2005-06, increased to 53.3 billion US Dollars last year. There has been an increase in investments in both directions as well.

All this, of course, is impressive but there is still vast potential for further growth. India is engaging with Africa at bilateral, regional as well as continental levels. The India-Africa Forum Summits have lent a contemporary dimension to our relations.

Our economic engagement is directed at meeting the socio-economic development aspirations of developing countries in the spirit of South-South cooperation. This takes several forms, including Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes, that are tailor-made to respond to the capacity-building needs of our partner countries. Several initiatives under our Focus Africa Programmes underline our political commitment to build mutually beneficial partnerships.

Lines of Credit are an important instrument in this context and are the focus of this Conference. At the India-Africa Forum Summit in May this year, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had announced five billion US Dollars over the next 3 years under lines of credit to help Africa achieve its development goals. These LOCs provide support at highly concessional terms to LDCs and Developing countries in the African continent.

We note a great deal of interest from our partners to cooperate in this framework. As we take our cooperation forward, it is of paramount importance that we follow transparent and fair selection procedures based on competitive bidding for award of contracts and execution of them. Such transparency will ensure best value for money and quality of delivery under the scheme.

I believe that you will be having detailed discussions on our policies, procedures and methodology on how to access and make best use of Indian Lines of Credit. We value your inputs and hope that you will find the discussion useful and enriching. I am sure that the experiences to be shared during the Conference by the senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance,

EXIM Bank and CII would add immense value to the deliberations today. The perspectives of the visiting representatives from the African countries, who are the prime actors for taking advantage of the Indian LOCs, would also be of enormous use for the Indian side.

I wish success in your deliberations during this Conference.

Thank you.



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A press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the occasion said that this was the first such conference which brought together foreign delegates and Indian stakeholders on a common platform for consultations. Over 40 African countries participated in this Conference. "Indian Lines of Credit (LOC) is extended to developing countries, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, and forms an important element in India's development cooperation outreach including in the African continent" said the press release. It may be recalled that at the India-Africa Forum Summit at Addis Ababa in May 2011, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had announced that India would extend US \$ 5 billion worth of Lines of Credit to African partners over the next three years. India's economic engagement with the African countries since the launch of its Focus Africa programme in 2002-03 included the Team-9 initiative with West African countries, the very successful Pan-African E-Network Project that offers tele-education, tele-medicine and VOIP services to 47 African nations that joined the project. This is in addition to India's bilateral, regional and continental level cooperation initiatives in the African Continent. The Lines of Credit was intended to provide support at concessional terms to projects and supply contracts of contemporary relevance to developing countries. External Affairs Minister in his speech noted, that "transparency and fair competition based on competitive bidding for award of executing contracts is an essential prerequisite to ensure best value for money and quality of delivery." So far over 40 African countries have availed of a hundred Indian Lines of Credit, aggregating over US \$ 4.2 billion. In 2010-11 alone, 14 Lines of Credits amounting to over US \$ 1 billion were approved.

**487. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the 3rd India-Japan Dialogue on Africa.**

**New Delhi, November 28, 2011.**

Please see Document No.372.



**488. Statement by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at India - Africa Hydrocarbon Conference.**

**New Delhi, December 10, 2011.**

Hon'ble Ministers,

Ambassadors,

Excellencies,

**Ladies and Gentleman**

I am honoured to have the opportunity to address the participants of the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference. The high participation in the third edition of the Conference demonstrates the success of the Conference and the fact that India and Africa can do a lot together. India and Africa have deep historical links from the time the valleys of Nile and Indus were cradles to the earliest civilizations of the world. We had links through trade and commerce across the Indian Ocean throughout history. (The west coast of India in particular.) Some of these linkages were weakened during the colonial era. Now, India and Africa have a renewed partnership in political and economic endeavours. The growth centres of the world are shifting from West and North to East and South and we see Africa as an emerging growth pole of the world. We are clear that in reforming the UN Security Council there has to be appropriate representation for Africa as well as India as Permanent Members. As emerging economies both India and the nations of Africa have a lot of complementarities, which need to be exploited to their full potential in order to fulfil the developmental aspirations of our citizens.

Earlier this year, we reaffirmed our abiding commitment to working with our African partners at the Second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. Addressing the Summit our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said; I quote:



'We (therefore) need a new spirit of solidarity among developing countries. We must recognize that in this globalized age we all live inter-connected lives in a small and fragile planet. We must work together to uplift the lives of our people in a manner that preserves the sustainability of our common air, land and water.' End of quote. And let me add – that energy is the most fundamental element in development, i.e. the process by which the lives of people are uplifted – as mentioned by our PM. Working together in the field of energy is therefore critical to our partnership.

Let me assure you that while we may speak of Africa as a continent, we have the highest respect for the unique identity and individuality of each country. At the Summit, India announced fresh lines of credit worth five billion US dollars over the next three years and an additional 700 million US dollars grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology, and building new institutions and training programmes. Areas of cooperation that have accorded high priority include energy and infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture, health, food security and technology cooperation. In the MEA we are working to develop these programmes country to country keeping in mind that each country has specific requirements; but many successful programmes in health and education span a number of countries.

Turning to **Energy in the India Africa relationship**: Let me say that I am happy to hear about the Conference outcome with ideas for new paradigms in our energy relationship with Africa.

**We can see three particular complementarities:-** From the perspective of energy cooperation between India and Africa, the first, and the most obvious, is the complementarity of resource endowments and supply-demand dynamics. Africa is estimated to have 9.5% of global proven oil reserves, 7.9% of the proven global gas reserves and about 3.8% of the global coal reserves. These estimates are likely to grow in the future and Africa is already one of the most lucrative energy destinations for investment. Outside the traditional area of North Africa, the main focus has been on West Africa and countries along the Gulf of Guinea which have been seen as the major locus of hydrocarbon reserves. But we have recently been informed about substantial discoveries onshore and offshore – in the East African region also (most recently in Uganda, Tanzania, and now off the coast of Mozambique). This should make us re-evaluate the geological potential of the entire Indian Ocean basin. On the other hand, the Indian economy has been one of growth stories of the world economy, but heavily dependant on imported energy. As a result, there has been a steady increase in India's imports of crude oil, LNG and other petroleum products from Africa. To quote an example, even on a year-on-year basis, our crude oil imports from Africa have steadily increased from 15.68% in 2009 to 20.62% in

the first ten months of 2010. Therefore, we would naturally be seeking commercial partners in Africa to meet large portions of India's energy needs through imports of crude oil, LNG and other petroleum and energy products. This makes for a truly win-win proposition as our partners seek assured markets.

The second is that of structural complementarities in the hydrocarbon sector. Africa is not only a geography well endowed with hydrocarbon resources; it also represents a number of dynamic countries whose own demand for fuel, petroleum products, technologies, jobs, skills and investments is on the rise. This opens avenues to explore for more opportunities for equity investment in the African markets and two way tie-ups. With our proven expertise in refining, consultancy, training, infrastructural developments etc, we perceive potential for mutually beneficial business tie-ups. It is in this spirit that at the second Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa, India has offered large numbers of Training positions to African nationals in Oil & Natural Gas sector (nearly 450 positions), and Hydro, thermal, Power Grid sector (nearly 370 positions).

The third complementarity is that of energy poverty and energy access. We are all familiar with the fact the millions in our countries have no access to commercial energy. India has been an ardent advocate of renewable energy in the international arena, particularly in popularizing the concept of "Energy Access for All". We do this both because of the requirement of energy and to tackle the need for a less carbon intensive energy future. It is clear from the International Climate Change Conferences (including the one underway now at Durban) that the advanced industrial countries see the transition to an era of new energy sources and environmental technologies, as a means to retain their technological and industrial edge over the rest of us. We have no alternative but to build on our success so far in harnessing renewable energy, especially solar, wind and biomass. We have to expand cooperation between Africa and India in this sector in terms of training and capacity building, since we in the tropical regions have some advantages in these sectors. But we need a bridge to the bright new era of renewables, and for this we would have to rely on increased production and distribution of natural gas which is relatively less carbon intensive than coal, which brings us back to cooperation and collaboration in hydrocarbons.

Excellencies, I understand that there have been some very fruitful deliberations in this Third India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, making it a very successful and mutually beneficial undertaking. The range of activities and discussion held in these two days are evidence of the resolve with which India and the African countries wish to develop their relationship in the hydrocarbon sector. I am sure that with the passage of time, this energy relationship between India and the nations of Africa would develop into a very symbiotic relationship,

extending beyond the hydrocarbon cooperation agreements and joint working groups, to a situation where we are jointly able to provide affordable energy to our respective people and fulfil their development aspirations. In a sense this makes us geo-economic and strategic partners and I hope by the time of the 4th Conference, some of what you have discussed today, will start becoming a reality.

I will also take this opportunity to congratulate Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and FICCI for successful organisation of the 3rd India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, which deals with the vital subject of energy security, one of the priorities of Indian foreign policy.

Thank you.



#### **INDIA-AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT**

##### **489. Briefing by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister's visit to Ethiopia for the Second India - Africa Form Summit and Tanzania.**

**New Delhi, May 17, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good morning to all of you. The Prime Minister of India would be embarking upon a very significant visit to Ethiopia for the Second India-Africa Forum Summit and then for a bilateral summit. He would be next travelling to Tanzania for a bilateral summit meeting later this month. Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju is here to brief you about the important summit meetings.

Before that, let me also recognize and welcome our four friends and senior editors from Tanzania who are visiting us. A warm welcome to you, Sir, and delighted to have you with us. Secretary would be making an opening statement and thereafter he will be happy to take your questions pertaining to the visit of the Prime Minister to Ethiopia and Tanzania.

**Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju):** Good morning.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, will visit Ethiopia on May 23-26, 2011 to participate in the Second Africa-India Forum Summit which will be held on May 24-25, 2011 at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the seat of the African

Union. Following the Summit, the Prime Minister will be on a bilateral visit to Ethiopia on May 25-26. After visiting Ethiopia, the Prime Minister will pay a bilateral visit to Tanzania on May 26-28, 2011. Smt. Gursharan Kaur will accompany the Prime Minister. Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, Shri T.K.A. Nair, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and Shri S. Menon, National Security Adviser, will be part of the Prime Minister's delegation.

The Summit will be preceded by the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on May 23, 2011 and a Senior Officials Meeting on May 20-21, 2011. A Special Meeting of Trade Ministers will be held on May 21, 2011 in Addis Ababa. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Anand Sharma, will lead the Indian side at this meeting.

The President of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union, will co-Chair the Summit along with Prime Minister. Fifteen African countries will participate in the Summit on behalf of the African continent. The choice of the countries is decided by the African Union on the basis of the Banjul format adopted by the African Union for the participation of African countries in Summits like the Africa-India Forum Summit. The countries that have been asked by the African Union to participate in the Summit are: Algeria, Burundi, Chad, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Swaziland. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, will also take part in the Summit.

The India-Africa historic relationship, which is rooted in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid, has evolved into a multifaceted engagement. India's relations with Africa are at the bilateral, regional and continental levels. This comprehensive paradigm of cooperation is premised on Africa's own aspirations for developing regional and Pan-African institutions and development programmes. India's cooperation and development partnerships with African countries cover, amongst others, the fields of human resources and institutional capacity building and education, science & technology, agricultural productivity and food security, industrial growth including small & medium enterprises and minerals, development in the health sector, development of infrastructure and ICT.

The Second India-Africa Forum Summit will build on the architecture developed for India-Africa cooperation and structured engagement during the First Africa-India Forum Summit hosted by India in April, 2008, in Delhi. It will be recalled that the First Summit adopted two far-reaching documents, the Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation. These serve as the contours for our systematic engagement with Africa.

It is expected that the leaders will discuss significant aspects of the India-Africa partnership with the objective of enhancing its content and widening its ambit for mutual benefit. The leaders will also focus on regional and international issues of common concern, including threats from terrorism and piracy. Two outcome documents are expected to be adopted at the Summit; The Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation.

At the margins of the Summit, Prime Minister will meet a number of African leaders.

The India-Africa partnership at its core, is a partnership between the peoples. In recognition of this theme a number of outreach events are being organized before or concurrently with the Summit. Some of these are:

- A trade exhibition called the India Show and a Business Conclave,
- An India Africa Media Partnership Symposium
- Handcrafting Hope - a programme for interaction amongst Indian and African craftspeople,
- Rhythm of Life - a series of joint cultural performances by Indian and African artistes showcasing fusion of Indian and African cultures,
- From Tradition to Innovation, a multimedia exhibition tracing the long journey of our partnership; and
- A film festival showcasing the best of Indian commercial cinema.

All of these events are being organized in Addis Ababa.

It is significant that the first-ever India-Africa Academic Conference was held on May 11-12, 2011 in Addis Ababa. From India and Africa Scholars discussed different aspects of India-Africa relations with a view to enhancing them further.

It is expected that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will release a commemorative stamp, a book entitled "Two Billion Dreams: Celebrating India-Africa Friendship" and a special Summit edition of the journal Africa Quarterly.

Prime Minister's bilateral visit to Ethiopia will be the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to that country. During the visit he will hold detailed discussions with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. He will also address the Ethiopian Parliament.

India and Ethiopia enjoy a warm and cordial relationship covering political, economic, commercial, cultural areas among others. Recent years have seen an increase in India-Ethiopia trade and Indian investment in Ethiopia. It is

estimated that in the last two decades the Ethiopian Investment Agency has approved Indian investments upwards of US\$ 4.5 billion. The areas in which investments have been committed or made are agriculture and floriculture, engineering, plastics, manufacturing, cotton and textiles, pharmaceuticals, healthcare and ICT. A sizeable number of Indian companies have a presence in Ethiopia.

India is a partner in Ethiopia's development process and has extended Lines of Credit amounting to around US\$ 700 million. A large part of this credit is committed to the development of the sugar industry in Ethiopia.

It is expected that discussions between Prime Minister and his Ethiopian counterpart will focus, apart from bilateral relations, on the situation in the region and important issues of international concern. A significant agreement that is expected to be signed during the visit relates to the Avoidance of Double Taxation.

Prime Minister's visit to Tanzania will be the first Head of Government level visit from India after September, 1997. It will also be the first Head of Government visit from a non-African country after President Jakaya Kikwete assumed his second term (following the general elections in 2010).

For India, Tanzania is an important partner in Africa. It will be recalled that Tanzania was the co-Chair of the First Africa-India Forum Summit.

India and Tanzania played a significant role in the process of de-colonization and the struggle against apartheid. The two countries were active participants in developing the process of South-South Cooperation for the benefit of the developing world. India and Tanzania are now engaged in actively pursuing a mutually beneficial commercial and economic partnership, as part of a wide ranging relationship. India-Tanzania trade is over USD\$ 1.1 billion in 2010 and Indian imports covered a number of agricultural commodities.

It is also noteworthy that India has become the second largest investor in Tanzania with total cumulative investments of US\$ 1.3 billion (till 2009) which has created employment opportunities for 32,000 people.

The two countries have a tradition of cooperation in multilateral fora.

During the visit, Prime Minister and President Kikwete will discuss ways and means of taking the relationship forward in a comprehensive manner. There will also be a focus on the two countries' partnership in the development process in Tanzania through education, capacity building and infrastructure development. Thank you.

**Question:** Last year, a delegation of farmers from Punjab had been to African countries to buy land for setting up their entire business in African nations. This was I think helped by your junior Foreign Minister. Have they moved ahead because they still said that the problem is getting the land on lease, hundred years agreement is an issue. Could you just tell us in detail on that?

**Secretary (West):** I do not have details of the processes under way in this regard. I am aware that a group of farmers had gone. Land issues in any country are complex. But there is a significant Indian investment in agriculture and floriculture. This process is in accordance with the laws of Ethiopia. This process, according to my understanding, is welcomed by the authorities in Ethiopia and will continue.

**Question:** Sir, who is representing Libya at the Conference?

**Secretary (West):** I do not have details of Libyan representation. Let me clarify to you, as I mentioned in the opening statement it is for the African Union to decide who will represent the African side at the Summit. The African Union had adopted a format at Banjul and their representation is on the basis of that format.

**Question:** I have two questions. In mid-90s Dr. Manmohan Singh came to Tanzania as Secretary-General of the South Commission. Then the founder President of Tanzania was the Chairman of the South Commission. What is the interest of India vis-à-vis the South Commission at the moment in time? Secondly, we see India assuming the role of the Non-aligned Movement since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru. But given the situation, the unipolar situation of the world today, what could be India's role in reactivating the Non-aligned Movement because to my mind the Non-aligned Movement is as good as dead?

**Secretary (West):** The purpose and objective of the Non-aligned Movement, as indeed of the entire process of South-South Cooperation, was to ensure that the developing world has a voice and that the developing world breaks the historic shackles that bound it, and that this process was achieved in a comprehensive manner. I do believe that even though the world is greatly different in 2011 than it was in 1961 when the first Non-aligned Summit was held, the objectives still remain valid. All of us in the South are developing countries, and our basic purpose is to have a better life for our peoples. Our cooperation within the South-South format is essential, and the entire concept remains valid.

The South Commission is an institution which embodies in itself the entire objective of moving South-South cooperation forward and that objective remains entirely valid.

**Question:** Sir, what about the UN reforms? India's and G4's proposal the AU still has to take a formal view. Are you expecting a breakthrough on the issue of UN reforms? Also on the lines of credit, last time we announced 5.4 billion dollars. Are we going to scale up that or what are going to be the key announcements at the Summit?

**Secretary (West):** On UN reform I think India and all the countries of the African Union are of one mind in as much as that the situation in the world today demands a reform of international institutions including the United Nations, and within the United Nations there is a need for reform of the UN Security Council. There has to be an expansion of the Council and an expansion in both categories, permanent as well as nonpermanent. I think India is agreed entirely that Africa must find a place in the permanent members category within an expanded UN Security Council. I also believe that almost all African countries have supported India for a permanent membership of the Council. So, again here too the objectives of both India and African countries are on all force.

The LoC process is an important process as part of our cooperation for infrastructural development in Africa. In the first forum summit we had made commitments which roughly translate to about a little over a billion dollars a year, and that this commitment was to begin sometime in 2009-10. We are on track. Our commitments today are around two billion dollars. I will not seek to anticipate what the summit would decide or what would be the key announcements of the summit. But I do think that the process of cooperation, the structure of cooperation that was concluded and finalized during the first summit will now be built upon in all respects - capacity-building, institutional development, cooperation in infrastructure.

**Question:** The India-Africa Summit comes after similar initiatives by Japan and China. Is this just a matter of following suit, or is it based on any concrete finding that this is the most effective way of dealing with Africa?

**Secretary (West):** Let me assure you that our relationship with Africa stands on its own. I also believe that both India and the African Union share the feeling that the engagement of India with Africa should be at these three levels - bilateral, regional and pan-African. I would also venture to suggest that India has always believed in a consultative process in our interaction and engagement with Africa, and the India-Africa Summit exercise is part of this consultative process. India is not engaged in competition in Africa with any other country. We are friends and we will continue to be friends and brothers. We have a historical relationship. We were engaged with Africa right from the beginning of our Independence and even before that. Africa has a very special place in our hearts. We can never forget that the father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi began his entire struggle, if you permit me to say, in a way for the liberation of man from the



shackles of colonialism in the African continent. These are very special bonds and these are unbreakable bonds.

**Question:** Mr. Katju, you made two points when you were speaking initially. You said that during the Summit you referred to piracy. Now can you tell me specifically when India and Africa talked what can be done to help the Indian citizens who are being held by pirates? Can anything be done for them? That is my first question. The other point you mentioned related to terror. Again in the course of these discussions, can the issue of state terrorism of a country actually outlining or making it clear that there are certain targets in India which can be looked at, come up during the course of these discussions? Would you like to comment on these two issues please?

**Secretary (West):** Shrinjoy, I have always been a great admirer of your skill as a journalist, and I think your second question reflects that. So, I will refrain from going into specifics for obvious reasons. Let me say that terror is a global issue and when the leaders meet they will address the issue of terrorism because it is a global concern. Africa feels the adverse impact of terrorism, we feel, and the subject will be discussed.

Piracy, yes, of course piracy is a phenomenon which affects both Africa and India and the leaders will discuss aspects of piracy and ways and means of reducing and eliminating it. Once that process takes place, then our citizens who are held as hostage will benefit. If piracy reduces or is eliminated, then naturally it will be beneficial for us. And you, of course, know that within India structures have been set up in high-level Committees to address this issue.

**Question:** How do you consider the First India-Africa Summit? Do you consider it a success? If so, in what areas do you think you have achieved success from the First Summit of which our President was the Co-Chairman? Secondly, now that we four are about to go home - the day after tomorrow we will be leaving for Darussalam - what message do you think we can take from Delhi to Tanzania concerning the relationship between India and Tanzania?

**Secretary (West):** Our relations with Tanzania are constructive, they are positive, they are based on a tradition of consultation on issues which are of international concern, consultations also on regional issues. Today the goodwill that we have is sought to being translated into specific economic projects, development projects that will be mutually beneficial. But above all, please take back a message of friendship and goodwill from all of us in this room for the people of your great country.

As for your first question, let me say straight away that we think that the First Summit was an outstanding success. It created the structures on which we are

now building, structures on which we are able to carry forward our great partnership.

**Question:** Mr. Katju, two questions. First, granted that Somalis has concerns about its sovereignty and the AU also has its strong view on this. But as you look at the problems that piracy is posing, the origins of these problems, the problems on land, are we looking at some stage in the future opening liaison office in Somali land as options? Second, there was a reference in the Obama-Manmohan statement last year to US and India doing things in Africa. Has anything come of that?

**Secretary (West):** As you are aware, we cover Somalia diplomatically from Nairobi. I think that coverage for the moment is effective. There are issues relating to piracy which have to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. And it is my conviction that the process of discussions that take place in Addis Ababa will be fruitful in this regard.

Yes, some work is being done as a follow-up of the announcements that were made during President Obama's visit to Delhi in regard to agriculture. I would not go into details but let me show you there has been follow-up and good follow-up. The two sides have been engaged in fleshing out the contours of cooperation in this regard along with concerned African countries that will be full participants in this process. Again, this is on the basis of consultation. I would add here that it is India's basic approach that our engagement with Africa has to be on the basis of consultation. That is why we have evolved the structure of a Joint Action Plan. We have decided that the institutions that we will set up will be through an engagement with Africa, and the locations of the institutions will be indicated to us by our African partners. This is a sure basis of ensuring the success of this partnership even if it is a little slow, because consultations as all of you will appreciate take a little time. But I am clear in my mind that this time is well spent on consultation.

**Question:** There have been some concerns of some observers that the Banjul Formula makes the India-Africa Summit a bit low key because it allows for limited representation, as compared to the summits of Africa and the other countries. What is your comment on that?

**Secretary (West):** I thought I have mentioned at some length about our approach, an approach that is rooted in respect for the other side. We will never seek to dictate who should represent Africa. It is for Africa to decide. At the moment African participation is on the basis of the Banjul Formula. If at some other stage this formula changes, we will be very happy to abide by the new thinking in Africa. Surely we cannot be held responsible for accepting the views of our interlocutors. You will appreciate that this is a wise basis of

proceeding forward. I do not think that it is low key. I think the decisions that are taken at the summit apply to all Africa. They are not limited only to the countries or the participants. These are decisions which are of continental application. Second, there is a very significant bilateral component to our relationship. Our relationship with Tanzania for example is flourishing even though as you have noted on account of the Banjul formula Tanzania which had co-chaired the last summit will not be there this time. But that is a choice which Africa has made.

**Official Spokesperson:** I take it there are no more questions. Thank you very much.



**490. Remarks by Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs at the inauguration of Indian Film Festival on the occasion of the Second India – Africa Forum Summit.**

**Addis Ababa, May 20, 2011.**

Your Excellency Mr. Amin Abdulkadir, Minister of Culture and Tourism

Your Excellency Advocate Bience Philomina Gawanas, AU Commissioner of Social Affairs

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

As part of concurrent events coinciding with the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit, we have organized a festival of popular Indian cinema in Addis Ababa. Over the decades, the Indian film industry has carved out a very special place in the hearts and minds of people in India and around the world and has created enduring levels between peoples.

Not many people know, perhaps, that within a couple of years, Indian cinema will be celebrating a century of its vibrant existence. In an era of 3-D films, it seems incredibly ancient that Raja Harishchandra, made in 1913, was actually a silent movie. 18 years later in 1931 Alam Aara came which became the first 'sound' movie.

These days, it is a very different story. India has overtaken Hollywood by a long margin to become the world's largest producer of films. Each year

sees the release of close to a thousand full-length feature films made in Hindi and over a dozen other Indian languages. The Mumbai-based Hindi cinema that is popularly known as Bollywood now has a global reach and in my travels around the world, I am constantly amazed by the affection that it enjoys in the most unexpected places... in Russia and Central Asia, in East and West Africa, in the Caribbean and now even in Europe and North America. It is also fascinating that each country or region seems to develop its own favourite pantheon of Indian film stars. If Amitabh Bachchan was the unchallenged super star in Egypt, it was Mithun Chakravarty with his Disco Dancer that was a rage in places ranging from Tanzania to Syria. In Indonesia, Shahrukh Khan is still the hottest star, while other places have developed a similar passion for one or the other.

3. Idiots, the film that we have selected for screening today, is a touching and sensitively made comedy and I am sure you will all enjoy it.

We hope that this and the 14 other films that are being screened over the next 7 days will entertain many of our friends in Addis Ababa and provide an important cultural dimension to the forthcoming summit

Thank you all for being here.



**491. Statement by Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs at the Inaugural Session of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Second India Africa Forum Summit.**

**Addis Ababa, May 20, 2011.**

Distinguished Colleague from Equatorial Guinea,

Excellency, Amb. John Shinkaiye,

Distinguished Heads of the Regional Economic Communities and NEPAD,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Senior Officials' Meeting of the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit. We assemble here today in order to share our views on the current state of India-Africa relationship and put our

efforts together to carve out new pathways towards enriching our partnership in the coming years.

Excellencies, India's partnership with African countries rests on a firm historical foundation of shared struggle against colonialism and apartheid and an equally important struggle for the comprehensive development of our societies, economies and polities. Our association is marked by consultation, responsiveness and mutual appreciation of each other's concerns. India and the African countries, through a deliberative mechanism spanning across several fora, have arrived at a model of cooperation where the selection of priority areas are being made in full consultation.

India's vision for a partnership with Africa for the 21st Century goes beyond the already strong bilateral relationships and envisages closer cooperation with the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the African Union. This paradigm of cooperation is premised on Africa's own model for the development of Pan-African institutions and development programmes. The wide ranging cooperation and development partnerships between India and Africa encompasses, amongst others, the fields of human resources and institutional capacity building; science & technology; agricultural productivity & food security; industrial growth; development in the health sector; infrastructure development; and Information and Communication Technology.

The First India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008 turned out to be a milestone event insofar that its outcomes became the guiding parameters of India's deepening engagement with Africa. Excellencies, I am happy to share with you that the implementation of the announcements made during the First India Africa Forum Summit is going on in a satisfactory manner.

In March 2010, a Joint Action Plan, based on the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation, was announced. One of the highlights of the Joint Action Plan is the establishment of 19 capacity building institutions. The African Union has conveyed to us the locations of these institutions in December 2010. The concerned implementing agencies have already begun the preliminary process in consultation with our African partner countries and the preparation of Detailed Project Reports is underway. Several new training programmes for about 450 trainees have been completed during the last year. Further, both Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training positions and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships have been substantially enhanced. It is heartening to note the encouraging response that India's offer of Special Agriculture Scholarships and C.V. Raman Scientific Fellowship has received and currently more than 150 scholars are benefitting from these schemes.

Out of US\$5.4 billion of concessional lines of credit announced at the time of

the First India Africa Forum Summit, nearly US\$2 billion for projects in Africa have been committed. 19 Least Developed Countries in Africa are already availing the benefits of Duty Free Tariff Scheme (DFTS), which India announced during the last Summit.

Excellencies, as per the decision of our African partners, the Second Africa India Forum Summit is being organized in this beautiful city of Addis Ababa, the seat of the African Union. This meeting of the Senior Officials will be followed by Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 23 May 2011 leading up to the Summit on 24-25 May 2011.

There have also been a series of events planned before or concurrently with the Summit. A meeting of the Trade Ministers of the India Africa Forum is being organized tomorrow. Earlier in the month, the First India Africa Academic Conference was held on 11-12 May 2011 which provided a platform to our respective intellectual communities to share views on several crucial issues. Some of the other events being organized over the next few days include a trade exhibition; a business conclave; interaction amongst Indian and African craftsmen; a multimedia exhibition; cultural performances showcasing fusion of Indian and African cultures; a festival of commercial Indian films; and India-Africa media partnership symposium. I hope you will have an opportunity to attend some of these events. At the conclusion of the Summit, we also intend to release a commemorative stamp and a coffee table book on India-Africa relations.

Excellencies, I would like to invite your attention to the two outcome documents-the Addis Ababa Declaration and the India Africa Framework for Enhanced Cooperation-that are to be issued at the end of the Summit. I am confident that through our consultations we would arrive at an agreement with regard to these documents so that they can be presented before our leaders for their consideration during the Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Summit.

Excellencies, with our rising global politico-economic profile, both India and Africa are justifiably expected to highlight the concerns of the developing world at various international fora. This shared responsibility calls for a synchronization of our views and response to a variety of global issues that may have a direct bearing on the development prospects of our peoples. It is in this context, Excellencies, that our interactions at the highest level acquire immense significance.

Excellencies, I thank you and look forward to participating in our discussions over the next two days.



**492. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the inauguration of 'India Show' as part of the Second India – Africa Forum Summit.**

**Adds Ababa, May 20, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma Union Minister for Commerce & Industry expressed hope that the ongoing 'India Show' will be a unique opportunity for the African businesses to deepen and strengthen existing ties and forge new linkages with Indian companies. Shri Sharma inaugurated India Show at Millennium Hall, Addis Ababa today. The theme of the show is "Africa & India: Partners in Progress – Friends Forever". Shri Sharma is leading the Indian delegation as part of the build-up to the 2nd 'Africa-India Forum Summit' scheduled on 24-25th May, 2011. He also released a special publication entitled 'India-Africa Business Guide' during the Inaugural session of the India Show. Speaking on this occasion Shri Sharma said, "India has become one of the leading investors in African countries, with Indian investments in Africa in Joint Ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries touching US \$ 33 billion mark, covering diverse sectors like Oil & Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Petrochemicals, IT, Fertilizers, Infrastructure, etc". The large presence of Indian businesses at the Trade Exhibition would help African companies get a firsthand account of the business opportunities in India and interact with potential partners. The India Show inauguration was attended by Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, Commission of the African Union and Mr. Bhagwant S. Bishnoi, Ambassador of India to Ethiopia .The Inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, Commission of the African Union; Mr Abdurahman Sheik Mohamed, Minister of Trade, Republic of Ethiopia and. Mr Mekonen Manyazwal, Minister of Industry, Republic of Ethiopia.

In his Inaugural address, Shri Sharma noted that, "The economic partnership between India and Africa has taken giant leaps forward ever since the first India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008, with Bilateral Trade between India and Africa, which was at a meager US \$ 3 billion at the turn of the century, crossing the US \$ 46 billion mark last year". He further mentioned that we are well on our way to achieve bilateral trade target of US \$ 70 billion by 2015. The Commerce Minister reiterated that India will continue with its efforts to expand trade with the African countries through a special focus, including steps like the 'Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme' for certain countries in Africa to enable easier imports from them. The 'India Show', which would continue till the 22nd May, is only the second such Show in the African continent after the one held in South Africa last year in August at Johannesburg and Durban, and comprises of a mega 'Trade Exhibition', a 'Business Seminar', and a 'Cultural Programme'. The large 'Trade Exhibition' at the Millennium Hall (20th-22nd May, 2011)

showcases Indian technologies, innovations and business opportunities to the visitors by leading Indian companies. More than 80 Indian companies are displaying their products in the Trade Exhibition, ranging across sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, finance, IT, automotives, Pharmaceuticals, Services (Financial, Education, ICT, Skills Development & Tourism) and others. Shri Sharma is leading a 15-member high-level Indian CEOs delegation to Addis Ababa

Later in the evening, Shri Sharma will also be inaugurating the 'Handcrafting Hope' and 'Multimedia Exhibition' in the presence of the first lady of Ethiopia, Ms. Azeb Mesfin, wife of Ethiopian Prime Minister. Mr. Meles Zenawi. 'Handcrafting Hope' is an interactive craft meet to facilitate skill-sharing and knowledge exchange between African and Indian craftspersons. 20 Indian craftswomen from India possessing varying skills will meet and interact with 30 of their counterparts from different African countries, including Ethiopia. The Multimedia Exhibition will be bringing together diverse cultures from India and Africa by showcasing through multimedia elements. The first ever academic symposium, "Africa & India: Partnership for Enhancing Development & Growth"; joint cultural performances by Indian and African artists, "Rhythm of Life"; a programme for interaction amongst Indian and African craftswomen; "From Tradition to Innovation"; a film festival showcasing the best of Indian commercial cinema, "Come, Fall in Love with the Magic of Bollywood"; and India Africa media partnership symposium "Building Bridges; a Business Conclave' involving interaction of African and Indian Trade Ministers with CEOs of many leading companies of Africa and India will be showcasing the diverse and vivid culture of both the countries on the sidelines of the summit.





**493. Statement by Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs during India-Africa Media Partnership Symposium: 'Building Bridges'.**

**Addis Ababa, May 21, 2011.**

It is an honour to be with friends of the media this morning, May I begin with offering a few thoughts?

By bringing together leading media personalities of India and Africa, this Symposium fills a critical gap in our interactive processes. I believe that such direct contacts will prove vastly beneficial in fostering a greater understanding of each other.

We know lot about each other. Our contacts are rooted in history and have been nourished by common and successful struggles against colonialism and apartheid. There has been a long tradition of direct interaction between and leaderships of India and Africa. However, there has been a paucity of such contact in many other areas including academics and the world of the media. This has led to a certain element of our knowledge of each other coming to us through third quarters. This must change. A few days ago, Indian and African academics got together in this city to explore more about what we need to do in India and Africa to foster greater academic contact. I feel that this Symposium would help to establish direct contacts between our media leading to partnerships which would significantly contribute to the addition in our knowledge of each other in all dimensions.

In the past, the cooperation between India and Africa was vital to defeat the forces of colonialism. Today India and Africa are engaged in equally important struggle, the struggle to eliminate poverty and uplift our people. The real challenge before our societies, economies and polities is to make our peoples fully equipped to deal with the demands of the modern post-industrial world so that they are able to live lives of dignity, respect and prosperity in the knowledge age. Here too the media in India Africa has a vital role to play for technology has made its reach greater than ever before. Thus, there is great responsibility cast on the media and your cooperation through a focus on the important and enduring, as you see it, can enhance the quality of life for our peoples.

The India-Africa partnership is unique in its comprehensive engagement at the bilateral, regional and continental levels, In this process, we are adhering to the objectives of integration at regional and Pan-African levels which Africa has set for itself. Our engagement is also wide ranging in the areas it seeks to cover in the development process, infrastructure, capacity building, human resource development, the establishment of academic institutions, agriculture,

and the services area among others. I hope that the distinguished members of the media present here would convey to their respective audiences what India and Africa through their cooperation are trying to achieve holistically for their peoples.

We have an ambitious partnership. Our goals and objectives are high. We are searching new pathways even while consolidating areas where we have made progress. The First Africa India Forum Summit in Delhi laid the foundations and now at this Summit the leaders of India and Africa will chart out the course that we will follow in the next few years to achieve our objectives.

Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh will arrive two days from now to co-chair the Summit with the President of Equatorial Guinea who is the Chairman of the African Union. The proceedings of the Summit will, no doubt, reflect the consultative and deliberative approaches that are the very basis of the India-Africa partnership.



**494. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit.**

**Addis Ababa, May 23, 2011.**

Distinguished Foreign Ministers,

Distinguished Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Distinguished representatives of the Regional Economic Communities and NEPAD,

Excellencies,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the **2nd Africa India Forum Summit**. We meet here today in this beautiful city to deliberate upon the current state of our partnership and to chart out the way ahead in taking this exemplary association to still greater heights.

2. Excellencies, I am glad to note that India's partnership with Africa is marked by a frank and open consultative mechanism wherein we meet as

partners who not just highlight their needs and expectations but bring forth historical goodwill and empathy. We fully appreciate each other's abilities as well as constraints.

3. We met in New Delhi three years ago during the First India Africa Forum Summit, a landmark event which re-defined the contours of India-Africa relations. The Summit provided us with a design of a three-tiered cooperation at the Pan African, the regional as well as the bilateral levels. The implementation of various announcements made under the rubric of India Africa Framework of Cooperation should indeed be a matter of utmost satisfaction for all of us.

4. A Joint Action Plan, based on the India-Africa Framework for Cooperation, was announced in March 2010. One of the highlights of the Joint Action Plan is the establishment of 19 capacity building institutions. The African Union has conveyed to us the locations of these institutions in December 2010. The concerned implementing agencies have already begun the preliminary process and preparation of Detailed Project Reports is underway. Several new training programmes for about 450 trainees have been completed during the last year. Further, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training positions were increased and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships have also been doubled. The response to our offer for Special Agriculture Scholarships and C.V. Raman Scientific Fellowship has been very encouraging and currently more than 150 scholars are benefitting from these.

5. Out of US\$5.4 billion, in concessional lines of credit, announced at the time of the last Summit, nearly US\$2 billion for projects in Africa have been committed. 19 Least Developed Countries in Africa are already availing the benefits of Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme, which India announced unilaterally during the last Summit. We are satisfied with the steady progress of implementation of the commitments made in first India-Africa Forum Summit and these are being constantly monitored.

6. Excellencies, our Senior Officials have met here in Addis Ababa over the last few days. The Officials have expended sincere efforts in drafting the outcome documents for the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit. The two documents, **Addis Ababa Declaration and India Africa Framework for Enhanced Cooperation**, reflect our traditional consultative and consensual approach towards issues of mutual interest. Excellencies, we, the Foreign Ministers of the India Africa Forum, may accord our agreement to these documents so that they can be placed before our leaders for their consideration when they meet tomorrow for the Summit.

7. Excellencies, the Trade Ministers of the India-Africa Forum met on 21 May 2011 and I am optimistic that their deliberations would add further momentum to trade and commercial exchanges between India and her African partners.

8. Excellencies, I would also like to share with you that a series of events have been organized concurrently with this **2nd Africa India Forum Summit**. These events include academic and media symposia, trade exhibition, cultural performances, interaction between Indian and African craftswomen, film festival etc. Some of you might have had the opportunity to attend some of these events. I would also like to take this opportunity to place before this august gathering the two Reports that have emerged from the India-Africa Academic Symposium and the India-Africa Media Partnership Symposium.

9. Excellencies, we intend to continue and further enrich our development cooperation with our African partners. In this regard, I am glad to inform that we would be signing today Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to establish fourteen (14) capacity-building institutions in various member states of the African union.

10. Excellencies, we meet today in the context of a rapidly changing world. Both India and her African partners need to work towards carving our rightful places in the emerging global order. India's economic progress and Africa's robust resurgence in recent years need to be channelized towards this end. I am extremely hopeful that our interactions during this Summit and over the coming years will be guided by the realization of this historical responsibility.

11. Excellencies, I thank you and look forward to participating in today's discussions.



**495. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit.**

**Addis Ababa, May 24, 2011.**

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Distinguished Ministers,

Distinguished representatives of the Regional Economic Communities and NEPAD,

Excellencies,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am delighted to be here today in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia and the Headquarters of the African Union.
2. I bring to Africa fraternal greetings from the people of India.
3. This is a historic gathering. It is the first time that the leaders of India and Africa are meeting on such a scale on African soil.
4. I would specially like to greet those leaders who are participating in the Africa India Forum Summit process for the first time and were not with us in New Delhi in 2008.
5. The India-Africa partnership is unique and owes its origins to history and our common struggle against colonialism, apartheid, poverty, disease, illiteracy and hunger.
6. India will never forget Africa's role in inspiring our own struggle for national liberation. It was here that Mahatma Gandhi developed his political philosophy and developed the concepts of non-violence and peaceful resistance.
7. At the first India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008 in New Delhi we decided to make a new beginning. We drew courage from our togetherness and inspiration from our conviction that a robust and contemporary India-Africa partnership is an idea whose time has come.
8. Our officials and Ministers have worked hard for our second Summit in Ethiopia. Many events involving a wide cross-section of society, include trade and business, have been held. These events have contributed to making the second Africa-India Forum Summit a people's movement.

9. I believe we have reason to be satisfied with what we have achieved since 2008. But our people expect much more and we have to work hard to deliver on these expectations.

10. The current international economic and political situation is far from favourable, particularly for developing countries. Even as the global economy is recovering from the economic crisis, fresh political upheavals are taking place. The world faces new challenges in assuring food and energy security. Global institutions of governance are outmoded and under stress.

11. We therefore need a new spirit of solidarity among developing countries. We must recognise that in this globalised age we all live interconnected lives in a small and fragile planet. We must work together to uplift the lives of our people in a manner that preserves the sustainability of our common air, land and water.

12. There is a new economic growth story emerging from Africa. Africa possesses all the prerequisites to become a major growth pole of the world. There is good news in the struggle against HIV and AIDS, as well as in improving literacy, reducing infant mortality and building institutions of representative government.

13. India will work with Africa to realise its vast potential. We believe that a new vision is required for Africa's development and participation in global affairs. We do not have all the answers but we have some experience in nation building which we are happy to share with our African brothers and sisters.

14. It is in this spirit that I wish to outline some initiatives for the consideration of our African partners. These will enhance our development partnership which are founded on the pillars of mutual equality and common benefit.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

15. We will offer 5 billion US dollars for the next three years under lines of credit to help Africa achieve its development goals. We will offer an additional 700 million US dollars to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

16. Under the lines of credit that we offered at the first Summit, we had specifically looked at promoting regional integration through infrastructure development. On the advice of the African Union, I am happy to announce that we would support the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway line to the tune of 300 million US dollars.

17. Following the success of the Pan-African E-Network Project we propose to take the next step and establish an India-Africa Virtual University. This we

hope will help to meet some of the demand in Africa for higher studies in Indian institutions. We further propose that 10,000 new scholarships under this proposed University will be available for African students after its establishment.

18. We would like to make education in India an enriching experience for each student who comes from Africa. We are substantially raising the number of scholarships and training slots for African students and experts, including under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. Our total commitment for the next three years by way of scholarships to Africa students will stand at more than 22,000.

19. At the first Summit in 2008, we had focused on capacity building in the human resource development sector. We believe it would be logical to consolidate this approach. I wish to propose the establishment of the following new institutions at the pan African level:

An **India-Africa Food Processing Cluster** - This would contribute to value-addition and the creation of regional and export markets;

An **India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster** - This will support the cotton industry and its processing and conversion into high value products;

An **India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting** - This will harness satellite technology for the agriculture and fisheries sectors as well as contribute towards disaster preparedness and management of natural resources;

We have received a request to support the establishment of an **India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences**. We would be happy to support this important venture; and finally,

**An India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development.**

20. One of the biggest gaps in our interaction is that of insufficient air connectivity. We should accord this high priority. To begin with, India would be happy to increase the access of African airlines to Indian cities in a significant manner over the next three years.

21. Africa has strong regional organisations which play an important role in supporting development activities. We will therefore work with Regional Economic Communities to establish at the regional level, **Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Regional Farm Science Centres, Seed Production-cum-Demonstration Centres, and Material Testing Laboratories for Highways.**

22. At the bilateral level, we propose to establish institutes for English

language training, information technology, entrepreneurship development and vocational training. As part of our new initiatives in the social and economic sectors we will establish **Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Laboratories, Food Processing Business Incubation Centres and Centres on Geo-Informatics Applications and Rural Development.**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

23. We should encourage trade and investment flows as well as transfer of technology. The private sectors should be fully involved in the efforts to integrate our economies. I propose that we establish an India-Africa Business Council which will bring together business leaders from both sides.

24. India has consistently supported the development of African capacities in the maintenance of peace and security. As a token of our commitment to supporting Africa's endeavours for seeking African solutions I am happy to announce that India will contribute 2 million US dollars for the African Union Mission in Somalia.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

25. Today, the people of Africa and India stand at the threshold of a historic opportunity. Our nations span the diversity of the human condition. We account for the whole range of linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity in the world. Our success in making open, tolerant and rule based societies flourish in conditions of relative underdevelopment will have a profound effect on the future of the world.

26. Tomorrow the people of Africa will celebrate Africa Day. I am delighted to be present in Africa on this very auspicious occasion, and extend my heartiest congratulations to this great Continent.

27. In conclusion I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to the people and government of Ethiopia for hosting us in this beautiful city. I also thank the African Union Commission for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit.

I thank you.





**496. Opening remarks by Prime Minister at the Joint Press Conference following the conclusion of the Second Africa India Forum Summit**

**Addis Ababa, May 25, 2011**

Thank you for your warm words of welcome.

I begin by conveying our best wishes to the people and governments of Africa on Africa Day. It is an important day signifying their unity for peace and development and it is befitting that the Second Africa-India Forum Summit should coincide with Africa Day.

We have just concluded the Summit between the member countries of the African Union as well as the Regional Economic Communities of Africa and India. As you know, participation at the Summit was based on the "Banjul formula" of the African Union. The Summit builds upon the foundation that was laid at our first Summit in New Delhi in 2008.

I am happy to inform you that our discussions during the last two days were marked by great warmth, cordiality and friendship.

The Summit has adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation. These are extremely broad ranging and comprehensive documents. They envisage not only economic and political cooperation, but also cooperation in science, technology, research and development, social development and capacity building, health, culture and sports, tourism, infrastructure, energy and environment and media and communications.

All in all, we have a large canvass before us, and I am extremely optimistic about the future of our cooperation.

The similarity of our development experiences and circumstances has made India – Africa cooperation a genuine two-way street. This is its true strength and its distinctive feature.

In accordance with Africa's own priorities, we have decided to significantly enhance support for institutional capacity building, technical assistance and training programmes for human resource development in Africa. The flagship Pan African e-Network Project is functional in 43 countries and is still expanding.

We have made a quantum jump in the areas of training and scholarships in our ITEC Programme which has acquired a sound reputation across Africa. Our total commitment for the next three years by way of scholarships and training slots to Africa students will stand at more than 22,000.

In consultation with African Union we will establish over 80 new institutions at the Pan-African, regional and bilateral levels in sectors such as agriculture, rural development, food processing, soil, water testing laboratories, integrated textile cluster, weather forecasting, life and earth science, information technology, vocational training, English language centers, entrepreneurial development institutes.

The consolidation of our financial assistance consisting of grants and lines of credit into a cohesive plan has begun to show results in projects of interest to Africa. Our total commitment over the next three years is expected to be 5.7 billion US dollars to help Africa achieve its development goals.

Our annual trade with Africa is about 46 billion US dollars, and growing. Measures to open the Indian market to African exports, including the Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme, are bearing fruit.

During the Summit and the Retreat we also discussed the regional and global economic and political situation. Africa's efforts to find solutions within its own region will receive India's full support. Both India and Africa recognise that the world is going through a period of change and therefore close coordination on political and related issues has become necessary and is beneficial to both sides.

I am fully satisfied with the Summit outcomes. We now have to move to the phase of implementation and delivery so that our people can see the results themselves. We will keep the question of implementation under close and constant review.

The African continent today is on the path of resurgence. We deeply value our friendship with African countries as well as the trust and confidence which our African partners have reposed in us.

I will conclude by thanking my colleagues from Africa for their active and meaningful participation in the Summit. I specially thank the Government and people of Ethiopia for their excellent hospitality, and the African Union Commission for their stellar role in making this Summit a grand success.

Thank you.

**Addis Ababa**  
**May 25, 2011**



**497. Addis Ababa Declaration adopted at the Second India – Africa Forum Summit- 2011.**

**Addis Ababa, May 25, 2011.**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation representing the Continent of Africa, the African Union (AU) and its Institutions, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, have met in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 24 to 25 May 2011, to continue our dialogue, deepen our friendship and enhance our cooperation, under the theme: Enhancing Partnership: Shared Vision.
2. We recall the Delhi Declaration adopted during our First Summit in New Delhi in April 2008 and the Framework of Cooperation and the associated Plan agreed upon thereafter as providing a concrete foundation for the consolidation of our strategic partnership and also reviewed the progress made in this regard since the First Summit. We also recall that Africa and India have been fraternal partners and allies in the struggle for independence and achievement of self-determination. We reaffirm that our partnership remains based on the fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit and the historical understanding amongst our peoples.
3. We further agree that this partnership will continue to be guided by the principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States; commitment to deepen the process of African integration, dialogue among our civilizations to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural and human rights, as well as gender equality, with a view to strengthening the trust and understanding between our peoples; recognition of diversity and levels of development between and within regions; collective action and cooperation for the common good of our States and peoples and our desire to nurture harmonious development in our plural, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies through the consolidation and development of our plural democracy.
4. We welcome the continuing transformation of the political, economic and social environment in Africa. Economic growth in Africa has revived to levels that existed before the financial crisis and many African countries are progressing rapidly, opening greater avenues for economic cooperation. Similarly, India's economy continues to develop into one of the world's growth nodes and has withstood the impact of the global recession well. Both Africa and India have young, dynamic populations with great expectations, drive and initiative. We recognize that their aspirations and vigour provide a concrete basis for expanding the frontiers of this partnership as an agenda for development, Africa

and India therefore, have today a good platform to expand our partnership for development on the basis of these fundamentals.

5. We have thus decided to enhance our partnership with new initiatives for the mutual benefit of Africa and India, In recent years, this has included substantial financial flows from India to Africa in terms of grants, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and concessional loans that continue to contribute to capacity building in the socio-economic sectors, particularly in the human resource development, the development of the private sector, increasing support to infrastructure, agriculture and SMEs, leading to a substantial expansion of Indian investment in Africa and of trade between Africa and India. We agree, to build upon this by assisting each other to achieve inclusive growth, socio-economic development and self-reliance. Areas for such cooperation will include sharing strategies for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, healthcare and universal education, and sharing appropriate technologies. These new avenues for cooperation will enable us to add strategic depth to our partnership.

6. Our partnership enhances our ability to work together and address the global challenges of our times. In addressing these challenges, Africa and India continue to reiterate their intention to ensure that the interests of developing countries are safeguarded and that socio-economic development requirements of our various countries are guaranteed.

7. We urge the developed countries to take ambitious actions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and also provide adequate financing and transfer of technology to support developing countries efforts to effectively address the impact of climate change. We reaffirm the importance of reaching an agreement on a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol as an indispensable step to preserve the integrity of the international climate change regime. We stress the importance of the Bali Action Plan of 2007 worked out under the aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in this regard. We notice the positive aspects of the Cancun Conference Climate Change negotiations in December 2010 and appeal to the developed countries to operationalise all the institutional arrangements included in the Cancun decisions. We express our firm commitment to a balanced outcome from the climate change negotiations which are commensurate with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities on the basis of respective capabilities, in the process of COP17 which will be held in Durban, South Africa.

8. We take note of the African common position on Climate Change and support efforts towards combating drought and desertification in Africa, as well as support for Africa's Great Green Wall Project.

9. We affirm the critical importance of South-South cooperation as an instrument that can effectively supplement existing international efforts and lead to tangible and real benefits for developing countries. We stress that South-South Cooperation should be a supplement to North-South Cooperation and not a substitute for it. We recognize that significant diversity prevails among individual countries in Africa, about thirty three (33) of which are listed among the Least Developed Countries. Collectively, these countries confront some of the most persistent, pervasive and complex development challenges. Accordingly, we will explore new and innovative ways to supplement the mainstream effort to assist these developing countries and look for out-of-the-box solutions.

10. We remain concerned with the recurrent trend of increasing global crisis that are of economic nature, such as the global food, energy and financial crisis. While recognizing the current economic recovery, we are still concerned with its sustainability. We underline the importance of supporting stable, long-term capital flows to developing countries to stimulate investment, especially in infrastructure. This will help enhance global demand, thus securing the long-term sustainability of the recovery and address developmental imbalances.

11. We urge major economies to work together and enhance macro-economic policy coordination. In this context, we acknowledge the G20 process as an important forum for international economic cooperation, and request fair representation of Africa in the evolving architecture of decision-making process in the global economic system.

12. We reiterate the importance of the UN Millennium Declaration and the need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We reaffirm our commitment to achieving the MDGs by 2015, including through technical cooperation and financial support. Sustainable development models and unique paths of development in developing countries should be respected, including by guaranteeing the policy space of developing countries. We urge that aid commitments for developing countries must be fulfilled and that development assistance should not be reduced. We urge the developed countries to fulfill their obligations of achieving the target of 0.7% GNI as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries. We also support African economic programmes within the context of Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

13. We underscore the need for a comprehensive and balanced outcome of the Doha Round, in a manner that gives weight to its mandate as a "development round", based on progress already made. We reiterate the need for continuing solidarity between developing countries in this regard. We affirm the importance

of ensuring that an acceptable agreement adequately protects the concerns of developing countries with regard to livelihood, food security and rural development. Equally, concerns need to be addressed on Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) services and rules. We urge all parties to oppose all forms of protectionism and trade distorting domestic support. We remain concerned that no significant progress has been achieved in key issues of interest to developing countries including India and those of Africa and therefore call, once more, on key players in the Doha Round to give priority to resolving all issues of critical concern to developing countries, especially regarding negotiation on agriculture.

14. We affirm our commitment to multilateralism and to strengthening the democratic structure of the United Nations (UN) to increase the participation of developing countries in decision-making processes. We emphasize the need for enhanced Africa-India cooperation at the UN, the G-77 and other multilateral fora, to foster common purpose in addressing areas of mutual concern. In the context of issues relating to international peace and security, we commend efforts made by the African Union Peace and Security Council in maintaining peace in Africa. Africa recalls, with appreciation, India's principled support to and continuing involvement with UN peacekeeping operations, especially in the African continent, India appreciates the role of African countries in maintaining peace and security in the Continent and their participation in peace keeping missions in other parts of the world- It also commends Africa on its development of the African Standby Force, which will enhance the continent's capacity to maintain peace and security.

15. We take note of UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973 on Libya and stress that efforts to implement them should be within the spirit and letter of those resolutions. In this regard, we call for an immediate cessation of all hostilities in Libya and urge the parties in the conflict to strive towards a political solution through peaceful means and dialogue- We express support for the African Union High-Level Ad Hoc Committee initiative and the African Union roadmap for the peaceful and consensual resolution of the conflict.

16. Based on the strong partnership between Africa and India on international issues relating to peace and security, Africa welcomes India's election to a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the years 2011-2012. India expresses its appreciation for the support of African States in this election in October 2010. The African members of the UN Security Council and India affirm their commitment to coordinate closely during India's tenure in the Council.

17. In this context, we underscore the imperative of urgent and comprehensive reform of the UN system. We share the view that the UN should function in a transparent, efficient and effective manner and that the composition

of its central organs must reflect contemporary realities. The expansion of the UN Security Council, in permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, with increased participation of developing countries in both categories, is central to the process of reform and for enhancing the credibility of the United Nations,

18. India notes the common African position and the aspirations of the African countries to get their rightful place in an expanded UN Security Council as new permanent members with full rights as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus. Africa takes note of India's position and its aspirations to become a permanent member with full rights in an expanded UN Security Council. We emphasize the need for Member States to exert utmost effort on the United Nations Security Council reform during the current session of the United Nations General Assembly.

19. We recognize that the security of all nations would be enhanced by a global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We reaffirm our commitment to the consensus in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Disarmament, which accorded priority to nuclear disarmament. We also express support for an International Convention Prohibiting the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Nuclear Weapons, leading to their destruction. We call for negotiating specific steps to reduce and finally eliminate nuclear weapons, leading to a world free from all weapons of mass destruction as envisaged in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988. We also look forward to the commencement of negotiations on the Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons and Other Nuclear Explosive Devices in the Conference on Disarmament.

20. We welcome the entry into force in July 2009, of the Africa Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty) of 1995 and the efforts towards the operationalisation of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (ACNE) in November 2010, which, among others, will promote the peaceful application of nuclear energy and technology within Member States.

21. We stress the importance of addressing the threat posed by illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons through full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALWs and welcome the African Union's efforts towards that end.

22. We unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. An act of terrorism anywhere is a threat to the entire international community. We recognize the need to further strengthen international cooperation to combat global terrorism and for compliance of all member states with all international

terrorism conventions and related protocols and UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism. We call on all States to cooperate with each other in prosecuting, extraditing and rendering legal assistance with regard to acts of international terrorism. In this connection, we deplore the tragic losses arising from terrorist attacks and call for the active prosecution of the authors of such crimes and their accomplices, and urge that they be brought to justice expeditiously. We further call on all countries to ensure that acts of cross-border terrorism do not occur, and that their territories are not made a base for terrorists. We strongly condemn kidnapping and hostage taking as well as the demands for ransom and political concessions by terrorist groups. We express serious concern at the increase in such incidents. Taking note of the African position on the condemnation of the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, we call for the urgent need to address this issue. We also agree to work to expeditiously finalize and adopt, a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN. We underscore the need to strengthen the implementation of AU mechanisms to prevent and combat terrorism.

23. We further stress the importance of addressing the threat posed by piracy off the Coast of Somalia and suffering caused by taking of hostages, and call on all States to cooperate in combating and eradicating the menace of piracy. In this context, Africa welcomes India's support to efforts to safeguard shipping in the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean from piracy.

24. We also pledge to work to eradicate drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, organized crime and money laundering. In this regard, we call on all States to ratify and implement all relevant International Instruments relating to these crimes.

25. We have reviewed, with satisfaction, the progress made in the implementation of the Africa-India Framework of Cooperation and note in this regard, the four-year Plan of Action adopted in March 2010. Work is moving apace on the various elements of this Plan of Action, including the establishment of 21 capacity-building institutions in various countries of Africa. India is committed to substantially contribute to building African capacities through supporting education and capacity building institutions and in enhancing value addition and processing of raw materials in Africa. Africa appreciates the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme offered by India and believes it has the potential to increase African exports to India.

26. We stress that cooperation between Africa and India, as emerging from the First Africa-India Forum Summit, has been a true manifestation of South-South Cooperation. Our Endeavour to find new ways of energizing our partnership by taking into account the emerging capabilities in Africa and India has found sustenance in the implementation of the Action Plan of our Framework



of Cooperation. We deeply appreciate the implementation of the initiatives that Africa and India took since the first India - Africa Forum Summit in April 2008, in New Delhi. We also laud the further initiatives that have been announced by the Prime Minister of India at the Second Africa-India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. India, on the other hand, welcomes the new spirit of association that has facilitated these initiatives.

27. Our Agreement that Africa and India will go beyond bilateral linkages to strengthen partnerships with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities of Africa, have borne fruit. The level of interaction between India and the African Union has increased manifold, particularly with the implementation of new AIFS initiatives after the success of the Pan- African e-Network Project- The relationships with the Regional Economic Communities have also been strengthened and India's initiative to invite Africa's Regional Economic Communities for a meeting in November 2010 was appreciated. The multi-tiered functional engagement which India has with Africa is a model for multilateral engagements around the world.

28. We also welcome the positive results of efforts to promote trade and investment, human resource development and infrastructure development in Africa. We commit ourselves to involving the private sector and civil society in Africa and India to widen the scope of our partnership.

29. We note with satisfaction that Trade Ministers from African countries and India met on 21 May, 2011 in Addis Ababa and take note of the Joint Statement issued by the Trade Ministers and lend our support to the ideas enunciated therein as indicators of our future cooperation. We appreciate that the Ministers had an in-depth discussion on the economic engagement between Africa and India, including the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme of India, cluster development initiatives and the identification of priority sectors of partnership. We also note with satisfaction the initiatives taken by the Trade Ministers in the establishment of Trade and Investment linkages between India and Africa and welcome the constitution of the India-Africa Business Council as well as the constitution of the annual India-Africa Trade Ministers' Dialogue. We acknowledge the common platform shared by India and Africa in the WTO Doha Round and reiterate the core principles of Special and Differential (S&D) Treatment and obtaining more preferential treatment for all LDCs.

30. We recognize that this Second Africa-India Forum Summit will help to realize our common vision of a self-reliant and economically vibrant Africa and India. We are committed to work together towards a peaceful and more egalitarian international order, where the voices of Africa and India can be heard to pursue their desire for inclusive development, both internationally

and domestically. Africa is determined to partner in India's economic resurgence as India is committed to be a close partner in Africa's renaissance.

31. We agree to add further substance to our Framework of Cooperation and to broaden exchanges to cover all facets of our relationship. We adopt, in this context, the Africa-India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation to supplement the existing Framework. We agree to institutionalize this Summit process. Accordingly, we agree that the next India - Africa Forum Summit will be held in 2014 in India.

32. The Prime Minister of India expresses his appreciation to the African Union Commission for hosting the Summit and to the Government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the hospitality extended to his delegation and to all participating leaders. The African leaders also express their appreciation to the Prime Minister of India for his participation.



## CONGO

**498. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Hardeep Singh Puri at the UNSC debate on Democratic Republic of Congo.**

**New York, May 18, 2011.**

Please see Document No.723.



**COMOROS****498A. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Additional Secretary Gurjit Singh to Comoros.****New Delhi, October 8, 2011.**

Additional Secretary (Africa) Gurjit Singh (ASA) , paid an official visit to the Union of Comoros from October 4-6, 2011. This was the first visit by an Indian official to Comoros and came after the enhanced cooperation with Africa announced at the 2nd IAFS in May 2011.

During his visit, ASA called on President Dr. Ikilou Dhoinine and other leaders. He offered an additional soft loan of US \$ 35 million for developmental projects to be chosen by Comoros. This is in addition to the earlier offer of US \$ 41.6 Million for an 18 MW power project in Moroni. India has also offered to set up a Vocational Training Centre in Moroni to impart skills in plumbing, welding, electrical, civil works and IT to Comorians as soon as a site was finalized. In response to a Comorian request for support in solar energy he expressed India's readiness to train Comorian women in the field of solar engineering in the Barefoot College of India under ITEC.

ASA conveyed India's appreciation for the valuable support of Comoros for India's non-permanent seat at the UNSC and also for the continued support for India's bid for a permanent membership of the UNSC.

President Dhoinine expressed his deep appreciation of India's assistance for the development of Comoros. He said that the loan of US \$ 35 million could be utilized for generating power in three islands of Comoros, which were suffering from serious energy crisis. He was also pleased at the setting up of the Pan-African e-Network for Tele-medicine, Tele-education and VVIP by India, as well as, invitations to Comorian for training program in various fields in India. He described India as a steadfast friend of Comoros.



**EGYPT****499. Developments in Egypt.****Concern expressed by India at developments in Egypt.****January 30, 2011**

"We are closely following with concern, the developments in Egypt. India has traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. We hope for an early and peaceful resolution of the situation without further violence and loss of lives."

**New Delhi****January 30, 2011**

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**On February 1 India expressed the hope for peaceful resolution of Egypt situation.****February 01, 2011.**

India continues to closely follow the mass protests in Egypt which are an articulation of the aspirations of the Egyptian people for reform. It is hoped that the current situation will be resolved in a peaceful manner, in the best interests of the people of Egypt. India wishes that Egypt, a fellow developing country with which she enjoys close and traditional ties, will continue to be a strong and stable nation, contributing to peace and prosperity in the region.

**New Delhi****February 01, 2011**

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Indian concern was the outcome of mass demonstrations in Cairo which were the "articulation of the aspirations of the Egyptian people for reform". They called for ouster of President Hosni Mubarak and introduction of democratic reforms.

Meanwhile External Affairs Minister commenting on the developments said: "The people of Egypt are fairly clear in their thinking and in their action and those who are ruling Egypt must see the writing on the wall." Minister S.M. Krishna had said this in an interview to TV channel 'Headlines Today.' "It will be in the larger interest of the region and in the larger interest of our bilateral relationship that power is taken over by a sane, rationalist, pluralistic leadership which will be of benefit to the people of Egypt and our bilateral relationship," Mr. Krishna said in reply to a question.

**500. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's Statement on stepping down of President Mubarak of the United Arab Republic.**

**New Delhi, February 11, 2011.**

We welcome the decision of President Mubarak to step down in deference to the wishes of the people of Egypt. We also welcome the commitment of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to ensure a peaceful transition of power in a time bound manner to establish an open and democratic framework of governance. We are proud of our traditionally close relations with the people of Egypt and wish them peace, stability and prosperity.



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The statement of Mr. Krishna came in the wake of relentless demonstrations by the people demanding introduction of democratic order and institutions in the country and resignation of President Mubarak.

**501. Remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Joint Press Conference following his talks with visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil El Araby.**

**New Delhi, May 30, 2011.**

We are delighted to host the Foreign Minister of Egypt, H.E Dr. Nabil El Araby on his first bilateral visit to Asia.

Foreign Minister El Araby is not new to India and has distinguished himself as the Ambassador of Egypt in India 30 years ago.

I am happy to inform you that our discussions today were marked by great warmth and cordiality which is reflective of our close ties and friendship.

Our discussions included the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including our economic engagement with Egypt. While our bilateral trade is around US\$ 3 billion, there are 45 Indian companies operating in Egypt with an investment of US\$ 2.5 billion. We have both agreed that there exists immense potential to enhance our economic relations and that we would jointly work towards it.

In the context of intensification of our ties with Africa and with the recent conclusion of the second edition of the India-Africa Forum Summit, we discussed issues related to cooperation in the field of information technology, satellite connectivity, tele-medicine, etc. I am optimistic about our continued cooperation in the future.

Foreign Minister El Araby informed me of the changes that are taking place in the Arab world, including in Egypt and the next steps that his Government is planning to take. I reiterate that India is ready to extend all possible cooperation.

Our discussion also covered regional and international issues and, in particular, the Palestinian issue, the Middle-East Peace Process and the recent Fatah-Hamas reconciliation in which Egypt played a major role. We have agreed to continue our discussions utilising bilateral mechanisms such as the Foreign Office Consultations and the Joint Commission.

I conveyed our thanks and appreciation to Egypt for its assistance in evacuation of Indians from Libya. This assistance was vital for 'safe homecoming' of more than 16,000 Indians from Libya.

I also availed of the opportunity to discuss issues related to Arab League, as Foreign Minister El Araby would shortly be assuming the office of Secretary General of Arab League and those related to the NAM Ministerial meeting in Bali last week which was chaired by him.



**ERITREA****502. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the Visit of Foreign Minister of Eritrea.****New Delhi, June 8, 2011.**

H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Foreign Minister of Eritrea, paid an official visit to India from 6-8 June 2011 and called on Hon'ble Minister of State, Smt. Preeti Kaur on 7th June 2011. This was the first visit of any African Minister after the successful conclusion of the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa on 24-25th May 2011.

The Foreign Minister of Eritrea welcomed India's reemergence as a major economic, political and technological power. He also commended India's institutionalized engagement with African partners through the consensual, consultative and responsive mechanism put in place under the rubric of India Africa Forum Summit. H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh expressed hope for a sustained political and diplomatic engagement between India and Africa at various global fora, including UNSC, for mutual benefit.

The Foreign Minister of Eritrea offered unqualified support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, as India deserved this. H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh also visited India in February 2011 to attend the LDCs Conference and called on the Minister of External Affairs.

India and Eritrea enjoy warm and cordial relations in political, commercial, education and other areas. The overall matrix of bilateral relations is led by Lines of Credit and Indian professionals working in Eritrea, while trade constitutes a smaller but growing segment.



**ETHIOPIA****503. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Media following his meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister.****Addis Ababa, May 25, 2011.**

His Excellency Prime Minister Meles Zenawi,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

Thank you Mr. Prime Minister for your warm words of welcome.

This is my first visit to Ethiopia and I am delighted to be in this beautiful country, which is also the diplomatic capital of Africa. I feel extremely privileged to be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Ethiopia.

I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the people of Ethiopia for the warm welcome given to me and for the excellent arrangements that have been made for our stay.

We have earlier today concluded a very successful Africa India Forum Summit. I wish to place on record our most grateful thanks to Prime Minister Zenawi for agreeing to host the Summit in Addis Ababa. Thank you very much Mr. Prime Minister.

A short while ago we concluded very productive discussions on our bilateral relations with Ethiopia. As you know, India and Ethiopia have enjoyed historically close links. Ethiopia is an influential member of the world community. Its voice is heard with great respect in Africa. Ethiopia's economic performance, political stability and democratic polity are examples worthy of emulation by other developing countries.

We are very satisfied with the progress in our relations in recent years. Our talks today have laid a solid foundation for closer political understanding and deepening of our economic exchanges in the coming years.

We have decided to enhance our cooperation in a number of areas. They include sectors such as science & technology, agricultural research, education and information technology. We have concluded agreements in the area of taxation and small and medium enterprises, which will bring benefits to business communities on both sides.

India has tried to assist in Ethiopia's development through capacity building support and offers of lines of credit of more than 700 million US dollars during the last five years. We will further enhance scholarships, training programmes



and slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme for Ethiopia.

I conveyed to the Prime Minister our decision to extend an additional line of credit of 300 million US dollars for a regional integration project as committed to the African Union for a new Ethiopia-Djibouti railway.

We also exchanged views on regional and global issues of common interest. Piracy has emerged as a major threat to international trade and commerce. We would like to coordinate our actions closely with Ethiopia to combat this threat.

We discussed the situation in Africa, the challenges facing this great continent and the importance of India and Ethiopia working together for a better life for our people.

Prime Minister Zenawi was appreciative of our engagement and partnership with Africa under the platform of the Africa India Forum Summit. This is indeed a unique initiative which will benefit both India and Africa. Our relations with Ethiopia serve as a model for this broader partnership.

My visit to Ethiopia has laid a solid foundation for building a closer partnership between our two countries. I look forward to continuing my dialogue with the Prime Minister, for which I have invited him to visit India.

I eagerly look forward to the honour and opportunity of addressing the Members of the Ethiopian Parliament tomorrow.

Thank you.



**504. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Joint Session of the two Houses of the Parliament of Ethiopia.**

**Addis Ababa, May 26, 2011.**

I am deeply honoured to be given this opportunity to address the Joint Session of both Houses of the Parliament of Ethiopia.

I feel privileged to be the first Prime Minister of India to visit this great country.

For me, this is a voyage of friendship and solidarity. I bring to you warm and friendly greetings from a fellow democracy - a democracy that, like yours, faces the challenges of development and a democracy that, like yours, treasures diversity and federalism.

I am conscious that when one visits Ethiopia one visits the cradle of humankind. It is strategically located in the Horn of Africa and is the gateway to East Africa. It is a land of great natural beauty which was home to the most ancient kingdom in Africa.

**Honourable Members,**

India and Ethiopia are no strangers to each other.

Many millennia ago, Africa and India were joined as one landmass. Today we are separated by the waters of the Indian Ocean but our connections are deep and they have brought in their wake rich and varied exchanges in the ebb and flow of history.

Indian traders flocked to the ancient port of Adulis, trading silk and spices for gold and ivory. A sizeable Indian community consisting of merchants and artisans came and settled in this ancient land in the latter part of the 19th century.

There was movement in the other direction too. Thousands of people of Ethiopian origin have settled as an integral part of Indian society along the West Coast of India. The fort of Murud Janjira in the State of Maharashtra stands as a symbol of African influence in India.

These exchanges have produced remarkable and often overlooked similarities in our traditions and cultures.

The Siddis of African descent living in India have created a fusion of Indian and African styles of music that thrives today. The tradition in southern India of using fermented flour for making Dosa is similar to the Injara in Ethiopia. The sight of women with heads covered and men wearing turbans is strikingly common in Ethiopian and Indian villages. Hospitality in humble

village homes begins with simple offerings, and guests are treated as incarnations of the gods.

**Honourable Members,**

Unlike large parts of Asia and Africa, Ethiopia never suffered the humiliation and trauma of colonization. Yet, when Abyssinia was invaded in 1935, it deeply affected Jawaharlal Nehru, and he led India in offering sympathy to the people of Ethiopia. In his appeal to the people of India to observe Abyssinia Day in 1936 he said and I quote:

“We in India can do nothing to help our brethren in distress in Ethiopia for we also are victims of imperialism. But we can at least send them sympathy in the hour of their trial. We stand with them today in their sorrow as we hope to stand together when better days come.” Unquote.

**Honourable Members,**

I believe the better days that Jawaharlal Nehru spoke of have come.

Ethiopia has overcome many adversities to become one of Africa's fastest growing economies. Ethiopia is a magnet for foreign investment.

Its economic performance and political stability are the fruit of the hard working people of Ethiopia and a tribute to the progressive leadership of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

The voice of Ethiopia is heard with respect. Addis Ababa, the new flower, has become the diplomatic capital of Africa. It is the Headquarters of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

I heartily congratulate the people of Ethiopia on their splendid achievements.

**Honourable Members,**

Relations between India and Ethiopia have expanded impressively in the last few decades. We attach high importance to our relations with Ethiopia.

Our development and economic partnership is progressing well.

Education and capacity building are high priorities for both our countries.

The Pan-African e-Network project in Ethiopia implemented by India has connected Addis Ababa University with the Indira Gandhi National Open University.

We have agreed to the early establishment of a Vocational Training Centre in Ethiopia.

In the infrastructure sector, India has assisted in a rural electrification programme in Southern Ethiopia which has brought benefit to hundreds of thousands of people in rural Ethiopia.

India has provided a line of credit of 640 million US dollars for the development of Ethiopia's sugar industry.

We will support the new Ethio-Djibouti Railway project to promote regional integration. We have decided to extend a line of credit of 300 million US dollars for this important project.

India is one of the largest foreign investors in Ethiopia. More than 450 Indian companies have committed upwards of 4 billion US dollars in investment in Ethiopia.

Our bilateral trade is on course to reach the target of 1 billion US dollars by 2015.

Our political ties are close. Indian troops were part of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea to secure peace and security. Military training is a valued area of our cooperation.

The decisions Prime Minister Zenawi and I took in the course of our discussions yesterday will strengthen our partnership even further.

**Honourable Members,**

Going forward, our bilateral cooperation should help to make a difference to the real problems affecting the common man.

India and Ethiopia must work to address the challenges of food security, energy security, health security, sustainable development and climate change. We have to learn to solve our own problems by collaborating with each other.

Our farming communities and scientists should collaborate to usher in a second Green Revolution. This is the lasting solution to the scourge of hunger that afflicts millions in both our countries.

Providing affordable health care to our people, particularly in rural areas, is another major challenge. Indian pharmaceutical companies are known for providing cheap and good quality generic drugs. I am happy they have begun to invest in Ethiopia.

We have to be conscious of our environment and ensure the judicious management of our natural resources. We should protect our rich biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

It is essential for rich countries to share the financial burden of combating climate change, participate in research and development and promote the transfer of technology to ensure green growth. Prime Minister Zenawi has made an invaluable contribution to these issues as co-chair of the United Nations Secretary General's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing.

**Honourable Members,**

India owes a debt of deep gratitude to Africa for it was here that Mahatma Gandhi experienced his political and spiritual awakening. It was in Africa that he first experimented with the philosophy of non-violence and passive resistance or satyagraha that shook the colonial powers of that time.

The struggles for freedom in India and Africa and the collaboration of our leaders were glorious chapters in our history. After we attained freedom, we worked shoulder to shoulder to fight apartheid and strengthen the Non-aligned Movement and the United Nations. India supported liberation movements such as the African National Congress and South West Africa People's Organisation. We fought to build a just, equitable and democratic international order.

This is the legacy of friendship that we have inherited from our forefathers. Our empathy with our African brothers and sisters is of long standing and comes from our hearts and minds.

**Honourable Members,**

The world has changed. Globalisation is a reality today. Our people have rising expectations. Africa is responding to these challenges and discovering its rich potential. The world is reaching out to Africa and seeing it as a new growth pole in the world economy.

India sees Africa as a natural partner in our growing engagement with the world.

India and Africa have to work together to make global interdependence work for the benefit of all people and particularly for the millions who live in the developing world. This is our next project.

We must work towards market access for some of the poorest commodity producers in Africa. Vulnerable sections of our peasantry need to be protected from the vagaries of the international marketplace. It is imperative that the development dimension of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations is not diluted.

Prices of many agricultural commodities remain volatile. The problem is made worse by speculation. The G-20 countries have taken the initiative of supporting work on regulation and supervision of commodity derivative markets. This is an area where India and Ethiopia have vital interests and should cooperate with each other.

The Second India-Africa Forum Summit which concluded yesterday here in Addis Ababa under the theme "Enhanced Partnership: Shared Vision" has opened a new era in India-Africa relations.

Our development cooperation with Africa is based on the principles of mutual equality and mutual benefit. We want the participation of as many of our African brothers and sisters as possible in our aid and economic cooperation programmes. Local employment generation and capacity development are the pillars of our development cooperation.

African students find a welcome home in India. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme has enabled the training of thousands of African youth in industrial training institutes, medical colleges, engineering colleges and in fields such as business administration, agriculture and legal services.

We have decided to increase scholarships and training slots for Africa. Their total number will stand at over 22,000 during the next three years.

The development of infrastructure in Africa is a priority and an area where Indian technology is very appropriate.

We will offer 5 billion US dollars for the next three years under lines of credit to help achieve the development goals of Africa. We will offer an additional 700 million US dollars to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

**Honourable Members,**

India and Ethiopia are pluralistic and diverse societies. We share the belief that democracy and respect for the free will of the people are the only durable basis to find solutions to our problems.

We believe that similar principles should be applied in the conduct of international governance.

The Horn of Africa is today faced with threats from piracy and terrorism. International piracy in the Red Sea and off the coast of Somalia has become a well organized industry. It is important that the United Nations takes the lead in

developing a comprehensive and effective response to this threat. Simultaneously, the international community should continue with efforts to restore stability in Somalia.

As a littoral State of the Indian Ocean, India is ready to work with Ethiopia and other African countries in this regard. We would all like the Indian Ocean to remain a secure link between Asia and Africa through which international maritime trade can take place unhindered.

**Honourable Members,**

The winds of change are blowing in West Asia and North Africa. We believe it is the right of all peoples to determine their own destiny and choose their own path of development. International actions must be based on the rule of law and be strictly within the framework of United Nations Resolutions. We support the efforts of the African Union in bringing peace and stability to the region.

The birth of a new nation in a few weeks time in South Sudan will be a historic event. We hope it will contribute to peace and reconciliation among the people of Sudan.

The changing world order calls for corresponding changes in the structure of institutions of global governance, whether these are international financial institutions or the international monetary system or the United Nations Security Council. These are issues which have to be tackled and resolved. We are grateful to Ethiopia for its strong support to India's permanent membership in an expanded Security Council and look forward to our continuing cooperation with Ethiopia on these issues.

**Honourable Members,**

Ethiopia is one of most stable and progressive states in Africa. The engine of African growth is being driven by economic dynamism in countries like Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has the credentials to shape a new vision for Africa's prosperity and development. I call upon you, the parliamentarians and people of Ethiopia, to take a lead in this process. The people of India will stand with you every step of the way.

Our economies have been doing well in recent years. Let us cooperate with each other so that we can reinforce and build upon our successes and achievements.

**Honourable Members,**

In conclusion, let me say once again how fortunate I feel to have visited your

beautiful country. I feel a sense of deep personal fulfillment to see the coming together of our two brotherly nations.

You have honoured me and the people of India today for which I am indebted to you.

I wish Ethiopia greater peace, prosperity and happiness in the years ahead. May your dreams come true.

I thank you all.



**505. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Indian Community Function in Addis Ababa**

**Addis Ababa, May 26, 2011.**

Shri Bhagwant Bishnoi, Ambassador of India, and Shrimati Bishnoi,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great privilege for me to meet the members of the Indian community in Ethiopia.

Indian merchants and artisans came to this country as far back as the 19th century. They made a home here and with painstaking effort built for themselves a respected place in Ethiopian society.

I was very proud to hear that many Ethiopians have high regard for the Indian teachers who taught them. I am told that even today Ethiopian universities are keen to recruit Indian professors.

I see this spirit of selfless and dedicated service among all Indian communities I meet during my visits abroad. While retaining and carrying forward the high values, strong family traditions and work ethic of their motherland, they adapt very well in their adopted homes. They are pillars of their communities and a source of pride and achievement for Indians everywhere.

I have been in Addis Ababa for the last three days. My visit to Ethiopia has been a most rewarding experience. I have been struck by the extraordinary goodwill, love and affection for India in this country. We are indeed fortunate to have friends like the people of Ethiopia.



I have come to Africa with a message of friendship and solidarity from India. I conveyed to the African leaders how much importance the people and government of India attach to reviving our historic relations with this great continent.

We concluded the second Africa India Forum Summit yesterday. Together with leaders from across the continent of Africa, we set out an ambitious road map to comprehensively expand the India-Africa partnership.

Indian communities in Africa have an important role to play in renewing and strengthening relations between India and Africa. The rise of India and Africa is opening new opportunities for collaboration. There is much that we can do together to increase each others' welfare and prosperity.

I have held detailed discussions on our bilateral relations with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi. We agreed that there is vast untapped potential in developing our bilateral relations. Prime Minister Zenawi is a strong advocate of a robust and diversified relationship between India and Ethiopia. Today India is on a path of high economic growth. There is confidence and hope among our youth and a desire for change. A new India is rising fast as a fast growing, democratic and pluralistic society. These are features we share with Ethiopia.

In recent years, Ethiopia's economic performance, political stability and democratic polity have attracted the attention of the international community. Ethiopia's voice is heard with increasing respect because of these achievements.

I am confident that my visit will open a new chapter of multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries.

In recent times, the flow of Indian investments in Ethiopia has grown. I am told that over 450 Indian companies have invested in Ethiopia with total committed investment of more than 4 billion US dollars.

I would urge the Indian business community to set high standards of professional conduct in this country. Businesses that seek a long term presence here should work hard to earn the support and goodwill of local communities. They should aim to be model corporate citizens.

Your contribution to the economic development of Ethiopia is highly appreciated. I would like you to know that your motherland recognises the value of this contribution and your hard work.

The welfare, safety and well-being of Indian citizens will always receive our close attention. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has been working

hard to strengthen links of our overseas communities with India and to harness their knowledge, skills and resources.

I am happy to announce that we will shortly set an Indian Community Welfare Fund for Indian citizens in distress in Ethiopia.

I thank you all for coming here today. I wish you and your families the best of health and happiness.

Thank you.



## **IVORY COAST**

### **506. Resolution on Cote d'Ivoire – India's Explanation of Vote by India's Permanent Representative Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council.**

**New York, March 31, 2011.**

Thank you, Mr. President.

India is seriously concerned at the prevailing situation in Cote d'Ivoire since the presidential elections last year. We have consistently held that both parties in Cote d'Ivoire should exercise maximum restraint and respect the outcome of the elections. We have urged the parties to ensure that there is no violence because it harms the wellbeing of the Ivoirian people and distracts from the main task of economic development, social cohesion and national reconciliation. During the last three months, we have supported all efforts to resolve the current problem peacefully and through dialogue. To that end, we have supported the efforts of the ECOWAS and African Union to find a political solution leading to restoration of democracy and will of the Ivoirian people at the earliest. With that objective in mind, we have voted in favour of the resolution today.

2. We want to put on record that the UN peacekeepers should draw their mandate from the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. They cannot be made instruments of regime change. Accordingly, the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) should not become a party to the Ivorian political stalemate. The UNOCI should also not get involved in a civil war but carry out its mandate with impartiality and ensuring safety and security

of peacekeepers and civilians. In this context, we have noted that a UNOCI helicopter was fired at by the Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) on 29th March 2011. We call upon all parties to respect UNOCI's military impartiality.

3. The Council has heard about various allegations of serious crimes committed against civilians in Cote d'Ivoire. There should be no a priori presumption about nature of these alleged crimes. Each allegation has to be investigated on a case-by-case basis by the competent national bodies and further action taken as per relevant laws.

4. We also want to place on report our growing concern at the tendency to hurry the process of adopting resolutions. We think that there should be enough time for deliberations and consultations with all concerned countries. In situations, such as those envisaged in the present resolution, it is imperative that Troop Contributing Countries be first consulted on the mandate of the UN peacekeepers. Such consultations are necessary not only for well considered decisions but also for an effective implementation of the mandate.

5. We also want to reiterate that India is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Of the 192 members of the United Nations, only 114 are members of the ICC. 5 of the 15 members of the Security Council, including 3 Permanent Members, are not parties to the Rome Statute. It is also important to note that there are clear legal provisions concerning state-parties to the Rome Statute. There are also guidelines for a state, which is not a party to the Rome Statute, to accept the exercise of jurisdiction by the ICC. These provisions and guidelines should be followed without exception. It merits underlining that there is no mandate in this resolution for the Security Council to refer the situation in Cote d'Ivoire to the ICC.

Thank you.



**LESOTHO****507. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of a 5-member delegation from the Kingdom of Lesotho.****New Delhi, July 28, 2011.**

A five-member delegation from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho is visiting India from 27th to 30th July 2011. The delegation is led by H.E. Dr. Pontso 'Matumelo Sekatle, Minister of Local Government & Chieftainship Affairs.

On 28th July 2011, India and Lesotho signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development. The Indian delegation at the signing ceremony of the MoU was led by Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development & Drinking Water Supply, Shri Jairam Ramesh. The Indian delegation comprised officials from the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of External Affairs.

Earlier, the two sides held wide-ranging discussions related to current cooperation in the field of rural development and prospects of future engagement.



**LIBYA****508. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs deploring use of force in Libya.****New Delhi, February 22, 2011.**

The Government of India has been following, with serious concern, the developments in Libya, leading to loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. The Government deplors the use of force which is totally unacceptable and must not be resorted to. It is earnestly hoped that calm is restored at the earliest without any further violence.

The Ministry and the Embassy of India in Tripoli are closely monitoring the situation and are in regular touch with representatives of the Indian community. Necessary measures, as warranted by the situation, would be taken by the Government to ensure the safety and welfare of Indian nationals.

**509. Explanation of the Vote by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Resolution adopted concerning Libya at the Security Council.****New York, February 26, 2011.**

Please see Document No.691.



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The spokesman was referring to unprecedented demonstrations in Tripoli and Bengazi against the Gadaffi regime asking for reforms and the use of force which killed hundreds of people.

**510. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur in Rajya Sabha on the evacuation of Indian nationals from Libya.**

**New Delhi, March 4, 2011.**

Sir,

I rise to share with the house information on the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of External Affairs and other GOI Ministries and Departments, to assist in the evacuation of Indian nationals from Libya.

In view of the disturbed conditions in Libya, the Government of India took the decision to relocate Indian nationals out of Libya and assist in their return home. The first special flight of Air India left Libya on February 26. Since then, an air bridge has been established between Tripoli and Delhi.

By the end of the day today, 9,209 Indian nationals would have been evacuated out of Libya, including 1,450 out of Tripoli and Sebha by Air India flights. We expect to complete the exercise of evacuating all those desirous of leaving Libya by March 10. It may be noted that some Indian nationals have opted to stay on Libya.

A passenger ship, Scotia Prince, has also ferried 1,188 Indians from Benghazi to Alexandria in Egypt from where they arrived in Mumbai and Delhi by special flights organized by the Government yesterday and early this morning. The ship turned around from Alexandria last night at 2330 hrs for Benghazi, from where we are coordinating the transport of another 1,150 of our nationals back to India via Alexandria. The ship will dock at Benghazi early morning tomorrow.

As we speak, a passenger ship, Red Star One, is also on its way to Misurata and Sirte to ferry Indian nationals to Malta from where special flights are being arranged out of Valletta to bring them back. An air bridge is also being put in place from late tonight between Sebha and India and we hope to evacuate about 2000 Indian nationals from there over the next 5 days, beginning today.

We have confirmed reports that 750 or so Indian nationals from Kufra in South East Libya have reached Benghazi by the land route. They will now be picked up by the passenger vessel en route to Benghazi.

A large number of Indian nationals have crossed the Libyan border into Tunisia and Egypt. They have been assisted at the border by Indian Embassy officials to be issued travel documents, temporarily housed in hotels and other shelters and provided assistance for their return to India by commercial and special flights. Similar assistance has also been provided by our Missions to Indian who managed to reach other countries such as Malta, Greece, Gulf States etc.

We have taken special care, in association with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, that returning passenger to India are facilitated at Delhi and Mumbai airports. At the Delhi airport a special terminal has been made available for the returnees, who are being met by the concerned company representatives and assisted by officials of the respective State Governments, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

An IAF IL 76 aircraft has been stationed in Cairo to undertake possible evacuation operations from Libya. A second IL 76 aircraft has also been put on readiness to be dispatched as and when the need arises. Two ships of the Indian Navy - INS Jalashwa and INS Mysore are en route and are expected to be in the region by March 8 to assist in the evacuation operations of any Indians that might still be in the coastal towns of Libya.

As part of the effort to ensure the safe and orderly evacuation of Indian nationals from Libya, External Affairs Minister spoke to his Libyan counterpart on March 2. The Libyan Foreign Minister assured EAM that all Libyan authorities concerned would extend every possible assistance for this purpose.

As assured by EAM, the cost towards evacuation of Indians from Libya assisted by Government in their safe and orderly return to India is being met by the Government.

Hon'ble members are aware of the complicated situation in Libya. The security of Indian nationals and their safe return to India is Government's foremost priority. Despite considerable logistical challenges the Government has put in place a well coordinated operation 'safe home coming' to bring home our nationals in the quickest and safest manner possible. I hope the house will join me in extending support to all those involved in this operation for the safe return of Indian nationals from Libya.

Thank You.



**511. Explanation of Indian Abstention Vote on the Resolution on Libya in the UN Security Council.**

**New York, March 17, 2011.**

(The explanation on Vote below, was delivered by Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Manjeev Singh Puri, at UN Security Council in New York on 17 March 2011)

India has been following with serious concern the developments in Libya, which have led to loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. We deplore the use of force, which is totally unacceptable, and must not be resorted to. We are very concerned with the welfare of the civilian population and foreigners in Libya.

2. The UN Secretary-General has appointed a Special Envoy, who has just visited Libya. We have not had the benefit of his report or even a report from the Secretariat on his assessment as yet. This would have given us an objective analysis of the situation on ground. The African Union is also sending a High Level Panel to Libya to make serious efforts for a peaceful end to the crisis there. We must stress the importance of political efforts, including those of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, to address the situation.

3. The resolution that the Council has adopted today authorizes far reaching measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter with relatively little credible information on the situation on the ground in Libya. We also do not have clarity about details of enforcement measures, including who and with what assets will participate and how these measures will be exactly carried out. It is, of course, very important that there is full respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Libya.

4. Mr President, the financial measures that are proposed in the resolution could impact, directly or through indirect routes, ongoing trade and investment activities of a number of member-states thereby adversely affecting the economic interests of the Libyan people and others dependent on these trade and economic ties. Moreover, we had to ensure that the measures will mitigate and not exacerbate an already difficult situation for the people of Libya. Clarity in the resolution on any spill-over affects of these measures would have been very important.

5. Mr President, we have abstained on the resolution in view of the above. I would like to re-emphasize that India continues to be gravely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Libya and calls on the Libyan authorities to cease fire, protect the civilian population and address the legitimate demands of the Libyan people.





**512. Statement issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Indian grave concern at violence in Libya and calling for peaceful resolution of differences.**

**New Delhi, March 20, 201**

India views with grave concern the continuing violence, strife and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Libya. It regrets the air strikes that are taking place. As stated earlier by India, the measures adopted should mitigate and not exacerbate an already difficult situation for the people of Libya.

It hopes that this would not lead to greater harm to innocent civilians, foreign nationals and diplomatic missions and their personnel still in Libya.

India calls upon all parties to abjure use of or the threat of use of force and to resolve their differences through peaceful means and dialogue in which the UN and regional organisations should play their roles.



**512-A. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Briefing on Syria.**

**New York, May 4, 2011.**

Please see Document No.712.



**513. Visit of Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Aati Al Obeidi to New Delhi to discuss the latest situation in Libya.**

**New Delhi, July 22, 2011.**

The Foreign Minister of Libya, Mr. Abdel Aati Al Obeidi visited New Delhi on July 22, 2011. He met Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri E. Ahmed and briefed him on the latest developments in Libya and the status of various initiatives for resolving the crisis in Libya.

MOS reiterated India's position which calls for immediate cessation of all hostilities in Libya and supports peaceful resolution of the Libyan crisis through dialogue, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the people of Libya. He conveyed India's consistent stand to maintain unity and territorial integrity of Libya. He also expressed support for the African Union-High Level Ad-hoc Committee initiatives and the African Union Road Map for the peaceful and consensual resolution of the conflict.

The Libyan Foreign Minister left New Delhi today afternoon.

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*Statement of the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the situation in Libya and expressing the hope that it would be normalized peacefully by its people.*

New Delhi, August 23, 2011.

We are closely monitoring the developments in Libya. There are indications that the situation in Libya is changing and the recent events in Tripoli indicate that the Transitional National Council is acquiring effective control. The situation in the country should be normalized by the people of Libya themselves in a peaceful manner adhering to democratic norms and with respect for aspirations of the people. This process should be guided by respect for the sovereignty, integrity and unity of Libya. India stands ready to extend all possible assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation to the friendly people of Libya and wishes them peace, stability and prosperity.



**514. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs extending support to Transitional National Council of Libya in the United Nations.**

**New Delhi, September 17, 2011.**

India extended support to the acceptance of credentials of the delegation of the Transitional National Council of Libya led by its President Mustafa Abdel Jalil to attend the forthcoming UN General Assembly session in New York.

India has been in contact with the Transitional National Council in Benghazi and Cairo. India has also participated as an observer in the Libyan Contact Group meeting in Istanbul in July and recently at the MOS level at the Paris Conference on Libya jointly organised by France and UK on September 1. India will also be participating in the High Level Meeting on Libya scheduled to be held in the margins of the UNGA on September 20, called by the UN Secretary General. In this meeting, India will reiterate its willingness to extend all possible assistance to the people of Libya in their political transition, rebuilding and reconstruction activities.

Our Cd'A to Libya, currently based in Tunis, has formally established contact with the TNC Mission in Tunis.

We have given humanitarian assistance of US\$1 million through UN-OCHA to Libya and assistance of another US\$2 million is being processed.



**MAURITIUS****515. Briefing by Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs on the State Visit of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to Mauritius****New Delhi, April 23, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good morning to all of you and welcome to XP Division.

You are aware that the Hon'ble President of India would be leaving tomorrow on a State Visit to Mauritius. Secretary (West) Shri Vivek Katju is here to brief you on this very important visit of the President of India. Let me also introduce two of my colleagues on the dais. To the right of Secretary (West) is Mr. Gurjit Singh, Joint Secretary for East and Southern Africa and to my left is Mrs. Archana Datta, OSD to the President. I will invite Secretary (West) to make his opening remarks and thereafter he will be happy to take questions pertaining to the visit of the Hon'ble President to Mauritius.

**Secretary (West) (Shri Vivek Katju):** Thank You. I have a brief opening statement and after that, you can ask questions.

Hon'ble President will be on a State Visit to Mauritius from April 24 to April 28, 2011. During the visit, Hon'ble President will meet H.E. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius. She will hold discussions with H.E. Dr. Navindchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Leader of the Opposition, H.E. Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, the Chief Justice of Mauritius, Justice Bernard Sik Yuen, and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag will call on Hon'ble President.

As part of the State Visit, Hon'ble President will also address the National Assembly of Mauritius, unveil a bust of Smt. Indira Gandhi at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, and will meet the Indian community in Mauritius. The University of Mauritius will confer a Degree of Doctor of Civil Law *honoris causa* on the President. The Hon'ble President will also visit heritage sites such as the Aapravasi Ghat and the Le Mourné. Hon'ble President will address the India-Mauritius Business Meet; a high level business delegation consisting of 57 business people from India will be in Mauritius during the State Visit of the Hon'ble President.

Hon'ble President's visit to Mauritius is a part of the process of exchanges at the highest political level between India and Mauritius. The two countries have enduring bonds of friendship and cooperation that are firmly rooted in history,

tradition and cultural affinities. India-Mauritius partnership today is mutually beneficial, comprehensive, deep and diverse. The commitment of the two countries to democratic ideals, values and pluralism reinforces the close ties that they enjoy.

India-Mauritius approaches on many regional and international issues, such as international terrorism, piracy, reform of the international institutions, including the United Nations, especially the Security Council, coincide. Both countries have a tradition of strong cooperation in multilateral fora.

The State Visit of the Hon'ble President of India to Mauritius will provide a further impetus to the consolidation and development of their historical friendship and cooperation between the two countries and will enhance the India-Mauritius partnership.

Thank You.

**Question:** Sir, any MoUs?

**Secretary (West):** No MoUs or agreements are contemplated during this visit. We have a vast legal structure of agreements, Memoranda of Understanding already in place between the two countries which provides the legal framework within which our cooperation continues to flourish.

**Question:** Has India decided to give a vessel to Mauritius?

**Secretary (West):** There is ongoing cooperation in the security area between the two countries. India has been responsive to requests that come from Mauritius. Currently, a vessel is being manufactured in India as part of this process of cooperation. It is an Offshore Patrol Vessel, if you wish to know the exact nomenclature.

**Question:** What about the rest of the Delegation? Who else is going with the President?

**Secretary (West):** I think that is a fair question and I should have mentioned that. The hon. Minister of Shipping Mr. G.K. Vasan will be accompanying the President as part of the Delegation. There will be three Members of Parliament – Mr. Upendra Kushwaha, Mr. Hamdullah Sayeed, and Mr. A.T. Patil – who will also be part of the Delegation. In addition, there will be a team of officials who will be in attendance.

**Question:** Any family members of the President?

**Secretary (West):** We do not discuss family details. There will also be, as I mentioned, a Business Delegation which will be in Mauritius at the time of the

visit. You can get details, names. It will be led by Mr. Navin Raheja of Raheja Developers, if I am not mistaken. But it is a strong delegation. They are in the business field. They are representatives from the cement industry, from telecommunication, education, information technology, agriculture, agro chemicals, fertilizers, infrastructure, finance and legal services, etc. Our economic and commercial ties are significant. Our trade at the moment is at the level of about 460 to 470 million US dollars per year. With these our exports to Mauritius account for about 450 million US dollars. There is a supply of petroleum products to Mauritius from India, which is on a long-term contract basis, and of course other diverse items in the field of manufactures, commodities, etc. We have also been partners in the development process of Mauritius. There are numerous projects which have been completed over the years. These have been in response to the needs of Mauritius. They have I think contributed not only to furthering our mutual friendship but also have catered for the development needs of the country.

**Question:** Do you have any figure on the FDI inflows from Mauritius?

**Joint Secretary (E&SA) (Shri Gurjit Singh):** Mauritius accounts for nearly 40 to 42 per cent of our total FDI from the beginning, from 1991. Last year also it was about 40 per cent and that is 10.376 billion US dollars. Total from April 2000 to January 2011 it is about 53.369 billion and that is 41.9 per cent. This is based on RBI figures.

**Question:** Sir, China has been investing a lot in Mauritius. Are you taking it as a threat since they are giving a lot of money to build a lot of structures over there?

**Secretary (West):** We are not in competition with any country in our foreign relations. Our relations with Mauritius especially stand on their own. As I have mentioned, it is time-tested; it is enduring; it is based on very firm foundations; it is comprehensive; and it stand, I must repeat, entirely on its own. We do not feel threatened by anyone.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



**516. Departure Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil on board her Special Flight to Mauritius.**

**April 24, 2011.**

Good morning. I will be visiting Mauritius, a country with which we have strong bonds of affinity. Not only are the shores of our two countries washed by the waters of same Ocean, but the presence of a large number of people of Indian origin in Mauritius have created bonds of kinship. I am looking forward to my visit to Mauritius, as an opportunity to reaffirm our unique relationship, and to further strengthen the framework of co-operation.

During my visit, I will be meeting President Sir Anerood Jugnauth and holding discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. I will be addressing the Mauritian National Assembly, and also meeting the Leader of Opposition, Mr. Paul Berenger. I will have an opportunity to exchange views with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mauritius. At the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, apart from unveiling the statue of our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, I will be interacting with the members of the Indian community. My other engagements include a visit to the University of Mauritius, and interaction with the business communities of our two countries. An Indian business delegation will be in Mauritius during my visit.

I will also be going to sites of historical and cultural importance, that reflect the commonalities between our two countries. My visit to the Aapravasi Ghat, will be to recall the journey of Indians who came to Mauritius about 200 years ago, and contributed to making Mauritius what it is today. Moreover, Mahatma Gandhi had stopped in Mauritius on his way back to India from South Africa in 1901. Paying homage to him in Mauritius, will be a particularly significant event for me.

The India and Mauritius partnership today, is wide-ranging and multi-faceted, its depth and diversity indicates that it is a mutually beneficial relationship. Our common commitment to democratic ideals and pluralistic society anchors our close ties. We aim to further enhance the level of our engagement to newer heights. My discussions with the leadership of Mauritius will cover a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. I hope that the exchange of views at these meetings, will provide a greater momentum and thrust, to the process of consolidation and development of our partnership in all spheres.

Mauritius has extended support to India on global issues of crucial importance

to us. It has consistently supported India's candidature for a permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. It has been unequivocal in its condemnation of international terrorism. We are committed to work with the Government of Mauritius to jointly fight piracy and enhance security in the Indian Ocean, through mutually agreed measures.

We look at Mauritius as a friendly country in the African continent. I am, therefore, pleased that the first country in Africa which I will be visiting, is Mauritius. India-Africa relations are historical and strong. They hold great promise in the future as well. In 2008, we initiated the India-Africa Forum Summit, as a platform for broader engagement with countries in Africa. I am pleased that the Second meeting of the India-Africa Forum Summit is to take place next month in Ethiopia.

I am looking forward to my visit to Mauritius, as it is not only a valuable bilateral partner, but also an important ally in the multi-lateral fora.

Thank you.



**517. Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at conclusion of her talks with Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam.**

**Port Louis, April 25, 2011.**

My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warmth of the reception, and for the generous hospitality accorded to us by the Government and the people of Mauritius. I bring greetings and good wishes from the people of India to the friendly people of Mauritius.

India and Mauritius are bound by ties of history, cultural affinities and indeed, kinship. It is even more satisfying that our friendship today has acquired a contemporaneous and vibrant character, to assume the dimension of a strategic partnership. Our bilateral relations today are wide-ranging, multi-dimensional and mutually beneficial. Our shared and abiding commitment to the ideals of democracy and pluralism has only reinforced our close and friendly ties. My visit to Mauritius reaffirms our common commitment to take our relations onward to new heights.

Today, I met His Excellency President Sir Anerood Jugnauth. Just now I have



concluded my discussions with His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, which were wide ranging and covered bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. I am confident that the meetings and discussions I will have during the period of my stay here, will provide a greater momentum and thrust to the process of consolidation and development of our partnership.

The focus of our discussions was on issues covering the vast canvass of Indo-Mauritius relations. While expressing satisfaction over the current state of our relations, we did feel that considerable opportunities existed and that there was untapped potential, which could be exploited, particularly in the area of trade and economic cooperation. I am happy to state that a business delegation from India will be joining me to explore business opportunities in Mauritius, and towards giving greater content to this important sphere of our interaction. I look forward to my participation in the Business Meet during my stay here, to listen to views from the captains of industry from both sides, and encourage them to participate in our bilateral economic exchanges.

We have agreed to further enhance exchanges in the fields of higher education, Information Technology, Science and Technology, tourism, hospitality and culture. People to people contacts reflecting our common heritage and traditions, will be prominent in these exchanges.

I thanked the Government of the Republic of Mauritius for its valued support on global issues of crucial importance to India. Mauritius has been unequivocal in its condemnation of international terrorism. Mauritius has consistently supported India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

Piracy in the Indian Ocean region adversely impacts on us all. As a country deeply committed to the security of Mauritius and its people, we are determined to work with the Government of Mauritius in enhancing the security of its people through concrete measures.

The understandings arrived at today's discussions, have established a solid foundation for the consolidation and enhancement of our mutually beneficial strategic partnership, and in bringing our two peoples closer together for a better future. I have invited President Sir Anerood Jugnauth and Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam to visit to India on mutually convenient dates, which could be decided through diplomatic channels.



**518. Speech of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam.**

**Port Louis, April 25, 2011.**

**Your Excellency Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius and Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation and I are delighted to be in your beautiful country. I am truly touched by the extraordinarily warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation. Mr. Prime Minister, I deeply appreciate the kind words addressed to me personally, and your expressions of goodwill and affection for the people of India. We fully reciprocate the same, as I bring with me the greetings and best wishes of more than a billion people of India, to the friendly people of Mauritius, with whom we share everlasting bonds of kinship. We are bound together by a common history, by sentiments and values, customs and traditions, and by aspirations that makes our relationship so unique. Thus, coming to Mauritius for me, is akin to coming home.

Nearly 200 years ago when your forefathers set sail braving the many vicissitudes and difficulties, they would not have known that they were going to change the very environment of an inhospitable rugged terrain to what Mauritius is today - a proud nation bearing the flag of progress and development; where the values of democracy are respected; and where that path of economic development is pursued in which social benefits are given their due place. Among those who built your nation, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam stands tall as the Father of the Republic of Mauritius. His was a personality well known to those in India, particularly to that generation of freedom fighters who fought for the independence of India from colonial yoke, to set in chain a process leading to the rapid de-colonisation of many a nation, particularly in this region.

**Excellency,**

The ideals and the vision of our founding fathers also representing the eternal values of humanity, provide invaluable guidance to us. In building societies that are prosperous with the fruits of progress reaching all its peoples, in creating economies that are vibrant and expanding, in promoting politics that are just, we are inspired by our common heritage, where the world is considered as one family. This was the wise message contained in "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**".

I am particularly pleased that our relations which derived inspiration from the visit of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation, in the first year of the 20th Century, have strengthened. Our ties encompass a vast range and diverse areas of co-operation in both the traditional and modern areas. On issues of political importance our views converge. Our economic co-operation could see some reinvigoration. Our co-operation in the education sectors is intense. Our cultural interaction is active, and co-operation in the services sector holds great promise, especially in Information Technology and tourism, among others.

The Indian economy which touched a growth rate of 8.5 percent last year, is expected to be further strengthened and we hope to grow at 9 percent this year. We have an ambitious programme for the expansion of our social and infrastructure sectors. Our large and growing economy offers many opportunities for other countries, as indeed for our traditional friends like Mauritius, with whom we seek to broaden our economic engagement, a fundamental pillar of our strategic partnership.

#### **Excellency,**

India takes genuine pride in the many achievements of Mauritius and the steady progress of its friendly people. We, in India, also value Mauritius standing with us on issues of importance to India. We appreciate the support of Mauritius for India's rightful place as a permanent member in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The world has changed from what it was in the middle of the 20th Century, and the institutional architecture of that day, should evolve with the reality of the second decade of the 21st Century.

My discussions in Mauritius, confirm that our two countries share the objective of further strengthening of our multi-faceted, multi-dimensional relations. This augurs well for the future of India-Mauritius relations. I am confident that my visit will provide additional impetus and momentum to our friendship.

**Excellencies**, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in raising a toast:-

- to the health and well-being of our gracious host, His Excellency Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius and Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam;
- to the continued success, prosperity and happiness of the Mauritian people; and
- to the enduring partnership between India and the friendly Republic of Mauritius.



**519. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the National Assembly of Mauritius.**

**Port Louis, April 26, 2011.**

Your Excellency Rajkeswur Purryag, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mauritius, Your Excellency, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Your Excellency Paul Raymond Berenger, Leader of the Opposition, Hon'ble Ministers of Mauritius, Minister of Shipping of India, Shri G.K. Vasan, Members of the National Assembly of Mauritius, Members of Parliament of India, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank the Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly for giving me this opportunity to address members of this august House. From this democratic forum, at the outset, I convey warm greetings of the people of India, to the people of Mauritius. I am delighted to be in Mauritius, a beautiful and progressive country with friendly people. Our two countries have many similarities, shared values and indeed, are inspired by legacies of freedom and democracy, bequeathed to us by the founding fathers of our Nations. Over six decades ago, on the eve of the historic occasion of India's Independence, India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, spoke of India's Tryst with Destiny, and that the future would be one of incessant work to fulfill pledges. Among these, were the building of India as a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation, and a pledge that India will cooperate with people of the world in furthering peace, freedom and democracy.

On the momentous occasion of Mauritius's Independence on March 12, 1968, the Father of your Nation, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam spoke of the respect of Mauritius for democratic principles, its love for justice and liberty which, he said, would be the guiding lights of your country's national policy. It is this democratic imperative which brings us closer and binds us together. In a democracy, parliamentary institutions play a very important role. These symbolize a national purpose, and are representative of the aspirations of the people. Every election marks a new mandate and is a renewal of democracy itself. I congratulate Mauritius for the successful conduct of its electoral processes. The democratic spirit that Mauritius has always believed in resonates in your august National Assembly, which is the citadel of democracy, freedom and justice. I congratulate Mauritius for holding aloft the torch of democracy with conviction.

In India, the roots of democracy are deep and abiding. We are the largest democracy in the world with an unwavering faith in a democratic way of life. We have held 15 nationwide general elections since our independence. Following the verdict of the people, each time there has been a peaceful

government transition. Organizing elections in India is an unparalleled exercise of management and co-ordination. In the last parliamentary elections in May 2009 with a 716 million electorate, nearly 800,000 polling booths were set up, involving 5 million polling staff.

The democratic experience in India is also remarkable, because democracy has been carried to the grassroots level right down to more than 600,000 villages in the form of Panchayati Raj Institutions. In today's world, this is undoubtedly the largest expression of popular will in running the affairs of a country. The essence of democracy also lies in tolerance and harmony, values which have the ability to weave together the extensive plurality that exists in a country as large and diverse as India into a composite whole. India is a country of more than one billion people. One out of every six human beings in the world lives in India. 22 Indian languages are listed in our Constitution and about 1,700 dialects are spoken in India. Every religion has its followers in India. We celebrate our varied cultures, festivals and religions with great joy and festivity.

In Mauritius too, there exists vibrancy in the celebration of festivals, some of them similar to those in India. This is but natural, as India and Mauritius have a shared history and a common purpose. Also, both are democratic and pluralistic societies. We are multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic nations, where the goal of governance is to provide for the welfare of all citizens. We, in India, have admired the progress made by Mauritius over the years. We take pride in the achievements of Mauritius. This has been possible due to the hard work of its people, who have been guided by a vision of inclusive prosperity. I have no doubt that it was in the National Assembly that many of the policies and approaches of development would have been discussed and debated. I congratulate each and every one of you for carrying forward the torch of progress with democratic values.

Our bilateral relations are rooted in mutual respect and mutual benefit. Our ties are extensive in scope and comprehensive in content. India will continue to remain a valued and trusted partner of Mauritius, in its multifaceted comprehensive development. We would be happy to participate in various aspects of the growth story of your country. Our exchange of experience in tackling climate change has been fruitful. Our participation in conceptualizing, in elaborating and in tackling the various issues confronting the 21st Century world has been mutually beneficial. Ladies and Gentlemen, India has a linkage of a common past with Africa.

We continue to seek to build on our historical ties and to deepen our exchanges with the continent of Africa. Our partnership is developing through various

bilateral arrangements and, at a broader level, through the India-Africa Forum Summit. The second India-Africa Forum Summit to be held next month in Addis Ababa would develop new areas of cooperation and provide a trajectory for further growth of our cherished relations.

The Indian Ocean is the region to which we belong to, and both India and Mauritius would have an important role to play in this regard. I am particularly pleased that my first visit to Africa is to the friendly country of Mauritius. Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I would also like to say that India values the continued support given by Mauritius to India's concerns and aspirations. We are determined to confront the global menace of terrorism and piracy along with our international partners to eliminate this scourge. India also appreciates the unswerving and consistent support of Mauritius to India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded United Nations Security Council. On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I would like to reiterate that Mauritius and India are bound together by strong, unbreakable links and will stay together. I also reaffirm the commitment of the people of India for the welfare, peace, progress and prosperity of Mauritius and its people, and for continuance of our historical partnership towards realization of our many objectives and dreams. Mr. Speaker, once again I thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this August House.



**520. Address of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Indian Community at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture.**

**Port Louis, April 26, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius,

Your Excellencies,

Ministers and Members of the National Assembly,

Members of the Indian community and friends of India,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to be with you this evening. I was deeply impressed with the beautiful cultural performance, which shows the strong cultural bonds that we share.

Today, it was a moment of great joy, when I had the privilege of unveiling the statue of a proud Indian, a true statesperson and a distinguished personality - Smt. Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India. Throughout her life she worked tirelessly for human dignity and harmony in the world. She strove for building an equitable world, and bringing the concerns of the developing countries to the forefront of the global agenda. I would like to thank His Excellency, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, for joining me on this momentous occasion.

The Centre of Indian Culture has been aptly named after Smt. Indira Gandhi, who always had special and warm feelings towards Mauritius and its people. She was not a stranger to this beautiful island, her every visit to Mauritius was not only productive, but full of memories of the beauty of the country, and the warmth accorded to her by the people of Mauritius. She often recounted her many meetings with the Father of your Nation, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam. Thus, to participate in today's event in a Cultural Centre named after Smt. Indira Gandhi, gives me great joy and satisfaction.

My meetings with the leaders of Mauritius have been useful. We have covered the current status, and the future prospects of our dynamic and multifaceted partnership, which naturally is to mutual benefit. In our discussions, over the last two days, we have once again underlined the strategic nature of our mutually beneficial partnership. We are determined to preserve what we have; yet move on towards providing for co-operation in new areas of partnership.

Earlier today, I was honoured to address the Members of House of Democracy of Mauritius - its National Assembly. I was proud to see that Mauritius cherishes and upholds its democratic credentials, sending a loud and clear message to the region and the world beyond, that democracy is the ideal platform to provide for the welfare of its citizens. I congratulate you Mr. Prime Minister, and the leaders of your nation for steadfastly pursuing this path.

An old African proverb says "A friend is someone you share the path with". This sentiment appropriately marks our centuries old traditional and time-tested relationship. Ours is not only a bond of friendship; it is also a relationship of kinship. Nearly 200 years ago, your ancestors braved the ocean, to arrive at a land unknown to all of them, a land which was inhospitable and ruled by foreign colonial forces. They moved ahead with determination, with an indomitable spirit which could not be crushed, and were able to surmount every obstacle to create what Mauritius is today. I pay homage to each and every one of them, whose work guided Mauritius onward with the purpose and objective of providing for its children and grand children.

The Government of India recognizes the remarkable contribution that the people who trace their origin to India have made in many countries across the globe. Their stories across the world are best captured in the words of Vishwamitra Ganga Aashutosh, the renowned poet from Mauritius, and I had the opportunity to meet him today at the Apravasi Ghat.

"No gold did they find, Underneath any stone They touched and turned,  
Yet, every stone they touched, Into solid gold they turned."

Every year, in India on 9th January, we celebrate the achievements of Overseas Indians - the Pravasi Bharatiya. The Annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas brings together persons of Indian Origin from across the globe. It is particularly noteworthy that His Excellency, President Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and His Excellency, Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam are among the dignitaries who have been recognized through the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. We are proud of their success and achievements. I had the privilege of personally conferring this award on Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. He heads his country with distinction and statesmanship.

India has various initiatives for the benefit of its overseas diaspora. We have provided for Non-Resident Indians to vote, and in the recent elections to five States in India, they voted when present in their electoral constituency in India. It has been decided that a mechanism will be worked out, to have a single card merging the PIO Card and the OCI Card in an Overseas Citizen of India Card. The legislative procedures in this regard have also commenced.



Early this month, India and its billion people exulted when India won the Cricket World Cup. I understand that this very hall had a packed audience which enjoyed this superb match. I personally witnessed the enthralling atmosphere at the Wankhede Stadium which was truly amazing. I understand that messages of congratulations were received from various corners of Mauritius, on India's victory.

Mr. Prime Minister, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I end, may I say that I am confident that my visit will provide additional impetus and momentum, towards expanding the scope of our dynamic and ever expanding bilateral co-operation. I am certain that my compatriots in Mauritius will be true Ambassadors of India, and pursue excellence in whatever field they choose to, and be a source of pride for India and benefit to Mauritius.

To all of you present today and your families and to those unable to attend, I convey my good wishes. I would urge that each one of you continue to work hard, as you have done so far, towards preserving, nurturing, promoting and strengthening the enduring friendship that exists between the Republic of India and the Republic of Mauritius.

Long live Indo-Mauritius friendship.

Thank you.

Jai Hind



**521. Address by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the ceremony conferring Degree Doctor *Honoris Causa* on her by the University of Mauritius.**

**Port Louis, April 28, 2011.**

Your Excellency Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of the Republic of Mauritius,

Your Excellency Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius,

Your Excellency Dr. Rajeshwar Jeetah, Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology,

Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, Chancellor of the University of Mauritius,

Prof. Soodursun Jugessur, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University of Mauritius,

Prof. Konrad Morgan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Mauritius,

Distinguished Professors and Scholars,

Dear Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a privilege to visit the University of Mauritius, an institution which has been providing quality education not only to Mauritians but also to students from countries of the region and beyond. It is acknowledged as a centre of academic excellence in Africa and Asia and other countries over the world.

I am honoured by the decision to confer on me the distinction of a Doctorate Honoris Causa. For me, this becomes an even more momentous occasion as I get the degree in the presence of His Excellency the President of Mauritius and His Excellency the Prime Minister of Mauritius. Mauritius is fortunate to have an able and experienced statesman as its President and a capable, dynamic and forwarding looking leader as its Prime Minister. As a member of the fraternity of the University of Mauritius, the honour which I have now, I convey my warmest greetings to the scholars, professors and students, past and present, of this renowned institution.

My programme in Mauritius commenced with paying homage to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the Father of the Mauritian Nation, and would conclude with the paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation. This encapsulation of my visit between two very significant activities

does in a way remind that our relations drew and continue to draw inspiration from ideals and the lives of those tall personalities who fought for our freedom. Mahatma Gandhi visited Mauritius in 1901 and his most important message to Mauritians was to educate their children so that they were in a position to rise against the indignity of oppression and servitude. Gandhiji used to say education could bring about results which no force can. The Father of your Nation, Sir Seewoosagur, always emphasized that salvation lies in educating and training our men and women.

Therefore, it is pertinent to note that the pursuit of knowledge and education finds a common strand in our endeavour to provide for the common good of our peoples. A University is home to scholars, academicians, and scientists, who through their intellectual and technical pursuits and imparting of knowledge, contribute to the progress of societies and nations. A University is also home for students, whose ideas and work will be the determinants of the future. Knowledge and education is an every increasing treasure in one's life. So far as wealth is concerned, if you give away a part or all of your wealth, you will lose that much of it. But, then if you impart knowledge it will multiply. Knowledge also teaches humility. A Sanskrit maxim states, which means humility adorns knowledge. So, a University is a place for the development of your future character and careers. It is here that the minds of the youth are moulded, new ideas are born and the contours of an emerging society, shaped. As a society transforms, the education system must respond to change. It is only then, that it will be relevant. Our institutions of higher learning must gear up for facing challenges of a knowledge-based and technology-driven world. It will be nations with high quality human resources, which will be counted amongst the front ranking nations of the world in the knowledge era. Education has a fundamental role to play in creating responsible, innovative and analytical citizens. I believe that as the youth acquire skills, they should also be made sensitive to the qualities of the head as well as of the heart. As Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore said, "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." Our Universities, therefore, should be symbols of learning, humanism, tolerance and balanced reasoning.

In India, since ancient times there has been a great emphasis on learning. This tradition got translated into a vision, where establishing an educational infrastructure become a priority in our nation building process in the post-independent phase. It was due to the strength in our education system, with emphasis on Science and Technology, which India has been able to assume a leadership role in Information Technology and other knowledge based sectors. We continue to lay great emphasis on education. Primary education is now a

fundamental right, we are working towards the universalization of secondary education and augmenting our tertiary education institutions.

I was pleased to learn that the Government of Mauritius in its programme for 2010-2015 seeks to transform Mauritius into a Centre of Excellence in Higher Education in the region. I would like to convey my best wishes towards the success of your Plan and in your endeavour to make Mauritius a regional hub of quality tertiary education that is affordable.

India has always been willing to share its experience with all other developing countries, particularly traditionally close friends like Mauritius. Developing countries have their unique problems and challenges. These have to be understood from their perspective. Hence, interaction between the academic institutions of the developing world is an important aspect of their partnership. Universities should study the socio-economic implications of an interconnected and a globalized world, the origin and impact of financial crises, and how our countries can work together for mutual benefits, as also areas of science and technology.

Education is an important dimension of our bilateral relations and I would like to encourage greater cooperation in this field. I am told that over 100 scholarships are given annually to Mauritian students to pursue studies in various streams in India. Additionally, many more students enroll themselves into Indian Universities on a self-financing basis. Some Indian educational institutions, particularly from the private sector, are setting up branches in your island. With management and business institutions also coming in, the circle of quality institutes of engineering, medicine and management, all working hand in hand with their Mauritian counterparts would auger well for the development of the educational linkages between our two countries. Youth are the pillars of future development and I believe that the youth of our two countries must interact with each other not only because of many commonalities that we have but, also because the bridges of friendship built by our forefathers and leaders, must continue into the future with vigour, especially when India is fast emerging as a land of opportunity. And, one more important thing which I always say is that along with education we must inculcate moral, social and human values in our youth because education without values is like a flower without fragrance.

I am pleased that there is a focus on gender empowerment in Mauritius, particularly in the educational sector. As the first woman President of India, this makes me feel happy and I am confident that this augurs well for your country. Gender equality and development provides an ideal platform for any country to grow and find its place with equality and dignity in the comity of

nations. As everyone knows a chariot moves on its two wheels. So also, men and women are the two wheels of the chariot of the nation. If one wheel is weak, movement will be slow. Therefore, women, who are the other wheel, must be made equally strong for the nation to progress in a smooth, rapid and balanced manner.

I once again thank all of you for welcoming me into your University. I am, indeed, proud to have received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from such a reputed University and as I will be returning home to India later in the day, I carry back with me very special memories of extraordinary warmth with which I was received by the people and the leadership of Mauritius. I have been deeply touched. My discussions and interactions in the last three days reinforce my firm view that our bilateral ties are unique and our relationship is special. I thank the University for bestowing this honour on me today and I wish the University and all those who are present here good wishes for their future success and prosperity.

Thank you.



**522. Speech by President Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India – Mauritius Business Forum at the International Conference Centre.**

**Port Louis, April 28, 2011.**

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to have this opportunity to interact with the captains of industry of India and Mauritius, during my stay in this beautiful country. This is my first visit to Mauritius, and I am convinced that there exist many opportunities for co-operation in the economic and commercial fields.

Over the last three days, I have had the opportunity to discuss various issues of bilateral and regional importance with the leadership of Mauritius. We have a shared goal to further strengthen our deep and enduring friendship. Our ties are multi-dimensional and we hope to intensify our engagement in various mutually beneficial fields.

As a friend and well-wisher of Mauritius, we in India, are deeply impressed with the continued adherence and commitment to democratic ideals, and in ensuring the welfare and development of all your countrymen. Mauritius has demonstrated the vibrancy of its economy and its resilience, by withstanding the fall-out of the global financial crisis. The Indian economy also faced the global financial meltdown with alacrity and persisted with a high growth trajectory. Today, it is not only one of the major economies of the world, but it is also one of the fastest growing. We have in place an ambitious programme for the expansion of our social and infrastructure sectors. The economy which touched a growth rate of 8.5 percent last year is expected to be further strengthened, and we hope to clock a 9 percent growth rate this year. A large and a growing economy offers many opportunities for other countries as well.

India has been the largest source of imports of goods and services for Mauritius. India has participated in various developmental activities and infrastructure projects in Mauritius. These are effectively visible all over the island. There is a strong presence of several Indian Public Sector Undertakings in Mauritius over the last many years. These PSUs have contributed to various activities in Mauritius, both directly and indirectly, through their participation in Corporate Social Responsibility and other related activities. The Indian private sector also has been equally active in Mauritius through investments in some of the major sectors in your country as in the health, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, education, financial services, IT and BPO sectors among others. We see economic complementarities between our two countries. The agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors provide opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. India's capabilities in the services sector and the knowledge economy are well recognized.

While political relations between India and Mauritius are close, our bilateral cooperation in the economic and commercial areas needs to be further reinvigorated, given the large untapped potential. Our two Governments have been keenly interested in providing for an environment which is conducive for business. The framework in this regard exists through the many agreements signed over the years. Both countries are also committed to continue to work together, to create a business environment for greater trade and investment flows. The need for a level playing field becomes significant in this regard, along with addressing other attendant pre-requisites which would encourage business to consider opportunities to invest.

The Indian business delegation present here should, along with Mauritian businesses, explore business opportunities and seek to establish business contacts with commercial and industrial houses. I encourage greater and more frequent exchange of ideas and interaction between Chambers and business

leaders of the two countries. This can be the only way to move ahead, to ensure that we understand and appreciate each other, in surmounting the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.

I am confident that an accelerated development of economic and commercial ties will become the principal component of the India-Mauritius strategic partnership in the 21st Century. This will not only develop and strengthen the strong and enduring areas of partnership, but will also enhance and promote the socio-economic advancement of our peoples.

I wish your deliberations all success.

Thank you.



**523. Statement of President Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her Special Flight on way back to Delhi after her State Visit to Mauritius.**

**April 28, 2011.**

My visit to Mauritius highlighted the abiding bonds of friendship and generated a greater momentum towards a deeper, strengthened and more diverse partnership. Our bilateral relations have obtained a broader vision and both sides acknowledge that these are for mutual benefit. Both countries enjoy a unique and special relationship in the backdrop of our cultural, historical and linguistic linkages which has been nurtured and groomed into a modern-day partnership. The strong and enduring relationship between India and Mauritius is based on shared democratic values and the commonality of being pluralistic societies. My address at the National Assembly of Mauritius was to particularly emphasize the importance of the long tradition of democracy upheld by our two countries which also links us together.

There is regular high-level political dialogue between India and Mauritius and my visit was a part of that process. I had a fruitful meeting with Sir Anerood Jugnauth, President of Mauritius. I held detailed discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. I also met the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Paul Raymond Berenger, the Chief Justice of Mauritius, and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius.

I reiterated that there exists a national consensus in India on the further consolidation and expansion of our bilateral cooperation with Mauritius. Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam stated that our ties nurtured by renewed understanding, trust and mutual support, will continue to evolve and flourish. I too am confident that my interactions with the leadership of Mauritius will provide a greater momentum and thrust to our partnership.

Our discussions focused on a diverse range of issues covered under our multi-sectoral and vibrant bilateral partnership. While expressing satisfaction over the current state of our relations, we did feel that the already considerable and growing opportunities could be exploited particularly in the area of trade and economic cooperation. It was agreed to convene the next meeting of the Joint Working Group on the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.

The Indian business delegation accompanying me was hopeful that a more congenial atmosphere has been generated now that they have had the opportunity to interact with their counterparts and 7 Ministers of the Government of Mauritius who attended their meeting. I also participated in the Business Meet during my stay there to listen to views from the captains of industry from both sides and encourage them to further participate in our bilateral economic exchanges. I am glad that two business MOUs are being signed by private companies.

We have agreed to enhance exchanges in the fields of higher education; information technology; science and technology; tourism; hospitality; culture; rural development and Ayurveda. People to people contacts reflecting our common heritage and traditions will remain prominent in these exchanges.

Mauritius has been unequivocal in its condemnation of International Terrorism. It has consistently supported India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. On both these issues, the leadership of Mauritius again reaffirmed its position.

As a country deeply committed to the security of Mauritius and its people, we are determined to work with the Government of Mauritius in enhancing the security of its people through concrete measures including joint action against piracy.

The understandings and exchange of views during my visit have firmly established a solid foundation for the intensification and enhancement of our mutually beneficial strategic partnership and in bringing our two peoples closer together for a better future.

I have invited President Sir Anerood Jugnauth and Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam to visit India. They have accepted the invitations.



Mutually convenient dates will be decided through diplomatic channels. I must add that the presence of both of them at the University of Mauritius, where I was conferred a Doctorate Honoris Causa was a remarkable gesture indicative of the strong bonds of affinity, I was honored and I deeply appreciate their participation.

My visits to the Aapravasi Ghat, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture - where Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and I jointly unveiled the bust of Mrs. Indira Gandhi - were touching reminders of the links that have been woven over a period of time between the leadership and the peoples of our two countries.

I will conclude by mentioning my visit to Le Morne which was to recall the sacrifices of those who struggled against the inequalities which human beings suffered over the course of many centuries, from the scourge of slavery. It was a homage to those who gave up their lives in the struggle for equality and freedom.

Thank you.



## MOROCCO

### **524. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of India-Morocco Joint Commission and signing of MOU for Bilateral Economic Cooperation.**

**New Delhi, April 29, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, met with the Moroccan Minister of Trade Finance, Mr. Abdellatif Mazouz here (Rabat) today and discussed bilateral relations and economic cooperation. Shri Sharma and Mr Mazouz were Co-chairing the 4th Session of India-Morocco Joint Commission Meeting. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the deepening trade and investment engagement between the two countries. Shri Sharma stated that, "There were possibilities of expanding this tie-up further. There are immense possibilities for trade in Agricultural Commodities and Food Processing." He stressed out the need to shift the focus of Indo-Moroccan Trade from inorganic chemicals and fertilizers to other sectors. "The SMEs of the two countries need to collaborate with each other. He also stressed upon

the importance of a more liberal visa policy in case the trade ties were to be expanded further," he added.

The Moroccan side informed that there are good possibilities of investment and partnerships in several fields and sectors in Morocco to gain direct and preferential access to European, African, Arabic and American markets provided by FTAs signed by Morocco at bilateral and regional levels. Both sides agreed to encourage such investments. The Moroccan side also proposed exploring the possibilities of tripartite cooperation involving Morocco, India and Sub-Saharan African countries.

In order to develop Morocco-India customs cooperation, the Moroccan Party proposed to conclude a mutual administrative assistance agreement providing for prevention, investigation and punishment for customs crimes; encourage transparency in commercial regulations set up a framework encouraging expertise and experience exchange in the field of customs. Indian side took note of the proposal;

The National Board of Electricity (ONE) of Morocco proposed to implement partnership with its Indian counterparts in energy efficiency; Rural electrification; Execution of transport networks and production facilities related to the transport network. They also proposed to establish strategic partnerships with the Indian Industrial operators for executing projects, especially in Africa

Both the sides agreed to establishing a partnership between the National Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (ANPME) and the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

Bilateral trade has grown from US \$ 573.87 million in 2005 to US \$ 1.712 billion in 2010 with balance of trade in favour of Morocco (US \$ 611 million). The major portion of bilateral trade is made up of import of Phosphates and Fertilizers by India and import of Textiles, Transport Equipment and Machinery by Morocco. Both sides further noted that there are synergies between the Trade requirements of the two countries and agreed that there is a huge potential for expanding and deepening the bilateral trade. Both sides, therefore, expressed their desire to explore new opportunities in Trade and Investment for mutual benefit of the two countries.

Both Parties agreed that the potential sectors of cooperation are Chemical and Fertilizers, Mining, Information Technology, Agro-processing, Pharmaceuticals, Automobiles, Tourism and textiles. Concerted efforts by the Industry Associations of both the countries are needed for promoting bilateral investment flows in the potential sectors by organizing Investment Promotion Events, CEOs Roundtables, Road Shows and Fairs.



**MOZAMBIQUE****525. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the bilateral meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and Mozambique Minister of Industry and Commerce Mrs. Mrnando Inroga.****New Delhi, March 28, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, in a bilateral meeting with Mr. Armando Inroga, Minister of Industry & Commerce of Mozambique expressed optimism over the growing trade and investment between the two countries, as reflected in the annual bilateral trade for the year 2009-10 between the two countries was US \$ 427.13 million with our exports amounting to US \$ 358.37 million and imports amounting to US \$ 68.76 million. Shri Sharma in the meeting said, "In order to exploit the true potential of bilateral trade in a more diversified area, we set up a target of US \$ 1 billion by the year 2013 during the visit of the President of Mozambique last year. We hope that the trade targets could be achieved". The Minister expressed happiness over the Investment from India to Mozambique has been growing well. India was the fourth largest investor in Mozambique in 2009 with investments of US \$ 64.17 million in energy, mineral resources, agro-industries, transport and communication, food processing, coconut and cashew processing sectors.

Shri Sharma during the meeting observed that, India is now among five major trading partners of Mozambique. The volume of trade between the two countries increased by 73% from US \$172.77 million in 2008 to US \$ 299.92 in 2009 largely due to increase in exports from India to Mozambique. India's exports to Mozambique increased by 71% rising from US \$ 144.37 million in 2008 to US \$ 247.01 million in 2009. Union Minister of Commerce informed his counterpart about the great potential to increase India's exports in the field of drugs and pharmaceuticals, transport equipments, cotton yarn, fabrics, plastic and linoleum products, primary and semi-finished iron and steel, cement, medical and surgical equipments, inorganic/organo/agro-chemicals, electronic goods, etc.

Shri Sharma extended a warm welcome to the Mozambique Minister and the accompanying delegation at the 7th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India- Africa project Partnership. He also expressed happiness that Mozambique is the partner country at the Conclave this year.

The major items of exports from India are: dried vegetables, raw cashew nuts and coconut, scrap metal, titanium minerals, precious and non-precious stones, etc. And the major items of imports are: petroleum and bitumen minerals,

medicines, steel and related products, textiles garments, minerals/fertilizers, cement, etc. It is to be noted that India already has the agreement on Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection (BIPPA) and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries. BIPPA and DTAA would further spur investments in both countries.



**526. Press Release issued by Ministry of Defence on the cooperation between India and Mozambique on Maritime Security.**

**New Delhi, June 28, 2001.**

Mozambique have agreed to work together on the issue of maritime security so as to make Indian Ocean a safe region for maritime trade. This was agreed to during the delegation level talks between the visiting Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Mozambique Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyussi and Defence Minister Shri AK Antony here today. Mr. Nyussi thanked India for the help rendered by Indian Navy in the rescue of a Mozambican shipping vessel from pirates off the Mozambican coast last year. The issue of piracy off the East Coast of Africa prominently figured during talks between the two leaders.

Both sides had a fruitful discussion on various bilateral defence cooperation issues. A number of fresh areas for cooperation were identified to enhance and strengthen the existing bilateral relation between the two countries.

The Mozambican Defence Minister also met Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nirmal Verma, Chief of Army Staff General VK Singh and the Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshall NAK Browne. During his five-day visit he will visit key defence installations including the Western Naval Command in Mumbai, National Defence Academy and Armed Forces Medical College in Pune besides the prestigious Army Research & Referral Hospital in New Delhi.

India and Mozambique have enjoyed traditionally close and friendly relations. In March, 2006 the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation. Subsequently, two meetings of the Joint Defence Working Group were held in 2008 and 2010.

The scope of the MoU covers all the three Services, envisaging cooperation in the field of military technical cooperation, logistic support and training. It also deals with joint activities include maritime patrolling of the Mozambican coast,

mutual training in military institutes, supply of defence equipment/services and establishment of partnership and transfer of knowhow and technology for assembling and repair of vehicles, aircraft and ships as well as rehabilitation of military infrastructure.



**527. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of the First Lady of Mozambique Mrs. Maria da Luz Guebuza.**

**New Delhi, November 9, 2011.**

The First Lady of Mozambique H.E. Mrs. Maria da Luz Guebuza is visiting India from November 7-12, 2011. She is visiting Delhi and Mumbai. She is accompanied by a large official delegation.

The First Lady of Mozambique called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur on November 8, 2011. There was discussion on issues related to the empowerment of women and welfare of children and disabled people and other bilateral issues. They discussed the rapid growth in engagement between India and Mozambique with several public and private projects now under implementation.

The First Lady of Mozambique had a meeting with the Minister of State (Independent Charge) Women & Child Development, Smt. Krishna Tirath on November 8, 2011. The First Lady of Mozambique will visit Mumbai from November 10 - 12, 2011

The President of Mozambique had paid a state visit to India in September-October, 2010.



**NIGERIA****528. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and Nigerian Foreign Minister Henry Odein Ajumogobia.****New Delhi, March 16, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry during the bilateral meeting with Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, has expressed for an early conclusion of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA). Shri Sharma stated that, "The complementarities of Nigerian and Indian economies needs to be harnessed for more extensive bilateral engagement." He informed the Nigerian Minister about the many Indian companies' investments in Nigeria and added that some more Indian companies are keenly interested in areas such as power and petroleum.

Shri Sharma expressed satisfaction over the growing trade and investment between the both countries. He said that, "There has been growth of bilateral trade by 61.65 % in 2010 as compared to 2009. The annual trade is expected to reach a record level of US \$ 12 billion in 2010-11". He further informed the visiting Minister that, the total Indian investment in Nigeria during 2010 is estimated to be around US \$ 5 billion and total FDI from Nigeria during April 2000 to December 2010 is US \$ 6.49 million.

There are over 100 Indian companies present in Nigeria mainly in telecom, hydrocarbons, textiles, chemicals, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, plastics, IT and autos sectors. Indian automobile companies have significant presence in Nigeria. Major Items of export are: machinery and instruments, drugs, pharma & fine chemicals, transport equipments, electronic goods, manufactures of metals and major items of import are: petroleum, crude & products, non-ferrous metals, wood and wood products, cashew nuts, etc.



**529. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 5th India – Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting.**

**New Delhi, March 17, 2011.**

His Excellency H. Odein Ajumogobia, Minister of Foreign Affairs (NFM) of Federal Republic of Nigeria was on a three-day official visit to India from 15-17 March, 2011. He was accompanied by Mrs. Ajumogobia and an official-delegation.

EAM and NFM co-Chaired the Fifth Session of the India-Nigeria Joint Commission on 16th March and signed the Agreed Minutes. They emphasised the significance of the Fifth Session as the continuation of the era of meaningful and expanding economic interaction between the two countries. Both agreed to infuse the close political relationship with matching economic content. Nigerian Foreign Minister talked about the reform process underway in the power, petroleum and banking sectors. He also mentioned about the Gas Master Plan under preparation for exploiting the enormous gas reserves and thus highlighted the opportunities available for Indian companies to join the stream.

NFM called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister who recalled his visit to Nigeria in October 2007 and discussed all matters of mutual interest.

The Nigerian dignitary also had meetings with the Commerce & Industry Minister and the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas. During the meetings, both sides while appreciating the increasing trade & economic cooperation, also stressed on the need to identify fresh areas of cooperation. Indian side sought the cooperation of the Nigerian authorities for importing additional crude oil.

Nigerian Foreign Minister visited the Foreign Service Institute for an interaction with the Dean and the Faculty. Later, he delivered a major speech at the India International Centre on "India and Nigeria: the Largest Democracies in World and Africa, as Agents of Inter-regional Cooperation for Global Peace and Development" at the India International Centre. This event was organised by Ministry of External Affairs, the School of International Studies of the Jawaharlal University and India International Centre.

NFM also had an interaction at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He mentioned about the recent foray of Indian investments in the fields of telecommunications and health sectors and encouraged the Indian entrepreneurs to look at more possibilities of cooperation with Nigeria.

Bilateral Cooperation MoU in the field of pharmaceuticals was signed between Dept of Pharmaceuticals and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) which will help in promotion of mutual

trade in good quality drugs, drugs testing and analysis, detection and prevention of supply of adulterated, fake, drugs. It will also enable education, training and capacity building of the personnel involved in this field.



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A press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on March 15, highlighted the India – Nigeria relations and said that these relations “have intensified a surge in economic and people-to-people ties.” The release pointed out that currently both countries are non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.” It said: “ Bilateral trade grew by over 50% during the first half of 2010-11 as compared to corresponding period of previous year. The trade is estimated to cross \$12 billion in current financial year. Indian investments in Nigeria are estimated at \$ 5 billion.” The Joint Commission session reviewed bilateral developments and chalked out strategies for facilitating future expansion of bilateral ties. The JCM proceedings were held through four specialised sub-committees to ensure in-depth and comprehensive discussions. India-Nigeria relations have especially deepened and expanded dramatically since the historic visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Nigeria in October 2007. The Abuja Declaration issued at the end of the visit proclaimed India and Nigeria to be “Strategic Partners.”



**RAWANDA****530. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's meeting with Rwandan Prime Minister Mr. Bernard Makuza.****New Delhi, January 14, 2011.**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterated that Africa remains India's top priority and would look to energize the relationship through greater diversity and depth. He said this during his meeting with visiting Rwandan Prime Minister Mr. Bernard Makuza on 14 January 2011.

The Prime Minister further said that India wants to be an active partner in Africa's development and wants to work with African countries to accelerate the pace of social and economic development. He identified areas of infrastructure development, agriculture, SMEs, HRD and ICT for closer engagement with Africa.

Recalling the first India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) held in New Delhi in 2008, the Prime Minister said that the decisions taken at that Summit aim to support capacity building, human resource development and infrastructure development in Africa. Many of those decisions were already under implementation including the establishment of 19 capacity building institutions in various African countries as per their own decision. A large number of African trainees were currently in India undertaking various training programmes discussed at the IAFS.

Prime Minister also said that India and Africa would work together to deal with common challenges in the world. He expressed the confidence that Africa would play its role to a full potential for developing its agriculture, infrastructure, industry and services as that would contribute to the world's growth and development.

The Rwandan Prime Minister appreciated India's approach to Africa and said that India's integral outlook which saw Africa as a whole as well as recognized the growing regional integration in Africa besides the bilateral engagements was praiseworthy.



**SOMALIA**

- 531. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Comprehensive Strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somali.**

**New York, March 10, 2011.**

Please see Document No.696.



- 532. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council debate on Somalia.**

**New York, September 14, 2011.**

Please see Documents No.749.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

- 533. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister Anand Sharma to South Africa.**

**January 11, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, while addressing the India Business Forum, in Johannesburg last evening, said that there are huge untapped potential exists in the area of investment and bilateral trade between India and South Africa. Interacting with the captains of industry from both sides, Shri Sharma said that for Indian businessmen, Africa is an untested but potential huge trade and investment market for the future. South Africa could provide the key to unlocking this market. While it is hardly possible to see any better partner for Africa than India. He further added that India has become an important destination for investment and we are inviting foreign capital to fulfill our development requirements, at the same time many of our

companies are expanding across the world and have earned a name for themselves as global challengers. "There is also a need to move into other sectors. Besides the business areas mentioned above, South Africa also offers enormous opportunities for Indian firms, especially in sectors like construction and engineering, mining, renewable energy and space science", the Minister said. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sharma said that Indian investment in South Africa has been substantially rising, at the same time there is a growing trend of South African investments in India. "India's involvement with Africa is and has been focused on helping African countries develop their own potential for human resource development. This has been an evolving process and India has, over the years, extended cooperation not just in IT, but also in agriculture, SMEs, transportation, infrastructure, health and education", he added.

During his visit, Shri Sharma participated in the commemorative celebrations of 150 years of arrival of Indians in South Africa. In his meeting with the President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma, Shri Sharma congratulated President Zuma on South Africa joining BRIC. He also conveyed India's desire to work together with South Africa in BRIC even as both the countries continue to deepen their partnership in the IBSA framework.

As regards India-SACU PTA, Shri Sharma said that India is now hoping for early conclusion of India – SACU Preferential Trade Agreement and added that this should provide an enormous boost to ongoing levels of bilateral trade—especially in products such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, automobiles, where India enjoys a competitive advantage.

Inaugurating the first-ever MMTC Office in Johannesburg, Shri Sharma said that this will allow us to enhance our direct purchases of key commodities from South Africa including gold and other metals and minerals. The Minister mentioned that MMTC would like to use this office for exploring vast opportunities for sourcing ferrous and non-ferrous metals i.e. nickel, aluminum, copper, tin, zinc, silicon, magnesium, titanium and cobalt from South Africa. The office of MMTC in South Africa could look at business opportunities in the entire African continent and would facilitate greater cooperation. Sourcing of Rough Diamonds and cooperation in the field of Precious Stones could be focus areas for both the countries. MMTC is looking for import of coal and joint ventures for coal exploration with African companies with a committed buy-back arrangement.

India is South Africa's largest trading partner in South and South-East Asia and one of South Africa's top-ten trading partners globally. Total trade has more than doubled since 2004-05 to cross \$7.5 billion. The bilateral trade, has grown from US \$ 3.18 billion in 2004-05 to US \$ 7.73 billion in 2009-10. In the year 2009-10, India's exports to South Africa were US \$ 2,058 million and imports from South Africa were US \$ 5,674 million. Bilateral trade during this period (April-Sep. 2010)

was to the tune of US \$ 5,393 mn, up from US \$ 3,757 mn in the corresponding 6-month period of April-Sep. 2009. Exports from India to South Africa during the 6-month period of April, 2010 to September, 2010 were US \$ 2,267 mn, registering a growth of 118 % over the corresponding 6-month period of April-Sep. 2009. Imports from South Africa to India during the 6-month period of April, 2010 to September, 2010 were US \$ 3,125 mn, registering a growth of 15% over the corresponding 6-month period of April-Sep. 2009.

India's exports to South Africa comprises mineral fuels, automobiles, iron & steel, machinery and instruments, organic and inorganic chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn and fabrics and rice and other cereals. India's imports from South Africa were gold, aluminium, phosphoric acid, coal, pulp and waste paper, precious stones including diamonds, etc.



**534. Press Release issue by Ministry of External Affairs on the meeting of the India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission.**

**New Delhi, March 8, 2011.**

The 8th session of India-South Africa Joint Ministerial Commission took place in New Delhi on 7th March, 2011. The Minister of External Affairs of India Shri S.M. Krishna, together with his South African counterpart Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, co-chaired the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC).

The Senior Officer's Meeting was held on 4th March, 2011. Discussions were held at the seven different Sub- Committees in the areas of (i) Political, Defence and Security Matters, (ii) Trade, Economic and Technical Co-operation, (iii) Communications & Information Technology, (iv) Minerals and Energy, (v) Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, (vi) Human Resource Development, and (vii) Consular and Immigration Matters. Both sides reviewed the implementation of the existing MOUs/ Agreements and the functioning of the Joint working Groups under them and new areas of cooperation. There was satisfaction at the depth and diversity established in the India-South African relationship.

The Agreed Minutes of the 8th session of India- South Africa JMC were signed by the two Foreign Ministers.

During the meeting the two sides discussed a wide range of subjects of bilateral interest covering political, economic cooperation, trade and investment, infrastructure, mineral resources, agriculture, Information and communication technology, cultural relations, security cooperation and visa and consular matters. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the target set by Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and President Jacob Zuma during his visit to India in June, 2010 of bilateral trade of US \$ 10 billion by the year 2012 is likely to be achieved in the current financial year 2010-11. The two countries are now working to achieve a higher trade target. The two countries agreed for an early finalisation of SACU-India Preferential Trade Agreement.

The two sides reaffirmed their intent to cooperate at regional and multilateral fora including UN, G-77, G-20, IOR-ARC, IBSA and BRIC. India welcomed South Africa into BRIC, to which it has been recently admitted. South Africa also welcomed Indian Chairmanship of IOR-ARC and looked forward to work with India at IOR-ARC. Both India and South Africa have joined the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for the period 2011-12 and would work together in the Council to hasten the process of reform of the United Nations including reform of the Security Council.

The South African side assured India of its active support at the Second India Africa Forum Summit to be held in Addis Ababa in May this year. They said that it was one of the most important partnerships in Africa and manifests India's long engagement with Africa.



**535. Media Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh on Prime Minister's meetings with Presidents of Brazil and South Africa on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.**

**Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.**

Please see Document No.582.



**536. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
on the Second India – South Africa C. E. O. Forum Meeting.  
New Delhi, August 29, 2011.**

The Union Minister of Commerce Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma expressed the confidence that India and South Africa will achieve the target of trade to USD15bn by 2014 before the deadline. “We are satisfied on the growth of trade and investment relations between the two countries. .... We are hopeful to achieve the target of US\$ 15 billion in the year 2014” said Shri Sharma while interacting with the India South Africa CEO Forum along with his South African counterpart Dr Rob Davies here today.

The CEOs of the two countries led by its two Chairmen, Mr Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons and Mr Patrice Motsepe, Executive Chairman, African Rainbow Minerals met for the second meeting of the India-South Africa CEOs Forum here today. They met with the objective to give further impetus to the growing bilateral economic relations, the Indian and the South African CEOs. The meeting addressed the challenges and constraints hampering the growing economic partnership.

The Sectoral Groups on Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare, Infrastructure and Energy, Manufacturing and Mining came out with a set of comprehensive recommendations which focused on constraints and issues that confronted businesses on both sides in these sectors. The recommendations were presented to Mr Anand Sharma, and Dr Rob Davies, Minister for Trade and Industry, South Africa who joined the CEOs for an interaction.

Taking forward the agenda of the first meeting that was held in August last year further, the sectoral Groups led by their respective Chairmen discussed at length issues like tariff barriers, visa constraints, early finalization of PTA, technology transfer etc that if addressed in the right manner would help in promoting bilateral trade and investments.

The two Ministers took cognizance of the recommendations that were brought to their attention and assured the forum to look into their suggestions and recommendations. The Minister expressed their desire to expedite PTA negotiations. Both the ministers agreed that a friendly visa regime for business people should be established.

In the year 2010-11, provisional figures show 37.64% increase in the bilateral trade which stood at US\$ 10,643.52 million with export of US\$ 4,161.51 million and imports of US\$ 6,482.01 million. Investments from and into South Africa has also seen substantial rise. Indian High Commission figures put the

cumulative value of Indian investment in South Africa at US\$ 6.7 billion. Shri Sharma expressed happiness over the substantial and healthy growth in two way investment flows. Principal commodities of Export from India to South Africa includes: transport equipments, petroleum (crude & products), drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, machinery and instruments , electronic goods, manufactures of metals, plastic & linoleum products, primary & semi-finished iron & steel gems & jewellery. And the principal commodities of Import from South Africa to India are: Gold, coal, coke & briquettes, metalifers ores & metal scrap, inorganic chemicals, iron & steel, non-ferrous metals, machinery except electric & electronic, organic chemicals, pearls, precious semiprecious stones, transport equipments

The meeting was well attended by more than close to 35 South African and Indian CEOs.




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It may be recalled that the first meeting of the Forum took place in Johannesburg in August 2010. In the first meeting, the business leaders of both the countries discussed in detail the opportunities and challenges that bilateral investment & trade offered and the bottlenecks that were hampering India-South Africa business ties. During the first meeting, the members agreed to form sectoral groups in key areas of energy, financial services, mining, pharmaceutical and infrastructure with chief executives of leading companies from the respective sectors as members from both the sides. The Forum also agreed to jointly explore business opportunities in Africa in diverse fields such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare, food processing, automobiles, components, biotechnology, information technology, telecommunications, infrastructure, roads and railways.

In the year 2010-11, provisional figures show 37.64% increase in the bilateral trade which stood at US\$ 10,643.52 million with export of US\$ 4,161.51 million and imports of US\$ 6,482.01 million. Investments from and into South Africa has also seen substantial rise. Indian High Commission figures put the cumulative value of Indian investment in South Africa at US\$ 6.7 billion. Major Investors are Tata Group (hotels and resorts, steel, telecommunications, automobiles and mining), Ranbaxy , Apollo , Vedanta Resources Plc, JSW(Jindal Group), Godrej, Mahindra & Mahindra, Essar, Dabur, Emami, the UB Group, Suzlon, Videocon, Kirloskars and pharmaceutical majors including Dr. Reddy's Lab and CIPLA. India South Africa Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPPA) negotiations are underway.

From Indian side apart from Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons who is co-chair, Mr. Sanjay C Kirloskar, Chairman, Kirloskar Brothers Limited, Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd, Mr Satish Reddy, Managing Director, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Mr. Amit Burman, Vice Chairman, Dabur India Ltd, Mr. Onkar S Kanwar, Chairman, Apollo Tyres Ltd, Mr. Syamal Gupta, Advisor, Tata International Limited, Mr. M. D. Mallya, Chairman & Managing Director, Bank of Baroda, Mr. TCA Raganathan, Chairman & Managing Director, Export Import Bank of India, Mr. Harsh C Mariwala, Chairman & Managing Director, Marico Ltd, Mr. Rana Som, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NMDC Ltd, Mr. Arun Sawhney, Managing Director, Ranbaxy, Mr. Naresh Goel, Chairman, Jet Airways, Dr. Y. K. Hamied, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CIPLA Limited, Mr. R. Seshasayee, Managing Director, Ashok Leyland, Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Corporate President, Sun Group, Mr Anand G. Mahindra, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd and Mr. Deepak Premnarayen, Managing Director, ICS Group & Non Executive Director, First Rand Ltd.(South Africa) are the members of the CEO Forum.

**537. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the Centenary Celebrations of African National Congress at the U.N.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Zuma, Your Excellency President Jonathan,  
Your Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, Fellow Ministers and

**Distinguished Guests,**

It is a matter of pride for me to join other leaders and fellow Ministers in celebrating the forthcoming centenary of the African National Congress in January 2012. We in India fully share the joy of our South African brothers and sisters in celebrating their great victory over racism and colonialism.

The ANC was at the forefront of one of the greatest political struggles of history. Its campaign against racist oppression and injustice was a long and difficult one. It was only the vision of great leaders like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo and the enormous sacrifices of the South African people cutting across racial boundaries that ultimately ensured that truth and justice prevailed.

**Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

I would like to take this opportunity to pay homage to the great leaders of the ANC and the many unnamed South Africans whose sacrifices for freedom and dignity have made it possible for us to celebrate this historic moment today.

The ANC's triumph against institutionalized racism of apartheid was celebrated as much in India as in South Africa itself. Indeed, the success of the ANC was at once the success of all people across the world who have suffered under colonial and racist oppression.

The ANC's greatness is not only in that it successfully and peacefully overthrew the apartheid state, but in that it managed to go beyond this by building a new democratic South Africa based on non-racialism and equal respect for all its people. The foresight of Nelson Mandela and his policy of national reconciliation has helped the ANC to forge a new rainbow nation out of the bitter hatred and division sown by apartheid.

We in India are proud of the success of South Africa's democratic transition and its emergence as a leading nation in the world. Indeed, a very special bond unites our two nations.



**Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

The Indian freedom struggle overthrew the mightiest empire of its time and did so peacefully. This would not have been possible without the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, leading us in Satyagraha. South Africa is the cradle of Satyagraha. It is there that Mahatma Gandhi first practiced ahimsa when confronted by the politics of evil. It is South Africa that turned Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a young lawyer, into the Mahatma.

India's commitment to the battle waged by the people of South Africa and by the ANC against apartheid was total. My country could not and did not remain indifferent to this crusade for freedom, equality and human dignity. In a message addressed to the South African people in 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru said that India would fight for the rights and honour of all South Africans, whatever may be the burden that we may have to carry. He promised to fight it in India, in South Africa and in the international assemblies. And fight it, we did.

Here, I would like to quote what the great Nelson Mandela has said about India: "This country and my own have long and cherished bonds of friendship. India shall always hold a place of honour in the ranks of our international solidarity partners. For it was India who first took up the case for us against apartheid at the United Nations. It was India who always stood at the head of the international community's moral, political and material support to our cause to liberate our country from the bondage of racial oppression and racist rule. Today democratic South Africa has friends and supporters all over the world. We can today count amongst our allies some of the most powerful countries in the world. And we are very grateful for that support and friendship. We can, however, not forget for one moment those that stood by us when it was neither fashionable nor easy to do so. Amongst those, as I have said, India takes pride of place."

We are also greatly proud of the role of our Indian brothers and sisters who made South Africa their home in this great struggle. The Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress, both of which owe their origins to the Mahatma, stood shoulder to shoulder with the African National Congress in its endeavours. South Africans of Indian origin contributed significantly to the ANC and they continue to do so today.

**Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

It is a matter of pride for us that we have converted this rich legacy into a thriving bilateral relationship. Our nation-building efforts have been guided by a common philosophy that stresses tolerance and respect for diversity.

It is thus no surprise that we stand for principles and the rule of law in our respective nations and in international relations. We are natural partners and our partnership extends beyond the bilateral. Our common aspirations and common values unite us in the UN Security Council, in G-20, in the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) forum, and in BRICS.

This is the century of Asia and Africa. The new dawn that the freedom fighters of India and the African National Congress dreamed about is upon us. We walked together in the walk to freedom; we now continue this journey into a better future for our two nations and for the entire world.

Thank you.



#### **SUDAN/SOUTH SUDAN**

**538. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the open meeting of the UN Security Council on the Sudan.**

**New York, January 18, 2011.**

Please see Document No.681.



**539. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the briefing of the UN Security Council on the Sudan.**

**New York, February 9, 2011.**

Please see Document No.687.



**540. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs welcoming the successful referendum in Southern Sudan.**

**New Delhi, February 14, 2011.**

India welcomes the successful conclusion of the referendum held in Southern Sudan in which its people have voted overwhelmingly for a separate state of South Sudan, in a credible and peaceful manner.

This is a momentous development in the history of South Sudan and India congratulates all concerned parties for conducting the proceedings peacefully and amicably, in achieving the important landmark of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005, which India fully supports.

India looks forward to working closely with and to extending all possible assistance to both sides in Sudan, with whom she has friendly and traditional ties.



**541. Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (WANA) on visits of Envoys from Sudan and South Sudan**

**New Delhi, April 28, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. Let me introduce my colleague Mr. Rajeev Shahare, Joint Secretary (WANA) – that is West Asia and North Africa.

Yesterday and today the External Affairs Minister (EAM) has received and has had very good exchange of views with the Special Envoys of Sudan and that of Government of Southern Sudan.

Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Karti of Sudan was in New Delhi from the 26th to 28th of April. Dr. Priscilla Joseph Kuch, Minister in the Office of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), arrived yesterday and would be in India for a couple of days. Today she held delegation-level talks with EAM and would be calling on the Vice-President of India shortly.

India and Sudan have traditionally enjoyed cordial and friendly ties. Sudan is home to some 10,000 persons of Indian origin as well as non-resident Indians.

The country emerged from a long civil war with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Nairobi on 9th January, 2005 between the

Government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation movement. This eventually led to a referendum between 9th to 16th January this year when 98.3 per cent of the population in Southern Sudan voted for seceding from the North. As such, a new country called Republic of South Sudan is poised to formally emerge on the 9th July 2011.

EAM congratulated the Foreign Minister of Sudan for successful conduct of a referendum in a fair and peaceful fashion. He reiterated India's pledge to continue to be a development partner of Sudan and to extend all possible assistance in development of infrastructure, capacity-building, human resource development, etc.

In 2010 India provided 130 ITEC scholarships to Sudan besides 20 scholarships through ICCR for graduate, post-graduate and Ph.D. courses. During the current financial year, in addition to the above, ten agricultural scholarships for Ph.D. and M.Sc. under the India-Africa Plan would also be provided to Sudan. Sudanese diplomats have been attending the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute. Their defence personnel have been attending short duration peace-keeping courses at the United Services Institute.

What is more, India has always been a preferred destination for Sudanese students, especially in cities like Pune, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore. It is estimated that currently over 3000 Sudanese students are studying in India. Over the years, more than 30,000 Sudanese students have graduated from India and currently occupy very important positions in the government, in politics, in business and are of course maintaining their affection for India.

India has also played a vital role in promoting and maintaining peace in Sudan with some one-third of the total UN contingent comprising of Indian defence personnel. The Indian contingent have, with their exemplary conduct, with their work in development of social infrastructure in Sudan, won numerous hearts and minds. What they have been doing has not only benefited but has also been greatly appreciated by the community.

Over the years India has been extending lines of credit (LOC), currently amounting to 566 million dollars. These LOCs are extended on very soft terms, and I must say that Sudan has utilized them very effectively along with their Indian partners in creating productive and useful infrastructure including a 500 MW thermal power station in Kosti that is likely to be completed soon at a cost of 350 million dollars. Other projects already undertaken by Sudan and India together utilizing the LOCs include power transmission lines, railway lines, a cement factory, a sugar mill and so on.

At the same time, Indian public sector and private sector companies have made substantial investments in Sudan which exceeds 2.5 billion dollars including sizeable stakes in hydrocarbon assets that are owned by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL). Besides OVL a number of prominent Indian companies are present in Sudan which include BHEL, TCIL, RITES, Bharat Electronics Limited, Kirloskar, L&T, and the others.

Sudan is one of the prominent producers of hydrocarbons in Africa besides Nigeria and Angola, and our cooperation with Sudan constitutes an important element in our quest for energy security. We have also established an India-Sudan Joint Working Group on cooperation in the oil and gas sector, and the first meeting of the JWG was held in Khartoum in November last year.

One of our initiatives which has been very well received in Sudan is the solar electrification project. The first such project was undertaken in April 2006, in Khadarab village, which is about a two-hour drive from Khartoum. The solar electrification project brought electricity for the first time ever to homes of 1500 villagers literally transforming their lives. And such was the impact that many similar projects are currently in the pipeline. Not only that, Central Electronics Limited (CEL) also set up a plant for assembling solar photo voltaic panels at The Energy Research Institute in Khartoum which was inaugurated by the President of Sudan in 2007.

Sudan is a member of the Pan-African E-Network. Also our trade is now close to a billion dollars and has tripled in the last eight to nine years. What is more, it is evenly balanced. India has been exporting a series of engineering goods, machinery, equipment, automobiles, pharmaceutical products, etc. Tata buses, auto-rickshaws basically dominate the roads in Sudan.

India has similarly maintained good presence and contacts in Southern Sudan. Our MOS for External Affairs was present at the signing of CPA in Nairobi on the 9th January, 2005. India was amongst the first Asian countries to set up a Consulate General in Juba in October 2007, which would soon be upgraded to the level of an Embassy.

We have in the past few years been helping GOSS in human resource development and capacity-building in particular. They have been taking advantage of ITEC slots. Also their officials have been receiving training at the Foreign Service Institute. We have already had very useful Parliamentary exchanges.

It is understood from the discussions with GOSS that their biggest priorities at the moment are development of agriculture, because 80 per cent of their population is dependent on agriculture. Also rural development, education and

health sectors are major priorities. These are some of the sectors in which India can and is quite willing to play a useful role.

I mentioned the solar electrification project. Another such project is currently being replicated at Juba itself. Talking of the health sector, already representatives of some of the Indian hospitals including Fortis of Bangalore and Miot of Chennai have sent their teams for exploratory talks with the hospitals and health authorities in Southern Sudan. They have made presentations, conducted workshops, and also organized some medical camps.

I am happy to say that India enjoys considerable goodwill in Southern Sudan and Dr. Priscilla's visit is the first formal high-level contact between GOSS and India. She invited the Indian leadership to Juba on 9th July to witness the birth of a new nation and to participate in their celebrations. She also sought India's support at the UNGA and other fora for recognition of Southern Sudan as a new nation. She particularly sought India's assistance in development of sectors like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, rural development, health and education, technical training, HRD, hydrocarbons, and also in de-mining because the long years of decades of civil war have left quite a few areas in Southern Sudan heavily mined.

EAM spoke of India's strong links with Southern Sudan; congratulated his interlocutor on the peaceful and successful transition that is currently under way; and reiterated India's commitment to extend all possible assistance to the Government and the people of Southern Sudan.

The country is resource rich and blessed with fertile soil as a gift of the White Nile. It is understood that despite almost 90 per cent of the land being arable, currently under 20 per cent is under cultivation and that makes Agriculture an important area of cooperation for us. And as I said, GOSS is according strong priority to development of the agricultural sector on which 80 per cent of the people are dependent.

So, this is a flavor of the discussions that EAM had with both his interlocutors, and we wanted to give you a sense of that. My colleague and I will be happy to take your questions on the visit of the two Special Envoys.

**Question:** Will the up-gradation of our Consulate General to that of an Embassy happen before the country becomes independent? When are the Southern Sudanese going to open their own Embassy in Delhi? And during the talks here did India make any offer of any specific amount of money or are they going to send a delegation of experts to explore things?

**Joint Secretary (WANA) (Shri Rajeev Shahare):** These are the logical questions whenever a new country comes into existence. This was our first

contact with the representative from the Government of South Sudan. We have a Consulate in Juba, like you have rightly pointed out, which was opened three years back. The representative of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Priscilla conveyed her very deep appreciation that India was one of the first countries that opened their Consulate. We shall certainly upgrade the Consulate. To start with, the present incumbent will be designated as Charge d'affaires. But before that we will be also sending our own delegation. It will be a multi-disciplinary delegation from various Ministries and agencies looking at our engagement and the proposed engagement with the Government of Southern Sudan. As mentioned by the Official Spokesperson, from the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Petroleum and Natural Gas, ONGC Videsh Limited, on other capacity-building such as education, training, we will be carrying a very very large delegation to Government of Sudan and we are engaging them on these issues. Certainly these are the milestones which we will be looking at with regard to re-nomenclature of our present Consulate. The various steps that need to be taken whenever a new country comes into existence, all these will be taken in due course of time. The fact that we have had the first exposure, the first meeting with the Government of South Sudan itself and their appreciation for India's stand on various issues so far, whatever we have done for Southern Sudan, they are extremely appreciative of that, and we intend to also deepen our engagement with the Government of South Sudan.

**Question:** OVL has invested considerably ...(*Unclear*)... and the trade figures do not seem to include that amount.

**Joint Secretary (WANA):** Very true. What the Official Spokesman has given is the non-oil figure.

**Question:** Have we recovered all the money we invested there? We have been getting oil from Sudan for several years now.

**Joint Secretary (WANA):** I will tell you. We are getting almost 160,000 barrels a day. That is our production there. You are right, it started with a billion dollars or so and right now it is around 2.4 billion dollars, just that of OVL. Quite a bit of the oil which we get is located in Southern Sudan. I would say around 100,000 barrels or more than that is located in the Southern Sudan region. We are looking at a very very substantial engagement with Southern Sudan on this sector. Might I also add that OVL are already in engagement with the Southern Sudan leadership; they have offered them training; they have offered them many things to go beyond the present relationship and present engagement.

**Question:** Can you tell us what is the situation politically in Darfur areas because we have been taking about Darfur for quite some time? Secondly, what kind of

efforts are we going to introduce so far as recognition of Southern Sudan is concerned in UNGA? You have said we have taken some efforts.

**Official Spokesperson:** As far as the recognition of Southern Sudan is concerned as a nation, what we understand is that the African Union has already accorded recognition; the Arab League is agreeable in principle; and let us just say for this purpose Northern Sudan and Southern Sudan are also agreeable on this; this all stems from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed in Nairobi in January 2005 and which was hammered out through a cooperative process also involving different countries. It took many years in the making. We are given to understand that a number of other countries including some of the key nations are also on board. Short point is that they have sought India's support in the matter. You would recall that we had welcomed the outcome of the referendum. As I said, EAM congratulated and commended the Government of Sudan for conducting the referendum in a peaceful and a fair manner. So, we would of course extend whatever assistance that we can as a member of UN, as a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council, in this matter.

As far as the issue of Darfur is concerned, suffice it to say that we would like to see the issue resolved in a peaceful manner consistent with Sudan's unity and territorial integrity.

**Question:** Of the 160,000 barrels produced by OVL, is India getting 50:50 or is it less?

**Official Spokesperson:** 160,000 barrels is India's share. We have about 25 per cent stake in the facilities there and our share is 160,000 barrels per day which is then brought to India through Port Sudan.

**Question:** Just a clarification on the oil assets in Southern Sudan. What is their status? Was it brought up in the talks by either the Indian side or the Southern Sudanese side? Will those contracts be honoured or will they be redrafted?

**Official Spokesperson:** This was touched upon. As the Government of Southern Sudan is getting about consolidating, furthering the transition and going about in the process of nation-building, they are obviously taking stock of all the contracts, agreements and so on. Our understanding is that the agreements and the contracts pertaining to India will be honoured.

**Question:** Sir, has the representative of Southern Sudan visited other Asian countries or is India the first?



**Official Spokesperson:** That is a question that you need to ask her.

**Question:** As far as the bifurcation of Sudan is concerned, it was a very sensitive and tricky issue. How did we reach the decision that we should support the bifurcation? Was it done after the referendum was over or before?

**Official Spokesperson:** There were long years of civil war. It has been quite a traumatic civil war. It has been a conflict in which hundreds of thousands of people have perished. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement was a consequence of the long struggle. It was signed in Nairobi, was hammered out with the good offices of the international community, and this is January, 2005. Our MOS for External Affairs was present on that important occasion and everything has kind of flown from that. Gradually, our engagement with GOSS took shape; it was gradually increased, I have already given you a flavor. Then in 2007 we set up our Consulate General. We were one of the first Asian countries to do so. That is how we have gone about it along with members of the international community.

**Question:** Is Dr. Priscilla going to visit any other city or is she going to be here only?

**Official Spokesperson:** She will be in Delhi and she returns home on the 30th.

**Question:** On 9th July, who would be going from India? Has any decision been taken?

**Official Spokesperson:** That decision will be taken. She has extended a very cordial invitation to Indian leadership to be present on that momentous occasion for that new country which will come into being formally on the 9th of July.

**Question:** Are they going for parliamentary democracy or something like that?

**Official Spokesperson:** We are told today that they are in the process of drafting their Constitution; there will be a Constituent Assembly; and the Constituent Assembly will then go about deciding whether they would have a parliamentary form of government or some other. Indications are that there will be a bicameral parliament. That is what they are mentioning. But obviously this is nation-building and they will go about it as per the will of the people, as per the genius of the people.

**Question:** Are you having the same warmth with Southern Sudan also?

**Official Spokesperson:** I did mention that we traditionally have had very good relations, with Sudan. The role that India has played, has been a constructive, has been positive, has been a proper and correct role. That is something which

has been deeply appreciated and conveyed to us by GOSS. You have the Special Envoy of the President of GOSS visiting us and we have, through our Consulate in Juba and through our Ambassador in Khartoum, maintained close and regular contacts.

**Question:** Considering first election in Sudan was conducted by Sukumar Sen in the 1950s and considering that the South Africans sought our help to write their Constitution and all that, have the Southern Sudanese approached us for any help in putting together their Constitution? Have they sought any experts from India?

**Official Spokesperson:** There is one principle of our engagement with any country and that is that we go according to the wishes and aspirations of those countries, be it in our neighbourhood, be it in Africa. Today, the discussion veered around cooperation in certain areas which I have already enumerated. We have also decided to work on a roadmap of cooperation and that is precisely why in the next few weeks we would be sending a multi-sectoral delegation representing different Ministries and Departments to Sudan. They will be going to Khartoum, they will be going to Juba. Some of the suggestions and thoughts we have taken onboard which they made today so we can respond to that. And depending on what their wishes are and depending on what our capacity is, we will take a view in the matter.

**Question:** China has been investing about ...(Unclear)... billion US dollars in Sudan's oil reserves. Do you think there is a cooperation between India and China as far as investing in Sudan is concerned? Can you throw light on that?

**Official Spokesperson:** What I know is that amongst the major countries which have a sizeable presence in the hydrocarbons sector in Sudan, as you rightly said, are China, India and Malaysia. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between India and China on cooperation in Hydrocarbon sector, which I think was signed, if I remember right, sometime in 2005. We have agreed that we will cooperate wherever we can including if there are possibilities or joint exploration, joint acquisition of assets, etc., training, various things. And it also says that we can cooperate and we can compete because both China and India have huge energy needs and our dependence on imported energy is high. So, that is the broad framework. But here as far as Sudan is concerned, I believe that in some of the assets that we have, we have a certain stake, the Chinese have a certain stake, the Malaysians have a certain stake in the same assets.

**Question:** On solar panels, is it a grant or is it a loan?

**Official Spokesperson:** The first one which I mentioned was out of a grant which was operationalised in 2006. Since then we are replicating this in a

number of areas. So, I can check whether that is out of grant or that is out of ...

**Question:** They have huge oil resources. Why are we installing solar panels?

**Official Spokesperson:** And we are also building a thermal power station which is 500 MW.

**Question:** Then, congratulations.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.

All right. I think we have run out of questions. Thank you.



**542. Statement by Permanent Representative the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council briefing on the Sudan.**

**New York, June 20, 2011.**

Please see Document No.730.



**543. Statement by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on the visit of Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari to Juba and Kampala.**

**New Delhi, July 7, 2011.**

Hon'ble Vice President of India will be visiting Juba to represent India on the historic occasion of the proclamation of the independent state of South Sudan, on July 9, 2011. He would also be paying a transit visit to Kampala on his journey to South Sudan. During his stay in Kampala, he will be meeting the Ugandan President, Mr. Yoweri Museveni.

A referendum on South Sudan was held on January 9, 2011 as envisaged in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in January 2005 in Naivasha, Kenya which was witnessed by Shri E. Ahamed, MOS(EA). The CPA which India fully supports brought an end to the long drawn hostilities

between the North and South Sudan which lasted over two decades. The people of South Sudan overwhelmingly voted with a majority with 99.77% for the creation of a new state. On July 9, 2011 the new State of South Sudan will be proclaimed. The Government of India commends the leadership of both South Sudan and Sudan who have shown exemplary patience and maturity to see fulfillment of this pivotal landmark of CPA.

India has multifaceted relations with Sudan and substantial ties with the country. India has a strong presence in Sudan. India was one of the first Asian countries to open a consulate in Juba in 2007. We look forward to the continued growth and diversification of our relations with South Sudan as it charts its independent destiny.

We have had substantial exchange of views during the recent exchange of visits with South Sudan, and the talks held during Shri E. Ahamed, MOS (EA)'s visit to Juba last month have helped concretise a road map for intensifying cooperation with South Sudan. Earlier Dr. Pricilla Kuch Minister in the office of South Sudan President had visited New Delhi in April 2011 and met the Vice President and EAM. The recent India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa testifies to our commitment to working together with our African friends for the development of Africa.

India has been one of the largest contributor of troops to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in addition to the notable contribution of our Police officers to both UNMIS and the Government of South Sudan. We have recently pledged US\$ 5 million for development assistance of South Sudan and capacity building projects such as a Vocational Training Centre and a Rural Technology Park under our Aid to Africa and IAFS-II programme. Sudan is a major beneficiary under India's Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. To continue our engagement with South Sudan under this programme, 75 additional seats have recently been announced for South Sudan. The Pan-Africa E-Network Project undertaken by India in Africa has been a huge success. We shall be extending the entire package of Pan-Africa E-Network, including its tele-medicine and tele-education components, to South Sudan.

Some highlights of the programme of Vice-President are as follows:

- i) Vice-President will be leaving for Juba tomorrow on July 8 via Kampala.
- ii) The Vice-President will proceed for Juba on the morning of Saturday July, 9 at 8 am and reach Juba international airport at 9 am.
- iii) The official segment of the celebrations in Juba will commence at 11 am which would include military parade, national anthem, prayers followed by formal proclamation of the independence of South Sudan

which would be read out by the Speaker of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon. James Wani Igga. There will be a flag ceremony followed by a 21 gun salute and the national anthem of the Republic of South Sudan. The entire programme is likely to last around three hours.

- iv) The President of South Sudan Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit will host a lunch for the invitees. The Vice-President will return to Kampala the same evening after attending the ceremony in Juba.
- v) On the 9th evening after return from Juba, the High Commissioner of India in Kampala will host a reception in the honour of Vice-President to meet the Indian community in Uganda.
- vi) The Vice-President will return to New Delhi on Sunday July 10.

#### **UGANDA**

India has traditionally strong relations with Uganda that go back in time. The presence of a relatively large community of people of Indian origin has added substance to our relationship. India-Uganda ties are multifaceted and have been marked by regular exchange of high level visits. It will be recalled that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Kampala to attend CHOGM in November 2007; President Museveni paid a bilateral to India in April 2008; on that occasion he also participated in the First India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi. Vice President and President Museveni are expected to discuss ways and means of strengthening further the India-Uganda bilateral relationship and also focus on regional and international issues.

India is among the larger trading partners of Uganda with our two way bilateral trade being approximately US \$ 160 million with India having a favourable balance of trade. A number of Indian companies have their presence in Uganda. India extends substantial cooperation to Uganda by way of ICCR scholarships and training slots under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. We intend to work towards further deepening and widening our partnership with Uganda.



**544. Letter of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to President of South Sudan greeting him and the people of South Sudan on their proclamation of independence.**

**New Delhi, July 9, 2011.**

"I have received your gracious letter sent through Her Excellency Dr. Priscilla Joseph Kuch, Minister in your office, inviting me to attend the historic celebrations scheduled on July 9, 2011 in Juba when South Sudan will formally proclaim its independence.

On behalf of the people and Government of India, I convey my warmest felicitations and greetings to the people and Government of Southern Sudan on this momentous and happy occasion. It marks the successful conclusion of important landmarks spelt out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005, including, in particular, the peaceful conduct of the referendum.

I take this opportunity to convey India's best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Southern Sudan as you embark on a **new journey of** nation building and development and greater peace and prosperity in the region. We applaud your commitment to addressing all outstanding issues with North Sudan in an amicable and peaceful manner.

I have been apprised of the comprehensive discussions held in April this year between Her Excellency Dr. Priscilla Kuch and my colleague Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, on important issues of mutual interest. The Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahamed led a multi-disciplinary delegation to Juba on June 15, 2011 to reiterate India's support and solidarity with the people of Southern Sudan. India stands ready to share its development experience and extend whatever assistance possible to Southern Sudan. I am confident that our cooperation will grow from strength to strength in the coming days for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

My prior commitments do not permit me to attend the historic celebrations in Juba. I wish to assure you that India will be represented at the event at a high level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."



**545. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council meeting on the Sudan.**

**New York, July 13, 2011.**

Please see Document No.739.



**TANZANIA**

**546. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Reception for the Indian Community in Dar-es-Salaam.**

**Dar-es-Salaam, May 26, 2011.**

Ambassador Mr. K.V. Bhagirath

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here among you today in Dar es Salaam, at the first official engagement of my visit to Tanzania. This is a country which I deeply admire and know very well from my earlier close association with Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

I have just come from Ethiopia after attending the Second Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa which concluded yesterday. I had extensive interactions with African leaders and found a fund of immense goodwill for India. The Summit has launched a new era of partnership between India and Africa in the true spirit of South-South cooperation. The decisions we have taken at the Summit cover the areas of training and capacity building, infrastructure development and trade and investment.

This is my first visit to Tanzania as Prime Minister and I look forward to my meetings with President Kikwete and other leaders of Tanzania tomorrow.

Dear friends,

We have had historical links with erstwhile Tanganyika and Zanzibar. These have now been transformed into a strong and abiding relationship with the United Republic of Tanzania. Tanzania for us is the gateway to eastern Africa.

You represent both Tanzanians of Indian origin and Indian expatriates and

constitute the largest migrant group in Tanzania. I understand that the total number of Persons of Indian Origin in Tanzania is over 40,000 spread all across the country.

Many years ago, adventurous sea faring traders and merchants crossed the Indian Ocean, braving harsh conditions, and forged new connections and linkages with this region. Many settled here to begin a new life.

Over the decades, the Indian community has earned a reputation for its entrepreneurial spirit, its perseverance and hard work, and for making remarkable contributions to the development of this country in areas like agriculture, education and health.

Indian expatriates, who first came as teachers and experts, and who now come as professionals and skilled craftsmen, have found Tanzania a rich and welcoming society, with many commonalities with India. Their numbers have grown and are indicative of our deep bonds of friendship. They symbolize the contemporary face of our civilizational and historical linkages with Tanzania and with East Africa as a whole.

The fact that Indians and Indian origin communities like you are living and working in various parts of Africa and helping to create wealth and prosperity is extremely impressive and commendable. It shows how well Indian communities have assimilated into local communities in this continent and how much their contributions are respected. I would urge you to be good Tanzanian citizens, and continue to spread the high values which India is known for.

I wish to particularly note the presence here today of Tanzanian Members of Parliament of Indian origin, many of whom were elected in the October 2010 general elections. Their participation in the political institutions of this country is a reflection of the trust and confidence they enjoy among the electorate. I congratulate them on their achievements and wish them all success in the service of the people of this country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our government is deeply committed to the welfare and prosperity of the Indian community in Tanzania. We have created a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to look after the welfare of the Indian community overseas and to facilitate their participation in the socio-economic growth processes in India. The government has taken several initiatives such as establishment of the Overseas Indian Community Welfare Fund and the Overseas Indians Facilitation Centre. The Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas has become an effective platform for reaching out to our overseas community.



Your achievements are a matter of pride for all Indians. I am confident that each one of you will serve as a bridge of friendship between India and Tanzania. One of the cornerstones of our interaction remains our shared culture and traditions. I hope the Indian Cultural Centre in Dar es Salaam, which has opened recently, will provide a platform for children, families and others to preserve and promote our cultural traditions.

I once again thank you for being here today and giving me this warm welcome. I wish you all a very bright future in this great land that you have now made your home.

Thank you.



**547. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the launch of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology.**

**Dar-es-Salaam, May 27, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete,

Your Excellency Professor Makame Mbarawa, Minister of Communications and Science and Technology,

Professor John Kandoro, Principal of the Dar-es-Salaam Institute of Technology,

Dear teachers,

Dear students.

It is a pleasure for me to inaugurate the India-Tanzania Centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technology in the distinguished presence of His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete.

I have seen, including the Param High Speed Super Computer. I understand that this project will facilitate the growth of information and communication technology in rural areas. The setting up of ten tele-centres in various regions of Tanzania will provide services in tele-education and tele-medicine to many citizens.

Dear friends,

I have been a teacher myself and I have never lost an opportunity to be in the company of students. I am very pleased to see so many young Tanzanian

students around me. I can sense their sense of excitement and hope about the future.

We have completed the setting up of three components of the Pan African e-Network Project: the tele-conference facility at the State House, the tele-medicine facility at the Dar es Salaam Cancer Institute, and the tele-education facility in the University of Dar-es-Salaam. These Centres are operational and courses are underway in the University of Dar-es-Salaam since 2009.

I commend the vision of President Kikwete to make Tanzania an Information Technology hub of East Africa. The growth of the information technology industry in India has brought about many positive changes to the Indian economy.

India is ready to provide all the help we can within our resources to enable Tanzania to create a pool of world-class IT professionals. If we can produce a steady stream of highly trained scientists, technologists and engineers, our cooperation would be worthwhile and we would be putting our money to good use.

I see this Institute as the first step in our long journey of cooperation in the field of science and technology. We would be more than happy to share our experience and knowhow in all fields, including information technology, agricultural sciences, geology, and health and medicine.

I would specially like to announce our readiness to cooperate with Tanzania in the area of space technology and applications. As a developing economy ourselves, we have benefited immensely from the applications of space technology and our expertise is available for Tanzania.

Investment in education and human resource development has been the focus of successive governments in India. This is a painstaking effort, but its returns are assured and limitless. We are ready to cooperate with Tanzania in capacity building. We welcome more Tanzanian students to come to India to study, to train and to build up their expertise. A large number of scholarships are available today under the framework of our cooperation with Africa and I would invite you to make full use of these opportunities.

It is said that knowledge is power. Knowledge, combined with creativity and productivity, can become an effective instrument for the prosperity and wealth of a nation. The scientific and technological empowerment of the youth has a direct correlation to a nation's social and economic progress. The development of human resources will be vital to sustain the Tanzania's healthy economic growth rates of the past few years.

The countries of the South have today shown that technology is no longer the preserve of only the rich countries. We have the capability to build a large industrial and technological base. We just have to think big and invest our resources judiciously. We have to become technologically independent and self-sufficient.

We also have to constantly innovate and remain open to new ideas. We should develop the capacity to remain in the forefront of knowledge based industries. This requires the creation of new institutions of excellence which can contribute to socio-economic development in our countries.

I am confident that the faculty and students of Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology will propel the information technology industry in this great country forward.

I congratulate the Indian Centre for Development of Advanced Computing or CDAC for the positive role they have played in making this Institute a reality. This Institute stands as symbol of South-South Cooperation.

Dear friends,

I encourage you, the budding engineers of this institution, all success as you chart a new future for yourselves and make Tanzania the information and communication technology hub of East Africa.

You represent the future of Tanzania, and from what I have seen I can say with confidence that the future of Tanzania is bright.

I thank you and may god bless you.



**548. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Media at Dar es Salaam.**

**Dar-es-Salaam, May 27, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Kikwete,

Distinguished representatives of the media,

Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your kind words and for your gracious hospitality. I am truly delighted to be here in Dar es Salaam, the abode of peace.

I have visited Tanzania earlier in other capacities, but this is my first visit as Prime Minister. I have come to expand the horizons of our traditional friendship with Tanzania.

President Kikwete and I have had very fruitful discussions. I am extremely happy with the steady growth in our bilateral relationship, especially since President Kikwete's visit to India in 2008.

There is complete unanimity between us that a strong and all encompassing partnership between India and Tanzania is in the core national interest of both countries. Looked at from any point of view – whether geographical proximity, cultural influences or the stages of our development, it is essential for India and Tanzania to have the closest possible relations. We have agreed to accelerate our efforts to this end.

Sustainable development is a top priority for both of us. Tanzania has given extraordinary political and intellectual support to the South, to the G-77 and to the Nonaligned Movement. In the light of the present global economic and financial uncertainties, we should revitalize this cooperation and make our voice heard in the affairs of the world.

I conveyed to President Kikwete that India, on its part, is ready to partner Tanzania in its nation building efforts. We will focus on areas such as agriculture, small and medium industries, healthcare and human resource development. We support the President's national agriculture initiative.

We will provide a new line of credit of 180 million US dollars for water supply projects in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania has been an active participant in India's capacity building schemes and policies, particularly the Centre of Excellence in ICT and the tele-education component of the Pan-African E-network project. We will provide a fresh grant of 10 million US dollars for capacity building projects in the social and educational sectors.

Tanzania is an important trading partner for India in this region. India is a major buyer of Tanzanian agricultural products. Many Indian companies are operating here and are keen to diversify and increase their investments. President Kikwete and I have agreed to facilitate this process. Indian investment and technology can help Tanzania to become the industrial and technological hub of East Africa and its engine of growth.

We have very similar concerns in the area of peace and security. Terrorism and piracy are two major problems we both face. We have decided to intensify consultations and coordination to combat such threats. India has contributed to several UN peace-keeping missions in Africa.

We share a common vision of a democratic and equitable world order. We will strengthen our cooperation in the reform of the United Nations system, including of the UN Security Council.

Our strong and multifaceted relationship with Tanzania is one of India's great success stories in Africa. Our people to people links have contributed significantly to this success. I briefed the President about the Second Africa-India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa and am very encouraged by his support to this process.

I have invited His Excellency President Kikwete to visit India at his earliest convenience. His visit and other high level exchanges will contribute immensely to a close and substantive partnership between us.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you, Mr. President, once again for the generous welcome given to me and the excellent arrangements made for my stay in Dar es Salaam. I thank you and the people of Tanzania for showing us this affection which the people of India heartily reciprocate.

Thank you.



**549. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Banquets hosted in his honour by Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete.**

**Dar-es-Salaam, May 27, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete

Mrs. Salma Kikwete

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank you most sincerely for the warm words of welcome. I also wish to thank you and Mrs. Kikwete for your very gracious hospitality. We are deeply touched by the warmth and friendship of the Tanzanian people.

I am honoured to visit your great country. This is the land of mighty lakes, the majestic snow capped Kilimanjaro and wildlife reserves. Its people have lived in harmony for years and are renowned for their politeness and hard work.

For me it is a pilgrimage to visit the land of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. He was a towering personality not only of Tanzania but of the entire developing world. We remember him fondly and can never forget his contribution to the cause of the South. I was privileged to work with him in preparing the report of the South Commission.

**Excellency,**

I recall your highly successful visit to India in 2008 when I had the privilege of co-chairing the first India-Africa Forum Summit with you.

Under your leadership Tanzania has made commendable progress. The recent general elections have again reaffirmed the trust the people of Tanzania have in your wisdom and vision.

Tanzania has withstood the global economic crisis well and plays a most influential role in African and global affairs. We applaud your achievements in dealing with poverty and hunger and wish you greater success.

Our two countries belong to different continents but for centuries we have been neighbours across the Indian Ocean. Maritime trade and people to people exchanges have drawn us closer. We have shared historical experiences. Today we seek to build a modern and dynamic partnership on the strength of these traditional bonds.

We face the common challenges of accelerating economic development; of

ensuring that its fruits reach the most disadvantaged sections; and of strengthening people's participation in processes of governance.

As two leading democracies, we should aim to build a broad and ambitious relationship that can serve as a model of cooperation among developing countries.

Our two countries should work together for international peace and stability. We should work to ensure that the fruits of globalization are shared equitably. We should make common cause to ensure that global governance is just and meets the aspirations of the developing world.

**Excellency,**

India and Africa are like brothers of an extended family. We have to rediscover and revive these fraternal ties of kinship. We are working hard to build a strong, mutually beneficial and diversified relationship with the people of Africa. We seek a partnership on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The Second Africa India Forum Summit, which concluded two days ago in Addis Ababa, has taken forward the agenda of cooperation between India and Africa. The seeds for this were laid with your support in New Delhi in 2008, for which I am most grateful.

I am confident that we are on our way to revive the golden era of Africa-India relations, when our leaders stood shoulder to shoulder in the struggle for freedom and as partners in peace.

**Excellency,**

India attaches great importance to its relations with the United Republic of Tanzania. Let us pledge to work together to realize the full potential of our partnership.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests may I now request you to join me in raising a toast to:-

- The good health of His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete and Mrs. Kikwete,
- To the prosperity and well-being of the people of the United Republic of Tanzania; and
- To further strengthening of the bonds of cooperation and friendship between India and The United Republic of Tanzania.



**550. Extract from Prime Minister's interaction with media onboard special flight on way back to New Delhi from Dar-es-Salaam.**

**May 28, 2011.**

**Prime Minister:** I have spent a very fruitful few days in Tanzania. In Ethiopia, In Addis Ababa the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit Forum (IAFS) took place which gives more teeth to our cooperation with the countries of Africa. There was a widespread welcome of our initiative and offer at the Summit of lines of credit of 5.7 billion dollars in the next three years. There was a widespread convergence of views on challenges confronting Africa and India, in the world economy as a whole, and that the imperative of our working together to ensure a more equitable global order.

I came to Tanzania to add weight to our strong bilateral relations. Tanzania is in many ways, has been a strong advocate of South-South cooperation ever since the days of President Dr Julius Nyerere and it gave me the opportunity to review our bilateral relations; to look at the vision at how India and Tanzania can work together to strengthen our relations bilaterally, regionally and globally.

**Question:** On impressions about African leadership...and need for new Afro Asian solidarity?

**Answer:** I have been very impressed with the new breed of African leadership, their knowledge, their awareness of the depth of the problem and the opportunities and challenges that they face, and their strong desire to do their utmost to help their country, to create a space that they need for Africa to emerge as a new growth pole for the evolving global economy.

And as far as Afro Asian relations are concerned, as I said in the beginning, we look upon Africa as a new growth pole for the world economy and many times I think that the world problems with regard to food and natural resource problems, are going to be resolved in what happens to economic development pace of Africa. World is faced with a shortage of raw materials, world is faced with a shortage of food, and more I look at the possibilities of progress in Africa, I am convinced that it is going to provide the space for the solution of the global food problem, global resource problems and therefore it is the responsibility of all of us to work together with the countries of Africa to evolve a more equitable, more balanced, a more inclusive process of development, avoiding the colonial patterns of development in this regard.

**Question:** On IAFS becoming a model for international cooperation and how it was unique despite the imbalance in trade?

**Answer:** Well there is imbalance in trade and we are seeking to forge a new



relationship where cooperation will be a two way flow process, where cooperation will be mutually beneficial and more Indian investments come to Africa. We will ensure to enlarge the capacity of African countries to help themselves to strengthen the process of self reliance, equitable sustainable growth amongst them, so that over a period of time, prosperous Africa becomes not only a source of additional demand for Indian exports but also it develops capabilities to meet India's growing requirements of many of the food products, many of the natural resources.

**Question:** On NAM providing new leadership in today's world?

**Answer:** Well the NAM movement has not lost its relevance. Globalisation has come to be accepted as unavoidable. But we want to develop a style and substance of globalisation which benefits all players, and that is the role in which the NAM has to play. And I do believe that ultimately all international relations are power relations, and it is our desire to pool all the collective weight of the developing countries to make the processes of global growth more equitable, more sustainable. There is a lot of talk about climate change. We want climate change to be an instrument of strengthening those process of sustainable development, not as a means of impoverishing the countries of the south, or leading to de industrialisation of the countries of the south.

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**Question:** On David Headley revelations impacting engagement and Trust with Pakistan?

**Answer:** Well, this trial of David Headley has not brought out anything new that we did not know, and the trial is still on, we will study it, when the trial is completed. But as I said, it has not revealed anything which we did not know.

**Question:** On possible candidates for MD of IMF?

**Answer:** Well, it's not proper for me to discuss individual names. We are in touch with various countries and we hope that at the end of it, a consensus would emerge which is generally acceptable. I do see that there is a desire in Europe to have an European occupying this coveted position because very large proportion of IMF funds is now in Europe and particularly in dealing with the tensions in the Euro zone. But we would like to remind the industrialised world that there is a tacit agreement that the top positions in international financial institutions must not go to specific countries as a matter of right but the best available talent in the world should be available to man these institutions, that is our general position.

But having said that, you do recognise that those who exercise power, they

don't want to give up power and therefore the struggle for a better, balanced world order, a more equitable world order, including the management of global institutions like the IMF, World Bank, Security Council— it is going to be a long haul, I am afraid.

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**Question:** On complaints about Investment climate and bureaucratic delays in India?

**Answer:** Well, I hope all these issues will be amicably resolved. I do not agree with the proposition that India is no longer a preferred or a hospitable destination for foreign investment inflows. Investment flows may have ebbed but there are events beyond India's control- the fact that American economy has staged a recovery of sorts, the fact that interest rates abroad are going up, that limits some flows that were coming in, which were coming here to take advantage of the interest arbitrage. But I do not buy the argument that India has ceased to be a hospitable, profitable destination for foreign investment. It will be our effort to maintain the climate of enterprise which is favourable for both domestic investment as well as foreign investment.

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**Question:** On recent attack in Pakistan and need to re-calibrate our Pakistan policy?

**Answer:** Let me say that what happens in our neighbourhood matters a great deal. I have always maintained that a strong stable and peaceful Pakistan is in the interest of our country and therefore these events do worry us. And I hope that Pakistan will also recognise that this monster of terrorism which they unleashed at one time, is hurting them as much as it can hurt our country. And it is in this background that we have to look at our relations with Pakistan.

**Question:** On approach towards Pakistan post revelations of David Headley?

**Answer:** Well I think it goes without saying that we must use every possible opportunity to talk to Pakistan and convince them that terror as an instrument of state policy is simply not acceptable to people in the civilised world, as a whole. As Pakistan's neighbour, we have great worries about the terror machine that is still intact in Pakistan. We would like Pakistan to take much more effective action to curb the activities of those Jehadi groups which particularly target a country, like India.

**Question:** On impact of budget on growth?

**Answer:** It is our ambition to maintain the growth rate at least at 8.5 percent

per annum and as of now I have not seen any signs that we should change our views, with regard to our ability to sustain a growth rate of 8.5 percent. Agricultural situation will unfold itself, whatever evidence we have we expect a normal monsoon. And if the monsoon is normal it will strengthen our ability to control food inflation and to that extent I am confident that we will be able to sustain a growth rate of about 8.5 percent this year.

**Question:** On pushing Pakistan to pursue investigations in Mumbai attack?

**Answer:** Well we must look at two separate fronts. One is the bilateral negotiations with Pakistan. We must convince Pakistan that it is in their own interest that they must help us in tackling the problem of terror in our region. That those Jehadi groups that target India, as a destination for their terror, they must be effectively curbed and dealt with. That is an ongoing process and at every opportunity that we have, we should continue to impress on Pakistan. The second thing is the global concern about terrorism. The world has seen, as never before that the epicentre of terror is in our neighbourhood. They appreciate India's point and it should be our effort to mobilise world opinion to ensure that this terror machinery which operates in our neighbourhood in Pakistan is brought under effective control.

**Question:** On perception that Pak establishment is not keen on better ties with India and if PM will visit Pakistan any time soon?

**Answer:** I have not made up my mind on that. But I always believe that good relations between India and all its neighbours are very desirable and indeed essential for us in South Asia to realise our development ambitions. The more I see of what is happening in Pakistan the more I am convinced that Pakistan's leadership must now wake up, and must recognise that the terror machine they have or at least some elements in the country patronise, is working not to anybody's advantage.

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Onboard special aircraft during return from Dar es Salaam

**May 28, 2011**



**551. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of India – Tanzania Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement at Dar-es-Salaam.**

**New Delhi, May 30, 2011.**

The Government of the Republic of India signed a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with the United Republic of Tanzania for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income on 27th May, 2011 at Dar-es-Salaam. The Agreement was signed by Shri K V Bhagirath, High Commissioner of India on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr Pereira Ame Silima, Deputy Minister of Finance on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania in the presence of the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and the President of Tanzania Mr Kikwete.

The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source state if the activities of an enterprise constitute a permanent establishment in the source state. Examples of permanent establishment include a branch, factory, etc. Profits of a construction, assembly or installation projects will be taxed in the state of source if the project continues in that state for more than 270 days.

Profits derived by an enterprise from the operation of ships or aircrafts in international traffic shall be taxable in the country of residence of the enterprise. Dividends, interest and royalties income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. However, the maximum rate of tax to be charged in the country of source will not exceed a two-tier 5% or 10% in the case of dividends and 10% in the case of interest and royalties. Capital gains from the sale of shares will be taxable in the country of source.

The Agreement further incorporates provisions for effective exchange of information and assistance in collection of taxes between tax authorities of the two countries in line with internationally accepted standards including exchange of banking information and incorporates anti-abuse provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement are availed of by the genuine residents of the two countries.

The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Tanzania and facilitate mutual economic cooperation as well as stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services between India and Tanzania.



**UGANDA****552. Press Release of Ministry of External Affairs on the hosting of Ugandan President by Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur.****New Delhi, September 27, 2011.**

Smt Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, called on the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E, Mr. Yoweri K. Museveni, who was on a private visit in New Delhi (on 26.9.2011). She also hosted a working lunch for the Ugandan President and Mrs. Museveni.

2. During the meeting both sides discussed issues of bilateral cooperation. Matters discussed include those relating to bilateral trade, Indian investments in Uganda as well as follow up of the proposals under the India Africa Forum Summit. Both sides also discussed capacity building programmes and other developmental programmes which would be suitable to Uganda.

**ZIMBABWE****553. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the meeting of Minister Anand Sharma with Zimbabwean Minister of Commerce and Industry Prof. Welshman Ncube for enhanced India – Zimbabwe Cooperation.****New Delhi, March 29, 2011.**

Anand Sharma, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, in a bilateral meeting with Prof. Welshman Ncube, the Minister of Industry & Commerce Zimbabwe, here today, said, "The ratification process for the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA) is complete on our side and we are awaiting the ratification on the Zimbabwean side before exchanging the instruments of ratification and enabling the agreement to become operational". He further noted that, the BIPA will provide a fillip to Indian investors seeking to enter Zimbabwe. During the bilateral Shri Sharma emphasised, "Indo-Zimbabwe Small & Medium Enterprises project, under which we provided machinery, equipment and training worth US \$ 5 million, we are planning to set up a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Zimbabwe to further develop skills and capacity in Zimbabwe". The

Minister expressed appreciation over the 54% stake taken by Essar Africa Holdings in Zimbabwe Iron & Steel Company (ZISCO); which would be the largest Indian investment in Zimbabwe.

Shri Sharma noted the possibilities in cooperation in science and technology between India and Zimbabwe, particularly in appropriate technologies in agriculture, agro-processing and renewable energy. He stated that, "Our continued interest in education and capacity building programmes in Africa and in Zimbabwe in particular, is evident in our sponsoring Zimbabweans for study programmes under the ITEC and other courses. We have increased slots from 40 in 2008-09 to 90 for 2010-11 and we hope to cross 100 in 2011-12".

While reiterating strong and growing trade and investment relationship, Shri Sharma stated that, "Our continuing and accelerating engagement with Africa, the India-Africa Summit in April 2008 and the forthcoming India-Africa Forum Summit in May 2011, would make it more firm in terms of bilateral trade cooperation. India's carries special interest with Zimbabwe in mining, power generation, railways, ICT and agricultural sector in Zimbabwe". Prof Ncube while appreciating India's role said, "Zimbabwe seeks to benefit from Indian assistance, in particular, in the health sector, e-governance, and technology". Both the Minister underlined the importance to rejuvenate the Joint Trade Committee between India and Zimbabwe.



**554. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister of State Jyotiraditya Scindia to Zimbabwe.**

**New Delhi, September 21, 2011.**

India and Zimbabwe agreed to expedite the ratification of BIPA (Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement) between India and Zimbabwe for further strengthening the investment and trade ties between the two countries. This was one of the important outcomes of the bilateral meetings between Hon'ble minister of state Commerce and Industries Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and his counterpart minister from Zimbabwe Government. Mr. Scindia is on a visit to Zimbabwe accompanied by a business delegation.

Mr. Scindia held wide ranging discussions with Mr. W. Ncube minister of industry and commerce Zimbabwe. During the discussions Mr. Scindia referred to the historical ties and their common struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Mr. Scindia complimented the Zimbabwe Government for their recently launched Midterm Plan which aims to promote economic growth and sustainable development in the country. He offered India's full support in the development of telecom, highways and railways sectors. In particular, in the rail sector where India had gained considerable expertise in laying of tracks and development of rolling stock, IRCON and RITES could assist Zimbabwe in the expansion and rehabilitation of its rail infrastructure. In the aviation sector also India could provide technical assistance to Zimbabwe.

Apart from bilateral meeting with Mr. W Ncube , bilateral meetings were also held with Mr. N.T. Goche minister of transport and Infrastructure, Minister of energy, and the Minister of agriculture . Mr. Scindia informed his Zimbabwe counterpart that it had been decided to further strengthen the India-Zimbabwe bilateral ties by setting up Rural technology Park and Food testing laboratory in Zimbabwe.

Addressing the business conference "Doing Business in Zimbabwe: Investment opportunities and Challenges", organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries, Hon'ble minister announced the setting up of the Indo-Zimbabwe Chamber of Commerce, which will facilitate interaction between the business communities of both the countries and facilitate interaction between business and Government at both ends. The business conference was attended by Mr. N.T. Goche minister of transport and Infrastructure, minister of energy, minister of agriculture and deputy minister of health , Government of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Scindia stressed that there is scope for significant diversification of Indian exports to Zimbabwe, and Zimbabwean exports to India, and to substantially

increase the present low level of bilateral trade of US \$ 125 mn registered in 2010-11. He highlighted the fact that in the coming years maximum growth will be from south-south trade amongst the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Addressing a press conference in Harare, Mr. Scindia said “When I look at the potential of our bilateral trade and investment relations, I am quite convinced that we have only touched the tip of the iceberg. A resurgent Indian economy has much to offer Zimbabwe in terms of investments, technology, skills, products and services in diverse economic and social streams. The challenge, for all of us, lies in translating this potential and promise into multiple partnerships in diverse business sectors.”

The minister also appreciated the contribution of 10000 strong Indian Diaspora in Zimbabwe to the economy of Zimbabwe. Speaking about the potential areas of cooperation between the two countries, he mentioned that Zimbabwe has the world’s largest platinum reserves and also possesses large reserves of gold, coal, asbestos, copper, nickel and iron ore. Indian mining companies could partner Zimbabwean mining majors in key value-added activities. He also mentioned about other business sectors, such as renewable energy, where Indian and Zimbabwean companies could strike project partnerships.

In the afternoon Mr. Scindia also called on the vice president HE Mrs. Joyce Mujuru and discussed about the existing state of the bilateral relations and possibility of taking the relations to the next level.

Indian public sector companies had a successful history of engagement with Zimbabwe and companies like Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON), Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES), Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) and Telecommunications India Ltd., (TCIL) had executed projects in Zimbabwe. Coal India had bid for development of coal mines in Zimbabwe. Kirlosker and Jain Irrigation have supplied pumps and irrigation equipment. India is helping Zimbabwe in capacity building and assisting in developing its own research and knowledge base by sharing experiences in various sectors such as SME, Power, Agriculture etc. Zimbabwe will soon join other African countries that are benefiting from the Pan-African e-Network, a project that will connect all 53 countries of the African Union (AU) with a satellite and fibre optic for sharing India’s expertise in education and health. Government of India also provides assistance to Zimbabwe under the ITEC programme for capacity building.







**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - VIII**

**AMERICAS**

**UNITED STATES****555. Press Release issued by Embassy of India on 11th U.S.-India Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting.****Washington DC, March 9, 2011.**

The eleventh U.S.-India Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting was held in Washington, DC on March 3-4, 2011. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Defence Secretary, Government of India and Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Ms. Michelle Flournoy. Defence Secretary Kumar also met Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. William Burns and Deputy Secretary of Defence William Lynn. Ambassador Meera Shankar also participated in these discussions.

Both sides reaffirmed that the bilateral defence cooperation is an important facet of the overall India-US strategic partnership. Defence Secretary Kumar and Under Secretary Flournoy expressed satisfaction at the progress of India-US bilateral defence relations. This was reflected in the increasing number of joint exercises that the two armed forces held regularly and procurement of defence equipment by India such as C-130J aircraft. The two sides had an extensive discussion on further strengthening bilateral defence ties, under the auspices of the Defence Framework Agreement of 2005 particularly in the areas of maritime security, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and personnel exchanges. In this context they also welcomed the removal of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Dynamics Limited from the US Entities List and noted that this opened up new opportunities for cooperation in the field of defence supplies as well as industrial and technological cooperation between India and the US.

The DPG reviewed the reports of the four sub-groups - Military Cooperation Group, Joint Technology Group, Senior Security Technology Group and Senior Technology Security Group and the Defence Procurement & Production Group (DPPG) that had held their meetings during the year and provided guidance for their work in the next year.

The DPG also included a policy-level dialogue on the global strategic and security situation. Both sides also discussed the multilateral security architecture in Asia and looked forward to continued cooperation in these organizations.

The two sides agreed that the next Defence Policy Group would be held in New Delhi, India early next year.



**556. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the postponement of India - USA Strategic Dialogue due to state elections in India and situation in West Asia and North Africa.**

**New Delhi, March 11, 2011.**

India and the United States were planning to hold the second India-US Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister and the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in New Delhi in early part of April 2011. In view of the State elections in India and ongoing developments in West Asia and North Africa, the two sides have decided to reschedule the Strategic Dialogue and will hold it at the earliest available opportunity. The date for the Strategic Dialogue will be decided through mutual consultation.

India-US Strategic Dialogue is a principal mechanism for advancing bilateral cooperation across the full spectrum of the relationship and exchanging views on global and regional issues of mutual interest.

India and the United States will have a number of important bilateral events over the next few weeks, including the visit of Commerce Secretary to Washington DC in March 2011; the meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group in Counter Terrorism on March 25, 2011 in New Delhi; the meeting of the High Technology Cooperation Group in India in May 2011; and, the India-US Higher Education Summit in June 2011 in Washington DC. The first Homeland Security Dialogue and the meeting of the Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation will also be scheduled in the coming weeks.



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It may be recalled that the first round of such talks took place in June 2010 in Washington at the level of External Affairs Minister and US Secretary of State.

**557. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office giving reaction of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the killing of Osama Bin Laden.**

**New Delhi, May 2, 2011.**

"I welcome it as a significant step forward and hope that it will deal a decisive blow to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. The international community and Pakistan in particular must work comprehensively to end the activities of all such groups who threaten civilized behaviour and kill innocent men, women and children."



**558. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the death of Osama Bin Laden.**

**New Delhi, May 2, 2011.**

President Obama of the United States has just announced that his government has conducted a successful operation that has resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden deep inside Pakistan. This operation brings to closure an almost decade-long search for the head of the Al Qaeda. It is a historic development and victorious milestone in the global war against the forces of terrorism. Over the years, thousands of innocent lives of men, women and children have been tragically lost at the hands of terrorist groups. The world must not let down its united effort to overcome terrorism and eliminate the safe havens and sanctuaries that have been provided to terrorists in our own neighbourhood. The struggle must continue unabated.



**559. Reaction of Home Minister P. Chadambaram to the killing of Osama Bin Laden.**

**New Delhi, May 2, 2011.**

"Earlier today the United States Government informed the Government of India that Osama Bin Laden had been killed by security forces somewhere "deep inside Pakistan." After the September 11, 2001 terror attack, the US had reason to seek Osama Bin Laden and bring him and his accomplices to justice.

We take note with grave concern that part of the statement in which President Obama said that the fire fight in which Osama Bin Laden was killed took place in Abbotabad "deep inside Pakistan". This fact underlines our concern that terrorists belonging to different organisations find sanctuary in Pakistan. We believe that the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attack, including the controllers and handlers of the terrorists who actually carried out the attack, continue to be sheltered in Pakistan. We once again call upon the Government of Pakistan to arrest the persons whose names have been handed over to the Interior Minister of Pakistan as well as provide voice samples of certain persons who are suspected to be among the controllers and handlers of the terrorists."



**560. Press Release issued by Prime Minister's Office on the telephonic talk between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama.**

**New Delhi, May 9, 2011.**

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh spoke to President Obama of the United States of America this evening. It was a warm conversation which covered wide-ranging subjects. They discussed further growth and development of India - US relations and the situation in the region.



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Media reports on the talks said that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke to United States President Barack Obama against the backdrop of tumultuous developments in the region, including the killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in neighbouring Pakistan and the continuing unrest in West Asia and North Africa, besides the start of the third round of the China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue. The reports further pointed out that the two leaders spoke at a time when U.S. companies in the race missed out on a lucrative Indian Air Force tender for fighter aircraft and the entry of American companies in the Indian nuclear power-based electricity sector due to the Nuclear Liability Act. There was reportedly a problem at the nuclear non-proliferation end too in the light of the position taken by the NSG on ENR facilities to countries that did not sign the NPT. Both countries are also concerned about the situation in the Arab world, the main source of their petroleum supplies, and are interested in a political solution in Afghanistan that marginalises groups espousing militant ideology.

**561. Opening Remarks of Home Minister P. Chidambaram at India-US Homeland Security Dialogue.**

**New Delhi, May 27, 2011.**

**Secretary Napolitano**

- It is a great pleasure to welcome you and your delegation to India. I hope you had a good visit to Mumbai. We had a very good discussion a few minutes ago.
- I am honoured to launch with you today the India-US Homeland Security Dialogue. This is an important milestone in India-US relations and adds a very important dimension to the growing strategic partnership between our two countries.
- It implements one of the key strategic outcomes of the visit of President Barack Obama to India in November 2010, during which Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama announced the Homeland Security Dialogue. I quote from their Joint Statement - "Building upon the Counter Terrorism Initiative signed in July 2010, the two leaders announced a new Homeland Security Dialogue between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Homeland Security and agreed to further deepen operational cooperation, counter-terrorism technology transfers and capacity building. The two leaders also emphasized the importance of close cooperation in combating terrorist financing and in protecting the international financial system."
- In a world of complex challenges, including new and emerging forms of threats, terrorism remains a principal challenge for our two countries. The events of the past few days, especially inside Pakistan, speak to the successes and to the enduring risks and challenges. Despite extraordinary efforts and significant successes against the forces of terrorism, its threat remains strong.
- Our two countries - indeed, the global community - must also deal with a range of other challenges, including counterfeit currency, narcotics trafficking, threats and risks in the cyber space, etc.
- Madam Secretary, it is a truism to say that India lives in perhaps the most difficult neighbourhood in the world. The global epicenter of terrorism is in our immediate western neighbourhood. The vast infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan has for long flourished as an instrument of state policy. Today, different terrorist groups, operating from the safe havens in Pakistan, are becoming increasingly fused; the



society in Pakistan has become increasingly radicalized; its economy has weakened; and, the state structure in Pakistan has become fragile. Today, Pakistan itself faces a major threat from the same forces. Its people as well as its state institutions are under attack.

- Terrorist infiltration or fake currency inflow does not only take place through our western border, but is often routed through countries that we share open borders with. We also have to deal with the challenge of large scale migrations from across our borders. Insurgent groups have some times found refuge in our neighbouring countries. Internal instability in our neighbouring countries has a direct bearing on the population in our border states.
- Given the complexity of our region, our Government has a comprehensive neighbourhood strategy that is based on political engagement, especially with Pakistan; support for political stability; assistance for economic development; and, improved connectivity and market access for our neighbours to the Indian economy. A stable, peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood is vital for the security of the people of India.
- One of the key elements of the India-US relationship is our engagement on the issue of terrorism and on counter-terrorism cooperation. Dealing with the challenge of terrorism is a priority for the people of India. There has always been great public and political expectation about India-US cooperation on counter-terrorism. This is because of our shared values, the growth of strategic partnership between our two countries, US expertise and capabilities, and the perception in India that the United States exercises a strong influence on the country that is the hub of global terror.
- A strong and effective India-US cooperation in homeland security and counter-terrorism is indispensable for our strategic partnership.
- India and the United States established a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism as early as February 2000. It had its ninth meeting recently. Our two countries signed a Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative in July 2010. There are other institutional mechanisms, such as the Working Group on Aviation Security, Working Group on Information and Communication Technology and the Defence Policy Group, which provide avenues for our cooperation. India's membership of FATF has strengthened our ability to work with each other on the financial aspects of terrorism.
- I recall my own visit to the United States in September 2009, which provided me the opportunity to identify areas in which we could learn from and work with each other.

- Certainly, US political support and operational cooperation during and after the Mumbai attack meant a great deal to the people of India. We appreciate the US efforts to bring the perpetrators of Mumbai terror attack, and others associated with it, to justice. Even as we meet, the trial of Tahawwur Rana is taking place in Chicago. Prime Minister and President Obama, during their November 2008 meeting, called for Pakistan to bring to justice the perpetrators of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- Our cooperation must cover all aspects of the challenges that we face: anticipating and predicting threats, taking preventive or pre-emptive measures, or responding effectively and quickly to incidents. Therefore, we must further deepen our ties in intelligence, information and assessment sharing; cooperation in investigations and forensics; protecting cities, infrastructure, people and trade; and, developing capabilities to diffuse and terminate any incident.
- I also want to stress the importance of developing and sharing appropriate technologies, equipment and systems for homeland security. I recognise that acquisition will be largely from the private sector, but as governments, we must continue a strategic dialogue to share information, experiences and assessment on technologies and systems; identify technology needs, trends and gaps; and, address licensing and other terms relating to transfer of counter-terrorism and homeland security equipment and technology to each other, in the spirit of the strategic partnership between the two countries. We would also work out a mechanism for government-private sector interface.
- I would propose that our Home Secretary and Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security meet after six months to review progress on our calendar.
- Before I conclude, I would also like to thank Ambassador Roemer, who has had an excellent track record in public life, including in Congress, in the cause of addressing the security challenges facing the United States. He has also been tireless in his efforts over the course of the past two years to promote India-US relationship and our counter-terrorism cooperation, in particular. The Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative is an important lasting contribution. Appropriately enough, his last bilateral dialogue as US Ambassador to India is in Homeland Security. I also thank my colleagues, especially Home Secretary G.K. Pillai and Ambassador Meera Shankar, for their outstanding efforts in putting together this dialogue, and, more broadly, in promoting our cooperation.
- May I welcome you, once again, Madam Secretary to Delhi."



**562. Joint Statement issued at the end of the India - US Homeland Security Dialogue.**

**New Delhi, May 27, 2011.**

India - USA Homeland Security Dialogue was held in New Delhi here today. The Indian delegation was led by the Union Home Minister, Shri. P. Chidambaram and the US side by their Secretary, Homeland Security Department, Ms Janet Napolitano. The two sides issued a joint statement at the end of the talks. Following is the text of the Joint Statement.

"Home Minister P. Chidambaram and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano launched today in New Delhi the India-U.S. Homeland Security Dialogue, which was announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama in November 2010 as part of the global strategic partnership between India and the United States.

Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano affirmed the strategic importance of cooperation for the security of the two countries and their people, based on their shared values of democracy, pluralism and openness; the threat of terrorism and other challenges, including cyber security, counterfeit currency, illicit financing and transnational crimes; and, the deepening technological and economic partnership between India and the United States.

The leaders expressed satisfaction with the growth in counter-terrorism and related security cooperation between India and the United States. They noted the contribution of existing mechanisms such as the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, established in 2000, the Defense Policy Group, the Joint Working Group on Information and Communications Technology and the Aviation Security Working Group and the Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative of July 2010 in advancing India-U.S. cooperation.

They discussed their cooperation in the investigations into the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008 and reiterated their governments' commitment to bring the perpetrators and the supporters of the Mumbai attack to justice. As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama stated in November 2010, the Minister and Secretary called on Pakistan to move expeditiously in prosecuting those involved in the Mumbai terror attack. Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano committed their governments to comprehensive sharing of information relating to the Mumbai attack. The leaders reaffirmed their governments' resolve to defeating the forces of terrorism and called for effective steps by all countries to eliminate safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism.

Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano today committed to expand India-U.S. cooperation to further strengthen their capacity to secure their countries and protect their people. The two leaders agreed to share ideas and experiences on the ongoing transformation of their countries' security-related organizational structures and systems as well regulatory framework, in a democratic and federal environment.

They decided to strengthen agency-to-agency engagement, including in the areas of intelligence exchange, information sharing, forensics and investigation, access and sharing of data relating to terrorism, security of infrastructure, transportation and trade, conducting joint needs assessments, combating counterfeit currency, countering illicit financing and transnational crime. They agreed that the two sides shall designate points of contact and establish protocols for engagement.

They decided to foster capacity building in areas including counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, counterfeit currency, illicit financing and transnational crime, security of infrastructure, transportation and trade, coastal security and large city policing. They agreed on the need for appropriate government agencies to work together and share best practices to enhance the security and resilience of the global supply chain.

They affirmed the importance of increased dialogue and cooperation in the area of cyber security. They welcomed the decision of the two governments to negotiate a MoU between CERT-IN and U.S.-CERT, the designated agencies for information exchange. They also decided to cooperate in capacity building and to work together, and with other countries, to advance cyber security standards.

Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano agreed that the two governments should maintain a regular dialogue to share information and assessment on equipment, technologies and systems for homeland security and counter-terrorism; and, to facilitate bilateral technology transfer and trade in these items, in the spirit of the strategic partnership between the two countries. They noted the role of the private sector in India and the U.S. in providing technological solutions and equipment, and they agreed to explore engagement between the governments and the private sectors through appropriate forums.

Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano agreed on a calendar of events, collaborative activities and initiatives to be implemented over the next twelve months. They also decided that the Home Secretary of India and the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security should meet at the end of six months to review progress in their collaboration.

Home Minister Chidambaram and Secretary Napolitano committed to hold the Homeland Security Dialogue annually to set strategic directions for continued cooperation in homeland security.

During her visit to India, Secretary Napolitano also met with senior police officials in Mumbai and visited the commemorative memorial of 26/11 in Mumbai. Secretary Napolitano called on Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Defence Minister A.K. Antony, Minister for Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal and Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao. Secretary Napolitano thanked Home Minister Chidambaram for the warm hospitality extended to her and her delegation and invited him for the next round of the India-U.S. Homeland Security Dialogue in Washington DC at a mutually convenient date next year."



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At the joint press conference held at the end of their talks. Ms. Napolitano agreed that both countries faced a "common threat and we must develop common approaches to protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring free flow of people and commerce across our borders."

Asked about the Lashkar-e-Taiba being on the list of banned terrorist outfits, Ms. Napolitano said: "LeT is right up there; it ranks in the terror list along with al-Qaeda." However, she did not offer any comment when it was pointed out that LeT founder Hafiz Saeed was still moving about freely in Pakistan. "I think, in my judgment, the LeT ranks right up there in the al-Qaeda and related groups as terrorist organisations, one that seeks to harm people and takes innocent lives. Our perspective, the U.S. perspective, is LeT is very, very, I do not want to say, important as that gives it too much credibility, but an organisation that is of the same ranking as al-Qaeda-related groups," She said.

**563. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Minister Anand Sharma to the United States.**

**New Delhi, June 23, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma the Union Minister Commerce and Industry is on a four day visit to the United States during his visit he held discussions with Ambassador Ron Kirk, the United States Trade Representative on 22nd June 2011. Shri Sharma and Ambassador Kirk agreed to re-invigorate the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) and make it more robust and effective in resolving bilateral commercial issues, while maintaining the political leadership of the process. The two sides also agreed to fast-track the technical negotiations for an early conclusion of the India-US Bilateral Investment Agreement. There would be two rounds of negotiations before the next meeting of the Ministerial level TPF expected to be held in October 2011 in India. In their interaction, they covered the entire range of issues in bilateral trade and commercial engagement.

Shri Sharma apprised Ambassador Kirk of various policy approaches being taken by India to sustain its high GDP growth and the opportunities it offered for the U.S. businesses to develop partnerships with the Indian private sector. He mentioned infrastructure, agriculture and agro-processing; food processing; cold chain logistics; manufacturing of electronic devices including chip design as areas with bilateral cooperative possibilities. He also raised issues of importance for the Indian industry in their business operations in the United States. The Indian Minister later informed that, the United States welcomed the unilateral action taken by India in reducing tariffs on a number of products, including raw pistachios, cranberry products, seedless raisins, processed foods, medical equipment, fertilizers, chemicals, heavy machinery, etc. USTR also appreciated India's efforts towards increased cooperation in services and on improving the investment environment.

Earlier on 22nd June 2011, Shri Sharma addressed a gathering of policy makers, economists and scholars at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. He highlighted the increasing role of emerging economies in the perspective of the financial and economic crisis, which is causing a rebalancing of the global economy. He also stressed the necessity to build and strengthen bilateral business and institutional partnerships between the two countries. He informed the audience about India's plans to create National Manufacturing and Investment Zones, which would become hubs of innovation and manufacturing.

On 21st June 2011, The Commerce & Industry Minister held a CEO Industry Roundtable in New York where he interacted with select leaders of investment firms and big businesses with keen interest in commercial opportunities in India.



**564. Joint Statement issued after the Second Ministerial Meeting of the India - USA Economic and Financial Partnership.**

**Washington D.C., June 29, 2011.**

India and the United States will work together to expand trade and investment links between their economies, and will further develop and strengthen their financial systems. India and the United States will also work together in the G-20 on an effective mutual assessment process to bring about strong, sustained, and balanced global growth. This was stated in a joint statement issued at the end of day long deliberations at the Second Cabinet level meeting of the U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership in Washington, D.C yesterday. The first meeting of the US-India Economic and Financial Partnership was held last year in April,2010 in.Delhi. The joint statement signed by both U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Mr Timothy Geithner and Indian Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee was issued at the end of second ministerial level meeting of the U.S.-India Economic and Financial Partnership in Washington, D.C yesterday. The joint statement said that the United States is committed to making the investments in technology, skills and infrastructure necessary to maintain and enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global economy. It said that India intends to take steps to marshal private and public saving to meet the infrastructure needs of a rapidly growing Indian economy. Both the countries agreed to work together to expand trade and investment links between two economies and to develop and strengthen their financial systems. In the meeting, India and U.S. discussed the challenges that both economies faced in ensuring a strong recovery and price stability in the short term, as well as the range of policies necessary to reach growth at our full potential domestically.

According to the joint statement, the two sides agreed to a robust roadmap for the coming year that included deeper engagement in the following areas within each pillar of the Partnership :

- Macroeconomic challenges, including growth, unemployment, inflation, global liquidity, commodity prices, international capital flows and fiscal consolidation.
- Financial sector reforms, including deepening of capital markets, financial inclusion, and ensuring the stability, transparency, and integrity of the financial system.
- Infrastructure finance, including innovative strategies to mobilize capital for infrastructure development, and sharing best practices and building capacity for design and successful execution of Public Private Partnerships.

The statement said that since the April 2010 launch in Delhi, India-US Partnership had led to deeper institutional relationships and exchanges between U.S. and Indian economic and financial sector regulators - both of which had proven critical to technical cooperation, capacity building, and the removal of impediments to realizing our relationship's full economic potential.

Building on the success of the first year of the Partnership, India and U.S. decided to continue to strengthen our economic and financial partnership in order to realize the full economic and strategic potential of the U.S.-India partnership to achieve maximum benefits for Americans and Indians.

As per the joint statement, the U.S.-India relationship offered enormous economic opportunities for Americans and Indians alike. Through stronger collaboration and coordination amongst their economic and financial policymakers, this Partnership had sought to deepen U.S.-India bilateral and multilateral engagement in order to fully capitalize on the wealth of economic opportunities between the two nations. It said that the U.S.-India economic relationship had made significant progress in recent years. Over the past decade, trade and investment between the two countries had expanded across a variety of industries and sectors. Between 2000 and 2010, Indian exports to the United States had grown by nearly 180 percent and American exports to India had increased over four times. Meanwhile, the combined bilateral U.S.-India foreign direct investment had grown by nearly 165 percent between 2005 and 2009. Despite this progress, and especially given the size of the two respective economies, the joint statement recognized that there remained untapped potential and opportunity to expand trade and investment linkages to the benefit of both countries.





**565. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance on the Second meeting of India - USA Financial and Economic Partnership held in Washington DC.**

**New Delhi, June 29, 2010.**

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the India-US Financial and Economic Partnership which was launched last year in New Delhi, has succeeded in giving an impetus to the rapidly expanding financial and economic engagement between our two countries. The Finance Minister said that meaningful exchange of views have since then taken place at sub-cabinet level and through working group meetings. He said that it has resulted in better understanding of each other's economic policies and mutual appreciation of our respective positions in many international economic fora, including at the G-20.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee was addressing the Second Meeting of India-US Financial and Economic Partnership in Washington D.C .yesterday. Shri Mukherjee was leading the Indian delegation which included among others Dr Subbarao, Governor, RBI, Shri R.Gopalan, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Dr Kaushik Basu, Chief Economic Adviser, Shri Subhir Gokaran, Deputy Governor, RBI, Shri B.C.Khatua, Chairman, Forward Market Commission and Ms Meera Shankar, Indian Ambassador to USA.

The US delegation on the other hand was led by Mr Timothy Geithner, Secretary, US Department of Treasury and included among others Mr Ben S Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, Mr Austan Goolsbee, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers to the President of US, Ms Mary L Schapiro, Chairman, US Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr Gary Genseles, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Mr Martin J Gruenberg, Vice Chairman, FDIC Board of Directors and Mr Nathan Sheets, Director, Division of International Finance among others.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that our partnership is based on common values and interests, a shared vision of the world, and the deep-rooted ties of friendship among our people. Shri Mukherjee said that as the world's largest democracies and the leading market economies, we are committed to promoting freedom in our societies, which have strong tradition of nursing pluralism and tolerance. He said that this makes our relationship unique and casts upon us the responsibility to define and influence the developments that would help shape the 21st century. Shri Mukherjee said

that indeed, US President Obama has characterized the India-US relationship as one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that we have continued to deepen and expand our strategic partnership as outlined by US President Obama and our Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. He said that President Obama's last year's visit to India has resulted in a number of important strategic outcomes that have seen progress in implementation. Shri Mukherjee said that the US has eased controls on high-technology exports for sectors like defence and space. He said that we also appreciate the intention of the United States to support India's full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes. The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee said that there has been progress on a number of bilateral agreements in the areas of science, technology and innovation, and clean energy research. He said that we have also taken concrete steps in developing joint projects for food security and agriculture in African countries.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that our economic relations are also rapidly growing. He said that bilateral trade grew by 30 per cent in 2010 beside investments in each other's economies continue to expand. The Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee said that the engagement of people and enterprises of the two countries remains the cornerstone of our relationship.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that India as one of the world's fastest growing economies and the United States, the world's largest economy, are committed to achieve a high growth global economy that is both stable and sustainable. Shri Mukherjee said that through our bilateral engagements and by working together in multilateral fora like the G-20, both the countries can expand economic opportunities and prosperity worldwide.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Indian Government attaches high importance to the India-US strategic partnership, both in the pursuit of India's national development goals and for advancing global peace, stability and progress. Shri Mukherjee said that we are committed to deepening our strategic partnership and enhancing dialogue and cooperation in various facets of our economic relationship.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that we have a rich and varied agenda for discussions before us for this second meeting and is looking forward to have a very productive and comprehensive exchange of views on issues that have been identified.

**The text of the Opening Statement made by the Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee on the occasion is given below:**

"It is a great pleasure to be here for the second meeting of the India-US Financial and Economic Partnership. I am happy that the Partnership, which we launched last year in New Delhi, has succeeded in giving an impetus to the rapidly expanding financial and economic engagement between our two countries. Meaningful exchange of views have since then taken place at sub-cabinet level and through working group meetings. It has resulted in better understanding of each other's economic policies, and mutual appreciation of our respective positions in many international economic fora, including at the G-20.

Our partnership is based on common values and interests, a shared vision of the world, and the deep-rooted ties of friendship among our people. As the world's largest democracies and the leading market economies, we are committed to promoting freedom in our societies, which have strong tradition of nursing pluralism and tolerance. This makes our relationship unique and casts upon us the responsibility to define and influence the developments that would help shape the 21st century. Indeed, President Obama has characterized the India-US relationship as one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

Excellency,

We have continued to deepen and expand our strategic partnership as outlined by President Obama and Prime Minister Singh. President Obama's visit has resulted in a number of important strategic outcomes that have seen progress in implementation. The US has eased controls on high-technology exports for sectors like defence and space. We also appreciate the intention of the United States to support India's full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes. There has been progress on a number of bilateral agreements in the areas of science, technology and innovation, and clean energy research. We have also taken concrete steps in developing joint projects for food security and agriculture in African countries.

Our economic relations are also rapidly growing. Bilateral trade grew by 30 per cent in 2010. Investments in each other's economies continue to expand. The engagement of people and enterprises of the two countries remains the cornerstone of our relationship.

India as one of the world's fastest growing economies and the United States, the world's largest economy, are committed to achieving a high growth global

economy that is both stable and sustainable. Through our bilateral engagements and by working together in multilateral fora like the G-20, we can expand economic opportunities and prosperity worldwide.

The Indian Government attaches high importance to the India-US strategic partnership, both in the pursuit of India's national development goals and for advancing global peace, stability and progress. We are committed to deepening our strategic partnership and enhancing dialogue and cooperation in various facets of our economic relationship.

We have a rich and varied agenda for discussions before us today. I am looking forward to having a very productive and comprehensive exchange of views on issues that have been identified."



**566. Statement by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.**

**New Delhi, July 15, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and sorry to keep you waiting for a bit.

My colleague Joint Secretary (AMS) Jawed Ashraf and I would like to brief you about the official visit of US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton who comes on the 18th July primarily for the 2nd round of the India-US Strategic Dialogue. She would be accompanied by a 25-member delegation drawn from various Departments of US Administration.

To give you an idea of the programme and the delegation, the Indian delegation led by the EAM and would include Deputy-Chairman of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia; Dr. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to PM; Foreign Secretary Shrimati Nirupama Rao; Foreign Secretary Designate Shri Ranjan Mathai; Commerce Secretary; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; Home Secretary; Secretary, Education; Secretary, Environment and Forests; Director (IB) and other senior officials including Joint Secretary Jawed Ashraf.

From the US side the delegation led by Secretary Clinton would include the Director of National Intelligence Mr. James Clapper; Assistant to President on Science and Technology Mr. John Holdren; Deputy Energy Secretary Mr. Daniel

Poneman; Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Ms Jane Lute; as well as a number of other senior officials from various Departments of the US Administration.

Secretary Clinton arrives on Monday the 18th evening. On 19th she meets with the National Security Advisor; has delegation-level talks with the External Affairs Minister. Thereafter, they would hold a joint press conference. She would also have meetings with the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, call on Chairperson UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi; call on the Prime Minister of India. On the 20th of July, Wednesday, she leaves for Chennai where she would have a number of engagements. She leaves Chennai on Thursday, 21st of July.

You are aware that in July 2009, India and USA had agreed to launch a Ministerial level strategic dialogue to focus on bilateral relationship and dialogue mechanisms along five pillars of mutual interest namely: strategic cooperation, energy and climate change, education and development, economy, trade and agriculture, science and technology, health and innovation. This comprehensive dialogue architecture covers 18 sectors of bilateral engagement.

EAM and Secretary Clinton co-chaired the inaugural strategic dialogue in Washington on the 3rd of June. EAM's delegation had included Minister for Human Resource Development; Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission; Minister of State for Science and Technology; Foreign Secretary; and senior officials from various Ministries and Departments.

The Strategic Dialogue provides an opportunity to take stock of the progress in bilateral relationship, bilateral cooperation, as well as to consult on global and regional issues of interest, besides charting out a short to medium-term roadmap of cooperation in priority sectors for the two Governments.

The strategic dialogue mechanism has come to be regarded as one of the very effective mechanisms to maintain the momentum of our rapidly deepening and expanding global strategic partnership that was outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama during Prime Minister's state visit to Washington in November, 2009. It was reaffirmed during President Obama's reciprocal state visit to India in November last year.

It is no exaggeration to say that the relationship has got transformed in recent years with both sides taking and having taken a series of new initiatives to take the relationship to a qualitatively new level. India and USA are focusing on simultaneously further strengthening engagement in political, economic, strategic and security spheres, with greater priority to areas like economy, energy, environment, education and security.

Bilateral engagement both at senior Ministerial and official levels as well as through functional mechanisms remains robust. High-level visits in recent months from our side just in the last few months, include that of our Finance Minister, Commerce and Industries Minister, National Security Advisor, and Foreign Secretary. Likewise, from the US side we have hosted Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Homeland Security Secretary Ms Janet Napolitano, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman, and other US dignitaries.

I would like to note that of the 25 bilateral mechanisms including Strategic Security Dialogue, Defence Policy Group, High Technology Cooperation Group, and Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism have met in recent months. The eighth meeting of the JWG on Counterterrorism was held in New Delhi in March this year to exchange threat assessments and review ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism including intelligence-sharing and capacity-building. Also, the first ever India-US Homeland Security Dialogue took place in New Delhi on the 26th of May this year.

Consequent to the Defence Cooperation Framework that was agreed upon in 2005, our defence exchanges have picked up steam and have included military exercises, reciprocal visits of Service Chiefs, defence modernization, technology transfer, and so on.

Cooperation in the energy sector including clean energy and energy efficiency has emerged as one of the top priorities in the relationship. During President Obama's visit both sides reaffirmed their commitment to building a green economy of the future through the bilateral Partnership to Advance Clean Energy called PACE.

If one takes both goods and services into account, then USA becomes our largest business partner. In 2010, bilateral trade increased 30 per cent to close on \$ 50 billion. We have the 2008 figure of trade in services which was 38 billion dollars. So, we are looking at trade in goods and services of over 88 billion dollars annually. Similarly, investments in both directions have been growing rapidly.

I mentioned a number of areas of cooperation. Let me add one more - education, which received a fillip with the Singh-Obama 21st century knowledge initiative unveiled in 2009. Nearly 103,000 Indian students were studying in American universities in 2008-09.

The regular high-level interactions and cooperation has resulted in increasing mutual understanding and greater convergence on a wide range of international issues. Both sides, for example, have been holding regular consultation and coordination to see a stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. USA

has also been appreciative of the positive role that India has been playing in achieving the said objective.

EAM is looking forward to the official visit of Secretary Clinton and members of her delegation, as well as to hold in-depth exchange of views on a broad canvas of issues and matters of interest between the two countries.

Thank you.



**567. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on need to enhance cooperation between India and US in Science & Technology Coordination.**

**New Delhi, July 18, 2011.**

India and the US have agreed to stepping up Science & Technology coordination between the two countries in cross-cutting areas relating to energy, agriculture, affordable healthcare, nutrition and monsoon forecasting. This was agreed upon during a meeting between Dr. John P. Holdren, Assistant to the US President for Science & Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology and Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Minister of State for Planning, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences in New Delhi today. The meeting was held in the context of the ongoing Indo-US Strategic Dialogue, India and the US have embarked upon a strategic relationship which specifically identifies science, technology and innovation as a major focus of future relationship in the 21st century.

In his address Dr. Kumar stated that there are major issues facing us in the areas of food, agriculture, nutrition, energy and water. In this connection research on monsoon is very crucial, as well as forecasting extreme events like floods and droughts, pests, crops etc. There is a need to work towards making agriculture resilient. He stated the need for further research on forecasting various hazards like cyclones and in this connection, usage of instrumental spectra aircraft is essential. Dr. Holdren agreed to look into this aspect. He also appreciated the sharing of data on issues relating to monsoon and flood and agreed to further strengthening the exchange of data. Dr. Kumar raised the importance of facilitating exchange of scientists from both the countries by addressing bottlenecks relating to Visa for S&T professionals. He

urged for a liberal visa regime to ensure seamless issuance of visas for Indian scientists willing to work in the US. He also expressed India's preparedness to substantially increase resource investment in promoting agricultural crops leading to affordable innovation in key sectors. Dr. Holdren also responded favourably to addressing issues such as Visa for S&T professionals and stepping up resources for S&T cooperation.

There was general consensus on substantially increasing financial outlay by both sides, for example, the Indo-US Science and Technology Endowment Fund which is currently 30 million dollars could have its corpus increased and the current allocation of 50 million dollars for both the sides for next 5 years could be enhanced to 100 million dollars.



**568. Press Release issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation on the signing of the India - USA Aviation Safety Agreement.**

**New Delhi, July 18, 2011.**

The bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) between India and the U.S.A. has been signed by Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Secretary, Civil Aviation and Mr. J. Randolph Babbitt, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The signing coincides with the visit of US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton to India. The signing took place in the presence of Senior Officers from the Ministry, DGCA, AAI from the Indian side and FAA and USTDA from the US side.

BASA will facilitate reciprocal airworthiness certification of civil aeronautical products imported/exported between the two signatory authorities. Indian standards would be comparable to global standards and its aeronautical products would be accepted by the U.S.

The nascent aircraft manufacturing industry in India would be hugely benefitted and it would spur trade between the two sides. It would demonstrate that India has the capability to develop FAA certifiable aircraft articles/appliances. It would encourage the civil aeronautical products industry which will eventually lead to self sufficiency in the sector.

BASA would encourage indigenous aircraft and aeronautical products industry and the US acceptance of Indian products will help their global



acceptance. It would lessen the economic burden imposed on the aviation industry and operators by redundant technical inspections, evaluations and testing.

The next stage is to sign the implementation Procedures for Airworthiness (IPA) which provides for airworthiness technical cooperation between FAA and its counterpart civil aviation authorities. The scope of IPA can be enhanced from time to time. The USA has signed BASA with 24 countries.



**569. Joint Statement issued on the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue.  
New Delhi, July 19, 2011.**

India's Minister of External Affairs Shri S.M. Krishna and the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met in New Delhi on July 19, 2011, for the second annual meeting of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. The leaders recognized the achievements made since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in June 2010 and President Obama's historic visit to India in November 2010 in advancing our two countries' shared interests. They committed to continuing to broaden and deepen the India-U.S. global strategic partnership.

As a testament to the relationship's extraordinary breadth and depth, Secretary Clinton was accompanied by Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, the President's Advisor for Science and Technology Dr. John P. Holdren, Department of Energy Deputy Secretary Daniel Poneman, Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Jane Holl Lute, and other senior U.S. government officials.

Minister Krishna was joined by Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Prime Minister's Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Advisor Sam Pitroda, Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, and other senior officials.

Minister Krishna was also joined at the working lunch by Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Minister for Human Resource Development and Information Technology Kapil Sibal.

As part of Secretary Clinton's visit to India, she met with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance Sonia

Gandhi, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj, and National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon.

Secretary Clinton offered her prayers and sympathies to the victims of the despicable attacks in Mumbai on July 13. The American people stand with the Indian people in times of trial, and offer support to India's efforts to bring the perpetrators of these terrible crimes to justice. Minister Krishna welcomed the expressions of support from the Secretary, the President, and the U.S. Congress. The two leaders resolved to strengthen cooperation between their governments to fight against terrorism.

Since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in 2010, the India-U.S. partnership has resulted in advances in nearly every area of human endeavor. The two sides have expanded their strategic consultations to cover all major issues and regions of the world. They have increased counterterrorism cooperation, intelligence sharing, and law enforcement exchanges. They have continued to expand their defence cooperation. They have expanded their growing partnership on export controls and non-proliferation. They have witnessed an expansion of the already robust people-to-people ties; scientific, space, and technology collaboration; clean energy cooperation; and connections among entrepreneurs and social innovators.

The two leaders emphasized our countries' shared values - pluralism, tolerance, openness, and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. They reiterated Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's and President Barack Obama's pledge to harness these shared strengths and to expand the India-U.S. global partnership for the benefit of their countries; and, for peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia and the world.

Today, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral relations and set new goals to further strengthen the India-U.S. Global Strategic Partnership.

#### **Global Stability and Prosperity**

- Marking the expansion of strategic consultations, the two sides launched a Central Asia Dialogue in June 2011 in New Delhi and a West Asia Dialogue in July 2011 in Washington DC. The two sides intend to expand strategic consultations to other regions, including Latin America and Caribbean, and plan to hold the fourth round of the East Asia Dialogue in September 2011.
- India, the United States, and Japan plan to commence a trilateral dialogue at senior official level.
- They welcomed the launch of bilateral dialogue on United Nations matters in New Delhi in March 2011. The two sides intend to continue this

dialogue and meet next in Washington in early 2012, while continuing regular consultations between capitals and in UN cities as appropriate.

- Following on the successful meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on UN Peacekeeping Operations in March 2011 in New Delhi, the two countries hope to conduct their 10th meeting of the JWG in early 2012.
- The two sides reaffirmed their commitment for consultation, coordination, and cooperation on Afghanistan, and to work jointly in Afghanistan in capacity building, agriculture, and women's empowerment, expanding on work already underway. Both sides agreed to Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, and inclusive reconciliation.
- The two sides acknowledged that increased trade, transit, and commercial linkages across South and Central Asia will benefit Afghanistan and contribute to the region's long-term peace, stability, and prosperity.
- The two sides intend to promote food security in Africa through a triangular cooperation program with Liberia, Malawi, and Kenya. A promising area of potential collaboration includes the participation of Africans at Indian universities and research and technical institutes in mutually agreed capacity building programs. The two sides agree to explore additional areas based on requests from the three African countries.
- As part of the India-U.S. Dialogue on Open Government launched in November 2010, the two countries have committed to jointly create an open source "Data.gov" platform by the first quarter of 2012 to be taken to interested countries globally. Leveraging the high-technology strengths and institutional expertise of both India and the United States, the "open source" platform is intended to provide citizens access to Government information via a user-friendly website and a package of e-Governance applications to enhance public service delivery.
- The two sides reiterated their commitment to work together to strengthen election management capacity in interested countries. They welcomed the technical collaboration between the Indian International Institute of Democracy and Election Management and the Washington DC-based International Federation of Electoral Systems.
- Secretary Clinton recalled President Obama's statement that, in the years ahead, the United States looks forward to a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member.

**Enhancing the U.S. - India Bilateral Relationship**

## Defence, security and counter-terrorism

- The two sides launched the Homeland Security Dialogue in May 2011 in New Delhi, and have decided upon a program of cooperation in global supply chain management, megacity policing, combating counterfeit currency and illicit financing, cyber security, critical infrastructure protection, and capacity building and technology upgrading.
- They reiterated their commitment to further strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, including through intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, and access to advanced counter-terrorism technology and equipment. The two sides had their ninth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in March 2011 in New Delhi.
- The two leaders reiterated that success in Afghanistan and regional and global security requires elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Condemning terrorism in all its forms, the two sides confirmed that all terrorist networks must be defeated and called for Pakistan to move expeditiously in prosecuting those involved in the November 2008 Mumbai terror attack.
- The two sides reiterated their commitment on comprehensive sharing of information on the investigations and trials relating to the November 2008 Mumbai terror attack.
- The two countries held cyber consultations on July 18, led by their two National Security Councils, at which they exchanged views on a broad range of cyberspace issues and coordinated bilateral cooperation on cyber issues. The United States and India signed on 19 July 2011 a Memorandum of Understanding between our Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT-IN and US-CERT) to exchange information on cyber attacks and mutual response to cybersecurity incidents, to cooperate on cybersecurity technology, and to exchange information on cybersecurity policy and best practices and capacity building and exchange of experts.
- India and the United States welcomed progress in bilateral defence cooperation. The Defence Policy Group met in March 2011 and plans to meet again in early 2012.
- The two sides noted India's defence orders from U.S. companies have reached a cumulative value of over USD 8.0 billion in the last decade.

The two sides noted that these sales reflect strengthened cooperation. Both sides also affirmed their desire to strengthen cooperation through technology transfer, and joint research, development and production of defence items.

- They noted progress in defence bilateral exchanges, exercises, capacity building, information sharing, including in the areas of counternarcotics, counter piracy, maritime safety and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. They affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- The United States and India agreed to continue consultations on maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region in existing forums such as Defense Policy Group and its appropriate sub-groups. They also agreed to exchange views on promoting regional security architecture that enhances maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The United States welcomed India's decision to chair a plenary of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia in 2012.

#### **Civil Nuclear Cooperation**

- The two leaders welcomed the continued commitment of the two governments for full implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement. They reiterated their commitment to build strong India - U.S. civil nuclear energy cooperation through the participation of U.S. nuclear energy firms in India on the basis of mutually acceptable technical and commercial terms and conditions that enable a viable tariff regime for electricity generated. They noted that the United States has ratified the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) and India intends to ratify the CSC within this year. They further noted that India is committed to ensuring a level playing field for U.S. companies seeking to enter the Indian nuclear energy sector, consistent with India's national and international legal obligations.
- The United States looks forward to hosting a senior-level Indian delegation at the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group (CNEWG) next week at Oak Ridge Laboratory.

#### **Membership of Export Control Regimes**

- Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress we have achieved together towards India's full membership of the four multilateral export control regimes - Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control

Regime, Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement - in a phased manner consistent with the core principles of these regimes, as the Government of India takes steps towards the full adoption of the regimes' export control requirements.

#### **Export Control Cooperation**

- India welcomed steps taken by the United States to remove Indian entities from the U.S. Department of Commerce's 'Entity List' and realignment of India in U.S. export control regulations. Both sides agreed to continue efforts to fulfill objectives of strengthening export control cooperation envisaged in the Joint Statement of November 2010 as well as on the basis of discussions in the High Technology Cooperation Group held earlier this month.

#### **Nuclear Security**

- The two sides looked forward to holding later this year the first meeting of the U.S.-India Joint Working Group to implement the MOU on Cooperation with India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnerships.

#### **Strategic Security Dialogue**

- Both sides view the Strategic Security Dialogue, the last round of which was held in Vienna on 14 June 2011, as a vital element in their dialogue architecture which has strengthened the common ground in promoting global non-proliferation objectives. Both sides also discussed key issues on the multilateral agenda, and looked forward to the commencement of negotiations of the Fissile Missile Cutoff Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament.

#### **Prosperity**

- The two sides welcomed increases of 30 percent in bilateral trade in 2010 over the previous year and the balanced and positive growth in services trade. They also welcomed the increase in foreign direct investment flows in both directions.
- The two governments plan to resume technical-level negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) in August in Washington D.C. A BIT would enhance transparency and predictability for investors, and support economic growth and job creation in both countries.
- The two sides reiterated their commitment to take steps to expand trade ties. The India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum plans to meet in October 2011, and on-going public-private discussions are to continue under the Commercial Dialogue.

- The two governments intend to participate in the first Consular Dialogue on July 25 in Washington DC for a full discussion of visa and other consular matters.
- The two governments signed a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) on July 18.
- The U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the U.S. Trade Development Agency (USTDA), and U.S. Agency for International Development, in coordination with multiple U.S. government agencies, are participating in the development of clean and renewable energy projects, energy-efficient buildings and Smart Grids in India. The two leaders welcomed the progress in the USTDA supported bilateral Energy Cooperation Programme, announced in November 2010, which works with Indian and U.S. businesses on deployment of clean energy technology in India. The bilateral Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center is accepting applications for its \$100 million, five-year program that is stimulating new collaboration between the United States' and India's public and private sectors in solar energy, energy-efficient buildings, and advanced biofuels.
- The India-U.S. agriculture dialogue was launched in September 2010 to intensify collaboration with India on food security, including joint work with third countries. USTDA hosted a trade mission to the United States for business and government representatives from India in the cold storage field.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Ministry of Earth Sciences have set up a "monsoon desk" to share the latest monsoon prediction models, which are now providing forecasts for the 2011 Indian monsoon season.

**Women's Empowerment**

- The Women's Empowerment Dialogue is planned for September 2011 in New Delhi.

**Education, Innovation, Science and Technology**

- The United States and India plan to host a Higher Education Summit in Washington D.C. on October 13 to highlight and emphasize the many avenues through which the higher education communities in the United States and India collaborate.
- The United States and India plan to expand its higher education dialogue, to be co-chaired by the U.S. Secretary of State and Indian Minister of

Human Resource Development to convene annually, incorporating the private/non-governmental sectors and higher education communities to inform government-to-government discussions.

- As part of the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative (OSI), the two governments announced the publication of their requests for proposals from post-secondary educational institutions that support OSI's goals of strengthening teaching, research, and administration of both U.S. and Indian institutions through university linkages and junior faculty development.
- The United States created the Passport to India initiative to encourage an increase in the number of American students studying and interning in India. The leaders recognized the great bridge of mutual understanding resulting from the more than 100,000 Indian students studying and interning in the United States.
- The United States' Department of Energy and India's Department of Atomic Energy signed an Implementing Agreement on Discovery Science that provides the framework for cooperation in accelerator and particle detector research and development at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, and Brookhaven National Laboratory.
- The India-U.S. S&T Endowment Board, established by Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna in 2009, plans to award nearly \$3 million annually to entrepreneurial projects that commercialize technologies to improve health and empower citizens. The two sides are strongly encouraged by the response to this initiative, which attracted over 380 joint India-U.S. proposals. The Endowment plans to announce the first set of grantees by September 2011.
- The India-U.S. S&T Forum, now in its tenth year, has convened activities that have led to the interaction of nearly 10,000 Indian and U.S. scientists and technologists.
- As a follow up to the successful India-U.S. Innovation Roundtable held in September 2010 in New Delhi, the two sides agreed to hold another Innovation Roundtable in early 2012.
- India and the United States plan to host their third annual Women in Science workshop in September 2011.

### **Space**

- The U.S. - India Joint Space Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation met in July 2011 in Bangalore. Building on the successful Chandrayan-



1 lunar mission, NASA and ISRO reviewed potential areas for future cooperation in earth observation, space exploration, space sciences and satellite navigation. Both sides agreed for early finalization three new implementing arrangements for sharing satellite data on oceans and global weather patterns. Recognising the research opportunities available on the International Space Station, both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of joint experiments. NASA reiterated its willingness to discuss potential cooperation with ISRO on human spaceflight activities. The two sides also agreed to expand upon previous work in the area of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) with the goal of promoting compatibility and interoperability between the U.S. Global Positioning System, India's Navigation systems, and those of other countries.

Secretary Clinton thanked the Minister, the Government, and the people of India for their gracious hospitality, their warm welcome, and their hard work in making this year's Strategic Dialogue a success. Secretary Clinton thanked Minister Krishna for his strong support for the India-U.S. relationship.

Minister Krishna thanked the Secretary for her participation and engagement in this year's Strategic Dialogue and for the commitment and dedication she has given to the U.S. - India global partnership.

The next meeting of the Strategic Dialogue is planned for Washington D.C. in 2012.



**570. Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna and US Secretary State Hillary Clinton.**

**New Delhi, July 19, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. Welcome to the Joint Press Interaction. The External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna would be making an opening statement. Next, Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton will be addressing the media.

I would like to invite the External Affairs Minister to please address the media.  
Sir.

**External Affairs Minister of India (Shri S.M. Krishna):** Your Excellency Secretary of State of the United States of America Mrs. Hillary Clinton, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to welcome you, Madam Secretary, back to India, on the second anniversary of your first visit as Secretary of State.

You have been a steadfast friend of India, unwavering in your commitment to India-U.S. strategic partnership. And, you have been a champion of causes that have touched the lives of millions, especially weak and the vulnerable, around the world.

Two years ago almost to this very day in Delhi, we announced the Strategic Dialogue. The Strategic Dialogue is the bedrock on which we are building our global strategic partnership that would be one of the defining relationships of the 21st century. This is the vision of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama.

I thank you for bringing a very impressive delegation. I would also like to thank my colleagues and some of the top officials in the government for joining us in this dialogue. Their presence reflects the depth of our engagement and the diversity of our cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, Secretary Clinton and I met for two and a half hours and then continued our discussions over lunch. We reviewed our bilateral relations. We discussed our vision and ambitions for the relationship. And, we discussed a broad range of regional and global developments.

We expressed satisfaction at the momentum in our relationship and all round progress in our cooperation. We welcomed the maturity and mutual confidence in our relationship.

We have expanded our political consultations, touching on all major issues and regions of the world. Our intelligence and counterterrorism cooperation

has deepened. Our nonproliferation partnership has grown. We are working towards expanding bilateral economic ties.

There are extraordinary examples of our cooperation to harness the power of science, technology and innovation to address challenges in the realm of healthcare, education, environment, clean energy and agriculture.

Our two governments have instituted a number of innovative programmes for advancing our cooperation in clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency. We are pleased with our progress in this area.

We are creating opportunities for our youth and empowering our people. And, now we are extending the benefits of our cooperation to other countries in areas like food security.

We reiterated our commitment to taking forward civil nuclear energy cooperation on the basis of full implementation of mutual commitments. We were reassured that United States reaffirmed its commitment for full civil nuclear cooperation. I expressed appreciation for our ongoing engagement and full support of the US for India's full membership of the four export control regimes and our expectation of progress in tandem on the four regimes. We discussed UNSC reforms and India's permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council.

We stressed the importance of defence cooperation in our strategic partnership and expressed satisfaction at the progress we are making in defence cooperation, including in defence trade and collaborations, through our various bilateral defence mechanisms.

While we lauded the growth in trade and investment flows in both directions, we also acknowledged that there was enormous potential for further expansion. We have agreed to resume negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty. I also took the opportunity to convey to Secretary Clinton the concerns of our IT companies in sending their professionals to execute projects and conduct business in the United States. I highlighted that Indian IT companies are contributing to the US economy through investments, employment and supporting US competitiveness. I also requested Secretary Clinton to consider a Totalisation Agreement with India. I thanked Secretary Clinton for her assurance that she will work with the concerned US agencies to seek an early and satisfactory solution for the students affected by the closure of Tri-Valley University.

I expressed our sincere appreciation for the solidarity and support extended by President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the people of the United States after the recent Mumbai terrorist attack.

We had good discussions on terrorism in our region, both during the dialogue and in other meetings on the margin. We resolved to intensify our cooperation to fight terrorism. Both sides remain committed to comprehensive sharing of information on the Mumbai terror attack of 2008.

We have also increased our engagement in the important area of cyber security. We are pleased with the MOU for cooperation between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) and the U.S. CERT.

We discussed the challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and our efforts to address them. We agreed to remain in close touch as the transition phase gets underway in Afghanistan. We also discussed our efforts for reconstruction, development and capacity building in Afghanistan. We acknowledged that regional trade, transit and commercial activities in South and Central Asia would benefit Afghanistan and support regional stability and prosperity. We underscored the importance of elimination of terrorist sanctuaries in Pakistan for regional stability and security and for Pakistan's future.

We discussed our shared interest in peaceful and stable Asia, Pacific and the Indian Ocean region, and the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture in the region. We will continue to work together, and with other countries, towards this goal through various mechanisms, such as our bilateral dialogue, the regional forums and our trilateral dialogue with Japan. Secretary Clinton and I will continue this engagement in the ARF meeting later this week.

India has vital interests and strong relationships in the Gulf, West Asia and North Africa. Last week, India and the US launched our West Asia Dialogue. Today, Secretary Clinton and I expressed the hope for the fulfillment of the aspirations of the people of the region and for early restoration of peace and stability. Secretary Clinton briefed me on the Libya Contact Group meeting in Turkey last week. We agreed to remain in touch as the situation evolves in the region.

This was a truly productive and comprehensive meeting, consistent with our strategic partnership and the extraordinary breadth of our engagement. Today, we were able to highlight not only the tangible and meaningful progress that we are continually making, but also identified goals and set priorities for the future.

We are in the midst of our monsoon season - a time of renewal and rejuvenation. So, today, Secretary Clinton and I reaffirmed and renewed our commitment to build a strong global strategic partnership and invigorate our cooperation with a new momentum.

Madam Secretary, I wish you a good visit to Chennai. I think you will be the first Secretary of State to visit Chennai. So, that is going to be a very important visit. And all the best for you in the coming days. Thank you.

**US Secretary of State (Mrs. Hillary Clinton):** Thank you very much Minister Krishna and thank you to all the members of the Indian Government who are joined with us today in this very productive meeting.

The Minister has provided a comprehensive overview of our discussion in the areas of economic partnership, clean energy, climate change, science and technology and so much else. I also want to mention the emphasis we placed on counterterrorism and homeland security that is obviously an issue that is first and foremost on all of our minds after the bombings in Mumbai last week. And again let me convey on behalf of the United States our deep sympathy and our outrage to the people and Government of India, and pledge our support to you in your fight which is also our fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Today I want to just emphasise three of the issues we discussed because I can only echo what the Minister said about the depth and breadth of our conversation. He at the end referenced the monsoon season and I have to say it felt like we were in a monsoon with all of the many issues and reports that were being made by our officials outlining the extraordinary progress that has occurred. And there will be a Joint Statement released which will detail in probably more specifics than one can grasp everything that this Strategic Dialogue Partnership has already accomplished.

But let me just quickly reference trade and investment because we think as much progress as we have made, both the United States and India can take further steps to reduce barriers, open our markets and encourage new business partnerships to create jobs and opportunity for millions of our people while strengthening both of our nations' economic competitiveness.

Secondly, on security cooperation we are deepening and expanding our efforts and making great strides together on behalf of counterterrorism but also with respect to maritime security, we believe strengthening our military-to-military ties including through the sale of defence technologies will assist the Indian and American militaries to work together in a constructive way on everything from patrolling the seas, combating piracy, providing relief to the victims of natural disasters.

And finally with regard to our civil nuclear agreement, this represents a major investment by both of our countries in this critical bilateral relationship. We need to resolve those issues that still remain so we can reap the rewards of the extraordinary work that both of our Governments have done.

These opportunities along with the others that the Minister referenced are within our reach because of the intensive work that we have undertaken in the last two and a half years built on the years before going back into the 1990s. We are building habits of cooperation and bonds of trust. And we are standing on a firm foundation. And we believe that we can do even more work to ensure that this important dialogue leads to concrete and coordinated steps that will produce measurable progress for the wellbeing and betterment of the Indian and American people.

As President Obama has said, we believe this relationship will be a defining partnership of the 21st century, and we wholeheartedly support the rise of India as a regional and global leader. I will be tonight and tomorrow when I will speak at greater length on our view of India's role in the region and the world. We believe that this incredibly important partnership between us is strengthening us and equipping us better to meet the challenges ahead.

So, again Minister, thank you for your leadership and the hard work of your colleagues; and I want to thank my colleagues in Government as well that the real winners of our enhanced partnership and our Strategic Dialogue will be the people of our two countries. And that is what we hope to see in the years to come that will better the lives of men, women and children who so richly deserve and merit that kind of future.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Madam Secretary.

The External Affairs Minister and Secretary of State would be happy to take two questions from each side. I would request you to please limit yourself to one question either to the Secretary of State or the External Affairs Minister. The first question goes to the American side.

**Question (American Media):** Madam Secretary, the talks between India and Pakistan seem stuck in this stop-start mode with one of the many problems being the fact that after the Mumbai attacks Pakistan is still stalling on prosecution. To your mind, is Pakistan doing everything it can to combat terrorism? Are you exerting pressure on them?

**Secretary of State:** William, first let me say that we are encouraged by the dialogue occurring between India and Pakistan. I was briefed on the recent developments today by the Foreign Secretary and also discussed with both the National Security Advisor and the Minister. And we think this is the most promising approach to encourage both sides to build more confidence between them and work to implement the kinds of steps that will demonstrate the improved atmosphere that is so necessary for us to deal with the underlying problem of terrorism.

From the United States perspective, we do see Pakistan as a key ally in the fight against terrorism. We have made the point repeatedly to our Pakistani colleagues that terrorists threaten both of us and terrorists have actually killed more Pakistanis in bombings of mosques and markets and attacks on police stations and government buildings than Americans. And so we recognize that Pakistan must act on its own behalf first and foremost to protect its own territory and sovereignty and to protect the lives of the people of Pakistan. And we have made it clear that we want a long-term relationship with Pakistan based on common interests including a mutual recognition that we cannot tolerate a safe haven for terrorists anywhere. And when we know the location of terrorists whose intentions are clear, we need to work together in order to prevent those terrorists from taking innocent lives and threatening our institutions of the State.

During my visits to Pakistan including my most recent one we have made it clear to the Pakistani Government that confronting violent extremism of all sorts is in its interest. We do not believe that there are any terrorists who should be given safe havens and free pass by any government. Because left unchecked, if the consequences of that kind of terrorist activity and intimidation can become very difficult to manage and control. So, both in the interest of Pakistan's own future, in the interest of an improved relationship between Pakistan and India and in the interest of regional stability, we are working with and we will continue to work with the Government of Pakistan to try to tackle this mutual threat.

**Question (Indian Media):** Madam Secretary, about three years ago India got a clean waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group. But last month's NSG meeting has raised apprehension that India might again be subjected to discrimination when it comes to transfer of sensitive technologies like the ENR. Can you, Madam Secretary, today set the record straight on the NSG's intentions and since the Indo-US nuclear deal is at the heart of this issue, can you also clarify whether the US will provide the ENR technology to India?

**US Secretary of State:** Let me begin by saying that the United States remains fully committed to expanding our civil nuclear cooperation with India. I was one of the two co-chairs of the India Caucus when I served as a Senator from New York and I worked very hard to achieve the landmark legislation in our Congress that was then matched by a similar legislation in yours. And we have made it also clear that we strongly support India's full membership in the four export control regimes including the Nuclear Suppliers Group in a phased manner.

The Nuclear Suppliers Group Clean Waiver was an important joint accomplishment for both our governments and we stand by it. Nothing about the new enrichment and reprocessing transfer restrictions agreed to by the Nuclear Suppliers Group members should be construed as detracting from the

unique impact and importance of the US-India civil nuclear agreement or our commitment to full civil nuclear cooperation. But I have to add that we are looking forward to India ratifying the convention on supplementary compensation for nuclear damage during this year, before the end of this year, and we would encourage engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that the liability regime that India adopts by law fully conforms with the international requirements under the convention. So, we stand by our agreement. Many of us worked very hard for that agreement. We are committed to it. But we do expect it to be enforceable and actionable in all regards.

**Question (American Media):** This is a question for Minister Krishna. Mr. Minister, what assurances did you receive from Secretary Clinton about President Obama's plan for Afghanistan? Are you persuaded that Washington will not allow a deal that will leave the Taliban in power? And more broadly, do you feel that President Obama's plan can work? Or do you think that we should also be working on a plan B?

**External Affairs Minister:** India has been closely following the happenings in Afghanistan. We have a special relationship with Afghanistan which is civilisational as well as transactional. We have fraternal relationship with Afghanistan. We have impressed upon the United States and the other countries who have made their presence in Afghanistan that it is necessary for them to continue in Afghanistan depending upon the comfort level of the Government of Afghanistan and the President of Afghanistan Mr. Karzai; and it is necessary for the United States to factor in Afghanistan's ground realities as they see it, so that they can appreciate that Afghanistan would be in a position to defend itself against the terrorists sponsored by Taliban. So, I think in the larger interest of the region that it is necessary for the United States to work very closely with President Karzai and the Government of Afghanistan and thereby create conditions where terrorists do not make any more advances in Afghanistan.

**Question (Indian Media):** My question is for Secretary of State Mrs. Clinton. Madam, you just pledged support to India in fight against terror with reference to the Mumbai blast that happened on 13th July. My question specifically is, what kind of assistance would US provide to India so that the perpetrators of this 13th July attack are brought to justice? And very specifically, as far as 26/11 Mumbai attack is concerned, three years have passed by and Pakistan has not been able to bring the perpetrators of that attack to justice as well. And there are concerns in India as to how serious is America in following these cases. What would you do, Madam, to assuage our concerns in that matter?

**Secretary of State:** First let me say that there is a great deal of cooperation ongoing between our two Governments with respect to counterterrorism, not only sharing of information but also very clear operational discussions and



planning and investigation assistance and a list of other related matters that we think have a tremendously beneficial impact for both of us because a lot of the terrorist networks that threaten you also threaten us. So, this is a mutually cooperative and essential operational relationship. And in the aftermath of the attacks of 2008 in Mumbai, we made it very clear that there was an absolute international responsibility to cooperate to bring the perpetrators to justice, we have made that equally forcefully clear to Pakistan that it has a special obligation to do so transparently, fully and urgently. And it is US policy that we believe the perpetrators need to be brought to justice and have urged Pakistan to do so. Obviously there is a limit to what both the United States and India can do but we intend to continue to press as hard as possible. In the mean time we are going to increase our cooperation and I think that the fact that our Director of National Intelligence General Clapper is here today is testimony to the importance we place on this. And he has been having a series of very significant meetings looking at how we can do more to protect both of us from the scourge of terrorism.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Madam Secretary.

This brings the interaction to a close. Thank you for your presence.



**571. Press Note on the Indo-US Bilateral Meeting on Climate Change.****New Delhi, July 19, 2011.**

Today afternoon, a high level US delegation led by Special Envoy for Climate Change Mr. Todd Stern met Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests. It will be recollected that India and the USA have a long history of cooperation on environmental and forestry issues and the present meeting was in continuation of that engagement. Yesterday, the US and the Indian officials had technical level meeting to discuss climate change issues of mutual concern under the leadership of Mr. Todd Stern and Dr.T. Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests respectively. During the meeting, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries on issues relating to climate change, both present and future, were deliberated upon. Both sides exchanged their views, in a cordial atmosphere on bilateral issues and the ongoing climate change negotiations in the multilateral fora under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both sides agreed that operationlization of the Cancun decision in a balanced manner should be the goal for the meeting of the Conference of Parties under UNFCCC at Durban in December 2011. During the exchange of views, Minister Smt. Natarajan brought out the Indian perspective about the balanced outcome on both the LCA and KP tracks under the Bali Road Map, the importance to remain engaged on issues such as equity, accelerated transfer of technologies and trade measures at and beyond Durban and the crucial role of Indo-US programmes regarding science of climate change to further strengthen the bilateral engagement. Mr. Stern conveyed his view on transparency arrangements, i.e. International Assessment and Review (IAR) for developed countries and International Consultations and Analysis (ICA) for developing countries, the principles and approaches for functioning of the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism, the Financial Mechanism and the legal form of the Agreed Outcome of the LCA process.

At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed that the Indo-US dialogue on Climate Change issues would be continued at the scientific level, the negotiators level and the Ministerial level.



**572. Response of Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs to comments by the US State Department on handling of protest fast by Social Activist Anna Hazare.**

**New Delhi, August 12, 2011.**

In response to a question the Official Spokesperson said,

"We have seen the needless comments by the US State Department Spokesperson on handling of peaceful protests in India. Freedoms of speech and expression, as well as, of peaceful assembly, are enshrined in the Constitution of India and exercised by citizens of this country of 1.2 billion people."



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The Spokesperson was reacting to remarks made by the State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland who said: "As you know, we support the right of peaceful, non-violent protest around the world. That said, India is a democracy and we count on India to exercise appropriate democratic restraint in the way it deals with peaceful protest." Meanwhile US Senator John McCain who was also Republican candidate for the last US presidential elections, while on a tour of India clarified that US was not behind Anna Hazare's agitation by observing that "the US does not involve itself in what is taking place in the world's largest democracy and neither has it any such intention". He described Indian democracy as "strong and successful" which would be able to address the current domestic dispute.

**573. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the United States designating Indian Mujahideen (IM) as Terrorist Organization.**

**New Delhi, September 16, 2011.**

In response to a question, the official spokesperson said,

"India welcomes the designation yesterday by the U.S. Secretary of State of Indian Mujahideen (IM) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and as Specially Designated Global Terrorist. The U.S. designation reflects our shared commitment to combat terrorism, as well as, the strong and growing bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, which is an important component of the India-U.S. strategic partnership.

The designation also recognises that IM has links with Pakistan-based Lashkar e-Tayyiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) and Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami (HUJI), and notes that IM was responsible for dozens of bomb attacks throughout India since 2005 including playing a facilitative role in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack carried out by LeT. This underscores once again the destructive agenda of these organizations with trans-regional links and operations, and the responsibility of all countries in our neighbourhood and beyond, to join hands with the international community to root out the menace of terrorism, once and for all".



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The comments of the Spokesperson came in the wake of the US announcement on September 15 that it had listed IM as a terrorist organisation.

**574. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the US - India Business Council - FICCI meeting.**

**New York, September 21, 2011.**

"I am extremely pleased to be here this evening and have this opportunity to share some thoughts with investors, business leaders and industry captains of the two countries and the global community. Indeed, we seek your engagement in all aspects of economic activities in India, and likewise look for similar engagement for Indian enterprise in this land of opportunities.

No country has been immune to the contagion from the fallout of global financial crisis in 2008. Though the economic downturn was moderated and growth resumed in the second half of 2009 in most economies, the pace of recovery remained uneven. Advanced economies grew more slowly than before, while emerging economies like China and India led the way, with Latin America and Africa following closely. It appeared that policy makers had learnt their lessons from history by honing and harmonising the use of macro-economic policy and keeping markets open. At the same time, countries in the developed and the developing world adopted revival strategies, in keeping with the needs of their respective contexts, though with varying degree of success.

Developments in recent months have been less encouraging. There is widespread apprehension that even the tepid global economic recovery that we have seen so far is stalling. Slowing global aggregate demand, unresolved Euro debt crisis, high commodity and oil prices, inflationary pressures and stressed currencies have shaved 1 to 1.5 per cent off global GDP in the past six to eight months. Growth in most advanced economies has declined in the second quarter of 2011 and emerging markets are witnessing a combination of moderation in growth and rising inflation. Uncertainties continue to persist.

Advanced economies, the Euro zone and the US, are seized with sovereign debt problems. This is making financial markets nervous. There are structural constraints coming in the way of advanced economies returning to their trend growth path. As a result, their fiscal position looks increasingly unsustainable. Despite the aggressive fiscal and monetary policy, unemployment continues to be at its highest in many advanced countries.

Emerging markets recovered quickly from global slowdown, but are facing elevated commodity prices, inflation, moderating growth and volatile capital flows all at once. Central banks have been forced to raise policy rates repeatedly, potentially compromising growth in the short-term. It is true that emerging economies are relatively better placed with regard to their public debt and fiscal deficit due to their stronger growth momentum and relatively robust

banking systems. Their downside risks are on account of high oil and commodity prices and volatility in capital flows, partly due to the easy money policies in advanced countries.

It is against this backdrop, India as one of the largest and among the most dynamic emerging economies continues to be a key driver of global growth. After a GDP growth rate of over 9 per cent in the three years leading to the crisis, a slowdown to 6.8 per cent in the crisis year of 2008-09, followed by strong recovery of over 8 per cent in the two years following the slowdown, India has demonstrated its resilience and the capacity to overcome adversities in its development path.

There is a consensus among analysts that India has a remarkable stretch of growth over the next thirty years. Several reasons support growth to be sustained at a high rate of 8 to 9 per cent per annum. First, the savings and investment ratios have gone up in the last few years and are reminiscent of the high growth East Asian economies. Secondly, India's working age population is young with over half the population is in the twenties. Thirdly, growing middle class incomes have led to self sustaining buoyancy in domestic demand, particularly in the rural areas. Fourthly, India is making rapid progress in infrastructure, both social and physical and along with better access to cutting edge technology is likely to see improvement in productivity. Although these are the primary factors for India's dynamic growth, there are many other drivers of India's growth story including the energy and vibrancy of our entrepreneurs, strong services sectors, emerging knowledge spheres and sunrise sectors and growing number of engineers and scientists.

India's economic progress is not only a key factor of stability in the global economy, but also a source of immense economic opportunity for the world. India presents a rapidly growing market with a large and growing middle class. India has a population of 1.2 billion which translates to that many numbers of potential consumers. As high growth trajectory is sustained, with a corresponding increase in the disposable incomes from expanding work force and increasing wages, India will become one of the largest consumer markets in the world by 2030. In infrastructure sector alone our investment needs over the next five years 2012-2017, which happens to be the period of India's Twelfth Five Year Plan, stand at US\$ 1 trillion. We expect 50 per cent of this investment to come from the private sector. These developments create major opportunities for companies both domestic and foreign.

We are not taking this future for granted. Indeed, in a globalised world where developments from one part of the world are being rapidly transmitted to the other, we cannot afford to do so. We are aware that we have to consciously work towards realizing our developmental goals and national aspirations. Even

while pressing the accelerator for growth, our priority is to make growth inclusive and sustainable, focusing on a broad-based strategy that encompasses all three sectors - agriculture, manufacturing and services. We are working on a strategy that provides ample opportunities for people to grow and climb the ladder of productivity and knowledge towards higher incomes and well-being.

The economic reforms initiated during the early 1990s have borne good results for the Indian economy. We have taken steps in recent months, to take this process forward.

Legislations have been introduced in the Parliament to address some issues in the financial sector including insurance, banking, and pension sectors. We have set up Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission to review financial sector laws with the objective of bringing them in tune with current requirements and global best practices. An apex-level Financial Stability and Development Council has also been established to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability.

We are working to build a policy consensus on a number of pending issues such as introduction of Goods and Services Tax, a new and facilitative National Manufacturing Policy, further liberalisation of FDI, including in retail, deepening and strengthening financial markets for long term investments.

Our new foreign trade policy is ambitious and aims at doubling exports to \$500 billion in the next three years. The policy is backed up with a range of progressive measures including facilitation of investments, simplification of administrative procedures, streamlining of clearances and customs duty systems to name a few. As the Indian export sector continues to transform from low-value added goods to capital and skill intensive and technology rich manufactured products, doubling of exports in three years is not only attainable, but is well within our reach.

Better infrastructure development in new townships is the focus of investment now and would be for sometime in the near future. A recent study by McKinsey estimates that by 2030, 65 cities will have a population of more than one million and would account for 600 million of India's population. The share of GDP from these cities could rise to 70 per cent. Over the next 20 years, cities would require a capital expenditure of \$1.2 Trillion, opening up huge opportunities for investment for foreign investors and capital equipment manufactures. The installed power capacity is expected to increase by five times over the next two decades to maintain a growth rate of 8 to 9 per cent.

Sizeable portion of investment in infrastructure in the future is expected to be from the private sector and we recognize that the development of domestic long-term capital markets is critical for private sector investment in infrastructure.

We have taken several measures in this context including establishment of Infrastructure Debt Fund, reduction in the withholding tax from 20 per cent to 5 per cent and exemption from income tax; permitting Indian Mutual Funds to directly attract investments from foreign investors; increase in ceiling for investments by FIIs in corporate bonds from USD 15 billion to USD 40 billion. We intend to introduce the new Direct Tax Code in the next financial year.

Long term investment opportunities have opened up in the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Delhi Mumbai Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor. Along these corridors, nine mega industrial zones each covering 200-250 square kilometres as well as three ports and six airports in six States are envisaged. A US enclave within one of the mega industrial zones would be an excellent ecosystem for ramping up manufacturing in high technology sectors that are currently emerging. New products and designs originating from these zones could meet the demands of the domestic markets as well as other vibrant proximate markets in Asia.

For India, sustainable development is a necessity. Long-term perspective plan on energy and the ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change seek to increase the share of clean and renewable energy in the energy mix and increase energy efficiency across the economy, promote development objectives while also yielding mutual benefits for addressing climate change effectively. The Government has launched a National Solar Mission and is committed to establish a strong manufacturing base in this field. In November 2009, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Obama launched a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative to advance cooperation in clean and renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Solar and Wind energy expansion offers opportunities for green tech companies in US for building long term partnership with industry in India.

India USA economic relations are getting stronger and are more robust than they were a decade ago. At the core of the US India Economic and Financial Partnership launched last year is the well grounded recognition to generate common response through convergence of each other's strengths in the field of innovation and technology.

The US is the largest source of technical collaboration for Indian companies. There is tremendous potential for closer collaboration between educational institutions of our two countries and what is required is a jointly forged key to unlock this potential. There are at least 100,000 Indian students in US universities today. As India moves ahead with the educational reforms envisaging expansion and up gradation of the educational infrastructure, US universities can actively engage in India.



India's economic partnership with the United States is built on a strong framework, based on mutual benefit. Our ties are growing rapidly. Today, the US is one of our leading trade partners and a major source of investment. High growth in India would continue to deliver positive spillover effect for the US. Between 2002 and 2009, US exports to India have quadrupled and the US services tripled. Last year, US-India trade in goods witnessed a 17 per cent growth. Currently, India is only the 12th largest trading partner of the US. So, there is a long way forward in moving together for harvesting mutual benefits.

We have institutionalised the US India Economic and Financial Partnership with regular engagement at highest levels in Government. I have no doubt that the private business and commercial engagement will continue to be the key driver of bilateral economic cooperation even as, we, at the Government level, explore fresh areas of collaboration.



**575. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Minister Anand Sharma's meeting with the India - US CEO Forum in Washington DC on September 22, 2011.**

**September 23, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister of India along with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission led the Government of India delegation to the India-U.S. CEO Forum meeting in Washington D.C. on September 22, 2011. The Forum comprises top CEOs from both sides and is co-chaired by Ratan Tata on the Indian side and David M. Cote, CEO of Honeywell Corporation of the USA. Minister Sharma and the United States Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Ron Kirk chaired the session on Review of CEO/Government collaborative projects in different areas including energy efficient buildings, water, agriculture, health care/diabetes; Strategic, high tech and defence trade; and facilitating business travel and totalization agreement . US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Deputy National Security Advisor Mr. Michael Froman led the US Government delegation.

Minister Sharma underscored the importance of free movement of professionals between the two countries. He specifically pointed to serious problems being faced by the Indian IT industry in obtaining H1B and L1 visas and sought its early redressal. He drew attention to the estimates by the Indian industry that

the uptake of H1B visa this year has been less than half of annual prescribed limit, and the rejection rates have gone up. He also elaborated on the need and importance of the early signing of the India-U.S. Totalization Agreement. He said that India has signed totalization agreements with several European countries, whose social security systems are different from the Indian system, and from the U.S. system. The United States has also signed bilateral social security agreements with the same European countries. As such, the differing systems of social security should not be an impediment in signing of the India-U.S. Totalization Agreement.

Minister Sharma acknowledged the important role played by the CEO Forum in policy advocacy that has resulted in tangible policy changes on both sides. He informed the Forum about the positive feedback he had received in his interaction with CEOs in Chicago and Dallas before the CEO Forum meeting. There is a perceptible change in the paradigm for interaction between India and the US from "Buy-Sell" to a long-term investment in the strategic partnership. He spoke about the changes made in FDI policy in India over the last year including allowing FDI in Limited Liability Partnership and removal of the condition of clearance from a previous Joint Venture partner if an investing firm proposes to enter into a fresh Joint Venture partnership with a new partner in the same sector. He also informed the Forum about the consolidation and simplification of FDI policy in India. He assured the CEOs about India's continued determination to keep improving the business and investment environment in the country aimed at meeting government's liberal economic reform agenda.

Shri Sharma said that India and the United States are moving forward with negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty and two rounds of technical negotiations are scheduled to be held before the next round of Ministerial Trade Policy Forum.

Minister Sharma outlined the key elements of the National Manufacturing Policy, which strives to create an improved business environment through greater emphasis on self-regulation, innovation, and simplification. He invited the US investors for establishment of National Investment and Manufacturing Zones, conceived as Integrated Greenfield Mega Industrial town ships and urged the CEO Forum to suggest global best practices for these new town ships.

CITM assessed that in the current situations of global economic uncertainty, the issues of food and energy security have returned and resort to protectionist tendencies could delay the recovery and would be counter-productive.

The deliberations of the CEO Forum identified the areas of Clean Energy; Technology, Health, Agriculture, and Education; Trade, Security and Aviation; Trade and Agriculture; Energy efficient buildings project for expansion and deepening of business-to-business ties.



**576. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the importance of Indo – US partnership in Education.**

**New Delhi, October 13, 2011.**

Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development has underlined the importance of partnership between India and the USA in the educational arena. He was addressing the US India Business Council, here today. He said the two countries through partnership can find the solutions for tomorrow, also at the same time pointing out how in today's interconnected world, problems do not remain confined to the region in which they emerge. He also underlined that solutions to global problems can only be arrived at by studying them in the regions that they exist.

Shri Sibal pointed out that that India is the land of opportunity, with its vast demographic advantage. He said that in fact this demographic advantage must be harnessed in a manner to serve the world. He also spoke about the need in India to vastly scale up college and university infrastructure to meet the goals of a GER of 30% in 10 years.

In his talk, Shri Sibal wondered as to what would be the structure of universities in the 21st century. He also spoke about how differently the cities of the future world will need to be constructed in the context of global warming and also how the growing scarcity of water, for human consumption and also for agriculture would need solutions. He said how an enhanced educational partnership between the two countries could help find solutions for these challenges.

The US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. William Burns, speaking on the occasion stated that education is one of the pillars of the strategic partnership between India and the US. He said that they had high expectations of this relationship in the years ahead.

During the programme, a joint initiative of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Rutgers University, 'India Centre for Sustainable Growth and Talent Development' was also inaugurated. This programme will see collaboration between the two institutions in the areas of Women's Leadership and on Vocational Education Programmes.



**577. Statements to media by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the US President Obama at Bali on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit.**

**Bali (Indonesia), November 18, 2011.**

**President Obama:** Well, it is a great pleasure, once again, to meet with my dear friend, Prime Minister Singh, and his delegation.

Last year around this time, I embarked on what was an extraordinary trip to India, in which we continued to strengthen the bonds, both commercial, on the security side, and strategic between the world's two largest democracies. And since that time, we've continued to make progress on a wide range of issues. The bonds between our countries are not just at the leadership level, but they're, obviously, at the person-to-person level given the extraordinary contributions of Indian Americans to our culture, our politics, and our economy.

This will be a outstanding opportunity for us to continue to explore how we can work together, not only on bilateral issues but also in multilateral fora, like the East Asia Summit, which we believe can be the premiere arena for us to be able to work together on a wide range of issues, such as maritime security or nonproliferation, as well as expanding the kind of cooperation on disaster relief and humanitarian aid that's so important.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, it's wonderful to see you again. I look forward to a productive discussion, and I very much appreciate all our cooperation.

**Prime Minister:** Mr. President, it's always a great pleasure and privilege to greet you. And I recall with immense pleasure your historic visit to our country by the same time last year. And in the last one year, we have made progress in every direction, strengthening our bilateral cooperation — in the economy, investment, trade, in the field of higher education, in the field of clean energy, and strategy and defense relations.

And I am very happy to report to you that there are, today, no irritants whatsoever in our working together on a multiplicity of areas, both bilateral, regional, and global issues. It's a privilege for India to find you and your administration as deeply invested in ensuring that India makes a success of its historic journey to have the social and economic transformation carried out in the framework of an open society, a democratic polity, committed to the rule of law, and respect for full human freedoms.

Mr. President, in the last one year, we have strengthened in many ways the path that you set out in your historic visit. And whether it is in civil nuclear cooperation, whether it is in humanitarian relief and disaster management,

maritime security — all these are issues which unite us in our quest for a world free from the threat of war, want and exploitation.

With these words, I once again thank you for giving me this opportunity to meet with you. And that's something which the people of India value a great deal. To find the goodwill that you have shown in your presidency is something we deeply appreciate.

Thank you very much.

**President Obama:** Thank you, everyone.



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It was an hour-long meeting that the two leaders had in Bali on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit. The offer by the Prime Minister, a day after India notified the rules for implementing the law enacted by Parliament in August 2010, were intended to allay the apprehensions of the American suppliers of the nuclear energy equipment.

After his talks with President Obama, Prime Minister told the journalists "I explained to President Obama that we have a law in place and the rules have been formulated. These will lie in Parliament for 30 days. Therefore, we have gone some way to respond to the concerns of the American companies and, within the four corners of the law of the land, we are willing to address specific grievances."

Media reports said that Prime Minister briefed President Obama on his discussions with Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in Maldives and the Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai during his recent visit to India. The Prime Minister also referred to the recommendations of the India-U.S. CEO Forum on strengthening the involvement of the two countries on the economic front and said India would look forward to investments by U.S. companies in the infrastructure sectors. It may be mentioned that only recently, India has allowed 26 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in pension, aviation and the retail sector, a demand Washington has been making.

**578. Extract relevant to the United States from Media Briefing by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh at Bali.**

**Bali, November 18, 2011.**

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In the morning, Prime Minister had a warm and friendly meeting with President Obama lasting over an hour. As you know, this meeting took place after a year after President Obama's visit to India in November 2010 which he described in his words as extraordinary. He also mentioned that we have continued to strengthen our bonds, commercial, security and strategic, as between the two democracies. He said that there is a great amount of progress on all the issues and that he expressed the hope that we would work together bilaterally, regionally and in the multilateral fora specifying the East Asia Summit where he identified issues such as maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Prime Minister recalled President Obama's historic visit to our country, that we have made progress in every direction since the visit, in innovation, economy, investment, higher education, clean energy, strategy and defence. He underlined that that there are no irritants in working together bilaterally, on regional matters, and globally. We have strengthened in many ways the paths set out during the visit whether in civil nuclear cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime issues, on which we can cooperate and engage. We have a strategic dialogue that covers a number of areas. He expressed that we welcome US to the East Asia Summit.

He also emphasized that we envisage that EAS should respect the centrality of ASEAN countries, and it should be ASEAN-led. He said that we look toward greater integration of the region and we wish to participate in the new architecture that is being developed. Both called for greater cooperation in trade and investment and for its facilitation.

Prime Minister referred to the recommendations of the CEO Forum which has been set up between India and the United States as being very useful. He invited US companies to invest in the opportunities being created by the infrastructural expansion in India in which over one trillion dollars will be invested in the next five years. He spoke of the Indian growth story of 8.5 per cent over the last five years, the prospects for the future based on our high savings rate of 35 per cent and investment rate of 37 per cent. He underlined our Government's desire for inclusive growth and for participation of every Indian in it and for every Indian to have a share in it. The two leaders also discussed regional developments among other things.

**Question:** The Prime Minister told us after his meeting with President Obama about what he conveyed on the issue of nuclear liability. I just wanted to know what the President had to say and how he reacted to the liability rules and if anything in particular was said by the US side.....

**Secretary (East):** I think I cannot add anything more to what Prime Minister told you directly on the concerns on the nuclear liability law etc. I will leave it at that.

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**Question:** Sir, there was a demand from the Americans that Indian nuclear liability law should be vetted by the IAEA. Is it their stand still? Secondly, the Prime Minister's statement says that India has done within the four corners of the law of the land. Is there anything that India specifically can do to close the deal with supplier liability?

**Secretary (East):** I would not like to add to what the Prime Minister has clearly expressed as his view.

**Question:** Sir, was there any issue of Iran that was raised in the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** Yes, there was an exchange of views in the context of the recent IAEA report.

**Question:** With whom? Both leaders or only with President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** President Obama.

**Question:** And, what was said?

**Secretary (East):** Prime Minister reiterated the view that the matter needs to be dealt with diplomatically.

**Question:** What issues did the American side raise?

**Secretary (East):** There was a general exchange of views on this ... a passing reference to the IAEA report and Prime Minister reiterated India's stand on it.

**Question:** Only that! What were all the issues that were raised?

**Secretary (East):** On the regional issues they discussed developments in Afghanistan. Prime Minister briefed him on our relations with the country and his interactions with President Karzai who had visited India recently. And President Obama apprised Prime Minister of his appreciation for the developments taking place there.

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**Question:** Mr. Secretary, you mentioned that in the meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao, the issue of the economy was raised ...(Inaudible)... was this issue also discussed in the meeting with President Obama earlier on the ...(Inaudible)... the next summit? Can you just share ...(Inaudible)...

**Secretary (East):** As you know, both of them had been at Cannes for the G20 Summit and they exchanged views on the present state of the global economy, the developments in Europe and in the Euro zone, and the need for concerted global action to deal with the challenges that arise.

**Question:** The basic question is the response of the US President to Indian Prime Minister's statement that everything has been sorted out in the framework of the sitting law on the nuclear liability.

**Official Spokesperson:** Mr. Chandra, can I interject? Same question, same answer.

**Question:** I think you should say something, something should come out.

**Official Spokesperson:** All right.

**Question:** Did Pakistan come up during the meeting with President Obama and what was discussed?

**Secretary (East):** Yes. Prime Minister mentioned about his meeting with Prime Minister Gilani at the SAARC Summit and the details of it, and the steps being taken by the two countries.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, there have been reports in the Chinese media. Did Premier Wen raise this issue of the military build up with the Prime Minister, were there any discussions on any of the outstanding issues as far as border talks are concerned?

**Secretary (East):** Nothing on the issue that you raised but both sides welcomed the resumption of defence exchanges. In the context of the boundary, they referred to the decision for the Joint mechanism which is to be set up and which was taken during Premier Wen's visit last year. And they also noted with satisfaction that the boundary was peaceful and tranquil.

**Question:** Just an addition to the question on the angle that the Prime Minister talked about his meeting with Gilani. Did President Obama talk about their issues with Pakistan? Did he say anything about the US-Pakistan relationship?

**Secretary (East):** Prime Minister basically spoke about his meeting with Prime Minister Gilani.



**Question:** Mr. Secretary, during the meetings with President Obama and also Premier Wen, was the Prime Minister's view on increasing US military ties with Australia ... (Inaudible)... What is India's view? Was India ... (Inaudible)... increasing its partnership with ASEAN in ... (Inaudible)...

**Secretary (East):** As I said right in the beginning, we look at ASEAN as central to the East Asia Summit process which should we feel be led by ASEAN. We have, as I mentioned, a long relationship with ASEAN and we would be commemorating the twentieth anniversary of our dialogue partnership next year, and the tenth anniversary of our summit level partnership which we will be commemorating in India.

**Question:** Was South China Sea referred to in the discussion between Prime Minister Singh and President Obama?

**Secretary (East):** As I said right in the beginning, they discussed cooperation in maritime issues.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, did the question of American bases in Australia come up when Obama spoke to Prime Minister?

**Secretary (East):** No.

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**579. Statement of the Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on the need for the US Government to correct its maps on India.**

**New Delhi, November 21, 2011.**

“The Government is aware of the gross inaccuracies, in the map of India, on the US State Department website. The Government has consistently rejected incorrect depiction of India’s borders on maps used by the US Government. It has used every opportunity to convey to the US side its concern in this regard, and has asked that these maps be corrected.

This position was reiterated by a senior MEA official to the US Deputy Chief of Mission today, who assured us that the US Embassy would convey our concerns to the US State Department.

The Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and has consistently conveyed to the international community that maps of India should depict the boundaries of our country correctly.”



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A U.S State Department Spokesperson clarified that the map of India on the Department’s website, which showed Pakistan Occupied Kashmir as part of the territory of Pakistan, “did contain some inaccuracies which were associated with the boundaries of some geographic features” which it said “unintentional” and that the Department was getting the map fixed and “put up a fixed map”. The Spokesperson Ms. Nuland reiterated, “We will put up the new map when we acquire one that we are confident is accurate.”

**BRAZIL****580. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma with the visiting Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Partiota.****New Delhi, March 8, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry in his meeting with Mr. Antonio Patriota, Minister of External Relations, Brazil, here today, said that India is desirous to forge stronger trade and economic ties with Brazil. He further added that economic complementarities between the two countries would cement the trade and economic relations further and help in the inclusive growth of both the countries. Both sides agreed for setting up of CEOs Forum and identified the priority sectors viz., energy, oil, tourism, pharma, value-added manufacturing, mining, agro-processing etc. Shri Sharma expressed satisfaction as regards signing of Air Service Agreement between India and Brazil.

During the interaction, Shri Sharma expressed satisfaction on increasing bilateral trade to US \$ 7.73 billion in 2010 between the two countries. He mentioned to the visiting Minister that both the countries could make sincere efforts to achieve the target of having bilateral trade of US \$ 10 billion over the next few years. Shri Sharma also highlighted about the vast potential for cooperation between the two countries viz., SMEs, IT, science & technology, engineering, energy, infrastructure, nuclear power etc.

In the bilateral meeting, Shri Sharma raised the issue of imposition of anti-dumping duties on Indian products such as: PET Films (Polyethylene Terephthalate), Jute yarn, Jute Bags Nitrile Rubber (NBR) and stainless steel. He further informed that at present no antidumping duty has been imposed by India on import of any items from Brazil. During the discussions, he also raised the issue of flexibility in business visas.

Interacting with the Brazilian Minister, Shri Sharma mentioned that there is a proposal for organizing "India Show" in Sao Paulo in March, 2011. The proposed occasion will serve an ideal platform for a number of Indian and Latin American entrepreneurs / companies to explore and discuss business opportunities and tie-ups in trade and investment, he added.

India's main exports to Brazil are equipments related to wind energy, coke of coal, lignite, naphtha, cotton & polyester yarns, medicines & chemicals, vaccines for human medicines and aviation fuel. India's main imports from

Brazil are crude oil, copper sulphates, soya oil, asbestos, valves, motor pumps, airplanes, wheat, precious & semi-precious stones, etc. Total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows received from Brazil during April 2000 to December 2010 is to the tune of US \$ 4.55 million. Main sectors of investment from Brazil are plastic products, manufacture of leather products, allopathic pharmaceutical preparations, data processing, software development and computer consultancy services.



**0581. Joint Statement on the visit of Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota.**

**New Delhi, March 8, 2011.**

At the invitation of Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India, H. E. Antonio Patriota, Foreign Minister of Brazil visited New Delhi on 8th March 2011 for the Bilateral and the IBSA Ministerial meetings. The Foreign Ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa made a joint call on Prime Minister of India on 8th March 2011. The Foreign Minister of Brazil met Shri Vyalari Ravi Minister for Indian Overseas Affairs and Civil Aviation with whom a bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed. He also met Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Anand Sharma with whom he discussed bilateral trade and investment issues and matters pertaining to WTO. Earlier, National Security Advisor and the visiting dignitary led their respective delegations for the 3rd India-Brazil strategic Dialogue on 5th March 2011.

2. The two Foreign Ministers held comprehensive discussions which covered all aspects of bilateral relations and multilateral issues such as the UNSC agenda, IBSA, BRICS, G-20, Doha Round, disarmament and non-proliferation, climate change and human rights. They also exchanged views on regional developments in Afghanistan-Pakistan, Koreas, Middle East, Haiti etc. As current members of the UN Security Council the Ministers reiterated the commitment of both countries to work towards common objectives.

3. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the reform of the United Nations, particularly the **Security Council** through its expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories, with increased representation of developing countries in both, in order to improve its efficiency, representativeness, and legitimacy, and for it to better meet the contemporary challenges faced by the international community. The Ministers reiterated mutual

support for their countries', as well as for African permanent membership in an expanded UNSC. They recalled their meetings in New York on 11 February and reiterated their resolve to take the process of UNSC reform toward a concrete outcome during the current session of the UNGA, with a view to achieving reform at the earliest. They agreed on the interlinkages between peace, security and development, as highlighted during an open debate chaired by Brazil on February 11th, 2011, at the UNSC.

4. While acknowledging the growing importance of developing countries and their role in shaping a more balanced international order in a multipolar world, the two Foreign Ministers welcomed the convergence of positions between Brazil and India in multilateral fora as well as in groups such as **IBSA and BRICS**. They stressed that their concurrent presence in the Security Council during the year 2011 provides an opportunity to work closely together in order to bring their perspectives into the work of the Council and to strengthen the voice of developing countries in that forum. They reiterated the commitment of their countries to consult and coordinate their approaches and positions both in New York and in capitals on issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

5. Both the Ministers noted that the bilateral Strategic Partnership has evolved comprehensively and covered a wide gamut of areas of mutual interest. Both ministers agreed that the India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting should take place at the earliest.

6. The Ministers expressed satisfaction that bilateral **trade & investment** have grown significantly in recent years. Bilateral trade at \$ 7.8 billion in 2010 registered a growth rate of 25% over the previous year and at this rate both sides hoped to achieve the trade target of \$ 10 billion. Acknowledging the Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM) as a useful platform for removing obstacles in the bilateral trade, the Ministers hoped the third meeting of the TMM would soon be held in New Delhi. The Ministers urged the CEOs from prominent companies of the two countries to meet soon in order to identify areas of cooperation. They also agreed to facilitate expeditious issue of business visa to promote greater trade and investments in each other's countries.

7. The Ministers recognized that bilateral **defense cooperation** has enormous potential and expressed confidence that the Joint Defence Committee will explore development of mutually beneficial collaborative projects. The Ministers also welcomed the visit to Brazil of Indian Air Force Chief (Oct 2010), Chief of the Naval Staff (Feb 2011) and the visit to India of the Brazilian Defence Minister (Mar 2010) and Commander of the Navy (Aug 2010).

8. In the areas of **Science and Technology**, the Ministers directed that new projects be undertaken by apex national institutions in the two countries

for development of commercially viable joint research. The Ministers emphasized that both sides should work towards harnessing the vast potential for cooperation in the field of **Information Technology**.

9. Recognizing that **Agriculture** is an important area of bilateral cooperation the Ministers noted with satisfaction the visit of Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to Brazil in September 2010. They also directed ICAR and Embrapa (The Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency) to sign a new biennial action plan at an early date so that bilateral cooperation between the two organizations moves forward. The Ministers also noted the potential for cooperation in the field of ethanol.

10. Both sides recognised that **Energy Security** is an important component of the Strategic Partnership. The ministers reiterated the need to enhance cooperation in hydrocarbons, bio-fuels, wind energy and hydro power. They noted the growing Indian investments in hydrocarbons in Brazil and its keenness to further collaborate with Petrobras in the exploration of oil and infrastructure creation. They also emphasized the need for cooperation in the **mining** sector where there are ample opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships. They welcomed the proposed visit of Shri Dinsha J. Patel, Minister of State for Mines (Independent Charge) to Brazil in May 2011.

11. The Ministers recognized the potential in **civil nuclear** cooperation between the two sides and resolved to enhance cooperation in this sector. They hoped that Chairman of the Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission would visit India soon.

12. The Ministers reiterated the interest of both sides in furthering cooperation in the **Space** sector. They expressed satisfaction at the setting up of a ground station at Cuiaba in Brazil by ISRO for reception of Resourcesat-1 signals. They welcomed the proposal of a Brazilian delegation to visit ISRO to create a Joint Working Group.

13. The Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment for cooperation in the field of education and expressed interest in extending the Educational Exchange Program beyond 2011. They welcomed the 'in principle' agreement of FGV for establishment of a Chair of Indian Studies in the FGV in Rio de Janeiro. The Ministers welcomed the proposal of Cultural Exchange Program between Brazil and India and express happiness at the cultural events organized by Brazil in India in the last year and at the planned Week of Indian culture in Brazil by India in May 2011. Brazilian side welcomed the proposal of opening of an Indian Culture Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil and expressed its full support for its smooth functioning.

14. The Ministers reiterated the need for enhancing cooperation in sports under the MOU signed in February 2008 between India and Brazil and welcomed the initiative to celebrate the decade of sports in Brazil. They also welcomed the proposal of sending football coaches to India for training of Indian players.

15. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the gradually increasing flow of persons between the two countries. They expressed hope for an early conclusion of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and a bilateral Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons being negotiated by both sides.

16. The Foreign Minister of Brazil thanked the Indian Foreign Minister for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the visit. He invited the Indian Foreign Minister to visit Brazil in the near future, which was accepted with pleasure.



**582. Briefing by Secretary (ER) Manbir Singh on Prime Minister's meetings with Presidents of Brazil and South Africa.**

**Sanya (China), April 14, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening. Prime Minister has had two important bilateral meetings with his IBSA counterparts in the second half of today and Secretary (ER) would give you a perspective on the meetings.

**Secretary (ER) (Shri Manbir Singh):** Thank you, gentlemen.

The Prime Minister met the President of Brazil and thereafter the President of South Africa this afternoon. The first meeting was with the President of Brazil. It was very friendly. The Prime Minister congratulated her on her becoming the President and wished her a very successful tenure. He said there had been a dynamic growth in the relationship between the two countries, and he said that the people of India held her in very high esteem. Then the President started by similar sentiments that India was a country with which Brazil wanted to develop relations; the relationship was very historic.

And then the Prime Minister immediately coming to trade said that the trade between the two countries was on the lower side, it was just eight million dollars, and keeping in view that that the large synergies that can be effected in the trade an economic interaction between the two countries, there was a great

potential. The President also felt the same and she suggested that we could set up joint ventures in the information field and also in high technology areas. And the Prime Minister also suggested that there used to be CEO's Forum between Brazil and India and that needs to be reactivated.

The Prime Minister also said that IBSA was a unique forum that has united three great democracies - democracies of Brazil, South Africa and India - and we should also look at increased cooperation in science and technology, information technology, nanotechnology, and also set up very close interaction between our scientists and technologists to work together. The President agreed with that.

Prime Minister expressed to the President that he was grateful that Brazil had supported India in the Nuclear Suppliers Group. You know that there was that election last year in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Brazil had come out with very open support and had been active. So, the Prime Minister was thankful to her.

Both the President and the Prime Minister spoke about the UN reforms and also the expansion of the UN Security Council and both expressed that they would very actively work together to realize the expansion in the UNSC and the aspirations of both India and Brazil.

The Prime Minister also said that we are talking about reforms in the International Monetary System and in the G20 President Sarkozy is pushing that these reforms should take place early and also he is talking about energy security and food security. And the President suggested that before the G20 Summit meets, financial experts from India as well as from Brazil should get together and work out as to what could be the exact nature of that reforms and what would be the implications, and how the developing countries are likely to be affected so that they can push those reforms which would benefit the developing countries.

Then they spoke about IBSA and what needs to be done with regard to IBSA. It was important because we are here for the BRICS but there were some people who were expressing that what happens to IBSA. But we found that both the Prime Minister and President were very strong that the IBSA has to be strengthened, IBSA grouping which brings democracies, plural countries, countries with great tolerance together and economic issues should bring them closer.

The Prime Minister also said that Brazil has made a lot of improvement in welfare activities for its people. He said that India would like to share Brazil's development experience. And the President responded to that by saying that they had worked



very hard for social inclusion as well as for social security, and eradication of extreme poverty from Brazil was a very very high priority for them. And she said that both Brazil and India could set up a forum whereby they could exchange experiences on social welfare and social improvement. She also said that Brazil was launching a huge programme to develop skills in the rural areas and amongst the people who do not possess skills. The Prime Minister said that we also in India had a target of imparting skills to about 500 million people by 2020. So, they had a very good discussion and exchange of views on what needs to be done for economic development and welfare of the people.

This was with regard to the meeting with Brazil.

With regard to South Africa, the President of South Africa was very thankful to the Prime Minister and said that India had played a very key role in South Africa becoming a member of the BRICS and he spoke in very laudatory terms about the BRICS, and the future and the potential that the grouping has, and said that he was very thankful to India that it helped South Africa become a member.

Our Prime Minister spoke about the trade and said that the trade with South Africa was progressing very satisfactorily. Our Commerce and Industries Minister was present. He said that the target had been 12 billion dollars till 2012 but that target is going to be realized much earlier. So, the target for 2012 has been increased to 15 billion dollars.

President Zuma also said that he would confirm that they would be sending an invitation to President Patil to visit South Africa next year in 2012. He also said that they intent to invite Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for the centennial celebrations of the ANC which will take place. Prime Minister said that he thanked for both the invitations. He said we give utmost importance to your invitations and we will respond to you.

The President also congratulated the Prime Minister on India's win in the cricket tournament and said that once India had won from South Africa he was sure that India was going to win the trophy.

The President and the Prime Minister then again spoke about the UN reforms and democratisation of the UNSC with more deserving members becoming members and how both the countries could coordinate with each other in achieving this objective.

On IBSA again the President of South Africa was very supportive and said like the President of Brazil that IBSA needed to be encouraged and all the three countries needed to work together.

There was a passing mention about defence cooperation between the two countries and the second round of naval exercises are going to be held between South Africa and India. Both felt that this cooperation could be profitably further strengthened. Then there were some discussions on both Libya and Cote d'Ivoire, Ivory Coast; and the President gave his assessment of how South Africa viewed the events in both the countries because South Africa is the Chairman of the African Union and they are helping to set up a dialogue and reconcile differences.

That is what it is. Thank you.

**Question:** India had banned a South African firm Denel for allegations of corruption and South Africa wants to lift the ban on that South African company. Did Mr. Zuma raise this issue with the Prime Minister?

**Secretary (ER):** This issue was not raised at all.

**Question:** Did South Africa issue any statement on nuclear issues or nuclear power?

**Secretary (ER):** Nuclear power only came up in the BRICS conference as I told you earlier in the afternoon.

**Question:** Did the ...(Inaudible)... naval exercises?

**Secretary (ER):** This was just mentioned that the second naval exercises will take place.

**Question:** Just one basic question. How long did the meetings with the two leaders last?

**Secretary (ER):** The meetings took place for about 45 minutes each.

**Official Spokesperson:** I take it that there are no more questions.

Thank you very much.



**583. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the 5th India - Brazil Joint Commission Meeting.**

**New Delhi, December 8, 2011.**

Foreign Minister of Federative Republic of Brazil H.E. Antonio Patriota, will be visiting India from 11-13 December, 2011 to co-chair the Fifth India Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with EAM Sh. S. M. Krishna. He will be accompanied by a 20-member delegation.

During the JCM on 12 December, 2011 both sides will discuss the entire gamut of India-Brazil Strategic Partnership including Political, Economic and Commercial, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Defence, Cultural, Hydrocarbon, etc. They will also exchange views on regional developments and international matters of common interest.

Diplomatic relations between India and Brazil were established in 1948. Both countries enjoy cordial and friendly relations, which are characterized by regular exchange of visits at all levels, shared values and commonality of interests. The mutually beneficially Strategic Partnership covers a wide gamut of our relations. India and Brazil maintain close contacts in the multilateral fora, in particular in the UN, WTO and G-20. Cooperation through IBSA, BRICS and BASIC is another dimension of our relations. Prime Minister met President of Brazil Dilma Rousseff on the margins of the IBSA Summit in Pretoria in October, 2011.

Brazil is the largest trading partner of India in Latin American and Caribbean. Bilateral trade has grown significantly from US\$ 828 million in 2000 to US\$ 7.7 billion in 2010. India's exports are valued at US\$ 4.2 billion and imports at US\$ 3.5 billion. From January to October 2011, bilateral trade has recorded US\$ 8.01 billion. Indian companies have made significant investments in Brazil which are estimated at US\$ 2.5 billion in the fields of agriculture, IT, pharma, manufacturing, hydrocarbons, etc. Indian Culture Centre was established in May 2011 in Sao Paulo.



**COLOMBIA****584. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with the Republic of Colombia.****New Delhi, May 13, 2011.**

India today signed a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with the Republic of Colombia for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. The Agreement was signed by Shri Sudhir Chandra, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. Juan Alfredo Pinto Saavedra, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to India, on behalf of the Republic of Colombia.

The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source State if the activities of an enterprise constitute a permanent establishment in the source State. Examples of permanent establishment include a branch, factory etc. Profits of a construction, assembly or installation projects will be taxed in the State of source if the project continues in that State for more than six months.

Profits derived by an enterprise from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable in the country of residence of the enterprise. Dividends, interest and royalty income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. However, the maximum rate of tax to be charged in the country of source will not exceed 5% in the case of dividends and 10% in the case of interest and royalties. Capital gains from the sale of shares will be taxable in the country of source.

The Agreement further incorporates provisions for effective exchange of information and assistance in collection of taxes between tax authorities of the two countries in line with internationally accepted standards including exchange of banking information and incorporates anti-abuse provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement are availed of by the genuine residents of the two countries.

The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Colombia and facilitate mutual economic cooperation as well as stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services between India and Colombia.



**CUBA**

**585. Speech by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UN General Assembly on the “Necessity of ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba”.**

**New York, October 25, 2011.**

Please see Document No788.



**DOMINICA**

**586. Address by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the Seminar on “India-Dominican Republic: Trade and Investment Opportunities”.**

**New Delhi, February 2, 2011.**

H.E. Dr. Leonel Fernandez Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic

H.E. Mr. Eddy Martinez Manzueta, Hon’ble Minister and Executive Director,  
Export and Investment Centre

Excellency Mr. Hans Dannenberg Castellanos, Ambassador of the Dominican  
Republic

Distinguished members of the President’s delegation

Members of the Diplomatic core

Officials of FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM

Friends from Media,

Ladies and gentleman

It gives me great pleasure to address this gathering on the important occasion of the visit of the President of the Dominican Republic. At the outset, I would like to welcome President Fernandez and members of his delegation. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Apex Chambers of Commerce such as FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM for organizing this important seminar.

Excellency, we are indeed delighted that you could spare some time out of your busy schedule to visit India. We in India admire your vision and statesmanship. We are aware of the significant contribution you have made for the regional integration of Latin America and the Caribbean region. We are also conscious of your abiding interest in India and the special role you played for strengthening and deepening our bilateral relations.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you all know I have assumed the charge as the Minister of State for External Affairs only recently. This is my second stint in this capacity. I must, however, confess that although Latin America and Caribbean region is new to me, it has always fascinated me; its diversity, dynamic entrepreneurship, cultural vibrancy and, above all, its people who are full of zest for life.

The Government of India is keen to expand and diversify our relations with this region. We are aware of the enormous change that has occurred in Latin America over the last decade. It is politically stable and most of the countries are focusing on development and inclusive agenda. Moreover from India's point of view it offers enormous opportunities. The region has a combined GDP of over US\$ 42 trillion, a trade turn-over of over US\$ 1.5 trillion and a population base of over 600 million people. We are aware of the vast natural resources in terms of land, water availability, minerals and hydrocarbons.

The way our two regions are interacting with each other is reflective of the growing realisation about each other's potential. The exchange of visits at the level of Head of State /Head of Government, ministerial, official, business and people to people contacts have increased manifold in the last decade. There have been several Parliamentary delegations from Latin America that have visited India in the last one year, particularly from Uruguay, Paraguay, Mexico and, only last week from Chile. Our cooperation at multilateral forums, particularly in the UN is moving ahead. We deeply appreciate the countries of the region for their support to India in its bid for the non-permanent membership of the UNSC. In particular, we value Dominican Republic's expression of open support to India's aspiration for the permanent membership of an expanded UNSC. We hope others in the region will follow suit.

Our mutual trade and economic interests underpin our relations with the LAC region. Distance is no longer an impediment but direct transportation links have to be further developed. Bilateral trade has grown significantly from US\$ 2 billion in 2000 to over US\$ 17 billion in 2009. Going by this trend, I have no doubt; we will be able to double this figure in five years given the enthusiasm of the entrepreneurs on both sides. India's investments in the region have also grown significantly to over US\$ 12 billion. While Indian investments would continue to grow in the traditional sectors such as hydrocarbons, agricultural

farming and mining, our presence in other sectors such as automobiles, IT, pharmaceuticals, engineering, gems & jewellery, food processing will expand.

It is satisfying to note that the technical cooperation between our two regions is moving at an impressive pace. Several countries in the region are availing of ITEC programmes which facilitate exchange of experts between our two countries. India has also set up IT centres in various countries in the region. All these initiatives are contributing in a modest way in the efforts of these countries for development of human resource. This is in line with our abiding commitment to South-South cooperation.

Also, to supplement the efforts of our business people, the Government of India in close collaboration with apex chambers of commerce and industry such as FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII is aiming to enhance awareness about the region's potential. Seminars, business conclaves and conferences like the one today are excellent initiatives in the exercise of awareness building. Similarly, education and culture are other avenues through which we aim to amplify this awareness. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations is regularly sending and receiving cultural troupes from the region. It is also setting up Indian cultural centres in selected countries in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is our deep desire to build comprehensive relations with Dominican Republic. Our bilateral interactions at all levels are steadily growing and our multilateral cooperation is deepening. Although a bilateral trade of over US\$100 million is not very large, we are conscious of the vast potential that exist for greater trade and investment in the Dominican Republic. We look at Dominican Republic as a bridge between the Caribbean and Central American region as well as a gateway to the North American Markets. Excellency, we in India are also aware of your vision for Dominican Republic to make it an IT hub for the Caribbean region. We would like to encourage Indian businessmen to invest in Dominican Republic in potential areas for mutually beneficial partnership. There is enormous scope in renewable energy sources, hospitality, tourism, film industry & animation and IT sectors. I am confident that the large business delegation that is accompanying the President will have fruitful and productive interactions during their stay here in India.

Excellency, we have no doubt that your visit will provide enormous impetus for greater business interactions between our two countries. Let me reiterate once again the commitment of the Government of India to build an enduring partnership with Dominican Republic.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.



**HAITI**

**587. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Haiti in the Security Council.**

**New York, April 6, 2011.**

Please see Document No.705.



**588. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the debate on Haiti at the Security Council.**

**New York, September 16, 2011.**

Please see Document No.750.





**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2011**

**SECTION - IX**

**EUROPE**

**AUSTRIA****589. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on ICCR's Chair at the University of Vienna.****New Delhi, February 4, 2011.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on February 3rd, 2011 for establishment of ICCR's Short -Term Chair of Indian Studies at the University. Ambassador of India to Austria, Shri Dinkar Khullar signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR alongwith Prof. Mag. Dr. Sussane Weigelin-Schwiedrzik, Dean, Faculty of Philological-Cultural Studies, University of Vienna.

Under the terms of the agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University of Vienna, shall appoint an Indian academician who would be visiting the University for a period of one semester in each academic year.. The Chair would commence from September 2011 and the MoU would remain valid for four years till 2015.

This Chair is the first ever Chair of Indian Studies in any of the Universities in Austria and can be considered as a first step in propagation of India related studies in Austria, thereby, fulfilling ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural bonds and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.

**590. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on President's visit to Switzerland and Austria.****New Delhi, September 29, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and welcome.

You are aware that Hon. Rashtrapatiji, President of India, would be leaving on state visits tomorrow, first to the Swiss Confederation and next to Austria. Secretary (West) Mr. M. Ganapathi, who assumed office on the first of September this year, is here to brief you about the two important state visits of the President of India. He is joined by my colleague to his right Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison who is our Joint Secretary for Central Europe and also for Europe West. To my left is my dear colleague, Mrs. Archana Datta, who is the Officer on Special Duty in the President's Secretariat.

Today we are very happy to have two distinguished guests – the Ambassador of Austria and the Charge D'affaires of the Swiss Confederation. Welcome to both of you. We are delighted that you are with us.

I will request Secretary (West) to make his opening statement and thereafter he will be happy to take a few questions.

**Secretary (West) (Shri M. Ganapathi):** Thank you Vishnu.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, friends from the media, my colleagues Shri Vishnu Prakash, Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison, and Mrs. Archana Datta.

I would also like to recognise the presence today afternoon of His Excellency Dr. Ferdinand Maultaschl, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to India, and the Charge D'Affaires of the Swiss Confederation to India.

As my colleague Vishnu Prakash mentioned, the Hon. President of India will be on a State Visit to the Swiss Confederation from September 30 to October 4, 2011. The President will thereafter pay a State Visit to the Republic of Austria from October 4 to 7, 2011.

The members of the delegation accompanying the President of India will include Shri Rajeev Shukla, the Hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and the Hon. Members of Parliament Shri Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav, and Dr. Chinta Mohan. Senior officials including the Secretary to President Dr. Christy Fernandez and Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs would also be a part of the delegation, besides a number of business leaders and members of the media.

The President of the Swiss Confederation visited India for the first time in 1998 followed by another visit in 2003, and most recently Her Excellency Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey paid a State Visit to India in November 2007. Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited Switzerland in 2005.

In Switzerland, the President will pay homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2011 at his statue in Geneva. The statue was unveiled in November 2007 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Switzerland. While in Berne, the President will hold official talks with the President of the Swiss Confederation Her Excellency Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey, and other members of the Federal Council. The discussions, inter alia, are expected to cover various aspects of bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

While in Switzerland, the President will unveil a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the University of Lausanne on October 4, 2011. An MoU is expected to be signed between the University and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

on setting up of a Chair on Indian Studies. It is significant that this event takes place at a time when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

The President will visit the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, which is better known by its acronym CERN, on October 1, 2011. This is one of the largest and most reputed centres for scientific research, particularly on particle physics, in the world.

The President will leave Switzerland on October 4, 2011, arriving in Vienna the same evening to commence her State Visit to the Republic of Austria.

The visit by His Excellency Mr. Heinz Fischer, the President of Austria in 2005 was the first visit at this level from Austria. Then President Shri K.R. Narayanan visited Austria in 1999.

While in Austria, the President will meet the President of Austria, His Excellency Mr. Heinz Fischer and the Federal Chancellor of Austria, His Excellency Mr. Werner Faymann. The President will visit the Austrian Parliament and meet the President of the National Council, Her Excellency Ms. Barbara Prammer and members of the Friends of India Group in the Austrian Parliament. During these meetings it is expected that the President will have detailed discussions on issues of mutual importance and interest in the bilateral, regional and international areas.

State Banquets will be hosted in honour of the President in Berne and Vienna. The Governor and Mayor of Salzburg will host an official Banquet in honour of the President when the President visits Salzburg in Austria.

While in Switzerland and Austria, the President will also meet and address the members of the Indian community. There are around 15,500 Persons of Indian Origin in the Swiss Confederation and around 20,000 Persons of Indian Origin in Austria.

A 45-member business delegation will accompany the President of India to Switzerland and Austria. The members include representatives from the FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM. The President will address the Indo-Swiss Business Forum in Berne on October 4, 2011 and the India-Austria Business Forum Meet in Vienna on October 6, 2011.

India's economic and commercial relations with Switzerland and Austria are comprehensive. Two-way trade in 2010 between India and Switzerland touched US\$ 3.8 billion and between Austria and India it was over US\$ 1.2 billion. With both Switzerland and Austria, we have a healthy level of investment related activity from these countries into India and also in the reverse direction. Both

Switzerland and Austria are renowned for their experience and expertise in activities in the high technology related area, renewable and clean energy, infrastructure development, vocational education, small and medium enterprises, drugs and pharmaceuticals, biotechnology besides others. The presence of the business delegation will allow both sides to consider the opportunities which exists in not only taking forward the current commercial exchanges but in also considering the considerable untapped potential which so exists.

Both Switzerland and Austria are important partners of India in Central Europe with both countries sharing with India core values of democracy, the rule of law, respect for individual freedoms, pluralism and free enterprise. The visit of our President is a part of the process of maintaining our high level engagement with Switzerland and Austria. The exchanges between the two countries in the political, Parliamentary, economic and commercial, cultural and science and technology fields have been gathering momentum. The State Visit of the Hon. President of India to both Switzerland and Austria would provide added impetus in the further expansion and consolidation of the historical friendship and cooperation between India and these two friendly countries.

Thank you.

**Question:** I would like to know the areas, in this particular visit, in which an agreement is likely to be signed between India and Switzerland. Is there any specific stress on clean energy transfer of technology?

**Secretary (West):** Various issues will be discussed and some agreements are in the stages of finalisation. So, we expect to have some of these finalised. I think as we go on we will have them delivered.

**Question:** Any specific areas?

**Secretary (West):** As I said, these are in the final stages of finalisation, and as we have it we will definitely let you know.

**Official Spokesperson:** In any case you know that we never disclose the details in advance - standard operating procedure.

**Question:** Can we know at least in which fields you think you will sign the agreements?

**Secretary (West):** As my colleague said and as I also mentioned, we do not talk of agreements before they are signed. So, wait for it to be delivered when we are in Berne and Vienna.

**Official Spokesperson:** And we will, as usual, very happily share all the details with you once the agreements are signed.

**Question:** Will the issue of money in Swiss bank accounts figure in the discussions? There has been so much public debate on how to get that money stashed in Swiss bank accounts back to the country, etc. Will there be any discussion on this?

**Secretary (West):** As I mentioned, when we have high level visits to various countries including in this case Switzerland and Austria the entire gamut of relations are touched upon. I think it would be incorrect for me to second guess what the leaders would discuss, but the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues will be discussed between the leaders of the two countries.

**Question:** What is the significance of President's visit to CERN?

**Secretary (West):** This is one of the most important areas of research in particle physics and it has been in the news recently because of the Large Hadron Collider and the issue of neutrinos travelling faster than space. Of course that itself has opened up to debate as to how was this measured, whether the neutrinos did travel faster than light, was the Moon gravity in a different stage. So, I think when we have high level visits to various countries, places of importance not only from a historical and tourist perspective but also those areas which have lent themselves to science and technological development are also added and incorporated in the visit of high level leaders. And the President obviously is interested in the developments in science and technology which you know it is renowned for, and that is why the Hon. President is visiting CERN.

**Question:** Sir, I am just taking my cue from my colleague's question. You clearly would not second guess but it is a possibility that the money stashed away in Swiss banks would be discussed.

**Secretary (West):** I would just like to repeat that the President would discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations and also regional and international issues.

**Question:** Is there any possibility of the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty being agreed upon?

**Secretary (West):** I think that is a very very good question. The amending protocol to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was concluded nearly hundred days ago. The procedure for that is, we have ratified it in India and in the case of the Swiss Confederation, after it is introduced in Parliament it has to wait for hundred days before it comes up as a ratified document. Thereafter, there will be exchange of letters between the two sides for it to be effective. One of the most important elements in the amended protocol is Article 26 relating to exchange of information.

**Question:** Exchange of information regarding what? What kind of information?

**Secretary (West):** Exchange of information on every aspect of double taxation related issues.

**Question:** Sir, I have a question on a separate subject. In the last couple of months there have been about fifty incursions of China in India. Is the Government of India taking this issue up with the Chinese authorities?

**Official Spokesperson:** You know that we have a very long boundary with China. The Line of Actual Control with China has not yet been delineated. Therefore, since the line has not been delineated, there is a difference in perceptions, which is very natural. As I said, it is a long border. So, from time to time the patrols do stray across. This is not new. This does happen. And we have also very good mechanisms between India and China where if there is any issue pertaining to the kind that you mentioned, it is immediately taken up and amicably resolved. I would like here to highlight that the India-China boundary is one of the most peaceful, one of the most tranquil boundaries that we have. So, that is where the matter rests.

**Question:** Sir, a few days back Dawood Ibrahim's son's wedding reception was held in Pakistan. Pakistan has always said that Dawood is not in Pakistan. Now it is confirmed after this wedding reception.

**Official Spokesperson:** So, you are answering your question.

**Question:** No, Sir, will our Ministry raise this issue with Pakistan Government?

**Official Spokesperson:** You are aware that we have a Most Wanted List of people and that list has been shared with Pakistan. We have taken up this issue of the most wanted people who we believe are in Pakistan or territories controlled by Pakistan. And they have told us that these people are not there, at least specifically about Mr. Dawood Ibrahim that he is not there.

**Question:** Sir, but if they have said he is not there and yet his son's wedding ...

**Official Spokesperson:** That is precisely my point.

**Question:** Who is leading the FICCI delegation and who are the members? ... (Unclear)... Is India looking towards Austria as a gateway to the Eastern Europe?

**Secretary (West):** I think that is a very important question and you rightly raised. It is good that is the last question.

We have, as I mentioned, delegation drawn up from FICCI, CII and the ASSOCHAM. The delegation is led by Mr. K.K. Modi who is a former President of FICCI and is the Chairman of Modi Enterprises. There are 16 members from FICCI; there are 13 members from CII; and around 16 members from ASSOCHAM. The areas covered by the delegation members include those in manufacturing, agrochemicals, banking and finance, FMCG, communications, infrastructure, biotechnology, engineering and manufacturing, information technology and the like. There is also the food processing, logistics, trading and textiles. Obviously both Switzerland and Austria have an important place in Central Europe. And as we see the Swiss and Austrian businessmen looking at India to have markets in this area, I am sure that Indian businessmen will also look at opportunities for having their presence in both Switzerland and Austria to look towards the EU and markets beyond.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**591. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her special flight on her State visit to Switzerland and Austria.**

**September 30, 2011.**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

I warmly welcome you on-board, as I begin my State Visits to the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Austria, which are two important partners of India in Central Europe. India shares core values of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human dignity with them.

The President of the Swiss Confederation Micheline Calmy-Rey paid a State Visit to India in November, 2007. The Austrian President Heinz Fischer had visited India in February 2005. My visit is a part of the process of maintaining our high level engagement with these friendly countries. Significantly, our relations with both countries have important historical highlights. The Treaty of Friendship signed by India with Switzerland, was one of the first treaties to be signed by India as an independent country. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru played an important role in facilitating an agreement on Austria's State Treaty of 1955, which paved the way for Austria's independence.

My first engagement would be a visit to the European Council for Nuclear Research, one of the world's largest and most reputed centres for scientific



research. India is an observer Member State to CERN, in which about 200 Indian /Indian origin scientists are working. On October 2, the birthday of the Father of our Nation - a day so important in our national calendar - I would be paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue in front of the United Nations building in Geneva, in Ariana Park located on the Avenue of Peace. The statue itself was unveiled on November 14, 2007 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Switzerland. I would also be meeting the Indian community in Geneva.

Thereafter, in Berne I would be having wide-ranging discussions with President Calmy-Rey and other members of the Federal Council of Switzerland. It would be recalled that during President Calmy-Rey's visit in 2007, the two sides had discussed the need to elevate the bilateral relationship to the level of a Privileged Partnership. This would, in our view, require a diversification and enhancement of cooperation and closer understanding on bilateral and multilateral issues of common concern. We would be discussing how to achieve this. Some of the areas which I would be highlighting in the bilateral context are economic and commercial cooperation, scientific ties, educational exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

I will be unveiling the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the University of Lausanne on October 4, 2011 where a "Tagore Chair" on Indian Studies is also being set up. I am happy that these events are taking place in the year in which we are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the birth of the Poet Laureate.

Today, economic and commercial cooperation have emerged as the core of the India-Switzerland relationship. Between 2006 and 2010, two-way trade has risen by approximately 36 percent and touched US\$ 3.7 billion. Switzerland has emerged as one of the top investors in India as also a source of advanced technology in diverse fields such as engineering, precision instruments, textile production. We would like to see more Swiss firms using India as a manufacturing base for exports to third countries as well as an R &D centre. There is also an excellent potential for harnessing Swiss technologies to meet our developmental needs in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and vocational education.

My visit to Austria aims at signalling the importance we attach to this bilateral relationship, and to further expand and strengthen our ties. In Vienna, my engagements include delegation-level discussions with the Austrian President Mr. Heinz Fischer and meetings with the Austrian Chancellor Mr. Werner Faymann and the Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Ms. Barbara Prammer.

Our trade with Austria has increased by 55 percent between 2006 and 2010. It touched US \$ 1.1 billion in 2010. Since the first Indo-Austrian industrial

collaboration was signed in 1956, there has been significant cooperation through a large number of collaborations, know-how transfers and joint Ventures in multiple areas, including in our infrastructure sector such as railways, roads and steel production. We hope to enhance our economic partnership and cooperation in other areas.

Indian firms have begun to invest in Switzerland and Austria, using their location as a gateway to Europe. An Indian business delegation will be in Geneva and Vienna during my visit, to explore trade and investment opportunities.

It is important to promote people-to-people exchanges with Austria and Switzerland, where there is a strong interest in Indian culture and languages. In Austria, for example, Sanskrit began to be taught at the University of Vienna in 1845, which transformed itself into a popular separate Institute for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies. In Switzerland, Sanskrit courses began in 1903 in the University of Lausanne and today there are thriving Centres for Indian Studies in the Universities of Lausanne as well as Zurich. Indian films are quite well-known in both countries and along with the numerous events focusing on India this year, would have given the Swiss and the Austrian citizens a good glimpse of India. We would like to see more tourists visiting India from both these countries.

Switzerland as well as Austria are active members of several international organizations; many of which are based in these countries. I would be exchanging views with my counterparts in both countries on international issues such as international terrorism, climate change and reforms of the United Nations.

I am confident that my visits to Switzerland and Austria would provide an additional momentum to our already existing multi-dimensional relations with these countries.

In these countries, the media will, I am sure, get an opportunity to see the potential that exists for mutually beneficial co-operation in many areas and sectors. In my interaction on 26th September, with the Indian Business delegation, which will be present in Berne and Vienna during my visit, I noted the general positive prognosis that they have about forging business ties with Swiss and Austrian enterprises.

I hope you will enjoy the visit.

Thank you.



**592. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) in Vienna on President's Ongoing Visit to Switzerland and Austria.**

**Vienna, October 4, 2011.**

**OSD (PR) to Hon. President (Shrimati Archana Datta):** Good evening friends. We have with us Secretary (West) Mr. M. Ganapathi; Joint Secretary (CE) Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison; and our Ambassador Mr. Dinkar Khullar. We did not get time to have a briefing during our visit to Switzerland. Secretary (West) will wrap up the visit to Switzerland, and Ambassador will give you an introduction to the visit to Austria.

I would request Secretary (West) Mr. Ganapathi to brief you.

**Secretary (West) (Shri M. Ganapathi):** Thanks Archana.

First of all apologies for keeping you waiting, and also apologies for not having done the briefing in Switzerland because by the time we finished the banquet yesterday it was nearly 11 pm. So, I think it would have been too late.

Let me welcome my distinguished colleague and friend, Ambassador Dinkar Khullar. Ambassador Khullar has been here for nearly two years. I also welcome Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison, Joint Secretary (Central Europe & West Europe); Mrs. Archana Datta, OSD (PR) to the President; and Mr. Sailas Thangal, Director (XP). What I thought is that I will go through the entire visit in Switzerland right from day one so that you get the complete canvas of what happened, and then we will take it on from there.

The President's visit was highly successful. The discussions of the President with the President of the Swiss Confederation Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey and her other colleagues on the Federal Council were held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere. The talks were constructive and productive. Prior to the delegation-level talks, of course all of you are present, when the two Presidents spoke in the Federal Assembly building where they made their opening remarks. The delegation-level talks stretched for over an hour and a half - which was fairly long, more than what was intended - and thereafter the Presidents briefed the media.

The talks reflected mutual understanding and emphasised the importance accorded by both sides to the development and further consolidation of Indo-Swiss relations.

Earlier, in Geneva, the President paid homage to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary on October 2, which was nearly eighty years after the Father of our Nation's visit to Switzerland.

The President in her talks recalled the highly successful visit of President Micheline Calmy-Rey to India in 2007, and thereafter her visit to India as the Foreign Minister of Switzerland in 2010. The President noted that her current visit to Switzerland was a continuation of the momentum which had been generated during President Calmy-Rey's visits. Mrs. Calmy of course agreed with the President's remarks; recalled the warm hospitality which she had been accorded in Delhi; and said that the discussions in Delhi were useful both in 2007 and 2010. The President in turn thanked the Swiss side for the warm hospitality, and noted that the country Switzerland was renowned for its panoramic beauty as also for its exceptional hospitality and its precision technology.

In the discussions the two sides underlined the strength of bilateral relations and the underlying values which governed the bilateral relations including democratic values, respect for the rule of law, human rights, pluralism and free enterprise. The two sides also recalled that Indo-Swiss relations have grown from strength to strength and were comprehensive and extensive ever since the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Establishment which was signed on August 14, 1948, the first of such treaties which India signed with any country. The two sides also recalled the commercial relationship and the cultural interactions spread over nearly two centuries.

In the bilateral political arena, the President and her Swiss interlocutors touched on the regular exchange of visits at the highest level, and those by Ministers and officials leading to an exchange of ideas of mutual interest and mutual benefit. The President noted the strong foundation of the multifaceted bilateral relations. Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey mentioned the importance which the Swiss side gave to India in its foreign policy priorities. She also noted the importance of India in terms of the Asian dimension of the Swiss foreign policy.

In terms of commercial relations, the two sides noted that trade had grown significantly to touch Swiss Francs 3.5 billion, but added that there was a renewed need to consider the untapped potential which existed to take the cooperation forward. The President noted the areas of cooperation in diverse fields such as engineering, high technology, pharmaceuticals, precision instruments, infrastructure, food processing and textiles. Renewable energy was seen as an important area of cooperation. The Swiss side added IT cooperation to this slate. On trade, the President noted that this was heavily weighted in favour of Switzerland and called for steps to be taken towards redressing and improving the balance.

The Swiss side recalled the importance of vocational and educational training and mentioned the VET initiative vis-à-vis India. The President on her side

underlined the importance of skill development of youth and encouraged the need for an inter-governmental approach besides the private sector initiative.

The President expressed satisfaction on cooperation in several areas in science and technology and welcomed further cooperation in this field, particularly in high technology areas. The Swiss side recalled the excellent cooperation in science and technology, noted the many joint research projects, and saw this as further steps towards consolidation of progress in S&T cooperation.

You would all recall that the President had visited CERN on the first day of her stay in Geneva, which was highly successful. She asked of course probing questions of the Director-General Dr. Rolf Heuer. Significantly in the bilateral talks, the Swiss side said that they fully supported India's Associate Membership of CERN. You would have recalled that there were six Associate Members at present and the Swiss have said that they, fully supported our associate membership.

Cultural cooperation was seen by the President as a great value addition to people-to-people contacts. The President inaugurated today the Tagore Chair on Indian Studies at the University of Lausanne, and unveiled a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, significantly during the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev.

The President also addressed the members of the Indian community in Switzerland which was very well represented by over 300 members of the community.

The President thanked the Swiss side for its support to India's candidature to a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for 2011-12. She sought Swiss support for India's candidature as a permanent member of the Security Council. The Swiss side said that they supported UN reforms and considered India's aspirations to a permanent membership as legitimate. They said that they were in favour of enlargement of the UNSC saying that India should be a permanent member, but emphasised that enlargement of permanent membership should follow the larger question of reform of the UN. The Swiss side in turn sought India's support for its nonpermanent UNSC member candidacy for 2023-24.

During discussions on climate change which was touched upon in the discussions, the President noted that India's carbon footprint was negligible. In the context of discussions on energy, the two sides touched upon cooperation on the subject of energy efficiency. I think we are already discussing an arrangement through an MoU for cooperation in this area and hopefully it should be signed in the near future.

The President noted that nuclear energy was an essential element of India's national energy basket. She underscored that the safety of India's nuclear power plants was a matter of highest priority for the Government of India, and that the Government would do all that it could to enhance transparency and boost public confidence. The President also emphasised India's impeccable nonproliferation record. It is significant that Ambassador Dinkar Khullar, sitting next to me, is on the Governing Board. He is the Governor of India on the IAEA Board.

During the course of the visit the President addressed the Joint Business Forum along with President Micheline Calmy-Rey. The current state of trade and economic cooperation and the opportunities existing and the possibility of future areas of interaction were touched upon. As you aware, the President is accompanied by 45 member business delegation drawn from the FICCI, CII and the ASSOCHAM. The business delegation yesterday met the Federal Councilor and Minister for Economic Affairs Johann Schneider-Ammann who is seriously and sincerely interested in further development of Indo-Swiss business cooperation.

During discussions the President noted the ongoing discussions between India and the EU on an India-EU FTA agreement as also a broad-based trade and investment agreement. Both sides noted that when signed, this would give a tremendous opportunity for further growth of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The President and President Micheline Calmy-Rey noted the interest of the two sides in the establishment of a Privileged Partnership between India and Switzerland. You might recall that when Mrs. Calmy-Rey had visited India she had adumbrated this idea. The idea commits the two sides to elevate their relations to a new and higher level. It underlines the development of relations in a comprehensive manner by forging stronger political and economic ties, greater technology cooperation, intensification of cultural ties, educational linkages, development of human resources and people-to-people contacts. The Privileged Partnership should enhance all round cooperation between India and Switzerland and address the long-term interests and future challenges facing both the countries.

During the visit, yesterday afternoon both sides concluded an Indo-Swiss MoU on Financial Dialogue between the Ministry of Finance of India and the Federal Department of Finance of the Swiss Government. The dialogue will provide a general framework to facilitate interaction on macroeconomic and financial issues, and towards strengthening the financial and economic relationship between India and Switzerland. The dialogue will promote mutual cooperation in the financial sector, enable a deeper understanding of the respective macroeconomic environment and financial markets. The two sides will also

exchange views on domestic and international macroeconomic situations, fiscal and monetary policies, financial reforms, financial sector strategies, policies thereunder and other developments in the bilateral, national, regional and global areas in the financial sector. The focus of discussions will naturally be on financial markets access, financial sector reforms, fiscal and tax issues. The discussions will alternately take place in India and Switzerland. And the MoU became effective upon its signature, which is, as of yesterday, October 3, 2011.

During the course of the discussions the President was informed on the procedural formalities on the subject of the Protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Switzerland which was concluded in New Delhi on August 30, 2010. The initial Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Switzerland was signed on November 2, 1994. It was subsequently amended through a supplementary protocol signed in New Delhi on February 16, 2000.

While India has completed all the formalities relating to the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, and has conveyed the same to the Swiss side on the 30th October 2010, the President of the Swiss Confederation and her colleagues on the Federal Council informed the President that the Protocol has been introduced in the Swiss Parliament in June, 2011; it has to, according to the Constitution, lie on the table of the Parliament for 100 days which expires on the 6th of October which is three days from now; and thereafter, the Protocol would be ready on the Swiss side for ratification and entry into force. The Swiss side had also added is, once this is done, they would ask their Ambassador to notify us through diplomatic channels that they have completed their internal procedures regarding ratification and entry into force. And on the day we receive the letter, the Amending Protocol will come into effect on that day. Of course, they said it could be as early as within ten days from October 6, 2011.

The President hoped that the Swiss side would ensure that the protocol entered into force expeditiously as per the projected schedule and would be implemented effectively. Once the Protocol enters into force, the competent authority in India, which in this case would be the Central Board of Direct Taxes, can write to the competent authority in Switzerland as need be seeking tax related information for further action.

In various discussions and public speeches the President referred to the dangers of international terrorism. She emphasised the need to update the existing legal framework for cooperation which exists through and Exchange of Letters which were exchanged in 1989. The President sought the conclusion of an effective Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on criminal matters which would be mutually beneficial. The Swiss side agreed to consider this in a positive frame of mind.

In overall terms the President was extremely satisfied with her Switzerland visit. She noted that the visit has maintained the momentum of high level cooperation and interaction, and that it would provide an impetus for further development and consolidation of bilateral cooperation. The significance of the warmth of the arrangements and the hospitality was reflected by the presence of President Micheline Calmy-Rey in all the President's official engagements. And you would have noticed that she was standing on the tarmac till the aircraft literally took off.

The President commences the Austrian leg of her visit from today. This is the first Presidential visit after around twelve years. It signals the importance we attach to bilateral relations with Austria. The President's engagements include meeting with the President of Austria His Excellency Mr. Heinz Fischer, talks with the Chancellor His Excellency Mr. Werner Faymann, and the President of the Austrian Parliament Ms. Barbara Prammer. The President will also meet the members of the Indian community and address a meeting of the Indo-Austrian Business Forum. The positive mood towards the commencement of the visit in Austria was reflected as you would have seen by two Eurofighter jets escorting Air India One from the Austrian border to the Vienna airport.

The President's visit, besides Vienna, includes Salzburg also. Importantly, as you would know, weather in Switzerland was exceptionally good we do hope that weather in Austria will be equally good.

Thank you very much. If there are any questions, we will be very happy to take them.

**Question:** Sir, you mentioned that once the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement comes into force the CBDT can seek information from the Swiss side. But Switzerland has been saying that give us the specific names or account numbers and the evidence that it is ill-gotten money and then they will give you further information. Will India after this get a list of the Indians holding accounts in Swiss banks? Would India be getting such a list? Will it have a retrospective effect?

**Secretary (West):** It will take place from the first day of the next financial year after the signing - 1st January, 2011 for Switzerland and 1st April 2011 for India.

To answer your question, the normal practice is that the CBDT authorities, in our case the competent authority is CBDT, would gather whatever information is there and transmit it to the Swiss authorities for relevant return of information.

**Question:** Would we not be getting any specific list of Indians holding accounts in Swiss banks?



**Secretary (West):** I think the competent authority, as I said, will have to go on the basis of what has been agreed which is they will collect the evidence, present it to the Swiss authorities, and the Swiss authorities will have to examine and revert back to us.

**Question:** *Sir, you said it will come into force from the first day of the financial year. Would the transactions before this date be covered under it?*

**Secretary (West):** Exchange of information can be sought from that date. We can ask for information. *When this amendment is ratified, we will observe it.*

**Question:** *Do you believe it will be game changer?*

**Secretary (West):** *We will maintain that the agreement is a good one; because there will be exchange of information. One has to see how it works out.*

**Question:** *How is this MoU different from a treaty?*

**Secretary (West):** *The MoU signed yesterday is a financial dialogue. Our two finance ministries will consult between them. This is purely financial related, tax related microeconomic financial issue. But the agreement prevalent here is amending Protocol on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. You will be aware this follows OECD norms. It happened under the G-20; then it followed the OECD model under Article 26 of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement on Exchange of Information. That makes it more comprehensive.*

**Question:** *Sir, I will go back to the question on retrospective effect. For example, if the CBDT wants information on a specific account which was created in let us say 2006. Would India be able to give evidence and would India be able to get information on an account which is created about three or four years back?*

**Secretary (West):** *What I would say is, let me leave it to the CBDT to take it up from there. It is very important that competent authority should be in a position to answer. Whatever I do, I am not the competent authority nominated by the two Governments. I will leave it to the CBDT. But this is a positive step forward.*

**Question:** *There is one small confusion about this Privileged Partnership. Has it been elevated to that?*

**Secretary (West):** *There is agreement on the privileged partnership when Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey came to India in 2007. What we need is to structure the mechanisms, ensure the contents which go into privileged partnership and take it on from there from those fields which I have mentioned – political, economic, cultural, information technology and all that.*

**Question:** *Switzerland has backed India's attempt for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council?*

**Secretary (West):** What they said is that it is a legitimate claim but they would like to see the reform process precede enlargement.

**Question:** *Sir, you said it will be done in ten days.*

**Secretary (West):** *I said that their president said it can be done even in ten days. On 6th their tens will be over. Thereafter they will take out their papers and we will receive a communication from their Ambassador, and the process will start from that day.*

**Question:** *That means it is not certain that it will come into force in ten days.*

**Secretary (West):** *It can happen in one day as well as in ten days. The President has requested to expedite it and complete it expeditiously so that we can implement it.*

**Question:** Then we can start seeking information from the 1st of April, 2012.

**Secretary (West):** I think that is what it is. And this will include banking, tax information not having any domestic interest. But as I said, the competent authority is the CBDT. *It will be better if they give the technical information.*

**Question:** *But the President said .....*

**Secretary (West):** *The President requested for it expeditious completion so that it could be implemented.*

**Question:** *In the Agenda for Austria it is stated that there will be cooperation in the Railways. Will a MoU signed? Please tell us something about it.*

**Secretary (West):** *As we said in Delhi and also our colleague Vishnu Prakash said we follow the standard operating procedure about the conclusion of an agreement. We say nothing at this stage as any thing can happen at the last stage. Besides this is Presidential privilege; the signatures are appended in her presence; we tell you tomorrow all about it.*

**Question:** Fighter jets accompanying the President, is it a normal practice?

**Ambassador of India to Austria (Shri Dinkar Khullar):** It is done only for state visits. But they do not have the practice like we have of treating every visit a state visit. They have a lot of visits which are treated as working visits. They have official visits, they have working visits. This is certainly what we would consider an exclusive privilege that has been accorded to our President. It does not mean it would not be accorded to anyone else.

**OSD (PR) to Hon. President:** Thank you very much.

*(Text in italics is unofficial translation from Hindi text)*



**593. Statement to the Press by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil in Vienna.**

**Vienna, October 5, 2011.**

I am, indeed, very happy to be in Vienna. My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warmth of the reception, and for the generous hospitality accorded to us by the Government and the people of Austria. I bring greetings and good wishes from the people of India to the friendly people of Austria.

2. The firm foundations of our traditionally close and friendly relations were laid by the first generation of political leaders of our countries - Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru our first Prime Minister, Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. They nurtured the strong friendship between the two countries, and established the tradition of collaboration on development issues, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

3. Today, our bilateral relations are wide-ranging, multi-dimensional and mutually beneficial. Our shared and abiding commitment to the ideals of democracy and pluralism has only reinforced our close and friendly ties. My visit to Austria reaffirms our common commitment to take our relations onward to new heights.

4. I have had very fruitful discussions with President Fischer today. We recalled his milestone State visit to India in 2005, the first visit by any Austrian President to India. Our discussions today, built on the commitments in the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of President Fischer's visit. We covered the entire gamut of our bilateral relations, as well as regional and multilateral issues of concern to our countries.

5. Over the past six decades, we have developed strong ties and institutional framework for dialogue and cooperation in the political, economic, commercial, science and technology fields. Further strengthening the framework of bilateral relations, we have signed two Memoranda of Understanding today - one on Technology Specific Cooperation in the field of Railways and the second on Cooperation in Science and Technology.

6. A business delegation from India has accompanied me to explore business opportunities that exist between our two countries, and to give greater content to this important sphere of our interaction. I look forward to my participation in the Business Meet tomorrow, to listen to the views from the captains of industry from both sides, and encourage them to participate in our bilateral economic exchanges.

7. Among the areas we touched upon in our discussions was the issue of international terrorism which has emerged as a fundamental threat to global peace and security. Open and democratic societies like ours are particularly vulnerable to this menace. The terrorist attacks in Mumbai and recently in Delhi and elsewhere in the world, remind us that we must remain resolute and determined in our joint efforts to eliminate terrorism.

8. We see Austria as a partner in all international forums. India strongly believes that there is an urgent need to reform the United Nations. The Security Council needs to be restructured to reflect the contemporary realities, if it wishes to react effectively to the many emerging collective security challenges.

9. During our discussions I have also said that India is actively thinking of becoming a member of the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna.

10. The understandings that we have arrived at, in today's discussions, have further consolidated our mutually beneficial partnership. I have invited President Heinz Fischer to visit to India on mutually convenient dates, to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Thank You!



**594. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception hosted by Ambassador Dinkar Khullar for the Indian community.**

**Vienna, October 5, 2011.**

Members of the Indian community - My Fellow Citizens,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to interact with the Indian community which across the world today numbers over 25 million. Indians abroad are law-abiding, hardworking, and enterprising. With your energy, your dynamism, your entrepreneurship and your skills you have contributed much to the country of your birth, as well as the country you have selected to live in. Those of you in Austria are no exception.

I am informed that the Indian community in Austria exceeds twenty thousand. This number may appear relatively small; nonetheless, you are making a perceptible contribution in various walks of life. Amongst you are successful businessmen, medical professionals, academics, scientists, students and researchers, as well as management and engineering professionals. I am sure that the goodwill generated by all of you, contributes profoundly to the relationship between India and Austria.

Our two countries enjoy warm and close relations, the foundations of which were laid in the last Century by our leaders. One of our patriots and freedom fighters, Subhash Chandra Bose, came to Austria in 1934. He established the India-Central European Society in Vienna, for the promotion of commercial and cultural relations between Central Europe and India. You would also be aware of the important role played by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in facilitating an Agreement on Austria's State Treaty of 1955. Austria's neutrality and our policy of Non-Alignment saw close cooperation between the leaderships of our two countries. Our countries share a commitment to democracy, the rule of law and human rights, which binds our two peoples together. My own visit to Austria is aimed at giving new momentum to our bilateral relations. All of you can also contribute to this goal. I encourage you in your individual capacities to strengthen and help to expand the bilateral partnership.

The world is changing and India is changing too. The Indian economy has recorded impressive rates of growth on a sustained basis since our process of economic reforms began. India is among the most attractive destinations globally for doing business. Several Indian companies have expanded their global presence in various sectors across the world, including here in Austria. This has raised India's profile among the comity of nations.

We are working to see how the economic dynamism of India, can be harnessed to benefit our peoples and raise their living standards. This is one of the important tasks in which we are engaged. We want our growth process to be inclusive, so that all sections of our populace can have improved standards of living. I am sure that you will be forthcoming in contributing to these national objectives. Your efforts will be most welcome as part of a collective Indian enterprise, in which you are participants. Even though you live overseas, we in India remain concerned about your welfare and progress. India has various initiatives for the benefit of its overseas diaspora. We have a full-fledged Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the benefit and welfare of the Indian Diaspora. Each year, we celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. I hope to see many of you participating in such events.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the strong and vibrant political and economic partnership between India and Austria can only benefit from endeavours of people who forge ties of friendship. We, in India, are proud of all of you.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy Dussehra, which will be celebrated tomorrow. The many festivals that we observe in India are, of course, joyous occasions but they also speak about our rich and varied cultural traditions.

As Indians overseas, I am sure, festivals are also a time to invite your friends - the nationals of the countries that you live in - to be a part of the celebrations. This way, you share with them your happiness and, at the same time, acquaint them with India. I wish all of you and your families the very best for your future progress and prosperity.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!



**595. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by Austrian President Heinz Fischer.**

**Vienna, October 5, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Fischer,  
Madam Fischer,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here in this beautiful capital city of Vienna. Excellency and Madam Fischer, at the very outset, I would like to say that we are deeply touched by the warm reception and hospitality accorded to us in your beautiful country.

India greatly values the excellent relations it has with Austria. Excellency, as you know, our cultural and political links go back in time. An independent chair for Indology was established in the University of Vienna in 1880. Archduke Franz Ferdinand visited India, around a century ago. In 1921 and 1926 India's national-poet and Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, whose 150th Birth Anniversary is being celebrated this year, was in Vienna. In his lecture on "Religion of the Forests" that he delivered here, he spoke of the importance of developing the values of compassion and caring. He said, "the highest purpose of this world is not merely living in it, knowing it and making use of it but it is realizing our own selves in it, through expansion of sympathy." Later in the 1930s, one of our great patriots and freedom fighters, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had come to Vienna and established an India-Central European Society.

The foundations of the friendship between our two countries in recent times were laid by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. On the solid strength of this rich legacy we have built a relationship based on the common values we share. These have been further strengthened and sustained through exchanges at all levels.

I would like to recall your visit to India in February 2005 which is an important landmark in our bilateral relationship. Your deep interest in my country has helped to strengthen this partnership. I am confident that my visit would provide the momentum to our bilateral relationship, to take it to a new level.

As vibrant parliamentary democracies, India and Austria today share common values and aspirations. Both our countries have an abiding faith in the democratic values. Our unshakeable faith in the rule of law, respect for human rights, and resolve to preserve peace and foster international understanding, brings both of us much closer.

Over the past six decades we have developed strong ties and institutional framework for dialogue and cooperation in the political, economic and commercial and science and technology fields.

In recent years, our bilateral relationship has acquired a new dynamism particularly in the economic and commercial sector. The total bilateral trade between India and Austria has crossed over 1 billion Euros in 2008. There are many technical and business collaborations and tie-ups between Indian and Austrian companies.

This is only indicative of the vast potential of economic cooperation between our two countries. Excellency, there exists far greater scope for significantly expanding our bilateral economic cooperation. An economically resurgent India today offers a variety of investment opportunities, both in the traditional and new sectors. We look forward to greater cooperation and engagement between business communities on both sides. India would also like to benefit from Austrian expertise in advanced technology areas, environment and infrastructure sectors.

Excellency, the edifice of the relationship between nations gets reinforced by interaction and exchanges between its peoples. Hence, it is important to foster people to people exchanges, including through academic cooperation, as we look at future friendships. I am happy to note that a Chair in Indian Studies at the prestigious University of Vienna has started functioning recently.

Excellency,

We are living at a time when terrorism poses a threat to global peace and security. Democratic societies like those of India and Austria, which protect freedom and individual dignity, are particularly vulnerable to this threat. The terrorist attacks in Mumbai and recently in Delhi, remind us that the international community must resolutely persevere with its efforts to root out terrorism.

Austria plays an important role in Europe and in the world. Vienna is host to several UN organizations, in fields as diverse as nuclear energy, outer space, the fight against drugs, crime and corruption, which are issues of vital importance. We share your strong commitment to the UN and multilateralism. India strongly believes that there is urgent need to reform the UN. The Security Council should be restructured to reflect the changed realities to effectively respond to emerging collective security challenges. We see Austria as a partner in our efforts at international fora, to meet the new challenges that the international community now faces.

Given the excellent relations enjoyed by our two countries and the potential ahead, we in India would like to work closely with Austria, both in the bilateral



as well as in the international context for the mutual benefit of our people, and progress and prosperity of the world as a whole.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast:-

- to the good health of President Fischer and Madam Fischer;
- to the prosperity and continued progress of the people of Austria; and
- to the abiding friendship between our two countries and people



**596. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Business interaction organized by Austrian Federal Economic Chambers.**

**Vienna, October 6, 2011.**

It gives me great pleasure to be with the business representatives of the Austrian and Indian Industry here in Vienna today. The economic and commercial linkages between our two countries are at the core of our bilateral ties. Greater content and depth in this field would impart substance and dynamism to overall bilateral relations. Business communities therefore are important constituents of the India-Austria relationship.

Growth rates of over 20 percent in our bilateral trade registered in the current year are impressive by any standards but especially so in today's global economic scenario. However, the current level of our trade of about 1.1 billion Euro is below the potential of our two countries. We must jointly endeavour to identify new openings and to optimise the utilization of existing opportunities to achieve this potential. India's economic growth holds many possibilities for the expansion of bilateral economic cooperation. Sustained by the strong fundamentals, a GDP growth rate of the order of 8 percent has yielded tangible benefits, in terms of employment generation and improvement in the standards of living of the people, enlarging the market for consumers as well as industrial goods.

While our achievements have been many, we remain fully cognizant of the tasks that remain to be completed. All our citizens need to benefit from the development process, and India's paramount interest is to ensure that our economic development has an inclusive character. The fulfilment of our goals

would depend to a great extent on the ability to tackle the constraints in our physical infrastructure. India has been focussed on improving its infrastructure, and investments of close to one trillion US Dollars would be required in the coming years, to implement these plans. This provides an excellent investment opportunity for foreign companies. Power, roads, railways, airports and ports are all India's overarching priorities. Austria has well-known strengths in these fields. I have witnessed first hand, here in Vienna, the excellent facilities established in urban areas which sets an example for the rest of the world. Austrian strengths in infrastructure, automotive and environment friendly technologies provide a good complementarity to the requirements of the Indian economy.

Many important firms from Austria have a long established presence in the fields of railways and engineering. Many companies have done well to consolidate on this foundation, and establish their physical presence in many business and industry centres of India in the last five years. Their expertise and specialized skills in tunnelling, bridges, energy systems, electrical equipment, and construction and many other fields, places them in an advantageous position to avail of the emerging opportunities in India today. Small and Medium Enterprises also offer another area of opportunity. Here, I would like to compliment the Austrian Federal Economic Chambers - WKO, including its offices in India, in proactively bringing the business communities of our two countries together. I have been told that, on an average, an Austrian business delegation visits India every month. I hope that this frequency only grows in the future, if our trade and industry co-operation has to grow.

A critical and an absolutely necessary input for the sustainable growth of a nation's economy and all its sectors - industry, agriculture or business - is technology, which in turn, depends on research and development. I am convinced that there is need to be innovative in finding solutions to, not just Indian, but global challenges. Austria is known for the high quality of its research institutions oriented to industry and commercial application. I see this as an important component of our bilateral collaborations. India is fortunate to be endowed with rich human capital and a strong knowledge base. We have been successful in many frontier areas - space, nuclear energy, Information Technology and bio-technology, among others. I feel that it would be useful to share our knowledge and experience, to translate the cutting-edge knowledge of science into products for the market. This will yield benefits both in terms of new employment and new products for consumers.

We already have existing cooperation programmes between educational institutions of our two countries. Indian scholars are doing research in Linz, in the field of mathematics. The Technical Universities of Vienna and Graz have

had joint programmes with the Indian Institutes of Technology, and it is good that two mini-satellites built by researchers from these two technical universities are being launched by ISRO - India's space research organization. Technical education linkages would get a fillip and new momentum, if on both sides, businesses were to assess the value of such research and collaboration and promote them.

India and the EU are strategic partners. Austria is an integral part and important member of the EU. Our strong ties in the economic sphere will strengthen not just bilateral relations but our overall partnership with the EU. India and the EU are negotiating a broad based Trade and Investment Agreement which will, in our view, serve the mutual interest of both sides. I visualize great opportunities for expansion of trade in goods and services and two-way investment through this Agreement. I hope that this is concluded at the earliest to the mutual satisfaction of both partners.

In conclusion, I would like to share with you that my interactions in Austria, including at the highest political level, have left me in no doubt that the India-Austria relationship has a bright future. Our relationship is very old and time tested. My visit is to further strengthen these. I am confident that your deliberation today will contribute to the strengthening of these ties and add to their breadth and depth. I wish you success in your deliberations here. I wish you success in your deliberations here. I would like to especially thank President Fischer for his strong support to building ties between the two countries and for being present here.

Thank you!



**597. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by Governor of Salzburg Ms. Gabi Burgstaller.**

**Salzburg, October 6, 2011.**

It is indeed a pleasure for me as well as for the members of my delegation to be here today in Salzburg. I would like to express our deep appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality given to us in this beautiful Schloss Hellbrunn.

Austria has inherited one of the most outstanding cultural legacies in Europe which is so well reflected in this magnificent city. Your country is, indeed, a treasure house of Arts. The creative urge of your people to devote themselves to the world of arts and music, has played an important role in not only enriching your own cultural traditions, but that of the whole world. It, therefore, gives me special pleasure, to be here in this city, with which renowned musician Mozart is inextricably associated. In India, there is a following for Western classical music, and they all know of the great tradition of excellent music in Austria.

It is, therefore, not a surprise that our cultural ties are very strong. I am told that in your country, Yoga and Ayurveda have a large following. Indian films too are increasingly getting popular in Austria, and some of them have been shot in your scenic and splendorous country.

Like Austria, India too has its own pluralistic traditions and openness to other cultures. We believe in cultural inclusiveness and a "confluence of civilizations". I am happy to learn that Indian artists who have performed during the 'Szene Salzburg' festival in the recent past, have received an overwhelming response from the city of Salzburg. We look forward to furthering such people to people exchanges.

May I once again extend our gratitude to you for having made our stay here so special. It is indeed, a matter of great pleasure for me and my delegation to have had the chance to visit this magnificent city. Earlier, in Vienna, President Fischer, who is a old friend of India and whom we deeply respect, and I had fruitful discussions, and I am confident that our bilateral relationship will further strengthen in many areas of mutual co-operation. On a personal note, I can say that I will take back many memories of the majestic beauty of Austria and the warmth of the friendship of its people.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast:-

- to the good health of President Fischer and Madam Fischer ;
- to the good health of Governor Gabi Burgstaller and Mr. Holzer;
- to the prosperity of the people of Salzburg and the Republic of Austria;  
and
- to the abiding friendship and close cultural relations between our two countries and people.



**598. Interaction of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the media on board her special flight on way back to Delhi after her tours of Switzerland and Austria.**

**October 7, 2010.**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

I have just concluded my State visits to the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Austria, countries which are important partners of India in Central Europe. India shares with them core values as well as strong historical ties of friendship. This has resulted in close mutual understanding and cooperation on a wide range of issues, as also exchange of high level visits.

We were received with exceptional warmth and cordiality in Berne and in Vienna. The gesture of President Micheline Calmy-Rey and President Heinz Fischer to graciously lend their presence in all my official engagements, spoke of their personal commitment to reinforcing the relationship with India. What is more, President Calmy-Rey travelled with me to Lausanne and President Fischer accompanied me to Salzburg.

It was an unparalleled honour for me to commence my visit by paying homage to the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, at his statue in Geneva, located close to the UN buildings. That this was on 2nd October, his birth anniversary, made it even more special, as I have always believed that Gandhiji belongs to the world; his philosophy has relevance for all.

Discussions that I had with President Micheline Calmy-Rey and the members of the Federal Council in Switzerland; and with President Heinz Fischer, Chancellor Werner Faymann and President of the National Council in Austria, were meaningful and productive. I observed a clear desire on their part to expand and broaden the canvas of our bilateral relations. I fully reciprocated

these sentiments. We agreed to elevate our relationship with Switzerland to the level of a Privileged Partnership. With Austria we agreed to widen and deepen our traditional partnership.

In both the countries, there was agreement about the many opportunities to further our mutually beneficial partnership based on the complementary strengths of our economies. These include areas that are important for our development, and in which Switzerland and Austria are world leaders, such as infrastructure, clean technology and renewable energy. Linkages between small and medium enterprises were also identified as a promising possibility. I highlighted the importance that we in India attach to Vocational Education and suggested that both Switzerland and Austria could partner us in this area.

There is enthusiasm and optimism among the business community about the future commercial prospects with these countries. At the Business Forums in the two capitals, I stressed that new areas of cooperation in hydel and renewable energy should be actively explored. The Governor of Salzburg mentioned to me about the effective way in which they were using their water resources for generation of hydel power.

In the field of Science & Technology, we welcomed the solid progress that has already been achieved in our cooperation with both countries and agreed that it should be further encouraged.

My visit to the Centre for European Nuclear Research, CERN, during my stay in Geneva, was to understand the ongoing cutting-edge research in a premier organization in which India is already collaborating and with which increasing involvement is possible, including associate membership of CERN. I was impressed with the work of CERN. When I asked about research to reduce solar energy costs, so necessary for its wider use in a "sun-shine rich country" like India, the CERN Director said that they would be happy to work with India in energy efficiency and in the avoidance of wastage in transmission and distribution.

Bilateral agreements were concluded with the Governments of Switzerland and Austria. In Vienna, two Memoranda of Understanding were signed - one on Technology Specific Cooperation in the field of Railways and the second on Cooperation in Science and Technology. These are important areas for India.

With Switzerland, a Memorandum of Understanding for a Financial Dialogue was signed. This will provide a general framework to facilitate interaction on macroeconomic and financial issues, and towards strengthening the financial and economic relationship between India and Switzerland.

An Amending Protocol on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Switzerland was concluded in New Delhi on August 30, 2010. India has completed all the formalities relating to the ratification and entry into force of this Protocol. During discussions, the Swiss President as well as the Swiss Federal Minister in charge of Finance informed me about their procedural requirements. After introducing the Protocol in Swiss Parliament, which was in June 2011, it has to lie on the table of the Parliament for 100 days - this expired yesterday, the 6th of October. I requested the Swiss side to take steps to ensure that the Protocol entered into force expeditiously and sought its effective implementation.

In the Swiss University of Lausanne, along with President Micheline Calmy-Rey, I unveiled a bronze bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, an appropriate event as we commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Gurudev Tagore's birthday. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to establish the 'Tagore Chair on Indian Studies'. I hope that the MoU will help bring together scholars as well as students from both countries contributing to a better understanding between our two peoples.

Indeed, the leaderships of Austria as well as Switzerland agreed with us on the importance of initiatives for encouraging people-to-people contacts through academic interaction, cultural exchanges and tourism.

In Austria, during my meeting with the President of the National Council and other Parliamentarians, we discussed the need for expanding Parliamentary exchanges, in which Minister, Shri Rajeev Shukla and Members of Parliament, Shri Darda and Shri Jadhav actively participated. We agreed on promoting a regular and active dialogue between the youth leaders of our two countries drawn from the political and economic fields.

President Heinz Fischer mentioned that the International Anti-Corruption Academy had been established in Austria as a joint initiative with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, European Anti Fraud Office and others. It has become functional since March this year.

I emphasized the overriding priority we accord to tackling corruption and informed him that India would give active consideration to become a member of this Academy.

Both Switzerland and Austria are active in international fora. I was happy that both Governments share our view that there is an urgent need for reforms of the United Nations. They acknowledged that India's candidacy for a permanent seat in an expanded Security Council was unequivocally strong and legitimate.

I also discussed with my two counterparts other international issues of common interest and concern. Foremost, among them was international terrorism which poses a serious threat to world peace and security.

I was happy to meet representatives of the Indian community in both Switzerland and Austria during my stays in Geneva and Vienna respectively. I lauded their contribution in the development of India's cooperation with these countries.

I feel that my State Visits to Switzerland and Austria have been extremely fruitful. The understandings that I reached in my discussions will lead to further consolidation of our ties with Switzerland and Austria, particularly giving a boost to the economic pillar of our relationship.

I hope all of you enjoyed the trip and were able to walk in the amazing gardens in the cities we visited !



**599. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Cyprus Markos Kyprianou.**

**New Delhi, April 19, 2011.**

The Foreign Minister of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Markos Kyprianou paid an official visit to India from April 17-19, 2011 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna.

2. On April 19, 2011, External Affairs Minister held delegation-level talks with Foreign Minister Kyprianou during which they discussed bilateral matters and regional and international issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Kyprianou extended an invitation to EAM to visit Cyprus on mutually convenient dates.

3. India and Cyprus have enjoyed a traditionally close and time-tested friendship bound by a common commitment to democracy, pluralism and the rule of law. The bilateral relations have been nurtured by regular high-level exchanges, the most recent being the visit of the President of India to Cyprus in October, 2009. The two countries have consistently extended support to each other in multilateral fora including at the United Nations. The two Ministers recalled traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Cyprus and reaffirmed their common desire to enhance bilateral relations in all mutually beneficial areas.



4. Foreign Minister Kyprianou briefed the External Affairs Minister on the committed efforts of his Government for finding a resolution of the Cyprus issue. He expressed his deep appreciation for India's longstanding and principled support towards finding a just and lasting settlement that would lead to the peaceful re-unification of Cyprus. The External Affairs Minister reiterated that India stood for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and expressed the hope for a comprehensive settlement based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation as set out in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.
5. Foreign Minister Kyprianou reiterated the Government of Cyprus' support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.
6. On April 18, 2011, Foreign Minister Kyprianou called on the Vice President and met with the Leader of the Opposition. He met the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on April 19, 2011.



## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

### **600. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies/Hindi Language at Charles University, Prague.**

**New Delhi, June 8, 2011.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on June 7th, 2011 for establishment of ICCR's Long-Term 'Chair of Indian Studies/Hindi Language' in the Charles University. Ambassador of India to Czech Republic, Shri Dinkar Prakash Srivastava, signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR alongwith Prof. Michal Stehlik, Dean of Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician as Visiting Professor to hold the Chair for a period of one year. During the period, the Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the University by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring. The Chair would commence from September, 2011 and the MoU will remain valid for 2 years till 2013.

This is ICCR's first ever Chair in Czech Republic and can be considered as a major step in propagation of India related studies in Czech Republic and thereby fulfilling ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural links and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



## DENMARK

**601. Press Release issued by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the visit of Danish Minister for Economy Brian Mikkelsen to increase bilateral cooperation in new areas of economic cooperation.**

**New Delhi, January 6, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, in a bilateral meeting with Mr. Brian Mikkelsen, Minister for Economy of Denmark, here today, informed that India and Denmark should focus in the areas of IT, Telecommunication, Biotechnology, Food Processing, and Pharmaceuticals for a mutually beneficial economic engagement. He said that the growth in bilateral trade of 10.50% even in 2009-10 indicates the strong commercial ties between the two countries. Bilateral trade between India and Denmark reached US \$ 1,172 billion (exports - \$ 580 million and imports \$ 592 million) during the year 2009-10, an increase over the quantum of US \$ 1,061 billion of 2008-09.

During the meeting, Shri Sharma welcomed several new Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Shipping, Food, Agriculture & Fisheries, Information Technology and Education set up during the recent first meeting of the India-Denmark Joint Commission. In addition to the existing Agreements on Bilateral Investment and Protection and Avoidance of Double Taxation, such a mechanism provides a framework for economic and industrial cooperation, he added.

Interacting with the visiting Minister, Shri Sharma mentioned that world leaders have re-affirmed their commitment to an early and balanced conclusion to the Doha Round. "India sees one of the main threats to the revival of trade flows in the rising protectionist pressures and continued delay in concluding the Doha Round. Therefore, strengthening the multilateral trading system by concluding the Doha Round at the earliest is imperative", he said.

Denmark ranks 28th in Foreign Direct Investments in India. Cumulative FDI inflows from Denmark are U \$ 173.12 million from April 2000 to Sept 2010. Danish investment has been in sectors of Construction, Transport Industry, Services, Telecom and Electrical Equipments. Indian companies invested in Denmark are Reliance Industries (yarn production), TCS, Suzlon Energy Ltd., Usha Martin and L&T Infotech.

The principal commodities being exported to Denmark include textiles, cotton yarn fabrics, transport equipment, machinery, electronic goods etc. India's imports from Denmark include petroleum crude & products, medicinal & pharmaceutical products, organic chemicals, electronic goods, professional instruments.



**602. Response of Official Spokesperson to media question on the failure of the Danish authorities to extradite Kim Davy involved in the Purulia arms drop case.**

**New Delhi, July 8, 2011.**

"We have been greatly disappointed on being informed that the Danish authorities cannot comply with India's request for the extradition of Neils Holck @ Kim Davy to India to stand trial for his role in the Purulia arms drop case. Government of Denmark had decided on April 9, 2010, to extradite Kim Davy to India but the Danish authorities failed to successfully defend their decision in the Danish courts and it is regrettable that they have decided not to appeal the High Court judgement in the Supreme Court. In our view, the judgement has grave and far-reaching implications and can only serve as an encouragement to terrorists and criminals. We also completely reject the grounds cited by the Danish court as the basis for its decision.

Our demand for the extradition of Kim Davy to India stands. He must face the law in India for his actions."



**FRANCE****603. Speech of Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao at the French Institute of International Relations.****Paris, May 5, 2011.**

[Mr. Dominique Moisi (DM), Special Advisor, IFRI welcomed the Foreign Secretary and made opening remarks: "We are very pleased and honoured to receive the Foreign Secretary of India, Nirupama Rao, who has had a remarkable career, and I think one of the very interesting time of your life was as the first woman Ambassador to China."

FS added : "And to Sri Lanka"

DM corrected himself: "And to Sri Lanka, you are absolutely right. But you are also a poet and title of collection of your poems, very beautiful evocative - Rain Rising - so, a diplomat and a poet, who will enlighten us on the "Role of India in Global Affairs". You have the floor." ]

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Thank you Mr. Dominique Moisi, Special Advisor of the French Institute of International Relations. It is a pleasure to be here this evening. Distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen.

I must say this is a fortuitous confluence of time and place. A juncture where both France and India, who value multipolarity and cooperation to create a new global order, are able to play a greater role in influencing the future of the world.

India, buoyed by its rapid and sustainable economic growth seeks to play a role commensurate with its size and destiny, whether in UN Security Council or other multinational institutions and therefore, our strategic partner France, which also heads the G8 and G20 at the critical moment when international cooperation is imperative to take the world back on the path of economic recovery, so this is what I spoke of as a fortuitous confluence of time and place that we meet here today to discuss India's role in global affairs.

It's also a time of profound political understanding between the highest political leadership of both our countries and President Sarkozy's unwavering support for an enhanced role of India on the global stage resonates deeply in my country. Our Prime Minister has clearly voiced this when he said, "It is our ardent wish that the partnership between our two democracies is further strengthened and deepened in the years to come." But the strength of our partnership goes far

beyond a convergence of immediate interests since as fellow democracies and pluralistic open societies we respect freedom and human rights and believe deeply that values surrounding freedom and human rights must inform the emerging world order. The closer relationship between our two countries is sustained, and this is important, is sustained by popular support and which is perhaps why we give so much importance to our political, economic and commercial ties as also, to people-to-people ties, to educational, scientific, tourism and cultural cooperation between our two countries. We are of course very pleased that our enhanced strategic partnership in areas such as defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology has further deepened and strengthened in recent years.

I also speak of our shared values and our vision. Two countries who believe in multilateralism, peaceful co-existence, justice, freedom, equality and fraternity - these are precisely the values that are required for a sustainable and equitable global order in the 21st century. That is why also India seeks to engage the international community in essential reforms of the international governance system, which is also one of the priorities of the French presidency of the G20. There is a clear need of in-depth reform of the United Nations, including of its Security Council. France, I am happy to say, has repeatedly affirmed its support for India to become a permanent member of the Security Council, of an expanded Security Council, in fact without further delay, as President Sarkozy said in Delhi in December last year at his press conference, and I quote, "It is not simply a question of India's interest, it is a question of global equilibrium. You can't exclude a billion inhabitants from resolving the world's great issues."

What were the well-springs of India's foreign policies as we began life as an independent nation - there were issues such as decolonisation, the principles of peaceful co-existence among nations, striving for an equitable global system for socio-economic development, initiatives towards global disarmament and robust participation in United Nation's peace keeping. All this shaped the initial imprint left by India on global affairs in the last five decades of the 20th century. They are not irrelevant - these issues - to our participation in global affairs today, driving our foreign policy priorities and our desire for strategic autonomy, in addition to factors of external security, internal security, the need for sustained economic growth, our energy security, maritime security and of course access to technology and innovation to sustain our economic growth. Further, may I say that India is too large a country to be dovetailed in alliance type relationships. In order to modernise our country, we need to, and I believe we have succeeded in, forging well-rounded strategic relationships and partnerships with all the major powers. India has a keen sense of our potential to be a great power by virtue of our population, our resources and our strategic location.

The goal of our foreign policy is to create an external environment that promotes the furtherance of our economic growth targets and ambitions and, these as I said earlier, include the dimensions of capital inflows and access to technology and innovation as well as the promotion of a free, fair and open world trading system that recognizes the development imperatives of countries like India. And all this requires a peaceful and stable neighbourhood, and external environment, a balanced relationship with the major powers and a durable and equitable multilateral global order. That is why we have supported the process of reform and restructuring of the United Nations to make it better equipped, to effectively respond to the evolving needs of its membership. Objective realities underscore the need for thorough going and genuine UN reforms. An organisation, which is 6 decades old, its membership has expanded nearly 4 times since the charter was signed and the world today, as we all recognise, is very different from the world of 1945. The challenges of the 21st century - political, economic, social, environmental or demographic - are global in nature, and the world is more interconnected and interdependent than any period in world history. This necessitates the comprehensive reforms therefore, of the United Nations aimed at its revitalisation. It is essential that the Security Council be expanded in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, and that developing countries from Asia, from Africa and Latin America who are capable of taking on increased global responsibilities are included as its permanent members.

Just a short while ago the election of India to a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12 expressed a resounding endorsement of faith by the international community in India's ability to play a meaningful role in the Security Council. We strive to be a voice of moderation and constructive engagement in the decisions of the Security Council. Our priorities include, and will include peace and stability in our near and extended neighbourhood, including Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa; counter terrorism including the prevention of the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors and the strengthening of UN peace keeping. We will demonstrate to the international community that India on the Security Council is good for the world. During its current membership of the Security Council, India has become the chair of the counter terrorism committee as well as the working group 1566 which deals with threats to international peace and stability by terrorist acts. We have emphasised that terrorism is a global phenomenon whose destruction potential and lethal reach is enhanced by linkages to illicit trafficking of drugs and small arms and international money-laundering operations. To be effective, the fight against terrorism must be long-term, sustained and global. It must tackle not just the perpetrators of those acts but also those who sponsor them.

Domestic measures alone cannot deal with terrorism as long as countries continue to provide safe havens for terrorists and, let me also add that no cause justifies resorting to terror. Since the existing international conventions on terrorism covers the specific sectoral aspects, India has taken the initiative to pilot the comprehensive convention on international terrorism or the CCIT in the United Nations, with the objective of providing a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorism. We are committed to continue our efforts for an early conclusion of negotiations on this crucial convention and its adoption by all the UN member states.

There is also a threat we face from piracy today and we are committed to fully support the international community in our efforts to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia. The Indian Navy is deployed in the Gulf of Aden and we have been able to successfully thwart several piracy attempts in these waters, India is among the founding members of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia - the CGPCS. As piracy is increasing and spreading from the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin to the larger Indian Ocean, our Navy is working with other navies in order to better coordinate the international effort to combat and eliminate this scourge. And, we have growing cooperation with the European Union, particularly with France especially on the sharing of the information and building of the capacities, including legal capacities and mechanisms in the region for detention and prosecution of pirates.

The international financial and economic crisis originated in the developed world from where it spread to the developing countries and emerging economies. India too, was adversely affected but to a comparatively a lesser extent. We fared much better than others on account of three factors. Firstly, the inherent strength of the Indian economy and sustained domestic demand that helped to mitigate the impact from external sources, especially on our exports and foreign investments. Secondly, the Indian financial and banking system proved sound and resilient and it successfully withstood the test of the time. Our regulatory measures were by and large able to insulate the Indian financial system and banking system from major shocks and setbacks from abroad. There exist a broad consensus that a financial and economic crisis of such proportions - today we call it a great recession - in the case of the present crisis - requires a well-coordinated global response. The G20 comprising of the most developed countries as well as the leading developing economies, emerging market economies have worked together, coupled together in meeting the challenges posed by the crisis and recession. Beginning at the level of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, we have raised the interaction to the Summit level where leaders meet and are able to send a strong message for building confidence and stability. In the meantime, while stimulus and growth packages have been nationally implemented, the G20 has enabled coordinated action

that we believe has contributed to meeting the immediate challenge of the recession successfully. In the run-up to the next, that is the 6th G20 Summit in November 2011 in France under the French presidency, the G20 has embarked on a very ambitious and far-reaching, forward-looking agenda. On the one hand, this entails implementation of past G20 decisions, which is critical to the credibility of the G20.

Given the past record of the Group in combating the economic crisis we are optimistic that the G20 will deliver on its decisions. On the other hand, the G20 is looking to scale new heights as seen from the ever-expanding agenda covering the reform of the international monetary system, volatility in commodity markets, both in agricultural commodities in particular food security as well as fuel price fluctuations having a bearing on energy security and the challenge posed by continuing unemployment in many economies. All this needs to be looked at closely and India stands ready to engage with its partners in the G20 to address these challenges.

Turning to disarmament, we have championed the cause of universal disarmament and we share with France this goal as also the commitment to the reinforcement of the non-proliferation regime. India will be able to contribute to enhancing international efforts through full membership, which we seek to achieve, of multilateral export regimes like the NSG, the MTCR, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement in a manner consistent with the procedures and objectives of these groups. We are appreciative of French support for our membership of these bodies. The constructive and forward-looking approach that was adopted towards India in September 2008 by the NSG - the Nuclear Suppliers Group - has enabled full international civil nuclear cooperation with India as also our nuclear energy cooperation agreements with major partners including the United States, Russia, France and the United Kingdom. These constitute not only a long overdue recognition of India's standing as a country with advanced nuclear technology and responsible behaviour but have also opened up significant opportunities for technical and technological collaboration. It is equally important to see the relevance of these developments in the context of our energy requirements and the challenges of climate change.

A major issue that faces the international community today is climate change and the issue is critical for us as the steps that we will take will have to be intrinsically linked with our growth prospects and needs and the development aspirations of our people. Nationally we have taken several steps to improve energy efficiency and ensure sustainable growth. It is important to note that despite our accounting for 17% of the global population, our own green house gas emissions are currently only 4% of the global emissions. Even with 8-9%



growth per annum our energy use has been growing at less than 4% per annum and therefore we welcome and we have welcomed the successful outcomes in Cancun on climate fund, technology mechanism adaptation framework and tropical forestry, the REDD+. We however believe that further work is required to strengthen the weak mitigation pledges by the developed countries, preventing unilateral trade actions in the name of climate change and sustenance of the dialogue on IPR as part of technology development and transfer.

Turning to our immediate neighbourhood, any visualisation of India's global role must begin in our immediate neighbourhood, because situational factors in that environment affect our internal security and therefore merit our greatest attention. The Indian economy with its growth and the impact that this exerts beyond our borders is fast becoming an anchoring element in the region. We have articulated a policy in our neighbourhood that stresses the advantages of building networks and greater interconnectivity, trade and investment so that prosperity can be shared and that our region can benefit from India's rapid economic growth and rising prosperity. We want to create an economic environment with our neighbours so that we can work together to build on our common objectives of economic development. A peaceful neighbourhood, let me add, is mandatory for realisation of our own vision of economic growth. We have made unilateral gestures and extended economic concessions such as the facility of duty-free access to the Indian market for imports from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We have made proposals multilaterally within the framework of SAARC - the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation - where we have assumed asymmetric responsibilities. However, our vision of enhanced South Asian Cooperation for development is challenged, I will be frank, by violent extremism and terrorism, which originates in our region and finds sustenance and sanctuaries there.

The US operation against Osama bin Laden deep inside Pakistan earlier this week raises the question for all of us in this audience, of the sanctuary enjoyed by terrorists in that country. Our relationship with Pakistan has been complicated by the issue of terrorism and the need for Pakistan to take ameliorative action to eradicate terrorism against India. We desire friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan. A stable Pakistan which acts as a bulwark against terrorism and extremism is in its own interest as much it is in our interest and in the interest of our region. Therefore we are determined to persevere with our dialogue with Pakistan in order to resolve outstanding issues so that our region is stable and so that the rationale of economic development in an atmosphere of peace for all of South Asia remains our steadfast goal. Recently, we have embarked on a comprehensive and serious dialogue with Pakistan on all issues of mutual interest and concern. As I said we hope Pakistan will address our terrorism

related concerns including the investigations and trial of the accused in the Mumbai terrorist attacks effectively and transparently.

We are also committed to working for peace, democracy and inclusive development in Afghanistan. We are dedicated to assist the Afghan people in their civilian reconstruction programmes and capacity building to develop their nation. We share concerns regarding the existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorist groups beyond Afghanistan's borders and the resurgence of these groups and we renew our call on the neighbours of Afghanistan to play a constructive role conducive to the country's stabilization and development in its regional environment.

Let me also briefly speak on Iran. India, as indeed France is committed to diplomacy to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue and we have clearly stated the need for Iran to take constructive and immediate steps to meet its obligations to the IAEA and the UN Security Council. It bears repetition, let me say, that Iran is one of our most important neighbours with whom we share civilizational links. Iran is also a crucial partner for India's energy security. We have an immense stake in a peaceful resolution of the complicated issues surrounding Iran's nuclear question.

The rise of China is a phenomenon that countries all over the world are learning to manage. India too places priority on its relations with China in the context of our regional and foreign policy. Like the rest of the world we seek to engage China proactively and constructively. There are elements of cooperation as well as competition in India-China relations, however our approach to China is not an antagonistic one. We believe there is sufficient space in the world and indeed in the developing world for the simultaneous rise of China and the growth of India. Economics is dynamising our relationship with China today and China has emerged as our largest trading partner. However the trade imbalance worries us and we are seeking greater market access in China for our pharmaceutical and IT products to cite a few examples. The boundary question between our two countries is being discussed but it remains still unresolved although both India and China are focussed on ensuring a peaceful resolution. Both sides have ensured the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas. Both nations have also similar standpoints on global and international issues including climate change, biodiversity, reform of the international financial institutions and the world trade negotiations. We believe that the India-China relationship will be one of the most important in the world in the coming years of the 21st century.

I also wish to briefly comment on our bilateral relations with the United States. Our relations have matured over the years and are characterised by intensified dialogue, deepened understanding and broad-based cooperation. The

relationship is based on shared values, increasingly convergent interests and enormous opportunities for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, and global partnership. During the November 2010 visit of President Obama to India, our leadership and the leadership of the United States reaffirmed that the India-US Strategic partnership is indispensable not only for their two countries but also for global stability and prosperity in the 21st century.

Let me also underline our understanding on the importance of what the European Union seeks to achieve through its ever closer union. We see the European Union as a key strategic partner in meeting India's development needs. We welcome the enhanced role of the European Union on the world stage consequent to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. We welcome the significant progress in the negotiations in the India-EU broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement, which will bring significant economic benefits to both sides and further deepen and strengthen the bilateral economic relationship. In this regard we hope to achieve an ambitious and balanced conclusion in 2011. The India-EU Joint Declaration on international terrorism concluded during the 11th India-EU Summit held in Brussels in December last year underlines that our cooperation in combating international terrorism including trans-national terrorism is one of the key political priorities in the India-EU relationship and strategic partnership.

Finally, India's global role is also being articulated as it becomes an increasingly effective development and technical cooperation source for a number of countries in the region including in Africa. Education, agriculture, capacity building in a number of areas, private sector investments, trade and communication outreach define our relations with a number of African countries today. The role of India's soft power, the dynamism of its free and unfettered media, its entertainment industry and the attraction that Indian culture exerts are also very good for enhancing India's global influence today.

We have been following with serious concern the developments in Libya which have led to a loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. We have advocated a peaceful resolution, a political resolution of the differences that exist between the opposing groups in Libya. We are concerned about the civilian population and the welfare of that population, I am including also the foreigners who live in Libya. We have 2000 Indians who are still there, although we arranged for the evacuation of almost 17000 of our people out of Libya in March but we still have 2000 Indians who elected to stay back there, and therefore we are concerned about the situation surrounding the violence that we have seen in Libya. We abstained on UN Security Council Resolution 1973 of March 17, 2011 to establish a no-fly zone in Libya. As I said we are gravely concerned by the violence there and we want a peaceful resolution of differences because

there is a deteriorating humanitarian situation in that country and there is need for a ceasefire, there is need to protect the civilian population and of course to address the legitimate demands of the Libyan people.

Let me also add that the West Asian region is of vital importance to India and we closely monitor developments there. We have about six million Indians who live in the Gulf region, and this region is also extremely important, crucially important for our energy security. We are concerned at the recent crisis in the Ivory Coast especially at the suffering of the Ivorian people due to the escalation of the hostilities. We have been of the view that the mandate of the people has to be respected in that country and we have been supportive of the efforts made by the African Union to resolve the crisis peacefully. We understand the position of France on the crisis in the Ivory Coast because of your historical linkages with that country and we appreciate deeply the assistance rendered by France in evacuation efforts particularly evacuation of the Indian nationals in that country including the Indian Embassy staff in Abidjan. The help and cooperation received from France under unusual and difficult circumstances reflects the friendship and understanding between our two countries.

In conclusion let me say that India's global role today is determined by the calculus of our national interest. Our national interest in ensuring the flow of capital, technology and innovation to further accelerate our economic growth; our conviction that inclusive structures of dialogue and cooperation to address the new dimensions of security threats are necessary; that the institutions of global governance including the United Nations should reflect current realities and that the dynamism and energy of the Indian economic growth story must be shared in our region; that to sustain our growth trajectory we need an environment that is free from trans-national threats like terrorism. And keeping all this in mind we have consciously sought to engage and develop partnerships with both our neighbours and also the major powers with a strategic aim of ensuring that the balance of interest thus created ensures that we are able to better deal with the challenges that confront us and so that we derive tangible political security and economic benefits as a result. In an Asia-centred century we would naturally wish to ensure a role for India that is commensurate with its size, its growing economic strength, its democratic stability and proven capacity to manage our enormous diversity, contribution to global peace and security and what we see as our justified quest for a greater voice in a multilateral system that is balanced, equitable and representative of new global realities.

Once again I would like to thank the French Institute of Foreign Relations for having invited me to speak here this evening.



**604. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao to Paris for India - France Foreign Office Consultations.**

**New Delhi, May 7, 2011.**

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao visited Paris on May 5-6, 2011 for the annual Foreign Office Consultations between the Government of India and Government of France held on 6 May, 2011 which were led on the French side by His Excellency, Mr. Pierre Sellal, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. In their discussions, the two sides reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations including strategic cooperation in key areas including civil nuclear energy, defence, space, trade and investment, education and science and technology and culture. There was also an exchange of views on the regional and international situation. The two sides also discussed the evolving situation in North Africa and the Middle East, in particular Libya and Syria.

The two sides affirmed their determination to work together in the United Nations Security Council to promote peace and stability and a greater voice to the developing world through reform of the Security Council. They also agreed to work closely on G-20 issues during France's Presidency of the G-20.

The discussions also gave an opportunity to look at further ways of strengthening the Strategic Partnership defined by the strong and future-oriented vision that was articulated during the visit of the President of France to India from 4-7 December, 2010.

During the visit, the Foreign Secretary met His Excellency, Mr. Jean-David Levitte, Diplomatic Advisor to the President and senior officials of the French Government and also addressed the Institut Francais des Relations Internationales (IFRI) on 5th May on the subject of 'India's Role in Global Affairs'.



**605. Statement of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna during Joint Press Interaction with French Foreign Minister.**

**New Delhi, October 20, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Minister Alain Juppe,

Distinguished representatives of the media from India and France,

It is indeed a great pleasure to welcome Minister Juppe to India. His visit is yet another reflection of the broadening bilateral engagement that characterizes our Strategic Partnership with France.

We have had very friendly, comprehensive and fruitful discussions today. We reviewed our cooperation in defence, space and civil nuclear energy, which are important pillars of our bilateral relations.

Our excellent bilateral relations with France are marked by mutual trust. We also have a good political understanding on a range of regional and global issues, of mutual interest.

The first Indo-French Joint Army Exercise 'SHAKTI' is currently underway in India at Chaubattia, focusing on Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism in mountainous environment. We have had useful interactions on the fight against piracy. We reiterated our commitment to continue to cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

We extend our congratulations to the scientists of both our countries on the successful launch of the Indo-French joint scientific satellite, Megha Tropiques, on 12th October. The satellite will provide important new data on the tropical atmosphere and will contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of the climate system. The international scientific community has been enthused by this project and we will be sharing information with other countries.

In the civil nuclear field, our Government remains committed to the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project. We are awaiting the completion of the French Review of Safety Aspects of EPR Design. Both sides are committed to ensuring the highest levels of safety in the project.

We have renewed our determination to achieve the trade target of 12 billion Euros by 2012. We have invited greater French investments in our infrastructure, food processing industries, hi-tech and green technologies.

In the field of Science and Technology and Education, our cooperation is progressing well. We welcome French collaboration in creating Centre of Excellences in the Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan.

We discussed the situation in our respective regions and agreed to continue this dialogue at all levels.

We welcome support from France for India's increasing role in world affairs. France has also been consistent in voicing support for India's permanent membership of the UNSC and inclusion in other international fora, including the multilateral export control regimes. We greatly appreciate this gesture from France. We share common views on a large number of regional and global issues.

France will host the next G 20 Summit in Cannes next month. We will continue to remain in close touch with France on matters of global concern, particularly the global economic recovery and reform of the international financial system.

The Joint Statement that we have issued indicates the broad direction in which our strategic partnership is headed.

I take this opportunity once again to extend a warm welcome to Minister Alain Juppe and his delegation and wish them a very pleasant stay in India.

I now invite Minister Alain Juppe to make his remarks.

Thank you.



**606. India-France Joint Statement issued on the visit of French Foreign Minister on Progress in “India-France Partnership for the Future”.**

**New Delhi, October 20, 2011.**

The External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India, Shri S.M. Krishna and the Senior Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic Mr. Alain Juppé met in New Delhi on 20 October 2011 and reviewed the progress on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest and importance “India-France: Partnership for the Future” adopted by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Nicolas Sarkozy on December 6, 2010.

Reaffirming that the India-France Strategic Partnership has been steadily strengthening and widening in scope, they agreed on a roadmap for its further development.

**Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation**

The two Ministers recalled the target set in December 2010 of increasing bilateral trade to 12 billion by 2012 and reiterated their commitment to achieving it. They also welcomed the increase in foreign direct investment flows in both directions and agreed to address the genuine concerns of investors.

India and France have identified energy efficiency, renewable energy, preservation of biodiversity, urban services and infrastructure as promising fields of cooperation. To that end, Agence Française de Développement financing could be of relevance.

**Space co-operation**

Minister Krishna and Minister Juppé welcomed the successful launch of Megha-Tropiques satellite, a joint contribution to the global scientific community engaged in research on climate and weather systems. The forthcoming launch of SARAL, a joint satellite to study sea surface altitude would be another milestone in space cooperation. India and France encouraged Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French National Space Agency (CNES) to pursue further cooperation in Earth System Science and Climate within the framework of the MoU signed in December 2010 and to explore new fields of cooperation in the future.

**Defence Cooperation**

India and France reaffirmed their continued interest in enhancing bilateral cooperation in Defence. They welcomed the success of the first joint exercise



between the two Armies (Shakti, ongoing in October 2011), as also the exercises between their Navies (Varuna in January 2011) and Air Forces (Garuda in 2010).

The two countries welcomed the finalisation of the project for modernisation of Indian Air Force's Mirage 2000 aircraft and noted ongoing efforts to finalise joint defence research and development programmes, namely the SRSAM and Kaveri programmes. They reiterated their desire to cooperate in other high technology programmes and projects in the defence sector in the future.

Both countries reaffirmed their interest in intensifying their cooperation in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia and other areas.

### **Civil Nuclear Cooperation**

India and France agreed to an early entry into force of the agreement on intellectual property rights on the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They recognized the importance of the highest levels of safety for nuclear power plants. They agreed to strengthen the cooperation between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India and the Autorité de Sureté Nucléaire of France, and their technical support organizations. They welcomed the progress in the discussions between AREVA and NPCIL, aiming at finalizing the contract on the construction of two EPR reactors at Jaitapur and look forward to its early implementation. Following India's enactment of civil nuclear liability legislation, both countries stand ready to further exchange views on this issue so as to ensure the appropriate framework for the sound development of their cooperation. They look forward to the conclusion of an agreement between ALSTOM, NPCIL and BHEL for supplying the Indian nuclear power program with the most recent technology for manufacturing turbo-generators

### **Education, Science & Technology**

The two Ministers agreed that both Governments will work together to encourage an increase in the flow of students and researchers in both directions. India and France will increase the number and academic level of exchange students. They share a long term ambition for bilateral cooperation at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Rajasthan. France will finance scholarships for Indian students at the PhD level, depute professors to IIT Rajasthan and substantially contribute to the establishment of Joint Centres of Excellence/ research laboratories in the next five years. India welcomes this bilateral cooperation project in the higher education sector.

**Culture**

The two Ministers applauded the success of the cultural festivals Bonjour India and Namaste France. They committed to bolstering exchanges in the fields of culture and heritage. They took note of the success of the International seminar on “Traditions of cultural liberalism in India & France” organized in Paris in June 2011. They welcomed the future opening of an Indian cultural centre in Paris and looked forward to the upcoming Tagore exhibition in Paris.

**Migration and consular issues**

India and France welcomed the recent negotiations for a Human Resource Mobility Partnership Agreement where progress was made on the essential aspects. They underlined the positive impact that this agreement will have on a global approach to comprehensive migration, based on the intensification of business opportunities, exchanges of students, researchers and young professionals and better tackling of irregular migration. They agreed to continue this discussion and resolved to conclude the Agreement as early as possible. They also agreed to reinforce the dialogue on consular issues.

**Regional and global challenges****Afghanistan**

India and France reaffirmed their solidarity with Afghanistan. They welcomed the will of the international community to remain committed after the 2014 transition, through bilateral and multilateral fora. Looking ahead to the Istanbul Conference of November 2, they welcomed the commitment of the region to work for a stable, peaceful, democratic and independent Afghanistan, achieved through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process. They called for the continued engagement of the international community and increased cooperation in the region to work towards a terror-free Afghanistan. This would be in the interest of Afghanistan, the region and the international community at large.

**Libya**

The two countries support the efforts of the National Transition Council representing the Libyan people as a whole, to establish democratic institutions in a free Libya, to promote human rights, and to rebuild their country after the sufferings they have endured.

**Middle East**

Minister Krishna and Minister Juppé exchanged views on issues related to the Middle East including the peace process and the situation in Syria and agreed to continue the dialogue at all levels.

**EU**

Minister Krishna and Minister Juppé reiterated their willingness to participate in the strengthening of the relationship between the European Union and India. They called for a successful India-EU summit in February 2012. They agreed that India and the EU should continue to work for the early conclusion of the negotiations for a mutually beneficial and balanced Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), which will lead to substantial increase in bilateral trade and investment flows

**Terrorism**

India and France have endeavoured to jointly fight international terrorism, a common threat. They reiterated their view that terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds or attributed to any root causes. They noted that the bilateral Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism had met in Paris in June 2011. The two sides agreed to further expand information exchange and enhance counterterrorism cooperation in areas of mutual concern. They resolved to continue their efforts for early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN.

**G20**

The two Ministers reaffirmed the role of the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. India fully supports the priorities put on the G20 agenda by the French presidency. India and France reiterated their commitment to working together in the G20, especially on global issues notably, addressing the Financial crisis, development including infrastructure and food security, social dimension, fight against corruption, innovative financing, commodity price volatility, reform of the international financial institutions and financial regulatory reforms. They are committed to make the G20 Summit in Cannes a success, and support the adoption of an ambitious action plan for growth.

**UN Reform**

France reaffirmed its support for India's accession as a permanent member of an enlarged UN Security Council. India and France are committed to reinforce their consultations at the UN on issues pertaining to international peace and stability.

**Non proliferation**

The two countries will intensify their cooperation on non-proliferation challenges, and will continue to work towards India's full membership to the four export control regimes.

### Climate Change

The two Ministers stressed their resolve to address the challenges posed by Climate Change, firmly based on the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the principle of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. They reaffirmed their commitment to work together for an equitable, balanced and comprehensive outcome to the upcoming 17th Conference of Parties at Durban, South Africa.



### GEORGIA

#### **607. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation with Georgia.**

**New Delhi, August 24, 2011.**

The Government of India today signed an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital (DTAA) with Government of Georgia. The Agreement was signed today by Mr. M.C.Joshi, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes(CBDT) on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Zurab Katchkatchishvili, Ambassador of Georgia to India on behalf of the Government of Georgia.

The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source state if the activities of an enterprise constitute a Permanent Establishment (PE) in the source state. The Agreement provides for fixed place PE, building site, construction & installation PE, service PE, insurance PE and agency PE. The Agreement incorporates para 2 in Article concerning Associated Enterprises. This would enhance recourse to Mutual Agreement Procedure to relieve double taxation in cases involving transfer pricing adjustments. Dividends, interest and royalties & fees for technical services income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. The low level of withholding rates of taxation for dividend (10%), interest (10%) and royalties & fees for technical services (10%) will promote greater investments, flow of technology and technical services between the two countries.

The Agreement incorporates provisions for effective exchange of information between tax authorities of the two countries in line with best international

standards, including exchange of banking information and supplying of information without recourse to domestic interest. The Agreement also provides for sharing of information to other agencies with the consent of supplying state.

The Agreement has an article on assistance in collection of taxes, including provision for taking measures of conservancy. The Agreement incorporates anti-abuse (limitation of benefits) provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement are availed of by the genuine residents of the two countries.

The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Georgia and will facilitate mutual economic cooperation between the two countries. It will also stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services between India and Georgia.



## GERMANY

### **608. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the creation of an ICCR Chair of 'Corporate Responsibility & Governance' at Leipzig Graduate School of Management.**

**New Delhi, March 31, 2011.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Leipzig Graduate School of Management (HHL), Leipzig, Germany has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of ICCR's Long- Term Chair of 'Corporate Responsibility & Governance' at HHL. Ambassador of India to Germany, Shri Sudhir Vyas signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR alongwith Prof. Dr. Arni Vilks, Rector; Dr. Judith Marquardt, Chancellor; Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Rector (Designate); and Dr. Axel Baisch, Chancellor (Designate) of HHL.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the HHL, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician to hold the Chair for a period of one year. During the period, the Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the HHL by engaging in teaching, research and mentoring. The Chair would commence from September 1st, 2011 and the MoU will remain valid till August, 2012.

This Chair is ICCR's seventh chair in Germany. These are 5 Rotating/Short-Term Chairs in various universities of Germany and a Long-Term Heinrich

Zimmer Chair of Indian Philosophy & Intellectual History at Ruprecht Karl's University of Heidelberg.

Establishment of this Chair is another major step in propagation of India related studies in Germany and thereby fulfilling ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural bonds and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



**609. Decision of the Jury of Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding presided over by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari to conferr the Award for the year 2009 on German Chancellor Angela Merkel.**

**New Delhi, May 9, 2011.**

The Jury of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding chaired by Hon'ble Vice-President of India Shri Mohmmad Hamid Ansari has decided to confer the Award for the year 2009 on Dr. (Mrs.) Angela Dorothea Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. By honouring Chancellor Markel with the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2009, India recognizes her personal devotion and enormous efforts for sustainable and equitable development, for good governance and understanding and for the creation of a world better positioned to handle the emerging challenges of the 21st century.

She has been sympathetic to developing countries and our own developmental imperatives and has led the search for a balanced solution based on principles of equity and sensitivity to the interests of the developing world.

The Award carries prize money of 1 crore (ten million) besides a trophy and citation.



**610. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary (EW) on the visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.**

**New Delhi, May 30, 2011.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash): A very good evening to you and welcome. Nice to see a full house! Let me first of all accord a very warm and special welcome to our media friends from Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos who are here with us for a two-week training programme. Please join me in giving them a big hand. They are in the good hands of Prof. Shrivastava, the Project Director of Indian Institute of Mass Communications. Prof. Shrivastava, you have been a great friend and mentor for a large number of our media friends from all over the world who have been coming here at our invite. I really thank you very much.

Friends, my colleague Joint Secretary (Europe West), Mr. Seetharam, needs no introduction. He and I would attempt to brief you on this forthcoming very important head of a very important delegation and would be departing on 1st of June. Her visit marks the sixtieth anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany. I may add that we were amongst the first countries in the world to accord recognition to FRG after World War II.

During her visit she will also be conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2009. This makes her the second German Head of Government to receive the prestigious award. Earlier in 1990 it was conferred on Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The award carries a prize money of Rs.10,000,000, a trophy and a citation.

Chancellor Merkel had paid a landmark state visit to India in October-November 2007 which had been preceded by the visit of our Prime Minister to Germany in April 2006. These two visits have put our relationship on a qualitatively higher pedestal.

Let me take you through the programme and the delegation. She arrives tomorrow and has a restricted meeting followed by delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister of India. The Chancellor and the Prime Minister thereafter meet with the Co-Chairs of the Indo-German Consultative Group. This is the group of industrialists. There is a signing of agreements, followed by a joint press conference. All these events take place at Hyderabad House. Next, the Prime Minister hosts a lunch for the visiting dignitary.

In the evening she calls on the President, Hon. Rashtrapatiiji, who presents the Jawaharlal Nehru Award to Chancellor Merkel. Thereafter she departs for Siri Fort Auditorium where she would witness a classical concert, featuring German

and Indian musicians, to mark the launch of the Year of Germany in India. In the evening, Prime Minister of India will host a private dinner in her honour. She leaves the day after tomorrow.

She would be accompanied by a high-power delegation that would include the State Secretary; the Federal Minister for Interior or the Home Minister; the Federal Minister for Defence; the Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs; the Federal Minister of Education and Research; the Federal Minister of Economics and Technology; Minister of State for the Federal Foreign Office - this is in addition to the Foreign Minister who met with the External Affairs Minister of India today, I will come to that later - the Federal Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; a number of Parliamentarians; senior officials; and a large business delegation.

We enjoy strategic partnership with Germany which was forged in 2001. In recent years the relationship has acquired greater depth and content and has truly become multifaceted. Way back in 2007, Germany identified India as one of the focus countries in Asia. Germany, an economic and technological powerhouse is not only our largest trading partner in Europe but also a very important source of high technology knowhow and skill development. Science and technological cooperation between the two countries is regarded as a vital pillar of our strategic partnership.

Another area which is gaining salience and become increasingly important is education, vocational training and infrastructure. I would like to clarify here that we are not seeking developmental assistance from Germany but indeed seeking their technological skills, their experience, their expertise and knowhow in establishing vocational training centres all across India.

We are both members of G20 which is now a premier forum for international economic cooperation. India and Germany have been consulting closely in the reforms of IFIs, in global governance structures, and in introduction of developmental agenda in the G20 process. India is keen and so is Germany to bring about greater equity and transparency in the global economic order.

India and Germany, along with Brazil and Japan, are G4 members. Germany and India are also nonpermanent members for the year 2011 and 2012. We enjoy a convergence of views on a host of issues, global, regional and of course bilateral between our two countries.

As I mentioned, Germany is one of our largest trading partners in the world and the largest trading partner in Europe. Bilateral trade grew a healthy 17 per cent in 2010 to cross 15.4 billion Euro. In the first few months of this year the trade has been growing at a healthier 25 per cent per annum and there is little doubt that we will easily attain the target of 20 billion Euro by 2012.



It is particularly of interest that in addition to our traditional goods like garments and textiles which we export to Germany, we are increasingly supplying engineering goods including electrical and electronic items, auto components and so on.

Germany is also the eighth largest investor in India with cumulative investments of 3.8 billion dollars between 1991 and 2010. Leading companies from Germany are present in India and the other way round.

We have a Joint Commission on industrial and economic cooperation led by the Finance Ministers which provides locomotion to our trade and economic ties. It has been meeting every two years very successfully, and the 17th session, was held in New Delhi last September.

Let me reiterate that technology transfer, vocational education and training are some of the sectors that we attach considerable importance to and there could be an important announcement in this regard during the visit.

Similarly, science and technological cooperation is one of the vital sectors and Germany is one of our leading and key partners in this area. Our cooperation dates back to 1971 and covers a wide spectrum of areas including biotechnology, aviation, geology, molecular physics, energy. Germany is renowned for its prowess in green and energy-efficient technologies and we have been benefiting from that, we have been cooperating with them and we are keen to work closely with Germany in this very important area because as you are aware energy security and self-sufficiency is one of the key priorities of the Government of India. We also have an Indo-German Science and Technological Centre which was set up in New Delhi in September 2008.

Let me breeze through some of the other important sectors, and we can come back to them if there is interest, which include defence, counterterrorism, strategic dialogue at the level of National Security Advisors who meet twice a year. The areas in addition to renewable energy that we are working closely together, include IT, biotechnology, the small and medium enterprises sector, infrastructure development and entertainment. In the energy sector particularly, we have been collaborating with our friends in areas like clean coal, wind energy, photovoltaic panels and some others.

The two sides have now decided to, although we have a very vast and effective institutional framework of dialogue, significantly upgrade the level and quality of our dialogue by going in for an Indo-German Inter-Governmental Dialogue. I would like to mention that this is a broad-based dialogue involving Ministers from two sides, which Germany has with very few of its partners. In Asia they have it with Israel and we are the second country in continental Asia with which

they are going to have a dialogue of this nature. The first round today happened between the Foreign Minister of Germany and the External Affairs Minister and tomorrow there will be meetings between the Ministers of Human Resource Development, Defence, Home. This is a one-to-one dialogue between our Home Minister with their Interior Minister, our Defence Minister with their Defence Minister, Transport Minister with theirs, and so on. So, we are expecting - I mentioned to you, that six Cabinet Ministers are traveling with Chancellor Merkel - each of them will be holding dialogue, discussions with their counterparts in India tomorrow. You can hence see the qualitative scaling up of the level of the dialogue and the breadth of the dialogue between the two countries.

Also to mark the 50th year of establishment of diplomatic relations, a Festival of Germany under the theme 'Urban Spaces' will be taking place in India this year and roll over to 2012. We expect a number of leading German companies to showcase their capabilities in innovation, technology as well as their expertise in urban infrastructure and planning. Days of India would be held in Germany in 2012 and 2013 and the show will be called 'Connecting Cultures' where we are similarly like to showcase the best of our rich cultural heritage including in dance, music, literature, fine arts and the others.

In sum, we are very pleased with the quality of relationship between the two countries which has been nurtured by a regular high-level exchanges and dialogue. I will not take you through the details but to just highlight some of the important visits that have taken place in the recent past, it includes the state visit of the then German President Dr. Kohler in February 2010; Prime Minister Dr. Singh has visited Germany thrice already, I mentioned April 2006 which was an official visit, he was next in Germany in June 2007 for the G8-O5 Summit; and in December last year he also paid a visit to Germany. He and Chancellor Merkel have also been meeting regularly on the margins of international fora. Dr. Guido Westerwelle the Foreign Minister was here in October for comprehensive talks with the EAM, and today he had a broad-based exchange of views with the External Affairs Minister preparatory to the visit of the German Chancellor.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the German Chancellor will hold in-depth consultations on bilateral issues to further consolidate our multifaceted ties. They will also have an exchange of views on regional and international matters or issues of common interest including perhaps the situation in our region, in the West Asia and North Africa and perhaps other areas and matters also. A number of agreements will be signed during the visit.

Let me pause here to invite questions which my colleague and I will be happy to take, as usual on the visit of the German Chancellor to India.

**Question:** Vishnu, you spoke of a strategic partnership and even the German side speaks a lot about strategic partnership; and you said that it has become multifaceted. Apart from the GSG 9 training the NSG commandos and the Eurofighter now being considered for purchase, in what way has Germany contributed to India's security specifically? Can you sort of flesh out the strategic relationship? Also you spoke of the Defence Minister coming tomorrow, you spoke of the NSA meetings scheduled twice a year and all that. Apart from that, just flesh it out please.

**Joint Secretary (Europe West) (Shri T.P. Seetharam):** It is a very broad-based relationship of which the economic content is significant considering that it is the largest trading partner in Europe. The economic relationship is not just one of trading but also investment. As you know, a large number of German companies in the power sector like Siemens, almost every major German company in the automobile sector is active in India. As we are all aware, there are great capabilities in the technological field and that is something which they are willing to share with us in terms of transfer of technologies. So, it is not just trading but joint production and joint manufacturing in areas which are quite wide. This is also very much part of the strategic partnership. Strategic partnership is not purely only in terms of defence or counterterrorism. On American sector, again there has been cooperation between the two sides which goes beyond merely procurement of equipment of one kind or the other. You mentioned some of the items which are under consideration but that is a process for which a decision has to be taken.

Counterterrorism is an area again because there are groups which are active in say Germany which may be interest to our people in terms of security here. So, there is an existing mechanism for exchange of information and cooperation in these fields which would also include training, as you mentioned, apart from operational cooperation at various levels. The strategic dialogue at the NSA level covers broader areas including international developments. Since we are both members of the Security Council - at the moment we are members of the Security Council for a two-year period naturally but that involves our consultations, more frequent and covering larger areas than we ever did earlier. The fact that we are both members of the G4 again means that considerable coordination in our efforts to further the interest of expansion in the permanent category in the Security Council is something that we would discuss.

So, it is a very broad-based cooperation. It is a strategic cooperation I would cover in areas like energy, the kind of technologies that have developed for renewable energy. You would have seen the news items today of their decision to put an end to reliance on nuclear energy, which means they have to do more in terms of renewables and new energy areas and that offers a significant

strategic cooperation between the two countries in terms of new and renewable energy sources. That is very strategic too. When you say strategic dialogue do not think only defence and counterterrorism.

**Question:** I wanted to ask you about the sudden change of views from them. Earlier they did not vote like India they did not go to the UNSC and then suddenly now they are all ... change. How do you see this sort of thing?

**Official Spokesperson:** Can I invite you tomorrow to the Joint Press Conference? Why do you not ask that question to the Germans? It will be slightly difficult for us to tell you how the Germans see it. I invite you, to pose that question tomorrow at the Joint Press Conference.

**Question:** Do you think that the question of IMF succession will also be raised during the discussion? What is the position of India on this?

**Official Spokesperson:** I cannot anticipate what would be discussed and what will not be discussed. But may I invite your attention to the response of the Prime Minister of India which is on our MEA website. He was interacting with the media on his return from Africa when this question was posed to him. And his take was basically that in today's world there is enough talent everywhere and it is in the common interest and in the interest of equity and transparency - I am not using the exact words of my Prime Minister but generally giving you a sense - the best talent should be holding a position, any important position in an IFI or structure of global governance because it affects everybody. I would certainly invite you to take a look at what the Prime Minister has said.

**Question:** You talked about renewable energy being a major aspect of your relationship as well. I am wondering whether you would like to engage with the Germans on civilian nuclear programmes as well. They halted their plans but there is much that India could learn from them.

**Joint Secretary (Europe West):** The Indian position regarding civil nuclear energy is slightly different from the German position and you are fully aware of that. So, we are looking for partners from all over the world. So, if any country has technology and is willing to share that with us particularly in terms of energy efficiency or energy security particularly in the context of nuclear energy, we would welcome that. But as you know, this is a very highly emotional issue now in Germany. So, we do not know if that would be something that they wish to discuss now. But the potential is always there.

**Official Spokesperson:** And let me remind you that Germany had supported the India-specific waiver at Vienna in September 2008 and we are working closely with them.

**Question:** Have you received any assurance of support for India's membership in the various nuclear clubs like NSG, or Australia Group or ... Official Spokesperson: We have already expressed our interest and desire to be part of those groups and we are working with our international partners to attain that objective.

**Question:** What about Germany? Have they assured?

**Official Spokesperson:** Ditto. It is also an international partner.

Thank you very much.

By the way, I should also just tell you that we also have in town the Egyptian Foreign Minister and today evening the External Affairs Minister will be holding delegation-level talks with the Foreign Minister of Egypt.

Thank you.



**611. Joint Press Interaction by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.**

**New Delhi, May 31, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to everybody and welcome to the Joint Press Interaction.

Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh will be making an opening statement to the media, and next the Chancellor of Germany Her Excellency Angela Merkel would be addressing the media. May I invite the Prime Minister of India to please make his opening statement?

**Prime Minister of India (Dr. Manmohan Singh):** Your Excellency Chancellor Angela Merkel; distinguished Ministers; and members of the German delegation; ladies and gentlemen of the media.

I extend a very warm welcome to Chancellor Angela Merkel and to the distinguished members of her delegation. We are honoured to receive the Chancellor on her second visit to India since 2007.

Chancellor Merkel's visit coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany. It is fitting that this should be so. Chancellor Merkel has been an ardent advocate of our

strategic partnership. I have always admired her leadership qualities and valued our partnership.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Chancellor Merkel on the conferment of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 2009.

India and Germany enjoy a very close and multi-faceted relationship. There is enormous goodwill in India for the people and culture of Germany. There is admiration and respect for the advances made by Germany in engineering and technological development. The passion for quality, hardwork and innovation of the German people is admired by the people of India.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and one of our most important partners for technological collaboration and joint research and development. It is also amongst the largest foreign investors in India. Our bilateral trade was more than 15 billion Euros last year, and is on course to reach the target of 20 billion Euros per year by 2012.

I have reiterated to the Chancellor our desire to have greater German investment in India, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, high technology, energy and basic and applied sciences. We wish to expand our production and R&D base and encourage more technology transfers.

India offers a stable and friendly investment climate and a large growing market. I welcome the progress that is being made on the issue of high technology exports from Germany to India. This will benefit both economies.

We have a lot to learn from Germany's experience in vocational training and skill development. I am happy that a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard has been signed today.

I am also very happy that agreements in science and technology and research have been signed between some of our institutions. These will encourage greater exchanges in areas such as biotechnology, nano-technology and material sciences.

Our discussions today covered views on the situation in West Asia and North Africa, including developments in Libya and how they impact on regional peace and stability. We reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and will continue our discussions on these matters. We both recognise that terrorism is a serious challenge that has to be fought on all fronts and not selectively.

As members of the G-4, we have agreed to keep in close touch on the issue of the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

I conveyed to Chancellor Merkel India's interest in a strong, prosperous and open Eurozone that contributes fully to the global economic recovery process, in which Germany is playing a pivotal role. We will continue to work together within the G-20.

All in all, I have had very useful and wide ranging discussions with Chancellor Merkel. I thank Chancellor Merkel for her initiative in holding the first Inter-Governmental Consultations with India during her current visit.

I look forward to working with Chancellor Merkel to further strengthen our strategic partnership.

I thank you.

**German Chancellor (Dr. Angela Merkel):** *(as per interpretation) Prime Minister; dear colleagues from both Cabinets; and ladies and gentlemen:*

*We are delighted to be guests here in India, this country that has enormous dynamism and where so many areas where you are trying to bring about solution to problems and forge ahead and promote development.*

*I am very pleased that we have been able to hold these first inter-governmental consultations between India and Germany. We had a very intensive discussion. We were able to see that there is already a very broad-based cooperation between our Ministries in foreign policy, in economics, in the environmental area, in education. After all education is one of the great challenges for India - educating, training young people and also shaping India into a science and research nation. There I think we have been able to put a lot of very interesting projects on tracks as could be seen by the sheer number of MoUs that were signed just now.*

*On the international stage, both internationally and nationally on international issues there is very good cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally and also in regard to the energy policy, not only the political situation ... (Inaudible)... together but also the ... (Inaudible)... finance a greatest photovoltaic plant in the world has contributed firmness to it. And I think particularly in the area of renewable energy there is still a lot of scope for further cooperation.*

*The Home Affairs Ministers and the Defence Ministers also had talks here so that our cooperation can be further enhanced because we face similar challenges - fight against terrorism on the one hand and on the other hand we are united in the wish that Afghanistan may become a state and take security matters in its own hands. India is very much committed to that and Germany very much so. In many areas we have also sent a military mission to Afghanistan to stabilize the country.*

*We have very close economic ties. The Prime Minister has just now outlined how dynamic this is. We would like to have 20 billion trade volume by 2012. We have reached 15 by now. We have growth rates of over 15 per cent. So, there is a very dynamic development there and still a lot remains to be done.*

*The Ministers that are responsible for Infrastructure and for Urban Development have yet again brought home to us what great potential there still is to build up roads, railways and also to build up waste management plants and so on. So, there is a lot of scope for further cooperation.*

*We are participating in a lot of very interesting economic projects. It is certainly not a secret that with the Eurofighter we made very good proposals and suggestions. Germany is very much interested in further intensifying its relationship with India.*

*I would like to use this opportunity to thank my Indian counterpart for the very good international cooperation we enjoy at a global level. We quite often, Prime Minister, also not only meeting in India and Germany but also at global meetings - G20 for example and other fora of this kind. Our Foreign Ministries do quite a lot to foster this relationship further. And in a global world I think we both share this conviction, we can only live well together if we abide by similar rules and if we truly define global rules in such a way that they are beneficial for the developed countries, for the industrialized countries, but also for those countries that still have a great potential for further growth.*

*Germany is very interested in seeing to it that India is its partner in forging ahead, to be at your side. You have a very long and proud tradition. We would like to support you in achieving the same degree of prosperity that we have been able to achieve in a spirit of partnership.*

*We are celebrating this year sixty years of diplomatic ties. I think that is a very good moment to show that we also have a very good future ahead of us. In many cities of India there are celebrations that are scheduled on the occasion of this year. Maybe this will drive home to other Indians what great potential we have for our mutual relations.*

*Thank you again for welcoming us... (Inaudible)...*

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Madam Chancellor.

The Prime Minister of India and the Chancellor will be happy to take two questions from each side. Please keep your questions brief and indicate to who the question is addressed to.

**Question (German media):** Mr. Prime Minister, to meet the growing need of energy for your country India is not only investing in renewable energies like



solar, wind but also in nuclear power. You are pursuing a very ambitious plan to increase your ability to produce energy from nuclear plants. Can you tell us if you see it as the future of nuclear energy for India? Can you give us an idea about the capacity you are aiming at?

*Madam Chancellor, how do you see the build up of nuclear energy here in India, in this country? And did you urge your partners, since Germany is now phasing out nuclear energy, that you would encourage your partners in India to follow along and follow in your footsteps so to speak?*

**Prime Minister of India:** Nuclear energy today accounts for only about three per cent of total energy generated in our system. As of now, our capacity is less than 5,000 MW. We want to raise it to about 20,000 MW by the year 2020. Thereafter there are some projections but no firm decisions have been taken. One thing which is quite clear is that if India is to meet its emission targets, then nuclear energy along with renewable sources of energy, is a combination which we need. We will make every effort to ensure that safety norms in generation and utilization of nuclear power are world class, but we must have the option to make use of the nuclear energy, together with the heavy reliance on coal which is inevitable for quite sometime to come in our country.

**German Chancellor (as per interpretation):** *I think it is up to each and every country to decide what energy mix it wishes to use to supply energy. We from the German side will see to it and champion also at an international level that safety standards for nuclear power plants are very good. We ourselves have said we want to phase our nuclear energy over a period of ten years. But for many many years we also had an energy mix in Germany in which nuclear power had its share. We are cooperating with India in many ways, and in renewables, and also I think we can do a lot to boost energy efficiency. If I understood the Environment Minister correctly, on the one hand you have the aim of building up renewables but also building up very efficient coal-fired power plants where the Germans are already working with you, and also building up photovoltaic plants. Over the next two years 20,000 MW are supposed to be generated which is about the volume that we still have generated by our nuclear power plants in Germany. So, building up a very broad-based energy mix with renewables here in India is a policy where we can obviously support you all along the way. I think what will be very important is to see to it that renewable energies can supply the base load for the grid and that put together with biomass and wind energy one can come to very good results.*

**Question (Indian Media):** I have a question for each of the leaders. I would like to ask Chancellor Merkel if she can confirm that Germany is in fact now mediating between leaders of the Taliban as well as the Afghan Government

in recent talks this month. And what, if any, is Germany's idea of India's role in Afghanistan even as it begins its pullout later this year?

I would like to ask Prime Minister Manmohan Singh if during your discussions you talked about who the next IMF Chief should be, and if there was any agreement on what the nationality or who that choice should be.

**German Chancellor (as per interpretation):** *I already said that India and Germany share the same goal, Afghanistan has to develop an independent security architecture, taking its security into its own hands because this is a better possible protection against the terrorist attacks. We in Germany are of the opinion and we said this very clearly that we do not think a military solution alone is an option. We need a networked security architecture. This is why Germany for example will host the next Afghanistan Conference by the end of this year. The Afghan President and my Government agreed on part and parcel of reconciliation in the country... (inaudible)... reconciliation of all the forces if they fulfill the conditions for example renouncing the use of force and other conditions of this nature. So, Afghanistan Conference too will have as its motto again the transition of responsibility but always under the provision that reconciliation in the country is obviously part and parcel of this. This will only be possible with the Afghan forces and not against the Afghan forces.*

**Prime Minister of India:** The question that Suhasini addressed to me relates to the next Managing Director of the IMF. Quite honestly we have not had a discussion on that subject. Our view is well-known that the best available person, regardless of his or her nationality, should be selected for such a prestigious post.

**Question (German media):** *A question addressed to the Chancellor. You spoke about discussing the Eurofighter. Chancellor, did you receive any positive messages from the Indian side? And very briefly, you came here on the flight that was a bit bumpy in the sense that you were not allowed overflight initially over Iran. Will this have international consequences?*

**German Chancellor (as per interpretation):** *On the second issue let me say I am very glad that I arrived safely here in India, everything has turned out excellently. We have been able to hold Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultation and that is the most important part of this.*

*On the other issue, we only mentioned the Eurofighter here, but obviously procurement procedures are very transparent here in India as they attempt to be the world over. We are convinced that we have the best product on offer as our competitors do too. We will certainly not exert any kind of influence on this process. We wish this to be a very transparent process and a smooth one. We are aware of the fact that we have a good product and we shall wait and see.*

**Question (Indian Media):** Dr. Merkel, Germany is now speaking of an interim solution for the UN Security Council permanent seats. Is that a departure from the G4 consensus? And what does Dr. Singh think about it and what is India's position on this?

**German Chancellor (as per interpretation):** *First I should say that Germany still holds the view that we all at G4 do canvas for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. I think the good thing is that something happens at all because the structural reform is obviously very necessary. And it is very good that Germany and India currently can work from their non permanent seats in the Security Council together on this. And we are actually aligning our policies as to how we can bring about reform. There is one thing that we would say that the current format and composition of the Security Council no longer reflects the current state of affairs. It still harks back to the days after the World War II. So, I think we should focus our energies and our capacity for speeding up this process which after all has already started a long time ago. Maybe together we can bring something about.*

**Prime Minister of India:** The Chancellor has given a reply with which I am in agreement. Germany and India are members of the G4. We have been arguing for a long time that the global system, particularly the composition of the Security Council and its methods of working, need to be brought up to date in line with the contemporary realities because the world of 1945 is a world which is no longer existing and the new realities of the global scene have to be taken into account in looking at the reform of the structures of global governance. India and Germany have been partners in this exercise. I sincerely hope that this partnership will persist, that it will yield positive results.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you, Sir.

This brings the media event to a close. Thank you for your presence.

(Text in italics was spoken in German and is official interpreter's version on the floor)



## 612. Agreements signed during the visit of the Chancellor of Germany.

New Delhi, May 31, 2011.

Sl. No.	Name of the MOU/ Agreement	German Signatory	Indian Signatory
1.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Vocational Education and Training Between the two countries	<b>H.E. DR. ANNETTE SCHAVAN</b> Federal Minister of Education and Research	<b>SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE</b> Hon'ble Minister of Labour & Employment
2.	Memorandum of Understanding on Research Cooperation Council of Medical Research between Indian and Helmholtz Association of National Research Centers	<b>PROF. DIRK HEINZ</b> Scientific Director, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research	<b>DR. V. M. KATOCH</b> Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
3.	Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Science & Technology and Leibnitz Association for Organizing indo-German Symposia on Frontiers of Science & Technology	<b>DR. KARL ULRICH MAYER</b> President, Leibnitz Association	<b>DR. T. RAMASAMI</b> Secretary, Department of Science & Technology
4.	Cooperation Agreement between Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India and Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany	<b>DR. HELMUT DOSCH</b> Chairman, Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron & <b>MR. CHRISTIAN SCHERF</b> Director of Administration, Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron	<b>PROF. MILAN K. SANYAL</b> Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics & <b>SHRI V.V. MALLIKARJUNA RAO</b> Registrar, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics

New Delhi  
May 31, 2011



**HUNGARY****613. Call by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.****Budapest, June 8, 2011.**

External Affairs Minister Shri S M Krishna visited Hungary from June 5-7, 2011 to attend ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting. During his visit he also met Prime Minister of Hungary Mr. Viktor Orban on June 7, 2011 to discuss Indo-Hungarian bilateral relations. The Meeting was characterized by warmth and goodwill reflecting the excellent bilateral ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban expressed keen desire for intensification of economic engagement with India. He also informed EAM of his intention to pay a bilateral visit to India at an early date. Highlighting the need for regular high level dialogue, he renewed the invitations extended by Hungary to Indian leaders to visit Hungary on mutually convenient dates.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Viktor Orban also reiterated Hungary's unequivocal support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council.

EAM reciprocated India's keen desire to intensify Indo-Hungarian bilateral ties and stated that Prime Minister's proposed visit to India will provide further impetus to our growing bilateral ties.



**ICELAND****614. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Minister of Iceland Ossur Skarphedinsson.****New Delhi, May 3, 2011**

Foreign Minister of Iceland, H.E. Dr. Ossur Skarphedinsson visited India from 25 April – 3 May 2011.

External Affairs Minister, Shri S M Krishna met the Foreign Minister of Iceland on 26 April. The two sides discussed issues related to bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues of common concern. The two Foreign Ministers noted that the 40% increase in our bilateral trade between 2009 and 2010 (valued at US\$ 41 million) is a heartening development but there was still many untapped opportunities for the business communities in the two countries to explore. The two Ministers agreed that bilateral cooperation in the area of geothermal energy held enormous potential and should be promoted. Fisheries was identified as another area of fruitful collaboration.

During discussions regarding the need for reform of the UN Security Council, the visiting dignitary reiterated Iceland's strong support for India's permanent membership in an expanded Security Council. A warm invitation was extended to EAM to visit Iceland.

On 25 April, 2011, Foreign Minister Skarphedinsson met Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the area of Climate Change and Green Energy. He also met Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Minister of Tourism to discuss the potential of tourism cooperation between the two countries.

Besides Delhi, the Foreign Minister of Iceland also visited Jammu and Kashmir (Leh and Srinagar), where he held meetings with the Minister of New and Renewable Energy of Government of India, Dr. Farookh Abdullah and Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah and also discussed cooperation in the area of renewable energy to exploit the State's potential for mini hydro power projects and geothermal energy.

The Foreign Minister of Iceland also visited Agra and traveled to Mumbai where he inaugurated the Honorary Consulate of Iceland and met Shri Murli Deora, Minister for Corporate Affairs on 30 April 2011.

This was the first visit by the Foreign Minister of Iceland to India and comes after the successful visit of President Grímsson of Iceland to India in January 2010 and the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur to Iceland in September 2010.



**IRELAND****615. Speech by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at Unveiling of Tagore's bust at St.Stephen's Green.****Dublin, October 17, 2011.***Tanaiste,*

Friends of India

It is wonderful to be here at this historic venue, to celebrate one of the many historical connections that our two countries share and cherish. I thank the Tanaiste for taking the time from his busy schedule to honour a noted Indian poet-philosopher and for inviting me to join him in this function. The statue of Rabindranath Tagore in St Stephen's Green that we unveiled today is not only a tribute to him; it is also a monument to India-Ireland friendship.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, whose 150th birth Anniversary we mark this year, had unique links with Ireland through his connections with fellow noble laureate William Butler Yeats.

The event today is a companion piece to the inauguration of the Eamon de Valera Road in New Delhi's Diplomatic Enclave on St Patrick's Day 2007. De Valera's friendship with our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru linked between our two nationalist movements. A part of the Indian Constitution – the Directive Principles of State Policy – is drawn almost entirely from the Irish Constitution. These are only two strands of the India-Ireland association over the 19th and 20th centuries – an association whose intensity and diversity defied the geographical distance between our two countries and our relative sizes.

Today, we are adding new strands to the tapestry of the India-Ireland relationship through interactions in culture, trade, investment, education and tourism. There have been encouraging partnerships between our scientific and research organizations, which promise much more.

The Indian community in Ireland has been a valuable catalyst in the recent transformation of the India-Ireland relationship and has also played an important role in the various Tagore Anniversary events for which our function today is a curtain-raiser.

I believe that the Tagore Anniversary celebrations in Ireland – the launch of Stray Birds, the symposia, films and cultural shows will reignite the fervour

of our many shared experiences of the past and reinvigorate our collaboration in the future.

To put it in the words of the Nobel Laureate himself,

“Once we dreamt that we were strangers.

We wake up to find that we were dear to each other.”

Thank you



## ITALY

### **616. Meeting between Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma and Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini.**

**Rome, February, 1, 2011.**

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, met the Italian Foreign Minister, Mr. Franco Frattini, in Rome today and discussed bilateral relations and economic cooperation. During the meeting, Shri Sharma raised the issue of simplification of visa procedures for business leaders and professionals. In a significant development, the Foreign Minister of Italy assured Shri Sharma that major simplification will be made in the visa regime for business, students & researchers and official/diplomatic passport holders. He said that, in the new Schengen visa regime, flexibilities provided for the national visa regime will be explored fully to see for long term multiple entry visas for up to 3 years for these categories. He further said that he will also explore the possibility of using the certification from Industry Chambers from both the countries to certify the credentials for business visa.

In the bilateral meeting, Shri Sharma has informed that following the contraction of bilateral trade in 2009 as a result of the global economic downturn, the volume of trade has registered a healthy rebound, growing at over 25% during the first three quarters of 2010. "This is a positive trend and we look forward to working with the Italian side to build up on it. We could work towards a target of doubling our bilateral trade to • 12 billion (\$ 17.5 billion) in the next five years", Shri Sharma said.

Shri Sharma mentioned his counterpart that there is good scope for cooperation in sectors such as food processing, renewable energy, infrastructure and high



technology and Italian industries can capitalise on their technical expertise and experience with the cost-effective production and the talent pool of human resource available in India to engage in mutually-beneficial partnerships.

During the interaction, Shri Sharma said: "We look forward to high level exchanges between our two countries since we believe these would contribute to deepening our ties and render our engagement comprehensive and forward looking". He further informed that economic and commercial ties are an important facet of our bilateral relations and we want to see these develop to their full potential. "We look forward to Italian companies participating in India's growth story and utilizing more fully the opportunities which are offered", he added.

In a meeting with Mr. Paolo Romani, Italian Minister for Economic Development, in Rome yesterday, Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, has emphasised the need for closer cooperation in the field of infrastructure and highlighted 10 areas for furthering the cooperation viz., infrastructure, manufacturing, design & innovation, ICT, leather, textile, agro-processing, pharma, tourism, training and automobiles. Shri Sharma and his counterpart agreed to form a Joint Business Council (JBC) managed by FICCI from India and CONFINDUSTRIA from Italy. The JBC will meet once a year coinciding with the bilateral ministerial meeting.

On cooperation in the leather industry, Shri Sharma emphasized that this is important labour-intensive sector and added that, Italy has already good presence there and India is keenly interested in upgrading technology and skills. Both sides agreed to hold 'Leather Show' at Milan next year. Both the Ministers discussed about the importance of SMEs and agreed that training in this sector is important area and very soon industry chambers of both the countries will organise workshops and seminars on SMEs. Recognising the Italian strength in design, both the Ministers agreed for linkages between Italian Design Institute and National Institute of Design in India.

Shri Sharma will be travelling to Milan and he will be participating in a Workshop on 'Italian Design' tomorrow. Representatives from trade associations, design schools, universities and major companies would be attending. He will also be meeting the President of Lombardia Region, Mr. Formigoni.

India-Italy bilateral trade touched US \$ 7.36 billion during January - November 2010 as compared to US \$ 6.75 billion in 2009. Italy ranks 12th in FDI approvals during April, 2000 to November, 2010 and total FDI inflows from Italy are US \$ 0.92 billion during this period.



**LITHUANIA****617. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on ICCR setting up Chair of Indian Studies at MYKOLAS University in Lithuania.****New Delhi, February 1, 2011.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on January 31st, 2011 for establishment of ICCR's Chair of Indian Studies at the Institute of Humanities at the University. Ambassador of India to Warsaw, Shri Deepak Vohra signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR along with Prof. Alvydas Pumputis, Rector, Mykolas Romeris University. The signing ceremony was also attended by Ms. Dangute Mikutiene, Chairman, Siemas Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with India, Ms. Diana Mickeviciene, Director of the Department of America, Asia, Africa & Pacific of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other officials of the University.

Under the terms of the agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the Mykolas Romeris University, shall appoint an Indian academician who would be visiting the University for a period of two years. The Indian academician would lecture on issues of India's economy and politics. The Chair would commence from September 2011 and the MoU would remain valid for four years till 2015.

This Chair is the first ever Chair of Indian Studies in any of the Universities in Lithuania and can be considered as a first step in propagation of India related studies in Lithuania, thereby, fulfilling ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural bonds and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



**618. Address by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Mykolas Romeris University Vilnius on India in the 21st Century.**

**Vilnius (Lithuania), March 30, 2011.**

Dr. Alvydas Pumputis, Rector of Mykolas Romeris University, Ambassador Deepak Vohra, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

*LABA DIENNA!*

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to Dr Pumputis and Mykolas Romeris University for giving me this opportunity to share some thoughts about India. I am honoured to be here.

Though relatively young - Mykolas Romeris University has achieved much since its establishment in 2004. It enjoys full membership of the International Association of Universities and the European Association for International Education as well as several other international bodies. It has earned a solid reputation as a modern and dynamic university and we appreciate the initiative it has taken to establish a long term chair of Indian Studies expected to be operational by September 2011.

India is not new to the people of Lithuania. Lithuanian is widely acknowledged to be the Indo-European language grammatically closest to Sanskrit. This implies ancient linguistic and cultural links between our two countries. 'Dievas', the name of God in Lithuanian is very similar to the Sanskrit word 'Deva'. In more recent times, the first direct knowledge about India reached Lithuania through Lithuanian Christian missionaries who first went to India in the 16th century.

I am told that one of the prominent Lithuanian philosophers and ideologists of the 19th-20th centuries national movement, the theosophist Vydunas, was extremely interested in Indian philosophy. He even created his own philosophical system closely based on the Vedanta. More recently, thirteen Hymns of the Rig Veda, one of India's most ancient texts, have been translated into the Lithuanian language by Professor Ricardo Mironas.

The title of the book by Lithuanian Indologist Vytautas Narvilas "Distant, yet very close" is indeed an apt description of our two countries and the chair of Indian studies at Mykolas Romeris University will ensure that even in the 21st century, the mutual interest which has drawn our people towards each other over the past continues to grow and strengthen in the future.

Before India gained independence, the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi often used to quote our Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore and say "I

would let the winds of the world blow through the doors and windows of my house but I will not be blown away."

These words described the spirit of India and Indians then; and they do so even more today. 21st Century is the age of globalization, it is the age of technology, it is the age of communication, and it is the age of change. India is open to all these dynamic forces. Indeed it has embraced them. Yet, it adheres to some unchanging values and attributes.

First and foremost among them is democracy. Probably the most-repeated description of India is that it is the world's largest democracy. You would have heard this on countless occasions. But this very fact is so fundamental to India's existence, progress and its international role that it merits all the attention and reiteration.

The person after whom your University is named was the father of Lithuania's interwar Constitutional Law. Last year we celebrated our own Constitution's sixtieth anniversary. The Constitution is the foundation of our democratic system and has proved to be flexible enough to accommodate the many changes that India has seen over the last six decades. Through constitutional amendments, we have been able to foster changes like the steady empowering of women, creating a grass-roots structure of political democracy by using the traditional village councils called panchayats and providing equity for the most socially disadvantaged.

Another equally vital, defining value of India, preserved and protected by the Constitution, is its multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic character. 'Unity in Diversity' is our mantra. It will remain so in the 21st Century.

The other attribute of modern India is the success and sustainability of our economic reforms and growth. Initiated in 1991, these reforms have created the close to two trillion-dollar Indian economy, which is today the second fastest growing major economy in the world. India has demonstrated that it is possible to build democracy and development together. India's GDP growth during the current financial year is expected to touch 9%. India today ranks as the world's fourth-largest economy (in purchasing power parity terms) and is an important player in the Group of 20 (G20) economies.

However, I must point out that the story of an economically vibrant India is not something of recent origin. The wealth of India was the stuff of commercial folklore in the 16th and 17th centuries. It was this wealth that attracted successive waves of traders and conquerors. In the period between 1500 and 1700 when Europe was just waking up to Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution, India accounted for about a quarter of the world's output. Its decline dates from its colonization in the 19th century.

The Indian economy broke free definitively from the low 'Hindu Growth rate' of 3-3.5% after the reforms and liberalization that began in the last decade of the 20th Century. The chief architect of those reforms was Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, who was then the Finance Minister. He lowered tariffs and other trade barriers, scrapped industrial licensing, reduced tax rates, devalued the rupee, opened India to foreign investment, and rolled back currency controls. Many of these measures were gradual, but they signaled a decisive break with the past. Observers sometimes said that the pace of reforms could have been faster. However, as a democracy, the Government took the time to build a consensus before bringing changes. This has made the process irreversible - slow but sure.

Since the economy was opened up in 1991, India has improved its competitiveness tremendously: there has been a telecommunications revolution, interest rates have come down, capital is plentiful, highways and ports have improved, and real estate markets are becoming transparent. More than 100 Indian companies now have a market capitalization of over a billion dollars, and some of these have become global brands.

In the past two decades, the size of the Indian middle class has quadrupled and 1 percent of the country's poor have crossed the poverty line every year. At the same time, population growth has slowed to about 1.7 percent today - thereby ensuring that growth has brought larger per capita income gains.

The notable thing about India's rise in the 21st century is not that it is new, but that its path has been unique. Rather than following the classic Asian strategy -- exporting labor-intensive, low-priced manufactured goods to the West -- India has relied on its domestic market more than exports, consumption more than investment, services more than industry, and high-tech more than low-skilled manufacturing. In sum, it has not been the typical pattern of economic growth, from agrarian-to-industrialized-to-services economy. Instead, India's economic development has been driven by a technologically-advanced services sector, innovation, education and free markets. This approach has meant that the Indian economy has shown a degree of stability that is as impressive as the rate of its expansion.

Another remarkable feature is that the entrepreneur is clearly at the centre of India's success story. Indian entrepreneurs claim that they are hardier because they have had to fight not only their competitors but also the state regulations of early years!

A recent development is the new confidence of Indian manufacturing. The world's lowest cost car was conceptualized, engineered and manufactured in India. So, while services still grow faster than industry and account for about

54% of the output, manufacturing is getting only better - in volume and in sophistication.

Looking ahead, there are strong grounds for optimism about India's economic prosperity in the long-term. India's financial institutions are strong and its tradition of adherence to the rule of law will attract more economic activity in the future. India's banking system has proven itself to be a model of stability during the recent global recession.

What's more, while it is an ancient civilization, India today is a predominantly young country. One of the biggest advantages that India enjoys is what has been termed the "Demographic Dividend," as it continues its march into the 21st century. Half of India's population is under 25 years old. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, speaking of the dawn of the 'Indian Century,' said that 'it is in India's superb human capital that our advantage lies.' By 2020, 47% of Indians will be between 15 and 59 years. Astoundingly, over the next two decades, India will add about a quarter of a billion workers to its labor force - a figure that nearly approximates the entire current US population. As a result, by 2020 India will provide 25 percent of the global workforce - and have a huge domestic consumption market. India's edge is even more apparent when compared to long-term demographic trends under way in today's major global powers, most of which will experience significant declines in their working-age populations.

Out of the Fortune 500 companies, 125 now have research and development bases in India -- a testament to the quality of India's human capital.

However, India is conscious that the growth we have achieved thus far is not enough. To abolish poverty in India and to meet our development needs, we need to keep our economy growing at 8-10% every year for the next 20 years. As the literacy levels of our largely young population go up, we will have to ensure that their employment needs are also met which means that we require a rapidly expanding economy and the infrastructural growth of our cities and manufacturing sectors, so that we can reap the advantage of this demographic dividend for our economic growth.

I hope I have given you a sense of India in the 21st Century. Let me conclude with a brief word about the priorities of our foreign policy in this century. The foremost goal of our foreign policy is to provide a peaceful and secure environment for our continued growth. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that the international institutions that are responsible for global peace, security, and socio-economic development, in which India participates willingly and substantially, mirror the democratic ethos that we all cherish.

Our experience of working within the United Nations since its inception has convinced us that there is urgent need to reform the United Nations, especially

its Security Council, which is responsible for international peace and security. The current composition of the Security Council does not, in the view of the majority of the member-countries of the United Nations, reflect the global realities of the 21st century. India aspires to become a permanent member of the reformed UN Security Council, so that it can contribute most effectively to our common objective of preserving international peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, many say that the centre of gravity of the global economy has shifted to Asia in the 21st Century and have begun to call it "Asia's Century". Just a decade into the century, this may be a little premature. However, what is beyond any doubt is that it is a Century of Interdependence; a time where fortunes of all nations are linked together. In this inter-connected age, India stands totally committed to moving towards the imperatives of peace and inclusive development, within and outside its boundaries so that we can together create a safer and more prosperous world for all.

Thank you



**619. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on the signing of Agreement and Protocol for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Lithuania.**

**New Delhi, July 26, 2011.**

The Government of India today signed an Agreement and Protocol for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital (DTAA) with Government of Lithuania. The Agreement and the Protocol were signed by Shri Prakash Chandra, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes, on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Petras Simeliunas, Ambassador, Republic of Lithuania to India, on behalf of the Government of Lithuania. Lithuania is the first Baltic country with which DTAA has been signed by India.

The DTAA provides that business profits will be taxable in the source state if the activities of an enterprise constitute a permanent establishment (PE) in the source state. The Agreement provides for fixed place PE, building site, construction & installation PE, service PE, Off-shore exploration / exploitation PE and agency PE.

The Agreement incorporate para 2 in Article concerning Associated Enterprises. This would enhance recourse to Mutual Agreement Procedure to relieve double taxation in cases involving transfer pricing adjustments.

Dividends, interest and royalties & fees for technical services income will be taxed both in the country of residence and in the country of source. The low level of withholding rates of taxation for dividend (5% & 15%), interest (10%) and royalties & fees for technical services (10%) will promote greater investments, flow of technology and technical services between the two countries.

The Agreement further incorporates provisions for effective exchange of information between tax authorities of the two countries in line with latest international standard, including exchange of banking information and supplying of information without recourse to domestic interest. Further, the Agreement provides for sharing of information to other agencies with the consent of supplying state.

The Agreement also has an article on assistance in collection of taxes. This article also includes provision for taking measures of conservancy. The Agreement incorporates anti-abuse (limitation of benefits) provisions to ensure that the benefits of the Agreement are availed of by the genuine residents of the two countries.

The Agreement will provide tax stability to the residents of India and Lithuania and will facilitate mutual economic cooperation between the two countries. It will also stimulate the flow of investment, technology and services between India and Lithuania.





**NETHERLAND****620. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Foreign Minister of Netherlands.****New Delhi, July 5, 2011.**

At the invitation of External Affairs Minister (EAM), Minister of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands, Prof. Dr. Uri Rosenthal, is on an official visit to India from 4th to 6th July 2011.

A founding member of EU and NATO, Netherlands is one of the most developed countries and the 16th largest economy globally. The Hague has arguably come to be regarded as the legal capital of the world. With over Euro 5 billion in bilateral trade which is in India's favour, Netherlands is among India's key economic partners. People of Indian origin comprise more than 1% of the country's population.

EAM had extensive discussions on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues with his Dutch counterpart. It was noted that both countries shared a number of common interests and values. Prof. Dr. Rosenthal hailed India as the oldest democracy of Asia. The sides agreed to redouble efforts to enhance trade and economic ties. Prof. Dr. Rosenthal welcomed the decision of SBI to open a branch in Netherlands. EAM conveyed that India would be setting up an Indian Cultural Centre in Netherlands in the near future.

Prof. Dr. Rosenthal expressed Netherlands' support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council, besides also endorsing efforts of G4 towards the said objective.

The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, West Asia and North African region, global financial architecture as well as UN reforms. Prof. Dr. Rosenthal invited EAM to pay an official visit to Netherlands at a mutually convenient early date which was accepted with pleasure.



**NORWAY****621. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs condemning senseless acts of violence in Norway.****New Delhi, July 2011.**

We are shocked and saddened by the attacks in Oslo and Utoya on 22 July 2011, which have led to loss of so many innocent lives and injuries to scores other. We condemn these senseless acts of violence. The government and people of India stand with the people and the Government of Norway at this tragic juncture.

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In a separate message the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh too condemned this ghastly act:

The Prime Minister has condemned the Oslo violence saying that it was a grim reminder of the threat that extremist violence posed to open and democratic societies. In a letter to Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway Dr. Manmohan Singh condoled the loss of lives in the violence and said there was a need for all to unite in combating all forms of extremism.



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A suspected right-wing fanatic killed at least 92 people in an atrocious act and a worst attack of nation since World War Two.

**POLAND****622. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the ICCR establishing a Tamil Chair at the Institute of Oriental Philology, Jagiellonian University, Crakow, Poland.****New Delhi, May 18, 2011.**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Institute of Oriental Philology, Jagiellonian University, Crakow, Poland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 17th, 2011 for establishment of ICCR's Long-Term Tamil Chair in the University. Ambassador of India to Poland, Shri Deepak Vohra signed the MoU on behalf of ICCR alongwith Prof. Michal du Vall, Vice Rector of Human Resources & Financial Management, Jagiellonian University.

Under the terms of agreement, ICCR, in consultation with the University, shall appoint a suitable Indian academician as Visiting Professor of Tamil to hold the Tamil Chair for a period of two years. During the period, the Visiting Professor would contribute to the academic life of the University by engaging in teaching, research and study of Tamil language. The Chair would commence from September 2011 and the MoU will remain valid for 4 academic years till 2015.

Jagiellonian University is the second oldest university to be founded in Central Europe and has an active Institute of Oriental Philology. Among various departments of the institute, Indology has the longest history of existence. Lectures in Sanskrit were started in the University in the sixties of the 19th Century and soon in 1893 a regular Chair for Sanskrit was established here. The modern Department of Indology offers education in civilizations, cultures and languages including Sanskrit and Hindi. This makes the Institute of Philology, an ideal place to institute ICCR's Tamil Chair.

ICCR has two Chairs in Poland- one on Hindi and another on Tamil in Warsaw University. This Chair is ICCR's third Chair in Poland. Establishment of this Chair is a another major step in propagation of Indian languages in Poland as well as in Central Europe and thereby fulfilling ICCR's larger mandate of fostering and strengthening academic and cultural links and towards enhancing knowledge and awareness about India.



**623. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the official visit of Polish Foreign Minister.**

**New Delhi, July 12, 2011.**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, H.E. Mr. Radoslaw Sikroski, is on an official visit to India from 11-12 July 2011. This is his first visit to a country outside Europe after Poland assumed Presidency of EU on 1st July, 2011. It became a member of EU in 2004 and of NATO in 1999.

Poland's relations with India are rooted in history and have traditionally been characterized by goodwill and cooperation. Last September, the Prime Minister of Poland, H.E. Donald Tusk, had paid a highly successful visit to India, which had re-energized the bilateral ties.

India and Poland enjoy a multifaceted mutually beneficial relationship and have a similarity of outlook on a host of matters of common interest. Poland has consistently supported India's aspirations for permanent membership of UNSC. She also endorsed our candidature for the non-permanent seat at UNSC for 2011-2012.

EAM congratulated Foreign Minister Sikorski on Poland's taking over the Presidency of the EU on July 1, 2011, and observed that Poland's active role in EU had added a valuable dimension to the bilateral ties.

EAM had in depth discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues with his Polish counterpart. It was agreed that an Agreement for visa exemption for diplomatic passport holder would be concluded at the earliest. Efforts would be made to speed up negotiations of all other pending agreements as well.

Relations between India and Poland encompass cooperation in areas like Trade and Investment, Energy, Science & Technology, Culture, Security and Defence. The two Ministers agreed to expand and deepen the broad-based bilateral cooperation including people-to-people exchanges.

India's exports to Poland increased 40 % to cross \$ one billion in 2010 taking bilateral trade to an all time high of \$ 1.4 billion. During the visit of Prime Minister Tusk in September 2010, both sides had agreed to double the trade volume by 2014, a target which seems to be well within sight. Over 20 Indian companies have already invested more than USD 2.25 billion in Poland in a number of sectors. Foreign Minister Sikorski stated that Poland was keen on enhancing its investment in India and welcomed Indian businessmen and skilled workers to Poland.

Views were also exchanged on Counter Terrorism as well as on the situation in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central Asia, West Asia and North Africa and the EU.

Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikroski invited EAM to pay a visit to Poland at an early mutually convenient date. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.



## **RUSSIA**

### **624. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Russian President Dimitry A. Medvedev condemning terrorist attack at Moscow Airport.**

**New Delhi, January 25, 2011.**

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, in a message today to the President of the Russian Federation H.E. Dimitry A. Medvedev, expressed his deep anguish and condemnation of the terrorist attack at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport\*. He conveyed his condolences at the loss of lives in the tragic incident. PM observed that 'Terrorism is a crime against humanity for which there can never be any justification'. He also stressed that "India and Russia must continue to work together to combat the evil forces of violence and extremism."



### **625. Briefing by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on Prime Minister's meetings with Chinese and Russian Presidents.**

**Sanya (China), April 13, 2011.**

Please see Document No.349.



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\* It was a suicide attack at Domodedovo airport in which 35 people were killed and 180 wounded.

**626. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the Review of India – Russia Inter – Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation.**

**New Delhi, October 5, 2011.**

In a spirit of a cooperation and understanding, India and Russia held their annual meeting to review the defence ties in Moscow on Tuesday (04 Oct 2011) and expressed 'readiness to take all necessary measures to further expand the cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis'.

In a Protocol signed after the Eleventh meeting of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical, co-chaired by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and his Russian counterpart Mr AE Serdyukov, the two sides noted with satisfaction that that during the period under review various diligent steps have been taken 'to deepen interaction in the development of defence technologies, modernization of military equipment and joint manufacture of military-purpose products'.

'Such cooperation involves the strengthening of interactions between the Armed Forces, defense industry enterprises and research agencies of the two countries', the Protocol noted.

Visibly happy at the outcome, Shri Antony told a group of Indian journalists shortly after the talks: "Distinct improvements have taken place in the pace of progress of many critical projects in the last one year. We value our friendship a great deal. Together we would like to consolidate our relationship and take it forward".

At the talks, the Indian delegation included the Defence Secretary Shri Shashikant Sharma, Secretary Defence Production Shri Shekhar Aggarwal, Indian Ambassador Shri Ajai Malhotra, Lt Gen MS Buttar, Air Marshal RK Sharma, Vice Admiral NN Kumar, Chief Controller of Research & Development of DRDO Dr. Avinash Chander, CMD Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Shri Ashok Nayak and DG Acquisition Shri Vivek Rae.

Speaking at the meeting, Shri Antony said India-Russia defence relationship has grown both in content and scope over the years. He said India highly values the time tested, strong and multi- faceted relationship with Russia.

'There is a strong impulse, both at the level of the Government and among the people of India to further strengthen our special strategic partnership which is based on mutual trust and complimentarity of interests. The world in general and our region in particular, are witnessing significant developments which

have an impact on regional and global security. In the evolving scenario, the special strategic partnership between our two countries assumes even greater significance. Both our countries must continue to strengthen our joint efforts to address these challenges'.

Listing some of the projects where both sides have put in years of effort to bring success, Sri Antony said, 'The project for joint development and production of the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft, BrahMos missile system, licensed production in India of T-90 tanks and SU-30 MKI aircraft are proud examples of our strong relationship. We are sure that the success of these projects would be models for the implementation of several other projects of mutual interest', he said.

Referring to planned delivery of Aircraft Carrier INS Vikramaditya, Sri Antony said, 'We are keenly awaiting the induction of the Aircraft Carrier into the Indian Navy. This project has attracted considerable public attention in India. We hope that the induction will take place, on schedule, by end 2012. We also hope that all activities on the MiG-29K are completed to achieve synchronization with the aircraft carrier'.

Nevertheless, Sri Antony drew the attention of the Russian side to the vexing issue of delayed export clearances for vital repair equipment for already contracted weapons systems. This has been affecting supplies of defence equipment and spares.

The Russian side assured the Indian side that the matter was receiving attention at highest levels in the Russian Government and efforts would be made to institutionalize measures to avoid such delays in future.

Sri Antony expressed India's concern at the tardy progress made in the design and development of the Multi-Role Transport Aircraft (MTA). The two sides agreed to accelerate the progress of this Project and they would be meeting later this month.

With regard to the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), being jointly designed and developed by India and Russia, both sides noted that the first stage of the preliminary design contract has been successfully completed and the second stage of the PD Contract is to be finalised before September, 2012. The training programme for the Indian engineers covering nearly 20 courses was completed in July, 2011. Both sides agreed to continue discussions for finalization of the R&D contract as per the agreed time lines of the general contract signed in December, 2008.

In his address, the Russian Defence Minister Mr Serdyukov described India-Russia defence tie as a 'stable and promising relationship'. During the discussion, the Russian side spoke about their views on offsets. The Indian side informed that the Indian offset guidelines are presently under revision.

Regional security situation was also discussed by the two sides.

Mr Serdyukov hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting Indian delegation.

Shri Antony returns home tonight.



**627. Media interaction of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna after his meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister.**

**Moscow, November 16, 2011.**

As Foreign Minister Lavrov has said, we have just completed detailed talks that have covered the preparations for the forthcoming Annual Summit on December 16. These issues pertain to our extensive bilateral cooperation program, and international issues that are of common concern to India and Russia.

I am happy with the preparations that have been done for the forthcoming Summit meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Medvedev. A very detailed agenda has been finalized. This will be the 12th Annual Summit since the establishment of our Strategic Partnership in 2000. It is satisfying that the agenda finalized for the Summit reflects the Special and Privileged nature of our strategic partnership.

We discussed several issues pertaining to our bilateral cooperation program. Since the declaration of our Strategic Partnership a little over a decade ago, India-Russia cooperation has undergone a qualitative change in almost all areas of our interaction, and particularly the main areas such as defense, space and nuclear energy. Both sides are currently making efforts to ensure that our cooperation in trade and investment cooperation increases both quantitatively and qualitatively, so that we are able to meet the target of US\$ 20 billion by 2015. I will be discussing this issue in much greater detail tomorrow, in the meeting of the India Russia Inter Governmental Commission that H.E Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov and I co-chair.



Foreign Minister Lavrov and I also discussed the international situation, particularly the situation in Afghanistan, developments in the Middle East and North Africa, the Iran nuclear issue, developments in the Asia Pacific region, including the recently concluded APEC and EAS Summits. India and Russia share similar perceptions on such issues. We will continue to consult on them in the future, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora, such as the SCO, EAS, BRICS and at the United Nations General Assembly and UN Security Council.

Thank You.



**628. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's visit to Russia.**

**New Delhi, December 14, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening and welcome. Nice to see a full house!

Foreign Secretary is here to brief you about the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India to Russia. We also have with us Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia), who is to the right of Foreign Secretary. I have also great pleasure in introducing my good friend and successor Mr. Akbaruddin, who is to my left. I would like to invite the Foreign Secretary to make an opening statement. Thereafter he will be happy to take your questions.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Good evening.

As you are aware, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will be embarking on a two-day visit to Moscow tomorrow for the 12th Annual Summit meeting with the leadership of the Russian Federation. The programme is that he would have a restricted meeting followed by delegation-level talks with President Medvedev on the 16th. President Medvedev would also be hosting a luncheon banquet in honour of PM. Separately the two leaders would have a joint interaction with Indian and Russian CEOs. Thereafter, PM would also be meeting with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Prime Minister will be accompanied by the National Security Adviser, the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and senior officials, besides a large media contingent. Several captains of trade and industry will be travelling separately to Moscow to participate in the CEOs meeting, which

would be co-chaired on the Indian side by Shri Ravi Kant, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Motors, and on the Russian side by Mr. V.P. Evtushenkov, Chairman of AFK Sistema.

This will be PM's fourth Annual Summit meeting with President Medvedev since the latter assumed the Presidency in 2008. Reflective of our time-tested and multifaceted relations, India and Russia had agreed on holding Annual Summit meetings in 2000, during the visit of then President Putin, when we had also decided to elevate our ties to the level of Strategic Partnership. Russia and now Japan are the only two of our partners with whom we have successfully institutionalized the practice of Annual Summits.

Efforts have been underway on both sides to not only maintain the momentum, but to infuse greater content in our robust bilateral ties. In the last few months, bilateral visits and talks have taken place at the level of our Home, Defense, Commerce, Health, Tourism, Steel and Power Ministers. Last month the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna led a delegation to Moscow for the Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting to prepare for the forthcoming Summit.

India and Russia enjoy a diversified partnership spanning the fields of defence, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, space, science and technology, education, trade and culture. It is precisely for these reasons that last year we elevated our Strategic Partnership to a 'special and privileged status.' Let me just elaborate on some of the features.

Russia is a key partner in our quest for energy security. We have excellent cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, renewable and civil nuclear energy. ONGC Videsh Limited has completed a decade of profitable investment in the Sakhalin-I project. Some long-term LNG supply contracts have been signed in recent months between companies of both sides.

The March 2010 Inter-Governmental Agreement lays down the broad roadmap for our partnership in the area of civil nuclear energy. Construction of Kudankulam 1 and 2 nuclear power plants units are nearing completion with Russian technology. We are also in discussion on the techno-commercial aspects of Units 3 and 4 of Kudankulam. In June, we have signed an MoU with Russia on setting up of the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which as you know will be in Haryana, to undertake advanced studies in the field of nuclear research along with our other partners.

Our defence cooperation has for long been a vital facet of our relationship. We have moved well beyond a buyer-seller relationship to co-production through transfer of technologies.

We are also quite pleased with our cooperation in the space sector. In April we launched the Yuthsat from Sriharikota. The satellite is the fruit of efforts put in by a group of Indian and Russian university students. Work is underway on the Chandrayan-2 mission and manned space flight programmes, as well as adoption and applications of GLONASS technologies.

Our trade and economic ties are growing but are still way below their actual potential. Bilateral trade is expected to be around US\$ 9 billion this year. We have set a target of US\$ 20 billion by 2015 and have identified the thrust sectors including pharmaceuticals, information technology, food products and gems and jewelry to help attain the target, at least from the point of our exports. We also find good prospects for cooperation in the mining and fertilizers sectors. It is for this reason that the CEOs meeting takes on a particular importance.

India and Russia enjoy a similarity of outlook on a host of regional and international issues. We have welcomed Russia's inclusion in the East Asia Summit process and its initiatives on the global fight against piracy and terrorism. Our common outlook on the menace of terrorism has been underlined on several occasions, including through the Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism way back in November, 2001. The issue of terrorism and the situation in our respective neighborhoods are likely to figure in the upcoming Summit discussions.

Russia and India have been working well together in forums like the G20, BRICS and the UN. India would chair the BRICS in 2012 and we would be hosting the Summit in March. The Summit level discussions would seek to further strengthen bilateral consultation and coordination in regard to our participation in such international fora.

There is a strong national consensus in our country on having the closest of ties with Russia. And that is also what makes our relations with Russia 'special and privileged'. A number of bilateral documents are likely to be signed during the visit. There will be a Joint Declaration issue during PM's stay in Moscow reflecting the wide canvas of our cooperation and our common world view.

Thank you.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, Mr. Putin is in a spot of bother at the moment. Is that likely to cast any shadow on the bilateral talks between the Indian Prime Minister and the Russian leadership?

**Foreign Secretary:** The Prime Minister is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Putin in the afternoon of the 16th. What is happening within Russia is strictly their internal affair. We do not expect any impact on the visit or on our bilateral discussions.

**Question:** Agreement on unit 3 and 4 of Kudankulam was to be signed. Has it been signed?

**Foreign Secretary:** The discussions are still going on. We will take a call on that. **Question:** A follow-up to that question. When will the negotiations for reactors 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam project be completed?

**Foreign Secretary:** The discussions, as I said, are ongoing. So, I cannot put a time frame on it.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, I have a question relating to Iran and India's oil purchases. There has been some speculation that the current payment system via Turkey may come to an end and Russia is a possible alternative. Is that something that could be discussed?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are continuing our oil purchases from Iran and we are looking at appropriate mechanisms for dealing with the payment with all possible avenues.

**Question:** Is it because the Turkish mechanism may well be coming to an end?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think that is a matter of speculation, I would not like to comment on it. As of now, this is a mechanism which is working.

**Question:** So, you are saying that you are looking at alternative mechanisms also apart from the current Turkey arrangement?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are looking at all appropriate mechanisms for conducting our trade with Iran.

**Question:** Last time Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and our Russian leaders signed one good agreement on culture here. Today you talked about possible meetings with CEOs and meetings with Prime Minister and President. What would be done? Will there be any meetings with cultural representatives of Russian Government?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the subject of culture is certainly very important in our bilateral relations. During the Prime Minister's talks with the President, certainly our cultural relations will be one of those areas which are covered. We do intend to have a celebration. I think it is called the Year of Russian Culture. I will ask the Joint Secretary to give you the details. But we are certainly working on a specific manifestation of Russian culture in India.

**Joint Secretary (ERS) (Shri Ajay Bisaria):** Yes, as Foreign Secretary said, culture is a very important component of the bilateral relationship. We already have had Year of India in Russia this year as also the celebrations of the 150th

year of Tagore's birth. Next year we plan to have a Year of Russia in India. We are planning various cultural events under that forum. We are also going to celebrate 65 years of diplomatic relations between our countries. Diplomatic relations, as you know, were set up in 1947. So, we will have a series of events for that as well.

**Question:** Sir, I would like to ask you about the Russian proposal for ENR facilities on the Russian soil. How do you see that proposal? And Russia has said no to the nuclear liability clause for Kudankulam 1 and 2. Could you explain the stated position of the MEA on this? And for 3 and 4, how is it going to go ahead?

**Foreign Secretary:** Cooperation in the nuclear field is one of the key pillars of our strategic partnership, as I said, and this has been ongoing for several decades. Russia played a key role in supporting the September 2008 NSG decision to exempt civilian nuclear cooperation with India from its guidelines. Russia supports Indian membership of the NSG and other existing global nonproliferation regimes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia had issued a statement on July 14 clarifying that the NSG guidelines would in no way reverse the Russian commitments towards supporting India's civilian nuclear agenda. And as you are aware, in March 2010 we had concluded an Inter-Government Agreement for broad-based cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy that envisages full civilian nuclear cooperation which includes a further agreement on ENR and such issues. As regards the nuclear liability, I am not aware that there has been any specific discussion but we are open to discussions with all our partners in regard to the liability law.

**Question:** Sir, the question of the development in North Africa and the West Asian region, BRICS countries have been under tremendous pressure to change their position like the UN Security Council. Will this come under discussion with Russia? Will you have any kind of review? What has developed in the Arab world is a matter of concern now with the spread of the radical Islam in these regions. Do you see it as a topic that the Prime Minister will be taking up with the Russian leadership?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the situation in our respective regions would be of course one of the important focus areas of our discussions. Beyond that certainly I think the situation in West Asia and North Africa would also be one of the subjects of close discussion. You are correct that in Moscow on November 24th I think there was a meeting of the BRICS countries at the Deputy Foreign Ministers level, during which there was a particular discussion on the situation in West Asia. Certainly the situation is evolving and given that the situation in the beginning of November when we met or even in the middle of November is not exactly the same today in all the countries. This is a matter which will be

reviewed. As you are aware, there have been some important developments in Yemen and in other countries. Certainly the entire region would be discussed when our two leaders meet.

**Question:** I would like to know if the regional situation especially the Afghanistan and Pakistan situation will be a matter of discussion on this visit. Also I would like to know if your Ministry is aware of the possibility that the Taliban open an office in Qatar in the near future and if this possibility is welcome for India?

**Foreign Secretary:** Certainly we would be discussing the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, particularly the prospects in Afghanistan. As you are aware, we have both participated in the conferences in Bonn and Istanbul. We have had a good dialogue with our Russian partners during those conferences. And certainly we would expect discussions to continue. Any development that affects the peace and stability in the region, and as you are aware this region and Central Asia is what is the geographical bridge between Russia and India, certainly would be an area of discussion.

As to your second question, we have also seen these media reports. There had been some such speculative reports even a little earlier. In fact, when we had been attending these international conferences, this is one of the subjects that used to be a matter of some speculation. As far as India is concerned, we have stated on every occasion that we support an Afghan-led, an Afghan-owned, and an inclusive peace process that clearly adheres to the redlines spelt out by the Government of Afghanistan with regard to its interaction with the international community. So, the question of this office and what role it could play has to be seen in the context of this principle. The redlines, if I may say, were reiterated again at the recently concluded Bonn Conference. They are that whatever talks take place must be on the basis that there is an acceptance of the Afghan Constitution, that the parties involved would cut all links with international terrorism, that there would be a specific abjuring of violence as the precondition, and that the parties are committed to a sovereign, stable and united Afghanistan. So, that is our response to this.

**Question:** Dr. Manmohan Singh being the leader of the largest democracy of the world, will he be congratulating when he will be meeting with the Russian leaders for their accomplishing of the recent Duma elections?

**Foreign Secretary:** His interaction first is with the President of Russia. Certainly in his discussions the fact that the elections have been concluded would be noted.

**Question:** There is a point of view in Russia and they say in the Russian President. The attitudes between two of our countries in defence is good and strong. But the attitudes in the sphere of economy are not so active. As far as

I know, the Indian Government also thinks about this problem. So, will this question be discussed during the meeting? Will any agreements be signed to promote Indian companies to be more active in Russian market?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think we share the view that, as I said in my statement, the commercial and economic relations between our two countries are in fact far below their potential. Indian companies are now I think more and more conscious that the Russian and the CIS markets do hold out very big potential for them. I would say as a background to this, if you look at the level of interaction which has taken place at the St. Petersburg International Forum in June, and there was a business delegation which participated in the India-Russia Trade and Investment Forum in November. These are annual events but they are increasingly becoming more and more positive, more and more content-oriented.

I understand from those who have visited Moscow that you see now a bigger presence of Indian pharmaceutical companies in Russia. A couple of Indian banks have now established their presence – the Canara Bank, the SBI and I understand the ICICI Bank. A new and more simplified visa regime has come into force. It took effect actually from the 1st of December. I think now this should make the travel of our business people much more easy. We are also studying the possibility of setting up a Joint Investment Fund between the two countries. We hope that the private enterprises would take the right decisions once they see the opportunities. As far as the Government is concerned, we are discussing a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). According to the news that we have heard, December 16, the day we are there, is perhaps going to be the day Russia joins the WTO. Maybe this is what we have heard in the news and this is anticipated. As I said, it is not our issue but this is what we have heard. Once that development is completed, then the Joint Study Group between India and Russia on the CECA would be able to make very concrete progress on how to take our bilateral economic and commercial relations forward. As to the agreements, what is being signed between the two Governments are broadly in the field of health and energy, and science and technology. But the companies themselves do have in mind the conclusion of some agreements. I do not have the specific details with me but those can be easily provided to you.

**Question:** Sir, would not India like the facility for reprocessing spent fuel to be in India and not in Russia as the Russians seem to be suggesting for now? Secondly, can you clarify whether Kudankulam 3 and 4 will be covered under the nuclear liability law.

**Foreign Secretary:** The issue of what the modalities for implementing our agreement which provides for ENR facilities is a matter on which the Department

of Atomic Energy is actively engaged. They would have to come to a decision as to the exact modalities. On Kudankulam 3 and 4, the discussions, as I said, are at a very advance stage. The issues will be discussed directly between NPCIL and its counterpart, and also between the Department of Atomic Energy and its Russian counterpart.

**Question:** The Russian Ambassador is saying that we do not need a new one for 3 and 4, that 1 and 2 is already in existence.

**Foreign Secretary:** This will be examined by the Department but 1 and 2 came up in a particular timeframe. Now there is an existing law. So, the Experts Committees will look at it and then come to a conclusion.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, the US is not in favour of the American troops being in Afghanistan beyond 2014 or having a permanent base there. Could you tell us what is the Indian position?

**Foreign Secretary:** The Indian position is that it is for Afghanistan to decide its own priorities. As far as we are concerned, any activity by the international community which helps in the process of stability and the reconstruction of Afghanistan in an atmosphere of security is helpful. But it is for Afghanistan to work out the kind of arrangements it wishes with the international community.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, you just suggested that energy would be an important component of the talks. If you can tell us a little bit about Imperial Energy that seems to be a long-standing problem between ONGC and the Russians over this particular company and the ONGC would like the tax that has been taken to be given back to them. Can you tell us a little bit about that? Also, could you tell us a little bit about the CEOs Council that you said is meeting, and what are the prospects on that front?

**Foreign Secretary:** The prospects I was talking about in the field of energy are broadly in hydrocarbons, in renewables and in nuclear. We have already dealt with nuclear. In renewables we have an ongoing set of cooperations mainly under science and technology. But as far as the hydrocarbons are concerned, the OVL is keen to get involved in the development of Sakhalin-III. They are in discussions with Rosneft for this. OVL is also in talks with another company called Novatek to access gas deposits in the Yamal Peninsula in the North Eastern Siberian region. Petronet LNG has entered into contracts with subsidiaries of Gazprom for supplies of LNG from 20, 15, 16. The issue of Imperial's tax liabilities is a matter which continues to be under discussion. As far as I know, the matter has not been finally settled yet but it will continue to be raised and discussed with the Russian side. On the CEOs forum, you could add some details.



**Joint Secretary (ERS):** As Foreign Secretary said, the Imperial Energy issue is subject of discussion for a while now and this will continue to be discussed in terms of stability of fiscal regimes in Russia and this is an issue that continues to be raised even at the Annual Summit level. As for the meeting of the CEOs, this is what we are calling India-Russia CEOs meet. On the Indian side it will be co-chaired by Mr. Ravi Kant, the MD and Vice-Chairman of the Tata Motors and on the Russian side by Mr. Evtushenkov. This is a group of about ten Chairmen of companies on each side and we would of course expect them to have an agenda and make recommendations on improving the bilateral relationship. The Foreign Secretary has already gone into the number of ideas that are on the table. One of the issues that this CEOs meet will talk about is the Joint Investment Fund. But there are other issues like connectivity and cooperation between regions that we hope this meeting would discuss and then make recommendations to the Government.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, questions are being raised about Indian nuclear energy programme, about the go-slow and the decision paralysis. Say for example French are being kept on the wait in Jaitapur, and the Russians have been kept on the wait in Kudankulam 3 and 4. It is a case of the witness being more proactive than the prosecution as they say. Your comments please?

**Foreign Secretary:** The witness being more proactive than the prosecution! Meaning MEA being more active than DAE? What exactly do you mean?

**Question:** What I mean is that rather than India, the French and the Russians are more proactive in helping us but we are not that much forthcoming because of whatever reasons as I say go-slow or decision paralysis.

**Foreign Secretary:** As far as we are concerned, the launching of these nuclear projects is a matter which would require a very intensive, very detailed discussions on a number of parameters. As far as I am aware, the head of the CEA, that is the French Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Ligo was here in the month of November and he went back reasonably satisfied with the discussions he had with his counterparts both in terms of the nuclear energy cooperation with the DAE as well as on the level of progress achieved between Areva and NPCIL in regard to the Jaitapur project.

In regard to Kudankulam, as I said, the discussions are at an advanced stage and there are prospects for taking them forward fairly soon. I do not think this is a case where it would be appropriate to say that the witness is moving faster than the prosecution.

**Question:** Could you throw some light on the MoUs in the defence that may be signed?

**Foreign Secretary:** On the 16th of December I will surely do that.

**Question:** Continuing with that question on Kudankulam, there have been reports saying that the ongoing protests are stalling the signing of a final agreement on Kudankulam 3 and 4. Is that right?

**Foreign Secretary:** No, that is not right. But what I would like you to refer to is a statement, because one needs to understand Kudankulam in its context. This is from an interview which PM has given to the Russian media.

I quote, "The protests in Kudankulam reflect the concern among people about the safety of nuclear energy. People are also worried that such plants should not affect their livelihood and environment. The Government takes these concerns seriously. We have set up an independent group of experts to respond to all legitimate and genuine concerns and fears of the local people. If we have to develop nuclear energy in the country, it is essential that it is done with the support of the people. In India we are giving the highest priority to nuclear safety. I know that the Russian leadership also has the same priority, and has taken several initiatives including in the international arena which we welcome. As far as the India-Russia cooperation in the nuclear field is concerned, this will continue and we will fulfil our commitments. India has always regarded Russia as a partner who was with us in times of difficulty and even when there were restrictions on nuclear commerce with India. I wish to thank all the Russian experts who are working with us in the Kudankulam project." I think that covers the issue rather better than I could.

**Question:** Returning to the subject of Iran, the United States and the EU are preparing to impose tough sanctions against Iran. Have the representatives or diplomats from those countries and the regions approached India about these preparations, informed India of the plans, or requested that India cooperate with them in some way?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would just like to say that the subject we are conscious, we abide by all sanctions which are being endorsed by the United Nations. As far as sanctions by individual countries, we take note of what is being planned. We continue to construct our relations with Iran according to what is best for us. We have certainly had occasion to discuss with our foreign interlocutors. The importance we attach to our energy security, the fact that a very large amount of India's oil imports do emanate from Iran and in fact that in the current energy market it is not easy to consider that India can sort of manage without Iranian oil. Iranian oil is very important to India. So, I think that continues to be a very important issue for us. That is why we had sought the mechanisms for payments so that we continue our trade with Iran.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, Defence Minister Anthony was in Russia a few weeks back. Will there be any new arms deals or purchases announced during the

Prime Minister's visit? And also will there be any progress on the delayed delivery of aircraft carrier?

**Foreign Secretary:** All the defence projects, as you said, were discussed intensively when the Raksha Mantri visited Russia in October. Whatever is being planned between the two countries, as I said, will be announced on the 16th of December and you will get all the answers you are looking for.

**Question:** Sir, do you have anything to say with regard to the Gorshkov deal? And are there any major agreements going to be signed during the visit?

**Foreign Secretary:** All I am aware of is that during the Raksha Mantri's visit, and you were part of his delegation, we were told that matters are on track, whatever has been agreed to between our two Governments will continue, and deliveries will be made as per schedule.

**Question:** Any major agreements that are going to be signed?

**Foreign Secretary:** On the 16th of December I will let you know.

**Question:** At least the fields you can mention.

**Foreign Secretary:** I said health, science and defence.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, two weeks ago the Jane's Defence Weekly of London had published a report suggesting that India is going to train 20,000 to 30,000 Afghan troops by flying them into this country and providing them training in different bases in our country and providing them with small arms as well as tanks which we are likely to junk from our own security forces. Would you like to comment on that please?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are baffled by these reports because we have no idea where they emanated from. And certainly such vast numbers of people descending on to our territory, we have not even considered anything like that. I do not know why this speculation has begun.

**Question:** You have mentioned an Investment Fund that you are setting up with Russia. Can you give us a few more details, how big is it, what would you be investing in, would it be only for energy?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** The idea of this fund is at a very preliminary stage. At this point of time the two sides have simply decided that they should explore the idea of setting up a Joint Investment Fund which would invest in projects in both countries and would lead to an increase in investment overall and, therefore, work towards a higher trade target as well. But the details are yet to be discussed and worked.

**Question:** Is it a kind of a united sovereign wealth fund?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** As I said, the details are to be worked out. It is still under consideration stage.

**Question:** Is it a Government-to-Government fund or a private fund?

**Official Spokesperson:** The details are yet to be worked out. We will come back to you.

**Foreign Secretary:** It is an idea whose time has come.

**Question:** Sir, I would like to ask you about how you would rate the defence ties between the two countries post Russian rout of the MMRCA and the Gorshkov delays. How would you really rate this since you are not talking about the MoUs? Sir, since this rail and road link to Central Asia via Afghanistan, do you think that would be a part of talks between the Russian counterparts since it will give way to Indian goods in the entire Central Asia and Eurasia?

**Foreign Secretary:** Which rail link are you talking about?

**Question:** From India to Afghanistan via Chabahar Port. Do you think that will come?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think it is fair to say that the defence relationship between our two countries still remains robust and in excellent condition. Our two countries have developed by now a maturity and ability to discuss all matters in our defence relationship and we do not think the individual deals will be standing in the way of this overall relationship which is based on trust and confidence in each other. We have also signed in December 2009 an Inter-Governmental Agreement on after sales support to deal with the residual kinds of issues regarding delays, spare parts and other technology transfer kind of issues. This was again discussed when Raksha Mantri visited Russia in October, and the Russian leadership has again reaffirmed the importance they attach to resolving all such problems. We do not expect that the questions which you raised about the delays would affect the relationship.

As regards the lines into Central Asia, there are three different things we are talking about here. One is called the North-South corridor. That is to use rail lines from seaports in Iran into Central Asia. Those discussions are continuing. I am going to ask my colleague who has actually been involved in those discussions to give you some more details. What we are discussing today is a new set of ideas of linking Chabahar Port specifically. The previous North-South corridor had possibly been using other ports in Iran including Bandar Abbas. Chabahar is an idea of a relatively new port which would require a considerable degree of transport infrastructure to lead both into Afghanistan

and then to link up with the rail lines going which would be the North-South corridor. These are two slightly different concepts. Both are under discussion. Could you add on the North-South corridor?

**Joint Secretary (ERS):** This is an idea which has been discussed with Russia basically on land connectivity between Russia and India through Central Asia. In fact during the last Joint Commission meeting in November this was one of the ideas that both countries decided to push forward based on the assumption that once we have good land connectivity between the countries trade itself could go up dramatically. As you know, Foreign Secretary mentioned the North-South corridor. India, Iran and Russia are original signatories to the 2000 agreement. And this has been an idea of discussing the corridor which goes through Astrakhan in Russia through the Caspian Sea and then from there traverses Iran and from Bandar Abbas to Mumbai. But we in India are very keen to move this forward. And in January India is taking the initiative of calling an all members for a meeting to revive this and push this idea forward and that includes all ten members and six observers of this project. But apart from that there are many projects on the table. You mentioned one of them which is the trans Afghan corridor which we are discussing with Uzbekistan. With Kazakhstan there is a separate route being discussed. So, there are essentially a number of connectivity ideas on the table and we are pushing all of them in order to improve this.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you. I have just a small item on the agenda left and that is to say goodbye to all of you. My successor is here. I think today is more or less my swan song. It has been absolutely great interacting with all of you. I would like to thank you for your friendship and support and say all the very best.

**Foreign Secretary:** May I just add to that saying how much we valued Vishnu's constant interaction with all of you and the help he provided to me and to others in the Ministry as we came in, to begin our introductions to you and to say that if you wish to continue to enjoy his words of wisdom, please head to Seoul in Korea.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



**629. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to departure for Russia for the annual Summit with the Russian President.**

**New Delhi, December 15, 2011.**

I leave today for Russia to attend the India-Russia Annual Summit at the invitation of President Dmitry Medvedev.

The practice of Annual Summits between India and Russia over the last decade has provided a tremendous impetus to a relationship that is steeped in tradition and history. Today we enjoy a special and privileged Strategic Partnership with Russia. The Summits have focused high level attention on follow-up to the decisions that are taken and on charting new vistas for cooperation.

This year's Annual Summit takes place against the backdrop of a complex international environment. I look forward to an indepth exchange of views with the Russian leadership on the crisis facing the global economy and the political developments in our extended neighbourhood, including West Asia, the Gulf and Afghanistan and the impact of all this on peace and stability in the world. The perspectives of our countries on these developments are marked by a high degree of convergence.

I will discuss with President Medvedev how to further enhance our consultations in international forums like the United Nations Security Council, G 20, BRICS as well as the East Asia Summit which Russia has recently joined. I am convinced that India-Russia consultation on global issues is more necessary today than ever before.

Our bilateral relations with Russia are based on mutual trust, friendship and shared interests. Our relations encompass diverse sectors including nuclear energy, defence, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment and people-to-people exchanges. I will discuss mechanisms to further expand our bilateral cooperation, particularly in the trade, economic and commercial fields.

I also look forward to meeting Prime Minister Vladimir Putin during my visit. He has played a key role in the development of our Strategic Partnership, and has been the architect of our contemporary relationship. I will review with him the progress we have made in our relations since his visit to India in March 2010.

There is enormous mutual goodwill in our two countries for each other. Both our countries recognize the significant mutual benefit we derive from working together. I will utilize my visit to further expand our bilateral cooperation and further consolidate our coordination on regional and global issues. This is in our national interest and in the interest of global peace and prosperity.



**630. Interview of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with Russian journalists.**

**December 15, 2011.**

**Question:** You are visiting Moscow right after the Parliamentary elections and on the eve of the Russian Presidential election, which almost coincide with an important date – the 65th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between our countries. Are you expecting any new accents in Russian-Indian relationship and what are their prospects?

**Answer:** Our relations with Russia have stood the test of time. In the decades gone by our relations have gained enormously in strength. They rest on a firm footing, and I see them expanding and diversifying in new areas in the future. This is because of the rapid progress both our societies have made which has opened opportunities for cooperation that did not exist before. There is also great mutual trust and convergence of views between our two countries. The practice of Annual Summits has played a major role in the evolution of our partnership. The intensity of contacts between us is quite extraordinary.

Today we have a 'special and privileged' partnership. It is a partnership which produces concrete results. We have bilateral mechanisms at all levels, governmental as also private. Our cooperation in defence, space, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy has seen steady benefits accruing to both countries. On international issues, there is convergence and commonality of views between India and Russia on major issues like the revival of the global economy, cooperation within BRICS, the situation in West Asia and North Africa and the challenges we face in Afghanistan.

I am looking forward to holding detailed discussions with President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin on all these aspects.

I believe the time has come to place a much greater focus on the economic aspects of our relationship. Our trade and commercial cooperation needs to be become more contemporary and reflective of our capacities. We are already making efforts in this direction.

Over the last one year, there has been greater interaction in fields like information technology, pharmaceuticals, steel and diamonds. New ideas have been discussed such as exploring the possibility of creating a joint investment fund, studying a possible Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with the broader Eurasian region, encouraging greater connectivity through the North South Transport Corridor, and linking Indian States with Russian regions. We should build upon these proposals.

*[Note : The 65th Anniversary of establishment of India-Soviet Union diplomatic relations falls on April 13, 2012.]*

**Question:** Next year our military and technical collaboration will celebrate the 50th anniversary. How do you assess its importance and what are the main features and major areas of the bilateral interaction in this sphere nowadays?

**Answer:** Our defence cooperation has always been an important pillar of our strategic partnership with Russia. Russia is India's largest supplier of defence equipment and a most reliable partner.

Over time the nature of our defence relationship has changed from one of 'buyer-seller' to that of being partners in joint development of systems and in research and development. We would like this trend to gather further momentum, and I am confident that we are moving in the right direction. Overall, I see this aspect of our relationship as a mutually beneficial and essential link in our multifaceted relationship.

**Question:** The recent protest movement in Tamil Nadu has been hampering the timely start-up of Kudankulam NPP. Do you believe that it will not hinder the large scale Indian atomic energy programme, including implementation of Russian-Indian plans in this sphere?

**Answer:** The protests in Kudankulam reflect the concern among people about the safety of nuclear energy. People are also worried that such plants should not affect their livelihood and environment.

The Government takes these concerns seriously. We have set up an independent group of experts to respond to all the legitimate and genuine concerns and fears of the local people.

If we have to develop nuclear energy in the country it is essential that it is done with the support of the people. In India we are giving the highest priority to nuclear safety. I know that the Russian leadership also has the same priority and has taken several initiatives, including in the international arena, which we welcome.

As far as India-Russia cooperation in the nuclear field is concerned, this will continue and we will fulfil our commitments. India has always regarded Russia as partner who was with us in times of difficulty and even when there were restrictions on nuclear commerce with India. I wish to thank all the Russian experts who are working with us in the Kudankulam project.

**Question:** Russia is heading for modernization and innovative economic development. India has accumulated great positive experience in this area, including bio-nano-and information technologies. Is India ready to bring them



to Russia? Whether Indian leading public and private companies are interested in joining such projects as Skolkovo or establishing joint ventures in advanced areas?

**Answer:** The Integrated Long Term Programme for Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology is India's biggest scientific collaboration programme with any country. This covers the full range of activities from basic research to developing industrial scale technologies in frontline areas such as nano-technology and biotechnology. Together with Russian scientists and R&D institutions, 500 projects have been implemented so far in a large number of areas.

At the last Summit in New Delhi in 2010, a new Agreement was signed that remains valid for the next 10 years and gives a fresh mandate for creating new innovation-based technology partnerships. A significant new feature of this programme is that it will implement joint mega projects in fields such as sustainable energy, affordable healthcare and informatics.

Both sides are also working to put in place a system to ensure rapid commercialization of R&D that is being done in laboratories. This includes the establishment of India-Russia Centres of Science and Technology in each other countries.

Indian participation in the Skolkovo Innovation Center and the Skolkovo Fund has been discussed between the two sides.

These are important areas and we would like to encourage much greater cooperation in these sectors among our industry associations.

**Question:** After South Africa's accession to the BRICS, the forum has not only become more representative but also activated concerted actions in the international arena on burning global and regional issues. What do you think about the role of this dialogue mechanism in the changing world order and in tackling major present-day challenges?

**Answer:** It was Russia which took the initiative to host the first standalone Summit of BRIC countries in Yekaterinburg in 2009 which I had the privilege to attend. Since then the BRIC forum has been expanded to include South Africa. We have high regard for Russia's role in BRICS.

The relevance of BRICS to the international order has increased over time. BRICS countries share similar positions on issues such as the reforms of the Bretton Woods Institutions, trade protectionism and the Doha Development Round, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and support for a multi-polar, equitable and democratic world order.

At a time of economic uncertainty, especially in the Eurozone, growth and prosperity in the BRICS economies can play a significant role in ensuring economic and financial stability at a global level.

The agenda of BRICS has gone beyond the purely economic to include issues such as international terrorism, climate change and food and energy security. The world is also witnessing political and security challenges, especially in West Asia.

It is therefore all the more essential for BRICS countries to closely consult with each other at this time.

India will host the next BRICS Summit in New Delhi in March next year and we look forward to further strengthening our dialogue with all the BRICS partners.

**Question:** Combating terrorism is the key problem for both India and Russia, which are actively interacting both globally and regionally in this sphere. Which mechanisms of international cooperation – both established and emerging – do you consider most efficient in terms of establishing peace, security and stability in Afghanistan and eliminating the terror threat in general?

**Answer:** Large multiethnic and open democracies like India and Russia are especially vulnerable to terrorism. We are both united in our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification whatsoever for acts of terrorism.

We closely cooperate in combating the threat of terrorism both at the bilateral and international levels. Our National Security Councils and special services are in touch with each other. At the multilateral level, we are working together for an early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by the United Nations.

Afghanistan is going through a crucial stage of transition. As neighbours, both India and Russia have a vital stake in peace and stability in Afghanistan. There should be regular consultation between our sides on the situation in Afghanistan.

Everyone wishes to see an end to terrorism in Afghanistan, most of all the people of Afghanistan themselves. We should support the people of Afghanistan in their process of transition and nation building and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

**Question :** One Indian proverb says that managing 1000 people is as hard as managing 3 persons. You have to manage the country of a billion population. What is the core of your approach and what are your main principles in managing this big and great India?

**Answer:** India is a large country of great diversity and complexity. We are an ancient civilisation but a young nation characterised by a vibrant economy.

Our task in government is to lift the millions of our countrymen out of poverty and to eradicate the scourge of illiteracy, hunger and disease. Our growth has to be balanced and inclusive, benefiting all sections of our society. At the international level, India cooperates with all countries to create an atmosphere that is conducive to meeting our national goals and realising the aspirations of our people. We strive to build peace, stability and harmony in the world.

I consider it a deep honour and privilege to have the opportunity to serve the people of India as Prime Minister.



### **631. Joint Press Interaction of Prime Minister and Russian President.**

**Moscow, December 16, 2011.**

**President of Russia (Mr. Dmitry Medvedev):** Next year will see the 65th anniversary of our relationship with India...of visa procedures will contribute to the development of business ties within our countries. Today we will have a meeting with representatives of Indian business circles. And of course we will talk about different aspects of our cooperation including metallurgy, car manufacture, information technology, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, medical services.

We will talk about defence industry as well. Moreover, our cooperation in military technical area with India has reached unprecedented level. We are interested in participation of our Indian partners in such big projects as development of multipurpose transport aircraft, the fighter jets of fifth generation. And of course we are interested in cooperation in the civil aircraft industry as well.

We have significant results in energy projects as well. We are cooperating productively on the project of Sakhalin 1. We have good opportunities to engage our Indian friends in the projects of oil and gas, in the projects of oil and petro complexes. Also we are implementing the commissioning of the first energy union of the Kudankulam station.

But our relationship would be poor if we had not the wide range of humanitarian relations. This year saw the festival of Indian culture in Russia, the event on

the 150th anniversary of the birthday of Rabindranath Tagore, a prominent Indian cultural figure. We will implement different educational projects, we will promote tourism between different cities and regions, relations in the humanitarian area is one of the most prominent in our bilateral relations. Today we talked a lot about international and regional problems and we were talking about how to contribute to the strengthening or stability and security in the world using such forums as BRICS, G20, East Asia Summit and other platforms as well including of course the United Nations.

In long term we think that the partnership in the SCO will also grow. This organization has a growing potential in our region and we support the application of India to receive full size partnership in this organization we are also promoting the strengthening of security architecture in Asia Pacific region as well. We are cooperating in the United Nations Security Council. Russian Federation is a permanent member of the SC and India is a non-permanent member of the SC right now, and we see India as a strong candidate to the position of a permanent member in the United Nations Security Council. These are good mechanisms for positive cooperation in the area of international problems.

Of course we have talked with Mr. Prime Minister about the situation in the North Africa, about the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan. And we have to promote all those positive processes. We have to contribute to all those positive processes that are now underway in related states. We have to contribute to the development of those states. And at the same time we have to take all necessary measures to combat drug-trafficking, drug crimes, terrorism, and create all conditions to promote the stable growth of global economy. We hope that in future we will cooperate here with our Indian partners.

Thank you for your attention.

**Prime Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh):** Your Excellency President Medvedev, distinguished representatives of the media:

I am delighted to be in Moscow once again for the India-Russia Annual Summit. Our Summit has taken place just after the elections to the Russian State Duma, for which I conveyed my deep felicitations to His Excellency the President.

President Medvedev and I have concluded a very extensive round of discussions which were held in an extremely warm, constructive and friendly spirit. We have reviewed our bilateral relations, which as is well known, are among the most substantive we have with any country. We also reviewed regional and global issues of concern to both of us.

In today's world of uncertainties, regional flashpoints and economic slowdown the India-Russia relationship stands out a factor of peace, progress and stability in the world.

Our special and privileged strategic partnership has not just withstood the test of time. It has helped shape a balanced and inclusive world order, and it has contributed to the rapid growth of both our economies.

We reviewed the progress in the areas of civil nuclear energy, defence, space, oil and natural gas, science and technology, trade and investment, education and culture. A number of agreements have been signed in these areas.

We have agreed to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Russia next year in a befitting manner.

Russia has been a tried and tested partner in the development of our nuclear energy programme. Both India and Russia are committed to ensuring the highest levels of nuclear safety. India welcomes the advocacy of nuclear safety by Russia at the international level.

The two sides have concluded negotiations and agreed on the terms and conditions for the Russian credit for Units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam nuclear power project. We look forward to moving ahead with the roadmap for cooperation in the field of nuclear energy which we signed in 2010.

Our defence cooperation has reached a qualitatively new level, marked by joint design and development as well as co-production. We are satisfied at the progress of the major projects.

We reiterated our intention to enhance the scale of our bilateral trade and investment relations. The current trade volume of nine billion US dollars is far below the potential of our two economies. We will continue our focus on sectors such as oil and gas, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, mining, space and technology and innovation. I am very happy that the India-Russia Science and Technology Centre has been inaugurated in Moscow.

India-Russia relations have global significance. We have been consulting closely in international forums, including the United Nations Security Council, BRICS and the East Asia Summit. India will host the next BRICS Summit in March 2012, for which I have invited President Medvedev.

We share similar views on threats to international security from terrorism, piracy and drug-trafficking. Our aims and objectives with regard to Afghanistan's reconstruction and nation building efforts, and its ability to decide its own future without external interference are very similar. Both India and Russia have a strong interest in promoting stability and prosperity in the region, and we agreed to work closely toward this objective.

We reviewed the significant developments that are now taking place in West Asia and North Africa. We have agreed to keep in close touch on the developments in these regions.

We both agree on the need for the European Union to take urgent steps to address the Eurozone debt crisis, and restore market confidence.

India deeply values its close friendship and cooperation with Russia. We are committed to further deepening and strengthening it, and I believe we are on the right track.

I thank you.

**Question:** Good day. I have a question to Mr. Singh. Today a lot was said about the perspectives of cooperation between Russia and India in the nuclear field. Please comment on when the terms of launch of the first unit of Kudankulam will be set, and the new platform will be provided to the Russian nuclear experts to building Indian nuclear plant.

**Prime Minister:** We are committed to implement the roadmap which we have agreed with our Russian colleagues for the nuclear energy programmes. Kudankulam 1 and 2 are at advance stage and they are very close to being operationalised. There are I think some temporary problems, some agitations arising out of the concerns for nuclear safety and concerns about their impact on livelihood. But we are confident that we will overcome and we will be able to persuade some of these people that their concerns are adequately taken care of, that our nuclear plants are safe and sound, and that there is nothing to worry about with regard to their safety. That is a commitment both Russia and India will honour. I am, therefore, confident that in a couple of weeks we should be able to go ahead with operationalising Kudankulam 1 and thereafter by a period of six months Kudankulam.

**Question:** This is to both the leaders. So far the India-Russia cooperation has been driven mostly based on defence, science and space relationship. Do you think that in the future, as both of you have remarked in your opening remarks, the trade and business would be the future which will be driving the friendship and the relationship? Is that the way you are looking at it, both of you?

**President of Russia:** If we said that, we mean it. We think that both trade and business cooperation, investment are the basis for further economic cooperation between the two countries. In my introduction I said that we should not admit the development of cooperation only in one dimension. The growth of trade turnover needs ...(Unclear)... and on the other hand investment growth is, they are both two sides of the same coin. We meet the business community because we are not only interested in the growth in numbers. We have a task

to increase it up to 20 billion dollars in the year 2020. We are aiming at large and medium scale projects because in the field of cooperation, in economic field, it is important to have all the sectors of business of the two countries to be present there. Such contacts I hope will become stronger every year. We should work more actively find new fields of cooperation which is really important, considering the fact that the world economy is now in a bad situation. The development of economic relations between the two countries, as we are big international economic players, it really affects the social wellbeing of the citizens of the two countries. That is why we will pursue our business cooperation.

**Prime Minister:** I endorse what President Medvedev has said. Ours is a multifaceted relationship. Defence, science and technology, nuclear energy, space programmes have figured prominently in our areas of cooperation. But that does not mean that there is no scope for expanding cooperation in economic areas, trade and investment. These are going to be more important as we go along. And in areas of trade and investment we both agree that our potential is far bigger than what we have achieved thus far. So, the roadmap for the future is quite clear that this multifaceted relationship will grow in all directions but trade and investment growth will be one of the key areas to work for.

**Question:** My question is to Mr. Medvedev and the Prime Minister. How do you estimate the present role of BRICS in the international arena and what is the future of this platform?

**President of Russia:** We were quite precisely discussing with the distinguished Prime Minister Singh this issue today - the role of BRICS in the international arena. We came to the result that the role of this forum is going up. I recall that we with our colleagues with BRICS we were sitting at the table and discussing general issues of economic development, countering terrorism, some other issues. Nowadays our cooperation has become practical. We have the forum of BRICS. Very soon the next one will be held in India. The most important thing is that the forum became a mechanism of consultation. That is most important because the world is rapidly changing. The economies are in a very complicated situation. Financial crisis is still on. During the last G20 in France, before we had the meeting of the all the participants we had a brief meeting in the BRICS format and that demonstrates that this platform becomes a really important player that helps to agree the positions of the States, BRICS members, and to defend our positions during other international events. You all perfectly know what is BRICS. This is almost half of the world population and a significant part of GDP growth. This year, fifty per cent of the total of GDP is now within BRICS. This is a serious power. We are looking forward to the level of mutual trust and solidarity on various issues. We are hoping that it will go up.

**Prime Minister:** I think here too I agree with what President Medvedev has said. BRICS today represent the most dynamic economies in the world. And at a time when the global economy is in doldrums, when macroeconomic stability in many traditional growth poles of the world is not in place, it is very important that the five fast-growing countries represented in BRICS should consult with each other with a view to providing pathways in which we can together work with other countries of the world to bring about greater stability of the growth process in the world. But it is not only economics. There is scope for doing together things in the area of consultations with regard to other matters such as terrorism, piracy, global imbalances in the processes of governance, the reform of the Security Council and other international institutions. All these are areas where BRICS countries working together can make significant impact on the evolution of new approaches to dealing with these difficult issues.

**Question:** My question is for President Medvedev. India has been a very strong contender for the post of permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. India and Russia are time-tested friends. Will Russia support India's candidature and mobilize support for India's cause?

**President of Russia:** It is a pity that you did not listen to my introduction. I have already given a very firm position. If you need a repetition I can say it once again. Indeed India is a special and privileged strategic partner for Russia, and we are considering India as a strong candidate for permanent presence in the Security Council, and the other members of the Security Council should agree on it and all the members of the United Nations and after agreeing perform the Security Council reform. You can have absolutely no doubt as for the support of the Russian Federation.

Thank you dear colleagues.





**632. Speech of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the luncheon hosted in his honour by the Russian President Medvedev.**

**Moscow, December 16, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Medvedev,

Mrs Medvedeva,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am deeply moved by the warmth of the welcome and generous hospitality accorded to me. I have been a regular and frequent visitor to Russia and feel enriched each time I visit this great country.

**Excellency,**

The people of India rejoice in the great successes of the Russian people. Russia is regarded as a tried and trusted friend of India, that has stood with India at every juncture of our nation-building process. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the people and successive leaderships of Russia.

Mr. President, your own personal contribution and the attention you have given to India has been a source of great encouragement to us. Under your Presidency, we have expanded the horizons of our cooperation and opened new doors.

Today, our relations span diverse sectors ranging from defence, space and nuclear energy to exchanges in the commercial, educational and cultural fields. The underlying basis to this cooperation is the trust and goodwill among our peoples, our cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts in academia, science, tourism and businesspersons.

Next year we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the formal establishment of our diplomatic relations. We should mark this occasion by highlighting the benefits of our decades long partnership and creating greater awareness about each other among the younger generation.

The world is witnessing profound transformation and a shift in the global balance of power. At this time of transition, our relationship serves as an anchor of peace and stability.

It is essential that India and Russia work even more closely together at the international level. I am truly pleased at the manner in which our cooperation and exchanges within the United Nations, G-20 and BRICS have been progressing in recent years. We warmly welcome Russia's participation in the

East Asia Summit process. This will contribute to regional peace and prosperity.

As two large and diverse democracies, with rapidly transforming societies and economies, we must work together to ensure that the emerging international order is multipolar, based on respect for international law and equality amongst nations. India and Russia should promote a world order in which dialogue and cooperation and not conflict and confrontation are the basis for inter-state relations.

**Excellency,**

I am confident that India-Russia relations are poised to achieve even greater heights in the years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in raising a toast:

- To the health and well being of His Excellency the President of the Russian Federation and Mrs Medvedeva;
- To the long-standing tradition of close and continuing friendship and cooperation between India and Russia; and
- To the prosperity, success and happiness of the friendly people of Russia.

Thank you.



**633. Remarks by Prime Minister at the Joint Meeting with CEOs from India and Russia.**

**Moscow, December 16, 2011.**

His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation,  
Distinguished Captains of Russian and Indian industry.

I am very happy to be here with President Medvedev to meet all of you.

In the last few years, the governments of both our countries have taken a policy decision to bring our economic and trade relations to the level of our cooperation in the traditional areas of cooperation such as defence, nuclear energy and space. We have set a target to raise our trade volume to 20 billion US dollars by 2015.

Apart from the Inter-Governmental Commission, we have set up several mechanisms to promote greater business-to-business interaction. These include the Forum on Trade and Investment and the CEO's Council.

We would like to know from you what you feel needs to be done to promote the trade and investment aspect of our relationship.

Our government is committed to create a policy environment that is conducive for Russian companies to do business in India, and to invest in India. We are working with Russia in the areas of mutual recognition of standards and financial practices, facilitation of visa and other regulatory requirements, policy measures to promote trade and investment and creation of institutional mechanisms to address trade disputes.

The opportunity for a substantial expansion of our economic relations is now. At a time of a global economic slowdown, when traditional engines of growth are in difficulty, the Indian and Russian economies can be natural partners in reviving growth, creating infrastructure and generating surpluses.

India warmly welcomes Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation. We are also keen to enter into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the Customs Union comprising Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. We have already decided to set up a Joint Study Group in this regard.

The initiative taken by Russia to launch an extensive economic modernization and privatization programme has opened new avenues for Indian companies.

The Indian economy, on the other hand, has grown at an average rate of 8.5% since 2004. While there will be a slowdown in the short term due to the global situation, we are aiming at a growth target of 9% in the next Five Year Plan

period. I invite Russian industry to participate in our infrastructure and other development programmes.

I am encouraged by some of the success stories of investments and business tie-ups in the recent past. NMDC and Severstal are setting up a large joint venture in India to produce steel. Indian companies are discussing long-term agreements of supply of diamonds from Russia. The Steel Authority of India and the National Minerals Development Corporation are interested in procuring coking and thermal coal from Russia. Indian companies are keen to import metals like copper and nickel. There have been Russian investments in the telecommunications sector in India, and Indian investments in the oil and gas sector in Russia.

Yet there are vast unexplored areas that await exploitation. I refer in particular to the areas of pharmaceuticals, fertilisers, financial services, power, health, chemicals and aviation.

Innovation and commercialisation of scientific research and technologies have been identified by the India-Russia Forum as another thrust area of cooperation.

I call upon you to further intensify your efforts and make full use of the excellent political relations between our two countries to expand our trade and economic cooperation. I wish you all success in your endeavours.

I thank you.



**634. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister's official meetings in Moscow.**

**Moscow, December 16, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin):** Good evening friends. I will begin with an apology for having kept you a bit late here. We have tried our best to keep you informed of all developments throughout the day. By my reckoning, we have in driblets sent you about seven documents of various kinds so that you are able to understand what was happening throughout the day. We have here with us Foreign Secretary on my right. Beside him is Ambassador Malhotra who would give you a flavor of the events that have happened during the course of the day. I would request Foreign Secretary to make a statement and we would then open the floor for any questions that you may have.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you Akbar.

In fact the apology should really come from me because you were here all the time. We have been travelling for the last fifty minutes trying to battle traffic and come here. I know it is becoming a bit of a habit but I do try my best to adhere to time schedules. Frankly we finished the last meeting only after six and by the time we got back it was just after seven which is why we are here.

The Prime Minister had a very productive day in Moscow today. He had a two-hour long extensive meeting with his main host, the Russian President His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Medvedev in the Kremlin, first in a restricted format and then in a delegation-level format. He had an equally long meeting with the Prime Minister Mr. Vladimir Putin in the evening. During these meetings Prime Minister was accompanied by senior officials who deal with all the key strategic sectors of our long-term relationship. The Russian side was equally well represented during these meetings.

The meetings were very constructive. We were struck by the warmth and cordiality of the atmosphere which is not only in keeping with the tradition of Indo-Russian dialogue but it was particularly marked on this occasion. They covered the entire gamut of our strategic partnership and reviewed the progress achieved in the ongoing bilateral projects in a number of key areas, keeping in mind that the last bilateral summit was a year ago in December 2010 when Prime Minister Medvedev was in Delhi.

On the conclusion of the talks with the Russian leadership, a Joint Statement was adopted, which I believe all of you have seen, which apart from the strategic sectors which I have referred to, refers to India's keen interest in hydrocarbons sector and the promotion of greater cooperation with Russian companies, in

steel, mining, automobile, fertiliser, and pharmaceuticals sectors. I may mention that in between the meeting with the President and the meeting with Prime Minister Putin, both Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Medvedev were present with the CEOs who were concluding their deliberations. They both addressed the CEO's forum and also heard viewpoints from the CEOs.

Coming back to the Joint Statement, it also reflects Russia's support to India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, as also our full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Prime Minister welcomed Russia's accession to the WTO, which I understand has been formalised just a couple of hours ago. Both leaders exchanged views on a range of global and regional issues, including, apart from UN reforms to which I referred, Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, Syria, the subject of international terrorism and various other subjects.

I have already mentioned the Business Forum but I thought it is important to reflect on it once again because during the talks, even after the actual session with the Businessmen, Prime Minister Putin and Dr. Manmohan Singh and earlier President Medvedev and our Prime Minister, both emphasised that the trade and investment relationship between our two countries has not kept pace with the growth of our relationship in various other sectors, and that it continues to be considerably below potential.

Prime Minister noted for example that we had set ourselves a target of US dollars 20 billion by 2015, and that we have now crossed nine billion this year. But considering the size of our two economies and the very large number of areas of complementarity which have been identified, that this remains a rather small target. As I said, transport, pharmaceuticals, steel, banking, fertilisers, were some of the sectors in which our CEOs were represented today. We see this business relationship as being one of the most important areas of forward movement in the years to come.

As regards the cooperation in the civil nuclear sector, both leaders noted that they have reached agreement on the terms and conditions for the grant of Russian State credit for the construction of units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant site. Prime Minister and President agreed that next year we would be celebrating the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia, that these would be done on a large scale including with cultural manifestations.

I would also like to mention that after the talks there were a total of five agreements which were signed between the two countries. I do not know if you have seen the list but I will just mention in passing the significance of some of them. The first was the Second Protocol on the licensed production of the

Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft for another 42 units of this. It may be recalled that the inter-governmental agreement in general contract, the first one, for the Sukhois was signed in 2000 and that envisaged the manufacture of 140 Su-30s by HAL. In 2007 there was a protocol which envisaged the manufacture of a further 40 aircraft. The present protocol, as I said, envisages an additional 42. Right in the beginning 50 Su-30s were purchased in phases prior to the signing of the IGA in 2000. Therefore, this takes a total number of acquired or contracted aircraft in the IAF fleet to 272 Sukhoi-30s.

The second agreement was an MoU between the Competition Commission of India and the Federal Anti Monopoly Service of the Russian Federation. This was signed by Ambassador and the Head of the Russian Federal Anti Monopoly Service. It covers sharing of experience in the field of competition policy, conducting investigations, evolving joint consultative processes and exchange of information on our laws and legislation.

The third was the Protocol of Intentions between the Department of Science and Technology on our side and the Inter-Regional Association Siberian Accord for the Siberian Federal District of the Russian Federation, the subject being fly ash utilisation and safe management. You might ask why I am talking about fly ash. But I would like to say the protocol aims to facilitate the development and application of technologies for utilisation and safe management of fly ash in the Siberian Federal District. And it includes import of technologies from India. This is one of a kind where there are two way exchanges of technologies. I think the second significance of this is it is a good example of what both Governments are trying to seek that their scientific cooperation should lead to commercialisation and commercial ventures. This is one example of that.

The fourth was the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation of drug quality and safety standards between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation of India and the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Sphere of Public Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation. The MoU will oversee the safety and quality issues between the two agencies in the area of drugs and it will provide an enabling environment for enhancing trade in quality pharmaceuticals. This is again signed by the Ambassador and the Acting Head of the Federal Service on Surveillance and Healthcare and Social Development.

As I have mentioned already in the context of the CEOs Forum, and I will ask the Ambassador to elaborate on this a little later, pharmaceuticals is one area where we see a very great potential for increase of Indian exports to this country. Having now reached a further understanding on quality and standards I think this is an enabling provision which should be of help.

The last was the educational exchange programme between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and our HRD Ministry, which is for an educational exchange programme as by its very name. It seeks to promote cooperation through specific inter-institutional arrangements, sharing in the field of pedagogy, seminars, exhibitions. There will be a Joint Working Group between our two countries to monitor its implementation. This too was signed by Ambassador with the Deputy Minister of Science and Education of the Russian Federation.

I will stop there and take a few questions.

**Question:** Russian President made a brief reference to cooperation in hydrocarbons sector when he talked about Sakhalin-1. Could you just amplify that remark and throw some light on that? And did it figure in the CEOs Forum meeting?

**Foreign Secretary:** The Russian President referred to Sakhalin-1 as a successful example of cooperation between our two countries. He said India is already receiving. Liquefied Natural Gas from the Sakhalin-1 venture. The mention of that was to highlight the fact that we have actually made very concrete progress. This is an area in which India had invested. The investment has now led to actual flows of LNG to India which is a contribution to our energy security and a successful venture involving our Corporations. The Head of the ONGC Mr. Vasudev was part of the Indian CEOs Forum. He would certainly have been discussing with the Russians not only Sakhalin-1 but other prospective ventures in the field of hydrocarbons.

**Question:** Could you just provide us a readout on the meeting with the Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Did Mr. Putin at any stage brief Prime Minister about the recent developments in Russia and the domestic situation here?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the meeting with Prime Minister Putin was, you might say in continuation of the discussions which we held with the President. The two leaders reviewed the gamut of our bilateral relations with specific emphasis on some of the strategic sectors. They also reviewed the international situation, some regions of the world in particular. They also had a discussion relating to our cooperation in the international sphere including in fora such as the G20 and matters relating to the international financial crisis and so on. President did not refer, as far as I know, to the internal situation in Russia. This was not a part of the discussion to my knowledge.

**Question:** You were talking about the prospects of trade and commerce between the two countries and you identified pharmaceuticals as one of the sectors where we could do better. But why is that in comparison to other European nations or western nations, the cooperation in trade between India



and Russia is not developing? Is it because there is not much for Russia to offer or much for India to offer to Russia?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the trade is more heavily in Russia's favour because they do have a lot to offer. We believe we also have a lot. Now there is a greater feeling in Russia, particularly among the business sectors, that there are a lot of areas in which Indian exports can be expanded to mutual benefit. Pharmaceuticals is just one of them. But I will ask the Ambassador to elaborate a little bit on the prospects.

**Question:** There are other areas like textiles or leather where I do not think India has made enough inroads into Russia as it has done in Europe or America.

**Indian Ambassador to Russia (Shri Ajai Malhotra):** First of all let us look at the facts. In the last five years our trade has doubled. Last year, the two-way trade was 8.5 billion dollars. This year in the first three months in fact there was a 30 per cent decline. But now the latest figures we have show that we will probably end the year with 9.5 billion dollars. We have picked up a lot towards the end of the year and we expect some more in the last month's figures. So, we will certainly cross last year's figure. That is a certainty. I think the prospects as we look ahead are I would not say bleak at all and in fact there are rather bright. The reason for that is we have been looking at opportunities which link up companies on either side and there are several good projects that might emerge out of this. A couple of them are in steel. One is the one that you may have read about Severstal and NMDC, which is almost ready to go. There is another one also in steel that may come through and it is being explored. And a small investment has been made already into marketing etc., for specialised steel in India. Similarly in diamonds the agreements and contracts that have been signed this year have been much bigger than in the previous year. The reason for that has been a decline in demand and off take in Europe and America and, therefore, willingness by big Russian companies and others to offer it to Indian companies who, as you know, are top of the scale in terms of cutting and polishing diamonds. So, that is another area where a fairly significant add on would be there. To give you the example of the steel plant, if that comes through, and certainly looking several years down the line, the net impact would be importing of about 750 million dollars worth of coking coal every year, that is at today's prices.

So, one such arrangement can lead to a fairly large impact on the final figures. Similarly with our ...(Unclear)... the diamonds, the quantity of off take has almost trebled, as per their President, this year compared to last year. There are also good options in oil and gas. As you know, we have signed up for LNG with Gazprom looking at the year 2016 onwards. We are also looking at opportunities to link up with Novatek in the Yamal Peninsula. We are looking at

opportunities to link up with Gazprom also. We are looking at opportunities on Sakhalin-3. So, our energy requirement is quite huge and I think this will again give a fairly big boost to figures.

Coming to textiles, there is scope to do much more. I think much of the import that is coming in is out of China and they have an advantage of a common border and land route and competitive in comparative price wise. But I think with the labour costs going up in China, as one reads in the newspapers, this could have a positive impact in terms of opportunities for our manufacturers to export up here. So, I think compared to our exports into USA etc., it is rather low. But even if you look in the West, more than 50 per cent of the market in Europe or America is really held by the Chinese though we have a fairly significant portion also.

I would like to add that one reason why we have not been doing so well is the lack of information about each other's capabilities and opportunities and we are trying to promote that awareness, industry-wise and company-wise by meeting companies and industries at the CEO or other level and telling them and trying to match make for them. We want to make sure that we are not stuck with old stereotypes about each others. And I think this will also help in increasing our trade turn over. So, in several sectors there are good opportunities including pharmaceuticals.

**Question:** Going back to this Putin meeting, did the Prime Minister congratulate him on the Duma election results and what were the discussions in this regard? On this Haripur nuclear project that you were planning, there was this talk of offering an alternative site to it. Was this discussed in the bilateral meetings? With regard to defence projects, there are a series of projects like Gorshkov, fifth generation fighters, MTA and Nerpa submarine. What happened in this regard? What was the discussion? What is the progress on these talks?

**Foreign Secretary:** That is three questions in one.

The short answer to that is yes. He did congratulate Prime Minister Putin and President too in his meeting on the successful outcome of elections. He did that. There was not a discussion on it. He did convey his congratulations. They thanked him and said that they appreciated the gesture.

As regards Haripur, I think we have a formulation in the Joint Statement which is basically that we have told the Russians that the alternative site would be considered for the Russian nuclear plants. The important point is that Prime Minister emphasised that the point that the roadmap which we had laid out for the development of nuclear power plants would be adhered to, and if there is any issue regarding the site an alternative site would be made available.

As regards defence, Gorshkov did come up for discussion in the context of the satisfaction, I will say, that the schedules are being adhered to. When Raksha Mantri was here in the month of October there was a discussion regarding this matter of the schedules. Both sides are now clear that they would take the necessary action to make sure that there are no slippages. Prime Minister did mention that it is very important for us to ensure that the ship arrives on time. I think it says in the statement that the two sides took note of the progress made in important joint defence projects such as re-fitment of INS Vikramaditya, which is what it will be called, as well as the joint development and production of the Multi Role Transport Aircraft (MTA), the fifth generation fighter aircraft, and the licensed production of various Russian origin defence equipment and armaments in India. I think the Prime Minister Putin also emphasised the importance of these defence projects. The fifth generation fighter in particular was mentioned and I think both sides were satisfied with the progress we are making in this regard.

**Question:** Nuclear submarine?

**Foreign Secretary:** On nuclear submarine, I think the discussion will continue as you know.

**Question:** Earlier it was said that the deadline is 2013.

**Indian Ambassador to Russia:** End of 2012.

**Foreign Secretary:** 2013 means it will actually start sailing or whatever.

**Question:** This MTA and FGFA, there was this talk of next stage of agreements on sharing of work and the share of the project.

**Foreign Secretary:** They did not go into the details because most of these were actually covered by the Raksha Mantri when he was here, and our Ambassador was with him. But I think the two sides are satisfied with the level of progress and the systematic way in which both sides are proceeding on that.

**Question:** Sir, the Joint Statement of Prime Minister and President specifically mentions an equitable architecture for regional security arrangement, specifically mentioning that security arrangement of one country should not have a negative bearing on other. Would you like to elaborate on this, especially in the context of recent engagement of Russia and China on security level?

**Foreign Secretary:** The point was that we are all engaged in different levels. We have multiple partners with whom we engage. Russians have too, our other neighbours have too. I think it is a simple statement of principle that security is ultimately individual. I think that is the word used in that particular

Joint Statement and that no arrangements enshrining the security principles of any two countries should deter from those of others. I do not think there was anything more than that. It is an established formulation which is used very often.

**Question:** First, does Russia's accession to the WTO have any material impact on trade relations between Russia and India? Second, one of the things that seems to be missing in the economic relationship is trade in services. What are the barriers to trade in services from India to Russia? As you know, that is one of the key areas where India is competitive.

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the accession to the WTO was welcomed, particularly since it will have considerable positive enablers, you might say, for our trade and investment not only with Russia per se but in our plan to move forward to what is called a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Russia and what is called the Customs Union - that is Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. We have a Joint Study Group. Now that Russia's accession has been completed, this Joint Study Group to see how to take forward the concept of CECA with this entire Customs Union. Of course Russia would be the major partner in it, but Kazakhstan too is one of our very important trading partners. We will start work on this. And we think it would have definitely a very positive impact.

As regards trade in services, I think the fact that it is a member of the WTO will also once the WTO moves forward, but I will ask the Ambassador to talk. Have you had any specifics on trade in services, the NASSCOM and so on?

**Indian Ambassador to Russia:** We have had some interest. We hope to have a visit by the Minister of Communications from here into India at the invitation of NASSCOM for the big event that they have next year. But more than that I think finally we have Indian companies looking a little more at Russia. If we look at the extent of the trade in services that goes on with the USA, things are pretty negligible out here. But now for example, TCS have got some of the work in terms of banking, providing the systems for one of the major banks out here. And it is an example of what they can do. We expect that they will be able to sell it to maybe at least ten or a dozen such banks. And each of these contracts is worth several million dollars. So, I think finally Indian companies finding the market for services a little bit saturated in the West and given the economic downturn that has taken place are, per force of circumstances also looking for markets. And Russia makes sense because we have a lot of strength in IT and other technologies and we have a lot to offer in terms of what we can do in terms of services out here. So, certainly you are right, that is an area with great prospects, something that we would encourage our companies to look at. Earlier this year we did have a visit by the Principal Secretary to our Prime

Minister who brought a delegation which included some of our IT companies and that has also opened up the market a bit in terms of interest amongst Indian companies.

**Foreign Secretary:** Thank you for that question. I would like to have the Ambassador just tell you, just to conclude this, the kind of range and diversity of our relationships. I think it was during one of the meetings we just went over the number of Ministers and the diversity of fields covered by the Ministerial visits. Do you have that list with you, what you were talking about? In the last six months I think of this year.

**Indian Ambassador to Russia:** For six months I can remember because I have been around for six months. I remember our Home Minister Mr. Chidambaram came here in June this year. Our Tourism Minister Mr. Sahai came here in September this year. And that led to some very useful outcomes. We have seen the number of tourists going to India increase by 25 per cent as a result of implementing certain changes in the visa policies by both the countries. It was an initiative which our Embassy took which has been reciprocated by the Russian side and effective 1st of December, they too have reciprocated in terms of changing their rules about giving visas to Indians who apply for them including Indian businessmen.

That I think helps a lot in increasing the flow of business between our two countries. Earlier, business visas and getting them itself was a major problem for Indians coming into Russia, and due to our taking a similar difficult stance, for Russians coming into India. Now that has changed. We are giving within three days a one year multiple entry visa and I think that will help. Then our Defence Minister came here in October. Our Power Minister came here in November. Our Commerce Minister came here also in November. Our Steel Minister came here in November. External Affairs Minister came here in November. Our National Security Advisor also came in November. Our Shipping Minister came in November. Though really he came for the United Russia Party congress but there was some interaction also on the bilateral side on that occasion. This itself gives an idea of the depth and extent of our cooperation that is taking place.

**Foreign Secretary:** Finally before we go away, I am going to ask the Ambassador to tell you the two Indian pieces of music that were played at the lunch.

**Indian Ambassador to Russia:** If I may add just one sentence with the hon. Foreign Secretary's permission, I think the interaction between our Prime Minister and President started at about 11 o'clock and continued till about 4:30 pm. That is five and a half hours of valued time which itself is noteworthy,

whether it was over lunch or otherwise. Our restricted meeting was two hours, as mentioned, but then entire interaction from 11 till 4:30 was there. As pointed out, during the lunch the accompanying music certainly had Russian favourites like Katyusha and ...(Unclear)... In Russia these are popular songs. But they also had two Shankar Jaikishan numbers - one is Awara Hun from the film Awara, and the second is Jeena Yahan, Marna Yahan from Mera Naam Joker. And everyone was touched by the fact that the Presidential Orchestra of the Russian Federation had so competently and so nicely played those numbers. Both our Prime Minister and his wife and the President and his wife went to compliment and thank the orchestra for the very nice and touching gesture on their part.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.



**635. Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh: “Furthering the India-Russia Strategic Partnership to meet the challenges of a changing World”.**

**Moscow, December 16, 2011.**

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from 15-17 December 2011 at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation H.E. Dmitry Medvedev. H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, held talks with H.E. Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, and H.E. Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

2. During the talks, the sides appreciated the advancement and further enhancement of the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia. The sides noted that intense dialogue and regular high-level meetings that had taken place since the annual Summit in December 2010 helped to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing global situation and to promote close coordination of joint efforts in the international arena and also contributed to the continued implementation of large-scale trade, economic, investment, defence, scientific and technical projects, humanitarian and cultural exchanges, and people-to-people level contacts in the spirit of the traditional friendship between the two nations.

3. The sides noted with satisfaction that the entry into force of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Mutual Simplification of Travel Documents for Certain Categories of Nationals of the two countries would promote broader business and scientific cooperation, boost professional, student and other exchanges between India and Russia.

4. The sides decided to commemorate the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia in 2012 in both the countries in a fitting manner.

#### **Enhancing bilateral trade, investments and innovative cooperation**

5. The sides noted the fruitful work carried out by the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation which held its XVII session in Moscow on November 18, 2011. Decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Commission and aimed at ensuring dynamic growth of bilateral economic ties focused on innovative and high-technology components, as well as investment projects that would contribute to the modernization and growth of both the economies. India welcomed Russia's impending entry into the WTO. The sides decided to jointly study the possibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and the Belarus-Kazakhstan-Russia Custom Union. The sides decided to actively exchange business missions in various fields of cooperation and to work out details on industrial modernization opportunities in India. They decided to explore the setting up of a joint investment fund and to promote greater cooperation between the regions of the two countries. The sides expressed satisfaction that several joint projects in the Hydrocarbon, Steel, Mining, Automobile, Fertilizer and Pharmaceutical sectors are currently being pursued.

#### **Energy Cooperation**

6. The sides emphasized that cooperation in the energy sector had become one of the important pillars of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership. They reiterated their commitment to further long term joint collaboration in the civilian nuclear energy sector, as well as in the hydrocarbon sector.

7. The sides reiterated their commitment to implement their plans for a long term partnership in the field of peaceful nuclear energy as envisaged in the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes and the Road Map for strengthening large-scale cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy which were concluded on March 12, 2010.

8. The sides noted with satisfaction the successful promotion of cooperation in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and reaffirmed their commitment to the highest standards of safety of nuclear technologies. The sides recognized the competence and rich experience of Russian organizations in design and technical assistance and of Indian organizations in the construction of nuclear power plants and their technical expertise. The sides looked forward to the early commissioning of the first two units at Kudankulam.

9. As regards construction of Units 3 & 4 at the Kudankulam site, as envisaged in the "Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Construction of Additional Nuclear Plants Units at the Kudankulam site as well as in the Construction of Russian Design Nuclear Power Plants at New Sites in the Republic of India" of December 5, 2008, the sides noted with satisfaction that the discussions on the text of the Protocol for grant of State Credit by the Russian Federation to the Republic of India had been finalized and that negotiations on the techno-commercial offer on the construction of Units 3 and 4 were in an advanced stage. The sides reiterated their commitment to the agreements reached previously on the construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in the Republic of India.

10. The sides reiterated their commitment to deepening cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, pursuant to the Framework Agreement for enhanced cooperation in oil and gas between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation that was signed on December 21, 2010. The Indian side reiterated its interest in equity participation through ONGC-OVL in new projects in Russia.

#### **Space research**

11. The sides commended the successful launch, by India, of the jointly built YouthSat for space science studies; and expressed satisfaction on the progress in implementation of the joint lunar exploration project. The sides agreed to continue cooperation in the space sector in the fields of satellite navigation and manned missions. The sides expressed mutual interest in using the Russian global navigation satellite system GLONASS and looked forward to furthering their cooperation in this field, including through the joint production of satellite navigation equipment and services for civilian users.

#### **Military-Technical cooperation**

12. The sides welcomed the outcome of the eleventh meeting of the India-Russia Inter Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation in addressing issues of mutual concern. The sides took note of the progress made in important joint defence projects such as the refitment of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya (Admiral Gorshkov), joint development and production of



Multi-Role Transport Aircraft, Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft and licensed production of various Russian origin defence equipment and armaments in India.

### **Scientific and technological cooperation**

13. The sides noted with satisfaction that the major mechanism of interaction between India and Russia in the field of science and technology was the Integrated Long-Term Program (ILTP) for cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovations for the period up to 2020 that is unique by its scale and diversity. The sides noted with satisfaction that the Moscow office of the India-Russia Science & Technology Centre (IRSTC) was inaugurated and that the New Delhi office would also be inaugurated shortly. They observed that the Centre would work in the very important area of commercialization of technologies. The sides agreed to support technology intensive programmes in areas such as bio-medical technology, nanotechnology, deep-ocean techniques and technologies, and information & communication technologies.

The sides encouraged the ongoing dialogue on technology intensive cooperation in areas of technology solutions for fly ash utilization.

### **Education**

14. The sides noted the exchange of delegations of experts to hold discussions on a new intergovernmental Agreement on mutual recognition and equivalence of educational documents and degrees including medical documents and degrees. The sides agreed to continue their constructive discussions on the issue and to promote educational exchanges between the two countries.

### **Cultural and humanitarian exchanges**

15. The sides noted the deep and rich cultural heritage of both the peoples and centuries-old bonds of friendship between them. The sides commended the impact of the Festival of Indian Culture in Russia held in Moscow, St Petersburg and Kazan in September 2011 under the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010- 2012 between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation that was signed on December 7, 2009. A festival of Russian Culture in India is scheduled for 2012.

### **Coordination at the United Nations**

16. As an important element of their Strategic Partnership, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work together to strengthen the central coordinating role of the United Nations in international affairs as well as the

crucial role of its Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. In this context, they reiterated their agreement to further strengthen their cooperation on issues related to the reform of the UN and its Security Council and stressed that the reform of the UN Security Council should be carried out in a manner that makes this body more representative and effective in dealing with both present and emerging challenges. The Russian Federation expressed strong support to India for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council. The two sides also expressed satisfaction with their cooperation in the UN Security Council since January 1, 2011, when India joined the Council as a non-permanent member, and agreed to take this cooperation forward.

#### **International financial and economic architecture**

17. The sides expressed concern over negative trends in the global economy. They noted that the financial and economic situation in the Euro zone was a source of particular concern. The sides welcomed the decisions of the Cannes Summit of the G-20, particularly, the Action Plan for steady, sustainable and balanced growth of the global economy. The sides emphasized that all countries needed to implement the Plan in an active and coordinated manner.

18. The sides identified successful completion of the IMF reform under the terms and conditions agreed in the framework of the G-20 as a key element of the general reform of the international financial architecture.

#### **Situation in the Middle East and North Africa**

19. In the context of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, the sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of: searching the way to overcome crises in the region in compliance with law, exclusively through peaceful means, avoiding violence and outside intervention, through broad, inclusive national dialogue on democratic reforms, taking into account the legitimate rights and aspirations of the peoples of the region.

20. They agreed that the fundamental transformation taking place in the states of the Middle East and North Africa should not be used as a pretext to delay resolution of lasting conflicts, but rather as an incentive to settle them. They spoke in favour of achieving comprehensive, just and final settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict on the basis of universally recognized international legal framework including the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. The sides support an early resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations aiming at the establishment of an independent, viable and territorially unified Palestinian State within the borders based on the lines of 1967, with negotiated mutually agreed territorial exchanges and East Jerusalem as its capital as well as joint efforts of the Middle East Quartet of international

mediators. They called upon for early restoration of Palestinian unity. A common All-Palestinian position based on PLO principles and the Arab Peace Initiative would contribute to progress towards a Palestine-Israeli settlement, as also peace and security for all the countries and peoples of the region.

### **Security and cooperation in the region of Asia and the Indian and Pacific Oceans**

21. The sides reiterated their support to the creation of a transparent, open, comprehensive, and balanced architecture of security and cooperation in the region based on the recognized principles of international law as well as respect for the legitimate interests of all states. They emphasized their commitment to the principle of indivisibility of security, unacceptability of attempts to enhance their own security to the detriment of other states' security, inadmissibility of preservation and creation of new dividing lines. The sides acknowledged the necessity of addressing both traditional and new security threats - terrorism, extremism, WMD proliferation, illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and maritime piracy. They expressed readiness to work closely within the framework of the East Asia Summit, which they regard as a leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

22. The sides agreed that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) had become an important factor for regional security and cooperation. Russia welcomed India's intention to join the organization as a full-fledged member and expressed the belief that its participation would significantly increase the political weight of the SCO and give new quality and dimension to cooperation within its framework. Russia stated that it stood for joint efforts with other SCO members to accelerate the process of India's full membership of the organization.

23. The sides noted that there were already several examples of successful regional cooperation formats operating in Asia and Indian and Pacific Ocean region, including the interaction between Russia, India and China (RIC). The importance of this format in fostering regional dialogue and cooperation was reaffirmed in the Joint Declaration of the 10th RIC Ministerial Meeting held on November 15, 2010 in Wuhan.

### **Development of BRICS Cooperation**

24. The sides attached importance to strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries. They welcomed the growing role of BRICS in international political and economic life. The sides noted with satisfaction the progress achieved within the BRICS framework on cooperation in finance, trade, science

and technology, agriculture and healthcare. Both sides reaffirmed their desire to jointly contribute to further development of cooperation within BRICS for the benefit of peoples of participating states.

The sides expressed confidence that the forthcoming BRICS Summit in 2012 to be chaired by India would be an important step towards strengthening the role of the grouping in the reform of global governance and towards further deepening intra-BRICS cooperation.

#### **Disarmament and non-proliferation**

25. India and the Russian Federation, as responsible states, possessing advanced nuclear technologies, share the objective of preventive proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including preventing their possible acquisition by terrorist groups. Both sides agreed on the need for all states possessing nuclear weapons to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to global nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, peace and undiminished and increased security for all.

26. Both sides expressed interest in strengthening multilateral export control regimes as an important component of the global non-proliferation regime. In this regard, the Russian side reiterated readiness to assist and promote a discussion and positive decision in the NSG on India's full membership in the NSG, and welcomed India's intention to seek full membership. India underscored its determination to actively contribute to international efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Russian Federation also took into consideration India's interest in full membership in MTCR and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

27. While recognizing the inherent right of states to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, India and the Russian Federation stressed the need for all states to comply with their respective obligations on non-proliferation. The sides support the central role of the IAEA and its safeguards system in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with its statute. The sides intend to support international efforts aimed at promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy as part of a proliferation-resistant architecture of international cooperation, based on strict implementation of non-proliferation obligations. As supplier states, the sides support multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle at the IAEA.

#### **Combating Terrorism**

28. The sides recalled the bilateral Moscow Declaration between India and the Russian Federation on International Terrorism signed on November 6, 2001 in Moscow. They strongly condemned the existence of safe havens and

sanctuaries for terrorism, and reiterated that States that aid, abet or shelter terrorists were as guilty of acts of terrorism as their actual perpetrators.

29. Both sides reaffirmed the need for all states to combine efforts to vanquish terrorism. They agreed that there was no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism, and that India and Russia being pluralistic states were especially vulnerable to acts of terrorism which are attacks against the values and freedoms, enshrined in their societies. Both sides reaffirmed that international terrorism is a threat to peace and security, a grave violation of human rights and a crime against humanity. They reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the combat against international terrorism and in this context called for an early adoption of the UN's draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

#### **Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking**

30. The sides emphasized the importance of joint bilateral and multilateral efforts in the fight against illicit drug trafficking which poses a growing threat to international peace and stability, taking into account the fact that this criminal business had become one of the main financial source of international terrorism. The sides confirmed their intention to closely interact in preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact initiative to be held in Vienna on February 16, 2012.

#### **Iran's Nuclear Energy Programme**

31. India and the Russian Federation expressed concern over the situation emerging around Iran's nuclear programme. Both sides support a comprehensive and long-term settlement of the situation through exclusively political and diplomatic means by promoting dialogue. The sides noted in this context that unilateral sanctions could be counter-productive. They recognized Iran's right to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its international obligations. India and the Russian Federation urged Iran to comply with the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and extend full cooperation to the IAEA. Afghanistan

32. The sides expressed their readiness to continue promoting the establishment of Afghanistan as a peaceful, democratic and independent state, free from terrorism, outside interference and drug-related crimes, with a sustainable economy. They expressed concern over escalation of extremist activity throughout the territory of the country, including previously relatively peaceful provinces, drug production growth, and unresolved socio-economic problems.

33. Supporting the transfer of responsibility for the situation in the country to the National Security Forces, the sides urge to intensify efforts to build up their capacity. The sides believe that the international military presence in Afghanistan should be linked to the security situation on the ground.

34. India and the Russian Federation support the efforts taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to establish a peaceful dialogue with the armed opposition, provided that the process goes on under the Afghan leadership and that the fighters meet the redlines enunciated by the international community: the recognition of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, renunciation of violence and breaking with al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. They consider it necessary to continue the UN Security Council sanctions regime as an essential anti-terror tool.

35. The sides noted with satisfaction the growing global understanding of the important role played by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan neighboring states, states and organizations of the region, and urge to focus the efforts in the region on the development and improvement of sound structures of regional cooperation, like the SCO and SAARC amongst others. They expect that the international community in their efforts in this regard will respect the decisions taken by the countries of the region in the framework of these organizations.

36. The Prime Minister of the Republic of India expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and cordial welcome during his official visit to Moscow and extended an invitation to the President of the Russian Federation to visit India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.



**636. Extracts from Media interaction of Prime Minister onboard his special flight on way back to New Delhi from Moscow.**

**December 17, 2011.**

**Prime Minister:** I have just completed a very successful visit to Russia and I am very satisfied with the results of the annual summit with Russia which we have just concluded. Our strategic partnership with Russia, which is special and privileged, is steadily forging forward.

The depth and range of our relationship with Russia is growing. Our strong strategic partnership in nuclear energy, defence and space will, in future, be buttressed by a stronger economic relationship. Premier Putin mentioned that there are over 400 India-Russia cooperation projects under implementation today. President Medvedev and I met with some of our CEOs and there are good prospects in pharmaceuticals, steel, diamonds and hydrocarbons.

We met at a time of turbulence in the world economy and uncertainty in the international order. We therefore discussed the political and economic situation in Asia and the world. We were both convinced that this complicated situation requires improvement and democratization of processes of global governance. President Medvedev described India as a strong contender for a permanent seat on the UNSC. Our views on current international issues, many of which are congruent, are expressed in the joint statement which is with you.

This has been a year of active diplomacy for India, with our immediate neighbours in the subcontinent, with major powers, and with our extended neighbourhood in SE Asia and West Asia. Although we end the year with increased uncertainty in the international system, it is clear that India also has opportunities in the UNSC, and the forums of BRICS, SAARC, G-20 and elsewhere to be a factor of peace and stability in the international system.

**Question 1:** On operationalisation of Kudankulam when ground realities are different?

**Answer:** Well there are difficulties, there are some people who are worried about safety of nuclear reactors and we have gone out of our way to assure as much as we can that the nuclear reactors that are being put up at Kudankulam are the safest available anywhere in the world. We have appointed a group of fifteen experts to interact with the representatives appointed by the Tamil Nadu Government to interact with the local people and more and more people including the legislators and Members of Parliament I think they are increasingly of the view that this agitation is overdone. I have been in touch with Tamil Nadu Government and its my sincere hope that Tamil Nadu which is short of power supply will recognise that here is a plant of 2000 megawatts set up at a

cost to the nation of 14000 crore rupees, we cannot simply let it idle, if it generates 2000 megawatts of power, nearly 1000 megawatts will be available for Tamil Nadu and the rest 1000 megawatts will be available for other states in the south. So I am confident that ultimately good sense will prevail, politics is sometimes I think too murky, but In the final analysis, I am convinced that good sense prevails and will prevail in this case.

**Question 2:** Parochial sentiments prevailing apart from Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu being riparian state it is not getting its share of power? The Cheif Minister has asked for more power to meet its needs?

**Answer:** Well the Chief Minister has written a letter to me recently asking for some additional allocation of power from the Central Government. We are working at it, we recognise the need of Tamil Nadu, we will work with the government of Tamil Nadu to satisfy the legitimate requirements of power, in a manner which is consistent with the overall availability in the country.

**Interjection:** But no power has been given.

**Answer:** Well we are at it and I was told that the Power Ministry has already indicated 100 megawatts straight away.

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**Question 4:** In 2014, ISAF quitting Afghanistan, what is the role you visualise of India Russia cooperation thereafter?

**Answer:** The US has announced that their forces will quit Afghanistan after 2014, but whether they will pull out their entire team or leave behind some people is not clear so far. As far as Russia and India are concerned, even after the American and other ISAF forces pull out of Afghanistan we have to recognise that Afghanistan happens to belong to a region where we all reside, therefore whatever happens in Afghanistan is of deep interest to Russia, is of deep interest to India and deep interest to all the neighbours of Afghanistan.

We have been engaged in a continuous dialogue with Russia on Afghanistan, we did that again, and I am very confident that both our countries recognise that it is a very serious issue and we should put all our wisdom, knowledge and experience into play to find a joint cooperative path to tackle this difficult problem.





**637. Statement by External Affairs Minister in the Lok Sabha on court hearing in Tomsk (Russia) on Bhagwad Gita.**

**New Delhi, December 20, 2011.**

Hon'ble Madam Speaker,

I rise to make a statement on a Court hearing in a Russian city on the Bhagwad Gita that was raised in this august House yesterday by Hon'ble Members Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji, Shri Sharad Yadav ji, Shri Lalu Prasad ji, Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav ji, Shri V. Aruna Kumar and Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani. A number of other Hon'ble members also conveyed their deep sense of anguish over this issue. At the outset, allow me to mention that I fully share the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Members of the House on this issue.

Hon'ble Members referred to media reports about a hearing conducted by a Court in the Russian city of Tomsk on whether a Russian language commentary on the Bhagwad Gita qualifies as "extremist" literature. I would like to inform this august House of the facts of this case.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has been functioning in Russia for decades. ISKCON has faced periodic problems with respect to its properties and functioning in Moscow and elsewhere. On occasion, our Embassy has intervened on behalf of ISKCON with the local city authorities as well as with the Russian Government.

ISKCON conveyed to our Embassy that its branch in Tomsk, Eastern Siberia, had received a notice in June 2011, of a complaint filed by the Public Prosecutor's Office in the local court. This complaint, apparently driven by some local individuals, was to the effect that the third Russian edition of the publication "*Bhagwad Gita As It is*"— a translation of a commentary by Swami Prabhupada, founder of ISKCON – had certain portions that were 'objectionable' and 'extremist' in nature.

Following the initial proceedings in August 2011, the District Court appointed its own three member expert group from the University of Kemerovo (in Siberia), which was to submit a report within three months. The final hearing in the Tomsk District Court was due on December 19, 2011, but has been rescheduled for December 28, 2011, as the Court has agreed to seek the opinion of the Russian Ombudsman on Human Rights in Tomsk District, and of Indologists from Moscow and St. Petersburg, who have greater knowledge and expertise on India.

Officials of the Embassy of India in Moscow and our Ambassador have been in

regular touch with the local representatives of ISKCON, since this matter came to light in June 2011.

ISKCON representatives were advised to take legal recourse to counter this misdirected complaint. We have also taken up this matter at the senior levels of the Russian Government. The Ministry of External Affairs has been in regular touch with our Embassy in Moscow on this issue. The matter was also taken up with the Russian Ambassador based in India, H.E. Mr. Alexander Kadakin who is himself a well-known Indologist. In fact the Ambassador has been publicly critical of this episode. He has stated that Bhagavad-Gita is a great source of wisdom for the people of India and the world. He also said that Russia is a secular and democratic country where all religions enjoy equal respect.

The complaint in a local Russian court appears to be the work of some ignorant and misdirected or motivated individuals. While this complaint is patently absurd, we have treated this matter seriously and the Embassy of India is closely monitoring this legal case.

Hon'ble Members would agree that the Bhagwad Gita is not simply a religious text; it is one of the defining treatises of Indian thought and describes the very soul of our great civilization. The Gita is far above any cheap propaganda or attacks by the ignorant or the misdirected. In Russia itself, we have many great Indologists, scholars and experts who understand the essence of the Gita and have written on it with reverence and passion. We do not want to dignify with too much attention some misdirected individuals who have filed an absurd complaint. We are confident that our Russian friends, who understand our civilizational values and cultural sensitivities, will resolve this matter appropriately.

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*Note: When the Russian Court dismissed the plea for the ban Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement on December 28, 2011:*

"We are happy to learn that the legal case in connection with the publication, 'Bhagvad Gita as it is', has been dismissed by the Hon'ble Court in Tomsk in the Russian Federation. We appreciate this sensible resolution of a sensitive issue and are glad to put this episode behind us. We also appreciate the efforts of all friends in Russia who made this outcome possible. This demonstrates yet again that the people of India and Russia have a deep understanding of each other's cultures and will always reject any attempt to belittle our common civilisational values."



**SLOVENIA****638. Briefing by Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, Joint Secretary (CE) and Joint Secretary (ERS) on visit of Slovenian Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna's visit to ASTANA for SCO Summit.****New Delhi, June 13, 2011.**

(For Briefing on EAM's visit to Astana for the SCO Summit Please see Document No.138.)

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon. My colleague Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison, Joint Secretary (Central Europe), and Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary (Eurasia) and I will like to brief you about two important visits.

First the state visit which has already begun of the Prime Minister of Slovenia HE Borut Pahor who would be in India till the 16th. Let me take you through the outline of his programme and delegation. The dignitary has already landed in Mumbai. Today he would be meeting with the Governor, and as we speak he is paying homage at the 26/11 Memorial at the Taj Mahal Palace.

He arrives in New Delhi later in the evening. Tomorrow, Prime Minister of India accords a ceremonial welcome to him, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. There would be calls on him by EAM. He calls on the President. At 1300 hours tomorrow there will be a Joint Business meeting organized by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM. Thereafter there is a call on him by the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

Next there is a call by him on the Vice-President and tomorrow evening he meets the Prime Minister and holds delegation-level talks, which will be followed by signing of agreements and a banquet. On Wednesday, 15th, he visits Agra and thereafter proceeds to Bangalore where he would be meeting with the Governor and visiting some of the centres of excellence including the Indian Institute of Sciences, Infosys, Biocon and also Narayana hospital. He leaves for home on the 16th evening.

PM Pahor is leading a high-power delegation including the Minister of Economy, Minister of Health, Minister of Transport, the State Secretary for Higher Education, a large number of senior officials as well as businessmen.

This is the first formal visit of a Head of State or Government from Slovenia although the former President and present President of the country, have come here on a private visit and for an international conference last year, respectively.

We recognized Slovenia as a separate nation on the 11th of May 1992 paving the way for the official visit of their Foreign Minister within a week thereafter. Slovenia is a fellow democratic nation and a developed country which is already a member of EU, with a per capita income of more than \$ 22,000. Our relations have been expanding steadily. Like India, Slovenia sees India as a priority country.

We do enjoy a similarity of outlook on a host of international and regional issues. Furthermore, Slovenia has been supportive of India's aspirations and sensitive to our concerns, including our permanent membership of the UN Security Council and the threat of terror that we face. Slovenia had strongly condemned the terror attacks on Mumbai.

Trade is growing rapidly and quadrupled in five years to cross Euro 245 million last year with a balance in India's favour. We are exporting non-traditional goods to Slovenia. The country also has strengths in sectors like pharmaceuticals, auto components, electrical and engineering services and products. A number of Indian companies are looking at servicing the Central and Southeastern European markets like Austria, Southern Germany, Hungary, Czech and so on through Slovenia. Tata Motors have already entered the Slovenian market in 2009.

To spur the process of economic development we already have an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, a double taxation avoidance agreement, and more agreements are in the pipeline. Slovenia also sees India as a potential source of investments and hence the business team that is traveling with the Prime Minister. We are both interested in widening the scope of cooperation including in areas like science and technology, culture, parliamentary exchanges and so on.

A bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is likely to be installed later this year in Slovenia. And as I said, a number of agreements are likely to be signed during the state visit of the Prime Minister of Slovenia.

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**Question:** I have a question on Slovenia. If we are in as much synergy as we are supposed to have with Slovenia, why does it take a Prime Minister from there nineteen years to travel here?

**Joint Secretary (CE) (Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison):** Thank you, Nilova for that question, I was trying to get my bit in.

Slovenia itself is twenty years old. In fact it is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Once it had emerged into independence - and it was the first country out of the

former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to emerge into independence in almost entirely nonviolent manner - it was economically the most advanced Republic of the region, and it got membership of EU in 2004. I think that answers your question. From 1992 to 2004, it is a short period within which to complete the requirements of Euro integration. And that was its understandable priority. But do remember that its Foreign Minister visited India within seven days of our recognizing the country and the Prime Minister was invited by us in 2006 and there was some issue which came up internally and since then we have been trying to schedule these visits. So, this scheduling predates the actual date of the visit.

**Official Spokesperson:** And as I said, the President of the country did visit India in February 2010 for attending the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. And we have had regular exchanges at different levels. And also, just to reiterate what Banashri has just mentioned, in 2004 they became a member of EU and in the last five years our trade has shot up 400 per cent. So, things have been moving at a pace which is more than satisfactory.

\* \* \* \*

**Thank you very much.**



**639. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor.**

**New Delhi, June 14, 2011.**

At the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, H.E. Mr. Borut Pahor is paying a state visit to India from the 13th to 16th of June.

This morning, the Prime Minister of Slovenia was given a ceremonial welcome by the Prime Minister of India in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan and thereafter laid a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Rajghat.

In the evening, the Prime Minister and the visiting dignitary held delegation level talks. Welcoming the first-ever Prime Ministerial visit from either side, the Prime Minister said that India wanted to develop closer ties with Slovenia both bilaterally and in multilateral and regional forums, including the United Nations as well as the European Union. The Prime Minister expressed his happiness at the fact that the visit coincided with the 20th Anniversary of Slovenian Independence. The two leaders reviewed different aspects of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the steady and multi-faceted growth in cooperation between the two countries, including continued expansion in bilateral trade, despite the global economic downturn. They noted that there was substantial potential still to be tapped and agreed that the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) to be signed after the talks would send a timely positive signal to the business communities in both countries.

The Prime Minister and his Slovenian counterpart discussed global issues like reform of the UN Security Council, the global financial situation and international terrorism. Prime Minister Pahor reaffirmed the support of Slovenia for a permanent seat for India in expanded Security Council.

The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of the BIPPA by Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherji and the Economy Minister of Slovenia Ms. Darja Radiæ.

An agreement between the Indian Bureau of Indian Standards and its Slovenian counterpart was also signed and is expected to boost bilateral trade by facilitating a better mutual understanding of standards and norms of traded goods. Another Agreement was signed between the University of Nova Gorica and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore to promote institutional cooperation in the field of research & education with a focus on Environmental sciences, Materials Science, Physics, Agriculture and Engineering.

Prime Minister Pahor was received by the President and the Vice President. Earlier in the day, Minister for External Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition

called on the Prime Minister of Slovenia. In the afternoon, Prime Minister Pahor spoke at a business luncheon, which was also addressed by the Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur.

To further strengthen the growing interactions between the two Parliaments, it was decided to establish a Parliamentary Friendship Group with Slovenia on the occasion of the visit. A Friendship Group with India already exists in Slovenian Parliament.

Prime Minister Pahor's delegation includes the Ministers of Economy, Health and Transport as well as senior officials from other Ministries. Representatives from the Slovenian media and from a number of Slovenian companies are also part of the accompanying delegation.

The Prime Minister and his delegation arrived in Mumbai yesterday. After a meeting with the Governor of Maharashtra, who hosted a lunch in his honour, Prime Minister Pahor paid homage at the 26/11 Memorial at the Hotel Taj Mahal.

On 15th June 2011, Prime Minister Pahor would be travelling to Agra, and proceed to Bangalore before returning to Slovenia.

India and Slovenia have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly relations, and the economic ties date back to several decades when, as a constituent Republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, it made a major contribution to the healthy trade between the two countries. Today, Indo-Slovenian relations which are strengthened by a commitment to shared values of democracy, pluralism, diversity and the rule of law are becoming broad-based and diverse. The economic and trade component, though small in value, is increasing rapidly; with a growth of about 140% over 2008-10. Investments also are gradually increasing in both directions.



**640. Agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Slovenia.**

**New Delhi, June 14,2011.**

<b>Name of Agreement/MoU</b>	<b>Slovenian Signatory</b>	<b>Indian Signatory</b>
Agreement between the two countries on the Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments	<b>Her Excellency Ms. Darja Radic</b> Minister of Economy	<b>Shri Pranab Mukherjee</b> Minister of Finance
Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Indian Standards and Slovenian Institute for Standardization	<b>Mr. Bogdan Topic</b> President, Slovenian Institute of Bureau of Standardization	<b>Shri Sharad Gupta</b> Director General, Indian Standards
Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India and University of Nova Gorica, Nova Gorica, Slovenia for Cooperation in the Field of Research and Education	<b>Dr. Danilo Zavrtanik</b> Rector, University of Nova Gorica, Nova Gorica	<b>Prof. Govindan Rangarajan</b> Chairman, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

**New Delhi,  
June 14, 2011**



**SWITZERLAND**

**641. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) on President's visit to Switzerland and Austria.**

**New Delhi, September 29, 2011.**

Please see Document No.590.





**642. Statement of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media on board her special flight on her State Visit to Switzerland and Austria.**

**September 30, 2011.**

Please see Document No.591.



**643. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Reception for the Indian Community hosted by Ambassador of India.**

**Geneva, October 2, 2011.**

I am delighted to have this opportunity to interact with the Indian community and with other friends of India residing in Switzerland, many of whom have travelled to Geneva from other parts of the country.

I always look forward to interacting with the Indian community and well-wishers of India during my overseas visits, as I believe that they form a bridge between the country where they reside and India. Relations between countries are, indeed, built and nurtured by people on both sides. India is proud of its people who went abroad and earned the respect of others by the dint of their hard work and enterprise. I am aware that here, in Switzerland too, Indians have made significant contributions to the development of this country and are held in high regard by the people of Switzerland. The goodwill generated by them contributes profoundly to the relationship between India and Switzerland.

Relations between our two countries have a long history. The Father of the Indian Nation, whose birth anniversary falls today, came here in 1931. This morning, eighty years later, on his birthday it was my privilege to pay homage at the statue of Mahatma in Switzerland, in the tranquil Ariana Park located on the aptly named - Avenue of Peace. The world over, today, is being observed as the International Day of Non - Violence. It is an occasion to reaffirm the principles of truth, peace and non-violence which Gandhiji, not only strongly advocated but ardently observed throughout his life. These values are relevant for the whole world even today. It is also significant that the statue was unveiled in 1997 to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Establishment between India and Switzerland in August 1948, the first such Treaty that independent India signed.

Our countries share many commonalities. We have a commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy and federalism. Deeply ingrained in our people is the mutual respect for differences and diversity within our respective nations. Shared values of rule of law and respect for human dignity bind our two nations and peoples together. Both our countries also share scientific traditions. India, the home of mathematics, geometry and invention of the Zero has an ancient scientific culture, while Switzerland is a leader in innovation, scientific and technological excellence and creativity. Yesterday, I visited CERN and was most impressed with the research work being done there and with the contributions that Indian scientists were making to the various activities in CERN.

Our countries are now exploring the establishment of a privileged partnership. This is my first visit to Switzerland and its purpose is to maintain the momentum of political exchanges which underpin our bilateral relations, and give them fresh substance. All of you can also contribute to this goal and help enhance bilateral ties.

India's growth offers many opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. The Indian economy recorded consistently high rates of growth since 2003 and even the global economic downturn had a limited impact. Today, India is among the most attractive destinations globally, for investments and business and foreign direct investment has increased over the last few years. Since the Indian economy opened up in 1991, Indian companies faced international competition rather well, and have expanded their global footprint; some are here in Switzerland. This underlines that the benefits of economic engagement with India, flow in both directions. In many cases these Indian companies have helped Swiss companies retain their competitive edge.

The overriding priority in India today is to ensure that the benefits of India's economic growth should reach all sections of society, in particular the poorer sections, so that they too can have a better life. We are also aware of the challenges of ensuring that the aspirations of our youth, who constitute more than 50 percent of our population today, are met; that they have the opportunities to get education and training needed to allow India to garner the demographic dividend.

Like India, Switzerland has some of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world, and the number of Indian students studying here has been growing. Indians have also contributed their expertise in numerous faculties of these institutions. During my visit, a Tagore Chair will be established at the University of Lausanne. This is a timely initiative for two reasons. Firstly, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of the great Nobel Laureate's birth. Secondly, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is no stranger to Switzerland, which he visited to meet

Romain Rolland, the renowned French philosopher-author and fellow Nobel Laureate.

Cultural ties are a vital component of relations between India and Switzerland. I understand that much of the credit for promoting Indian culture in this country goes to you. You have established societies and groups devoted to India.

We acknowledge your efforts in this regard and your achievements. Each year, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is organized in India in January. This year it is being organized in Jaipur. This event celebrates the success that the Indian Diaspora has achieved all over the world, and its timing was chosen to coincide with and to commemorate the date when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India in 1915 after his sojourn in South Africa. I hope to see many of you participating in these celebrations in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate your many contributions to strengthening Indo-Swiss ties, and encourage you to continue your endeavours to build contacts with the people of this beautiful country, and to raise India's profile in this country. The strong and vibrant political and economic partnership between India and Switzerland will benefit from these efforts.

I wish you, your families, and all our Swiss friends present here success, happiness and prosperity. The festive season in India has begun and I wish all of you a very happy Dussehra.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!



**644. Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Parliament of the Swiss Confederation.**

**Berne, October 3, 2011.**

I bring warm greetings from the people of the largest democracy to one of the oldest democracies in the world. It is a privilege to be here in the Parliament House Building, the seat of Switzerland's unique and robust democracy, to meet the President and Federal Councillors of the Swiss Confederation.

My delegation and I are deeply touched by the gracious welcome that we received on our arrival in your beautiful country. We have no doubt that this special warmth shown to us is not just a reflection of Switzerland's world-famous expertise in faultless hospitality; it is also a demonstration of the strong bonds of friendship linking our two peoples and our two countries.

Our shared democratic values have fostered a close understanding between our two countries from the very beginning. The Treaty of Friendship with Switzerland was the first such Treaty that independent India signed. There has been much transformation that our two countries - and, indeed, the world itself - has seen over the past six decades, but yet India-Swiss relations have stood the test of time.

President Calmy-Rey's State visit to India in November 2007 provided significant impetus to further strengthening of our existing bilateral ties. Since then, there have been numerous exchanges between the two countries at all levels, covering a wide canvas that encompasses political, economic and cultural relations. The last visit to India of Madame Calmy-Rey in August 2010, as the Foreign Minister kept up the momentum that had been generated and added more substance to our bilateral relationship. Visits by the then Federal Councillor for Economic Affairs Mrs. Leuthard in 2008 and 2009, and her successor Federal Councillor Mr. Amman in April this year, accompanied by a large business delegation, maintained the focus on the economic dimension of our relationship. From the Indian side too, many Ministers have visited Switzerland. The interaction between political leaders dealing with key areas has been most productive.

In the last five years, the Indian economy has been growing at a sustained and consistent rate, despite the global financial crisis. The macro economic fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong and its regulatory mechanisms are sound. The economy grew at 8.6 percent last year. Keeping pace with our growth and our expanding market, India-Switzerland economic and commercial relations have also expanded steadily. Bilateral trade between the two countries has crossed 3.5 Billion Euros and is continuing to increase. Two-way investments have also shown a steady upward trend. However, there is a great

scope for enhancement of the current economic interaction through further cooperation and collaboration in a number of areas. There are strong complementarities between Switzerland's technological capabilities, and our own strengths and demands for high technology. In key areas such as clean technology, environmental protection and urban waste collection, Swiss industries can provide us with innovative solutions.

Switzerland ranks amongst the leading countries in the world in harnessing renewable sources of energy, including both wind and hydro. Thus, renewable energy is clearly a sector where there is a great potential for bilateral cooperation. There is also scope for greater collaboration in biotechnology, where the two countries could focus on cutting edge areas, such as bio-electronics and bio-informatics, and food processing, in which Switzerland has developed great expertise.

India too has gained recognition from the world for its human resources that makes it an ideal Research and Development location. It has also emerged as a hub for high quality, cost-competitive manufacturing. These advantages offered by India, taken together with the innovative culture of Swiss enterprises, have created enormous synergies between our two economies which we should harness to benefit both our people.

Switzerland, situated in the heart of Europe, surrounded by major European markets, has begun to attract investments from well-known Indian companies which have already established a significant global presence. The entry into force of the Amending Protocol to the existing bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, signed in August 2010 will boost this trend. A Memorandum of Understanding on Financial Dialogue, which will be signed today, would provide a useful forum for exchange of views on financial and macro-economic issues. The bilateral Social Security Agreement signed in 2009, would also help industry in regards to its liabilities and contribution towards social security of its employees. We look forward to the early conclusion of the Trade and Investment Agreement between India and the European Free Trade Area, which will give a further boost to bilateral economic relations.

We welcome the increased participation of small and medium enterprises in bilateral economic interaction, as they play a major role in employment generation, technology innovation and diversification of exports. However, there is need for building the necessary skill base and, in this context, vocational training is of great importance. The Vocational Education and Training Initiative between our two countries which has contributed to capacity building efforts in India, needs to be broadened in scope and reach. India has launched a massive national programme for skill development where we aim at training five hundred million skilled personnel by 2022. We would like Switzerland to be India's partner in this mission. 2011 has been a year when India has been very visible in Switzerland. It was the 'guest'

country at BASELWorld, the well-attended annual exhibition of watches and jewellery. It was the 'guest of honour' at the recently concluded Geneva Festival and the 'focus' country at Locarno Film Festival. Such events reinforce people-to-people contacts in our relations and must be encouraged.

Tomorrow, we will be launching a new chapter of bilateral cooperation with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Lausanne to establish the 'Tagore Chair on Indian Studies'. This Chair would be pivotal in bringing together scholars as well as students from both countries.

On the multilateral stage too, our countries have been actively and constructively collaborating on a wide range of issues. Both Switzerland and India believe that the United Nations system needs to be reformed to make it more democratic and effective. India is convinced that this would require, among other things, the expansion of the UN Security Council. We strongly believe that India meets and satisfies all objective criteria for having a permanent seat in the expanded Security Council. We thank the Swiss Confederation for supporting our candidature for a non-permanent seat in the Council for 2011-12, and hope that it would be able to support India's aspirations to a permanent seat as well.

International Terrorism is one of the multilateral issues on which India and Switzerland share a common view. We appreciate the strong and unequivocal condemnation by Switzerland of terrorist attacks in India. The international community needs to work together to eliminate the forces of terrorism, which are inflicting wanton destruction across the globe at will. This is vital for peace and stability in the world.

Another global challenge facing humanity today which requires an urgent, collective and coordinated global response is climate change. For a country like India, with one of the smallest carbon foot-prints in the world, the first and overriding priority is to alleviate poverty and to address our severe energy deficit. Half a billion people in India still do not have access to commercial energy. Despite our huge developmental challenges, we are doing everything possible, within our means and resources, to contribute to the global action on climate change through an ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change. We have already declared our commitment to keep per capita emissions below the average per capita emissions of developed countries.

Excellency, the historical nature of our relationship has transformed in recent years to a truly multifaceted partnership, with the potential for contributing to the prosperity and security not only of our two peoples, but in the world. Let us work together steadfastly towards this lofty objective.

Thank you.



**645. Statement by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the media in Berne.**

**Berne, October 3, 2011.**

I bring warm greetings and good wishes from the people of India - the largest democracy, to the friendly people of Switzerland - one of the oldest and most robust democracies in the world.

2. My delegation and I would like to thank the Government and the people of Switzerland, for the warm hospitality that we have received from the very moment of our arrival. We are delighted to be in Berne - the capital of a country renowned the world over, as much for the panoramic beauty of its mountains and lakes, as for the faultless precision of its technology.

3. India and Switzerland have much in common that we cherish and guard zealously - democratic values, respect for the rule of law, human rights, diversity of languages and religions. These commonalities have fostered close mutual understanding and cooperation on a wide range of issues - bilateral as well as multilateral. This was evident in the atmosphere as well as the content of the productive discussions, that I and my delegation had with President Micheline Calmy-Rey and other members of the Federal Council today.

4. I thanked the President for her personal contribution towards the strengthening of our bilateral relations. Her State visit to India in November 2007 was the highlight of the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Establishment between our two countries. This was among the first Treaties that India signed after its independence. During President Calmy-Rey's visit, the two sides had agreed to discuss the elevation of the bilateral relationship to the level of a Privileged Partnership. We discussed today some of the steps we could take to achieve this goal. In our view, this would require an enhancement of the frequency, as well as the quality of our interaction in areas such as economic and commercial cooperation, scientific ties, educational exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

5. I informed the Federal Council that India's overriding priority is to achieve rapid, sustainable and inclusive development over the coming decades. This led to discussions about the many opportunities for win-win partnerships that the complementary strengths of our economies offer. For example, Switzerland is a world leader in many areas which are important for our development, such as clean technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency and urban waste collection. On the other hand, India has emerged as a global Research and Development hub, thanks to its pool of scientific and technical manpower. It is steadily gaining recognition for its high quality, cost-effective manufacturing

facilities. Thus partnering with India can help Swiss companies retain their competitive edge, in the Indian market as well as globally.

6. The two sides were happy to note that 2011 has been a year of high visibility for India in Switzerland. It was the 'guest' country at BASELWorld. It was the 'guest of honour' at the recently concluded Geneva Festival and the 'focus' country at Locarno Film Festival. Such events reinforce the people-to-people contacts in our relations and must be encouraged.

7. In our discussions, we touched on economic, financial and fiscal cooperation between India and Switzerland. We noted that the Amending Protocol to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement would provide a framework for exchange of tax-related information of importance to either side, when it enters into force. A Memorandum of Understanding on Financial Dialogue was also signed, which would provide a useful forum for exchange of views on financial and macro-economic issues.

8. A business delegation from India has accompanied me to explore opportunities for commercial and economic collaboration with Swiss partners and energize this important aspect of our relationship. I look forward to participating along with President Micheline Calmy-Rey in the Business Forum tomorrow, to urge them to increase bilateral economic interaction and to learn from the captains of industry from both sides, what more we can do to encourage them.

9. Another important event tomorrow that I look forward to is the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Lausanne to establish the 'Tagore Chair on Indian Studies' which, I hope, would help bring together scholars as well as students from both countries.

10. India views Switzerland as an important partner in all international fora. Therefore, we discussed the important issue of the reform of the United Nations, including the expansion of the Security Council. India profoundly believes that unless the Security Council is restructured to reflect the contemporary realities, its ability to react effectively to the many emerging collective security challenges would be hampered.

11. We also discussed some international issues of common interest and concern. Among the areas touched upon was international terrorism which poses a serious threat to world peace and security. Open, tolerant, democratic societies like ours are particularly vulnerable. The terrorist attacks in Mumbai and more recently in Delhi, remind us that we must resolve to work jointly to eliminate this scourge.

12. Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, let me conclude by saying that today's



discussions have further consolidated our historical relationship. Moreover, they have contributed towards making it a dynamic and multifaceted privileged partnership, which has the potential to enhance the prosperity and security, not only of our two peoples but in the world.

Thank you.



**646. Speech of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Banquet hosted in her honour by President of the Swiss Confederation Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey.**

**Berne, October 3, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Micheline Calmy-Rey, Mr. Andre Calmy,

Excellencies Federal Councillors, Presidents of the National Council and Council of States, Other Distinguished Guests,

It is indeed a pleasure for me as well as for the members of my delegation to be here today in Berne. I would like to thank you Your Excellency, for the warm reception and hospitality given to us in the beautiful and historic Bernerhof.

Switzerland is known all over the world for its unique democratic institutions, designed to give citizens a voice on major issues; it is only natural that the relations between Switzerland and India should be warm and friendly. The Treaty of Friendship and Establishment between India and Switzerland signed on 14th August 1948 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was one of the first treaties to be signed by India as an independent country. The words in this Treaty that "There shall be perpetual peace and unalterable friendship" between our two countries ring true today, and will for the years to come.

Switzerland's contribution to India's development in the early years after our Independence is appreciated and well-remembered. Today, as India emerges as a powerful engine of the global economy, new opportunities are emerging for mutually beneficial cooperation. The growing Indian middle class offers a huge market for the high quality consumer goods that Switzerland is famous for. The advanced technology developed in many areas by your firms, can help in the updating our techno-industrial base in sectors, which will sustain our development. India's strengths in Research and Development, and the

sophisticated yet cost-effective manufacturing facilities it offers, can help Swiss companies retain their competitive edge globally.

Excellency, the people of India are familiar with Switzerland. Your panoramic and picturesque sceneries have been the backdrop of many Indian movies. These films have made Switzerland an attractive destination for Indian travellers. More and more Indian tourists are coming here. As there have been a number of events in your country focusing on India, including its being the Guest of Honour, at the popular annual Geneva Festival, these will, I hope result in more Swiss people travelling to India.

People-to-people contacts including between students and academics add vigour to the relationship between countries. I am happy that we would be making an excellent beginning towards encouraging such educational exchanges, by establishing the Tagore Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Lausanne.

May I once again extend our gratitude to you for having made our stay here so special. It is indeed, a matter of great pleasure for me and my delegation to have had the chance to visit your beautiful country.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now invite you to join me in a toast to:-

- the success, good health and prosperity of Her Excellency President Micheline Calmy-Rey and Mr. Andre Calmy, the other Honourable Members of the Federal Council and their spouses;
- the further strengthening of our abiding friendship and multi-faceted ties; and
- the peace, progress and well-being of the peoples of India and Switzerland.



**647. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indo – Swiss Business Forum.**

**Berne, October 4, 2011.**

I would like to begin by thanking the Economiesuisse, the Swiss India Chamber of Commerce as well as the members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, for arranging this Conference during my visit to Switzerland. I am also happy to see members of CII and ASSOCHAM here amongst us. I am delighted to be with the representatives of Swiss and Indian industry here in Berne today. I am well aware that the partnership between India and Switzerland, owes a lot to the joint efforts of all of you gathered here.

Switzerland and India share many common values and beliefs. Foremost among them are the deep-rooted democratic system, a secular, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society, and a respect for the rule of law and human rights. The warm and friendly bilateral relationship is a natural outcome of our shared values. The Treaty of Friendship and Establishment, signed by India and Switzerland in 1948, was among the first that independent India signed. It is the cornerstone on which the bilateral relationship has been built. It is a relationship which today encompasses collaboration and cooperation in diverse fields - political, economic, scientific and cultural. The objective of my State Visit to Switzerland is to accelerate our bilateral relations in all these spheres.

Let us begin by looking at the trade links between our two countries. These have a long history. It was in 1856 that the Volkhart Brothers set up companies in both countries, with the main purpose of trading in cotton and industrial goods. Today, Switzerland has emerged as a leading trading partner for India outside the EU. The liberalization of the Indian economy gave a real boost to two-way trade, which nearly doubled in ten years between 1995 and 2005, and increased at an even faster rate to cross Swiss Francs 3.5 billion last year; dipping only a little during 2009 due to the global economic downturn. However, the Indian and the Swiss economies have both demonstrated resilience. As a consequence, the first half of 2011 has seen continued upward surge in our commercial exchanges.

While bilateral trade trends are encouraging, we get a complete picture of the economic engagement between our two countries only when we also look at the investments. Switzerland is among the top foreign investors in India and currently ranks 11th. About 170 Joint Ventures and subsidiaries of Swiss companies are operating in India, in diverse fields including heavy engineering, precision tools, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles and IT services. Switzerland has been a good source of technology transfer, helping Indian companies to upgrade their production capabilities. Over the last fifteen years,

there have been over 7,800 technical collaborations between Indian and Swiss companies.

Recent developments have been promising and give strong grounds for optimism about the bright future of the economic partnership between India and Switzerland. Firstly, even though relatively small in number, Indian companies have begun to invest in Switzerland. This trend is bound to strengthen as Indian MNCs further expand their global operations. Secondly, Swiss Small and Medium Enterprises have begun to look at the opportunities that are offered by the growing Indian market, as well as its cost-effective manufacturing facilities. Thirdly, the bilateral Social Security Agreement signed in 2009, would also help the industry in regards to its liabilities and contribution towards social security of its employees.

India is at present the second fastest growing economy in the world. Since the 1990s the average growth rate has been more than 6 percent and it reached close to 9 percent in recent years. There was a decrease in the growth rate in 2008 due to the global economic crisis, but we fast reverted to our high growth path. I would like to highlight that India's growth story is not only a reflection of the new dynamism of a young India, but it is also a reaffirmation that the values of democracy, pluralism and the rule of law can sustain high economic growth. Further, the economic transformation under way in India, not only augurs a better future for its one billion plus people; it has also helped India become an anchor of stability and a hub of opportunity for the global economy. It is, therefore, not surprising that India has been projected to become the second most attractive destination for Foreign Direct Investment in 2010-12, as per UNCTAD's World Investment Report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Swiss companies with their advanced technologies have been a part of India's growth story. They have played an important role in building up India's infrastructure and industrial base. They have profited from their ventures in India. Interestingly, a study conducted by the Swiss Embassy last year, based on the responses it received from 132 out of the 170 Swiss companies operating in India, found that despite the global economic recession, many of the existing collaborations were expanding. The past experience should leave no one in doubt that closer economic ties between our two countries will be a win-win partnership. India has launched a massive national programme for skill development where we aim at training 500 million skilled personnel by 2022. I call on Switzerland to be India's partner in this mission. The Vocational Education and Training Initiative between our two countries that has contributed to capacity building efforts in India, can play an important role in this. We would like it to be further expanded and also to broaden its scope.

India is negotiating a Free Trade agreement with the European Free Trade Area which includes Switzerland. Trade as well as investments will get a definite boost from the conclusion of this Agreement.

It would be remiss of me not to recognize the role played by the business chambers, as well as the Embassies in the two countries, in enhancing the flow of information on investment and trade related issues. This has made an invaluable contribution to supporting the establishment of joint ventures and strategic alliances between enterprises of both countries. I urge them to keep up the good work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you can see, there is tremendous potential to expand the Indo-Swiss bilateral partnership. I urge you to fully utilize the opportunity of meeting today, to impart further momentum to business relations between our two countries. You can be sure of a helping hand from the two governments, as they are committed to taking the bilateral economic ties to ever greater heights.

Thank you.



**648. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) in Vienna on President's Ongoing Visit to Switzerland and Austria.**

**Vienna, October 4, 2011.**

Please see Document No.592.



**649. Speech by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the unveiling of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's bust at the University of Lausanne.**

**Lausanne, October 4, 2011.**

I am very happy to be in the historic University of Lausanne. Established as a School of Theology in 1537, it has come a long way over the centuries to emerge as one of the leading universities in Europe. It has constantly expanded and diversified its faculties, and has established active international exchange programs with universities across the world.

Today, on its campus, I will have the honour to unveil the statue of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a personality of outstanding caliber and one deeply committed to the cause of education. He established, in the last century, Santiniketan, which is a renowned University in India. He sought to make Santiniketan, "the connecting thread between India and the world". He saw education and learning as vehicles for appreciating the rich aspects of other cultures, while respecting one's own culture. An MOU being signed today between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the University of Lausanne establishes the Rabindranath Tagore Chair on Indian Studies here, a pioneer venture which will begin with the teaching of Hindi. This will add a bit of India to the rich palette that this University offers.

Rabindranath Tagore became an international figure when "Gitanjali", his anthology of poems was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. It was the first time that this prize was given to an Asian. He was not only a poet, writer, scholar, painter, educationist and philosopher but also, perhaps, the most able goodwill ambassador of modern India, and did a lot to acquaint the world about its marvelous as well as its vast and rich cultural ethos. He was a great patriot and an inspiration for our freedom movement. He was the author of India's National Anthem. He visited your beautiful country at the invitation of French author and philosopher Romain Rolland, whom he counted among his close friends. Rolland was very anxious that, and I quote, "People see in Tagore only the sage, the educationist, the prophet, and they will not see the poet." Unquote. Such was the multi-faceted personality of Rabindranath Tagore.

Rabindranath Tagore was, indeed, all of these and more - and is remembered for his writings and poems as well as his wisdom and vision. He wrote extensively on many subjects, forever arguing in favour of unity, harmony and peace. He grasped the wisdom of the past, and also understood the importance of new thinking for addressing the various challenges in an ever-evolving world. We, indeed, live in a dynamic world where change is constant. The agility with which we respond to new circumstances is a measure of our preparedness for

taking advantage of emerging situations. Knowledge societies will be demanding both in the search for philosophies to live meaningful lives and in the use of technologies for human development. Societies of the 21st Century will be an outcome of how this generation, and succeeding generations, will act in the overall interest of the progress of the human race.

Rabindranath Tagore wrote, "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." Students of institutions such as Lausanne University, with their education and intellectual capacity, can contribute much to the world by living in harmony with each other and with nature. It is only when you involve yourself with something bigger than your own personal advancements, that will you help in writing history and in shaping society. As citizens of the world you would, I am sure, work hard to realize your dreams. Dreams may not always be realized fully, but we must attempt to go out as far as we can in our efforts, for therein lies satisfaction and therein lies the strength of an individual. Before us, many amazing personalities like Rabindranath Tagore constantly strove to live noble lives.

The bronze bust of the great Nobel Laureate unveiled today in the University of Lausanne, is a tribute not only to him but is also a symbol of the close ties between India and Switzerland. This year marks the 150th Birth Centenary of this great personality and the Chair established today commemorates this. We have got from India, a collection of books written by and on Rabindranath Tagore, as well as some audio visual material which will be handed over to the University. I am sure these will be useful in studies about India.

I wish you the very best for your future.

Thank you.



**650. Interaction of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil with the media on board her special flight on way back to Delhi after her tours of Switzerland and Austria.**

**October 7, 2010.**

Please see Document No.598



**TURKEY****651. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) M. Ganapathi on Vice-President's visit to Turkey.****New Delhi, October 08, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good afternoon and welcome. Good to see all of you.

Vice-President of India would be paying an official visit to Turkey from the 10th to the 15th of October this month. Secretary (West) Mr. M Ganapathi is here to brief you about the forthcoming visit of the Vice-President. He is also joined by two of my colleagues, to his right Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison, our Joint Secretary looking after Central Europe and Europe West, and to my left is Mr. P. Harish who is the Joint Secretary in the Vice-President's Secretariat.

Sir, the floor is yours.

**Secretary (West) (Shri M. Ganapathi):** Thank you, Vishnu. Good afternoon friends from the media.

I am grateful that Mr. Vishnu Prakash, Joint Secretary (XP), Smt. Banashri Bose Harrison, Joint Secretary (Central and West Europe), and Shri P. Harish, Joint Secretary and OSD to the Hon. Vice-President of India could join us. I am grateful that all of you could spare a Saturday afternoon to be with us. Of course, among the many reasons is we just returned from our overseas visit overnight.

The Hon. Vice-President of India will be paying an official visit to Turkey from the 10th to the 15th of October, that is coming Monday.

The members of the delegation accompanying the Hon. Vice-President will include: Shri Mukul Wasnik, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Hon. Members of Parliament Shri Sitaram Yechury, Shri Ranjitsingh Vijaysinh Patil, Shri Vijay Pal Singh and Smt. Ingrid McLeod. Senior officials, including Shri Shumsher Sheriff, Secretary to the Hon. Vice-President, and Shri Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, Special Secretary (Public Diplomacy) from the Ministry of External Affairs will form part of the delegation. Members of the media will naturally accompany the Hon. Vice-President. And some members of the Indian business who are based in Turkey along with their representatives from India would join.

There have been a number of high-level visits in recent years between the two countries. In November 2008, we had the Prime Minister of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan in India. The President of Turkey, Mr.



Abdullah Gul, visited us in February 2010. Hon. Vice-President's visit is in continuation of these high-level exchanges between India and Turkey.

The Hon. Vice-President's visit commences in Ankara where he will hold delegation-level talks with a delegation of Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly led by the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly His Excellency Mr. Camil Cicek. The Hon. Vice-President will be received by the President of Turkey, Mr. Abdullah Gul, and he is also expected to meet the Prime Minister of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan. It is expected that during the discussions between the Hon. Vice-President and his Turkish counterparts the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues will be covered.

The Hon. Vice-President will pay homage to the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk at his Mausoleum in Ankara. He will also visit the historical Provinces of Konya and Nevsesir which is also better known as Cappadocia. He will visit Istanbul where he will participate in a Business Forum at the Turkish Chamber of Businessmen and Industrialists. While in Konya, the Hon. Vice-President will be conferred an Honorary Doctorate for International Relations by the Mevlana University.

India's relations with Turkey have a historical bearing. The links between our two countries are civilisational, encompassing architecture, arts, language and cuisine. In fact I am told that the word pyaaz is a Turkish word, which I came to know only today. India recognises the geographical and geopolitical importance of Turkey as a strong democratic, vibrant and economically growing nation situated on the crossroads of Asia and Europe. Turkish leaders have noted the democratic ideals of India, the secular nature of its polity, its emerging economy and India's position in regional and international politics. Both countries understand each other well drawing their inspiration from their historical connections and the long association between the leaders and the peoples of two countries.

From a people to people point of view, the name Urdu can be traced back to its Turkish origins. The Sufi philosophy of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi found a natural resonance in the subcontinent's tradition of Sufism. And the Mevlana University I mentioned is also after Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi.

In the economic and commercial area we see Turkey as among our important partners in the region today. Two-way trade between the two countries touched US\$ 4 billion in 2010 of which India's exports were of the order of US\$ 3.4 billion and imports from Turkey into India accounted for US\$ 606 million.

More than 112 Indian companies have registered their business in Turkey with investments in areas ranging from infrastructure and automobiles to IT and

consultancy services. Some of the prominent Indian companies with a presence in Turkey include GMR Infrastructure Limited, which recently won the bid for the construction of the airport in Istanbul on a BOT basis, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance, the Aditya Birla Group, Ispat, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, WIPRO and Dabur India Limited. Among the leading Turkish companies which have a presence in India in the infrastructure and oil and petrochemical sectors are LIMAK Construction and Fernas Construction Company.

The Indo-Turkish Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation is co-Chaired by the Commerce Ministers of the two countries to give direction towards further consolidation and development of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Both India and Turkey also have signed an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation as also an Agreement for Reciprocal Protection and Mutual Promotion of Investments. Agreements for development of Science and Technology and for cooperation in the IT sector also exist between the two countries. A Joint Study Group has also been commissioned to examine the feasibility of setting up a Free Trade Agreement between India and Turkey.

Cooperation in the cultural and education sectors has also been fairly active. Since 1995 an Indian Professor has been on deputation to the Indology Department in the Ankara University to teach Hindi. Similarly, two Turkish language Professors have been deputed to the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Jamia Millia University. MoUs for cooperation have also been concluded between Universities in Turkey and India. Indian culture, including films, dance, yoga and Ayurveda and Indian cuisine obviously, have been drawing attention in Turkey.

Turkey's first Nano-satellite – the ITUpSAT1 - manufactured by the Istanbul Technical University's Faculty of Aeronautics was launched by ISRO's PSLV C-14 launch vehicle on September 23, 2009.

There are just under 150 Indian nationals in Turkey with most of them in Istanbul working in commercial organisations. But we have seen a trend now where some Indian professionals have been moving to Turkey to work in their overseas offices there. There are around a dozen lecturers/professors and around two dozen Indian students in different Universities in Turkey including in the Mevlana University.

Both India and Turkey are members of the G20. Today Turkey is the 16th largest economy in the world. It is the only Eurasian country in NATO. Its association with Europe through the Customs Union with the EU could offer opportunities for Indian business.

I should also mention that both India and Turkey have been victims of international terrorism. Recently Ankara saw a bomb blast. Both our leaders have been concerned about the spread of international terrorism, and have called for steps to be taken to jointly eliminate this scourge.

Hon. Vice-President's visit will provide an additional impetus and momentum towards further consolidation and strengthening of the broad-based, multifaceted and comprehensive partnership between India and the Republic of Turkey in areas of mutual interest to mutual benefit. This would also reinforce the close traditional and historical friendship between India and the Republic of Turkey.

Thank you.

**Official Spokesperson:** Any questions?

**Question:** You mentioned about Turkey's secular credentials. Turkey of late is seeking refuge in its Islamic identity. It is becoming now more and more prominent. It seems that the fulcrum of the Islamic world is also moving to Turkey which is causing alarm in the West as well as in Israel. What is India's position on this? Also, could you throw more light on the free trade agreement and the joint study group which is set up? When was it set up, when is it filing its report, and what would be the contours of this agreement?

**Secretary (West):** On the first question I would say it would be incorrect for us to comment on the internal affairs of any country.

On the Joint Study Group, it is still examining the details and it will take a little while. We will be able to revert back to you but right now I think it is still at a very preliminary examination stage.

**Question:** When was the last time an Indian Head of State or Prime Minister visited Turkey?

**Secretary (West):** We had Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee visit Turkey in 2003. Before that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visited Turkey in 1988. Of course the first visit was by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1960.

**Question by Turkish journalist:** You said that the Prime Minister of Turkey visited India in 2008 and you have clearly pointed out that the relations between India and Turkey are booming in the sense of good cooperation as well. My question is on the Pakistan issue. Today you have, as I have observed, lots of problems with Pakistan. But till 2000, Turkey had a very close relation with Pakistan. But Prime Minister Erdogan's party has kept a neutral position and kept a neutral position on the Kashmir issue as well. Today, the economic relations between India and Turkey are much better than those between

Pakistan and Turkey. How does India see Turkey as regards Pakistan? Do you think that Turkey can play a role in the peace process between India and Pakistan?

**Secretary (West):** I will start by saying that during such high-level visits as that of the Vice-President of India, the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and mutual concern are touched upon. As you are aware, the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. We have repeatedly made it clear and it has been accepted by the international community that issues as they may be would be discussed bilaterally between the two countries.

**Official Spokesperson:** As the Secretary has mentioned, as far as the issue of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, if there are any issues that can be, and are being discussed with Pakistan. As far as the relationship of Turkey with Pakistan is concerned, every country has a right to have a relationship with any country as it deems fit. So, you have your relationship. But what we are talking about is the relationship between India and Turkey and the Secretary has already spoken about the manner in which this robust relationship is developing further, is diversifying further and is deepening further.

**Question:** Is there any specific agreement, especially in business, which is going to be signed during this visit?

**Secretary (West):** I am told the standard operating procedure on agreements is, we do not announce agreements before the visit commences and takes place. So, we will have to wait till the visit concludes. But insofar as the business part of the visit is concerned, the Hon. Vice-President will be addressing, as I said, the Turkish Chamber of Businessmen and Industrialists in Istanbul where he will talk about Indo-Turkish economic and commercial cooperation and the opportunities available in India, to an audience which will include both Turkish and Indian business persons.

**Question:** Sir, what can be the possible areas, new areas of cooperation between the two countries during this visit?

**Secretary (West):** Naturally this has to be the economic and commercial sector.

**Question:** Which are these sectors?

**Secretary (West):** I think the traditional areas which have been going on. One of the strengths of the relationship has been in the cotton yarn textiles sector. But we would look at infrastructure development because India has set aside one trillion US dollars over the next five years for development of its infrastructure. And what is very important is, some of the Turkish companies

have strengths in this area. Similarly we have, as I mentioned GMR International is already in Turkey looking at the airport. That is one area. Then we have IT sector which is going to be another important area, and automotive and automobile sector, and engineering. Of course education would be another area where we would look at opportunities as they come in.

**Question:** Sir, after the attack on flotilla there is a problem between Israel and Turkey. We have good relations with Israel as well. What would be our position in this case if the situation may worsen between Turkey and Israel in future?

**Secretary (West):** I will again put it this way that since we are talking of the Vice-President's visit, the entire gamut of relations which would have a regional and international bearing will be touched upon in the discussions. And it would be correct for all of you perhaps to wait when the Vice-President meets you and briefs you on the outcome of the visit on his return because that will be the best area to have an insight into what was discussed and what is the outcome.

**Question by Turkish journalist:** As I know, Hon. Vice-President's uncle signed an agreement in 1951, just sixty years ago, between India and Turkey on cultural relations. I have got the information from the Turkish Embassy here that they are going to celebrate this year as the cultural and the society-based programmes. What kind of programmes India and Turkey will have in India? It is very interesting that the Vice-President's visit to Turkey has different programmes Mevlana University, Honorary Doctorate will be given to him, and in Istanbul he will visit some of the intellectuals of Turkey as well. What kind of cultural fields India and Turkey will share?

**Secretary (West):** As I said, our cultural relations are historical right across the spectrum. I mentioned from the point of view of India films, dances, culture, theatre, they are all very popular. Similarly from Turkey some of your traditional dances are very well appreciated and known here. So, I think right now we have a programme of cultural cooperation. The next programme for 2012-2013 is already discussion. So, obviously when the officials of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Turkish counterparts finalise the elements which would go into such cultural cooperation, this will also include various segments which you mentioned.

**Official Spokesperson:** I take it that there are no more questions.

**Secretary (West):** May I just say, enjoy your visit. Turkey is a very beautiful place among other things. Work and pleasure! Enjoy it.

Thank you.



**652. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the function to confer on him the Honorary Doctorate for International Relations by Mevlana University at Konya, Turkey.**

**Konya (Turkey), October 12, 2011.**

“A man, never having seen water, is thrown  
blindfolded into it, and feels it. When  
the bandage is removed, he knows what it is.  
Until then, he only knows it by its effect”.

When one comes to the city of Mevlana, and to a university bearing his name, it is only appropriate to commence with his wisdom about the difference between feeling and knowing.

Needless to say, I am delighted to be here and feel elated by the honoured bestowed on me today. I come as a traveller who has known of the destination but has taken long to reach it. The Persian saying *dair aayed, durust aayed* does help console me.

Turkey and India have known each other for centuries. Both were important pillars of a seamless, borderless world of culture, art, spiritualism and philosophy that extended from Maghrib and Andalusia in the west to all corners of Asia in the east, enriched humanity for over a millennium, assimilated and synthesized many distinctive local, cultural and ethnic features and displayed much diversity within unity. Both contributed to it in ample measure; both take pride in this heritage.

There are similarities and parallelism in this heritage. This is most vividly evident in mysticism, the great spiritual current that runs through all religions. In Islam it is called Sufism and the period from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century witnessed the emergence of a great many masters in Iraq, Iran, Khurasan, Turkey and India whose teachings are revered to this day and have a mass following. Amongst them were Jalaluddin Rumi in Turkey and Moinuddin Chishti in India. They were virtual contemporaries; Chishti died in 1236 and Rumi in 1273.

Nor were they alone. Yunus Emre in Anatolia who died in 1320, became a folk saint in his lifetime and is regarded as an outstanding example of Turkish humanism. Consider the following:

We regard no one's religion as contrary to ours  
True love is born when all faiths are united as a whole

And:

The man who does not see the nations of the world as one  
Is a rebel even if the pious claim he is holy

“True faith”, he observed succinctly, “is in the head, not in the headgear”.

Almost a century and a half later Kabir, brought up in a weaver’s family in northern India, was a folk saint in a similar mould who sought to find commonalities in faiths. The theme was pervasive in his utterances. I draw attention of this audience to the following:

Allah the Invisible pervades in us all  
 You must realise it in your heart  
 He is the same both in Hindu and the Turk  
 Says Kabir, after due thought

And

If Allah dwells in a mosque alone,  
 What about the rest of space?  
 The Hindus believe that He abides in the image of the deity  
 The truth is missed in either case

And

Muslim’s mosque and Hindu’s temple  
 Make them follow separate paths  
 The Lord dwells in the heart of man  
 Both Hindus and Muslims miss that

The tradition, of reverence to mystics, and benefiting from their teachings of ascetic living, egalitarianism, and brotherhood of all faiths, continues to be a living reality in India and has contributed to the spiritual fertility of our society. An excellent example in modern times is one of India’s greatest poets, Mohammad Iqbal, who drank deeply from the fountain of Konya; many of his works and individual poems are vividly reflective of the impact of Mavlana’s teachings.

It is this backdrop of a plural society and a tradition of accommodation and synthesis that has allowed modern India and its democratic polity to develop and put into practice a secular polity. This is a basic feature our Constitution and cannot be amended.

Thus for different reasons, and traversing different paths, modern Turkey and modern India reached the same destination, considered essential for our wellbeing in the modern world.

If convergence characterised the spiritual realm, physical distance, infrequent contacts and complex considerations of statecraft conditioned political relations between our two countries in medieval times. In the last century, Indian public’s

support for Turkey was evident during the Balkan War and Turkey's struggle after World War I to regain independence, identity and dignity was keenly watched and admired. In 1935 the author Halide Edib spent some time in India, met Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders of our freedom struggle, gave extensive lectures about modern Turkey, and wrote that India was "nearer to my soul-climate than any other country not my own".

Countries, like individuals, live by professed values and defined interests. The purpose of public policy is to develop the capacity to protect and promote these values and interests, and to respond to challenges.

The stability and fixed patterns and processes that were a feature of the Cold War period are today a matter of history. Instead, we face changing alliances and interests, new modes and instruments of conflict, and universalisation of normative standards of fundamental and human rights. This churning, and shift in world and regional power balances, will continue.

The unprecedented political and social challenges in every region of the world have been further compounded by the precarious global economic situation, described by Professor Jeffery Sachs as "the great failure of globalization". It has, to quote an eminent Indian economist, "eroded social stability".

It is in this context that I wish to speak to you about India's world view.

Our view of the world stems from our civilisational heritage and experience of history. We do believe that every human irrespective of identity, affiliation, faith, nationality, gender or region has an inherent right to a better life, the development and utilization of his/her capabilities to the fullest, and to participate and contribute in productive ways to their communities and nations.

States have a duty to their citizens to enable them to freely choose their paths to development and self-fulfilment.

Based on these premises, India has also stood steadfast to the basic principle of full sovereignty and independence of peoples, and their states, in an inclusive, representative, and increasingly pluralist world community.

We abhor any attempt aimed at disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of States, and seek the observance of the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

We want to see an inclusive world order, a world united by partnerships based on mutual respect and benefit, not divided into blocs or alliances of competing interests. We believe that the benefits of globalization must be inclusive, across and within nations. We remain convinced that dialogue and cooperation are the best way to address the new global challenges. Institutions of global political



and economic governance, including the United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions, should reflect contemporary realities and not perpetuate historical contexts and divides.

The primary objective of Indian policy is to improve the lives of our own people through sustained development. For this we need a prolonged period of peace, a peaceful periphery and an enabling international environment that would allow us access to essential resources, technology, and permit free trade.

We cannot but notice the pockets of turbulence in our common area. India and West Asia have enjoyed cultural, intellectual and commercial ties since ancient times. The turmoil that some countries in West Asia and North Africa have experienced in recent months is a matter of great concern to us.

The people of the region seek to shape their own future and their wishes must prevail. However, violent means must be abjured by all sides. As a member of the Security Council since the beginning of this year, India has been underlining the need to resolve conflicts through political negotiations and diplomatic means, rather than through the use of force.

A primary cause of tension, instability and violence in the region is the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. India fully supports the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognizable borders side by side and at peace with Israel.

The conflict is political and cannot be resolved by force. At the same time, protracted negotiations over decades have not achieved the national goals of the Palestinian people and have fuelled disappointment and anger.

India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the Palestinian State in 1988 and will support its aspirations in the United Nations.

The upheaval in Libya is characterized by a fast changing situation and the Transitional National Council has now acquired effective control. We believe that the normalization of the situation should be in the hands of the Libyan people themselves - guided by democratic norms, respecting popular aspirations and preserving the sovereignty and integrity of Libya.

India has been in touch with the Transitional National Council in Benghazi and Cairo and has reiterated its willingness to extend all possible assistance to the people of Libya in their political transition, rebuilding and reconstruction activities.

We are concerned at the unfolding situation in Syria which has resulted in many deaths of civilians and security personnel. We deplore all violence,

irrespective of who the perpetrators are. The Syrian government has announced some far-reaching measures and it should be given the time and space to implement them. The actions of the international community should facilitate an inclusive political engagement of the Syrian government and the opposition, rather than complicate the situation through threats of sanctions.

India firmly believes that observance of the rule of law is as important in international affairs as it is within countries and that the political, societal and economic destiny must be the choice of people. The international community has a role in assisting the process of transition, but that does not extend to imposition of external prescriptions.

The complex neighbourhood in which India is located has seen rapid and often, turbulent, change in the last thirty years. India has followed the same policy of dialogue, engagement and mutually beneficial cooperation that it urges on all international issues. Our neighbourhood policy seeks to articulate and promote the advantages of building networks of inter-connectivity, trade, and investment so that prosperity can be shared and the entire region can benefit from India's rapid economic growth.

Afghanistan, geographically poised between south and central Asia, is a neighbour with historic people-to-people linkages. The fratricidal conflict there is a threat to regional and international peace and security. It is India's view that the peace process should be Afghan-led, transparent, inclusive, and based on the acceptance of the Afghan Constitution. Our civilizational links with Afghanistan and our close friendship are embodied in the landmark Strategic Partnership Agreement that we signed during President Karzai's visit to India last week.

The international community must take effective measures to guarantee the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Afghanistan. The Afghan people have suffered enough and must be allowed to decide their destiny without external interference, coercion or intimidation. India will participate in the forthcoming conferences in Istanbul and Bonn to contribute to regional and international initiatives to support Afghanistan's efforts at nation building.

We subscribe to the emerging patterns of partnership in Asia based on Asian regionalism, inter-regional dialogue forums with other regions, global and multilateral organizations, and robust bilateral cooperation. We believe that no partnership architecture should be exclusive or exclusionary. It should neither be a reflection of the emerging redistribution of global or regional power nor should it be a platform for projection of narrow economic and political interests of a nation or group of nations.

Furthermore, all disputes must be settled peacefully, without resort to violence, or the threat of violence. These have been the principles that have guided India's "Look East" policy, and increasingly our "Look West" policy, in Asia.

The same cooperative approach is evident in our policy towards African countries. We are convinced that the people of Africa are its most precious resource. India has taken the lead in empowering them through technology, education and skill development. We have offered lines of credit worth US \$ 5 billion and US \$ 700 million in grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology and building new institutions.

All this adds up to an ardent policy of international cooperation. India, like Turkey, is a strong proponent of multilateralism and has been actively involved in the work of the United Nations. We believe reform and restructuring of the UN is necessary to make it better equipped to respond effectively in an era of transformational change in global affairs.

The call for democratization can not be limited to nations and states, but must also extend to global governance. We should test the validity of the proposition, expounded many years back by an eminent political scientist, that "a theory of legitimate power is inescapably a theory of democracy in the interlocking processes and structures of the global system".

Our efforts at the restructuring and reform of the United Nations are ongoing, and support for reform and expansion from member countries is gathering momentum.

Unless there is a cooperative framework among states and peoples, today's challenges cannot be faced. A case in point is international terrorism. It is an immediate threat to all nations and knows no national boundaries. India has called for the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to help eradicate this scourge.

The same holds for the safety of sea lanes. Maritime commerce along the sea lanes of communication has been subjected to piracy being carried out with impunity from areas that are outside State control and not subject to international accountability.

Pandemics, global warming and climate change, sustainable development, and issues of equity, both within and across nations, pose substantial challenges to the international order. Each requires a cooperative and global approach.

As we survey this backdrop to our engagement and partnership, we must remember what binds us. Both our countries are secular democracies wherein the will of our peoples is embodied in the supremacy of our Parliaments. Turkey

and India believe in the need to support and sustain our plural traditions and multi-cultural societies. Our economies are growing at an impressive rate leading to generation of incomes and employment opportunities to millions of our citizens and improving their standards of living.

Both the countries have faced terrorism and have collaborated at international fora on combating terrorism. We also have a common stake in the emergence of a cooperative multi-polar world order which recognizes the legitimate aspirations of all countries, big and small.

We do not share physical borders, but we do have a vast common extended neighbourhood – in Central Asia, West Asia and the Persian Gulf. I am convinced that enhanced engagement between India and Turkey is in the interests of our peoples and regions, global peace and cooperation, and tolerance and peaceful co-existence among nations. Our joint efforts can result in a more balanced, inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of vast sections of humanity.

Allow me to conclude. It is evident that the world of tomorrow would be too small for discord, too interdependent for isolation, too evolved for prejudice. Perhaps Yunus Emre had anticipated it. I am fascinated by the following couplets:

Come let us all be friends for once  
Let us make life easy on us  
Let us be lovers and loved ones  
The earth shall be left to no one..

I once again thank the University for honouring me today and convey the best wishes of the government and people of India for the continued progress and prosperity of Turkey.”



**653. Address by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari at the dinner hosted by the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey.**

**Istanbul, October 14, 2011.**

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be in the historic and beautiful city of Istanbul. I thank the leadership and people of Turkey for the warmth and hospitality shown to me and my delegation during the visit.

My meetings in Ankara with President Gul, Prime Minister Erdogan and my gracious host Speaker Cicek have made evident the fund of goodwill that exists and reflects the mutual determination for a multifaceted and dynamic partnership between our two countries.

I thank the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey for hosting me today. We can together explore ways of furthering our mutual economic and commercial relations and take them into a higher orbit.

As one of the largest institution representing the business community in Turkey, TUSKON has taken the initiative in facilitating outreach between our business and industry. TUSKON was active in the successful trade and investment delegation that visited India in March 2008 led by the State Minister for Foreign Trade Mr. Kürad Tüzmen. I understand that its members had more than 2000 one-on-one meetings. Its success is thus evident.

The next step should be the opening of a representative office in India to help consolidate the surging growth rate in bilateral trade and facilitate the realization of our ambitious trade and investment targets.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Turkey and India share many basic values and beliefs. We share a commitment to democracy, a profound belief in a secular polity, respect for the rule of law and upholding of human rights fundamental freedoms, and an economic system that could unshackle the energies and capabilities of our dynamic people and lead them to higher levels of prosperity and well being.

As members of the G 20, Turkey and India are witness to the momentous economic developments sweeping the global stage. We are witnessing a new and dangerous phase in the global economy that could threaten the global economic recovery that began in 2009. The IMF warned last month that the downside risks are "severe" and include "a downward spiral of increased

uncertainty and risk aversion, dysfunctional financial markets, unsustainable debt dynamics, falling demand and rising unemployment”.

Even with policy interventions, the prognosis is for anaemic recovery in major advanced economies and a cyclical slowdown in emerging economies.

Developing countries would be hit with weakening external demand and need to enhance domestic demand in an inclusive manner, bear the rising burden of inflationary pressures, and strengthen macroeconomic and financial frameworks.

More than at any time in the past, nations and leaders are called upon to undertake collective economic actions and implement coordinated policies to enable a return to sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

The backdrop to our bilateral economic cooperation is thus one of global uncertainty. Yet, it has a silver lining. Turkey has in 2010 experienced a real GDP growth of 8.9 per cent and is expected to grow by 6.6 per cent this year. India too had real GDP growth of 10.1 per cent last year and is projected to grow at 7.8 per cent this year.

During the past five years, India had aimed at achieving faster and more inclusive growth, and has achieved an average GDP growth of 8.2 percent. This growth led to generation of incomes and employment opportunities to millions of our citizens and improved the living standards for the bulk of our population.

It has also enhanced revenue generation of the government enabling it to launch social sector programmes, aimed at reducing poverty and enabling inclusiveness. We attach high priority to them.

India has set a growth target of 9 per cent per annum for the five year period 2012-17 in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. This can not be achieved without doubling the investment in infrastructure during the next five years, from US \$ 500 billion over the past five years to about one trillion dollars. We need more investments in roads and highways, new electricity generation and distribution networks, expanded and modernized railways networks, new and upgraded airport and port facilities. Such essential elements of infrastructure would provide our industry and agriculture with the connectivity needed for growth in production and trade, and for improving the quality of life of all of our people.

We have also reiterated our commitment to continue the process of economic reforms. In a multi-pronged manner, we are proceeding with tax reforms, especially the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax, financial sector

reforms, legal reforms, and major reforms in education and skill development. We are also committed to the pursuit of prudent fiscal and monetary policies and controlling inflation.

This is the context in which I view the Turkey-India engagement.

In recent years, our mutual economic and commercial relations have become a major driving force of our bilateral relationship. Bilateral Trade has more than doubled in the last five years from US\$ 1.5 billion in 2005 to US\$ 4 billion in 2010, with an increasingly diverse export basket on both sides. For the current calendar year, the bilateral trade is expected to register a 80 plus percent increase over last year and touch US\$ 6.5-7 billion, surpassing the target of US\$ 5 billion that the two governments had set for 2012 during Prime Minister Erdogan's landmark visit to India in 2008. This has been possible only due to the active exchanges and collaboration between our business communities, including that of members of TUSKON.

The trend in the flow of services and investments between our two countries is encouraging. Today, over hundred Indian companies have registered businesses, investments and operations here, spanning the IT sector, airport infrastructure, automobiles, steel, irrigation and personal care products. Considering the expertise and experience of the Turkish companies in construction of infrastructure, it has emerged as a leading sector for investments from Turkey into India.

I am confident that our business and industry would further strengthen the bilateral economic partnership. The prospects have never been brighter for us to intensify our engagement and tap our markets, and those of our regions and third countries to which we are important gateways.

I call upon you to harness the huge untapped potential to increase the volume and enhance the quality of our economic engagement. Both governments are your partners in this enterprise.

Thank you.



**UNITED KINGDOM****654. Press Release issued by Ministry of Finance on India - U.K Economic and Financial Dialogue and Remarks of Finance Minister at the Conference.****London, July 25, 2011.**

Union Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Indo-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue which was established in 2005 has contributed successfully in strengthening our bilateral relationship. He said that the significance of this dialogue is in laying the agenda and guidance for future engagement. Shri Mukherjee was speaking at the Fourth Ministerial Level Indo-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue at London today. He said that both the countries have identified a number of issues for joint collaboration. He said that he is sure that we will make further progress in the coming months in deepening our economic relations based on mutual appreciation of our respective concerns and aspirations. He said that this exchange of views will go a long way in improving our understanding of each other's position on issues of mutual concern. Shri Mukherjee said that India and UK share a strategic partnership and enjoy traditionally warm and close bilateral relations in diverse areas. Our two countries enjoy strong historical and cultural relations built on shared values and traditions. Since the visit of His Excellency, UK Prime Minister David Cameron to India in July 2010, we have seen our bilateral relations being elevated to an 'Enhanced Partnership for the Future'.

*Opening, Closing and Intervening Remarks made by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the occasion of Fourth Ministerial Level India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue in London on July 25, 2011.*

**Finance Minister's Opening Remarks**

Your Excellency Chancellor Osborne,  
Distinguished Members of the Delegations,

It is a great pleasure to be here for the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue. I would like to thank you for the warm welcome accorded to me and my delegation. India and UK share a strategic partnership and enjoy traditionally warm and close bilateral relations in diverse areas. Our two countries enjoy strong historical and cultural relations built on shared values and traditions. Since the visit of His Excellency, Prime Minister of UK David Cameron to India in July 2010, we have seen our bilateral relations being elevated to an 'Enhanced Partnership for the Future'.

2. I am happy that our high level exchanges at political, official and business levels have intensified in the recent past. This reflects mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's views in various bilateral, regional as well as multilateral forums, including the UN and the G-20.



3. The timely and coordinated action of G-20 member countries helped in steering the global economy out of the unprecedented economic slowdown. IMF forecasts indicate that global economy is projected to grow at 4.3 per cent in 2011 and 4.5 per cent in 2012. The recovery is, however, slower than anticipated and downside risks have intensified in recent months.
4. A faster recovery in growth momentum in advanced economies is essential for putting the global economy on a sustained growth path of the pre-crisis period. At the same time, it is essential that the current growth drivers of the global economy, principally the emerging and some developing economies are able to sustain their momentum in the medium to long term. This is vital for global macro rebalancing as well as for creating the conditions for a faster recovery in the advanced economies. It is imperative that we address these challenges in a coordinated manner at the global level.
5. A renewed weakness in the US economy, the danger of sovereign debt crisis in peripheral Euro-zone countries and its spillover to financial markets, checking global recovery, are a continuing source of concern. The new package worked out by the IMF and the European Central Bank must aim at minimizing the probability of a recurrence of the crisis. Any half measures in pursuing structural reforms and fiscal consolidation will further erode market confidence, with the contagion spreading to other countries.
6. Several measures to reform international financial institutions and financial sector regulations have been initiated at the behest of the G-20. India as the co-chair of the Working Group on the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, is striving to bring about coordinated, country determined set of specific policy actions including, where possible, measurable objectives and clear time frames, to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth. The credibility and future of the G 20 now rests on its ability to address and deliver on its ambitious and rapidly expanding agenda. The efforts must continue.
7. The Indian economy has been on a path of robust recovery since the global slowdown. With GDP growth estimated at 8.5 per cent in 2010-11 following 8 per cent in 2009-10, we have recorded one of the fastest growth rates in the world and are nearly back to our pre-crisis growth levels. We believe that growth potential for India is over 9 per cent. Our medium-term growth prospects are driven by sustained high savings and investment rates, the demographic dividend that is yet to peak and rising investments infrastructure. More importantly, Indian business enterprise has learnt to compete and create its place in international markets. Downside risks emanate mainly from continuing uncertainty about energy and commodity prices that have implications for meeting the fiscal targets, moderating domestic inflation and improving investment sentiments in the economy.
8. We were on a path of fiscal consolidation with fiscal deficit reaching 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2007-08. The fiscal expansion undertaken to counter

economic slowdown led to fiscal deficit going up to 6.0 per cent in 2008-09 and 6.5 per cent in 2009-10. Since then we have reverted to consolidating our fiscal balance and succeeded in restricting the fiscal deficit to 4.7 per cent in 2010-11. We remain fully committed to continue on this path of fiscal prudence.

9. While there has been some progress in containing domestic inflation, it continues to be an area of concern. Supply side and monetary measures are being actively taken to address it. I look forward to hearing from you how UK is addressing the challenge of managing inflation.

10. In the last few years our focus has been on making growth more inclusive. A multi-pronged strategy that seeks to sustain high growth, with emphasis on creating entitlements to meet some basic human needs, building human capital, and improving delivery of various social welfare programmes, is being pursued. We are seeking to diversify our agriculture including by focusing on new regions of significant potential. We are also undertaking modernization of delivery mechanism of public programmes and services. An ambitious programme of issuing Unique Identification ID for all residents is being currently implemented.

11. We are in the process of deepening policy reforms in the financial sector and addressing gaps in the overall economic regulatory architecture. Financial inclusion remains a priority area for us. I must mention here that there is a significant presence of UK banks in India. They account for 50 per cent of total foreign bank branches in India.

12. The fast growth of the economy in recent years has placed increasing stress on physical infrastructure, such as electricity, railways, roads, ports, airports, irrigation, urban and rural water supply and sanitation, all of which suffer from a substantial capacity deficit. Our Twelfth Five Year Plan period (2012-2017) is an ambitious one for infrastructure development, with the projected spending likely to be doubled to around US\$ 1 trillion. In order to sustain the high growth in infrastructure spending, it is essential to source more funds from the private sector. The Indian Government has laid emphasis on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) which combine the efficiency and technological prowess of the private sector, with the public welfare orientation of Government. We have established financing scheme to support viability gap funding for PPP projects. We have established Special Purpose Vehicles called Infrastructure Debt Funds to harness offshore pension and insurance funds for accessing long tenor loans to PPP projects. The issues like land acquisition, environment clearance and resettlement and rehabilitation are under continuous policy churn, with a view to de-risking both greenfield and brownfield projects. Major steps are being taken to simplify and place the administrative procedures concerning taxation, trade and tariff on electronic interface, free of discretion and bureaucratic delays. This will set the tone for a vibrant and more efficient economy.

13. We attach high importance to our bilateral partnership. We are committed to deepening our strategic partnership and cooperation in various facets of our economic relationship. I am looking forward to having a very productive and

comprehensive exchange of views on a wide range of issues that have been identified for discussions today.

Thank you.

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### **Finance Minister's Intervening and Closing Remarks**

Excellency,

UK continues to be a major trade and investment partner for India. The global economic slowdown saw our bilateral trade declining in 2009-10, but figures for 2010-11 indicate recovery. We look forward to intensifying our joint efforts to ensure that our bilateral trade can grow further in the coming years.

2. UK is one of the most preferred destinations for Indian business. There are more than 600 Indian companies located here. I understand that India was the third largest investor in UK in 2010, with more than 20 new acquisitions. UK is the fourth largest investor in India with significant investments in sectors like oil and gas, ports, electronics, as well as services. Our efforts are towards making India the preferred destination for your businesses.

3. An important part of the investment environment in a country is its taxation policy. The new Direct Taxes Code slated for implementation from April 1, 2012 and proposed Goods and Services Tax are measures that will help create a modern and more efficient tax system in India. India is now the 34th Country Member of Financial Action Task force. The FATF process will also help us in co-ordination of anti-money laundering/countering financing of terror (AML/CFT) efforts at the international level.

4. To make the FDI policy more user-friendly, all prior regulations guidelines have been consolidated into one comprehensive document, which is reviewed every six months. This has been done with the specific intent of enhancing clarity and predictability of our FDI policy to foreign investors. Ownership and control are now central to the FDI policy, and the methodology in this regard has been clearly defined. A major initiative has been the liberalisation of pricing and payment of technology transfer fee, trademark, and brand name and royalty payments. Discussions are currently underway to build consensus on further liberalisation of the FDI policy in retail and defence sector.

5. We intend to double the exports from India in the next three years to reach a level of US\$ 500 billion. We are in the process of finalising a National Manufacturing Policy with the objective of increasing the share of manufacturing in our GDP from the current level of 16 per cent to a level of 25 per cent of GDP over the next decade.

6. To maintain the growth momentum in India it is essential to have a readily available skilled workforce. We have a 'demographic dividend' of a relatively younger population that needs to be harnessed. We are focusing on secondary education, increasing the percentage of our scholars in higher education and

on providing skill training. We have set up National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to address the challenge of imparting skills through a large pool of quality vocational institutions on public private partnership mode. NSDC is well on course to achieve its mandate of creating 150 million skilled workforce by 2020, two years before the stipulated target year.

7. In the end, I am extremely happy that we have had very useful and productive discussions on economic and financial issues of importance for our 'Enhanced Partnership for the Future'. My colleagues and I have greatly benefited from these deliberations. I am confident that this exchange of views will go a long way in improving our understanding of each other's position on issues of mutual concern.

8. The Indo-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue which was established in 2005 has contributed successfully in strengthening our bilateral relationship. The significance of this dialogue is in laying the agenda and guidance for future engagement. We have identified a number of issues for joint collaboration. I am sure that we will make further progress in the coming months in deepening our economic relations based on mutual appreciation of our respective concerns and aspirations.

9. I would also like to extend an invitation to you to visit India for the next round of this dialogu

Thank you.



**655. Joint Statement issued at the end of the Fourth Round of Ministerial level India - UK Economic and Financial Dialogue.**

**London, July 26, 2011.**

"In the past few years, the global economy has experienced a profound shock. And as the economic recovery progresses, the UK and India are committed to securing improved living standards for all our citizens through strong economic and job growth. The recovery remains fragile and we are alert to the continuing challenges facing businesses and individuals from rising food and fuel prices, fiscal imbalances and volatile capital flows. In an increasingly globalised world economy, we can not tackle these challenges alone. We are committed to multilateral co-operation through the G20 and International Financial Institutions. This is more vital than ever before. The UK and India are taking determined action to address our respective fiscal imbalances and are working to strengthen the business environment. Both countries are committed to the implantation of

credible, medium-term fiscal consolidation plans as we meet our commitments through the G20 Framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We have agreed to work together in the G20, the IMF, the FSB and the other international financial institutions in the key areas of strengthening economic surveillance, capital flow management and financial sector reform, to increase the resilience of the global economic and financial system. We also agreed to deepen our dialogue and technical cooperation to reduce distortions in commodity markets through the G20.

It is in both our interests to have a strong, legitimate IMF as an anchor of global economic stability and prosperity. We welcome the recent review of IMF quotas and executive board reforms which will significantly increase the share and representation of dynamic emerging markets, like India, in the IMF and call on all members of the fund to ratify this agreement as soon as possible.

Both economies are sharing the gains from increased trade and investment flows. Both sides are fully committed to ensure the conclusion of an ambitious and balanced broad-based EU-India Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year, and remain committed to achieving a development-focused outcome on the Doha round.

On education and skills, we noted the good work already in hand through the UK India skills forum and UK India Education and Research Initiative to support partnerships between our countries in this field, including the work of UK colleges and businesses already cooperating with Indian counterparts to help deliver the growth demand for vocational skills in India.

The Government of India has targeted an infrastructure investment of one trillion dollars in its twelfth Five Year Plan, which starts next year. The dialogue welcomed the strong partnership between the UK and India which is working on ways to help meet this demand. Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee announced that the Infrastructure sector in India.

We discussed the steps that are proposed to be taken to widen the financial sector in India in order to develop a more efficient distribution of domestic saving into long term financing. Both sides welcomed the many vibrant partnerships and joint ventures between the UK and India in the insurance sector and looked forward to the widening and deepening of partnerships in these areas.

Finance Minister Shri Mukherjee mentioned the substantial presence of banks from the UK which comprise nearly 50 per cent of all foreign banks' branches in India. Chancellor Osborne welcomed the fact that the UK was now home to more branches of Indian Banks than any other country in the world. Both sides discussed the vital role that foreign banks play in both our countries in driving innovation, furthering inclusion and bringing new technology into our markets.

Both sides welcomed the Reserve Bank of India's paper on foreign banks. The UK looked forward to the opportunity for its banks to grow businesses in India on a level playing field if they were to locally incorporate.

The Ministers noted with approval the recent agreement on the future shape of the United Kingdom's development programme in India.

Today's dialogue reaffirmed the continued strength of the UK-India economic and financial relations. We will continue to work closely throughout the year to follow through on our commitments and are very much looking forward to the next round of talks in 2012."



**656. Response of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs on proposed debate in UK House of Commons on J & K.**

**New Delhi, September 15, 2011.**

In response to questions on the proposed debate on 'Human Rights in Indian sub-continent' the Official Spokesperson said,

"We take due note of the proposed debate in the UK House of Commons later today, which we believe is an initiative of back-bencher MPs and does not reflect the position of the UK Government. Our views in the matter are known to UK. Suffice it to say at this juncture that India is a vibrant democracy which fully respects rule of law and human rights. Civil liberties and freedoms are enshrined in the Constitution of India as fundamental rights and are exercised by each and every citizen of this country of 1.2 billion people".



## UKRAINE

### **657. Press Release issued during the visit of Foreign Minister of Ukraine.**

**New Delhi, November 25, 2011.**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine H.E. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko (UFM), accompanied by his spouse, senior officials and members of the Ukrainian business community, is on an official visit to India from 24 November till 27 November 2011.

2. The visiting Minister today held delegation-level talks with the EAM Shri S.M. Krishna, who also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. The two sides held wide ranging discussions on bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues of mutual interest. While expressing satisfaction at the state of the multi-faceted relationship, both sides recognized considerable untapped potential, and agreed to work together to realize it. Bilateral trade has been witnessing a steady growth to touch US\$2.24 billion in 2010-11. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission next year to impart further momentum to the economic and trade ties. It was also agreed to work out a mechanism to speed up the issuance of visas to make it easier for businessmen, tourists, students and others to travel in both directions. An agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic passport holders was signed by the two Ministers. Both sides further agreed to enhance mutually beneficial defence, cultural, educational, investment and other ties.

3. EAM and UFM also agreed to further enhance high level exchanges. The visiting Minister extended an invitation to EAM to visit Kyiv at an early date. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

4. The Foreign Ministers also exchanged notes on the situation in their respective regions and on international issues. UFM conveyed Ukraine's support for India's permanent membership of an extended UN Security Council. The FMs recognized terrorism as a global menace and pledged common efforts to root out this scourge.

5. FM Gryshchenko also called on the Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar. He met the Commerce & Industry Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, to discuss details of bilateral economic cooperation. He would also be paying a visit to Agra.

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**Agreement signed during the visit of FM of Ukraine****November 25, 2011**

<b>Name of Agreement</b>	<b>Signatory from Indian side</b>	<b>Signatory from Ukrainian side</b>
Agreement between the Government of India and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Visa Free Travels for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	Shri S.M. Krishna Minister of External Affairs	H.E. Mr. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko Foreign Minister




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Subjected to competing pulls from Russia and the European Union, Ukraine is looking at Asia, especially India, for collaboration in a large number of areas including civil nuclear energy, visiting Ukraine Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko told *The Hindu* in an interview. "India is a very important part of what we need to understand and it is part of our future destiny. Today the world is changing and being simply Europe-centred is not the answer to the future of [Ukraine's] survival and progress," said Mr. Gryshchenko. "We are not simply a transit country which guarantees the best and safest transit routes for gas from Russia to Europe..... There are a number of areas where Ukraine can be useful," he said. Kiev is already modernising the An-32s, backbone of the Indian Air Force's transport and troop replenishment fleet, and wants a more wide-ranging relationship. Speaking of areas of cooperation he said India and Ukraine could begin by coordinating efforts against pirates off the Gulf of Aden, described by him as a "scourge that affects both countries," exchanging notes on United Nations peace keeping operations, and moving towards interoperability between the militaries through joint exercises. "We are openly interested in helping India to upgrade its capabilities to negate any intention [by another country] to start aggressive action. We welcome any opportunity to provide India defence systems that contribute to increasing stability in the region," said the Minister in the *Hindu* interview.



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS–2011**

**SECTION-X**

**INDIA AND THE UN**

**658. Joint Press Statement of Ministerial Meeting of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan).**

**New York, February 11, 2011.**

1. The Minister of External Affairs of India, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Minister of External Relations of Brazil and the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan met in New York on 11 February 2011, for the second time in the last six months, to exchange views on Security Council reform.
2. The Ministers agreed that as democracies with shared political values including respect for the rule of law, respect for human rights and a commitment to multilateralism, the G4 countries hold a number of common positions on the major contemporary challenges to international peace and security. They noted with satisfaction the important contributions being made by their countries to the working of the Security Council and to the maintenance of international peace and security. They reaffirmed their willingness and capacity to take on major responsibilities in this regard. They stated that the international system would benefit from the expansion of the UN Security Council, which would ensure that the Council is truly reflective of current geopolitical realities and make it stronger, more representative, legitimate, effective and efficient.
3. In this context, the G4 countries reiterated their commitments as aspiring new permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as their support for each other's candidatures. The G4 countries also reaffirmed their view of the importance of Africa to be represented in the permanent membership of an enlarged Council. They also reconfirmed the need for additional non-permanent members and improvement in the Council's working methods.
4. The Ministers expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss and Ambassador Zahir Tanin, the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations, for their facilitating role in the negotiations among the Member States. The Ministers stressed that the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations made it clear that the overwhelming majority of the Member States support expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council membership, as well as increased representation of developing countries in both.
5. The Ministers recognized that there is widespread support for a Member-States driven initiative to take the process of the much-needed reform of the Security Council towards a concrete outcome in the current session of the UN General Assembly.

6. The Ministers, therefore, agreed to press ahead, with all necessary steps to achieve at the earliest an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories of the Security Council. Towards this goal, the G4 countries reaffirmed their readiness to reach out to other countries and to work in close cooperation with them in a spirit of flexibility.

7. Finally, the Ministers agreed to meet again within the coming quarter to review progress on the decisions taken.

S. M. Krishna  
Minister of External Affairs of India

Guido Westerwelle  
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota  
Minister of External Relations of Brazil

Takeaki Matsumoto  
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan

**New York**  
**February 11, 2011**



**659. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Interdependence between Security and Development at the UN Security Council.**

**New York, February 11, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to begin by thanking the Brazilian Presidency for organizing this debate. Brazil and India have a very special relationship. It is a great honour for me to make my first appearance in this Council under Brazilian Presidency. India returns to the Security Council after 19 years. These years have been transformational for India. We believe that an effective and efficient Security Council is in our common interest and we will work towards strengthening it.

**Mr. President,**

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, said that "Poverty is the worst form of violence." The Charter of the United Nations, recognizing that violence and the lack of development are interrelated, commits the United Nations to promoting "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

The international community, over the past two decades, has invested a large amount of human and material capital in peacekeeping operations and in peace building initiatives. Our collective experience in dealing with these conflicts shows that without peace, development suffers. At the same time, lack of development and of prospects for economic progress create fertile ground for violence and instability, which further sets back development. Unevenness of the development process and disparities prevailing on a regional, national and global scale feed into a vicious cycle. Our efforts should therefore focus on promoting development for all by encouraging economic activity and enhancing their livelihood security.

**Mr. President,**

India brings to this table almost sixty years of experience in overcoming many of the challenges of transforming a colonial legacy into a modern dynamic nation of a billion people who are trying to meet their aspirations within a democratic system dedicated to the rule of law. India has taken significant steps designed to accelerate the range and depth of welfare and social justice programmes. In recent years, these include the assurance of 100 days of employment to every person living in rural areas, the enactment of the Right to Information Act helping our citizens to become more aware and the Right to Education to help every Indian to share in the benefits of the country's economic progress and also to contribute to it, the initiative for reservation for women in Parliament and in state legislatures to ensure equal partnership of women in our progress and the increase in reservation for women to 50 per cent in local bodies.

**Mr. President,**

Development has to be accompanied by inclusivity and tolerance. In this context, I quote the words of Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh: "The goal of the development process must be to include every last member of our society, particularly those who are at the margins. This not only broadens the support base for development, it also strengthens the government's ability to perform its core developmental role."

The lessons of inclusivity can also be applied to international efforts in the maintenance of peace and security. The process of implementing a peace agreement must run along with the provision of humanitarian and emergency assistance, resumption of economic activity, and the creation of political and

administrative institutions that improve governance and include all stakeholders, particularly the weak and underprivileged.

We are greatly encouraged by the African Union's efforts to develop Post-Conflict Reconstruction capacities. The success of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism has lessons that are relevant to national ownership.

The international community needs to ensure a predictable and enhanced flow of resources. It is instructive to note that the peacekeeping budget of the UN, which is about 8 billion US Dollars annually, is more than the combined budgets of UNDP and UNICEF. It is obvious that development expenditures need to be enhanced greatly if they are to make a dent on security problems.

We also need to ensure that collective security mechanisms intersect with our collective efforts for economic progress to mitigate the causes of persistent insecurity at a global level.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi once said that "A nation's strength ultimately consists in what it can do on its own, and not in what it can borrow from others". The international community can encourage, motivate and facilitate. It cannot impose solutions. The temptation to create a new orthodoxy, of talking down rather than of listening, must be avoided at all costs.

**Mr. President,**

No country has contributed as many peacekeepers to as many peacekeeping operations as India. Our peacekeepers have been early peacebuilders. We are also committed to contribute, bilaterally and multilaterally, to development initiatives. To this end, we are working through the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) mechanism, with the African Union and with regional African groupings to promote South-South perspectives on development and security.

**Mr. President,**

The international structure for maintaining peace and security and peacebuilding needs to be reformed. Global power and the capacities to address problems are much more dispersed than they were six decades ago. The current framework must address these realities.

We understand the expectations that accompany our Council membership. We are acutely conscious of the need for effective coordination between the P5 and the elected members, especially those whose credentials for permanent membership stand acknowledged. On issues concerning international peace and security, all of us are on the same page. I am happy to note that this process of closer cooperation is making headway.

**Mr. President,**

In concluding, I would like to reaffirm India's commitment to making its vast experience in over six decades of nation building available to global efforts towards greater development and improved security.

Thank you.



**660. Opening Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN  
and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee  
Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri.**

**Strasbourg, April 19-21, 2011.**

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), I am very pleased to welcome you all to this special meeting with international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

To begin with, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, for having offered to host this event and for his, and his staffs', invaluable help in organizing the meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nations was created "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." The Council of Europe was created in the aftermath of the most violent war in human history. Both these institutions aim to build a world in which there is freedom from fear; a world in which we are free to channel our energies into furthering the common good.

When the United Nations and the Council of Europe were formed, the main threats to international peace and security arose from conventional war between states. It is a measure of the success of both organizations that we are not here today to discuss conventional war. Instead we are here to discuss the most pressing current threat to international peace and security, viz., asymmetric conflict unleashed by terrorists.

War has been replaced by the IED, the suicide bomber, attacks on innocent civilians, and assassinations. Battles have been replaced by 9/11, 26/11 and waves of suicide or remotely triggered explosions.

Conventional war was often about expanding borders. Today's terrorists have made borders irrelevant. They recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others.

The human and economic costs of terrorism are staggering. While there is no accurate estimate of the cost of the war in Afghanistan, the amounts mentioned run not into hundreds of millions of dollars but billions per month.

I need not remind an audience such as this that every Euro of expenditure inflicted by terrorists is a Euro less for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, for investing in clean sources of energy and towards scientific research.

Both the Council of Europe and the United Nations have vital interest in battling this horrendous scourge. The Council of Europe remains an important partner for the CTC in our common efforts to deal with the terrorist threat. It has been playing a leading role in dealing with different aspects of terrorism including terrorism prevention, suppression of terrorism financing, prevention of incitement to commit terrorist acts, protection of victims of terrorism and cyber terrorism. My distinguished colleague Mike Smith would dwell in more detail on the specifics of our cooperative relationship.

We believe that terrorism needs to be countered by a combined international effort. We also believe that the United Nations is the best mechanism for developing this coherent transnational response.

Despite concerted efforts of the international community, much more needs to be done. Our normative framework of international conventions and protocols is still incomplete and riddled with loopholes. The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted in 2006 and the institutionalization of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in 2009 are useful mechanisms but need to be strengthened substantially. The Security Council has also created a network of subsidiary bodies including the 1267 Committee, the 1373 Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee. The 1267 Committee, assisted by an Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, is directed against the Taliban and Al-Qaida. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (which I head), assisted by the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, implements resolution 1373 and other subsequent resolutions which obliges Member States to take a number of measures to prevent terrorist activities, criminalize various terrorist actions, assist and promote international cooperation, and adhere to international counter-terrorism instruments. The 1540 Committee - monitors compliance with

resolution 1540, which calls on States to prevent non-State actors (including terrorist groups) from accessing weapons of mass destruction.

In countering terrorism, the United Nations adopted a sectoral approach. The inability of United Nations to agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, even when terrorism endangers us at every moment, remains one of the most important lacuna in the international legislative framework in the fight against terrorism. However, I am quite encouraged by the recently concluded *Ad hoc* Committee negotiations where a vast majority of States have shown the flexibility and the desire to move forward.

There are many reasons for this incomplete and incomprehensible response. I will touch on a few of them.

The first and the foremost reason is the very regrettable tendency of some to justify acts of terrorism. No religion provides sanction for the use of violence. Any ideology that uses terror, as present-day events have repeatedly demonstrated, is bound to fail. The practitioners of terrorism today choose to take up arms because they like to impose their beliefs. They have no patience or desire to go through peaceful or legal means. They are a violent and radical minority that is determined to hold a peaceful majority to ransom.

People living under foreign occupation have a legitimate and a just complaint. However, that cannot be a justification for violence. I come from the land of Mahatma Gandhi. He led what is now a nation of over a billion people to freedom through non-violence. The recent developments in the Middle East demonstrate that peaceful and non-violent mobilization of a population can be a more effective instrument of social change than violence.

In this context one cannot but describe the short-sighted and irresponsible tendencies of some to use terrorism as an instrument of policy as one of the greatest tragedies of our times. History suggests that these terrorists will be the first to turn on their erstwhile benefactors -particularly when these patrons have outlived their utility.

In our shared resolve in combating terrorism, it is absolutely essential that any measures taken by States to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. However, some of us do a great disservice when we attempt to use the pretext of human rights and humanitarian agendas to justify terrorism. Targeted killing of civilians has nothing to do with root causation. It has everything to do with unpopular causes.

Another disturbing developments arising out of this ambivalence has been the tendency to overlook the victims of terrorism. The lack of recognition of their



suffering and loss and the denial of justice can only weaken the efforts to universalize human rights.

Let us now turn to counter-terrorism efforts. Some of these strategies are based on meeting violence with greater violence. The limitations of this strategy are apparent and are reflected in the ongoing debate between Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency (COIN). Mahatma Gandhi, I would like to remind you at this stage, said that an eye for an eye makes the whole world go blind.

The Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) recognizes that terrorism will not be defeated by military means, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone, and that there is need to promote the rule of law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, tolerance and inclusiveness to offer a viable alternative to those who could be susceptible to terrorist recruitment and to radicalization leading to violence.

Poverty, in itself, can neither justify nor provides a full explanation for the actions of terrorists. It is important to remember that most of the terrorists and terrorist organizations do not have economic grievances. They include, in their ranks, highly educated people who understand economics and technology. They use the internet to propagate their beliefs, communicate through encrypted emails, use satellite phones and are on social networking sites. They use technology and money, and most importantly, the tolerance of free societies, to attack freedom, tolerance and progress. If I am not mistaken, all or most of the 9/11 terrorists could afford to study at western universities. Al Qaeda has no shortage of funds. Omar Saeed Sheikh, the British-Pakistani man who kidnapped and beheaded innocent Western tourists and then went on to kidnap and behead Daniel Pearl, studied at the London School of Economics.

The ability of terrorists to utilize modern technology is most evident in their ability to raise and transfer money. While the creation of this Committee itself is partly in recognition of this, the fact that remains that terrorists are still able to find money and resources. The LTTE in Sri Lanka retained its financial resources and its arms procurement activities till the end. The Taliban are able to procure weapons and explosives at will. Al Shabab in Somalia is able to channel resources through and obtain revenue from the port of Kishmayo. The revenues of Kishmayo port, which receives mostly cargo transshipped at Dubai, have given Al Shabab a source of sustained income that is sufficient to meet its requirements.

The international response to terrorism seems to have fallen short and it is obvious that we need a new global compact to tackle terrorism. We need to recognize terrorism for what it is, the gravest threat to international peace and security today.

The mechanism that has been developed to pool the resources and the knowledge of the international community needs to be augmented and made more effective. We would argue that the central requirement of an effective counter-terrorism strategy is the necessary political will to squarely face the challenge of terrorism. We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succor and even legitimacy. We need an international mechanism to ensure accountability and justice. We must continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations. We need concerted international efforts to expose and destroy the linkages that exist between terrorists and their supporters. We need to expand the scope of the legal instruments and expand enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and their support networks.

This year will mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and also of adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). This Special Meeting being held today offers an ideal setting for us all to not only brainstorm some of the most pressing challenges in the prevention of terrorism, but also through an informal interactive process to tap avenues for future cooperation.

In concluding, I would like to quote the great European philosopher Edmund Burke. He said that "All that it takes for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." This is the philosophy behind the creation of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe. It is in that spirit that I am here as Chairman of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee to urge greater cooperation between our organizations to face this contemporary evil.



**661. Press Release issued by Ministry of External Affairs announcing the ratification of the UN Conventions against Transnational Organised Crime and Corruption.**

**New Delhi, May 13, 2011.**

India has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. It recognizes the need to foster and enhance close international cooperation in order to tackle those problems. The convention is further supplemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime namely Protocols to combat (1) trafficking in persons (2) migrant smuggling and (3) illicit trafficking in firearms.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. The Convention introduces a comprehensive set of standards, measures and rules that all countries can apply in order to strengthen their legal and regulatory regimes to fight corruption.

The Convention enumerates in detail the measures to prevent corruption, including the application of prevention policies and practices, the establishment of bodies for that purpose, the application of codes of conduct for public servants, and public procurement. It recommends promoting transparency and accountability in the management of public finances and in the private sector, with tougher accounting and auditing standards. Measures to prevent money-laundering are also provided for, together with measures to secure the independence of the judiciary, public reporting and participation of society are encouraged as preventive measures. The Convention recommends the State Parties to adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish a whole series of criminal offences. These are:

- Corruption of national or foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations;
- embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion by a public official of any public or private property;
- trading in influence;
- abuse of functions and illicit enrichment.

In the private sector, the Convention calls for the creation of offences of embezzlement and corruption. There are other offences relating to laundering the proceeds of crime, handling stolen property, obstructing the administration of justice, and participating in and attempting embezzlement or corruption.



**662. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the General Debate of the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.**

**Istanbul, May 12, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for me to participate in this Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

I am grateful to the people and Government of Turkey for graciously hosting this conference and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. This historic city of Istanbul bridging the East and the West provides the perfect metaphorical setting to build a durable partnership between the international community and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Least Developed Countries are the most vulnerable and the poorest segment of the international community. Their marginalised existence, is a matter of grave concern to all those who believe in a just and humane society. The plight of the LDCs remains immeasurable. They have little or no capacity to absorb external shocks.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We live in an interconnected world where the global community shares a common destiny. What we do for the LDCs in reality is a matter of our collective interest. Supporting the cause of the LDCs goes far beyond the moral argument; it is an economic imperative and a political necessity. Without putting the LDCs in the forefront of the global development agenda, we can hardly expect progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

International support for the LDCs since 1971, when they were created as a special category of countries in the UN, has not been commensurate with their special needs. The Brussels Programme of Action has had limited success. It is no surprise then that so far only 3 countries have been able to graduate out of the Group in the last forty years.

With their limited domestic resources and meagre international support, the

LDCs have worked hard to overcome their developmental challenges. But their structural weaknesses make their development a vicious cycle. The global financial, food and energy crises have had a debilitating impact on these countries reversing their hard won development gains. The LDCs are excessively dependent on global trade for economic sustenance. However, their share in global trade, in spite of preferential market access, was only 1% in 2009. There is an urgency to work for an early conclusion of the Doha Round to create more space for the LDCs in global trade.

Food and energy price volatility, threats posed by Climate Change and new and emerging challenges have further eroded the productive capacities of these countries. The debt situation in several LDCs remains untenable. While they remain saddled with myriad challenges, the LDCs are endowed with vast natural resources, huge potential for clean energy and a dynamic young population. What they need is a strong international partnership to unlock their true potential.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The LDCs have come to Istanbul with high expectations and so have we. I am hopeful that these expectations will be fulfilled. The Istanbul Programme of Action is a comprehensive document. It now needs to be backed by the highest political commitment and a genuine international partnership. I, therefore, urge all stakeholders to pledge their maximum support for the LDCs and enable them give a life of dignity and hope to their people. India, on its part, would do all it can and more for their cause.

In my appeal, I am reminded of the timeless wise words of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who said:

*"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems".*

The commitments made by the donor community on Official Development Assistance, market access, debt settlement, capacity building and transfer of technology must be renewed and scaled up for a meaningful implementation of the Istanbul Programme.

South-South Cooperation no doubt will play an important part in this endeavour but it cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation. Developing countries which are themselves faced with insurmountable challenges cannot be expected to take on a responsibility that they don't have the capacity to fulfil.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Sustained economic growth is fundamental to eradicating poverty in LDCs. In this regard, we are happy to see that the LDCs are taking major steps to attract

Foreign Direct Investment and promote private enterprise to boost growth. We welcome the multi-stakeholder approach of the Conference to involve the Parliamentarians, the private sector and the civil society in addressing the special needs of LDCs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India prides itself in standing shoulder to shoulder with the LDCs. Our strong ties with the LDCs have been nurtured through a shared history and common development needs. We feel particularly privileged to have played a historical role in the creation of the LDC category when we took lead to give shape to the idea at the Second UNCTAD Meeting in New Delhi in 1968. Our solidarity with the LDCs draws continuous inspiration from what our former Prime Minister Mrs. India Gandhi had to say at the 7th NAM Summit in New Delhi, and I quote:

*“Faith in future has brought so many across the continents and the oceans to meet here. We are here because we do believe that minds and attitudes can and must be changed and the injustice and suffering can and must be diminished. Our world is small but it has room for all of us to live together and to improve the quality of lives for our peoples in peace and beauty”.*

**Mr. Chairman,**

India remains fully committed to the needs of the LDCs. We have extended capacity building and economic assistance to the LDCs in their priority areas of development such as agriculture, infrastructure, telemedicine, energy, banking, and information technology under our flagship Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

In keeping with the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Declaration, we have extended duty free quota free preferential market access to their products. Our Lines of Credit worth 4.8 billion US Dollars to LDCs since 2003 and Aid for Trade programmes have led to expansion in India-LDC trade from 16.7 billion US Dollars in 2008-09 to 20.5 billion US Dollars in 2009-10, with the balance of trade being in favour of the LDCs.

Our private sector has invested more than 35 billion US Dollars in the LDCs since 2003.

During the India-LDC Ministerial Conference three months ago in New Delhi, we had announced a credit line facility of 500 million US Dollars for projects and programmes for the LDCs over the next five years under the existing Indian credit line regime for developing countries. Today, I have the pleasure to announce enhancement of that amount to 1 billion US Dollars. The additional

500 million US Dollars will come into the credit line immediately after the 500 million US Dollars announced last February are fully utilised by the beneficiaries.

At the India-LDC conference we had also offered 5 additional slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme to each LDC on an annual basis and a grant of 5 million US Dollars for the follow-up of the Istanbul Programme.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Istanbul Programme is an opportunity to give to the Least Developed Countries their rightful due. Let us make the most of it.

Thank You.



**663. Statement of Official Spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs extending Indian support to the re-election of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for the second term.**

**New Delhi, June 7, 2011.**

In response to a question the Official Spokesperson said,

"The Asian Group at the UN met in New York on 6th June 2011 and endorsed by acclamation the candidature of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for a second term. India's Acting Permanent Representative, Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, was present at the meeting and conveyed India's support in the matter. The Chair of the Asian Group is writing to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, informing them of the decision of the group."



**664. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of Counter Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Opening Plenary of the 10th Meeting of the Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.**

**Saint-Petersburg, (Russian Federation), July 6 – 7, 2011.**

Mr. A. Bortnikov, Director, FSB and Hon'ble Chairman,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to speak to this distinguished audience in my personal capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council.

As Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organisations, you are the people at the cutting edge of the battle against terrorism. You and your organisations are at the front-lines. It is you who must battle daily to confront and vanquish the threat that is posed by terrorist violence.

Terrorist violence is currently the greatest threat to international peace and security. It kills more people, threatens more governments and destabilizes more societies than war. It is a battle in the shadows in which the traditional combatant and the methods of conflict have been replaced by the sudden violence of a 9/11 in New York, by a 26/11 in Mumbai and by the attack on Moscow's Domodedovo airport, by the remotely triggered explosion that kills and maims innocent civilians, and by assassinations. Governments today need to fear the suicide bomber and the improvised explosive device more than they fear conventional armies.

Terrorists are waging asymmetric warfare against the international community. Conventional war was often about expanding borders. Today's terrorists have made borders irrelevant. It is globalised. Terrorists and terrorist organisations recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others. They have global logistical and supply chains; they have developed transnational financial systems; they use the latest and most sophisticated technologies and have command and control mechanisms that are able to operate across continents on a real-time basis. Terrorists might act locally, but their thinking and ambitions are global.

We are gathered here today because we recognize that this global threat requires a global response. The cooperation between you and your organizations will be amongst the most important determinants of success in this battle.

There is already a modicum of cooperation at the international level. The United



Nations has created a normative framework of 13 international conventions and their protocols. The United Nations has adopted a Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2006. It also created a Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in 2009.

The Security Council has also created a network of subsidiary bodies including the 1267 Committee, which has recently been split, the 1373 Committee (the CTC) and the 1540 Committee. At the same time, it needs to be recognized that gaps continue to exist in the international legislative and normative framework in countering terrorism. A Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is regrettably, yet to be finalized.

**Mr. Chairman**

The Counter-Terrorism Committee (which I head), assisted by the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, is responsible for monitoring the implementation by member States of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The obligations contained in these resolutions are wide-ranging and affect a broad swath of our lives, namely: financial and asset-based operations, movements of goods and people, identity and travel documents, communication, media, expression and association.

The Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) recognizes that terrorism will not be defeated by military means, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone. It also underscores the need to promote the rule of law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, tolerance and inclusiveness to offer a viable alternative to those who could be susceptible to terrorist recruitment and to radicalization leading to violence. It also encourages cooperation among CTC, CTED and the array of entities comprising the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF).

While combating terrorism, it is absolutely essential that any measures taken by States to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

At the same time, terrorists must not be allowed to misuse the freedoms and safeguards of liberal states and societies to weaken them from within. We must, in particular, be vigilant against efforts to hijack the human rights and humanitarian agendas to rationalize terrorist violence. Terrorists do not fight for human rights. They kill, maim and terrorize to further regressive social practices, promote intolerance, and advance narrow political objectives.

The international response also needs to synergize efforts with regional and sub-regional organizations. The CTC enjoys a close and symbiotic relationship with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. I am happy to note that the CTC has a regular and fruitful exchange of views with this organization.

Recently, the CTC co-organized with the Council of Europe a Special Meeting with International, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations on the Prevention of Terrorism, in Strasbourg from 19-21 April 2011 that deliberated upon some of these challenges.

Participants at the Special Meeting grappled with the phenomenon of the internet, which can be abused to promote radicalization, incitement and terrorist recruitment. The Special Meeting proposed an approach for co-opting religious and civil society groups, as well as law enforcement agencies, to provide counter-narratives to reach the same audience for which the internet propaganda is directed, who are often disaffected youth, alienated from mainstream society.

In counter-terrorism, the international response also needs to be placed in perspective. It is only effective as a complement to determined national efforts. National agencies dealing with security and law enforcement issues must share information and perceptions. They must where required, act in harmony. They must be able to pool resources. A good example of the type of cooperation that is required is the pivotal role that the Federal Security Service has played in developing the International Counter-Terrorism Database. Professionals in this field appreciate that information is power and this shared database could be an extremely effective instrument in counter-terrorism cooperation.

We are two months away from the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 and also of adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The resolution 1963 (2010) directs the CTC to organize a Special Meeting, open to the wider membership, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of that resolution. The Special Meeting will take place at UN Headquarters on 28 September 2011 and will consider such pertinent and topical themes as the impact and achievements resulting from resolution 1373 (2001) over this ten-year time-frame; the risks, challenges and shortfalls in implementation that remain to be addressed; and practical ways and means to improve implementation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Moving forward, we need to augment and make more effective the mechanisms that have been developed to pool the resources and the knowledge of the international community.

We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists and criminals to gain succor and even legitimacy. We need an international mechanism to ensure accountability and justice. We need concerted international efforts to expose and destroy the linkages that exist between terrorists and criminals and their State and non-State supporters. We need to expand the scope of the legal instruments and expand enforcement efforts to destroy their safe havens, their financial flows and their support networks.

We would also argue that the need to squarely face the complicity of states is a central requirement if we are to succeed.

The Roman philosopher Seneca said that if we see wrong and do nothing to oppose it, we are guilty of encouraging it. The battle against terror will ultimately be won only if we are able to combine forces. We have the responsibility of ensuring that we do everything that is required of us in this common battle.

Thank You.



**665. Explanation of Vote by India in the Human Rights Council on the Resolution on Syria.**

**Geneva, August 24, 2011.**

Madame Chairperson,

1. India's traditional position on country specific resolutions is well known. We do not regard spotlighting and finger -pointing at a country for human right violations as helpful. We believe that engaging the country concerned in collaborative and constructive dialogue and partnership is a more pragmatic and productive way forward. This is what India along with its partners in IBSA, Brazil and South Africa has done.

2. However, since some members of this Council have found it necessary to propose a country specific resolution, it would have been desirable had this been done by consensus, without resorting to a vote, to reflect the shared perspective and unanimous views of the council. This has regrettably not happened.

3. We hope that our position on the vote is not misconstrued as condoning violations of human rights in any country, including Syria.

4. On the contrary, we believe that it is imperative for every society to have the means of addressing human rights violations through robust mechanisms within themselves. International scrutiny should be resorted to, only when such mechanisms are non-existent or have consistently failed.

5. For the afore-mentioned reasons, India will be abstaining on the vote."

I thank you Madame Chairperson



**666. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to New York for UN General Assembly Session.**

**New Delhi, September 17, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening and a very warm welcome.

You are aware that the Prime Minister will be leaving for New York next week to participate in the High Level Segment of the 66th UN General Assembly Session. Foreign Secretary would like to brief you about the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister of India. I would also like to introduce my colleague Mr. Pavan Kapoor to the right of Foreign Secretary, who is the Joint Secretary for UN affairs.

Foreign Secretary will be making an opening statement and thereafter we will be happy to take your questions.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you.

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will be visiting New York from 22nd to 26th of September to participate, as you have just heard, in the High Level Segment of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.

His delegation would include the External Affairs Minister, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, NSA, myself, some senior officials, besides a large media component.

The current UNGA Session commenced on the 13th of September. This year, the General Debate including the addresses by the Heads of Delegation will take place from the 21st to the 30th of September. PM is scheduled to address the General Debate in the morning of 24th of September.

PM is also likely to hold bilateral meetings with a number of visiting Heads of State and Government during his stay in New York.

The present UN General Assembly Session is taking place at a time of continuing global economic and financial uncertainties, with food and fuel prices at their peak. The impact is being felt most severely by developing countries which are struggling to alleviate poverty and improve the living standards of its people. As a key emerging major economy, which is playing a constructive role in contributing to global economic recovery, we will reaffirm our commitment at the UN, to continue working with other countries and agencies, to further global economic and financial stability, as well as to foster strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth.

The Middle East and North Africa are witnessing socio-political upheaval and the situation is in a flux. During our membership of the Security Council since the 1st of January 2011, we have been underlining the need to resolve conflicts through negotiations and diplomatic means rather than the use of force. We will continue to encourage political and diplomatic processes for solutions to the problems of member nations.

In continuation of the initial remarks I made, we would continue to focus attention of the UN on poverty eradication as the foremost developmental challenge and the need to foster and sustain inclusive growth as a primary requirement for poverty eradication. It is imperative that the international community joins hands to ensure that every effort is made to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. India would call for greater mobilization of resources, including honouring of ODA commitments, and policy action for attaining the MDGs. We will also actively engage with UN Member States on human rights issues and to strengthen the UN's humanitarian operations.

India's priorities in the current session of the UNGA would include, continuing our efforts for reform of the UN with a view to creating an equitable system that is reflective of contemporary realities. We feel that unless comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council is undertaken, the process of UN reforms would only be piecemeal and incomplete. We along with the G-4 and other like-minded countries would continue to work proactively, to maintain the momentum for UN Security Council reforms.

India remains a votary of a robust UN role in maintenance of international peace and security, including through its peacekeeping operations and political processes. India has remained steadfast in its commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and total nuclear disarmament. Consistent with our concerns on terrorism and clandestine proliferation, we will emphasize the immediacy of effective measures to deny terrorists, possible access to WMD material. We will also be actively participating in the UN high level event on Nuclear Safety and Security which will be held on the 22nd of September.

The recent terrorist attack in New Delhi has once again served as a reminder of the constant threat posed by terrorism to the security of democratic societies and wellbeing of its citizens. We are currently chairing the Security Council's Committee on Counter-Terrorism, established by Resolution 1373 adopted in the wake of the September 2001 attacks. The Committee is organizing a special meeting on the 28th September 2011, which is the tenth anniversary of that resolution. We will reiterate the need for strong international cooperation and collective action against terrorism. We have time and again insisted on full compliance by all states of their obligations under various UN Resolutions and mechanisms on counterterrorism. We will also push for an early adoption of the

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that will provide a global normative framework against terrorism.

As I said earlier, the External Affairs Minister, Shri S. M. Krishna, will also be in New York to participate in this High Level Segment. He will represent India at a series of high-level events including:

1. The Annual Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the 22nd of September;
2. The Ministerial Meeting of BRICS ( Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) on the 23rd of September which he will be indeed hosting;
3. The 35th Annual Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the G-77 on 23rd of September;
4. An IBSA Ministerial Meeting also on the 23rd of September;
5. A Meeting with the Extended Troika of the Rio Group on 26th of September; and finally
6. The Sixth Round of India-Gulf Cooperation Council Political Dialogue on the 27th of September.

PM's visit to New York for this 66th UNGA session, at this important juncture, would enable India's voice to be articulated and heard at the august international body, which would also see the presence of a large number of world leaders. It will also enable him to exchange views with his counterparts both in formal and informal settings.

Thank you.

**Question:** What are the bilaterals on the sidelines? Could you shed some light on that?

**Foreign Secretary:** We are still working on the list. The requests are coming in even as we speak. Some notes are being exchanged both here and in New York. So, we do not have the absolute final list right now. As soon as it is ready, we will make it known.

**Question:** May I know the position of India on the request of the Palestinian people to be accepted as a state in the next General Assembly?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would like to say by way of background that India's commitment to the Palestinian cause is long established. India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the State of Palestine on the 16th of November, 1988 following the Algiers Declaration of the 15th of November of that year.

While we remain hopeful that the talks and negotiations would resume leading to a comprehensive peace process for final resolution of the Middle East conflict, India will support the Resolution on Palestine seeking membership of the UN.

**Question:** Any possibility of bilateral meeting at any level, Prime Minister level or Foreign Minister level, with China?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the list is still under preparation. But to my knowledge this has not been proposed. There will be not a purely bilateral but in the context of BRICS, as I mentioned, on the 23rd of September there will be a Ministerial meeting which our External Affairs Minister will be hosting. So, in that context there would be an engagement.

**Question:** Will the Prime Minister be meeting President Obama?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I understand it, President Obama will be leaving New York before our Prime Minister arrives. So, I do not see the possibility.

**Question:** Mr. Mathai, what is the update on the UN Security Council reforms? Is the Prime Minister likely to be involved in a G4 Heads of Government informal meeting? I know the Foreign Ministers will be meeting. What is the latest? Where do we go from here?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the latest on that is that as of now it is planned as a Foreign Minister level engagement between the G4. The four Ministers will take stock of where they are. There was a consultative meeting held among senior officials about a month back. What the Foreign Ministers will do is to review the outcome of that senior officials meeting, and then collectively decide what are the steps needed to be taken, and what is the direction in which to go. But I will ask my colleague to add a little bit to this.

**Joint Secretary (UNP) (Shri Pavan Kapoor):** Not too much to add except to say that, as Foreign Secretary said, the Director-Generals of the G4, as the senior officials or the sherpas as they are called, met in August in Japan. They have had a pretty extensive discussion to take stock of where things are but they felt that now the situation is right for Ministers to review the steps because they had, as you know, in February agreed to go for an outreach process, and now they feel it is time again for the Ministers to meet on the margins of UNGA. And that is what they plan to do and then decide the further steps.

**Question:** Sir, you just spoke about the India chairing the meeting of the UN Committee on Counter-terrorism. What really do we expect of this meeting apart from what you say that we are going to press for the Comprehensive Convention on Counterterrorism? Apart from that, what are the real expectations from this meet?

**Foreign Secretary:** The idea is to once again refocus attention of the international community on the dangers posed by terrorism. If we can push, as I said, for this comprehensive convention, we think that will be of great assistance in creating an international normative framework which is to say that all states do agree on certain basic steps that have to be taken to combat terrorism. We are, as I said, in the chair of the Security Council Committee on Counterterrorism. This being the tenth anniversary of a very major terrorist event, of course we face terrorism on a much more regular basis, it is to refocus attention. It is to once again seek an international consensus which can help us all move forward.

**Question:** We actually know this but I want you to say this for the sake of our cameras - our stand on Transitional Council in Libya

**Foreign Secretary:** There was a detailed statement which we worked on, which has been released only this morning. There was immediacy to it because in the context of the UN General Assembly Session which is already under way, there was a question of the acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of the Transitional National Council of Libya, and we have extended support to acceptance of their credentials. India has already been in contact with the Transitional National Council both in Benghazi and in Cairo. Our Charge d'affaires to Libya who is currently based in Tunis has formally established contact with the TNC Mission in Tunis. We are extending humanitarian assistance of about one million dollars through the UNOCHA to Libya and another two million of assistance is being processed as we speak. So, I think that is where we are. We have in fact accepted their credentials.

**Question:** Is there a meeting planned of the nuclear safety under UN Secretary-General's Office next week, and are you going to attend it as a Sherpa?

**Foreign Secretary:** There is the UN High Level Event on Nuclear Safety. Yes, we will be attending it.

**Question:** Sir, I know about what sidelines situation is which you have mentioned. But is there anything specifically expected with Pakistan, any special meetings or any progress to the expected with India?

**Foreign Secretary:** Progress we are working on in the bilateral context and you are all familiar with the visit of the Foreign Minister here at the end of July. That is a separate issue. What we have heard is that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is in fact not going to New York for the UNGA, and that the Pakistani delegation is likely to be led by their Foreign Minister. As of now I have no information on anything being planned in terms of a meeting with the Pakistani side.

**Question:** Sir, we have been talking about poverty alleviation and financial



crisis in the UNGA. India itself is facing price rise for a long time, Europe is under depression situation, and America is facing unemployment. Do you have any specific prescription for the UNGA to work on?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think what we are going to do is to make use of the Prime Minister's address to, as I said in some detail, call for collective measures where they are feasible and to refocus the attention of the world on these critical issues of poverty eradication through inclusive growth. The attempt to achieve the Millennium Development Goals I think is very much part and parcel of this whole business of poverty eradication.

**Question:** Coming back to Libya, about the recognition of the rebels' Government there, what is the position of India? Will there be some discussion with other countries about the recognition of their government?

**Foreign Secretary :** We recognize states and not governments. As I said, in the context of participation by the TNC in the UNGA we have extended our support to acceptance of their credentials. We have established contact with the TNC on our own. In terms of discussions with other countries, at the moment I do not know if there is anything planned. There was a major conference in Paris which was convened by President Sarkozy and Prime Minister Cameron. Our Minister of State for External Affairs participated in that meeting and established contact with the other countries and discussed matters relating to Libya. There is one addition to that.

**Joint Secretary (UNP):** As a follow-up to the Paris meeting there is also a high-level meeting in the UN on the 20th of September on Libya.

**Foreign Secretary:** And we will participate in that.

**Question:** At what level, Sir?

**Foreign Secretary:** Probably at this stage it will be me because I will be the first to arrive there.

**Question:** Staying on the PM's visit, there was a common BRICS position on this but China and Russia recognize TNC. Is there any conflict of opinion within the BRICS group on this issue?

**Foreign Secretary:** Not that I know of any conflict. As I have explained in some detail, we have also established contact with the TNC ourselves. We have held consultations with the Brazilians and the South Africans, both of them. And we continue to talk to them about the schedule which we have in mind. So, I think there is really no conflict there.

**Question:** Sir, would India be lobbying hard for Chinese support for India's permanent membership in UNSC in this UNGA Session?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the first thing is that the G4 countries will meet among themselves and work out a common plan of action as to what next. Once the four Ministers meet among themselves, we will decide what are the next steps after that.

**Question:** Any meeting planned of the SAARC Foreign Ministers? Normally every year they meet on the sidelines of UNGA.

**Joint Secretary (UNP):** You are very right. There is always an informal meeting of SAARC Foreign Ministers. This year the Bhutanese Government who are the current chair of SAARC decided that since there is a SAARC Summit coming up very soon and the SAARC Foreign Ministers will be meeting before that, there is no need for such a meeting. However, we have just been told that the Maldivian Foreign Minister, the Maldivians who are now talking over the chair of SAARC, might hold an informal meeting on the margins of UNGA. So, it is still possible but it is not certain.

**Foreign Secretary:** I will just add to that. The External Affairs Minister paid a visit to the Maldives at the end of July during which a number of discussions were held particularly focusing on the forthcoming summit. If the schedule does work out for the other SAARC countries and the Maldivians take this initiative, we will be happy to participate in it. But, as I said, the schedule has to be worked out. Ultimately this is being looked at in New York because it is changing from hour to hour - the requests and what is possible and what is not possible.

**Question:** What are the chances of the short resolution on the UN Security Council reforms being put to vote in the UNGA?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the decision on whether to go ahead, what steps to take has still not been made. That is the reason this meeting of the four Ministers acquires a particular importance because we have to take stock of where we are. As my colleague mentioned, the discussion which was held in Tokyo some weeks ago did reveal that there is much that needs to be done. We need to collectively reflect on what is the best way forward. After the last February decision, a very major outreach was begun. We understand that there was a very substantial support that was forthcoming from the countries which were contacted. So, perhaps they would once again take note of that and then decide what to do next.

**Question:** Sir, in your meeting with the Chinese side even at the Foreign Ministers' level, will the issues of intrusion in Ladakh and the Vietnam issue figure?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the schedule is for a meeting of the group BRICS in which we are trying to in fact provide a particular economic focus to this

grouping so that they can collectively deal with the agenda which we all agree on in terms of economic engagement and include more strongly we might say aligning our positions in global economic fora. Beyond that, I do not think there would be an occasion for specific issues.

**Question:** I have one question on counterterrorism since of course India is heading the UN Committee. Given the fact that India has constantly been talking about the Haqqani Network and in the context of the Afghan Taliban talks, Pakistan's manoeuvring and the recent attacks on the US Embassy in Kabul which is attributed again to Haqqani brothers, does that in any way kind of change India's position here, give you more strength to talk on the issue, or to raise the issue?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think the strength of our position is contingent on any single incident or any individual group. Certainly on the attack which took place in Kabul there is more than one view as to who is actually responsible for it. But our position is more general. It is more seeking a global consensus on how to move forward.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



**667. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UNSG's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation.**

**September 19, 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for inviting me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to participate in this Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation.

Terrorism today constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security. Some States, including my own country, have been victims of this scourge for several decades. The horrific events of 9/11 terrorists attacks in

this city, where the United Nations is headquartered, brought home to the western world its devastating consequences and changed the world profoundly thereafter.

Today, terrorists are not only truly globalised, but are also waging an asymmetric warfare against the international community.

They recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others. They have global logistical and supply chains; they have developed transnational financial systems; they use the latest and most sophisticated technologies and have command and control mechanisms that are able to operate across continents on a real-time basis.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Confronted with this global menace, the United Nations has developed a reasonably good legal framework aimed at countering terrorism and enhancing national, regional and sub-regional cooperation in this regard.

States have been obligated, among other actions, to criminalize terrorist acts, deny terrorist safe havens and financial resources, and ensure that terrorists are brought to justice and cooperate with other States to bring terrorists to justice.

On its part, the General assembly has adopted the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy which is a unique and universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism.

Further, the Security Council has created a network of subsidiary bodies including the 1373 Committee (CTC), the 1540 Committee, and the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, which are supported by expert bodies that are entrusted with the task of overseeing the implementation of relevant counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the Council.

Despite these substantive achievements, there has been no let up in terrorist violence and the world continues to confront the challenge emanating from the epicenters of terrorism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The central requirement of an effective counter-terrorism strategy is the necessary political will to squarely face the challenge of terrorism.

No cause or grievance could justify terrorism and we need to adopt a holistic approach that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

Where States have the institutions and capacities, they must clamp down on

terrorism. The States which do not have technical and institutional capacities, especially in failed states, the international community should assist in building their capacities to counter-terrorism.

Concerted international efforts are required to identify and expose the linkages that exist between terrorists and their supporters and to destroy terrorist safe havens, their financial flows and their support networks.

The Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) as well as the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy recognize that terrorism will not be defeated by military means, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone. The States need to implement the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner in all its four pillars.

Our normative framework of international conventions and protocols is still incomplete and riddled with loopholes. There has been a long delay in adopting a Comprehensive

Convention on International Terrorism. I hope we will be able to adopt this Convention soon. This would help us in developing a legal and normative basis for an effective counter-terrorism cooperation framework.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We can do more to improve our collective efforts. Technical assistance, capacity building and sharing of best practices are vital components of successful collective strategies.

We need to further strengthen international cooperation amongst practitioners - prosecutors, police officers, judges, and immigration and border officials through sharing and developing best practices in counter terrorism efforts. I am happy to note the important strides made by UN entities including the CTITF and CTED in this area.

The specialized international and regional organizations have also an important role to play in building an understanding of the terrorist threat; in facilitating international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, especially through the provision of technical and related assistance.

At the national level we need to develop strategies that restrict the emotional and political space available to terrorists to carry out their propaganda. We must support all efforts to enhance dialogue between and amongst civilizations, ethnicities, and religions, and evolve a culture of tolerance, compassion and respect for diversity, especially amongst the young.

In addition, efforts should be made to develop comprehensive and integrated

national counterterrorism strategies that fully comply with the rule of law; fully respect the dignity and human rights of all; and reach out to, and actively involve all parts of society and all communities. Such strategies must also effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism including radicalization and recruitment for terrorism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to inform this august gathering that the Counter-Terrorism Committee will be commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1373 (2001) and establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on September 28, 2011. The Committee will also adopt an Outcome

Document highlighting the progress achieved in implementing Resolution 1373 during the last 10 years and providing a roadmap for the future. This will be a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of States in their counter terrorism efforts. I encourage all delegations and stakeholders to attend that event in order to unequivocally convey our common resolve to battle terrorism.

Thank you.



**668. Statement by Permanent Representative at UN and Chairman, Counter-Terrorism Committee Ambassador H.S. Puri at the UN Secretary General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation.**

**New York, September 20, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for inviting me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to participate in this Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation.

Terrorism today constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace

and security. Some States, including my own country, have been victims of this scourge for several decades. The horrific events of 9/11 terrorists attacks in this city, where the United Nations is headquartered, brought home to the western world its devastating consequences and changed the world profoundly thereafter.

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respect the dignity and human rights of all; and reach out to, and actively involve all parts of society and all communities. Such strategies must also effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism including radicalization and recruitment for terrorism.

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Thank you.



**669. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the UN Security Council's High Level meeting on Conflict Prevention.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

I would like to begin by congratulating Lebanon on its Presidency of the Security Council this month and express my deep appreciation at your personally presiding over this very important event.

I am, indeed, honored to participate in the discussions today and bring to you the good wishes of my Government.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report and recommendations on the use of preventive diplomacy by the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

If properly used, Preventive Diplomacy could become an essential element in the global community's response to some of the major challenges facing the international system today and help in conflict prevention.

The adoption of the Charter of United Nations was supposed to herald the beginning of a new chapter in international relations.

One of the purposes of the United Nations as elaborated in Article 1 (1) of the Charter was to “bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.”

The Charter therefore stresses the importance of adjustment or settlement of disputes by peaceful means which include negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements.

Over the last six decades, peaceful interventions by the United Nations have helped diffuse a number of conflict situations on a number of occasions.

These interventions, wherever undertaken with impartiality, fairness and equity, have earned for the United Nations a reputation for effective mediation.

The challenge before the international community is to build on this legacy and ensure that peaceful means for settlement of disputes remain relevant to current realities.

**Mr. President,**

Contemporary threats to international peace and security differ qualitatively from those prevalent six decades ago. Conventional war has been overtaken by intra-state and even borderless violence.

Low-intensity conflict, non-state actors and the terrorist-criminal-drug trafficking nexus threaten international stability and progress. It is recognized that these conflicts are extremely complicated and need complex solutions.

Unfortunately, recent developments seem to indicate a worrying trend towards increased reliance on the use of force as a mechanism for resolving some of these conflicts.

The limitations of using force too frequently and too quickly are many. Any respite that coercion brings about in the absence of a political settlement is likely to be short-lived.

Efforts at peaceful settlement of disputes may also suffer if force is used prematurely and without adequate deliberation.

Very frequently, the demonstration of the lack of patience in persisting with peaceful efforts is also likely to play into the hands of those who want the conflict to persist.

The use of force also leads to collateral damage. Such damage, whether human or material, has unpredictable effects on political conflict resolution processes while creating moral or normative dilemmas.

In many places use of force has prolonged conflicts – a situation where the cure turned out to be worse than the disease. The international community must not show undue eagerness for coercive arrangements in its hurry to bring peace.

**Mr. President,**

We are often reminded of the shortcomings and limitations of diplomacy and the need to intervene.

It is important, however, to remember that the tragic events of the past that are sought to justify intervention took place not because dialogue was ineffective but because of the lack of will on the part of the international community to act.

These failures do not in any way detract from the soundness of the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes or its means mentioned in the Charter.

It, of course, goes without saying that the peaceful method is a more difficult one. The great Indian Emperor Ashoka noted three millennia ago that "To do good is difficult."

Preventive diplomacy takes time and commitment.

It requires a clear understanding of the nature and context of the conflict. It requires the ability to discern realistic solutions. It requires involvement of various stakeholders affected by conflict. It needs to incorporate the forces for stability and progress in a particular situation.

**Mr. President,**

Protection of their populations is the foremost responsibility of sovereign States. It is also their primary responsibility to prevent conflict.

As such, actions undertaken within the framework of conflict prevention by United Nations entities must be designed to support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments.

India has always opposed and will continue to oppose the use of force as the primary reaction to conflicts.

As the major Troop Contributing Country to United Nations peacekeeping operations we are more familiar than most with the limitations of force.

We note, however, that peacekeepers, who are also early peacebuilders are being asked to do more with less. This resource gap needs to be addressed.

The inability of the international community to match its mandates with resources ultimately affects the credibility of this Council and its authority in resolving disputes.

**Mr. President,**

There really is no sustainable alternative to political processes and that the primary focus of the United Nations should be the facilitation of a political settlement. Coercive measures should be avoided and used as a measure of last resort and implemented with extreme care and caution.

Decisions to use force should be free of political motives. The humanitarian imperative of providing succor to the suffering should not be used to further political objectives. This does humanitarianism and diplomacy a disservice.

Moreover, there are very good reasons why international law is based on the principle of consent. Efforts to circumvent this process are not prudent and cannot be expected to address the drivers of conflict on an enduring basis.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the time-tested principles of national consent, impartiality, fairness and equity in all conflict prevention activities that the United Nations may undertake.

Thank you



**670. Speech by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the High Level Symposium of South Africa's contribution to the fight against Racism and Xenophobia [in the context of the Centenary Celebrations of the African National Congress].**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

Your Excellency President Zuma,

Your Excellency President Jonathan,

Your Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon,

Fellow Ministers and

Distinguished Guests,

It is a matter of pride for me to join other leaders and fellow Ministers in celebrating the forthcoming centenary of the African National Congress in January 2012. We in India fully share the joy of our South African brothers and sisters in celebrating their great victory over racism and colonialism.

The ANC was at the forefront of one of the greatest political struggles of history. Its campaign against racist oppression and injustice was a long and difficult one. It was only the vision of great leaders like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo and the enormous sacrifices of the South African people cutting across racial boundaries that ultimately ensured that truth and justice prevailed.

#### **Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

I would like to take this opportunity to pay homage to the great leaders of the ANC and the many unnamed South Africans whose sacrifices for freedom and dignity have made it possible for us to celebrate this historic moment today.

The ANC's triumph against institutionalized racism of apartheid was celebrated as much in India as in South Africa itself. Indeed, the success of the ANC was at once the success of all people across the world who have suffered under colonial and racist oppression.

The ANC's greatness is not only in that it successfully and peacefully overthrew the apartheid state, but in that it managed to go beyond this by building a new democratic South Africa based on non-racialism and equal respect for all its people. The foresight of Nelson Mandela and his policy of national reconciliation has helped the ANC to forge a new rainbow nation out of the bitter hatred and division sown by apartheid.

We in India are proud of the success of South Africa's democratic transition and its emergence as a leading nation in the world. Indeed, a very special bond unites our two nations.

#### **Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

The Indian freedom struggle overthrew the mightiest empire of its time and did so peacefully. This would not have been possible without the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, leading us in Satyagraha. South Africa is the cradle of Satyagraha. It is there that Mahatma Gandhi first practiced ahimsa when confronted by the politics of evil. It is South Africa that turned Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a young lawyer, into the Mahatma.

India's commitment to the battle waged by the people of South Africa and by the ANC against apartheid was total. My country could not and did not remain indifferent to this crusade for freedom, equality and human dignity. In a message

addressed to the South African people in 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru said that India would fight for the rights and honour of all South Africans, whatever may be the burden that we may have to carry. He promised to fight it in India, in South Africa and in the international assemblies. And fight it, we did.

Here, I would like to quote what the great Nelson Mandela has said about India: "This country and my own have long and cherished bonds of friendship. India shall always hold a place of honour in the ranks of our international solidarity partners. For it was India who first took up the case for us against apartheid at the United Nations. It was India who always stood at the head of the international community's moral, political and material support to our cause to liberate our country from the bondage of racial oppression and racist rule. Today democratic South Africa has friends and supporters all over the world. We can today count amongst our allies some of the most powerful countries in the world. And we are very grateful for that support and friendship. We can, however, not forget for one moment those that stood by us when it was neither fashionable nor easy to do so. Amongst those, as I have said, India takes pride of place."

We are also greatly proud of the role of our Indian brothers and sisters who made South Africa their home in this great struggle. The Natal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Indian Congress, both of which owe their origins to the Mahatma, stood shoulder to shoulder with the African National Congress in its endeavours. South Africans of Indian origin contributed significantly to the ANC and they continue to do so today.

#### **Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,**

It is a matter of pride for us that we have converted this rich legacy into a thriving bilateral relationship. Our nation-building efforts have been guided by a common philosophy that stresses tolerance and respect for diversity.

It is thus no surprise that we stand for principles and the rule of law in our respective nations and in international relations. We are natural partners and our partnership extends beyond the bilateral. Our common aspirations and common values unite us in the UN Security Council, in G-20, in the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) forum, and in BRICS.

This is the century of Asia and Africa. The new dawn that the freedom fighters of India and the African National Congress dreamed about is upon us. We walked together in the walk to freedom; we now continue this journey into a better future for our two nations and for the entire world.

Thank you.



**671. Statement by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Safety and Security.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

We would like to convey our appreciation to the UN Secretary General for organizing this High Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security. We would like to join other delegations in conveying our heartfelt condolences to Japan on the recent grave tragedy in that country. India associates itself with the Statement made on behalf of NAM member-states.

The Fukushima nuclear incident attracted worldwide attention and raised concerns about nuclear safety in the face of natural calamities of particularly large magnitudes. Just as the global nuclear industry drew valuable lessons from the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents, after Fukushima, there is a strong expectation that global safety standards, implementation and crisis response procedures will be further strengthened, consolidated and updated in a continuous manner based on a scientific and objective analysis of the lessons learned.

India views nuclear energy as an essential element of its national energy basket. We are committed to taking forward our three stage nuclear programme based on a closed fuel cycle. We envisage a major expansion of nuclear energy in the coming decades – 20,000 MW by 2020 and projected to grow to 60,000 mw by 2030. Our nuclear safety track record has been impeccable over 345 reactor years of operation but we recognize the importance of continuous improvement and innovation in our nuclear safety standards and practices covering the entire range of activities – citing, design, construction, operation and up-gradation.

The Prime Minister of India has underscored that safety of our nuclear plants is a matter of the highest priority. The Government has undertaken a number of measures. These include the introduction of a bill in Parliament to change the functional status of AERB to a de jure independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority. Six safety review committees have looked into various aspects of nuclear safety and while detailed reviews are being evaluated, certain enhanced safety measures are already being implemented. India will invite the Operational Safety Review Teams of IAEA to assist in its own safety reviews and audit. All reactors, whether indigenous or imported will, without India's National Disaster Management Authority has drawn up "Management of Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies" which provides a holistic and integrated approach to disaster management covering all its components – prevention, mitigation, preparedness,

compliance with regulatory requirements, capacity development, response, relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

While recognizing that nuclear safety and nuclear security are national responsibilities, we consider it important to strengthen relevant international cooperative mechanisms to enhance public confidence in nuclear power as a safe, secure and clean source of energy. There is need for strengthened international cooperation, setting of new standards, peer reviews, sharing of experiences with a new emphasis of cooperation among all stakeholders-government, operators, regulators, industry, scientific and research bodies. A new international safety regime should be evolved on the basis of consultations and consensus through an inclusive and transparent process.

The IAEA has a central role to play in taking forward this process. We believe the Agency has the required mandate and has acquired considerable competence to facilitate international cooperation in this area. The Agency has, over the years, developed capabilities to undertake appropriate technical assessments through effective pooling of resources for the benefit of Member States.

The Convention on Nuclear Safety is the pillar of the international safety regime. We welcome the proposal to convene a special meeting of the Contracting Parties to this Convention to consider amendments to strengthen nuclear safety. This has to be done in a manner that does not affect the sovereign decision making process of the Contracting Parties. The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident is an important instrument in terms of prompt information with the Agency and the states affected in cases of significant trans-boundary radiological incidents.

The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011 served as a platform to make an initial assessment of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and the lessons to be drawn from it. It also provided the necessary impetus to strengthen the international nuclear safety framework and emergency preparedness and response mechanisms. The Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Conference and the draft Nuclear Safety Action Plan provides a valuable basis for taking this process forward. We welcome the proposed High Level Conference to be organized by Japan and the IAEA in 2012 on nuclear safety. India has participated and benefitted from peer reviews of WANO and will be cooperating with the multi-national design evaluation programme of the OCED-NEA.

India will actively contribute to international efforts for enhanced nuclear safety standards and practices, evolved through consultations, based on a scientific and objective approach that allows sharing of scientific knowledge and



technology relating to nuclear safety, promotion of innovation and investment in new technologies and increased transparency and capacity building that allows timely response to nuclear accidents should they occur. A new global cooperative framework on nuclear safety that preserves the principle of national responsibility but goes hand-in-hand with increased international cooperation will go a long way in reassuring the public regarding the long term viability of nuclear energy as a safe and secure energy source.

India welcomed President Obama's initiative to host the first Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010. We support the full implementation of the Summit Communiqué and the Work Plan. The second Summit in Seoul next year will provide a valuable opportunity for participating states to reaffirm their joint determination to contribute to global efforts to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism - one of the pressing challenges facing the international community.

The NSS process has strengthened resolve of participating states to address issues of nuclear terrorism and nuclear security through a collective international response based on effective action at the national level to prevent vulnerable nuclear material falling into hands of non-state actors and terrorist groups. India has participated actively in the NSS process and will host a meeting of the NSS Sherpas' in New Delhi in January 2012.

India believes that the primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level, but this must be accompanied by responsible behavior by States. All States should scrupulously abide by their international obligations. India has consistently supported IAEA's central role in facilitating national efforts to strengthen nuclear security and in fostering effective international cooperation.

Universal adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and early entry into force of its 2005 Amendment would go a long way in strengthening global efforts in the area of nuclear security. India is party to the CPPNM and is amongst the few countries which have ratified the 2005 amendment to the Convention. India is a party to the International Convention on Combating Nuclear Terrorism and supports its universalization.

India is establishing a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership to facilitate international cooperation and assist in building global capacity in areas such as Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems, Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety, and the application of Radioisotopes and Radiation Technology. International cooperation will be an important dimension of the Centre which will focus not only on training programmes, also in cooperation with the IAEA, but on new and innovative technological responses to meet the challenges of safety and security.

We are confident that through our common vision and joint action on enhanced nuclear safety and security standards we would be able to enhance public confidence in nuclear energy as a clean, affordable, safe and secure source of energy, vital to meeting global energy demands especially in developing countries. This meeting should therefore send a strong and unambiguous signal of support for nuclear energy while underlining our common determination to strengthen the mandate and resources of the IAEA to discharge its role and responsibilities.

Thank you.



**672. Press Statement of the Ministerial Meeting of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) on the margins of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, September 23, 2011.**

1. The Minister of External Relations of Brazil, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Minister of External Affairs of India, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan met in New York on 23 September 2011, in the margins of the opening of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly, to exchange views on Security Council reform.
2. Recalling their previous joint statements, in particular the declarations of 24 September 2010 and 11 February 2011, the G4 countries reiterated their common vision of an enlarged Security Council for the 21st century, expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership, taking into consideration the contributions made by countries to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the need for increased representation of developing countries in both categories, in order to better reflect today's geopolitical realities.
3. The Ministers discussed the initiative to promote consultations with Member States with regard to a draft resolution on expansion of the Security Council in both categories and improvement of its working methods. The initiative has been supported by a wide coalition of Member States, from all regional groups of the United Nations. Therefore, the Ministers expressed the view that such strong support should be considered as the basis for further discussion in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations to create the momentum needed for real negotiations among Member States on this all-important matter.

4. The Ministers also welcomed the decision by the General Assembly to immediately continue the process of intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary of the 66th Session. They reaffirmed their full support to the negotiations and expressed their determination to work in close cooperation with other Member States in a spirit of flexibility and press ahead with all the necessary steps to achieve a concrete outcome in the current session of the UN General Assembly. In this regard, the G4 countries look forward to working closely with H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th session of the General Assembly.

5. The Ministers once again committed themselves to continue to work together in order to bring about the urgently needed reform of the Security Council.

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota  
Minister of External Relations of Brazil

Guido Westerwelle  
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

S. M. Krishna  
Minister of External Affairs of India

Koichiro Gamba  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan



**673 . Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the General Debate at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, September 24, 2011.**

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the General Assembly. I wish to assure you of India's full cooperation in the conduct of the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly. It is also my great pleasure to welcome in our midst the new State of South Sudan.

**Mr. President,**

We meet at this session of the United Nations General Assembly at a time of great uncertainty and profound change. Till a few years ago the world had taken for granted the benefits of globalization and global interdependence. Today we are being called upon to cope with the negative dimensions of those very phenomena. Economic, social and political events in different parts of the world have coalesced together and their adverse impact is now being felt across countries and continents. The world economy is in trouble. The shoots of recovery which were visible after the economic and financial crisis of 2008 have yet to blossom. In many respects the crisis has deepened even further. The traditional engines of the global economy such as the United States, Europe and Japan, which are also the sources of global economic and financial stability, are faced with continued economic slowdown. Recessionary trends in these countries are affecting confidence in world financial and capital markets.

These developments are bound to have a negative impact on developing countries which also have to bear the additional burden of inflationary pressures. Declining global demand and availability of capital, increasing barriers to free trade and mounting debt pose a threat to the international monetary and financial system. Questions are being asked about the efficacy of the Bretton Woods institutions. There has been unprecedented social and political upheaval in West Asia, the Gulf and North Africa. People of these regions are demanding the right to shape their own future. Energy and food prices are once again spiraling and introducing fresh instability, especially for developing countries. The Palestinian question still remains unresolved and a source of great instability and violence. India is steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East

Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognizable borders side by side and at peace with Israel. We look forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. Terrorism continues to rear its ugly head and take a grievous toll of innocent lives.

New threats to international security have emerged. At a time when the world needs more international commerce, the sea lanes of communication across the Indian Ocean are under siege. Acts of piracy are being carried out with impunity from lands that are beyond the writ of any functioning state or international accountability. Iniquitous growth, inadequate job and education opportunities and denial of basic human freedoms are leading to growing radicalization of the youth, intolerance and extremism.

**Mr. President,**

We have no choice but to meet these challenges. We will succeed if we adopt a cooperative rather than a confrontationist approach.

We will succeed if we embrace once again the principles on which the United Nations was founded - internationalism and multilateralism. More importantly, we will succeed if our efforts have legitimacy and are pursued not just within the framework of law but also the spirit of the law. The observance of the rule of law is as important in international affairs as it is within countries. Societies cannot be reordered from outside through military force. People in all countries have the right to choose their own destiny and decide their own future. The international community has a role to play in assisting in the processes of transition and institution building, but the idea that prescriptions have to be imposed from outside is fraught with danger.

Actions taken under the authority of the United Nations must respect the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of individual states. Correspondingly, governments are duty bound to their citizens to create conditions that enable them to freely determine their pathways to development. This is the essence of democracy and fundamental human freedoms.

**Mr. President,**

There are many other things that we can do. We must address the issue of the deficit in global governance. We need a stronger and more effective United Nations. We need a United Nations that is sensitive to the aspirations of everyone - rich or poor, big or small. For this the United Nations and its principal organs, the General Assembly and the Security Council, must be revitalized and reformed. The reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed vigour and urgently enacted. We should not allow the global economic slowdown to become a trigger for

building walls around ourselves through protectionism or erecting barriers to movement of people, services and capital. Effective ways and means must be deployed to promote coordination of macroeconomic policies of major economies. The reform of governance systems of international financial institutions ought to be pursued with speed and efficiency.

The development agenda must be brought firmly back to the centre stage of the United Nations' priorities. We need a much more determined effort to ensure balanced, inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of vast sections of humanity. Each of us can contribute to this task, but we can achieve far more if we act in partnership.

In the last few decades India has lifted tens of millions of its people out of abject poverty. We are in a position to feed our population better, to educate them better and to widen their economic choices. But we still have a very long way to go. We wish to quicken the pace of India's transformation in partnership with the international community. A fast growing India can expand the boundaries for the global economy. A democratic, plural and secular India can contribute to tolerance and peaceful co-existence among nations. Developing countries need investment, technology and market access for their products. They need assistance in the areas of education, health, women's empowerment and agriculture. During the recently held 4th United Nations - Least Developed Countries Conference, India has strengthened its partnership with the LDCs through significantly enhanced lines of credit and assistance in capacity building. We have to pay particular attention to Africa. Africa's richest resources are not its minerals but its people. We have to empower them and open the doors for them to human advances in technology, education and skill development.

At the second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa earlier this year India offered lines of credit worth five billion US dollars and an additional 700 million US dollars grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology and building new institutions. The United Nations should lead efforts in the area of food security. We need more cooperation in agricultural technologies, water conservation, land usage and productivity and stability in commodity prices.

**Mr. President,**

Developing countries need a peaceful external environment to grow. The fight against terrorism must be unrelenting. There cannot be selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or the infrastructure of terrorism. Terrorism has to be fought across all fronts. In South Asia there are encouraging signs of cooperation in the area of security, as exemplified in India's cooperation with Bangladesh. Such cooperation is adding to the security of both our countries. The recent assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani in Kabul is a

chilling reminder of the designs of the enemies of peace in Afghanistan. It is essential that the process of nation building and reconciliation in that country succeeds. This is vital for ensuring peace and security in the region.

India will play its part in helping the people of Afghanistan to build a better future for themselves, just as we are doing in other countries in South Asia. We will do so because prosperity and stability in our region are indivisible. We wish to see an open, inclusive and transparent architecture of regional cooperation in the Asia Pacific region and peaceful settlement of disputes. I call upon the United Nations to evolve a comprehensive and effective response to the problem of piracy in the Red Sea and off the coast of Somalia. As a littoral state of the Indian Ocean, India is ready to work with other countries in this regard. Simultaneously, the international community should continue with efforts to restore stability in Somalia. We have joined international efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the countries afflicted with severe famine and drought in the Horn of Africa, specifically Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti. Nuclear proliferation continues to remain a threat to international security. The Action Plan put forward by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World provides a concrete road map for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner.

I commend the United Nations for its efforts in focusing world attention on nuclear safety. Our plans for utilizing nuclear power to meet our energy needs hinge upon full satisfaction about the safety of nuclear energy. We have undertaken a thorough review of the safety of our nuclear plants. We support international efforts under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance levels of safety and security.

**Mr. President,**

The perspectives that I have outlined to this august assembly are the ones that have guided our actions in the Security Council since India became a non-permanent member of the Council in January this year. There are still millions living in poverty across the world. Their plight has worsened, for no fault of theirs, due to the global economic and financial crisis of the recent years. The actions of governments around the world are therefore under close scrutiny. It is vitally important that through our actions and deeds we renew people's faith in the charter and objectives of the United Nations. I am confident we can do this through statesmanship, foresight and collective efforts. India stands ready to play its part in this noble endeavour.

I thank you.



**674. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on day 3 of Prime Minister's visit to New York for the UN General Assembly Session.**

**New York, September 24, 2011.**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** A very good afternoon to all of you and welcome. You have already seen and analysed, some of you have already reported upon, the address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at UNGA today. You are also aware that the Prime Minister has had two bilateral meetings, with the Prime Minister of Nepal and also with the President of the newest member of the comity of nations South Sudan. Foreign Secretary would like to brief you about the meetings, and also give you a perspective on Prime Minister's address at UNGA.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you.

I am sure all of you have the full text of the Prime Minister's speech. This was very well received. In it the Prime Minister who is addressing the UNGA for the first time since 2008 has in fact spelt out his analysis of the international situation as it is today and his vision on the kinds of areas in which global cooperation is called for. I would draw attention to two or three elements of it.

Prime Minister refers very clearly to the fact that the world economic crisis, which in 2008 he referred to when he was here, there was a time we thought we were out of the woods but it seems there is still need for intensive cooperation among all countries in the world to tackle this continued crisis. In this context he has also mentioned the continued feeling that the Bretton Woods institutions as they are, do require examination as together they are suitable for dealing with the current international realities.

The Prime Minister made a categorical reference again to our support for Palestine. He addressed that issue very clearly. He also referred to, he gave an analysis of the current transition which is taking place in many countries across the world, the tensions and turmoil. I draw attention to one particular statement in the speech, in which he says that societies cannot be reordered from outside. In fact the specific language is, "*Societies cannot be reordered from outside through military force. People in all countries have a right to choose their own destiny and decide their own future.*"

In addition I would mention that he referred to the need for the United Nations Security Council reform and I quote, "*The reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed*



*vigour and urgently enacted.*" This particular line was greeted with applause on the floor.

There was also a reference to our own region South Asia and I draw attention to that also. In that the Prime Minister, after referring to the fight against terrorism, said, "*In South Asia there are encouraging signs of cooperation in the area of security as exemplified in India's cooperation with Bangladesh. Such cooperation is adding to the security of both our countries.*" That is as much as I would like to say on the speech itself. I am sure all of you would have seen it and begun your own analyses. I will now move to the bilaterals.

Prime Minister met Prime Minister Bhattarai of Nepal this morning. External Affairs Minister was present. He noted that the Nepalese leader knew India well as he had studied in India in Chandigarh and also in Delhi. There was an exchange of views on bilateral relations and both emphasised that the ties between the two nations were very close and based on centuries old civilisational links. They referred to the tradition of friendship and cooperation and it was felt that steps should be taken to advance particularly the economic cooperation and other elements in our bilateral agenda.

The Nepalese Prime Minister explained the current developments in Nepal and the priorities of his Government, particularly to complete the peace process and the formation of the Constitution. Our Prime Minister wished the Nepalese Government success in these endeavours. PM also told the Nepalese Prime Minister that we were awaiting his visit which has been agreed to and the dates are being finalised.

PM later met President Salva Kiir of South Sudan. External Affairs Minister and the South Sudan Foreign Minister were both present at that meeting. PM began by again conveying his congratulations to the leader of the new State and the manner in which it had handled its emergence on to the world stage. The President conveyed his thanks to PM and recalled with particular pleasure India's presence at the celebrations of South Sudan's Independence where, as you may recall, India was represented by our Vice-President. Minister in President Salva Kiir's office, Madam Cook, had visited India a few months ago.

President Kiir referred to the priorities and the needs of South Sudan which he described as being very great. But he drew particular attention to the need for assistance in areas such as medical facilities, agriculture, irrigation, education, infrastructure and energy. He suggested that India could provide assistance in this regard. And PM responded with the assurance that India would extend all assistance possible, particularly for capacity-building and human resource development in these areas.

President Kiir also referred to the scope for development of new railway lines to link South Sudan with the rest of the railway network in Africa and also access to the sea. He also spoke of the importance of Indian participation in the development of oil resources, hydrocarbon resources of South Sudan. It was then felt that the discussion should be followed up through an exchange of visits to assess the scope for Indian expertise participating in the development of South Sudan, particularly in fields like medicine, agriculture, railways, infrastructure and then to draw up a plan of action. The two Foreign Ministers have been charged with taking this forward.

PM invited President Kiir to visit India, and the President said he would be happy take up the invitation as soon as the immediate priority of setting up the political institutions of the new country was completed.

After these two meetings, I would also like to mention that EAM had a separate meeting with the UK Foreign Secretary as he is called, the Foreign Minister of UK. The two Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral relations in the field particularly of economic affairs, trade, education, and also there was a reference to defence. The two leaders exchanged views on matters before the Security Council, in particular Libya, Syria and the reform of the Security Council. Mr. Hague took the opportunity to reiterate UK's support to India for its permanent membership in an expanded Security Council. The two leaders also discussed issues before the forthcoming Commonwealth Summit which is to be held in Perth at the end of October.

Thank you.

**Question:** Sir, I was wondering if you know who all did the leader of South Sudan meet other than the Indian Prime Minister in terms of importance.

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not have a read-out on that but what I do know is that while we were waiting to receive him - our Prime Minister had just finished his address and come out and finished one meeting and gone to another room - it was remarked by the people handling protocol that the South Sudan Prime Minister had been very active in moving around and he had met a very large number of leaders. I happened to overhear that. But no, I did not check who others he met.

**Question:** You have pointed out this line in the speech, "Societies cannot be reordered from outside through military force". Would that also, therefore, enlarge also to Libya and Syria where India has a different viewpoint in the UN Security Council compared to say countries like the United States? Secondly, is there anything more that can you tell us about the upcoming meeting with Secretary Clinton on Monday? Just an indication of the agenda for that meeting?

**Foreign Secretary:** First of all, I think the reference was not intended specifically to refer to any one situation, but it was a generalized response to a trend we are seeing in which, it started perhaps with Libya where a particular situation in the way it was developing, the UN Security Council did pass a Resolution and then we ended up with a campaign in which one side was supported. I think the idea was just to draw attention to the established principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries; and that the role of the international community is to be as helpful as it can to assist countries in the stage of transition but from outside; that the actual political changes within a country have to be led by that country itself; and it is the role of the international community, perhaps the regional organizations taking the lead and the UN also to assist in this process. I think that was the intention.

**Question:** Is there any indication of the agenda for the meeting with Secretary Clinton?

**Foreign Secretary:** It will be a review of bilateral relations and also where we go forward. I am happy you raise this. We have had a number of interactions. The two Foreign Ministers already met in the context of the New Silk Road Initiative of Secretary Clinton of the United States with reference to Afghanistan and the regional cooperation in the context of Afghanistan. We have also participated in a meeting, but at officials' level, on a US-led initiative for a Global Counterterrorism Forum. But we will be looking at all elements in our bilateral relations including the economic ties. There has been a very good meeting of the CEOs Forum, of which you are aware, and there have been some very useful recommendations which have emerged out of that. So, I think the two Foreign Ministers would take an opportunity to look at what other steps we now need to take to advance our commercial and economic relations.

**Question:** The reference of Prime Minister to external intervention in the sovereign nations, does it have any message to the United States of America which made an unwarranted comment on Anna Hazare movement in India? That was an unwarranted comment by the United States of America in the internal affairs of India. So, does India give a message that you need not interfere in other countries' affairs?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the Prime Minister's speech and his remarks were intended to deal with the international situation as it is today and in terms of the kind of issues which the United Nations is tackling. I do not think any other inference would be correct. Even if you look at the remark that you are referring to, what did they say? They said they count on India. Maybe they count correctly. That is all I can say.

**Question:** Now on the Palestine issue and various other issues there is a

slight slant in which we do not go with the United States of America. But do you expect any reaction from their side?

**Foreign Secretary:** I have just mentioned that we are also participating very closely with the United States in certain initiatives particularly the Afghan Silk Route Initiative and also the counterterrorism initiative which they have taken. We certainly will continue our dialogue on all issues. I do not think there is any response which we are anticipating.

**Question:** Can we put it like this, the Prime Minister intends to say that India will remain a friend and not an ally of America?

**Foreign Secretary:** That is your way of putting it.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, South Sudan is a country that recognized the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam, and TGTE also recognized South Sudan. Now that the Tamil Eelam has become a big subject in South India, especially the Tamil Nadu Government has passed a Resolution firmly condemning what is going on in Sri Lanka, was there any reference to the first country that became a TGTE in the bilateral discussion?

**Foreign Secretary:** No, there was no reference whatsoever to this subject.

**Question:** Sir, in the very beginning of his speech the Prime Minister expressed his concern about the negative impact of the globalisation. ...(Unclear)... What do you think is the reason for or how do you look at this concern about the fallout of globalisation?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would not like to interpret what the PM has said, but I think in the speech itself he has mentioned particularly the issue of food security. I think, if you look at the speech in its entirety, it is clear that there are elements of the globalization as we understand it today which have begun to have an impact on food security. Similarly in the field of energy security, there are elements where you can see that the pace at which globalization is going on has implications for particularly the developing countries and their abilities to access food and energy. I think those are two areas where you see it. But he is also mentioning, if you see in the reference to the world economic crisis, the capacity for contagion in one region to spread across the globe very quickly. And he is just drawing attention, as you know his credentials as an economist are very well respected, to the possibilities that we need to build into our international system as we know it today, some elements of protection where these contagions cannot spread very easily.

**Question:** The globalization has brought a lot of investment to our country but that is not properly gathered. That is why issues like ...(Unclear)... That also may be a concern for him. ...(Unclear)...

**Foreign Secretary:** I personally see it in the international context, not specifically related only to India. I think it is a reference on behalf of the developing world.

**Question:** In the bilateral meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister, did our Prime Minister refer to the issue of the rehabilitation of the Maoist army in the Nepalese Army? ... (Unclear)... to our domestic Maoist issues also?

**Foreign Secretary:** There was no reference to India. But, as I mentioned, the Prime Minister of Nepal did speak about the process, it is called a peace process I do not know why. And he explained those moves to create a new consensus on how to move forward there and the Prime Minister wished him well. I think there was no other specific reference.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you very much.

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#### **Second Media Briefing on Prime Minister's Bilateral meetings:**

**Official Spokesperson (Shri Vishnu Prakash):** Good evening. You are aware that the Prime Minister of India has had three important bilateral meetings today, first with the newly elected Prime Minister of Japan, next with the President of Iran, and just recently in the evening with the President of Sri Lanka. Also in parallel, the External Affairs Minister participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting as well as the G4 Foreign Ministers meeting. The Foreign Secretary is here to brief you about these meetings, especially the engagements of the Prime Minister today.

**Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai):** Thank you.

I will start with an apology for being a little late. The meetings ran a little longer than expected.

The Prime Minister, as JS(XP) has just mentioned, met the Japanese Prime Minister in the morning; and the meetings with the President of Iran and the President of Sri Lanka were in the evening today. I will start with the meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihiko Noda. PM congratulated Mr. Noda on his appointment, which was recently, and said it was an honour to meet the Japanese PM so soon after he had taken office.

PM noted that there had been an intensification of relations with Japan in recent years with very close interaction between the Prime Minister and his Japanese counterparts. The two Prime Ministers reviewed bilateral relations, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), regional affairs in the context of the forthcoming East Asia Summit, and the global partnership between India and Japan.

The Prime Ministers noted the progress on major bilateral projects including the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. They agreed to continue discussions on nuclear cooperation after noting that all countries are conducting safety reviews. The discussions also took in the reform of the Security Council and it was agreed that the G4 consultations should continue.

PM told the Prime Minister Noda that he was keenly looking forward to receiving the Japanese Prime Minister in India at the end of the year. It was agreed that the dates would be finalised through diplomatic channels.

During 2012, Japan and India would be marking the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The two sides would further deepen political dialogue, their economic relations, ties in the field of security, cultural and people-to-people relations. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the close and constructive bilateral relations between the two countries were supported by a very strong political consensus across the board in both countries.

Prime Minister, as I said, met President Ahmadinejad of Iran. EAM and Foreign Minister Salehi were both present during this meeting. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations. It was the first meeting between the two after a long time. They first of all dealt with the political dialogue, and President Ahmadinejad renewed his invitation to PM to visit Iran. PM accepted in principle and said the dates would be worked out. The agenda of bilateral visits also includes in the near future, a visit by the Speaker of our Lok Sabha who will be visiting Iran shortly.

The two leaders felt that the next meeting of the Joint Economic Commission should be held fairly soon. EAM on our side and the Foreign Minister of Iran would co-chair this. As soon as mutually convenient dates are worked out, preferably during the course of this year, the meeting will be held.

The two leaders also discussed the bilateral relations including major projects. They reviewed the situation in the region including Afghanistan. They also discussed developments in West Asia and North Africa. They agreed that there was need for further exchange of views on a regular basis between the two countries. They both noted the importance of the Nonaligned Movement, of which Iran is now the Chairperson.

Later in the evening PM met the President of Sri Lanka. He was accompanied by the EAM and the Sri Lanka EAM Prof G.L.Peiris was present. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest. President Rajapakse briefed PM on developments relating to the devolution of powers through discussions between the Government of Sri Lanka and the TNA as the

representatives of the Tamil parties. They also mentioned that parallel discussions are taking place within the Parliamentary Select Committee.

PM and President Rajapakse also discussed the issues of the resettlement of the displaced persons including the housing project which is being undertaken with Indian assistance. They also had a detailed discussion on the fisheries issue, and it was noted that another meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fisheries would soon be convened. It was felt also that further meetings between fishermen of the two countries should also be held as these are found to be useful.

I will come now to the meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers. EAM actually chaired the meeting this morning. As you are aware, the next BRICS Summit is to be held in India in the end of March, beginning of April, 2012. There is a very large economic agenda for the BRICS on which the Summit will be putting a particular emphasis.

All the BRICS members are currently members of the UNSC, and they have a convergence of views on a number of issues which are on the agenda of the Council. In this context, they discussed Libya, Syria and the Palestine issue. The BRICS members agreed that they should promote cooperation among other emerging economies and they support the early accession of Russia to the World Trade Organisation.

The BRICS members also had a discussion on climate change, and they supported the Common but Differentiated Obligations to deal with this challenge. They also believe there is need for greater financial and technological transfer to the developing countries and they will cooperate for a successful conclusion of the Rio+20. All the participants thanked EAM for hosting the meeting and agreed that there is need to remain in touch for preparations for the next BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

The last meeting which I will refer to was that of the G4 – Brazil, Germany, India and Japan - which also took place on the margins of the 66th Session. There is a Joint Statement which was prepared at the end of this meeting, which I presume has been circulated and you would all have it. So, I do not need to go into the details. All I will say is that the G4 countries reiterated their common vision of an enlarged Security Council for the 21st century, expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership taking into consideration the contributions made by the countries to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the need for increased representation of developing countries in both categories. The Ministers expressed the view that strong support should be considered as the basis for further discussion; and they noted that the inter-governmental negotiations are continuing in this session.

I will stop there and take any questions that you may have.

**Question:** Sir, there was some unpleasantness yesterday after President Ahmadinejad's speech. The US delegation walked out because of certain remarks he made. Is this unpleasantness in any way - given the fact that the Prime Minister has met Mr. Ahmadinejad today and had a substantial dialogue, agreed to a visit, and so on - likely to have any impact on the India-US relationship?

**Foreign Secretary:** Actually the Prime Minister and President Ahmadinejad meeting was planned before we came here. The idea was basically to focus on our bilateral relationship, and also to have an exchange of views. As I said, Prime Minister took particular note of the fact that the Iranian President would be the Chair of the Nonaligned Movement.

**Question:** Staying with Iran, you said you discussed West Asia. On this whole Palestinian issue and Mr. Obama's speech today, what is India's stand?

**Foreign Secretary:** I do not think there was a discussion on the speech per se but they both reiterated their commitment that they support the Palestinian attempt to seek membership of the United Nations.

**Question:** Anything on Iran gas pipeline?

**Foreign Secretary:** Gas pipeline was not discussed today to the best of my knowledge, but they discussed a whole series of projects between the two countries including potential cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons.

**Question:** Was there any IBSA related meeting today? If so, who attended it, and can you put it in the context of the IBSA Summit which is coming up shortly?

**Foreign Secretary:** An IBSA meeting was in fact scheduled and it was on the programme of the External Affairs Minister. But I understand that the South African Minister had to leave. So, it was initially decided that a meeting would take place at the officials' level rather than at the Ministerial level. That also did not materialise though they are leaving that to the lower level officials who have already had some discussions. It is in the context of the IBSA Summit, we will be participating in that. But the meeting could not be scheduled today.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, in tomorrow's speech that the Prime Minister makes, is there likely to be any reference to Palestinian statehood or to the Middle East region? Is there anything more that you can tell us about his possible references to the crisis in the Middle East region?

**Foreign Secretary:** I will comment on the Prime Minister's speech after it is over. So, tomorrow you are free to ask me any question you want to on the



speech. But let me say without necessarily referring to the speech that our position on the Palestinian issue is an established position; it is well-known. As far back as 1988 we recognised the Palestinian State. So, we should not be surprised if there is a reiteration of that. But I would not like to comment on the contents of the PM's speech.

**Question:** Was there any kind of discussion about the reports of human rights abuses during the war against Tamil Tigers? There has also been a case that is filed today in the US Federal Court alleging human rights abuses, and there have been protests against Mr. Rajapakse's visit to the United States. Any kind of informal discussion between the two leaders?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think the discussion was in general terms on the need for addressing the issue in Sri Lanka. Our Prime Minister reiterated that a successful conclusion of negotiations and discussions with the representatives of the Tamil parties would in fact obviate the need for outsiders to start passing judgment or to get involved. So, the emphasis was more on the political dialogue within Sri Lanka.

**Question:** Mr. Secretary, I wanted to ask about India's position on developments in Syria. There is increasing dismay among the American diplomats that India and the United States do not see eye to eye on all these developments in Libya and Syria. Do you foresee any convergence on this? And what is the position of India on the developments there?

**Foreign Secretary:** If I can just refer to the BRICS Foreign Ministers statement which outlines some of these issues, they say the situation in Syria is complex and nothing should be done to exacerbate it; the Syrian authorities should exercise restraint in dealing with protestors and respect their human rights; at the same time political reforms should be implemented expeditiously; and the opposition groups should participate in an inclusive political process. I think the emphasis is, among countries like ours, on the need for the international community to be supportive of inclusive political process, but these necessarily should be led by those countries and the groups within those countries themselves.

**Question:** Sir, United States and Israel are almost threatening Iran. In our discussion with the Prime Minister, did the issue of nuclear programme of Iran, especially our worries including with Pakistan come up?

**Foreign Secretary:** As I said, the emphasis of our discussion was on the bilateral relationship, and this issue did not figure in that.

**Question:** The US position and our's on Palestine issue are quite contrary to each other. Iran is also another area where our stand and US stand are quite

different. Again on West Asia policy of US, our critical appraisal is very clear. But Indian PM's meet with the Iranian President and there is no meeting with the US counterpart. So, can we say that this a reflection of the state of Indo-US relationship

**Foreign Secretary:** No, I would not say that. The fact that the Prime Minister actually arrived in New York after the President of the US had left made the possibility of a bilateral meeting between the two leaders not feasible. But we are planning that there will be a meeting between the External Affairs Minister and the Secretary of State probably on Monday subject to confirmation.

**Question:** Foreign Secretary, in the discussion with the Iranian leader on Afghanistan, was there any talk on the role of various regional players in Afghanistan?

**Foreign Secretary:** There was a feeling that the regional countries must consult each other much more and that certainly India and Iran should have regular interchanges on the situation in Afghanistan and a peaceful resolution of those issues.

**Question:** Sir, if I can have a follow-up, is there any convergence of views between Iran and India on the future dispensation in Afghanistan? Does Iran fear Taliban as much as we do?

**Foreign Secretary:** I think both of us feel that the dispensation in Afghanistan which emerges should be Afghan led, it should be inclusive but it should be Afghan led; and the process has necessarily to be taken forward by the Afghans themselves; and it is for the regional countries to be supportive, to create a supportive and conducive climate for them to be able to do that.

**Question:** Sir, my question is related to Pakistan. There is this talk which has been generated both in Pakistan as well as in America about Admiral Mike Mullen saying that the Haqqani Network was the political arm of the ISI. Can you tell us, Sir, what is the Indian position on the comments made by Admiral Mullen?

**Foreign Secretary:** I would not like to comment on what the US leader has said about Pakistan. I think our own position on the issue of terrorism which we face is well-known. Beyond that I do not comment on what the US has said about Pakistan.

I would just like to mention that tomorrow PM would be addressing the UN General Assembly in the morning; and then after that there are bilateral meetings planned with the new Prime Minister of Nepal and the President of South Sudan.

**Official Spokesperson:** Thank you.



**675. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter – Terrorism Committee Hardeep Singh Puri at the Special Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee.**

**New York, September 28, 2011.**

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I extend all of you a very warm welcome to the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Today, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in pursuant to that resolution, we are reminded of the horrific events of 9/11 terrorist attacks and its aftermath.

The nature, intensity, coordination and sophistication of those horrendous attacks brought home the need for urgent and concerted action to collectively combat the scourge of terrorism.

Precisely on this day ten years ago, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1373 (2001), which has proven to be a major milestone in global counter-terrorism efforts. The Council unequivocally condemned the terrorist attacks, and introduced a far reaching set of measures aimed at bolstering the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions.

I compliment the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for taking an active role in furthering the agenda of the United Nations in addressing this threat, and in engaging the various United Nations bodies and agencies as well as Member States in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Kofi Annan, then Secretary General, aptly summarized the sentiment of the moment when he addressed the General Assembly in September 2001. He said that the terror attacks were:

“... not only an attack on our innocent fellow citizens but an attack on our shared values. It struck at everything this Organization stands for: peace, freedom, tolerance, human rights, and the very idea of a united human family. It struck at all our efforts to create a true international society, based on the rule of law. “

Let us respond by affirming, with all our strength, our common humanity and the values that we share. We shall not allow them to be overthrown... Let us therefore respond to it in a way that strengthens international peace and security – by cementing the ties among nations, and not subjecting them to new strains. This Organization is the natural forum in which to build such a universal coalition. It alone can give global legitimacy to the long-term struggle against terrorism.”

It has been a long and arduous journey since then spanning a decade. I am happy to report that the international community has vigorously responded to the call to rise up to the unprecedented challenges posed by terrorism.

The resolution 1373 (2001) has brought increasing solidarity and intensified dialogue among States concerning the threat posed by international terrorism and the means to confront it effectively. A lot of ground has been covered. As of 11 September 2001, only 2 States were signatories to all the 12 UN conventions relating to terrorism. That number has now grown to 111. In addition, a significant number of States have signed the 4 additional international instruments which have been added to complement the legislative regime.

Positive developments are also evident in other areas. Most States have now taken steps to criminalize terrorist acts in their domestic laws and regulations, in accordance with their obligations under the resolution and the relevant international instruments.

In compliance of their obligations under resolution 1373, States have also established Financial Intelligence Units and other mechanisms to monitor and guard more effectively against terrorist financing and money laundering and for effective cooperation and coordination of their efforts at the national and international levels.

New systems of border security, such as enhanced cargo screening and the introduction in most of the States of machine-readable travel documents, have been helpful in checking terrorists’ transnational activities.

There is better exchange of information among States. It appears that mutual legal assistance now occurs more systematically. Many of these advances are due to the continuing commitment of bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and others to providing technical assistance relevant to States’ implementation of the resolution.

**Mr. Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In spite of these achievements, it is important to acknowledge that 11 September 2001 symbolizes neither the beginning nor the end of terrorism.

Today, terrorists are not only truly globalised, but are also waging an asymmetric warfare against the international community.

They recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others. They have global logistical and supply chains; they have developed transnational financial systems; they use the latest and most sophisticated technologies and have command and control mechanisms that are able to operate across continents on a real-time basis.

There is hardly any region of the world that has not been scarred by terrorism during the past decade. The events in Abuja, Baghdad, Bali, Kabul, London, Madrid, Moscow, and Mumbai—to mention a few—are but footnotes to the tremendous personal tragedies involved.

We need to confront these challenges and we must confront them squarely and decisively. Much more remains to be done to make States free from the threat of terrorism. Some of the challenges facing us include the need to effectively address new threats brought on through increased use by terrorist groups and individuals of new information and communication technologies for recruitment, incitement and fundraising.

Challenges also remain in the area of countering terrorist financing, including the need to monitor more effectively new payment methods, informal money and value transfer systems, and the use of cash couriers. Furthermore, the problem of securing porous land and sea borders remains a major challenge for many States. We also need to bear in mind that bringing perpetrators to justice requires continued training to law enforcement and prosecution services.

**Mr. Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As we deliberate today to chart out our salient achievements as well as the key challenges and strategies towards overcoming the many ordeals which remain in our path, I call upon all Member States to remain true to the initial call echoed here ten years ago to respond to this challenge in a manner which affirms “our common humanity and the values that we share.”

I firmly believe that this is achievable through the introduction of counter-terrorism measures which uphold the rule of law and are compliant with States’ obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law.

I call upon you all to rise up to this occasion with a renewed sense of purpose. Let us continue to work together to make the world a safer place for succeeding generations from the horrors of terrorism.

It is my expectation that our deliberations today will usher in a new qualitative

and substantive improvement in the normative framework and we will adopt an ambitious outcome document that, will introduce a new 'zero tolerance' paradigm in the international community's fight against terrorism.

Thank you.



**676. Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) under India's Chairmanship at UNSC.**

**New York, September 30, 2011.**

A Special meeting of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism took place in New York on 28 September 2011, to commemorate its 10th anniversary. The meeting was chaired by India's Permanent Representative Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) ten years ago, by the Security Council marked a major milestone in global counter-terrorism efforts. It has forged increasing solidarity and intensified dialogue among States concerning the threat posed by international terrorism. On 11 September 2001, only 2 States were signatories to all the 12 UN conventions relating to terrorism. That number has now grown to 111.

Most States have since taken steps to criminalize terrorist acts in their domestic laws and regulations. They have also established Financial Intelligence Units and other mechanisms to monitor and guard more effectively against terrorist financing and money laundering. New systems of border security have been put in place, such as enhanced cargo screening and the introduction of machine-readable travel documents, which have been helpful in checking terrorists' transnational activities. Furthermore information exchange among States has improved.

At the meeting on September 28, Ambassador Puri noted that hardly any region of the world had remained unscarred by terrorism during the past decade. He called upon member States to confront the challenges squarely and decisively. Much more remained to be done, he said, to free the States from the threat of terrorism. He underlined the need for countering terrorist financing, including the need to monitor more effectively new payment methods, informal money and value transfer systems, and the use of cash couriers.



**677. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at UNSC's Debate on Security Sector Reform.**

**New York, October 12, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and your delegation on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of October and thank you for chairing this Debate.

I would also like to thank Under Secretary General Herve Ladsous for his statement.

**Mr. President,**

Security Sector Reform (SSR) in post-conflict countries on the agenda of the Security Council is an important issue. And I thank the Nigerian Presidency for organizing today's Debate and for their useful Concept Note on this subject.

Successful Security Sector Reform, Mr President, is vital for establishing enduring peace and stability in countries that are in conflict or in a post-conflict peacebuilding phase. On the other hand, it is usually failure in SSR that causes some countries to remain mired in conflict for extended periods.

The Security Council's Presidential Statement of 21 February 2007 and the Secretary General's report on Security Sector Reform, submitted in January 2008 pursuant to the PRST, have comprehensively dealt with the complexity of this issue. They have also identified a number of concrete action points for implementation of Security Sector Reforms in conflict and post-conflict situations.

**Mr. President,**

For successful implementation of Security Sector Reforms, it is imperative to clearly recognize, at the outset, that it is an internal affair of a country. As such, the process must be led and owned by the concerned nation-state. The process must be driven by national requirements and not by donor priorities. The capacity driven approach that is being adopted needs to become an exercise of understanding and providing what the country concerned requires rather than an exercise in collating what donors can give.

Normative principles of Security Sector Reform should remain within the framework of national consent under Chapter VI of the UN Charter and should not seek to obfuscate the difference between the provisions of Chapters VI and VII.

This will ensure that the involvement of this Council and of the UN system more widely in Security Sector Reform remains country-specific and forms part of the comprehensive strategy for establishment of peace and stability.

Security Sector Reform will fail to consolidate the hard earned gains of peacekeeping unless it is based on organic growth and related to the political, socio-economic and cultural realities of the country concerned.

**Mr. President,**

Operational issues concerning Security Sector Reform should take into account the fact that security is a very broad term encompassing not just defence, police and other law enforcement agencies but also institutions responsible for border management, customs, civil emergencies, judiciary, etc.

Given such broad scope, it is necessary that the UN's operational plans for Security Sector Reform in every situation should remain focused on the most critical sectors rather than get frittered away in peripherals.

The broad scope of this issue also calls for a long-term strategy and integrated efforts and coordination among different UN and other international agencies involved.

Country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission should have an important role to play in assisting the concerned country in developing such a long-term strategy and integrating and coordinating the international efforts.

The international community should clearly demonstrate its staying power and commitment to make available required resources for full implementation of operational plans for Security Sector Reform. Operational plans should also comprehensively factor political, socio-economic and cultural moorings of the country concerned based on interests of the national stakeholders.

In this connection, I must underline that we have noticed a tendency in this Council in recent months to authorize less than optimal manpower and other resources while expanding mandates. There are also calls for reviews of the mission even before a mission is established. This tendency – to ask UN missions to do more with less – does not augur well for successful implementation of operational plans to reform security sector on an enduring basis in conflict and post-conflict countries on the agenda of this Council.

We also hear arguments in favour of shortening mandates of UN missions even when the host countries favour continued presence of the concerned UN missions. Pre-mature drawdown or withdrawal of UN missions against the wishes of the host countries before the domestic institutions are fully capable of assuming their role risks relapse into conflict, which shall require larger resources in future.



**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, I would like to say that the role of the United Nations in Security Sector Reform must be based on its biggest strength – impartiality, equity and non-interference.

Following these principles, the UN system and the missions authorized by this Council will command respect and confidence of all stakeholders who, in turn, will cooperate with the UN leading to successful and enduring Security Sector Reforms.

In this connection, it is also important to recognize that there are countries that possess wide experience in implementing Security Sector capacity development in multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual societies, giving primacy to human rights and the rule of law. In addition to uniformed services, the UN should also tap governments of such countries for secondment of human resources in all areas of SSR as their experiences are very similar and relevant to the challenges facing the countries on the agenda of the Security Council.

Thank you.



**678. Statement by Permanent Representative and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and Chairman, Counter Terrorism Committee (1373 Committee) at the Security Council in his national capacity on 'Briefings by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council' .**

**New York, Date not stated.**

Thank you once again, Mr. President, for giving me the floor. Now, I will deliver a statement in my national capacity. I believe there is a great deal of fusion with the statements made earlier by the three Chairmen of the 1267, 1373 and 1540 Committees.

As regards the work of the Al Qaida and the Taliban sanctions Committee (1267 Committee), the death of Osama bin Laden is a significant milestone in the global war against terrorism. However, it does not signify the end of Al-Qaida nor the end of terrorism. Without the elimination of terrorist safe heavens and sanctuaries, there can be no end to the global war on terror.

We believe that for security and stabilization of Afghanistan, it is important to

isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al Qaida, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan borders. Attempts to differentiate between the Al-Qaida and the Taliban and other terrorist groups are fraught with difficulty since these groups are operationally and ideologically fused.

We support measures to strengthen the review process of the listings in the Consolidated List of the 1267 Committee through the Office of the Ombudsperson as per UN Security Council Resolution 1904. At the same time, we are concerned that the process of listing and de-listing in the Consolidated List continues to be subjected to political will and pressure – a scenario we can ill-afford in our united fight against terrorism.

India supports Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate those individuals who abjure violence, give up armed struggle, do not have links with terrorist groups, and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. At the same time, it is important that the 'redlines' on the reintegration process as laid down at the London Conference and later reaffirmed at the Kabul Conference are not diluted. Otherwise, we risk Afghanistan sliding back to becoming a safe haven for terrorists and extremist groups.

Concerning 1540 Committee, Mr. President, India has expressed its unwavering commitment to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. India recognizes that proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery is a major challenge facing the international community.

As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state and terrorists could entail. Clandestine proliferation networks have led to insecurity for all and must not be allowed to reappear.

It is important that the international community must join hands in eliminating the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and non-state actors. The focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish state accountability in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or its linkages with WMD.

In conclusion, Mr. President, it is important to bear in mind that the success of implementation of counter-terrorism measures not only requires the fullest collective effort by the entire membership, but also their fullest participation in processes that affect the collective security of all the nations equally.

Our collective endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism within the UN.



**INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS–2011**

**SECTION-XI**

**INDIA AT THE UN**

**679. Statement by Joint Secretary Ministry of External Affairs A. R. Ghanashyam during the General Debate in the First Preparatory Committee of the Fourth UN—LDC Conference.**

**New York, January 10, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to reiterate our appreciation for your stewardship of the Inter-governmental preparatory process of the 4th UN-LDC Conference to be held in Istanbul. As a Bureau member of the Preparatory Committee, you can count on India's full support and understanding as we collectively prepare for the success of the conference.

At this juncture, my delegation would like to endorse the views expressed by Yemen on behalf of G-77 and Nepal on behalf of LDCs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

There is no denying that LDCs today represent the most vulnerable and poorest segment of the international community. In the age of globalisation, where peace and progress, and prosperity and security belong to a common space shared by all nations, there is little option for us but to accord the development of LDCs the highest global priority.

Our collective attention to the cause of LDCs so far has not been commensurate to the urgency of the situation. The situation has in fact further deteriorated: the number of LDCs which was 25 in 1971 has gone up to 48 in 2011. The Brussels Programme of Action met with only partial success.

For far too long we have studied and analysed the problems facing the LDCs, ranging from their structural weaknesses; lack of productive capacities, infrastructure, institutional strength and domestic resources; extreme poverty to vulnerabilities to external shocks.

It is time now to focus on the solutions. We must concentrate our efforts on strengthening international support measures in favour of development of LDCs and how domestic actions by LDCs themselves could lead to economic transformation.

Building productive capacities and infrastructure through fulfilment of ODA commitments which are clearly lagging behind, bilateral and multilateral technical and financial assistance, south–south cooperation and international trade measures should be our priority. Addressing fragmentation of ODA, improving quality of aid and directing it to productive sectors such as agriculture and income generating activities would be helpful in this regard.

The private sector has an important role to play in generating growth and opportunities in LDCs. The onus to create a domestic environment conducive to private enterprise and attracting foreign investment lies with the LDCs themselves. Economic policies followed by LDCs in Sub-Saharan Africa, who in spite of the multiple crises, have registered decent economic growth could be an exemplar for others to look at.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Due to their narrow or weak domestic market LDCs rely on international trade for growth. However, in spite of the duty free quota free market access to LDCs, their share in global trade continues to be below 1%. We must look at the impediments to the preferential market access including Rules of Origin provisions, erosion of preferential access and also ways and means to address supply side constraints.

The conclusion of Doha Development Round would help in integrating LDCs into the multilateral trading network. There is a sense of urgency among nations to conclude the Round in 2011. We must seize the opportunity.

The 4th Programme of Action for LDCs must necessarily emphasize on building resilience to new and emerging global challenges such as food security, energy security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and economic volatility.

With majority of LDCs being net importers of food, improving agricultural productivity through enhanced investment, scientific inputs and market and credit access must be accorded high priority to ensure long term food security.

There is a strong case for assisting LDCs in technological leapfrogging to ensure energy security through clean technologies, overcoming climate change concerns and helping them to follow a sustainable path of development. The success of mobile telephony and solar energy programmes in several LDCs could be a guiding factor in this regard.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India fully supports the multi-stakeholder nature of engagement proposed for the Istanbul Conference. The presence of Parliamentarians, in particular, would add significant value in strengthening international support measures for LDCs.

India has been a steadfast supporter of LDCs. Our developmental assistance to LDCs is aimed at building productive capacities, institutional strength and technical expertise to create long term sustainability in these countries. Our private sector has invested more than US\$ 15 billion in recent years in LDCs. We have extended Lines of credit of over US\$ 4 billion to LDCs since 2004.

South-South Cooperation in recent times has become a major source of development assistance, investment and international trade for LDCs. It will be our endeavor to further strengthen this trend.

In the run up to the 4th UNLDC Conference, we would be hosting an India-LDC Ministerial Conference in cooperation with the UN-OHRLLS during 18-19 February 2011 in Delhi, where we are inviting the LDC Foreign Ministers and their Permanent Representatives in New York. We have also contributed US\$ 250,000 to the UN Trust Fund to provide for travel of participants to the Istanbul Conference.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Istanbul Conference is an opportunity for the global community to demonstrate its highest political commitment to the cause of LDCs and to put the LDCs' development at the forefront of the global agenda. Let's work towards this objective.



**680. Remarks by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, during the handing over ceremony of the G- 77 Chairmanship.**

**New York, January 12, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Please accept my delegation's best wishes on your assuming the Chair of G-77 for the year 2011. Argentina has had a long and distinguished association with the G-77.

Mr. Chairman, this meeting is not just a ceremonial or a ritual event: we have gathered here to deliberate on matters that could have an important bearing on the work of the Group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Group of 77 was founded in 1964, on June 15, 1964 to be precise, by the "Joint Declaration" of 77 countries issued at UNCTAD in 1964. The Group had its genesis in the collective desire for solidarity amongst developing countries, in their shared commitment to the need for development and to use their collective strength to bargain for multilateral outcomes that serve their

developmental aspirations. The development paradigm that lay at the centre of the G-77's birth drew heavily from Raul Prebisch's work at ECLAC; his views on the centre – periphery, the grant of trade preferences in favour of developing countries in particular; and issues related to market access. Raul Prebisch was a distinguished son of Argentina. Prebisch's unparalleled reputation resulted in his appointment as the founding Secretary-General of UNCTAD which he served from 1964-69. His views on trade and development were the linear progenitor of South-South cooperation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The development paradigm itself has undergone a dramatic change since the founding of the Group. The G-77's priorities also undergo constant evaluation and re-adjustment. But the Group's fundamental principles in regard to development will continue to be its *raison d'être* and its continuing relevance and justification. The G-77 has to be in the vanguard of development.

Several countries of the Group including my own have made impressive economic progress in recent years. India has grown at an average of 7-8% for many years but we continue to face huge developmental challenges. In fact, we have more number of poor people in India than all the LDCs put together.

I often wonder why the G-77 is not taken with the seriousness it deserves. Does the fault lie in us? I am dismayed by the fact that not a single member of the Secretariat thought it fit to stay back to listen to what the member-States of the G-77 have to say. I can understand the Secretary General having to leave on account of important engagements. Surely, some one else from the Secretariat could be here. Absence of the Secretariat could result in the inference being drawn that this constitutes disrespect to the group. You might like to bring this to the attention of the Secretariat at an appropriate level.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The year gone by was one of significant developments and progress. The Group made substantial headway in ensuring that the interests of developing countries were actively pursued and, in most cases, protected.

Challenges and setbacks, if any, only added to our resoluteness to continue with our objective to create an equitable, sustainable and durable global development order.

In a larger measure, we owe this success to the committed leadership of Yemen which rightfully deserves our highest accolades.

I wish to thank Ambassador Al Saidi profusely for his distinguished services to the Group. We were particularly impressed by his tactical leadership during

the MDG negotiations and his persuasive efforts to maintain the unity of the Group in trying and difficult times.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Challenges to multilateralism are many.

The efforts of the G-77 throughout the year have operated to strengthen multilateralism: witness the results we achieved in 2010 - UN WOMEN, success at Nagoya and Cancun. The unity of G-77 was an important factor in the creation of the Gender Entity.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Year 2011 will witness several important and challenging events. The success of the LDC conference in Istanbul and COP 17 Climate Change conference, and the preparation for RIO-20 would require a clear demonstration of solidarity and purpose by the Group. On the Climate Change process, we are fortunate to have the guidance of your country's vast experience in the field, and in particular the noted contribution of your distinguished diplomat Mr. Raul Estrada to the UNFCCC process.

Even as we prepare to fashion these events and their outcomes, we must bear in mind the interests of African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Fourth UN-LDC conference in Istanbul in May, 2011 provides us an excellent opportunity to ensure that the International Community is not found wanting in respect of countries that need our help the most.

Our global engagement must continue to spotlight the urgency to meet the challenges of food security, energy security and climate change; sustainable development goals; economic stability and global growth; and democratizing global governance institutions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As you lead the Group in 2011, you can be rest assured of India's fullest support in your endeavors.

I once again take this opportunity to thank Yemen for their chairmanship of G-77 in 2010 and look forward, with a sense of optimism and encouragement, to the leadership of Argentina in 2011.





**681. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the open meeting of the UN Security Council on the Sudan.**

**New York, January 18, 2011.**

Thank you, Mr. President. I would also like to join other colleagues in thanking President Benjamin Mkapa, Head of the Secretary General's Panel on Referenda, and SRSG Haile Menkerios for their useful briefings and, more important, for the commendable work they have been doing.

2. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the referendum in South Sudan, over a one week period, has been completed successfully and peacefully. A very large number of eligible voters are reported to have cast their ballot. By all accounts, the turnout was well above the required threshold of 60%. The South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and UNMIS, as also other international and regional organisations which partnered the Sudanese authorities, deserve our highest appreciation for the conduct of the referendum. That this was conducted peacefully and without violence is all the more remarkable.

3. Successful conduct of the referendum has met an important element in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement reached between the Sudanese parties. The commitment of these parties, expressed at the highest levels, to respect the outcome of the referendum is equally praiseworthy. We commend this commitment and hope that the same spirit of cooperation and commitment will be shown by the parties to resolve post-referendum issues which remain to be agreed upon.

4. While the referendum has been held without violence, we witnessed during the course of the week a high and worrying level of violence in the region of Abyei which led to loss of lives. This is a cause of concern. We urge the leaders of the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to show restraint and faithfully implement the agreement which was reached with the mediation of the SRSG. We commend Mr Menkerios and the UNMIS for their roles in facilitating the parties reach agreement.

5. The violence witnessed last week in Abyei should remind us of the need to remain vigilant about the ground situation, which continues to remain fragile. We hope that the parties will cease their support to the proxy forces and seek to resolve all issues through negotiations and dialogue.

6. Mr. President, the situation in Darfur also remains a cause for concern. The problem there requires dialogue with participation of all groups, not only those armed but also civil society at large. We, therefore, urge all parties to return to the negotiating table and reach an agreement expeditiously.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**682. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate on the Middle East at the Security Council.**

**New York, January 19, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

I wish to thank Under Secretary General Lynn Pascoe for his comprehensive briefing. I would also like to thank the Permanent Observer of Palestine for his statement.

2. The situation in the Middle East continues to be difficult. The much awaited resumption of talks in September between Israel and Palestine lasted only a few meetings. Since then, there has been considerable erosion of mutual confidence between the two parties, thereby undermining the peace process.

3. **Mr. President**, the events of the last few months have been discouraging with stalled talks, resumption of settlement activity and humanitarian suffering in Gaza. On the positive side, despite the difficult situation in Gaza, the economy there grew by 8% in 2010. The World Bank reported that if Palestinian Authority maintains its current performance in institution building and public services, it is well positioned for the establishment of a State. Also, there were less number of violent incidents in the year 2010 than the previous years.

4. Unless broken, the current impasse has the potential of exacting a serious impact on the lives of the people, potentially contributing more fuel to an already combustible situation in the region. This should, therefore, strengthen our resolve in seeking to achieve a breakthrough in the current impasse so that both the parties return to talks.

5. **Mr. President**, India has a long-standing tradition of solidarity with the Palestinian people. It was expressed recently by our Prime Minister in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The Prime Minister reiterated India's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Road map and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Also, India has long been contributing to the capacity and institution building of the Palestinian people with its material and technical assistance programmes.

6. In this connection, Mr President, I would also like to make a mention of

the projects in which India is engaged with Brazil and South Africa through IBSA Forum. From the resources allocated from the IBSA Fund, we are undertaking partial reconstruction of the Al Quds Hospital in Gaza and also construction of an Indoor Multi purpose Sports Complex in Ramallah. Such projects, we believe, would be of some value to the Palestinian people in improving their health and recreational facilities.

7. **Mr. President**, we feel that genuine peace in the region requires resolution of other issues on the remaining tracks of the Middle East Peace Process, including restoration of other Arab lands that remain under occupation. Progress in the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the peace process are therefore critical for achieving comprehensive and durable peace in the region. We are closely monitoring the situation in Lebanon which is deeply worrying. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon must be allowed to complete its work. We call on all sides to resolve their differences and maintain peace.

8. While this has been stated several times before, and in many eloquent ways, yet this central truth bears repetition: a just, fair, durable and credible solution to this vexed problem can only come from meaningful, sincere and result-oriented dialogue; a dialogue which is essentially forward looking. For this, it is important that the ongoing settlement activities by Israel cease forthwith. I would also add that the settlements in the occupied territories are illegal under international law. We remain convinced that the lasting peace in the region will contribute to global stability and prosperity.

9. It is, therefore, critical, Mr. President, for the international community to work closely with the parties with a view to encouraging them to resume direct negotiations. We are hopeful that the talks and negotiations would soon resume, leading to a comprehensive peace process for a final resolution of the conflict.

10. Thank you, Mr. President.



**683. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the situation in Haiti at the Security Council.**

**New York, January 20, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you, for giving me the floor. I join other colleagues in thanking USG for Peacekeeping Operation Alain Le Roy, and USG for OCHA Valerie Amos for their comprehensive and useful briefings on the situation in Haiti. I would also like to thank the Representative of Haiti for sharing with us his perspective of the situation in Haiti.

**Mr. President.**

It has been a very difficult year for the people of Haiti. Just as stability was beginning to be witnessed in the country and the indicators of economic development were showing an upward trend, the country was struck by a massive earthquake of 12th January 2010. The disaster took the lives of some 300,000 persons and injured an equal number.

An earthquake of this devastation, the worst in the region in more than 200 years, demanded relief operations of a huge magnitude. The international community rose to the occasion and undertook the challenge to help the people of Haiti. Our work continues and should continue till the Haitian people require our assistance in their efforts at reconstruction.

Last week, this Council adopted a Press Statement on the anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti. We wish to convey our sincere sympathies to the people and government of Haiti and also to the families of the UN personnel who lost their lives and assure them of our continued support.

**Mr. President,**

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India made a cash contribution of US\$ 5 million to the Government of Haiti towards relief measures as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti.

I would also like to recall that the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was put to good use in the earliest stages of recovery work in Haiti. India attaches importance to this facility to which we have made significant contributions since its inception and to which we are contributing US\$ 500,000 each year over three year period since 2009.

Further, recognizing the need to provide basic amenities – shelter, drinking

water and sanitation to the Haitian people, we have joined Brazil and South Africa in expanding our IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa, Trust Fund's waste management project in Haiti, both in its area of coverage and scope of handling different types of waste. IBSA is spending over US\$ 2 million in this effort and for reconstruction of a community health centre in Haiti.

**Mr. President,**

As we progress towards reconstruction and rehabilitation in Haiti, we think there is an urgent need for better coordination between aid agencies and donors with the Government of Haiti. This would not only avoid duplication but also direct the aid to sectors considered most necessary by Haiti.

The various UN agencies have to work hard towards improving Haiti's technical capacity to fully and properly utilize the aid.

As far as India is concerned, we have pledged to reconstruct one of the Government ministries to be identified by the Government of Haiti.

**Mr. President,**

We highly commend and support the role played by MINUSTAH in the humanitarian and recovery efforts in aid of the local authorities in Haiti.

We are proud of their sterling efforts, both on its civil side as well as the military and police side, in the immediate aftermath of the disastrous earthquake, despite the tremendous losses that they themselves faced.

I also recall the contributions made by the Indian police officers deployed with MINUSTAH, presently numbering 470 in three contingents, two of which were deployed by India after the earthquake at the request of the United Nations.

The MINUSTAH peacekeepers continue to provide full support to the local authorities and we, therefore, urge all stakeholders that any action that impedes the work of MINUSTAH peacekeepers should be avoided.

**Mr. President,**

Even as Haiti was battling to overcome the disaster of the earthquake, it was struck by an outbreak of the cholera, which further aggravated the already grim situation.

And, in the midst of all this, the country has got embroiled in a political crisis following the presidential elections.

In so far as the cholera epidemic is concerned, we hope that the recent appointment of an independent panel of experts by the Secretary General to

determine the source will submit its report based on scientific studies and this will adequately address the allegations that have been made. I am sure Dr. G. Balakrish Nair, Director of the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases in Kolkata, India who is a member of this panel, will make valuable contribution to its work.

**Mr. President,**

We think that concerted reconstruction and rehabilitation work demands stable political and administrative conditions. We, therefore, call upon all political actors in Haiti to exercise restraint and avoid actions that cause violence and distract focus from the urgently needed reconstruction and rehabilitation work. The focus of the UN should, of course, remain on the humanitarian and infrastructural work. It should not get too deeply involved in the domestic political process, which is better handled by the regional organizations in cooperation with the local political establishment.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**684. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN  
Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on post-Conflict Peace-  
building: Institution Building.**

**New York, January 21, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

The sustained attention of the Council to peacekeeping and peacebuilding is indicative of the fact that the Council recognizes that the success or failure of peacekeeping and peacebuilding will determine the continuing relevance of the United Nations and of this Council to many troubled parts of the world.

My delegation would, therefore, like to thank you for organizing this debate to focus on what is probably the most critical component of the peacebuilding agenda, the building of political and governance institutions. We would also like to thank you for the concept paper, which has provided a very useful background of the issues involved and made suggestions on the way forward.

I am grateful that the Secretary-General has himself chosen to be here today. His remarks were particularly insightful. They have given us a clear idea of the problems and the opportunities.

**Mr. President,**

Peace cannot be restored to post-conflict societies and their citizens cannot be freed from fear and want unless national authorities are able to govern effectively. The capacity of effective governance, in turn, depends on the existence of institutions that enable these authorities to respond effectively to the aspirations of people. This general political aphorism is substantiated by the experience of the international community in its peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts during the last two decades.

**Mr. President,**

Over the past two decades this Council made huge investments of manpower and resources in designing and running "multidimensional" PKOs mandated to operate in "fragile" states. These have shown, at best, mixed results. A handful have delivered outcomes that may be termed satisfactory. Many have meandered as they attempted, over a decade or more, to be equal to the task of implementing their complex and ambitious mandates.

Unfortunately, conflicts remain and we are now in the midst of another paradigmatic shift in our efforts to contain and recover from conflict. One dimension of this shift, viz., the attempt to define the scope of peacebuilding is being increasingly clarified as "fragile" states define areas in which the international community can and is willing to support their nation-building activities. A second dimension, that of the relation between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, is also being clarified. A third dimension, the organizational context of peacebuilding, however, continues to lack uniformity. Some peacebuilding efforts are being managed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, others by the Department of Political Affairs and yet others by the UN Resident Coordinator system.

At another level, the Peacebuilding Commission is working on expanding its effectiveness in a complicated multilateral context.

Peace building, therefore, is very much work in progress.

**Mr. President,**

India brings to this table the experience of almost sixty years of peacekeeping. We have contributed more peacekeepers to more peacekeeping operations than any other nation. We have also participated in every type of peacekeeping operation – from truce supervision to the current generation of complex PKOs.

Peacekeepers, Mr President, are early peace builders and Indian peacekeepers have been amongst the earliest UN peace builders.

Our experience in transforming a colonial legacy into a modern, dynamic nation that is both a democracy and a rapidly growing economy made Indian peacekeepers instinctively understand that no peace can be effective unless it is accompanied by growth of local institutions. Indian peacekeepers in UNTAC, UNOSOM II, MONUC, UNMIS, UNMIL, MINUSTAH and elsewhere have made conscious efforts to assist local authorities in restoring national structures that had collapsed during conflict. Our peacekeepers donned peace building hats and attempted to restore administrative processes, strengthened local policing and activated judicial mechanisms in areas they have served. They always attempt to work through indigenous mechanisms for conflict resolution and mediation in order to strengthen these local institutions so that they become viable political institutions. They have tried to get educational institutions to function and provided services such as livestock clinics to help local economies get going.

**Mr. President,**

Political and administrative institutions that decentralize governance are, in our experience the key to nation building. Institutions must be locally relevant and must include all stakeholders, particularly the weak and the underprivileged, in governance processes. India launched the largest ever exercise in democratic decentralization about two decades ago. Administrative and legislative powers were transferred to village and district level bodies and considerable thought and effort were devoted to making these institutions locally relevant.

The key to the success of these institutions, we have found, lies in what we call "inclusiveness". Our process of democratic decentralization has ensured the election of about a million women to representative offices at all levels. Empowering those who have traditionally been at the margins of society has strengthened and transformed both democracy and governance in our country.

**Mr. President,** "inclusiveness" works in interesting ways.

The decision of the Government of India to aggressively recruit women police personnel allowed us to field a female Formed Police Unit, the first such formation composed entirely of women, in UNMIL. We understand that the presence of these Indian women police personnel has not only assisted in restoring faith in the local law enforcement system but has served as an example to Liberian women.

We believe that this is the type of institution-building that is required to bring stability in many of the conflict-prone areas that we are concerned with in this Council.



We have also built a significant capacity for training. Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, we give training in some 5000 foreign students and experts in 220 odd courses from 158 countries across the globe. Similarly, through lines of credit, South-South Cooperation, and India Development Initiative, we have contributed to nation-building activities in various countries.

India has also contributed to peacebuilding through plurilateral mechanisms such as the India-Brazil and South Africa [IBSA] waste-management project in Haiti, where we also have police contingents deployed in MINSTAH.

**Mr. President,**

No amount of international will can replace national will and commitment. Moreover, peacebuilding cannot be undertaken in a hurry. Our role as peacebuilders has to be to assist, through long-term and patient involvement, the creation of the environment where this local will is allowed to express itself. It is also to provide the resources and the expertise that is often lacking in societies struggling to re-engineer themselves.

All this thus requires the international community to make available a predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods.

**Mr. President,**

UN capacity to help create institutions is contingent upon the Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes having skill sets and expertise that are relevant to these societies.

The move to create Civilian Capacities is a move in this direction. However, much more needs to be done.

It is hard to avoid the feeling that the UN presence on the ground is a ponderous bureaucracy rather than a lean institution that is quick to adapt and respond. Symptomatic of this malaise is the fact that the Secretariat takes upto 200 days to fill positions in the field leading to worrying vacancy levels.

The sourcing of these capacities must be driven by the needs of national authorities and not priorities of the donors. It also stands to reason that these capacities need to be sourced from governments of nations that have experience of relevance to these national authorities.

Serious consideration must also be given to the idea of an expansion of seconded staff to the UN. This would allow the UN to rapidly access necessary capabilities, deploy them swiftly and allow rapid scaling up and down. It is also likely to be more economical.

**Mr. President,**

In concluding, I would like to stress that as a responsible global citizen India will not be found lacking in responding to challenge of maintaining international peace and security through the peacebuilding process. Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, we give training in some 5000 foreign students and experts in 220 odd courses from 158 countries across the globe. Similarly, through lines of credit, South-South Cooperation, and India Development Initiative, we have contributed to nation-building activities in various countries. India has also contributed to peacebuilding through innovative plurilateral mechanisms such as the India-Brazil-South Africa [IBSA] initiatives in Haiti, Guinea-Bissau and other nations.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**685. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN  
Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the First Regular Meeting  
of the Executive Board of the UN Women.**

**New York, January 24, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

It is a matter of great satisfaction that UN Women has become operational and that the first meeting of the Executive Board is taking place today. We are happy to hear from Executive Director Madam Michelle Bachelet her vision for UN Women and also the 100-Day Action Plan for UN Women. Let me begin by thanking the newly constituted Secretariat of UN Women for providing all necessary documentations in a timely manner. Let me also commend the transition team of UN Women for their tireless and sincere efforts to successfully complete the transition phase of the merger of the four constituent parts into a single entity.

**Madam President,**

The creation of UN Women has been one of the most important transformational aspects of UN reform. I am glad that the UN Secretary-General was able to convince the Executive Director to lead this Organisation at its inception. The Entity has been rightly placed as one of his priority areas for action in 2011. We are confident in the Executive Director's strong leadership of UN Women as well as to bring to the forefront the leadership role of UN in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

**Madam President,**

The global, regional and national effort to ensure that women achieve the rightful place in society is still a faraway dream. UN Women has finally been created. Needless to say, the task at hand is enormous. Expectations are high. Goodwill is available in abundance. All this should not, however, blind us to the fact that unless there is effective prioritization, efforts will get diffused. Our effort should, therefore, be to prioritise the focus on gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. We are happy to hear the very precise vision statement of the Executive Director. From my national perspective, the five priority areas which she has chosen are extremely important. These mirror the priorities of our Government as well as the extremely proactive civil society in India. The plan to strengthen the sub-regional office in India will help in providing the technical expertise and programme funds for these activities in India as well as for the whole of South Asia.

**Madam President,**

Putting as the first core principle the issue of demand-driven support to national partners is also well appreciated. This will ensure customizing the activities of UN Women in each country and guarantee, "to each, according to their needs".

One of the major constraints for the initiation of the reform process was the issue of coordination. Multiplicity of UN actors in the field had led to lack of accountability and delays in identifying the right agency for cooperation. The 100-day Action Plan rightly addresses this as one of the core principles for UN Women. With strengthened field presence, this issue will be resolved. We welcome the idea of migration of posts in the field from programme funds to support budget. This will indeed give greater sustainability in technical assistance. We would also like to support the proposal of having appropriately senior level representations of UN Women in the field, to ensure better coordination and coherence within the UN system. In this regard, we would encourage UN Women to employ both international and national staff from within the region. They will have the advantage of socio-cultural understanding of women issues and would be able to effectively marry the national objectives with international obligations.

**Madam President,**

To ensure that UN Women stands for action, we would support all efforts to ensure that scarce resources are not diverted from programme activities in the field to administrative expenditure at UN Headquarters. UN Women will be measured by what and how it delivers in the field, not just by what it symbolizes.

The first challenge of resource mobilization to fulfill its ambitious agenda is critical and would demonstrate the trust the international community bestows on UN Women. This needs a sound plan and a committed senior management. I am happy to see that the revisions which has been made in the support

budget late last week, is the right steps in the right direction. This would also display to the contributors the professional and sincere approach of UN Women, as an agency for women, and not for UN.

The initial target of achieving resource mobilization of US \$ 500 million is reasonable as well as modest. Although I do want to point out here that the Secretary General last year had actually proposed that UN Women should be created with the initial corpus of US \$ 1 billion. This was also the demand of the developing countries and civil society. This might sound ambitious, but the lower target of US \$ 500 million should not make us complacent and limit ourselves. Instead, we should be prepared to revisit this target later this year, and consider upward revision, in a realistic and practical manner. I would like to inform you that the Government of India is seized of the need to make appropriate contribution to UN Women.

**Madam President,**

We have noted the Executive Director would shortly constitute an Advisory Group of NGOs to feed into UN Women their perspective and expertise. I hope that such a group will be representative and have representation primarily from the grassroots organisations. There should also be efforts to ensure such interactions are established at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

**Madam President,**

Yet another issue which needs attention is the agreement in resolution 64/289 to establish appropriate mechanisms to assist and support the realization of all the strategic objectives and actions agreed upon in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the national and international commitments stipulated in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

I am hopeful that the Executive Director will keep in mind these suggestions when she finalizes the Strategic Plan of UN Women in June 2011.

**Madam President,**

A good beginning is half the battle won. Today's meeting, I see as the start of a new chapter in UN's efforts in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Let me conclude by appreciating UN Women team for adopting a transparent and consultative approach in this critical phase of transition and consolidation. The timely briefing by the Executive Director herself to various regional groups has dispelled doubts and raised the level of confidence and hope. Let me assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation in this endeavor.

Thank you.



**686. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Piracy off the Coast of Somali at the UN Security Council.**

**New York, January 25, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

I would also join others in thanking Mr Jack Lang, Secretary General's Special Advisor on Legal issues and Assistant Secretary General Stephen Mathias for their comprehensive and useful briefings on the problems of piracy off the coast of Somalia. I would also like to thank the Representative of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia for his perspective on the issue.

2. **Mr. President**, we have gone through Mr Lang's report on the legal issues relating to piracy off the coast of Somalia carefully. It is comprehensive and contains many useful recommendations. It draws our attention to the disturbing fact that Somali pirates are operating further and further off from the Somali coast. The shift of attacks to the south and east of the Indian Ocean reflects the pirates' ability to adapt in order to bypass the security corridor established by naval forces and to extend their reach to approximately 1000-1200 miles from Somali Coast. Piracy has also got more sophisticated and become an organised and lucrative activity.

3. Indeed, as Mr. Lang's report states, piracy is gradually becoming an organised industry. Pirates have developed significant support structures whereby they are able to hold hijacked ships and crews hostage for months while their instigators and supporters hold negotiations for ransom. It is particularly worrying that the pirates have developed a modus vivendi with terrorist organisations.

4. **Mr. President**, according to the International Maritime Bureau, a record number of people, 1181 sailors, were taken hostage by pirates worldwide in 2010, of which the Somali attacks account for 1,016 hostages. Currently, the Somali pirates are holding 28 ships with more than 638 crew on board. During the year 2010, 53 ships were hijacked worldwide of which 49 were hijacked by Somali pirates. Compared to 2009, there was a 10 per cent increase in the number of pirate attacks in 2010, the total number being 445. Studies by different think tanks say that maritime piracy costs the global economy anywhere between \$ 7 and 12 billion a year. Mr President, these figures are cause for a major concern for the international community.

5. The continuing instability in Somalia, Mr President, does not permit an effective response to the problem of piracy even though the Transitional Federal Government has identified counter-piracy as a major area of cooperation under

the Kampala process. This process, therefore, needs to be revitalised and a major capacity building exercise needs to be undertaken in areas of security and police forces, legal and legislative frameworks, jurisdictional and correctional systems, etc.

6. We are in agreement with the Special Advisor of the Secretary General on the need to further strengthen international cooperation to tackle the problem of piracy. A comprehensive approach to tackle the problem has to be found to address this serious issue. In this context, my delegation wishes to propose the following measures:

- Reinforcement of tracking the trail of ransom money to different parts of the world, as was entrusted to the Interpol in the 6th CGPCS;
- Prosecution of the beneficiaries of ransom money for abetting piracy;
- Consideration of the conduct of the naval operations under the UN as the preferred option;
- Sanitization of the Somali coast line through identified corridors and buffer zones and tracking of fishing vessels around the Somali coast;
- Enactment of national laws on priority to criminalize piracy as defined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted, pirates apprehended off the coast of Somalia as required under resolution 1918 (2010)

7. As a country with a coastline of over 7,500 kilometres, criminal activities in the international waters pose a serious threat to India. A large volume of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at about US\$ 110 billion annually. About 24 Indian-flagged merchant ships transit the Gulf of Aden every month. Moreover, more than 6 percent of seafarers engaged in international shipping companies are Indian nationals. We, therefore, have a strong interest in ensuring the security of maritime traffic off the Somali coast, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

8. India has been actively engaged in anti-piracy operations. The Indian Navy commenced anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden from October 2008. A total of 23 Indian Navy ships have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden since then. In addition to escorting Indian flagged vessels, ships of other countries have also been provided protection. A total of 1487 ships, including 1321 foreign flagged vessels from different countries, have been escorted by Indian Navy ships in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008. 26 piracy attempts have been thwarted and no ship under Indian escort has been hijacked by pirates. We have also set up a 24x7 Communication Centre within the Indian Maritime

Administration for coordination and facilitation in case of piracy. Taking serious note of recent spate in "Dhow Piracy", India has banned operation of Indian Dhows in piracy infested areas. As the piracy prone area has expanded eastwards, the Indian Navy has made additional deployments off Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea. Indian Navy has also deployed units to EEZ of Seychelles and Mauritius and its ships and aircrafts routinely patrol the waters off the Maldives. Following these deployments, there have been no hijack incidents in the east Arabian Sea since December 2010 consequent to one or two stray incidents that were suddenly experienced for a very brief period in end-November 2010. 9. India, as a founder-member of the 'Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia' (CGPCS), has been fully engaged in the efforts of the group to share information, coordinate actions of navies in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden, raising public and merchant marine awareness and, examining legal and criminal justice issues with respect to apprehended pirates. Further, the Indian Navy has proactively cooperated with other navies through the SHADE (*Shared Awareness and De-confliction*) mechanism and otherwise.

**Mr. President,**

10. India would continue to contribute to international efforts aimed at increasing effective cooperation among States to tackle the problems of piracy. We also propose to actively engage in this Council's work in the follow through of the recommendations made by the Secretary General's Special Advisor and in ensuring the development of effective operational, legal and institutional response to the problems of piracy.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**687. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the briefing of the UN Security Council on the Sudan.**

**New York, February 9, 2011.**

Thank you, **Madam President**.

2. I would also like to thank SRSG Haile Menkerios and President Benjamin Mkapa for their comprehensive and useful briefings on the current situation in the Sudan. I also thank the Representatives of the African Union, the Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan for sharing their perspectives on the situation with us.

3. **Madam President**, as my other colleagues have mentioned, we are witnessing events which have far-reaching significance not only for the people of the Sudan, but also for the region and, indeed, for the entire African continent. A very large number of eligible voters, 97.58 per cent, participated in the referendum and an overwhelming number, 98.83 per cent, expressed their voice in favour of separation. For the organisation of a fair and transparent referendum, our thanks are due to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and also to the international organisations, the UN, EU, AU, IGAD and others, who partnered the SSRC. Most importantly, the leadership shown by President Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir is to be complimented because without their political will and cooperation the process could not have run as smoothly and peacefully as it did. We are glad that President Bashir has welcomed the results on 7 February as the will of the southern Sudanese people. We also welcome First Vice President Salva Kiir's statement that the referendum was not the end of the road and he would cooperate with Khartoum to build strong relations.

4. The conclusion of the referendum process is, **Madam President**, only a milestone, albeit an important one, on the road to full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the Sudan. Enormous challenges lay ahead. The issues of citizenship, status of Abyei, popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile provinces, border delineation and demarcation, division of resources, security arrangements, etc remain to be resolved. In this context, we are encouraged by the meeting held in Khartoum on 27th January between President Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir along with President Thabo Mbeki. Their agreement to promote sustainable peace and stability between the north and the south, to let the CPA institutions continue their work till the end of transition period, to continue with the work of the technical committee on border demarcation, and to resolve the status of Abyei are most welcome.



5. **Madam President**, the efforts of the Sudanese parties need to be supported by the international community. We should look beyond the referendum and assist the parties in their nation building exercise. Sustainable peace and stability can be firmly established only when the developmental needs of all the peoples of the Sudan are met. The fragility of the situation there was yet again demonstrated during the past week; more than 50 persons, including a UN staff member, were killed in clashes between the southern and northern soldiers from the joint integrated unit in Malakal in Upper Nile state. There are also several fault lines in Southern Sudan. Indeed, even as we deliberate here, we have received news of the killing of Minister Jimmy Lemi Milla of Southern Sudan. Even though this reportedly has a personal motive, it does highlight the security challenges in the region. We, therefore, think that unless the pending issues are resolved expeditiously and the process of building institutions of governance and economic development is accelerated, conflicts along those fault lines remain a real danger.

6. India, Madam President, has some 3,000 troops in the UNMIS and contributed six MI-17 helicopters. The Sudan is the largest recipient of Lines of Credit from India, with projects totalling nearly US\$ 1 billion. India is the second largest investor in the Sudan. For capacity building in civilian sectors, India offers every year over 150 slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and 20 scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral studies to the Sudan, both North and South. In July last year, we offered fellowships in Indian agriculture universities for 4 PhD and 6 M.Sc courses to the Sudan under the India-Africa Action Plan.

7. India stands ready to further enhance its assistance to the Sudan, as may be required by the governments of the Sudan and Southern Sudan. We urge the international community to increase its support to the Sudan in the areas of debt relief and economic investment and assistance so that the Sudanese leaders have material resources as well as public support for dealing with and surmounting the challenges facing them.

8. **Madam President**, last but not the least, the ground situation in Darfur is not much better than the last time this Council discussed the issue. While there have been some encouraging news about the two rebel groups deciding to send their teams to Doha, we are yet to see a breakthrough. The Council should, therefore, reiterate its demand that all the armed groups should agree to an immediate ceasefire and participate in the Doha peace process without delay or conditions so that the process can reach its successful conclusion. We commend the Government of Qatar for its sustained efforts for success of the Doha peace process. For the sustainable peace in Darfur, which includes all sections of the society, we welcome the initiatives of the government of the

Sudan to start a Darfur-based Political Process which would build on the outcome of the Doha peace process. In this context, we commend the efforts of its High-level Implementation Panel led by President Mbeki and welcome the declaration of the African Union on 31 January for complete normalisation of relations between the international community and the Sudan.

Thank you, Madam President.



**688. Statement by Counsellor at the Permanent Mission at the UN Vinay Kumar on UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK).**

**New York, February 16, 2011.**

Thank you, **Madam President.**

2. I would like to join other colleagues in thanking SRSG Lamberto Zannier for his briefing. I also want to thank H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, for his country's perspective on the situation in Kosovo. We have carefully listened to the statement of Kosovo's representative Ms. Vlora Citaku.

3. Madame President, the Secretary General's report on the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) has brought out in detail the prevailing situation there. We note that with UNMIK's facilitation, Belgrade and Pristina have continued cooperation on several issues, including those of missing persons and religious and cultural heritage. We encourage the two parties to address the remaining issues seriously and expeditiously. UNMIK should also continue its work in facilitating communication between the parties.

4. Madam President, while the overall security situation in Kosovo has remained relatively calm, the Secretary General's report says that the continuing prevalence of individual as well as organised crimes makes the security situation potentially volatile. In this connection, the report of the Council of Europe's Rapporteur, Mr. Dick Marty, which contains allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs, merits examination. We suggest that a thorough and impartial investigation be carried out of these allegations by an entity legally empowered to look into all aspects of the matter.

5. The Secretary General's Report, Madam President, shows that a

considerable number of tasks under Pillars I and II, concerning police and justice and civil administration, which are monitored by UNMIK, remain to be accomplished. Accordingly, we urge SRSG to continue to implement UNMIK's mandate. We call upon all parties to fully cooperate with UNMIK and facilitate its work. We hope all the issues concerning Kosovo are resolved peacefully through consultation and dialogue. We also support extension of UNMIK's mandate so that it continues to work towards fulfilment of the tasks mandated to it by this Council.

Thank you, Madam President.



**689. Explanation of Vote delivered by Acting Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on 18 February 2011 after the vote on draft resolution S/2011/24 on "Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories".**

**New York, February 18, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

Consistent with our long-standing position of solidarity with the Palestinian people and our position that the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal under international law; India has co-sponsored the resolution and voted in favour.

It is our sincere hope and expectation that wiser counsel will prevail among parties concerned and that the path of dialogue will be the only path followed to realize peace in the region.

Even though the Council today could not adopt the resolution, we expect that the sentiments expressed by the members of the Security Council will impel the parties to seriously introspect and realize that the only way to resolve the problem is to restart talks on all pending issues so that lasting peace is established and as mentioned by many in the Council today, we can welcome by September 2011 an independent viable united state of Palestine to the international community with East Jerusalem as its capital living side by side and at peace with Israel.

Thank you.



**690. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative  
Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Special Committee  
on Peacekeeping Operations.**

**New York, February 23, 2011.**

**Madam Chair,**

Let me begin by congratulating you and members of the bureau on your reelection. My delegation attaches the greatest importance to the work of C-34 Committee and will cooperate with you fully in conducting the business of this session. My delegation also aligns itself broadly with the statement made by the Delegation of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We thank Under Secretary Generals Alain Le Roy and Susana Malcorra for their briefings yesterday.

**Madam Chair,**

Peacekeeping is a flagship activity of the UN. The number of debates on peacekeeping in the Security Council in the first two months of this year indicates the enduring relevance of this activity. Peacekeepers on the ground are at an all time high and Peacekeeping budget has increased five folds over the last decade. Peacekeeping continues to be a critical tool with the UN to effect international peace and security. Our peacekeepers have carried out their duties in a commendable fashion given the severity of tasks, expanding mandates, shrinking resources, and complex political challenges. Past one year has been demanding for the peacekeepers and the time is to evaluate the approaches and strategies in all spheres of peacekeeping enterprise.

**Madam Chair,**

Peacekeeping has continued to deliver despite of imperfections induced by ambitious mandates, resource overstretch, challenges to integration & coherence, and the distances between the field and the headquarters. Disconnect between the mandates and their implementation compounds the Peacekeeping enterprise. Challenges of oversight, command & control, and human resource management do not make it any easier. Voices from the field continue to get drowned among the initiatives that we attempt at the Headquarters. My delegation recommends strong field orientation in everything we do and to leverage the expertise available with the TCCs and field experts in peacekeeping.

In order to address the issue of personnel overstretch it is incumbent that we expand the catchment of troop contributing countries. Those on the margins need to be encouraged to join the mainstream in order to ensure disbursed

burden sharing and diversified capacity development. The Permanent members of the Security Council must lead by example by making their troops available under UN command and control.

During the past year we continued our engagements with various peacekeeping initiatives such as the New Horizon Non Paper, Global Field Support Strategy, Protection of Civilians, Robust Peacekeeping, Peacekeeping-Peacebuilding Nexus, and lately the Civilian Capacity Review mandated by the Secretary General.

**Madam Chair,**

My delegation, however, would like to strike a note of caution. The work that is currently being undertaken has serious implications on international law and on state sovereignty. A key issue in this context is the distinction between the actions of the Council under Chapters VI and VII. There is a time and a place for both and there should be no back-door method to obliterate the Council's responsibility to attempt peaceful settlement of disputes. We must not mislead ourselves to believe that the shifting of mandates to another chapter will distinguish success from failure. Peacekeeping today stands on the firm foundations built over decades on the building blocks of neutrality, impartiality, consent and non-use of force. Alterations in the established rules of the game should not be undertaken with undue haste and without evidences from the ground. Our convictions must emanate from our own belief systems but also from what we observe and learn on the grounds.

Madam President, only extraordinary situations demand extraordinary measures. While we learn from the extremes we should desist practicing these in the routine.

The peacekeeping missions today need abundant caution while treading amid state sovereignty and international human right regimes. Armed militias that peacekeepers are faced with can hardly be described as helpless and victimized citizens. Principles of consent by host government, neutrality, and use of force in self-defence acquire different connotations in that context.

**Madam Chair,**

The protection of civilians is primarily the responsibility of the host country. This is an umbrella mandate that requires long-term strategies and engagements to protect women, children and civilians populations. Being the legitimate force on the ground, peacekeepers do bear an important responsibility in this regard. However, we must remember that peacekeepers cannot protect all the civilians, everywhere and at all times. The implementation of PoC mandate is inextricably linked with the success of the political process and its

outcomes. In this context our strategies and guidelines in this regard should be realistic and informed of the ground realities.

**Madam Chair,**

Today, the bulk of peacekeeping presence is in protracted conflict. However, the peacekeeping missions have continued on the ground due to the political non-settlement of the conflicts. Protracted presence also complicates the operational challenges that peacekeeper is expected to surmount. Lasting, durable and sustainable peace requires that we at the UN think through the challenges before launching the missions. Not only do we need to manage the expectations of host populations but also those of ours. The practice of acting first and thinking later with hindsight needs to be abandoned. Peacekeeping is a long haul process and peacebuilding even more.

**Madam Chair,**

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are processes that are complementary and not mutually exclusive. Early peacebuilding dividends enhance mission credibility among the to the host populations. Attempts to make these sequential or compartmentalized will be counterproductive. Success depends on the coherence, harmony, and synergy among peacekeeping and peacebuilding tasks. We are hopeful of the beginnings made by PBC in recent times and we look forward to greater complementarity and synergy between PBC and PBF in this regard. We must remain mindful that the self-sustaining institutions of basic governance will only allow successful drawdown of peacekeeping missions. Thus, the military component of peacekeeping missions will have to be supplemented, and not supplanted, by police and rule of law, and a capacity for development administration. The approach of segregating peacebuilding from peacekeeping tasks is counterproductive. We believe that theoretic compartmentalizations along thematic lines make implementation of integrated mission strategies difficult on the ground. To that extent the PBC and PBF projects must not be evaluated on a stand-alone basis but rather in tandem with the overall mission strategy, momentum, directions, and mission objectives. It is also imperative that the mission priorities are aligned firmly with national needs and priorities and are not transplanted from elsewhere.

We believe that the support to the national authorities in security sector reforms, rule of law, transitional justice and corrections is of critical importance. Restoration of national institutions of governance should be our top priority in the immediate aftermath of peace-restoration. We believe that the strategies of development and economic revitalization will not take roots unless grounded upon institutions of state administration. In these times of financial austerity we should also plan to do what we can afford to do.

**Madam Chair,**

The discourse over peacebuilding should not drown out the fact that much is left to be done in peacekeeping. A decade after the landmark Brahimi report, it is interesting to note which of its recommendations have been adopted and which ignored. The recommendation that mandates should be clear, credible and achievable is one of the areas where there has been virtually no movement. Troops on the ground find these mandates unrealistic and confusing. Secretariat reforms have also languished considerably. Enhanced coordination and cooperation among secretariat departments is desirable. HQ functions need to be harmonized better. Integrated mission models will remain mere paper strategies so long we do not make progress on this front.

Critical elements of mission execution such as leadership, mediation expertise, reporting efficiency, planning, oversight, information sharing, and political analysis both in real time and long term need further attention.

**Madam Chair,**

My delegation has been attentive to the briefings by DFS on the evolving global field support strategy. We are keen to witness its positive outcomes in day to day functioning of a peacekeeper's life. We would also encourage DFS to engage the membership in substantive aspects of discussions and deliberation. We must not lose sight of its objectives that are about bringing efficiency to mission operations.

My delegation also notes SG's efforts with regard to the Civilian Capacity Review. While we wait to hear its findings, my delegation would like to reiterate the importance of making this process consultative, inclusive and membership driven. We must also exercise vigilance in not prejudging the efficacy of any of its recommendations. Our thoughts and actions must be situated more in the fields and less in capitals taking due cognizance of existing expertise. Building upon the existing partnerships is far more critical for mission success than launching fresh beginnings.

My delegation appreciates and welcomes DPKO's initiative towards gender mainstreaming in all Peacekeeping Missions. The performance of India's female formed-police-unit in Liberia stands testimony to the value that women peacekeepers bring to this endeavor. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our stand with regard to zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues. My delegation would also like to point out that we contribute troops for a larger cause: that of peace in far off lands. The safety and security of UN peacekeepers must be of paramount concern to this organization, in whose name they serve.

**Madam Chair,**

India has partnered UN peacekeeping since its inception in the 1950s. I salute the Indian peacekeepers, as well as those from other countries, who have made the supreme sacrifice and laid down their lives while serving in UN Missions, most recently in the DRC. India today has the expertise, willingness and means to support peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. With about 100,000 personnel and eminent force commanders having served in over 40 missions, India remains committed to the furtherance of international peace and security as partner of the UN.

I Thank You Madam Chair.



**691. Explanation of the Vote by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Resolution adopted concerning Libya at the Security Council.**

**New York, February 26, 2011.**

Thank you, **Madam President.**

2. I take the floor to state that India has been following, with serious concern, the developments in Libya, which have resulted in loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. We deplore the use of force, which is totally unacceptable. We earnestly hope that calm and stability are restored at the earliest without any further violence.

3. **Madam President,** we also have concerns about the safety of Indian nationals and their assets in Libya. We urge the authorities there to ensure their safety and welfare and facilitate departure of those desirous of leaving the country.

4. India is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Of the 192 members of the United Nations, only 114 are members of the ICC. 5 of the 15 members of the Council, including 3 Permanent Members, are not parties to the Rome Statute. Moreover, we would have preferred a calibrated and gradual approach.

5. We, however, note that several members of the Council, including our colleagues from Africa and the Middle East, believe that such a referral would have the effect of immediate cessation of violence and restoration of calm and stability. The letter from the Permanent Representative of Libya of 26 February



2011 addressed to you, Madam President has called for such a referral and strengthened this view. We have, therefore, gone along with the consensus in the Council. 6. In this context, we draw attention to Para 6 of the resolution that concerns nationals from countries not parties to the Rome Statute. Similarly, the resolution also recalls in its preambular paras Article 16 of the Rome Statute under which no investigation or prosecution may be commenced or proceeded with by the International Criminal Court for a period for 12 months after a Security Council request to that effect.

I thank you.



**692. Statement by Member Secretary National Commission for Women and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Zohra Chatterji on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission of the Status of Women.**

**New York February 28, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman**

This is a historic session as it is the first session after the creation of UN Women. India wishes its first Executive Director, Ms Michelle Bachelet every success. The pooling of resources and merging of various UN organizations working for the advancement of women into "UN Women" sends a strong message that the advancement of women is to be dealt with using a more comprehensive and convergent gender approach, reinforced with adequate and more focused funding. India supports and welcomes this Strategy.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Over the years, women in India have increasingly overcome traditional mindsets and gender stereotypes. We are proud that today, we have the unique distinction of having all women at the top positions. The President of India, Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament and the leader of the largest political party in the country as well as the leader of the opposition in the Lower House of the Parliament are all women.

Indian women entrepreneurs are occupying positions as top executives in banks and corporate board rooms in India as well as globally.

The Constitution of India guarantees equality of status of women and has laid the foundation for such advancement. It also permits reverse discrimination in favour of women and many important programmes have been designed specifically to benefit girls and women.

India's central planning body, the Planning Commission of India, through its Five Year Plans is committed to enable women to be "equal partners and participants in development". The ongoing Eleventh Five Year development plan of India (2007-12) has recognized women as agents of sustained socio-economic growth and change and funding as well as programmatic support is being provided to a large number of gender specific programmes and schemes, in addition to gender mainstreaming throughout the Government of India. Let me highlight, some of our major programmes and schemes.

**Education:**

Sustained effort has been made for removal of the barriers to girl's education. By Constitutional amendment free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 is the responsibility of the State. Our National policy on Education articulates Government of India's unequivocal commitment that "education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women."

Reaching out to the girl child has also been central to the efforts of the Government of India to achieve MDG 2 and universalize elementary education. A two pronged gender strategy has been adopted to make the education system responsive to the needs of girls through targeted interventions which serve as a pull factor to enhance access and retention of girls in schools and also generate a community demand for girls' education through training and mobilization. The strategy is showing results and today gender parity in enrolment has been achieved and there is improvement in other indicators as well.

**Health:**

Health is yet another important focus area. The National Rural Health Mission aims to provide quality health care for women, with provision for institutional deliveries. An additional programme, Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme (Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojana) aims at improving the health and nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women.

**Science and Technology:**

Some of the programmatic efforts in relation to technology and women include:

- a) provision of opportunities to women scientists to work from home to ensure that the talent of women scientists is not wasted
- b) Large scale involvement of women scientists in developmental programmes
- c) Provision of opportunities to girls in rural areas to access quality inputs in science and mathematics so that they can take up careers in science and engineering
- d) Women scientists are being encouraged to pursue research in frontier areas of science and engineering, on problems of societal relevance
- e) Supporting women scientists for self-employment by utilizing their specialized domain knowledge in areas such as patenting, proof reading, science journalism, technical translation, clinical pathology labs, medical transcription etc, to name a few
- f) Motivation and encouragement to women scientists through National awards for outstanding performance.

India's achievements in the IT sector have been acclaimed globally. Availability of jobs in BPOs and the flexibility to work from home have contributed significantly to women's economic empowerment.

Another significant development has been mobile telephony in India where 13 million connections are added every month. Quietly a social revolution is taking place as millions of women especially in remote rural areas find themselves exposed to better market information, weather forecasts, and other information which is empowering them.

To preserve traditional knowledge, of which the major repositories are women, India has created the National Innovation Foundation, a unique initiative which has won global acclaim.

#### **Employment:**

The government of India has recently launched the National flagship programme NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), under an Act of Parliament, aimed

So far a total employment of nearly 1 billion person days has been generated and almost 50 per cent of those employed have been women. The Act is sensitive to working conditions of women workers as it advocates providing

accessible worksite (within 5 kms of workers' residence), crèches for women with children below six and, above all, gender parity of wages.

The formation of Self Help Groups of women has enabled them to access cheap credit and generate means of self-employment. Over 2.2 million Self Help Groups have been set up at grassroots level throughout the country, which translates into more than 33 million households thus supported.

India has also enacted the Equal Remuneration of Work Act mandating payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same or similar nature of work.

### **Training**

India's planning process spells out a three pronged strategy to empowering women including social empowerment, economic empowerment and gender justice. Provision of training and employment and income generation activities with both forward and backward linkages with the ultimate objective of making all women economically independent and self reliant is at the backbone of economic empowerment.

India has a wide network of central and state training institutes and polytechnics, which offer training courses for women to develop the professional skills required to find highly paid jobs or to be self employed. A National Vocational Training Institute for Women has been set up by the Central Government along with a number of regional institutes.

In the State sector, Vocational Training facilities exclusively for women at craftsmen level are provided through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes. Training and Capacity building has also been included as an essential ingredient of all social sector programmes as well as schemes to foster entrepreneurship.

### **Addressing violence against women**

The Indian government is striving to provide a safe environment for women to enable them to live their lives and engage in livelihoods with respect and dignity. We strongly condemn violence against women in all forms. India has enacted legislation against domestic violence, child marriage, and prenatal sex selection. More recently a legislation has been tabled in the Parliament for prevention of sexual harassment at the work place.

In several milestone decisions, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has established jurisprudence reinforcing women's rights and the provision of a safe and healthy environment at home and work. The National Commission for Women also works as the autonomous watchdog for redressal of matters

pertaining to deprivation of women's rights and for recommending amendment of laws to promote gender justice and equality. One of the notable laws introduced in the area of women rights under the Hindu Succession Act has been the granting of equal rights to daughters in the inheritance of ancestral property. Mandatory registration of the wife in all property owned or acquired by the husband is another progressive step taken by many of the State Governments. **Political empowerment**

One of the largest exercises for political empowerment of women was undertaken in India in 1993, when one-third of the seats in local bodies were reserved for women. As a result, more than a million Indian women are now politically empowered at the grassroots level. This has enabled them to engage in the mainstream discourse of development as well as to wield decision making authority at the very level, which makes significant impact on their lives.

### **Convergence**

India has recently set up a National Mission for Women's Empowerment chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The Mission is responsible for setting goals and monitoring achievements with respect to the selected outcomes though the participating Ministries/Departments will continue to be responsible for implementing their respective schemes/programme.

The National Mission will also ensure similar convergence between activities of State government schemes/programmes, through the State Missions and other institutions such as National and State Commissions for women, civil society organizations and Panchayati Raj institutions.

### **Mr. Chairman,**

Before I conclude, let me join other Member States and all the women civil society organisations in reaffirming our strong commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Sixteen years ago, the aspirations of the Beijing Declaration may have appeared lofty and distant but together we have moved far along the road. We shall continue to strive for sustainable development, poverty eradication and realization of Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**693. Intervention by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Informal Meeting (closed) of the Plenary on the Inter-Governmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council.**

**New York, March 2, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by welcoming your decision as the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform to convene this meeting today. At the outset, I would like to place on record my delegation's willingness and determination to continue to participate actively in these negotiations.

I would like to begin with a few words on the third revision of the negotiation text which forms the basis for our meeting.

When I entered this room this morning, Mr. Chairman, I thought of drawing inspiration from a major Bollywood movie. I know Indian movies used to be popular in Kabul. And in terms of size, as you would all know, Bollywood is bigger than Hollywood. I was reminded of a Bollywood movie of the last decade called ***Kabhi Khushi, Kabhie Gham*** which can be loosely translated as "Joy sometimes, despair at other times". The title of the movie summed up our efforts here.

It gives me joy when I think about the transformation you, Mr. Chairman have brought about along with the member-states from the waffle of the OEWG to the start of intergovernmental negotiations in March 2009. This was followed by some despair which lifted when more than 140 countries wrote to you calling for the start of text-based negotiations.

Clearly, Mr. Chairman, you have attempted to imaginatively approach the issue of the modalities for shortening the text. You have called on member-states to "make great strides towards a substantive give and take." Let me state that what you have produced is something on which we can work.

One of the earlier speakers referred to Rev3 as an "editorial fix." My view is that if it is a fix, and here I am very careful in choosing words, because words have meaning and this will show up. On the other hand, even if there is a "fudge", the strength of the positions can show the "fudge" for what it really is.

Seeing the fruits of your labour, I am convinced that you have done a good job under the circumstances. At the same time, however I would like to make a

sincere plea to those who have been holding you back. Those very member-states that say please do not take precipitous action are also the ones who are trying to hold you back. But my answer to them is that both these positions can be satisfied. You maintain the process and we will give you the proposals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Permit me to explain with a bit of personal example. I have spent 37 years in the Indian Foreign Service. During nearly half this period of time, the international community has spent considerable effort in achieving reform of the Security Council. We retire as Ambassadors quite early at 60. So, I don't have many more years left. But I want to give encouragement to my younger colleagues sitting here behind me. One has just about one decade, is very mature and also looks quite like me. And the other who is younger and has about 25 years left in the service.

**What do I tell them?**

Do I tell them that something terrible and awful should happen – and I hope this never happens- for the appropriate international architecture to be put in place? How do I tell them that there are some in the Council who were victors of a past war and say well, we are permanent members and continue to perpetuate their privileged position? Do I tell them to be blind to the fact that in the months of January and February 2011, more than 70% of the Council's meetings were on African issues and in terms of the amount of time spent, more than 90% of the Council's attention was focused on African issues. And yet there is no single permanent member from Africa! Do I tell them that in the instance of the Latin American region, all slots have been filled up for the Council's elected seats till 2034 and so there are no further opportunities. And be happy with this continuing under-representation. Do I tell them that it is par for the course that the large majority of the UN member-states, namely the small states, small island developing states, LDCs and LLDCs should never get a fair chance to serve on the Council just because it cannot be expanded?

And I must recall, Mr. Chairman, that we were in the Security Council one day on an issue on which there was no agreement and the PR of one of the P5 countries said that while there are some who oppose reform, they are not able to explain how the Council would be harmed by adding numbers when it is finding it difficult to deliver with the existing numbers.

Or Mr. Chairman, do I tell them that there are two clear choices. Either we continue to waffle or we make a determined push for reforms that should have already taken place.

At the same time, I see some light at the end of the tunnel. For those people

who are holding your process back by calling for a member-states driven process, I would say there is a way out and that is by member-states themselves giving proposals to the Chair.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation is of the view that it will not augur well for the reform or for the process if we were to try and contain it, in which case it can take the wrong shape. I recall what Machiavelli had said "The mass is wiser and more constant than the Prince." I feel that reform will not come about because of the wishes of a few, but only through traction from the floor in the General Assembly. It will not happen because India wants it, but because there must be real equitable representation.

We have already seen in the L.69 statement delivered by Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica a very good example of how such a member-states driven process can and should function and fully align ourselves with his statement.

Again I must state that we have been subjected now for months on end to talk about the so-called "intermediate" and "interim" model, but have never found out what it actually is. I invite those who espouse this model to spell out what it means. In this regard, I ask myself, which is easier-take the approach of the so-called "transitional" model or the steps that will lead to expansion in both categories of membership. I ask why expend the same energy for a lesser result.

For the record, let me also reiterate that the overwhelming majority of UN member-states have expressed their clear preference for expansion of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

There is convergence regarding expanding the Security Council to 25/26. This must include an expansion in the permanent category from the present 5 to 11, with the addition by name of two new permanent seats from Africa, two new permanent seats from Asia, one new permanent seat from the Latin American and Caribbean region and one new permanent seat from the WEOG countries. The non-permanent category must be expanded from the present 10 to 14/15 with the addition of one new non-permanent seat each for the Asian, East European, GRULAC states and one/two non-permanent seats for the African states taking into account the need to ensure representation from developing countries, including small island developing states, wherein participation shall be on the basis of the concept of rotating seats.

**Mr. Chairman,**

There has been a lot of discussion on what kind of new permanent members



should be allowed. If the a priori starting point is that new permanent members cannot have the same rights and obligations as the existing ones, then I am afraid, such a proposition is not saleable. However, if some of the new permanent members decide not to enforce their veto –and here I use my words carefully again because the Charter as far as I know talks only about “responsibilities and duties” and not about “rights” — till such a time as a comprehensive review is undertaken, they should be allowed to do so. This would of course be without prejudice to the proportionate changes in the minimum numbers needed to take decisions on matters other than the procedural ones in the reformed Council. This also does not however preclude from the immediacy of the task at hand, namely for restricting or limiting the use of the veto under certain circumstances such as: genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law; war crimes, ethnic cleansing and terrorism.

We need to address these issues in a comprehensive manner. We must also take into account the fact that there is extreme reluctance today on the use of the veto.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India associates itself with the growing clamour for early reform of working methods of the Council.

India calls for the General Assembly and the Security Council as two principal organs of the UN to respect each other's distinct roles, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, so as to secure the effective functioning of the UN as a whole.

And finally, there must be a comprehensive review after a period of fifteen years during which the entire structure of the Security Council would need to be revisited. Not to agree to a comprehensive review will lead to a demand, sooner rather than later, for changing the present structure. Any attempt to freeze the structure will only lead to a losing battle against the tides of change.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, we are both ready and willing to reach out to other countries and to work in close cooperation with them towards the goal of achieving urgent reform of the Council in keeping with the changing realities of the current times.

Let me assure you and through you our other colleagues and member-states of our willingness to remain constructive and reasonably flexible on all issues on the table in the months to come and urge other delegations to do likewise.

Thank you.



**694. Statement made by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs A.R. Ghanashyam during the session on “Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”, 2nd PrepCom of Rio+20 .**

**New York, March 7, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

India associates itself with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

It is now becoming increasingly clear that the concept of Green Economy is subsumed in the larger framework of sustainable development as defined by the Rio principles. There is also a convergence on the view that Green Economy should give equal focus to all the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, environment and social.

It is time for us to move from the ideal to the practical and from the maximum to the optimum in the journey towards developing the components of a road map for green global economy at the Rio 20.

For developing countries, poverty eradication and growth are overriding development priorities. Only when these priorities are taken into account will the idea of green economy become an effective driver of global growth.

We also believe that Green Economy to be effective and legitimate it must capture the underlying differences in the scale and scope of the economies of developed and developing countries. It must abide by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and stand the test of scrutiny on the principle of equity.

Enabling mechanisms consisting of financial, technological and capacity building support are a must for developing countries to join the road to Green Economy. India concluded a successful India–LDC Conference last month in which we announced 5 scholarships per year to each LDC and a credit line of USD 500 million for projects and programmes specifically for LDCs. But we must recognize that south-south cooperation can supplement North–South cooperation but not substitute it.

We must also ensure that Green Economy does not lead to trade protectionism.

An important component of Green Economy debate must be to address unsustainable consumption, production and life style patterns. Without adequate

focus on this critical issue, we would again be caught treating the symptoms rather than the cause.

Now coming to the questions or issues that you have raised:

**Priorities for Green economy:**

Conservation of water, renewable energy, protection of land from degradation and conversion of waste into energy are our high priorities.

**Tax Policies:**

Tax incentives to promote environment friendly investments have been effectively and regularly used by India in the past. The rapid growth of wind power and solar power in India owe a great deal to tax incentives.

**Successful models of green economy:**

While India has its own successful models of green economy, this is an area in which we would like to borrow from the best practices from everywhere else in the world. There are also areas in which we can share technologies and experience with other countries.

**How should Businesses promote green economy:**

The environmental responsibilities of business should be built-in in the principles of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. This is indeed the case in India. Polluters must pay for the pollution they create. Otherwise, they are rejected by the society sooner than later.

**Costs of transition to the green economy and how to finance them:**

At the current juncture, the high cost of green technologies and low cost of brown technologies deter the deployment of green technologies. Introducing disincentives to environment unfriendly technologies and enhancing the demand for environment friendly goods will in our opinion and experience lead to better prospects for green economy. Innovative financing like imposing a burden on polluters to pay for investments in clean technologies is another useful instrument.

**Conclusion**

Several developing countries, including India, realise the value of following the green growth path. Mahatma Gandhi said long before the 1972 Stockholm Conference that mother nature has enough for every one's need but not for any one's greed. India's

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme, a Cash for Work programme is focussed on preservation and restoration of natural capital. About

84% of its investment goes into water conservation, irrigation and land development. India has also undertaken an ambitious Green India Mission to regenerate 10 million hectares of forests by 2020.

Our National Action Plan on Climate Change has 8 dedicated missions which place emphasis on energy efficiency, clean technology, renewable energy, public transport, resource efficiency and tax incentives, among other sustainable development tools.

It is our sincere hope that the Rio 20 Conference should be a mile stone towards sustainable development and not a mill stone around its neck. It is our understanding that if it tries to make Green Economy the norm and standard for a global development model which is target based and prescriptive, it may not be a workable option for developing countries who need policy space to follow their development priorities. We would recommend that the Green Economy framework be more of a direction and guidance for countries to follow the path of sustainability: it must be a voluntary programme of action. We see this approach as a practical way forward.

Thank You.



**695. Statement by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs A.R. Ghanashyam during the session on “Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development”, 2nd Prep Com of Rio+20.**

**New York, March 8, 2010.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

India would also like to join the list of Nations that have endorsed the views expressed by Argentina in its capacity as the Chair of G 77. Over the years, we have formalized any number of Covenants, Conventions, Protocols and Agreements in the area of sustainable development. A number of independent entities have also been set up to implement them. These entities operate independent of one another and often from different capitals. They also work in a compartmentalized manner but on overlapping mandates.

Naturally, this has resulted in a number of gaps, loss of synergy, duplication of efforts and most importantly - inadequate implementation. The questions framed by the secretariat to facilitate debate and discussion in this regard are very useful. As is obvious, they overlap among themselves and the answers too often straddle on several questions.

At the very outset, India would like to support selective clustering of compatible conventions in specific domains. The cooperation between different conventions dealing with hazardous wastes and chemicals, for example, is a useful case for assessing and determining the direction such efforts should take.

Secondly, we do not subscribe to the view that creating an overarching umbrella entity dedicated exclusively to environmental governance would lead to desired results. Instead, we believe that it would be useful for the Economic and Social Council to take charge and promote greater coordination and effectiveness in the ongoing activities of its functioning commissions and programs.

Thirdly, in our view, the International institutional architecture seeking to address global environmental challenges should remain firmly anchored in the principles of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities" embodied in the Rio Declaration. A key aspect that the Institutional Framework should address relates to the support to the developing countries in terms of financial resources and technology transfer. This is absolutely essential for the success of environmental governance.

We believe that any consolidation and restructuring of global environmental governance that enhances regulatory control and develops across-the-board normative and prescriptive standards takes away the flexibility and safeguards available to developing countries under different environmental conventions. India supports a deeper science-policy interface in environmental governance.

We are conscious that organizations like UNEP have not been provided with adequate resources to undertake the task of integrating environment with social and economic development and building capacities in developing countries. These issues must be urgently addressed.

We also hope that the ongoing discussions on Institutional Framework shall take into account national priorities and culminate in a commonly agreed and balanced approach to successfully tackle the global environmental challenges.

Thank You.



**696. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Comprehensive Strategy for the Realization of Peace and Security in Somalia.**

**New York, March 10, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

First of all, I would like to place on record our appreciation to you, Mr President, for organizing today's Open Debate, which is very timely and gives us an opportunity to discuss the situation in Somalia comprehensively.

I would like to thank, in particular, the Secretary General for setting the coordinates and tone for our discussion. I would also thank AU Chairman's Special Representative for Somalia Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra.

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, deserves our special appreciation for his comprehensive outlining of the achievements of the Transitional Federal Government thus far as well as its plans for the immediate future. I draw inspiration, in particular, from your determination to regain your land, your identity and your dignity from the extremists. I would like to assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, of India's continued commitment to supporting every meaningful effort aimed at furthering peace, reconstruction and institution building in Somalia. In keeping with discussions held earlier this week in Mogadishu by our Ambassador, including with Your Excellency, we will examine ways of intensifying our cooperation aimed at building capacity in the various identified areas of interest and in dealing with the scourge of piracy.

India and Somalia are linked by two millennia of shared history and culture. We are neighbours across the sea. In recent times, Mogadishu, Kismayo and other Somali cities have had thriving Indian communities and even today India is home to many Somalis. Indian teachers are fondly remembered by many Somalis.

In recent times, as Somalia fell into difficult circumstances, India contributed significant numbers of peacekeepers and naval and air assets [to UNITAF and UNOSOM-II] and the work of Indian medical units among the civil populace is recalled to this day. We also remain active in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia while continuing with existing measures to protect our seafarers and maritime commerce.

**Mr. President,**

peace and security issues confronting Somalia as well as the immediate and greater region surrounding the country are matters that concern us all. I join in

commending the TFG forces and AMISOM for their recent successes. We extend our sincere condolences over the sacrifices that both have made. We have had reports of the trying circumstances in which the various contingents operate. We also wish to record our appreciation for the good work being done by UNSOA. The Council should examine the recommendations made by the African Union and others for supporting AMISOM and Somalia and its people.

**Mr. President,**

international efforts to re-establish security in Somalia will, however, not be successful so long as Al Shabaab continues to generate internal resources for its activities. We would, therefore, like to see control of Kismayo port by TFG forces so that port earnings are not misappropriated by Al Shabaab. Simultaneously, serious efforts should be undertaken by all stakeholders to cut off supplies of arms to Al Shabaab.

It is important that any nexus between domestic destabilising forces and external support agencies that aims at the induction of outside combatants or arms and ammunition be broken. This requires effective monitoring of existing sanctions and a common commitment to honour them.

The drought in Somalia as well as in neighbouring countries has assumed alarming proportions in lands even otherwise not adequately blessed with water resources. We would be prepared to work with the TFG to assist the Somali people in this regard.

**Mr. President,**

One of the unfortunate outcomes of the larger and ongoing tragedy in Somalia is piracy. It has not only had a destabilizing effect on global and regional trade and security, but has also brought about much suffering to seafarers and their families. Killing of four US citizens recently by the pirates is only an example, and we strongly condemn this.

As I have mentioned in the debate in the Council on 25 January 2011, Somali pirates are operating further and further off from the Somali coast. A few recent incidents of piracy have taken place about 250 nautical miles away from the Indian coast. The shift of attacks to the south and east of the Indian Ocean reflects the pirates' ability to adapt in order to bypass the security corridor established by naval forces and to extend their reach to approximately 1000-1200 miles from Somali Coast.

The Indian Navy and Coast Guard have stepped up their vigil against pirates in its EEZ. They have recently neutralized two 'mother ships' being used by the pirates.

The issue of sailors taken hostage by pirates and their plight is one that the Security Council has not addressed. My delegation feels that the ways and means of addressing this issue requires the most urgent and serious consideration of the UN. The International Maritime Bureau reported that in 2010 alone, 1,016 sailors of all nationalities were taken hostage by Somali pirates of whom 638 continue to remain hostage. It is a matter of serious concern for us that 53 Indian nationals who were aboard the hijacked ships are being held captive by pirates. The hostages are generally from working class backgrounds and often the only bread-winners of their families. The primary responsibility for the release of hostages lies with the owners of the ships concerned. In many cases, it has been observed that the owners of the ships involved do not take responsibility or display adequate interest in securing the release of the sailors under their employ. Sailors are in many circumstances required to endure very harsh conditions under the captivity of pirates and are often tortured by their captors. My delegation views this issue with the greatest concern. Democracies are, in particular, sensitive to public opinion and are impacted by a public sense of need to act on the adverse situations faced by their citizens. There has to be more effective action that the international community can collectively take. I was encouraged by the remarks of my Russian colleague. I look forward to receiving details of his initiative on piracy and supporting it.

India has been fully engaged in the efforts of the 'Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia' (CGPCS) to share information, coordinate actions of navies in combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden, raising public and merchant marine awareness and, examining legal and criminal justice issues with respect to apprehended pirates. The Indian Navy has been undertaking anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008.

**Mr. President,**

We will work with Somali authorities and support the work of the African Union and this Council in a constructive manner. We are happy that even through trying times, bilateral cooperation programmes such as the Pan-African e-Network are being successfully implemented in Somalia. We look forward also to a visit by the Deputy Prime Minister for Planning & International Cooperation H.E. Mr. Abdiweli Ali. We will remain engaged with Somalia.

Thank you, Mr. President.





**697. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.**

**New York, March 14, 2011.**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Prior to the commencement of our session this afternoon, I had walked up to my distinguished colleague, Ambassador Sumi of Japan and shared with him how deeply saddened we are to see the images of the destruction caused by the massive earthquake and the following tsunami. I join other colleagues this afternoon in conveying our heartfelt condolences. The loss of lives is irreparable.

Japan is a country for which I have deep admiration and respect. Not only because I began my diplomatic career there, much like the first love, but also because Japan is one country which gives us the confidence of having the resilience of being able to not only overcome this very unfortunate act of nature but of coming out stronger.

So whilst we extend our condolences, we have no doubt that the brave people of Japan will be able to overcome this massive crisis that they are facing. And all I can say is that my country, and as indeed several others, spontaneously offered to make available whatever little assistance we can offer. We stand ready and shoulder to shoulder with the Japanese people and Government in their hour of grief.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Let me start by placing on record my delegation's happiness in the decision taken by President of the General Assembly, Dr. Deiss to appoint two distinguished and independent-minded diplomats such as Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius ekuolis of Lithuania as Co-Chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on General Assembly Revitalization for this session. I welcome your appointment and assure you of my delegation's steadfast support and constructive participation in the deliberations of this Group.

Permit me also to express appreciation for the excellent work done by the Co-Chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group last year, Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia and Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina whose active involvement and able guidance ensured that the Assembly was able to adopt the most substantive and forward-looking resolution in the last five years-64/301. Equally, I would like to place on record my delegation's appreciation for the work done by the Algerian delegation as the NAM Chair on this issue as

well as for the other negotiating partners who worked in a spirit of cooperation. Naturally my delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the NAM.

I must thank Ambassador Gonsalves for drawing our attention to the statement made by Ambassador Menon of Singapore in this very room last week. There is much that Ambassador Menon said which finds ready resonance with my delegation. And let me start with "Similarly, there are some amongst us Member States who need to stop obstructing the reform process." That as you know is something which could be part of an Indian statement on reforms, Security Council reform in particular. He goes on to state, "Instead, we should focus on proposing constructive and pragmatic ideas." That again would be a formulation that would fit well in any Indian statement in any of these discussions. Ambassador Menon says, "There are others who want everything to be dealt with in the General Assembly and nowhere else because they are afraid of losing control." We entirely agree. Ambassador Menon also said, "We have to realize that no institution has the monopoly on seeking global solutions to global problems." And he went on to develop ideas that I am entirely in agreement with, especially the General Assembly's propensity to pass resolutions in numbers which leaves no time even for us to read.

But I want to pick on one issue which has been mentioned by one of the earlier speakers and develop that slightly this afternoon.

When we look at the subject of General Assembly Revitalization I am reminded of the proverb „putting the cart before the horse . Co-Chairs this thought that came to me when I had the privilege of accompanying my External Affairs Minister from one thematic meeting to another last September during the general debate section. I wondered how entirely the wheel had turned and we had managed to reverse the established order of things, so much so, that the general debate itself became one of the many events during that jam-packed fortnight here in New York. We have all been brought up in the tradition that you have the general debate as the main focus and then you have one or two side events, high level thematic events. But here the order has been reversed entirely.

Now I wonder, after having spent nearly three months on the Security Council- and I will come back to it in a little while-whether we should create a new proverb or at least suggest one, namely „putting the horse on the cart to capture our collective predicament.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

The starting point of my delegation's position on the issue of General Assembly revitalization is the firm belief that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and in spirit.

The GA should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

My delegation participated actively in the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assembly revitalization in the 64th session. We provided a number of inputs at the meetings held during that last session. These inputs were provided in a spirit of constructive engagement and we are pleased that these were taken on board in the negotiations leading to the adoption of Resolution 64/301. While we are generally happy that Resolution 64/301 has been able to highlight some of the important steps required on our collective journey towards a revitalized General Assembly, we firmly believe, Co-chairs that we still have some distance to travel.

You have in your letter of 4th March called on delegations to provide concrete and targeted interventions for the purpose of the Working Group's deliberations this session. I intend to respond to your call and place on record my delegation's considered views on some of the important aspects of the issue of General Assembly Revitalization.

First of all, it is critical that we establish a proper relationship of respect for respective mandates between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the spirit of the Charter.

India joined the Security Council on 1st January this year, after a gap of 19 years. I noted very carefully the statement made by my distinguished colleague from Antigua and Barbuda speaking on behalf of the CARICOM. And if I heard his correctly, the entire CARICOM region has had the privilege of serving on the Council only for three occasions in the last 65 years of the Security Council's existence!

During the time that we have spent on the Council, we have noticed that the Council's agenda is, to say the least, overburdened. This is because the Council busies itself with themes which no doubt and certainly important, are still not directly connected to the real and immediate threats to international peace and security. This has left the Council with less time to focus on the real hotspots that constitute the real threats to international peace and security.

At the same time, however, we believe that remedial measures would only be half complete in the absence of serious introspection on what the General Assembly itself can do to mitigate the situation. Clearly, the Assembly will not be empowered merely by strengthening procedures. More important is the

presence of political will to take concrete measures to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

The Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. The continued circumscribing of the Assembly's role and responsibilities in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General needs to change in the interests of the United Nations system in general and the Assembly's prerogatives in particular. And, as it was the General Assembly which limited its own role, it will have to be the General Assembly that claws back its rightful place in the process of selecting the Secretary-General. In this regard, it is also our considered view that in accordance with the NAM position that any mechanism that will be adopted would require a transitional period and would not be applicable to the immediate next process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General.

**Co-Chairs,**

I would now like to address two other important issues of relevance to our meeting here today.

First, in our view the Charter provisions clearly reflect the desire of the UN membership to have an international civil service which displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity and which is accountable therefore, if not in higher, but at least in equal measure as the Secretary General is to the General Assembly. In addition, we would welcome closer consideration of procedures for selecting, appointing and confirming the heads of the major Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes with a view to ensuring transparency, legitimacy and balanced representation.

Second, we believe that the Assembly and other entities that form part of the UN system must reflect diplomatic best practices in its day to day functioning. And here there is a lot of need for interaction and learning to be done from member-states.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

In conclusion, let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative and policy-making and representative body of the international community.

You can expect India's constructive support and participation in these efforts.

Thank You.



**698. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the UN Security Council meeting to hear the briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (Iran Sanctions Committee).**

**New York, March 17, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

2. I would join other colleagues in thanking Ambassador Nester Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the 1737 Committee. We appreciate the work of the Committee and will continue to participate actively in its work under Ambassador Osorio's Chairmanship.

3. **Mr President**, Iran is part of what has been defined as India's "proximate neighbourhood". We share a historical and civilizational relationship. The two countries maintain vibrant and lively people-to-people and cultural relations. Iran is a major source of our energy and hydrocarbon supplies, and is thus important for our energy security. We are also discussing with Iran various projects in the energy sector.

4. Iran, located at the crossroads of the Indian sub-continent, Central Asia and Middle East, is an important country and has a role to play in regional issues. We have cooperated with Iran on issues such as restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan as well as in developmental projects such as construction of Zaranj-Delaram road in western Afghanistan. Other areas of cooperation include trade and transit to Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond within the framework of International North-South Transport Corridor, and fight against common threats we face from cross-border terrorism and extremism.

5. **Mr. President**, as a country abiding by all its obligations of international treaties and having strong credentials of non-proliferation, India has taken a consistent stand on the Iran nuclear issue. We support the right of all States, including Iran, to peaceful use of nuclear energy. Exercise of this right should be consistent with their international obligations.

6. As mentioned in the Joint Communiqué issued at the 10th Russia-India-China Ministerial Meeting at Wuhan in November 2010, Iran is entitled to the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and should at the same time restore international confidence to the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. To that end, we support intensification of efforts to address the Iranian nuclear issue by peaceful means, through dialogue and negotiation. We also believe that the International Atomic Energy Agency has a central role in resolution of technical issues concerning Iranian nuclear programme.

7. **Mr President**, we also call upon all sides to fully implement the resolutions this Council has adopted. There should be no violation of the measures mandated in those resolutions. At the same time, all efforts should be made to ensure that legitimate trade and economic activities of Iranian entities and those of other countries should not suffer. As member of the 1737 Committee, we will contribute towards Committee's work in that direction.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**699. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council.**

**New York, March 17, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank you for giving me the floor and scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan in the context of renewal of UNAMA's mandate. I also thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for his statement. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary General and are appreciative of the briefing by the SRSG Staffan de Mistura. May I also thank the delegation of Germany for anchoring the negotiations on the draft Resolution on UNAMA.

The Kabul Conference last year marked the beginning of the Kabul Process - a new phase in the partnership of the Afghan Government and international community. The hallmark of the Kabul Process is Afghan ownership and leadership in realizing the shared pursuit of sustained and tangible improvements in security, governance and development in the country. The NATO Summit held in Lisbon in November 2010, provided a roadmap to transition to full Afghan security responsibility and leadership by the end of 2014.

We could not agree more with the observations in the UNSG's report that the transition must be Afghan owned, transition must be planned and implemented in a systematic manner and transition must ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of all Afghans. It must be accompanied by an inclusive political process and intra-Afghan dialogue.

It is important the transition must be linked to the ground realities rather than rigid benchmarks along with a constant assessment and review of the evolving situation in Afghanistan. Building the strength and capabilities of Afghan National Security Forces, along with adequate enablers, is imperative to the transition of security responsibilities.

Afghan ownership and leadership is also critical for development and reconstruction in Afghanistan. This also implies greater coherence, coordination and further streamlining of international community's developmental efforts including aligning of assistance with Afghan national priority programmes and increasingly working through Afghan institutions. It is also important to strengthen the UN's own coherence and coordination among its various bodies working in Afghanistan in accordance with the priorities of the Government of Afghanistan

India supports Afghan Government's efforts to reintegrate those individuals who abjure violence, give up armed struggle, do not have links with terrorist groups, and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. It is important that we respect the 'redlines' for the process as reaffirmed at the Kabul Conference, otherwise we risk Afghanistan sliding back to becoming a safe haven for terrorists and extremist groups.

We appreciate the increasing collaboration among the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), which has led to security gains in Southern Afghanistan and consolidation of security gains in Kabul. However, it is a matter of deep concern that the overall security situation continues to deteriorate in Afghanistan and there has in fact been a slight increase in security incidents as compared to last year. The recent instances of attack on civilians in Kabul Bank in Jalalabad and suicide attacks in Kabul indicate a change in tactics wherein the Taliban and other opposition groups are opting for soft civilian targets. They also point to the existence of a virtual army of suicide attackers who are being brainwashed, trained and deployed. The scale, location, character and magnitude of this has not been sufficiently analyzed in the urge to seek a political solution.

The continued resilience of the insurgents, their changing tactics, their numbers and their spreading out to areas earlier considered safe are a grim reminder that the security gains would remain transient unless the international community is able to firmly deal with safe heavens for terrorist groups outside Afghanistan borders. For security and stabilization of Afghanistan, it is important to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al Qaida, Taliban, LeT and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan borders. In fact, the Jalalabad attack, which bore the hallmark of a mini-Mumbai, point to a fusion of techniques and ideology of Al

Qaida and LeT with elements of the Taliban. The Afghan people must be allowed to re-build their land in conditions of peace and security free from interference from their neighbours and they must be the arbiters of their own destiny.

Afghanistan's stability and economic developments depends a lot on its neighbours and the region as a whole. Afghanistan has an immense potential as a land bridge linking Central, West and South Asia and emerging as a trade, transport and energy hub. The recent developments in regional cooperation including the signing of the agreement on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project would provide added impetus to regional cooperation. Part of solution lies in Afghanistan being increasingly regionally integrated. Growing economic inter-dependence would catalyze peace and prosperity in the region at large and in Afghanistan in particular. Afghanistan as a SAARC member since 2005 is increasingly becoming active as a fellow SAARC member. India as a neighbour will continue its efforts towards the development of Afghanistan.

India and Afghanistan share a strategic partnership based on the strong foundations of rich, historical and civilizational bonds and shared pursuit of regional peace and prosperity. India remains committed to partnering the Government and people of Afghanistan in the building of a peaceful, stable, democratic and pluralistic nation. Assisting Afghanistan in capacity building and skills for human resource development, and building Afghanistan's public institutions is a special area of priority for India. Our cumulative developmental assistance stands at US \$ 1.3 billion. In addition, India has committed to provide 100,000 tons of wheat for the Government and people of Afghanistan in view of the prevailing drought in the country.

The area of Afghanistan south of the Hindu Kush all the way up to the Ganges Delta, form a part of a single geographical and economic basin, with the plains of India constituting the centre of its economic gravity. It is by far Afghanistan's largest regional market a potential source of investment, skills, training, technology and expertise and a model of democracy and natural institution building in a culturally comfortable context. Closer economic integration with India and other countries in the region is the key to Afghanistan's future and prosperity.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we hope that the international community will continue to remain steadfast in its support to Afghanistan as per the priorities of the Afghan Government. We commend the good work done by UNAMA. In accordance with the wishes of the Afghan Government and as requested by the UN Secretary General in his latest report, India supports the renewal of the mandate of UNAMA for an additional period of one year.

Thank you.





**700. India's Explanation of Vote after the vote on Libyan Resolution in the UN Security Council by Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri.**

**New York, March 17, 2011.**

India has been following with serious concern the developments in Libya, which have led to loss of numerous lives and injuries to many more. We are very concerned with the welfare of the civilian population and foreigners in Libya. We deplore the use of force, which is totally unacceptable, and must not be resorted to.

2. The UN Secretary-General has appointed a Special Envoy, who has just visited Libya. We support his appointment and welcome his mission. We have not had the benefit of his report or even a report from the Secretariat on his assessment as yet. This would have given us an objective analysis of the situation on ground. The African Union is also sending a High Level Panel to Libya to make serious efforts for a peaceful end to the crisis there. We must stress the importance of political efforts, including those of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, to address the situation.

3. The resolution that the Council has adopted today authorizes far reaching measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter with relatively little credible information on the situation on the ground in Libya. We also do not have clarity about details of enforcement measures, including who and with what assets will participate and how these measures will be exactly carried out. It is, of course, very important that there is full respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Libya.

4. **Mr. President**, the financial measures that are proposed in the resolution could impact, directly or through indirect routes, ongoing trade and investment activities of a number of member-states thereby adversely affecting the economic interests of the Libyan people and others dependent on these trade and economic ties. Moreover, we had to ensure that the measures will mitigate and not exacerbate an already difficult situation for the people of Libya. Clarity in the resolution on any spill-over affects of these measures would have been very important.

5. **Mr. President**, we have abstained on the resolution in view of the above. I would like to re-emphasize that India continues to be gravely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Libya and calls on the Libyan authorities to cease fire, protect the civilian population and address the legitimate demands of the Libyan people.

I thank you.



**701. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, at the commemorative ceremony of the “International Day of *Nowruz*”.**

**New York, March 21, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I am deeply honoured and privileged to participate today in the *nowruz* celebrations - the first day in Persian New Year, at the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

Zoroastrianism is one of the world’s most ancient faiths. It has been a belief of deep spiritual ethos and had a tremendous impact on humanity over millennia. Its contributions to the cause of world peace, brotherhood and understanding are particularly noteworthy.

One of its most well-known traditions is the celebration of *Nowruz*. This traditional practice dates back to more than 3 millennia. Interestingly, it is, even today, observed with the same traditional fervor and zeal in our part of the world.

We are particularly proud of the Zoroastrian community in India, which the Chef de Cabinet Under Secretary General Mr. Vijay Nambiar mentioned earlier. We call them the Parsi Community. This community has been justly acclaimed globally for their industry, positive outlook, entrepreneurship and robust vision.

The names of Tata, Godrej, Wadia are not only household names in India but also globally, thanks to the entrepreneurial ability of this community.

I also want to tell my distinguished colleagues, the Permanent Representatives of countries, who drive beautiful Jaguar cars. It is a Parsi community in India, the house of Tata, which has invested and now own this brand along with the Land Rover. I encourage you to use this car. This is an excellent piece of British engineering and Indian civilization.

Zoroastrianism has further enriched the composite culture of India and has been in the forefront of the effort to promote the material, spiritual and scientific advancement of our nation.

The four canons of Zoroastrianism: unity, non-violence, self-sacrifice and righteous life, articulate the theme of tolerance and understanding which are necessary to increase amity and mutual understanding in the world.

**Mr. President,**

For an agrarian country like India, the lives of more than 600 million people revolve around agriculture. *Nowruz*, which is the first day of advent of spring, is of particular importance to them.

It brings with it hope, gaiety and festivity. These festivities usher in the belief of blessings of Gods for good harvests and fertility of the land. In fact different parts of India celebrate these spring festivities with traditional fervor and passion.

Such celebrations go a long way in creating as well as strengthening an environment of tolerance, brotherhood, respect and understanding.

Regrettably, the advancements in the field of science and technology as well as economic development, has not resulted in commensurate progress in social, ethical, moral and cultural spheres.

Today the international community is confronted with enormous challenges of peace and security, rise of extremism and intolerance, incitement of hatred and violence, disparities and deprivation. These challenge the very foundation of our society and international community.

Occasions like *Nowruz*, help us ponder over the value of strengthening global peace through mutual understanding and respect for cultures and heritage of different societies.

After all, compassion, mercy and tolerance are the common values and beliefs among all the faiths and traditions of the world.

At the United Nations, we have to encourage the promotion of universal values and tradition, to learn from them and implement them for the greater good of mankind.

Let me commend this initiative which is worthy and timely.

Let me conclude by wishing all of you a very happy *Nowruz* — "*Nowruz Mubarak*".



**702. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding [Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its 4<sup>th</sup> Session] at the Security Council.**

**New York, March 23, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

Peacebuilding and peacekeeping-peacebuilding are and will remain core activities of the Council in the immediate future. Let me, therefore, begin by thanking you for organising this meeting today on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. The results of these initiatives will play a key role in determining the relevance and effectiveness of the Council and of the larger United Nations system in the decades to come.

2. Let me also thank the Peacebuilding Commission for its detailed and insightful report and Ambassador Peter Witting under whose able stewardship the report was prepared and who has presented the report to us today. I also thank Ambassador Gasana for his statement. The Peacebuilding Commission, in its Organisational Committee and Country Specific Configurations, has a central position in the global peacebuilding architecture. The working relationship of this Commission, the newest organ of the UN, with the Security Council and the General Assembly is thus of critical importance.

3. My delegation has been a member of the Commission since its inception. It favours close, regular and substantive interaction between the Commission, the Council and the Assembly so that the United Nations can deliver as one when it comes to setting the peacebuilding agenda.

4. Mr President, peacebuilding is a cooperative effort. The United Nations requires working with other peacebuilding actors, including international financial institutions. My delegation has noted the growing focus on the special characteristics of post-conflict situations amongst an increasing number of development and economic actors. This, we expect, will have a positive impact on peacebuilding and on the growing need for resources for peacebuilding initiatives.

5. In an arena with many players, the United Nations must, however, be conscious of the need for it to retain the high ground in developing the normative basis for peacebuilding. An international effort is underway to understand the linkages between development, peace and security and to suggest solutions.

The Council itself debated this issue 6 weeks ago. We must ensure that this effort is able to resist the temptation to create a new peacebuilding orthodoxy. Many of these efforts end up talking down rather than of listening. This must be avoided at all costs. 6. My delegation stresses that the United Nations must play the central role in identifying a common peacebuilding vision, in bringing together the various actors and in acting as bridge between national authorities and various peacebuilding and development actors.

7. Some of these issues were addressed by the Working Group on Lessons Learned, an effort with which we have been associated. We believe that its conclusions inter alia in relation to the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in marshalling resources, on the imperative of national dialogue in post-conflict situations and the role of youth, are particularly relevant to the further evolution of peacebuilding.

8. **Mr. President**, peacebuilding emerged from peacekeeping. The United Nations has made enormous investments of manpower and resources in "multidimensional" PKOs mandated to operate in "fragile" states. We are now in the midst of another paradigmatic shift into peacekeeping-peacebuilding operations or purely peacebuilding operations.

9. India brings to this table the experience of almost sixty years of peacekeeping. We have contributed more peacekeepers to more peacekeeping operations than any other nation. We have also participated in every type of peacekeeping operation – from truce supervision to the current generation of purely peacebuilding initiatives.

10. Based on its experience, my delegation stresses that peacekeeping is early peacebuilding. Our peacekeepers in UNTAC, UNOSOM II, MONUC, UNMIS, UNMIL, and MINUSTAH have been early peacebuilders. We believe that the process of implementing a peace agreement must run along with the provision of humanitarian and emergency assistance, with the creation of political institutions that can resolve conflicts, reconcile parties to conflicts and allow dialogue between the state and the governed, with Security Sector Reform, with administrative and economic restructuring, with empowering the weak, building a human rights culture and resuming economic activity.

11. **Mr. President**, national ownership is the key determinant of success in peacebuilding. The international community can encourage, motivate and facilitate. It cannot solve those problems which require national will and national ownership.

12. We believe, however, that the international community has the duty to make available appropriate capacities to national authorities. The solutions

and capacities that these authorities seek are those that have been tried and tested in similar environments. Countries like India have successfully surmounted many of the challenges that have produced these conflicts. The shared colonial legacy that produced these challenges and our experience, and that of other nations who faced similar difficulties, has particular relevance to the problem at hand. The success of the all-female Indian Formed Police Unit in Liberia is a good example of how the capacities and experience in the global South can be leveraged in peacebuilding situations.

13. It is also the responsibility of the international community to provide the resources. Complex peacekeeping operations usually have a life span that is measured in years. Peacebuilding operations will last for decades and require a predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods.

14. **Mr. President**, India strongly supports the role and relevance of regional players in post-conflict scenarios. We are greatly encouraged by the African Union's efforts to develop Post-Conflict Reconstruction capacities. The success of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism has many lessons that are relevant to the strengthening of national ownership.

15. **Mr. President**, the Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes must do more to become an effective player. Skill sets and expertise that are relevant to these societies need to be augmented. I have in an earlier debate spoken about the ponderous nature of the UN bureaucracy and pointed out that an organization that takes up to 200 days to fill positions in the field can hardly be a model worthy of emulation when it comes to institution-building.

16. **Mr. President**, in concluding, I would like to point out that India has engaged bilaterally with a number of nations on the peacekeeping-peacebuilding agenda in response to national requirements. We also have contributed, along with my fellow delegations from Brazil and South Africa, through plurilateral mechanisms such as the IBSA Trilateral initiative that is active in peacebuilding.

17. We are committed to this process and will continue to remain fully engaged.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**703. Explanation of Vote on Cote d'Ivoire resolution by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at Security Council.**

**New York, March 30, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

India is seriously concerned at the prevailing situation in Cote d'Ivoire since the presidential elections last year. We have consistently held that both parties in Cote d'Ivoire should exercise maximum restraint and respect the outcome of the elections. We have urged the parties to ensure that there is no violence because it harms the wellbeing of the Ivorian people and distracts from the main task of economic development, social cohesion and national reconciliation. During the last three months, we have supported all efforts to resolve the current problem peacefully and through dialogue. To that end, we have supported the efforts of the ECOWAS and African Union to find a political solution leading to restoration of democracy and will of the Ivorian people at the earliest. With that objective in mind, we have voted in favour of the resolution today.

2. We want to put on record that the UN peacekeepers should draw their mandate from the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. They cannot be made instruments of regime change. Accordingly, the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) should not become a party to the Ivorian political stalemate. The UNOCI should also not get involved in a civil war but carry out its mandate with impartiality and ensuring safety and security of peacekeepers and civilians. In this context, we have noted that a UNOCI helicopter was fired at by the Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) on 29th March 2011. We call upon all parties to respect UNOCI's military impartiality.

3. The Council has heard about various allegations of serious crimes committed against civilians in Cote d'Ivoire. There should be no a priori presumption about nature of these alleged crimes. Each allegation has to be investigated on a case-by-case basis by the competent national bodies and further action taken as per relevant laws.

4. We also want to place on report our growing concern at the tendency to hurry the process of adopting resolutions. We think that there should be enough time for deliberations and consultations with all concerned countries. In situations, such as those envisaged in the present resolution, it is imperative that Troop Contributing Countries be first consulted on the mandate of the UN peacekeepers. Such consultations are necessary not only for well considered decisions but also for an effective implementation of the mandate.

5. We also want to reiterate that India is not a member of the International Criminal Court. Of the 192 members of the United Nations, only 114 are members of the ICC. 5 of the 15 members of the Security Council, including 3 Permanent Members, are not parties to the Rome Statute. It is also important to note that there are clear legal provisions concerning state-parties to the Rome Statute. There are also guidelines for a state, which is not a party to the Rome Statute, to accept the exercise of jurisdiction by the ICC. These provisions and guidelines should be followed without exception. It merits underlining that there is no mandate in this resolution for the Security Council to refer the situation in Cote d'Ivoire to the ICC.

Thank you.



**704. Statement by Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao at the 2011 Session of the UN Disarmament Commission.**

**New York, April 5, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset let me congratulate you on the assumption of the chairmanship of UN Disarmament Commission. I assure you of my delegation's full support in the discharge of your responsibilities. Let me also appreciate the important contributions of the UN Secretary General and High Representative of the Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs to our debate.

India associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

India attaches high importance to the UN disarmament machinery put in place by consensus by the 10th Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The UNDC forms a vital part of that machinery as the specialized deliberative organ. It offers Member States a unique opportunity to bridge differences and arrive at principles and recommendations capable of universal acceptance. India believes that the UNDC can play a central role in developing consensus on disarmament issues facing the international community.



**Mr. Chairman,**

With regard to Working Group I on "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" we have had extensive exchange of views both in the last cycle as well as in the last two years of this cycle. However, it has not been possible to arrive at a consensus on these recommendations, though we came close to doing so in 2008. India remains willing to engage constructively with a view to developing such consensus in this year's meetings.

Nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority for India and the Non-Aligned Movement. India has been consistent in its support for global, complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament. In 1988, Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi presented an Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order to the Third Special Session of the UN on Disarmament. The Action Plan postulated a nuclear weapon free world in stages by 2010. The end of the Cold War kept alive the hope that we will be able to reach that goal but it was not to be. We are nowhere near to attaining that goal today than we were in 1988. The imperative need to move towards the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons remains as valid today as it was two decades back. We welcome the high level reaffirmations of this need in the recent past.

In June 2008, on the twentieth anniversary of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh asked others to join India in taking the critical first step - a commitment, preferably a binding legal commitment through an international instrument, to eliminate nuclear weapons within a time bound framework. Other leaders have also expressed their commitment to seek the goal of global zero.

India believes that nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework for achieving global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. We also believe that progressive steps for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons are essential to achieving the goal of their complete elimination. Measures to reduce nuclear dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons, de-alerting of nuclear weapons are pertinent in this regard.

India's resolutions in the First Committee on a "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons", "Reducing Nuclear Dangers" give expression to some of these steps and have justifiably found support from a large number of countries. These steps were also part of a Working Paper presented by India at the 2007 session of the Disarmament Commission. The intent of the Working Paper, which reflects the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, was to stimulate debate and discussion on nuclear disarmament.

**Mr. Chairman,** the countries with the largest nuclear arsenals bear a special responsibility for progress on nuclear disarmament. In this regard we welcome the ratification of the new START agreement between the US and Russia. The two still hold more than 90% of the nuclear weapons in the world and the new START is a step in the right direction. We believe that there is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. We believe that the expansion of nuclear energy and reduction of proliferation risks must go hand in hand. The possibility of nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists is real and could have catastrophic consequences. We are happy that our resolution on this issue entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” is adopted by consensus in the UNGA every year.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Working Group II on “Elements of a draft Declaration of the 2010s as the Fourth Disarmament Decade” saw substantive discussions on the revised draft last year though consensus again eluded us. We hope that the discussions this year will see greater convergence of views and we will be able to achieve consensus on this important item.

The draft declaration should reflect the aspirations of the international community in the field of disarmament. We should aim at finding consensus on elements that will be of enduring validity, that uphold the priority for nuclear disarmament and complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, that address other dimensions of global security including space security, and that strengthen the international framework for addressing issues related to conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons and preventing their use by terrorists. As is its tradition, the UNDC should focus on these issues of security taking into account global interdependence of peoples and nations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The third item on our agenda is “Practical confidence building measures in the field of conventional weapons”. This issue was also deliberated upon in two previous cycles of UNDC’s work, in 2001-03 and 2006-08. Although we are skeptical of how much progress can be achieved in the short time available this year given that we have not deliberated the issue in this cycle, we are ready for substantive deliberations on the issue.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that UNDC is an important part of the multilateral disarmament machinery. My delegation is committed to working constructively in the coming weeks for the success of this session of UNDC.

Thank you.



**705. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Haiti in the Security Council.**

**New York, April 6, 2011.**

Thank you, Excellency.

First of all, I would like to congratulate His Excellency President Juan Santos on presiding over the Security Council's Open Debate today. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN's Special Envoy President Clinton as also President Garcia Preval of Haiti, the Foreign Minister of Colombia, the Vice Minister of Brazil and the Minister of State of UK are in our midst today. We appreciate their taking time off to address us on the situation in Haiti. Their participation in today's debate underlines their commitment to the cause of Haiti. We have benefited a great deal from their views.

2. **Mr. President**, the Security Council along with the other organs of the UN system has continued to pay attention to the situation in Haiti by regular meetings and, in this context, we are glad that the Colombian Presidency of the Council has organized today's Open Debate. We hope that sustained engagement of the international community and this Council in developments in Haiti will reassure not only the people and government of Haiti but also bring about greater coherence in the efforts of multilateral agencies and bilateral partners in the assistance of the Haitian authorities.

3. **Mr. President**, we all know well the extent of devastation that was caused in Haiti by the earthquake, which took the lives of some 300,000 and injured an equal number. While Haiti was still battling to overcome this disaster, an outbreak of cholera epidemic further aggravated an already grim situation. Amidst all this, the country plunged into a political crisis with a series of electoral disputes in Presidential and Legislative elections. Return of erstwhile Haitian leaders from exile seems to add to political tension.

4. This year too Haiti will face testing times with change in government and challenge of sustaining the recovery efforts. It is a matter of satisfaction that preliminary results of re-election held last month have been announced and Mr. Michel Martelly declared the winner. It is our hope that the final result of the presidential run-off would be announced soon and all political actors in Haiti will accept the result. In this connection, we note with appreciation the role played by regional organizations, particularly the Organization of American States (OAS) in resolving the electoral disputes in the first phase of presidential elections.

5. It is critical that the transition of power is smooth. We also hope the political leadership in Haiti will show maturity at this difficult time and live up to the expectations of their people.

6. **Mr. President**, Haiti requires continued and sustained support of the international community in its national efforts towards long-term recovery, reconstruction and development. With nearly 680,000 persons still living in camps, millions living in extremely difficult conditions, lack of access to clean water, sanitation and other basic services, the need of the hour is not only solidarity and commitment but also acceleration of the pace of reconstruction efforts. Simultaneously, it is also necessary to focus on governmental reforms towards good governance, rule of law and institution building in a process owned and led by Haiti.

7. Better coordination between aid agencies and donors with the Government of Haiti requires no emphasis. This would not only avoid duplication but also direct the aid to sectors considered most necessary by the Haitian government and people. The various UN agencies also have to work hard towards improving Haiti's technical capacity to fully and properly utilize the aid.

8. **Mr. President**, India has made a modest contribution to the efforts of the Haitian authorities to deal with the situation there. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India made a cash contribution of US\$ 5 million to the Government of Haiti towards relief measures as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti. India also contributed US\$ 500,000 to Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) that was put to good use in the earliest stages of recovery work in Haiti. We have also pledged to reconstruct one of the Government ministries to be identified by the Government of Haiti and we are awaiting an indication as to which building we should prepare to construct.

9. In recognizing the need to provide basic amenities – shelter, drinking water and sanitation to the Haitian people, we have joined Brazil and South Africa in expanding our IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa, Trust Fund's waste management project in Haiti, both in its area of coverage and scope of handling different types of waste. IBSA is spending over US\$ 2 million in this effort and for reconstruction of a community health centre in Haiti.

10. **Mr. President**, we highly commend and support the role played by MINUSTAH peacekeepers in the humanitarian and recovery efforts in aid of the local authorities in Haiti. We are proud of their sterling efforts, both on its civil side as well as the military and police side, in the immediate aftermath of the disastrous earthquake, despite the tremendous losses that they themselves suffered. We are also happy to note the important role played by MINUSTAH in ensuring peaceful run-off of elections in March 2011. I also recall the contributions made by the Indian police officers deployed with MINUSTAH, presently numbering 470 in three contingents, two of which were deployed by India after the earthquake at the request of the United Nations.

11. We hope, Mr. President, that this year Haiti with support from the international community will not only recover faster from the effects of last year's disasters, but also show its political resilience to achieve much needed reforms to improve the living conditions of the Haitian population. India is committed to our collective efforts in achieving these goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**706. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.**

**New York, April 13, 2011.**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

I would like to register my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for taking time off from his very busy schedule and sharing with us his views on the role and authority of the General Assembly. His insightful views are very helpful in our present endeavour and the fact that he is sitting through this interaction is a pointer to the importance that he personally attaches to our work here.

Let me also start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by the two Co-Chairs (Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius ekuolis of Lithuania) to convene this meeting this afternoon.

We feel that it is useful for the Ad Hoc Working Group to dedicate one entire meeting to focus exclusively on the ways and means to implement relevant resolutions on General Assembly revitalization that have not been implemented till date, or if I may add to that, which are not being fully implemented or may I say implemented only in a proforma manner.

My delegation recalls the last meeting of our Group held on 14 March. On that occasion there was general consensus on the need for a comprehensive review of the inventory on the status of implementation of resolutions on GA revitalization. This provides a good basis for our deliberations today.

**Co-Chairs,**

We must keep in mind that the resolutions of the General Assembly on its revitalization have special significance both for the member states and the international community. Depending on the willingness of the member-states, such resolutions have the potential to act as the catalyst for bringing about transformative change in the working of the Assembly. The overriding consideration should be the need to continue the focus on those measures that restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly.

In this regard, Co-Chairs, my delegation's position is well known. India has consistently held the view that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and in spirit.

The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, the ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

There are two specific provisions in GA resolution 64/301 that address the subject matter of our discussions. And so it is necessary for us to be guided in our task by both in equal measure.

Paragraph 2 (a) tasks our Group to "identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions and evaluating the status of their implementation." The responsibility placed on the Group is then fleshed out by paragraph 3 which calls, inter alia, for "a comprehensive review of the inventory" and "requests the Secretary-General to submit an update of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization that have been addressed to the

Secretariat for implementation that have not yet been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons that are behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group.”

Therefore, it is our considered view that the key aspect is to have an assessment of and I underline “the constraints and reasons that are behind any lack of implementation.”

An assessment as I have just elaborated can be done in many ways. But we have to choose the methodology that is best suited and in keeping with the essential nature of the matter under scrutiny, namely resolutions related to General Assembly revitalization.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

Resolutions on General Assembly revitalization are the preserve of and fall within the domain of the Assembly itself. The resolutions may have originated from one group of member-states, but once adopted they belong to the entire membership.

I went through the inventory and I found that on working methods there are 72 provisions in the various resolutions, on the selection of the Secretary General there are 7 provisions and on the role and authority of the General Assembly there are 38 provisions. I believe our initial task today, distinguished Co-chairs is to focus on that last segment relating to the role and authority of the General Assembly with 38 provisions that have not yet been implemented.

It becomes very crucial therefore to muster the political will at the stage of implementation of these resolutions.

But we are required to look into the constraints if any and some questions suggest themselves. And I have tried to list some of them in my own mind and I will share those with you. Even if some of these resolutions were pursued by only a group, why were they not pursued? Is it because the group concerned lost interest in those resolutions having got them adopted in the General Assembly. That's a question. Secondly, is it because some of these resolutions for instance give the impression of not being doable or they pose serious issues in implementation? If so, why was the issue of doability or implementability not addressed prior to the resolution having been adopted? And finally, most important of all, did we lose the political will or did we not summon the requisite political will to proceed with those resolutions?

#### **Co-Chairs,**

Paragraph 3 of Resolution 64/301 places on the Secretary-General a clear responsibility to give his views. We should therefore hear from the Secretariat their assessment.

Finally, let me also reiterate that my delegation attaches importance to the on-going processes of revitalization of the General Assembly, including the various aspects of strengthening of its procedures, working methods, documentation and also ensuring due follow up.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Some comments were addressed to my delegation by my distinguished colleague from Algeria in the first part of his statement which represented his national position. He enquired and I respond to that, about issues relating to the improvement in the working methods of the Security Council, presumably because we have the privilege of serving on the Council and are also a member of the Non-Aligned Group.

And I want to assure my distinguished colleague that the issues relating to the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council is not only an issue that is being followed by us vigorously within what has come to be known as the E-10 or the elected ten members of the Security Council, but is also the subject of discussion between us and the permanent members of the Security Council and in fact is also getting attention in other groups. I would certainly utilize the opportunity of another meeting to brief the members of the NAM group along with other NAM members on the Council to have a fuller discussion. I feel to go into the discussion now may not be the most appropriate thing to do.

But let me conclude distinguished Co-chairs by reiterating India's constructive support and participation in this present exercise.

Thank You.





**707. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at Informal Interactive Panel Discussion on "Human Security" at the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, April 15, 2011.**

**Mr. Moderator,**

Thank you for giving me the floor. I have the benefit of speaking rather late in the afternoon after a full day's discussion on the subject. I am not sure whether I have much to add, especially after all the nitty gritty which have been raised by the panelist as well as my distinguished colleagues here.

**Mr. Moderator,**

I have the privilege of speaking when his Excellency, the President of the General Assembly is here. I also have the privilege of speaking at the time, when after some six odd years we are making attempts to reinvigorate our efforts to try, at least, to reach the definitional aspects and what Human security is all about.

And for this I wish to acknowledge the work done by Ambassador Takasu. I have little doubt that his personal invigoration of the processes has been very much responsible.

Today, we have with us former President, President Obasanju and former speaker of the South African Parliament, Dr Frene Ginwala, and all the other distinguish panelist here to address us and educate us on the way forward.

I want to be relatively brief and say just a few things. First and foremost, I wish to say that we have been hearing a lot of debate over a number of years, on what really could constitute "Human Security" for the purposes of an international definition which would allow us to take things forward at the level of United Nations.

For most of us and most of the international community there is a good deal of clarity of what it should entail and we also need to understand quite clearly what it should not entail. In general, these are well known facts to all of us, sometime stated and sometime not stated.

From our perspective, the issue of "Human Security" needs to eschew the idea of interventionist approach. For us, it is quite clear and we need to work within the framework of the Charter, and principles of state sovereignty, etc; which are the bedrock of the multilateral and international relations in our world today. The definition also means to recognize the primacy of the States in taking care of issue of the human security for their population.

Let me rephrase this a little bit. The concepts need to be people-centric and it needs to encompass multi-dimensional and comprehensive parameters with development being the central and very big important component.

On the international scale, we need to recognize that today's world which has achieved a fair deal of globalization; we are really talking about fairly complex situation with linkages at the national, regional and international level.

All of these demand that we work together in collaborative fashion, in which we are willing partners and in which we sit with the other parties concerned in the international communities and try and see what we can do to further work for the overall betterment of humankind and especially those in vulnerable situations across the world today.

Having said this, I just want to take a minute to say that is my country where democracy is the bedrock of our political fabric; where freedom is the word which is embossed in the brightest of colours and the brightest of lights; it is our national endeavour that we work towards inclusivity.

Our latest decadal census shows that we are a country with 17.5 % of the human population; we are about 1.21 billion and it is absolutely essential that every single Indian must achieve a quality of life which allows him or her to have a decent standard of life.

Already 17.5 % of the world is our responsibility, which is something we not only take seriously but is our national priority. Coupled with that, we have a country which believes that whatever we have for ourselves, we should try to the extent possible, share with others, especially, our brethren in countries where developing priorities are of an extremely high order and where vulnerability are great.

I want to end here and I want to assure you, Mr. Moderator, the panelist and Ambassador Takasu that we will be constructively engaged in ensuring that we have used six years, but we try and move forward quickly apace so that we can try and bring this thing in a conceptual manner to a closure and work forward for its implementation for the benefit of humankind.

Thank you very much Mr. Moderator.



**708. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the adoption of UNSCR 1977 on 1540 Committee's Mandate at the United Nations Security Council.**

**New York, April 20, 2011.**

India has supported Resolution 1977 extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years until 25 April 2021. This extended timeline has been included with a view to help plan on long-term and predictable basis assistance and cooperation programmes for States requesting such assistance from the 1540 Committee.

India has expressed its unwavering commitment to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. India recognizes that proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery is a major challenge facing the international community. As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state and terrorists could entail. Clandestine proliferation networks have led to insecurity for all and must not be allowed to reappear. The international community must join hands in eliminating the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and non-state actors. The focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish state accountability in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or its linkages with WMD.

India had therefore supported the general objectives of UNSCR 1540. The resolution is in line with our own General Assembly resolution "Measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to WMD", adopted by consensus every year since it was first introduced in 2002.

India has enacted a number of effective laws and regulations and has put in place institutionalized administrative mechanisms to prohibit WMD access to terrorists and non state actors. After the adoption of UNSCR 1540, India took additional steps to further strengthen its existing legislative and regulatory mechanism for exercising controls over WMDs and their means of delivery. The WMD Act was enacted in June 2005. The Act provides for an integrated and over-arching legislation on prohibiting unlawful activities in relation to WMDs, their delivery systems and related materials, equipment and technologies. Amendments to the 1992 Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act passed in 2010 further strengthened our national export control system. India is committed to

maintaining effective national export controls consistent with the highest international standards and is prepared to make its contribution as a full member of the respective multilateral export control regimes.

India has fulfilled its obligations under the CWC including destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles in advance of the timeline agreed under the Convention. India is also a State Party to the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and participates in the activities under the Convention.

India filed its report on UNSCR 1540 in November 2004 and has submitted periodic updates. An Indian Expert participated in the work of the 1540 Committee between 2007 and 2009. India has also expressed readiness to offer assistance to other countries in capacity building and in fulfilling their obligations under UNSCR 1540. India has also participated in 1540-related activities such as a Workshop on UNSCR 1540 implementation held jointly by US and Sri Lanka in Colombo in June 2009.

We welcomed President Obama's initiative in convening a Summit on Nuclear Security in Washington in April 2010. India welcomed the adoption of the Summit Communiqué and the Work Plan which establishes a common platform for all participating states. We see the NSS process as building pragmatic and purposeful frameworks setting benchmarks and standards and in fostering confidence for international cooperation to supplement and not replace existing multilateral institutions such as the IAEA. India believes that the primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level, but national responsibility must be accompanied by responsible behavior by States. All States should scrupulously abide by their international obligations.

Measures for the implementation of the resolution should be undertaken by the states based on their national practices and processes. The 1540 resolution has contributed to greater awareness amongst States on the need for effective measures at the national level to prevent terrorists and non-state actors gaining access to sensitive materials and technologies. Reporting by states of their implementation measures facilitates the overview of the implementation by the 1540 Committee.

Assistance and cooperation for States requesting such assistance is a key element of the implementation process. Such assistance programmes should be suited to the specific national or regional requirements. The 1540 Committee has also established cooperative relations with several international organizations. Consistent with their respective mandates, the IAEA and the OPCW can contribute to the objectives of the 1540 resolution. We also feel that the full implementation of the Communiqué and work Plan of the Nuclear Security Summit can also contribute to our common goals.

India remains committed to achieving the objectives of the 1540 resolution. India is also prepared to render necessary assistance to states requesting such assistance in fulfilling their obligations under the resolution. We hope that the extended deadline will also encourage the Committee to take forward its work in a spirit of transparency and cooperation so that all member states feel that they have a common stake in the successful implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540.



**709. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri on the 'Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question' in the Security Council.**

**New York, April 21, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

I would like to join other colleagues in thanking Under Secretary General Mr. Lynn Pascoe for his comprehensive briefing. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine for their statements which we have carefully noted.

**Mr. President,**

2. The situation in the Middle East continues to be grim with no sign of movement in peace talks. The expectation that Quartet would meet on 15th April and come up with a statement to enable both Palestinians and Israelis to resume talks has again not materialized. Lack of movement in even holding of talks is also contributing to increase in violence.

3. Moreover, it is imperative that hopes raised for a Palestinian State during last two years are not lost. The state building efforts of the Palestinian Authority have received commendations from various quarters including financial institutions like IMF and World Bank. The April 2011 report of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process is the latest to endorse the achievements of the Palestinian Authority.

4. The report makes it amply clear that the progress made in rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, and infrastructure and water are now sufficient for a

functioning government of a State. The Palestinian Authority has, therefore, shown its determination to persist with Prime Minister Fayyad's Plan for achieving statehood. As we approach September 2011, these developments on the governance front should inject a sense of urgency for international efforts to resume peace talks.

**Mr. President,**

5. The main hindrance for resumption of peace talks is lack of mutual trust. Statements on existence of Israel, emanating from different sections of the Palestinian society, now and then only serve to aggravate this lack of mutual trust. Perception that these statements and continuing rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip against Israel increase the vulnerability of Israel needs to be viewed in this context. The recent spate of violence, including retaliation on Gaza after an attack on a school bus in Southern Israel, clearly shows the divisions that exist. These events deserve our strongest condemnation. We also condemn the killing of abducted Italian national in Gaza last week.

6. While we commend achievements in the territories administered by the Palestinian Authority, it is equally important to note the reason for the deplorable situation in Gaza, where even essentials are difficult to come by. The blockade on Gaza is adversely affecting the population who barely has access to essential commodities. The access of Gaza to essential commodities is imperative as it is also driving militant elements to vent their frustration through violence. Given this situation, humanitarian assistance to Gaza and its delivery should not exacerbate the precarious security situation. It would be prudent if established channels for delivery of humanitarian assistance are used. At the same time these channels must step up the efficacy of their delivery systems and look at stronger and more effective mechanisms for delivering humanitarian assistance.

7. We concur with the sense of the international community that freezing of settlement activity in the Palestinian territories could enable the peace talks to resume. Lack of unity among Palestinian factions is another major issue. We note the recent initiatives aimed at promoting intra-Palestinian unity and hope they would result in a meaningful rapprochement among various Palestinian groups.

8. Equally important are other issues enmeshed to the conflict relating to Arab lands that remain under Israeli occupation. Progress in the Lebanese and Syrian tracks are core to achievement of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region. In a region witnessing protests movements all around, continuing impasse in peace talks could have destabilizing effect on a much larger area. If the peace talks do not recommence quickly, we are afraid, unilateral steps by the parties would only increase the distance between them

and further complicate the situation. We, therefore, call on the Quartet members to intensify their collective and individual efforts to break the stalemate.

9. Mr President, India has a long-standing tradition of solidarity with the Palestinian people. India has supported the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Roadmap and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

10. India has been contributing to the capacity and institution building of the Palestinian people with its material and technical assistance programmes. India has also extended assistance through IBSA forum. India is also contributing US \$ 1 million to UNRWA continuing our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their pursuit of legitimate goals and quest for development based on dignity and self-reliance.

11. In conclusion, **Mr. President**, let me quote from a letter our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru wrote on 11 July 1947 to Albert Einstein. He wrote: "I do not myself see how this problem can be resolved by violence and conflict on one side or the other. Even if such violence and conflict achieve certain ends for the moment, they must necessarily be temporary. I do earnestly hope that some kind of agreement might be arrived at between the Arabs and the Jews. I do not think even an outside power can impose its will for long or enforce some new arrangements against the will of the parties concerned". These words were relevant more than 60 years back. They are even more relevant now. Agreement has to be reached between the parties through direct negotiations for it to be enduring.

12. To that end, we hope, parties will restart talks without further delay. Our expectation is that these talks would lead to a final and comprehensive resolution of the Middle East conflict, which has mired several generations in the region. We all owe to the future generations that they do not remain mired in this conflict. We, therefore, reiterate our call to both sides to show spirit of flexibility, compromise and political will to reach there.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**710. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN  
Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the United Nations  
Security Council open briefing on the situation in Syria.**

**New York, April 27, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**,

We thank Under Secretary General Lynn Pascoe for his briefing on the situation in Syria.

**Mr. President**,

2. Syria has, historically and in contemporary times, been an important country in the Middle East. Its role in the Middle East peace process and in the stability of the wider region cannot be underemphasized. Thus, prolonged instability or unrest in Syria may have ramifications for the region and beyond.

3. Reports of violence during the recent demonstrations in parts of Syria resulting in the deaths of several demonstrators as well as security personnel are of concern. There have been reports of armed extremist elements mingling with the demonstrators and using the demonstrations to attack security personnel and damage government property and there is an apparent lack of information regarding those responsible for these violent attacks.

4. We have noted that the Government of Syria has appointed a Commission of Inquiry into the violence during the demonstrations and announced various measures to address the grievances of its people, including lifting of emergency laws, abolition of State Security Courts, transfer of investigative powers to the police etc. The Government has also announced procedures for organizing peaceful demonstrations. We hope these measures initiated by the Syrian government, as part of an inclusive process of political dialogue and reform, will initiate the process of meeting the aspirations of all sections of Syrian society.

5. As we deplore any violence from any quarter, the Council needs to make clear that it is the responsibility of sovereign states to respond to the aspirations of its people through administrative, political, economic and other measures. At the same time, it is for states to decide on the best course of action to maintain internal law and order and to prevent violence. The primary responsibility of the Council in this particular instance is to urge all sides to abjure violence in any form and to seek a resolution of grievances through peaceful means.



6. We believe regional and sub regional organizations have an important role to play in resolving the crisis in the region, including in Syria. It is essential that all efforts should be made to de-escalate tensions, rather than to exacerbate them. My delegation would support all measures designed to end violence and restore peace.

Thank you.



**711. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.**

**New York, April 28, 2011.**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Let me start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by the two Co-Chairs (Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius Ėekuolis of Lithuania) to convene this meeting to discuss the provisions concerning "working methods" in Resolution 64/301 on revitalization of the UN General Assembly.

The briefings by the Chair of the Second Committee, the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Procedural Questions of the Security Council and the Secretariat are pertinent. We thank the Co-Chairs for their initiative in this regard.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

India has consistently held the view that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and in spirit.

The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, the ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

Before I proceed to outline my delegation's views on the subjects under consideration in this meeting, let me state that we align ourselves with the statement that will be made by Algeria on behalf of the NAM.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

In our view, the primacy of the Assembly flows from the universality of its membership as well as the diligent application of the principle of sovereign equality of all its members. Ownership therefore, of the Assembly's decisions and activities, is reflected in the degree of participation by member-states. So, if there is a foreboding sense of apathy towards the work done in the Assembly, the member-states are also partly to blame.

If the member-states, instead of engaging in substantive deliberations in the six main committees that could result in setting new norms, spend considerable resources on procedural issues they will only encourage the usurpation of their role by other institutions both within and outside the UN. A case in point is the agenda of the Assembly which contains a large number of items which have little or no bearing whatsoever with the most pressing contemporary concerns of relevance to all Member States as well as the international community as a whole. Similarly, there is an embarrassing reluctance to hold thematic debates on issues of relevance to the international community and of concern and interest to the Organization. In our view this is a matter of particular concern since outsourcing of such discussions, especially beyond the UN, militates against the notion of the Assembly's centrality to multilateralism.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

India is no stranger to the application of newer and modern technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of electoral processes. In our considered view, the revitalization process of the General Assembly will benefit immensely if we are able to introduce those technologies that are efficient, and that ensure the security and confidentiality of the voting process.

In regard to the issue of the visibility and enhanced public awareness of the work of the General Assembly, our position is two-fold.

First, we, the member-states need to make the Assembly and its work more relevant to the evolving international system, in other words, the presence of political will to take concrete measures to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly. We need to properly appreciate and then correctly situate the Assembly within the plurality of multilateral mechanisms that deal with global issues. Second, there are a number of best practices available in this regard in various international organizations, albeit on a smaller scale. Such best practices could be used as a guide to promote visibility and enhanced public

awareness of the work of the General Assembly. To provide but one instance, we need to end the continuing anachronism of press briefings which remain off limits for delegates from various Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations. In other words, this means, that while I can make a statement on the working of the UN General Assembly and other principal organs here at the UN headquarters, I cannot sit in as a silent observer in a press conference at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium!

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Before I conclude I would like to share my thoughts on the tasks being undertaken by the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Procedural Questions of the Security Council. I do not wish to repeat our position and demands in that respect. Rather, I wish to draw attention to the fact that despite years of efforts real progress in respect of improvements in the Security Council's working methods has been minimal. Some permanent members continue to argue that reform of working methods cannot be discussed by non-Members. Even many decisions already taken by Council in Note S/2006/507 remain unimplemented. And there appears to be little appetite for the far-reaching reforms that the large majority is demanding.

This only strengthens our view that the many flaws in the Council's working methods are only symptoms of a deeper malaise that lies in its structure and composition.

Clearly, genuine and lasting improvement of the working methods of the Council can only be possible as part of a comprehensive process of Security Council reform, based on both reform and expansion of its composition in permanent and non-permanent categories. Till there is a change in the real power structure of the Council i.e. its permanent membership, we cannot realistically expect the deep-seated changes that the large majority seeks.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Finally, let me also reiterate that my delegation attaches importance to the on-going processes of revitalization of the General Assembly, including the various aspects of strengthening of its procedures, working methods, documentation and also ensuring due follow up. I would also like to reiterate India's constructive support and participation in this present exercise. Thank you.



**712. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Briefing on Libya (ICC).**

**New York, Ma y 4, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

I would like to thank the Prosecutor, Mr Luis Moreno-Ocampo, for his briefing today. I have also taken note of his report to the Security Council submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of Resolution 1970.

2. **Mr. President**, India, as you know, is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, and not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for reasons that are well known. In our Explanation of Vote on Resolution 1970 on 26th February, I had noted that of the 192 members of the United Nations, only 114 are members of the ICC. 5 of the 15 members of the Council, including 3 Permanent Members, are not parties to the Rome Statute. But we had voted in favour of Resolution 1970 because several members of the Council, including our colleagues from Africa and the Middle East, believed that referral of the situation in Libya to the ICC would have the effect of immediate cessation of violence and restoration of calm and stability.

3. Unfortunately, the situation in Libya has continued to deteriorate and widespread violence continues. We remain seriously concerned at the developments in Libya and condemn the use of force against civilians. We reiterate our call to all parties to immediately cease attacks on civilians and engage in political dialogue to resolve the crisis. The longer the conflict continues, the greater the harm caused to the Libyan people, their economy and society.

4. **Mr. President**, we have noted that after his preliminary investigation, the Prosecutor, on the basis of available information, has decided that there are reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity and war crimes have been committed and continue to be committed in Libya. We have also noted that the Office of the Prosecutor will submit its first application for an arrest warrant to Pre-Trial Chamber in the next weeks.

5. The Prosecutor should carry out a thorough and impartial investigation and not be influenced by non-judicial considerations. All those responsible for committing crimes, covered under the Rome Statute, should be held accountable, irrespective of which side to the conflict they may belong to and even if they have changed sides. Political considerations should not exonerate anybody from prosecution for the crimes committed. Any action by the ICC should fall strictly within the ambit of Resolution 1970, particularly paragraph 6 of the resolution that concerns the States which are not parties to the Rome Statute.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**713. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN and *Charge d'affaires, a.i* Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the open debate of the UN Security Council on the Situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.**

**New York, May 9, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

I would like to join other colleagues in welcoming High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Council. I would thank him for the briefing and have noted his views on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have noted the contents of his reports. His efforts deserve our support.

2. **Mr. President**, Bosnia-Herzegovina is a novel experiment in building a new nation from the rubbles of civil war that the peoples of former Yugoslavia had to endure during 1990s. It is never easy to build a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The problems that the High Representative has reported to us today are bound to be encountered on the path of building a nation inhabited by people of different faiths, ethnicities and languages. Representing a country of over 1.2 billion people with arguably the largest diversity, I commend the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina for their determination to form a nation based on unity in diversity and wish them success in their endeavours. Our experience has convinced us that though the path is long and arduous, the fruits are well-worth the efforts.

3. Resolution of the problems facing the Bosnian people calls for patience, determination and mutual accommodation. Unilateral actions, mutual suspicion and violation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace will only vitiate the political and social atmosphere and delay the achievement of their goals.

4. We would like to congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina for the successful and smooth conduct of elections in October 2010 to elect the members of the Presidency and three Parliaments – one at the national level and one each for the two Entities. The parliament at the Entity-levels has begun to function. We hope the stalemate in formation of the Federation House of Peoples will also be resolved and the Parliamentary Assembly will be able to convene soon. Display of flexibility on the part of the parties and avoidance of divisive rhetoric would contribute towards this goal.

5. In this context, we welcome the High Representative's assessment that the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been operational and cooperation among the three members has improved in comparison to the previous mandate.

6. We are glad to note that EUFOR has been able to maintain a safe and

secure environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina and support the views of the High Representative that its executive mandate should be extended.

7. The relations between India and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr President, are cordial and friendly, dating back to decades of friendship that we enjoyed with all the constituents of former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There is enormous goodwill in India for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina who share common values of respect for plurality, diversity and democracy. We have extended assistance in early nineties including despatching of Police Observers as part of the UN Mission to observe law and order. Recently, we have offered them help in establishing an IT centre. We stand ready to help in any other way that we can in the process of nation-building of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**714. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri in the Security Council open debate on Protection of Civilians.**

**New York, May 10, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank the French Presidency for organizing this debate on Protection of Civilians, which, in our view, is very timely and relevant. I would also like to thank USGs Alain Le Roy and Valerie Amos and ASG Ivan Simonovic for their useful statements.

**Mr. President,**

It has been India's consistent view that protection of its population is the foremost responsibilities of every state. One of the cardinal obligations under the Indian Constitution is that the right to life is one of the fundamental rights of all citizens, from which no derogation is permissible even in the times of emergency.

India's commitment to this right is demonstrated at international level as well. India has, Mr President, contributed more troops to more peacekeeping operations than any other Member State. Our troops and policemen have been at the forefront of turning this Council's word into deed. They have been protecting civilians much before this term came into common usage in this

Council. More than five decades ago, Indian soldiers defended the civilians of Congo as part of the United Nations mission. Our contribution continues today in the DRC and other UN missions. We have remained at the cutting edge of many United Nations operations where civilians were under threat. Today we have a female Formed Police Unit, the first such formation composed entirely of women, in UNMIL. India, thus, brings to this table, Mr President, a quantum of experience in actually protecting civilians in peacekeeping missions that is unique in its relevance and in its variety and depth.

India has also participated actively in the normative debates in this Council and in the General Assembly on protection issues.

A recent seminar in New Delhi has, in this tradition of constructive engagement, broken new ground in drawing from the operational experience of peacekeepers in further evolution of this agenda.

**Mr. President,**

An enormous amount of the Council's attention has been focused in the recent past on protection issues with the Council adopting a number of resolutions and statements on Protection of Civilians and on related issues of violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict. In bringing these issues within the purview of matters relating to international peace and security, the Council has placed protection issues squarely at the centre of the conflict resolution and peacekeeping agenda. This intense focus has, in some situations of conflict, shifted attention from the tried and tested methods of mediation and negotiation that are the staple of conflict resolution.

Protection of civilians when applied as a basis for Security Council action needs to respect the fundamental aspects of the UN Charter, including sovereignty and integrity of the Member States. Any decision to intervene that is associated with political motives distracts from the noble principles and needs to be avoided. Also, the response of the international community must be proportional to the threat, involve use the appropriate methods and make available adequate resources.

It is important that the principle of protecting civilians must be applied in a uniform manner. In case of a conflict, all sides need to abide by it. We must also be clear that the United Nations has a mandate to intervene only in situations where there is a threat to international peace and security. Any such decision by the Council to intervene must be based on credible and verifiable information. This requires much greater information flows when the Council is seized of a situation.

**Mr. President,**

In this context, I cannot but ask *quis custodiet ipsos custodiet*? Who watches the guardians? There is a considerable sense of unease about the manner in which the humanitarian imperative of protecting civilians has been interpreted for actual action on the ground.

**Mr. President,**

Let me now turn to the question of Protecting Civilians in peacekeeping missions.

The central issue in the implementation of the protection agenda, in the view of my delegation, is the question of resources. The resources that are being made available to current peacekeeping operations in order to fulfill these ambitious objectives are simply insufficient. It is also important that expectations from the peacekeepers are realistic and take into consideration the multiple resource constraints under which they function. MONUSCO, for example, has one peacekeeper for every 1,500 sq.km. The Mission lack enabling assets to allow the existing complement of peacekeepers to move and deploy in their areas of operation. The manner in which these missions are being made to operate on shoestring budgets and being constantly asked to do more with less does not augur well.

All the efforts of the Council to further the protection agenda will come to naught if this resource gap is not addressed.

**Mr. President,**

In concluding, my delegation would like to stress that force is not the only way of protecting civilians. It should only be the measure of last resort and be used only when all diplomatic and political efforts fail.

There can be no substitute for national will and national efforts in creating an environment where civilians are secure. The efforts of the Council and of the international community require to be directed at assisting national authorities in developing these capabilities. This is the only sustainable method of protecting civilians because, as I said in the beginning, protection of its civilians is the foremost responsibility of every state.

Thank you.





**715. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri in the General Assembly Debate of SAG's Report to SG on Civilian Capacity Review.**

**New York, May 11, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

The need for enhanced civilian capacities in post conflict situations is an important imperative that must engage our attention in the United Nations. We are very appreciative of the work done by Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno and the Senior Advisory Group in examining the issue in detail and making recommendations on how enhanced civilian capacities could be incorporated in the UN's work in post conflict situations. We have noted that the Secretary-General has set up a Steering Committee to facilitate follow-up on this report and that his team will be led by Under-Secretary General Malcorra.

We are very appreciative of you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate in the General Assembly and initiating the process of inter-governmental discussions on the issues of civilian capacities in post conflict situation. Detailed discussions will have to take place in the C-34 and the Fifth committee so that their results are inclusive. This is particularly important as peacekeeping is one of the most important of UN's enterprises. My delegation will engage itself in these deliberations in a pro-active and constructive manner to help realize goals of enhancing civilian capacities under the United Nations in post conflict situations.

**Mr. President,**

Peacekeeping has stood the test of time and will remain the critical pillar of UN conflict resolution activities for years to come. It also provides the umbrella for peace building.

The key requirement of today is that peacekeeping is adequately resourced and its structures strengthened. Post conflict situations and, indeed, those of prolonged conflict demand that serious attention is paid to building basic government structures and providing basic services, without which the chances of lapsing into conflict multiply manifold. The building of police capacities started many years back. Civilian capacities, including correctional services, legal and other services which form core government functions, are very important for ensuring basic administration and need to be incorporated into the UN ambit.

Their deployment will have a major impact on the staffing, resourcing and impact of peacekeeping missions but these must neither dilute nor detract from the requirements of peacekeeping. There will also be demands for beefing up

headquarters for this enhanced civilian presence. But we need to eschew the setting up of large bureaucratic structures. Our focus must remain on the field.

**Mr. President,**

We are greatly encouraged by some of the fundamental assumptions of the Report, especially recognition of national ownership as the key determinant of success in preventing relapse into conflict and the importance of support to “core government functions”. It is critical that civilian capacity deployments are demand driven. Capacity mapping to locate existing capacities and identify gaps appears a useful tool.

The report has also provided interesting intellectual constructs to outline the discussion on civilian capacity. These include the “OPEN” framework and the cluster approach to identifying tasks and responsibilities in the aftermath of conflict. These could help in better defining peacebuilding priorities and tasks.

The concept of a lead agency has to be reconciled with the requirement of unity of command, so essential in peacekeeping, and to ensure that peacebuilding does not fall victim to turf battles.

**Mr. President,**

Recommendations on the manner in which civilian capacities are to be recruited are critical to the implementation of ideas on augmenting civilian capacities.

My delegation believes that the recruitment model should give primacy to a partnership with governments of Member-States and involve the secondment of government officials. This has a number of advantages. It gives the United Nations rapid access to the required capacities; it allows rapid scaling-up and scaling-down of capacities and facilitates burden-sharing amongst Member States. Above all it provides capacities that are trained to work in and establish government structures and would mesh well with the peacekeeping personnel on the ground. Peacekeeping is amongst the most effective of all United Nations ventures and its force generation model may be the most appropriate for recruiting civilian capacities. It is important to ensure a gender balance.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation also believes that the capacities that are being sourced must be relevant to the conditions in post-conflict situations. Here it stands to reason that the expertise that is most relevant is in fellow developing countries that have undertaken successful efforts in recent times in building governance structures and arranging for better delivery of basic services. The lessons that they have learnt and the capacities that they have developed are of great significance in this exercise.

There is an international shift in many fields towards sourcing capabilities from the global South driven by sound economic and functional considerations. United Nations efforts to source capacities from developing nation would be in consonance with these broad trends based on economies and efficiencies.

**Mr. President,**

The key challenge is implementation.

While there is growing interest in post-conflict situations on the part of many international organizations, the United Nations remains in the eyes of the affected, the most credible and legitimate representative of the international community.

It's peacekeeping activities have provided the bedrock of this trust. It is imperative that civilian capacities add to this credibility.

Thank you.



**716. Statement by Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests Dr. T. Chatterjee at the opening session of the High Level Segment for the 19th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development at the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, May 11, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

**Excellencies and**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

I am honoured to address this august assembly of luminaries from various Nation States and organizations on the occasion of the Policy Session of CSD-19. During the last few days, we have been able to make substantial progress towards arriving at a commonly agreed approach to the different thematic areas.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

India recognizes that transportation is a central component of economic growth and poverty eradication. In particular, rural connectivity holds the key to

achievement of Millennium Development Goals. Improved all-weather road penetration coupled with safe, affordable and sustainable transport options are essential to ensuring access to services on one hand and markets on the other. In India, under the flagship Prime Minister's Rural Road Programme, close to 180,000 rural habitations have been connected with all-weather roads in the last ten years. In this effort, carbon emission control and wild life preservation have not been given the go by. In forest areas, safeguards to black top roads using cold mix process and under-passes for animal movements, etc, are followed. Only up to 10 metres wide roads are built in eco-sensitive zones. In rapidly expanding urban areas of developing countries, mass transportation systems need to be fast tracked in order to address the mobility crisis as well as the problem of rising air pollution. Such public transportation systems also have the advantage of promoting the cause of equity while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions.

A related issue is that of cleaner fuel technologies. Delhi today has the world's largest fleet of CNG operated buses, which is a successful example of low carbon sustainable transport. This by itself has brought down SPM levels in the capital's ambient air. However, switching over to Euro-IV and Euro-V equivalent fuels requires considerable resources and upgradation of refining capacities towards which international financial assistance is needed by the developing countries in order to supplement their national efforts.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

You are aware that India has announced a voluntary reduction of carbon emission intensity of its GDP by 20-25% by 2020 from 2005 levels. Our National Action Plan on Climate Change, through its 8 missions focuses on promoting understanding of climate threats, adaptation and mitigation through measures like energy efficiency and natural resource conservation. The debate on green economy has to address not only the issue of energy but also the twin threats of global food crisis and water crisis. In this context, a holistic approach to sustainable consumption and production framework becomes paramount.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The current Session of CSD is extremely important from the point of view of establishment of a 10 year framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. India believes that such a framework is vital to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. We hope that the developed countries will be taking a lead, in tandem with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It is essential that the key programme areas as well as the coordination mechanism are well negotiated and conform to the basic principle of avoiding imposition of new constraints on the developing countries.

Institutional innovation has to be unleashed at all levels – local, national, regional and global - so as to devise new mechanisms of enhanced resource use efficiency, holistic planning and effective low cost regulation. India has set up a National Green Tribunal in 2010 as an independent specialized forum to fast track environmental justice and ensure sustainable development. Another initiative has been the establishment of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) which has adopted a holistic approach to river conservation. A new environmental Monitoring and Assessment Authority is also on the anvil.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Another sector of vital importance is mining. Mining activities have the potential to transform lives and economies but they also have severe and often irreversible impact on not only environment and forests but national level internal security as well. Policy on mining should be guided by the Rio principles which enshrine that the States have the sovereign right to exploit their resources in accordance with national policies and legislations. Transparency in mining activities, upfront environmental impact assessment of such projects and a comprehensive strategy to check the adverse environmental and social impacts of mining activities are essential. India has a fairly robust system of environmental clearance as well as clearance for diversion of forest land. We have also adopted a National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy to address the issues related to displacement of local people. We urge that environmental consultations should take place even before allotment of mining areas for prospecting.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

India will be hosting a Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi in October 2011 on Green Economy and Sustainable Development as a small contribution from our side in the run up to Rio+20. We will also be hosting the 11th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP 11) to the Convention of Biodiversity and the 6th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP/MoP 6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety in October, 2012.

Finally, I hope, CSD-19 will come up with a clear roadmap and a workable strategy to achieve the imperatives of sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**717. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, at the UN Security Council Debate on UNMIK.**

**New York, May 12, 2011.**

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would like to join other colleagues in thanking Secretary General's Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) H.E. Mr. Lamberto Zannier for his comprehensive briefing on the situation in Kosovo and the activities of UNMIK. I also want to thank H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Serbia, for his statement outlining his country's perspective on the situation in Kosovo. We have also carefully listened to the statement of Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, Pristina's representative.

2. Mr. President, the Secretary General's report on UNMIK for the quarter ending 15 April 2011 has brought out in detail the ground situation in Kosovo. We note with satisfaction that UNMIK continues with its endeavour to provide transitional administration to Kosovo, as mandated by the UNSC Resolution 1244(1999), with active cooperation and support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX).

3. We welcome the commencement of a dialogue process between Belgrade and Pristina, facilitated by the European Union in accordance with UNGA Resolution 298 of 13th October 2010. We all know that 'from small beginnings come great things'. India has always believed that the Kosovo issue should be resolved peacefully through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties. We are happy that both the sides have agreed to start discussing the topics which impact the daily lives of the affected population most. We hope that both sides would continue with a serious dialogue till these immediate issues are resolved and eventually begin to deliberate on more complex political issues. We urge that no party should take any unilateral action that undermines this reconciliation process.

4. We appreciate UNMIK's contribution to facilitation of this dialogue process and feel that its continued engagement would be helpful.

5. We have also noted with satisfaction that UNMIK has facilitated cooperation between Belgrade and Pristina on the issues of missing persons, through the Working Group on Missing Persons, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

6. Mr. President, while the overall security situation in Kosovo, especially in the northern part, has remained relatively calm, it is a matter of concern that the underlying tension continues. Many untoward incidents of criminal assaults, armed robberies, murders, shootings, damage of religious places, etc. continue to be reported. We would appeal to the local authorities, especially the Kosovo Police, to be more vigilant and watchful.

7. The continued voluntary return of refugees, recorded by the UNHCR, is heartening but we are concerned by reports of opposition by some receiving communities.

8. It is noted that a population and housing census took place during the period of the report, except in the northern Kosovo where it would be conducted at a later date. It is hoped that the census would appropriately reflect the displaced persons and would not legalize any ethnic cleansing.

9. We have also noted the Secretary General's view that the Kosovo authorities remain fundamentally skeptical about UNMIK facilitation of their engagement in international and regional initiatives. We hope that they would not seek to undermine UNMIK's role, mandated by the UNSC and, instead, shall fully cooperate with UNMIK & other UN and EU institutions.

10. We agree with the Secretary General's view that there is a need for thorough, impartial and independent investigation in the allegations contained in Special Rapporteur Dick Marty's report. All stakeholders should agree on creation of a mechanism to carry out the follow up investigation, which should be fully supported by national and international entities present in Kosovo.

11. In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reiterate India's consistent position that all issues concerning Kosovo should be resolved peacefully through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties. Only thus can the aspirations of all the peoples be met on an enduring basis and lasting peace and stability be established in the region. We applaud the role being played by UNMIK for upholding the goals of the United Nation.

Thank you.



**718. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri in the Security Council Debate of SAG's Report to SG on Civilian Capacity Review.**

**New York, May 12, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Peacekeeping operations mandated by this Council have been the main instrument for UN action on ground for conflict resolution. They have stood the test of time and will remain the critical pillar of UN activities for years to come. However, with the Council adding constantly to their mandates, the imperative is for placing adequate resource at the disposal of these missions.

With many of the situations where UN peacekeeping missions are operating being those of prolonged conflict or post conflict, it is essential that the UN missions involve themselves in building local capacities for provision of basic administration and essential services. Civilian capacities are critical in this endeavor and their presence in a significantly enhanced manner in peacekeeping missions must engage us in the UN.

We are, therefore, very appreciative of the work done by Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno and the Senior Advisory Group in examining the issue in detail and making recommendations on how enhanced civilian capacities could be incorporated in the UN's work in post conflict situations.

We have noted that the Secretary-General has set up a Steering Committee to facilitate follow-up on this report and that his team will be led by Under-Secretary General Malcorra.

Detailed discussions on the report and the issue of enhanced civilian capacities in peacekeeping missions will have to take place in the UN. It is essential that these discussions take place in inter-governmental settings and involve the C-34 and the Fifth committee. Significantly enhancing civilian capacities will have a major impact on the staffing, resourcing and impact of peacekeeping missions but these must neither dilute nor detract from the requirements of peacekeeping. The "OPEN" framework and the cluster approach to identifying tasks and responsibilities in the aftermath of conflict could help in better defining peacebuilding priorities and tasks.

The concept of a lead agency has to be reconciled with the requirement of unity of command, so essential in peacekeeping, and to ensure that peacebuilding does not fall victim to turf battles. There will also be demands for



creating entities in New York to administer these enhanced civilian capacities. We need to avoid setting up large and top heavy bureaucratic structures. Our focus must remain on the field.

**Mr. President,**

The DPKO has been acting on provision of police capacities for many years and I am happy that India has been able to contribute both formed police units, including the first female FPU and senior police personnel to serve in management and command positions.

The report has identified several critical areas for providing core government functions, where civilian capacities are best suited. India has been included as one of the countries where capacity in several of these areas has been noted for possible tapping by the UN. In the past when called upon to provide civilian capacities for UN missions, India has responded in a prompt manner. I recall the secondment of several of our officials to the UN missions in former Yugoslavia and right now in Afghanistan.

**Mr. President,**

The report has underscored recognition of national ownership and the importance of support to "core government functions" to ensure success in preventing relapse into conflict. It is critical that national ownership is accepted in its real sense and not only by way of lip service while actually pushing for the favoured solutions by the donors. It is also critical that civilian capacity deployments are demand driven.

My delegation believes that the recruitment model should give primacy to a partnership with governments of Member-States and involve the secondment of government officials. It is also important to ensure a gender balance. This has a number of advantages. It gives the United Nations rapid access to the required capacities allowing rapid scaling-up and scaling-down of capacities. Above all it provides capacities that are trained to work in and establish government structures and would mesh well with the peacekeeping personnel on the ground. The force generation model of DPKO could be used to generate civilian capacities from member governments.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation also believes that the capacities that are being sourced must be relevant to the conditions in post-conflict situations. The expertise that is most relevant and actually tried on ground is in developing countries that have undertaken successful efforts in recent times in building governance structures and arranging for better delivery of basic services.

There is an international shift in many fields towards sourcing capabilities from the global South driven by sound economic and functional considerations.

United Nations efforts to source civilian capacities from developing nation would be in consonance with these broad trends.

**Mr. President,**

The United Nations remains in the eyes of the affected, the most credible and legitimate representative of the international community. It's peacekeeping activities have provided the bedrock of this trust. It is imperative that civilian capacities add to this credibility.

Thank you.



**719. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the General Debate of the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.**

**Istanbul, May 12, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for me to participate in this Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries.

I am grateful to the people and Government of Turkey for graciously hosting this conference and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. This historic city of Istanbul bridging the East and the West provides the perfect metaphorical setting to build a durable partnership between the international community and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Least Developed Countries are the most vulnerable and the poorest segment of the international community. Their marginalised existence, is a matter of grave concern to all those who believe in a just and humane society. The plight of the LDCs remains immeasurable. They have little or no capacity to absorb external shocks.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We live in an interconnected world where the global community shares a common destiny. What we do for the LDCs in reality is a matter of our collective interest. Supporting the cause of the LDCs goes far beyond the moral argument; it is an economic imperative and a political necessity. Without putting the LDCs in the forefront of the global development agenda, we can hardly expect progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

International support for the LDCs since 1971, when they were created as a special category of countries in the UN, has not been commensurate with their special needs. The Brussels Programme of Action has had limited success. It is no surprise then that so far only 3 countries have been able to graduate out of the Group in the last forty years.

With their limited domestic resources and meagre international support, the LDCs have worked hard to overcome their developmental challenges. But their structural weaknesses make their development a vicious cycle. The global financial, food and energy crises have had a debilitating impact on these countries reversing their hard won development gains. The LDCs are excessively dependent on global trade for economic sustenance. However, their share in global trade, in spite of preferential market access, was only 1% in 2009. There is an urgency to work for an early conclusion of the Doha Round to create more space for the LDCs in global trade.

Food and energy price volatility, threats posed by Climate Change and new and emerging challenges have further eroded the productive capacities of these countries. The debt situation in several LDCs remains untenable. While they remain saddled with myriad challenges, the LDCs are endowed with vast natural resources, huge potential for clean energy and a dynamic young population. What they need is a strong international partnership to unlock their true potential.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The LDCs have come to Istanbul with high expectations and so have we. I am hopeful that these expectations will be fulfilled. The Istanbul Programme of Action is a comprehensive document. It now needs to be backed by the highest political commitment and a genuine international partnership. I, therefore, urge all stakeholders to pledge their maximum support for the LDCs and enable them give a life of dignity and hope to their people. India, on its part, would do all it can and more for their cause.

In my appeal, I am reminded of the timeless wise words of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who said:

*“The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world’s problems”.*

The commitments made by the donor community on Official Development Assistance, market access, debt settlement, capacity building and transfer of technology must be renewed and scaled up for a meaningful implementation of the Istanbul Programme.

South-South Cooperation no doubt will play an important part in this endeavour but it cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation. Developing countries which are themselves faced with insurmountable challenges cannot be expected to take on a responsibility that they don’t have the capacity to fulfil.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Sustained economic growth is fundamental to eradicating poverty in LDCs. In this regard, we are happy to see that the LDCs are taking major steps to attract Foreign Direct Investment and promote private enterprise to boost growth. We welcome the multi-stakeholder approach of the Conference to involve the Parliamentarians, the private sector and the civil society in addressing the special needs of LDCs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India prides itself in standing shoulder to shoulder with the LDCs. Our strong ties with the LDCs have been nurtured through a shared history and common development needs. We feel particularly privileged to have played a historical role in the creation of the LDC category when we took lead to give shape to the idea at the Second UNCTAD Meeting in New Delhi in 1968. Our solidarity with the LDCs draws continuous inspiration from what our former Prime Minister Mrs. India Gandhi had to say at the 7th NAM Summit in New Delhi, and I quote:

*“Faith in future has brought so many across the continents and the oceans to meet here. We are here because we do believe that minds and attitudes can and must be changed and the injustice and suffering can and must be diminished. Our world is small but it has room for all of us to live together and to improve the quality of lives for our peoples in peace and beauty”.*

**Mr. Chairman,**

India remains fully committed to the needs of the LDCs. We have extended capacity building and economic assistance to the LDCs in their priority areas of development such as agriculture, infrastructure, telemedicine, energy, banking, and information technology under our flagship Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

In keeping with the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Declaration, we have extended duty free quota free preferential market access to their products. Our Lines of Credit worth 4.8 billion US Dollars to LDCs since 2003 and Aid for Trade programmes have led to expansion in India-LDC trade from 16.7 billion US Dollars in 2008-09 to 20.5 billion US Dollars in 2009-10, with the balance of trade being in favour of the LDCs.

Our private sector has invested more than 35 billion US Dollars in the LDCs since 2003.

During the India-LDC Ministerial Conference three months ago in New Delhi, we had announced a credit line facility of 500 million US Dollars for projects and programmes for the LDCs over the next five years under the existing Indian credit line regime for developing countries. Today, I have the pleasure to announce enhancement of that amount to 1 billion US Dollars. The additional 500 million US Dollars will come into the credit line immediately after the 500 million US Dollars announced last February are fully utilised by the beneficiaries.

At the India-LDC conference we had also offered 5 additional slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme to each LDC on an annual basis and a grant of 5 million US Dollars for the follow-up of the Istanbul Programme.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Istanbul Programme is an opportunity to give to the Least Developed Countries their rightful due. Let us make the most of it.

Thank You.



**720. Joint Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter –Terrorism Committee (CTC) Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on cooperation between the AI – Qaida and Taliban; Sanctions Committee, the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee Established pursuant to the Resolution No. 1540 [2004] at the Security Council.**

**New York, May 16, 2011.**

**Introduction**

On behalf of the Chairmen of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) dealing with the issue of terrorism, I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continued cooperation between the three Committees and their expert groups, as requested by the Council in its resolutions 1822 (2008), 1963 (2010) and 1977 (2011), and elsewhere.

The three Committees continue to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation between their respective expert groups (the Executive Directorate (CTED) of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)); welcome their continued efforts to engage in joint outreach activities, exchange of information and joint meetings; and encourage the three groups to further enhance their cooperation. On the occasion of previous briefings, the Chairmen have provided a comparative table illustrating the mandates and areas of competence of the three Committees and their expert groups that is now updated to reflect the adoption of the recent resolutions.

**Outreach**

The three Committees continue to believe that these coordinated activities are very important tools for strengthening their dialogue with Member States; for helping to improve the overall understanding of their distinct, yet complementary mandates; and for assisting Member States in their implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Council.

The three expert groups continue to implement the common strategy on dealing with non- or late-reporting States through exchange of information and joint visits, when appropriate, and in assisting Member States in submitting their responses to the three Committees on their implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. This week, representatives of the three groups

will participate in a subregional workshop “on the United Nations Security Council resolutions against terrorism and their implementation”, to be held in Doha by the Government of Qatar, with the support of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

### **Working with international, regional and sub-regional organizations**

The three expert groups continue to participate to platforms of common interest such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Pacific Islands Forum and the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money laundering in West Africa (GIABA). Also, both CTED and the Monitoring Team are observers at the Eastern and South African Anti Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG).

CTITF continues to provide a useful framework within which the three expert groups can continue coordinate their activities and continue to share information, particularly on technical assistance. The expert groups contribute to the work of several CTITF Working Groups, and the Monitoring Team and CTED have assumed leading roles in some of these Groups. The three expert groups also participate in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative. In November, the three expert groups held a consultative meeting of I-ACT focal points, hosted by CTED, and attended by other nine CTITF entities to discuss ways to enhance the use of this automated information system. The three expert groups also actively participate in the meeting of the CTITF Working Group on Border Management, chaired by CTED, and hosted by the World Customs Organization in Brussels in January 2011. The Monitoring Team, as the co-chair of the CTITF Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, also co-organized a conference in Saudi Arabia in January 2011 on the Use of Internet to Counter the Appeal of Extremist Violence, in which CTED participated. The three groups also participated in the second expert meeting under the project on “Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia”, held by CTITF in Tajikistan in March 2011.

### **Exchange of information**

Exchange of information is carried out on a regular basis and through joint work conducted by two or more groups when participating in the same event, such as the recent CTED workshop on challenges to border control in the Maghreb and the Sahel, at which the Monitoring Team participated. Similarly, the Monitoring Team joined the Counter-Terrorism Committee’s recent special meeting with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, held at the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on measures related to the prevention

of terrorism. The two groups also contributed to the discussion on preventing the abuse of the non-profit sector to finance terrorism, co-organized by CTED in Bangkok in March 2011. Both CTED and the Expert Group of 1540 Committee also participated at the Ninth Meeting of National focal Points of Contact of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) in March 2011.

CTED continues to share with the two other expert groups the monthly reports of the Executive Director which include reports on all CTED missions. In addition to information on website, there is a reciprocal arrangement for access to electronic databases.

### **Joint meetings**

The three expert groups continue to hold regular meetings in preparation for visits, workshops and other joint activities related to specific States, regions or themes. The Counter-Terrorism Committee also regularly invites the other two expert groups, CTITF and other relevant United Nations entities to meetings with international and regional organizations and to its thematic briefings in the framework of its official meetings, such as thematic briefing on the issue of assisting Member States to implement the requirements of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) with respect to cash couriers, and the briefing by the Secretary-General of OSCE in February 2011 to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

### **Representation**

Another emerging area of cooperation is for one of the three groups to represent another group at certain events. For example, the Monitoring team representing CTED at the FATF meeting held in Cape Town in November 2010, and CTED representing the Monitoring Team during its participation in the Meeting of International, regional and sub-regional organizations on cooperation in promoting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and hosted by Austria in December 2010. CTED also represented the Monitoring Team during its participation in the Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (WGCT) in Auckland, New Zealand, which was co-chaired by New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat this month. CTED also conveys to Governments, on behalf of the Monitoring Team, requests to submit information and responses to the "1267" Committee. In general, during their participation in these various events, the expert groups continue to explain to participants the respective activities and mandates of the three Committees, as well as the content and purpose of the Global Strategy.



**Co-location**

As mentioned in the previous joint statement, co-location of the three expert groups would greatly contribute to enhanced cooperation and information exchange among them. We therefore appreciate the response by the Secretariat that they will continue exploring all options with a view towards co-locating the groups at the earliest possible opportunity, notwithstanding the challenges associated with such co-location.

**Conclusion**

The three subsidiary bodies and their respective expert groups will continue to cooperate and to coordinate their work, within their respective mandates with a view to ensuring an effective and efficient approach to counter-terrorism, whether within the framework of the United Nations or within the framework of the broader efforts of the international community. The three Committees look forward to receiving further guidance from the Council on areas of common interest and to further strengthening their joint activities.



**721. Briefing by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Counter Terrorism at the United Nations Security Council.**

**New York, May 16, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I have the honour to assume the Chairmanship of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) from the beginning of this year. I would like to thank my distinguished predecessor Ambassador Erturul Apakan of Turkey for the excellent work in steering the Committee in 2010.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to brief the Council on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) since the last briefing in November, 2010.

**Mr. President,**

Terrorism is a global scourge and constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The United Nations strongly condemns

terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever, and for whatever purposes. It is an attack on human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments. The CTC, in accordance with its mandate, continues to work actively in advancing the global fight against terrorism.

The Committee in its work has been guided by relevant Security Council resolutions including resolution 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

The Security Council Presidential Statement adopted on May 2, 2011 in the aftermath of the death of Osama bin Laden stresses the need for full implementation of its resolutions on terrorism as well as other applicable international counter-terrorism instruments. It also calls on all States to work together to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorist attacks while ensuring that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Important tools in the Committee's work include Preliminary Implementation Assessments (PIA), visits to Member States, facilitating the provision of technical assistance, enhancing cooperation and coordination with international, regional and sub-regional organizations and identification and promotion of international best practices, codes and standards.

The Committee, through CTED, is also making use of alternative technologies, including video conferencing, to enhance its dialogue with Member States.

**Mr. President,**

The Committee continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic and regional issues. The major issues considered by the Committee include the control of cash couriers, abuse of non-profit sector for terrorist financing, and application of good practices for the implementation and assessment of resolution 1624 (2005). Important workshops organized during this period include the launch of CTED's global initiative in London from January 18-20, 2011 to prevent the abuse of the non-profit sector for terrorist financing within the framework of the CTITF Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism and the workshop on challenges to effective border control in the Sahel and the Maghreb region, organized in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania from April 4-6, 2011.

The Committee is also focussing on regional-specific discussions, on issues identified in the 2009 survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States (S/2009/620, annex). A regional discussion on Central Asia was held earlier this month.

In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity building.

**Mr. President,**

The Committee has adopted its work programme this year on an annual basis, which will be helpful in further streamlining the functioning of the Committee. Earlier, the Committee has been formulating its work programme on a biannual basis.

In pursuance of resolution 1963 (2010), CTED is working towards providing an updated Global Implementation Survey of resolution 1373 (2001) by 30 June 2011 and a Global Implementation Survey of resolution 1624 (2005) by 31 December 2011. The Committee has also adopted a Plan of Action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).

As part of enhancing its interaction with international and regional organizations and United Nations entities, the Committee has heard briefings on counter-terrorism in February this year by Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE, and Mr. Alexey Kuzyura, Head of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services of the Russian Federation.

Further, of particular significance is the CTC's Special Meeting with international regional and sub-regional organizations on 'Prevention of Terrorism' held at Strasbourg, France from 19-21 April 2011 in collaboration with the Council of Europe. The Meeting offered an opportunity to the Committee, the CTED and various international, regional and sub-regional organizations to hold open and in-depth discussions about the preventive aspects of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Special Meeting focussed on three main areas viz. prevention policies, comprehensive and integrated strategies, and the role of law enforcement in preventing terrorism. Experts from civil society organizations also actively participated in the event. The Committee appreciates the close cooperation and generous support from the Council of Europe in planning and hosting this event. While the Committee and CTED will follow up on this important meeting, the Chair's summary is in process of being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

**Mr. President,**

This year marks an important milestone in the global counter-terrorism efforts as we approach the tenth anniversary of adoption of Resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee will organize a special meeting open to the wider membership and other relevant stakeholders, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption this resolution and the establishment of the Committee.

Other major upcoming events include a workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan for members of Parliament of Pakistan on strengthening the oversight role of the Parliament in the implementation of AML/CFT laws, the fourth Regional Workshop for Police Officers and Prosecutors in South Asia on Effectively Countering Terrorism, to be held in Thimphu, Bhutan, and a workshop in Belgrade for countries from South East Europe on the law enforcement aspects of preventing the financing of terrorism.

**Mr. President,**

I attach high priority to enhance transparency, public outreach and strengthening cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. Besides participating in the CTC's Special Meeting at Strasbourg last month, I also participated in the meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of the American States held in Washington in March, 2011.

In conclusion, the Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism. The Committee will try to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that it can more effectively contribute to the global counterterrorism efforts within its mandate. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director, CTED and his team for their excellent work. I also wish to thank the Secretariat for its continuous support.

Thank you.



**722. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.**

**New York, May 17, 2011.**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Let me start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by the two Co-Chairs (Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius ekuolis of Lithuania) to convene this meeting to discuss the role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the process of selecting and appointing Secretaries General of the United Nations and selection of other Executive Heads in the UN system organizations. This is a clear affirmation of the importance that the UN membership attaches to the issue. We will therefore try to sincerely and faithfully address all relevant aspects with a view to contribute positively to the work of this Working Group.

Naturally we align ourselves with the statement made by our colleague from Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Co-Chairs,**

The fact is that the political role of the Secretary-General is writ large both in terms of the functions envisaged for him or her under the Charter as well as those that accrued to him or her over the years. The specific content of the Secretary-General's political role is outlined in Articles 12 para 2 and 99 of the UN Charter and relevant rules of procedure of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Further, over the past six decades, the good offices and mediatory roles of the Secretary General as well as the work of his Special Representatives have only served to reinforce and flesh out the political nature of the job.

In such a scenario, the continued circumscribing of the General Assembly's role and responsibilities in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General needs to change in the interests of the United Nations system in general and the Assembly's prerogatives in particular. Permit me to elaborate on this.

**Co-Chairs,**

Member-states are well-aware of the fact that General Assembly Resolution 11 (1) of February 1946 which lays out the "Terms of appointment of the

Secretary-General” was the product of an era gone by. It was the result of irreconcilable differences between the pre-eminent yet opposing power camps in the international system on the implementation of Article 97 of the Charter which states, “The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.” These differences arose because the Charter provision was not self-executing.

In our view, the 1946 Resolution erred on the side of caution when it broke down the decision-making process into two compartmentalized, linear procedures, one of which was to be carried out in the Council and the other in the Assembly. As a result, what we have today is one decision taken in the Council on nominating a candidate and another decision taken in the General Assembly on appointing the candidate. The error was compounded by the subsequent practice of the UN system of not insisting on a panel of candidates for the Assembly’s consideration despite the fact that the 1946 Resolution merely stated that it would be “desirable” as against obligatory “for the Security Council to proffer one candidate only for the consideration of the General Assembly.”

Further, the Security Council’s consideration of the process of recommendation of the only candidate for the post of Secretary-General was defined as a decision which “shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of the permanent members”, while in the case of the Assembly it was to be a decision in which “a simple majority” of the members present and voting is sufficient. Herein lies the second error, that is similar processes having differential weightage. In other words, the “recommendation” stage of the process which is carried out by the Council overwhelmed the “appointment” stage which is the responsibility of the Assembly.

The combination of the factors and developments I have just mentioned has resulted in a situation whereby the Assembly’s role and responsibilities have gradually whittled away. Many have characterized this as converting the Assembly into a mere rubber-stamp of the Council’s recommendation.

### **Co-Chairs,**

What is to be done? The answer is clear. Being the voice of the international community, the General Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. In this regard, there are a number of important elements that the UN membership can consider as medium-term measures that could be applied the next time the post of Secretary General becomes vacant.

For instance, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 51/241 of 22 August 1997 and 60/286 of 9 October 2006, which outline in detail proposals on improving the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. Further, the practice established by GA Resolution 11 (1) can be modified to allow for the Council to send a panel of names that the Assembly could choose from as against a single nomination. Additionally, if the member-states attach high importance to the role and responsibilities of the Assembly, we see no reason why the matter should not be "decided by a two-thirds majority" in terms of Article 18 (3) as against the one with a simple majority requirement in Resolution 11 (1). We could also identify objective criteria for the candidatures, including commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, extensive leadership, administrative and diplomatic experience with due regard being given to regional rotation and gender equality. Equally useful and practical would be to encourage formal presentation of candidatures in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with member-states, and also requires candidates to present their views to all member-states of the General Assembly.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

Only with real changes can we ensure that the General Assembly exercises its judgment in the matter of the appointment of the Secretary-General, rather than merely rubber stamping proposals by the Security Council while ensuring that the appointment process does not become a divisive issue between the General Assembly and the Security Council. Indeed, as envisaged in the Charter, this is a process that involves both these organs and needs to be carried out in a collaborative exercise respecting each other's mandate.

#### **Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Permit me to briefly turn the matter of selection of other Executive Heads in the UN system organizations. Our position flows from the clear guidelines in the Charter.

The Charter provisions clearly reflect the desire of the UN membership to have an international civil service which displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity and which is accountable therefore, if not in higher, but at least in equal measure as the Secretary General is to the General Assembly. In addition, we would welcome closer consideration of procedures for selecting, appointing and confirming the heads of the major Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes with a view to ensuring transparency, legitimacy and balanced representation. We therefore,

welcome a careful consideration of the Joint Inspection Unit report, JIU/REP/2009/8.

In conclusion, distinguished Co-Chairs let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body of the international community.

You can expect our constructive support and participation in your efforts.

Thank You.



**723. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UNSC Debate on the Democratic Republic of Congo.**

**New York, May 18, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President,**

1. I would like to thank the French Presidency of the Security Council for organizing this timely debate. I would also like to thank Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Minister Tshibanda for their comprehensive briefings. The issues that they have raised and the approach they have suggested should guide us in today's deliberations. We hope today's debate would determine contours of international community's approach to sustain the progress made so far in DRC.

**Mr. President,**

2. First of all, I would like join others in expressing our deepest regret for the tragic crash of MONUSCO-contracted airplane on April 4, 2011 in Kinshasa that resulted in loss of life of 33 passengers and crew that included UN staff. We express our heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones, colleagues and friends.

**Mr. President,**

3. The Democratic Republic of Congo is witnessing a critical period in its history. The progress achieved so far in restoring peace and stability needs to be consolidated by entrenching democratic values, focusing on improving security and rule of law and adopting policies conducive for overall economic development of the country. The challenges are indeed difficult but not insurmountable.



4. Holding of credible elections this year would go a long way in sustaining stability in the country. We hope that elections will be held according to the time table in a free and fair manner. The Commission Electorale Nationale Independante (CENI) has already started work on voter registration, consultations with opposition parties and code of conduct. The civil society, media and NGOs should support CENI in creating awareness among the population.

5. India, as the largest democracy in the world, strongly believes in the importance of creating effective representative democratic institutions to address the problems of the society. The international community, including the UN and MONUSCO, should help the DRC authorities in holding free and fair elections.

**Mr. President,**

6. Long-term peace and stability cannot be sustained without security and this can only be ensured with effective enforcement of rule of law. Today, most part of DRC except eastern region is free from conflict that the country witnessed during the civil war. The presence of armed groups in eastern provinces of Kivu, Maniema and Katanga poses a serious threat to the existence of the State authorities and they capacity to protect civilians. Unabated acts of violence by elements of armed groups such as Forces Democratiques de Liberation du Rwanda (FDLR), Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL) and Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba are a matter of serious concern. The situation has been further aggravated by acts of human right violations and sexual violence by elements of Force Armes de la Republique Democratique du Congo (FARDC). The involvement of various armed groups including some elements of security forces in illegal mining is also worrisome. Furthermore, the menace of Lord Resistance Army (LRA) is not just limited to Orientale province but is affecting the whole region. We are also gravely concerned with the precarious humanitarian situation.

7. Focus should, therefore, be on effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of various armed groups. The success achieved so far in DDR process should be sustained and issues of impunity dealt with. We are glad to note that the reforms in security, police and justice sector starting from training and sensitization to human rights issues, effective prosecution and expeditious judicial process are, indeed, priority for the government.

8. Security and law & order issues are intrinsically linked to economic development. It is now time for the international community to look beyond peacekeeping and help the DRC authorities in peace building efforts, including investments in agriculture, infrastructure and industries for overall economic development.

**Mr. President,**

9. MONUSCO peacekeepers have been doing the most commendable work in the most difficult circumstances. The soldier to population and soldier to land area ratios are extremely low in eastern DRC where MONUSCO is largely deployed. There is an urgent need for this Council to address the issues of resource gap for MONUSCO because security, rule of law, institution building and effective governance are processes that will have to be pursued simultaneously by this Mission. An integrated approach incorporating these objectives requires cooperation of all stakeholders and provision of adequate resources by the international community.

**Mr. President,**

10. India has had a long association with the DRC as one of the major troop contributing countries over the last five decades. Our first presence in the country dates as far back as March 1961 during the Katanga province crisis. Currently, our contribution to MONUSCO stands at 4,318 troops. Keeping in mind the resource gap in MONUSCO, we extended the service of our six utility helicopters till April this year. We continue to extend services of four combat helicopters beyond the committed period.

11. Indian contingent has made significant contributions in the humanitarian and development activities in eastern DRC, including building and rehabilitating community centers and vocational training schools, as well as setting up laboratories for IT training and building markets. In the course of its involvement in peacekeeping operations in Congo, 36 of our soldiers have made supreme sacrifice.

**Mr. President,**

12. In addition to its contribution to MONUSCO, India has also cooperated with the government of DRC in development programmes. We have a line of credit worth US\$ 318.5 million for projects like power generation, railways, rural water supply and supply of buses. We have also offered to set up an IT center of Excellence and three learning stations under Hole-in-the-wall computer education project in DRC. India offers 60 training slots for short and medium term technical courses and 10 slots for longer-term professional courses. The two countries are cooperating in building of low cost houses. India remains committed to play its part in support of the government of DRC in strengthening and capacity building of its national institutions, both in security and civilian areas.

Thank you.



**724. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.**

**New York, May 25, 2011.**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Let me start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by the two Co-Chairs (Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius Ėekuolis of Lithuania) to convene this meeting to discuss the subject of "enhancing the functions of the Office of the President of the General Assembly including strengthening its institutional memory, and its relationship with the Secretariat."

**Co-chairs,**

In so far as my delegation is concerned, we view today's discussions as part of an overall package which will result in the revitalization of the General Assembly. This should, inter alia, ensure that the sanctity, and the role of this principal organ of the United Nations system is not only preserved but strengthened.

At the outset, permit me to align ourselves with the statement made by our colleague from Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Co-chairs,**

We call for augmenting the resources to ensure the efficient and successful functioning of the office of the PGA in keeping with its dignity and prestige. In our mind, providing the resources in terms of protocol and security for the PGA needs to be done forthwith. The relevant provisions of 64/301 should be addressed without any delay.

We also need to find ways and means to institutionalize the existing trust fund established to address the issue of the increasing financial burden associated with the enhanced activities and travel of the PGA. We need to have a sustainable system in place. And the first step in that direction is to have the full facts on the structure and working of this trust fund.

**Co-Chairs,**

There is a palpable desire among the wide UN membership to have a PGA's office that displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity. We, the member-states should help in this process. There are a number of steps that can be taken in this regard.

First, we need to maintain the fine balance between two factors relevant to the composition of the office of the PGA. On the one hand, we must ensure that the geographical balance of General Assembly membership is reflected in the composition of the Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly. On the other hand, we must apply this principle in synergy with a merit based system that helps assemble the most effective team.

Second, a certain degree of continuity between the incoming and outgoing Presidents and their Cabinets is necessary. There are many ways to do this, but we believe that the two Presidents are the best judges of how to go about the same.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

In conclusion, let me reiterate my delegation's basic position that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected in letter and in spirit. We will continue to support your work in the future to ensure the success of our common endeavour to revitalize the General Assembly.

Thank you.



**725. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN  
Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the UN Security Council  
Debate on ICTY / ICTR.**

**New York, June 6, 2011.**

Thank you **Mr. President.**

At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking the President of the ICTY, Judge Robinson and the President of the ICTR, Judge Khan for their presentations and assessment of the work of the Tribunals. We also appreciate the briefings given by the two Prosecutors.

2. India welcomes the progress made by the two Tribunals in expediting their work. We appreciate the measures adopted to implement the Completion Strategy. The Tribunals have set up new benchmarks and adopted innovative procedures to expedite their day to day work, including e-Court and e-Filing, amendments to the rules of procedure and evidence and case management

techniques. The adoption and implementation of e-Court and e-Filing procedures could serve as a useful model in national courts to which some of the cases have been transferred.

3. We are happy to note that the ICTY has transferred all low and mid-level accused from its trial docket to the national courts in accordance with the Council's resolution 1503 and that the prosecutor is continuously monitoring the progress of the referred proceedings in national courts in the region. We also commend the efforts of the Prosecutor including training initiatives, aimed at strengthening the capacity of national systems to handle these cases through effective partnerships with national prosecutors and courts in the region.

4. **Mr. President**, it is critical that the Tribunals finish their work on time. We have listened very carefully to the concerns raised by the Presidents of the two Tribunals in relation to their ability to keep pace with their work while adhering to expected timelines until the 'close of business'. The Judges have pointed out that the Tribunal's trials and appeals continue to be affected by staffing shortages and the loss of highly efficient staff members. We share the concerns expressed by Judges, especially on the need for retaining adequate and experienced staff.

5. Careful consideration should be given to the suggestions made by the Tribunals on how to address this challenge. This is a practical issue and requires consideration of pragmatic and innovative solutions and we stand ready to work with other members of the Council to solve it.

6. Judge Robinson has also raised the issue concerning enforcement of sentences, which is an important one and needs further consideration.

7. **Mr. President**, we welcome the cooperation extended by all States concerned to the Tribunals, which is vital to ensure the completion of the mandates of the Tribunals as well as for the implementation of the Completion Strategy. The arrest of Ratko Mladi is an important example of effective cooperation and we appreciate Serbia's sustained efforts in this regard. We hope that the remaining fugitives would be located soon and surrendered to the tribunals.

8. We also note with satisfaction the progress made by the ICTY Residual Mechanism Steering Committee in the implementation of International Residual mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (RM) established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1966 (2010). A multitude of factors are involved in this process and we hope that the RM Steering Committee, in coordination with the ICTR, the Office of Legal affairs (OLA), the Archives and Record Management Section and the Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals (IWGIT),

will accomplish this task smoothly and successfully. Any functional, operational or institutional issue in the Completion Strategy may be addressed by the Council as and when they arise.

9. In conclusion, Mr. President, we believe that the two Tribunals have admirably implemented their mandates. We consider that the support of the Security Council is crucial at this critical juncture in the life of the Tribunals. At the same time, we urge both Tribunals to take all necessary steps to keep the trial and appeal schedules on track. This will pave the way for successful trials of the remaining accused and a smooth transition to effective Residual Mechanism.

Thank you.



**726. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on maintenance of International Peace and Security – Impact of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic on International Peace and Security at the Security Council.**

**New York, June 7, 2011.**

**Mr. President** [the President of Gabon],

We are honored by your presiding over the Council at this debate. Please allow me to join others in welcoming you to New York.

We would also like express our appreciation for the efforts of your delegation in organizing this debate and during the negotiation of the resolution.

My thanks are also due to the Secretary General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon and UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe, for their statements.

**Mr. President,**

HIV/AIDS is a scourge of our times. It has caused untold misery affecting the lives of millions of people across the globe though some parts of the world have been more adversely affected by HIV and AIDS than others.

I am glad that thirty years after the HIV became known, the efforts of the international community and national governments are beginning to show positive movements on our being able to tackle HIV and AIDS.

The need of the hour is to continue these efforts with acceleration and ensure that the international community is intense in its support of national efforts

The lack of firm commitment for financial resources for developing countries to bolster their prevention and treatment systems, including through capacity building, and the high cost of medicines exacerbated through trade and IPR barriers for generics require serious and immediate attention of the international community.

**Mr. President,**

On our part in India we have strived with all determination to control and tackle the spread of HIV and AIDS with a massive National AIDS Control Programme at the centre of our efforts. The targeted intervention programme is buttressed with a more broad based awareness and educational programmes. In addition, involvement of community and civil society at all stages of policy has also provided the necessary impetus in our success.

The latest statistics show an overall reduction in adult HIV prevalence and new infection in India. Adult HIV prevalence has declined from 0.41% in 2000 to 0.31% in 2009. Moreover, the estimated number of new annual HIV infections has reduced by more than 50% over the past decade, from 270,000 in 2000 to 120,000 in 2009. However, our disease burden in absolute terms is high at 2.27 million and it is estimated that nearly 172,000 people died of AIDS related illnesses in India.

India's contribution to the global fight against HIV and AIDS has gone well beyond our national boundaries. Dubbed as the "pharmacy of the world", our pharmaceutical companies have been in the forefront to ensure supply and access of safe, effective, affordable and good quality generic anti-retroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS to other developing countries in dire need of such medicines.

**Mr. President,**

The immense challenge posed by the spread of HIV/AIDS has had across the board implications for societies on the economic, social, legal and moral fronts. It has weakened the abilities of affected people and societies from pursuing progress on well-being.

With the highest prevalence rates and disease burdens being in societies that have nothing to do with conflict, HIV and AIDS has not created conditions of instability and insecurity, apprehensions in UNSCR 1308 notwithstanding. We must, however, recognize the possibilities of the epidemic being fuelled in situations of armed conflict and post conflict.

In armed conflicts and post-conflict situations there is also lack of information or credible data on the magnitude of HIV and AIDS.

It is critical that UN response in the field in such situations is cognizant of this fact. UN Mission leaders, be it civilian or military, should be sensitive to this important global public health challenge.

We welcome the incorporation of HIV awareness activities in mandated activities of peacekeepers and outreach projects for vulnerable communities. Uniformed peacekeeping personnel can also be effective agents of change in such missions. We also strongly support HIV and AIDS preventive measures to be part of the preparation and discipline of peacekeeping forces. Well informed UN mission personnel in the field can make a significant difference to the success of such additional tasks assigned to them. In this context I would like to refer to the abhorrent and intolerable practice of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, which could lead to the spread of HIV and AIDS.

We strongly support the orientation of the operational and peacekeeping activities of the United Nations towards recognizing the plight of women and children in conflict areas and proactively work towards preventing violence against them.

**Mr. President,**

The General Assembly is convening at High Level on HIV and AIDS from tomorrow with the presence of a large number of Heads of States and Governments and Ministers. We should not allow the vision of a world without HIV and AIDS to remain a dream. We are hopeful that the new Declaration, which will be adopted by the General Assembly on Friday, will demonstrate the strong commitment of the international community to face this global challenge in a resolute and determined manner.

Thank you, Mr. President.





**727. Statement by Minister of Health and Family Planning Ghulam Nabi Azad at the Plenary of the High Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS, at the 65th Session of the United Nation General Assembly.**

**New York, June 8, 2011.**

**Mr President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

At the outset, I would like to compliment the President of the General Assembly for organizing this High Level Event on HIV/AIDS. The UN Secretary General's report has shown that the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to outpace the response to contain and prevent its spread. This situation persists despite three decades of concerted efforts to combat this epidemic. Therefore, this High Level Meeting for comprehensively reviewing the progress in realizing the "Declaration of Com

mitment on HIV/AIDS" and "Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS" adopted in 2001 & 2006, respectively comes at a very opportune time.

The presence of a large number of Heads of States and Governments, Health Ministers, other eminent leaders, representatives Civil Society, NGOs and professionals from around the globe is a clear endorsement of the need for this event. I also commend the efforts of the Permanent Representatives of Australia and Botswana for steering the difficult negotiations of the draft Declaration to a successful conclusion.

**Mr. President,**

permit me, with all humility to suggest, that along with declarations we need effective up scaling of our actions and resources if we wish to steal a march over this global epidemic. Our actions must match our words.

India has a strong prevention programme which goes hand in hand with care, support and treatment. We have been able to contain the epidemic with a prevalence of just 0.31 %. We have also brought about a decline of 50% in new infections annually. Over the last decade, there is evidence of stabilization of the epidemic with definite success in reversal in some parts of the country.

Our focus has been on high risk groups, expanding services and improving access to Anti Retro Viral Therapy. Universal access to second line ART and early infant diagnosis are in an advanced stage of being rolled out. Strategies for behaviour change communication include “The Red Ribbon Express”, which is a unique train that covers the length and breadth of the country disseminating awareness about HIV/AIDs and providing services to about 8 million people annually.

We are now at the threshold of commencing the next phase of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP – IV). Mother to child transmission of the infection continues to be a challenge. We aspire to achieve zero transmission in the new born.

Our strategy in India is to convert the 27 million annual pregnancies into institutional deliveries for efficacious preventive interventions through better detection of HIV positivity amongst pregnant women. From a paltry Seven hundred thousand institutional deliveries in 2006, the number of institutional deliveries has increased to over 10 million in 2010. This year onwards institutional deliveries at government health institutions are being made cashless. Diagnostic tests, drugs, diet, transport would be provided free of cost to all pregnant women and sick new-born.

I am confident, that this significant step will help in the elimination of transmission of HIV from the mother to her new born, apart from further reducing IMR, MMR and improving immunization levels.

We are also launching a new initiative to deliver male and female contraceptives at the household level.

This scheme of door to door distribution, through Eight hundred thousand Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), will initially be implemented in 233 districts of 17 provinces, covering an approximate population of 200 million and will be scaled-up to cover the entire country soon.

This will help us in prevention of spread of HIV infection and in our population stabilization efforts.

We are conscious that persons infected and affected with HIV still face stigma, which is not only a barrier for accessing services, but also a violation of their rights. India is committed to fight this stigma so that people living with HIV can live lives of dignity.

Investments in public health continue to be an over-riding priority of the Government of India.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

At today's critical time in our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, it is imperative that the international community remain highly engaged. A foremost requirement is to bridge the resource gap. It is essential that the international community continues to commit funds commensurate with the requirement for containing HIV/AIDS.

Besides, the international community has to dismantle barriers that obstruct universal access to treatment. A key barrier in universal access to treatment is the high cost of Anti Retro Viral medicines.

Pharmaceutical companies in my country have been providing high quality and affordable drugs for use not only in India but also supplying to around 200 countries. I would also like to take this opportunity to make it abundantly clear that these generic drugs are not cheap in terms of quality. It is important that considerations of commerce and profitability are not used to erect artificial barriers between life and death. I would also like to urge the international community to work together for removing barriers in the form of Intellectual Property Rights or other means. We must ensure, that all flexibilities in TRIPS must be used for better availability of affordable medicines.

Therefore, we need proactive and collective action from the international community to dismantle these barriers and improve the availability of accessible, affordable and quality drugs for the needy and impoverished.

**Mr. President,**

With these words, let me join others in reaffirming India's strong commitment and firm resolve to fight this epidemic in a concerted and collaborative manner.

Thank you for attention.



**728. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at UNDP Segment of the Annual Session 2011 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS.**

**New York, June 13, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

At the outset, permit me to thank Administrator Helen Clark for her comprehensive opening remarks.

We take heart from the positive examples of progress in UNDP interventions across the world that Administrator Clark has flagged in the course of her remarks. These examples highlight the cross-cutting and multi-dimensional activities of the UNDP at the ground level encompassing, inter alia, poverty reduction, mitigating the impact of AIDS, increasing democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environment and sustainable development, and strengthening development effectiveness.

Such a wide sweep of activities gives the UNDP a unique role within the UN system, thereby positioning it to combat persistent challenges that impede progress and bridge the gaps in the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, we welcome the UNDP's strategic focus on reviving the organization to improve its ability to deliver development results in programme countries. Only a strong and robust organization can deliver the kind of change that is needed to truly revitalize the development agenda and to bring about sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development - the three broad goals for advancing human development reaffirmed in the mid-term review of the strategic plan.

The expectations from the UNDP as the largest developmental arm of the United Nations are enormous. While appreciating the complex nexus of issues that inform the development agenda, we would like to see a greater sense of urgency in addressing the core challenges of poverty eradication, food security and energy access that constitute the most pressing development issues facing programme countries. We further expect full alignment of UNDP activities and strategies with the national development strategies of programme countries, both in principle and practice. Only then do we have a real chance at delivering durable solutions and genuine progress.

My delegation believes that South-South cooperation is an important and practical mode of cooperation that can meaningfully supplement other streams of cooperation. If UNDP genuinely wants to invest in such cooperation, it not only needs to give it sustained attention at the highest levels, but also devote real resources to nurturing it and shore up its efforts in this direction. Moreover, the focus of such efforts should be to bring together the expertise and technical capacities of the South with UNDP resources in joint partnerships. India, for its part, is actively involved in exploring further options to step up its engagement with UNDP to share our development experiences with other developing countries.

**Madam President,**

In so far as India is concerned, while we have benefitted from robust economic growth in recent years, we remain cognizant that the largest concentration of poor in the world continues to remain in our country and our region. The government's efforts are therefore focused on pushing for growth while simultaneously ensuring that the fruits of growth percolate to every section of society. We are pursuing this goal through a large plank of ambitious socio-economic development programmes.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, with an annual budget of US\$ 8 billion, is the largest "cash for work" poverty alleviation programme in the world and has benefited 50 million rural households in India so far.

Indian law mandates that all Indian children in the age group of 6 to 14 years must receive free education. The *Sarva Shikshya Abhiyan*, a universal elementary education programme with an annual budget of US\$ 3 billion has dramatically increased primary school enrolment. We also run the largest free school-lunch programme in the world to ensure that children remain in school while also giving them balanced nutrition. This is being supplemented by *Saakshar Bharat*, a special programme focused on female literacy launched in 2009.

In the area of women's empowerment, India runs one of the largest-scale affirmative action initiatives ever by mandating that one-third of all elected positions in local government be reserved for women. We are striving to raise this figure even higher. More than a million women representatives already hold elected positions. A legislation to extend reservation of seats in Parliament is under consideration.

Our challenges in the areas of women's and children's health are enormous. We are undertaking multi-pronged strategy to ensure progress including

through the National Rural Health Mission launched in 2005 to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable health care in the rural areas.

**Madam President,**

Before concluding, we would like to add our voice of support to those that have called for more sustained support to the most vulnerable and poorest amongst us. We encourage UNDP to enhance its focus on the development needs of the least developed countries and low-income countries. We expect to see UNDP play a pro-active role in the follow up to the LDC-IV conference in Istanbul. The success of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) is pivotal in order to improve the state of development in the world.

I thank you, Madam President.

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**Extempore Remarks delivered by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri  
Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations At  
UNDP Segment of the Annual Session 2011 of the Executive Board of  
UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS (June 13, 2011)**

**Madam President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor, Madam President. My prepared statement is there for circulation. Please therefore allow me to offer some extempore remarks.

**Madam President,**

First of all I would like to join many others in thanking the Executive Director Ms. Helen Clark for her comprehensive opening remarks. We are meeting here at the time of reviewing the strategic plan. We are also meeting her about four years before our target deadline for meeting the MDGs.

**Madam President,**

you would agree that it is time for us to introspect, given that we still have a long way to go in meeting the MDGs, including the most important of the challenges, that of poverty eradication. Let me say so, I come from a country which has done well - we have had progress, we have had growth, but we have still continued to remain the country and the region with the largest concentration of poor. You know one speaks with a certain amount of knowledge, of having faced some of these issues.

In such a time, Madam Administrator, you would allow us to ask this simple question - What can UNDP do for us? You would allow us to mention at least in brief a few areas which are truly of high priority for us – for the UN's major arm on development, the all encompassing body, which reaches out to the developing world for development.

We, of course, are completely with you in saying that we work for sustainable, inclusive and resilient development. Indeed the guiding motto of the Five Year plan currently in force in India is of inclusive growth – which you, Madam Administrator, and your colleagues are well aware of. We believe without doubt that a robust UNDP would be a very good thing for the organization and also for all of us who benefit from your activities.

I just want to make one small observation on an issue that keeps coming up – the issue of transparency – you know, coming from the world's most open society, the largest number of NGOs, freedom of press, we are certainly for transparency and for the fact that it is very important. Member states as being integral to the UN and the UNDP are equally important – they all have their rightful place and I'm sure we can find means and ways of addressing one and the other in a synergized sort of manner.

Madam Administrator, what are the areas, in which I would request to see UNDP's strong and active involvement - without doubt the first one is poverty eradication, I mentioned to you that we are four years away from the MDG target dates, we still have a long way to go, it is absolutely imperative, we know the limitation, we know financial situations in many parts of the world. But I think it behoves all of us, as the international community, particularly at the UN, that our organization - which is UNDP – stands at the forefront of poverty eradication.

Madam Administrator, I would like you to do this not only as a part of the implementation of programs but to throw your considerable weight behind poverty eradication, growth and inclusive growth in major international negotiations, international discussions and discourse in the global polity. This will certainly carry a great deal of weight and be of immense benefit to developing countries.

We of course have issues of energy access which stands paramount too. Today we are seeing a spike in global hydrocarbon prices; these are bound to have impact on many parts of the world where development still needs to be pursued in a very concerted manner. We see issues of food security, a day does not go by where we are not reminded, even though we might have

some of the best and largest harvests in terms of quantity of grain, that we still face the prospect of droughts and famines – all of these need to be tackled. We hope to see the UNDP get more involved in this particular endeavor.

South-South cooperation, this is another area where you have been active, Madam Administrator. We have all been active in our own ways to the extent of capacities that we have. My country is certainly very proud of what we are able to do for fellow countries in the South, and even be able to provide financial partnerships in the way that we are able to do so. I believe this is an important and core area of the UNDP that is worth our while to nurture it through devotion of real resources, real efforts and management involvement. In terms of these efforts, I will leave you with the thought, of bringing together expertise and technical capacities of the South with UNDP resources for a joint partnership.

Let me stop here, Madam Administrator and Madam President, because time is running out and we have 30 odd speakers more. Before concluding, let me add my voice to those that have called for more sustained support to the most vulnerable and poorest amongst us. We encourage UNDP to enhance its focus on the development needs of the least developed countries and low-income countries. We expect to see UNDP play a pro-active role in the follow up to the LDC-IV conference in Istanbul. The success of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) is pivotal in order to improve the state of development in the world.

I thank you, Madam President.





**729. Explanation of Vote by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri [After the adoption of the two resolutions succeeding 1267 Sanctions Regime] at the Security Council.**

**New York, June 17, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

International cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures are the critical imperatives to defeat this scourge.

India has confronted terrorism for over three decades and continues to face the challenge of the rising forces of extremism and radicalism in our immediate neighborhood and beyond.

We have the strongest possible and unequivocal commitment to combating terrorism. We are fully supportive of all efforts – bilateral as well as multilateral, that strengthen the international community's resolve in countering terrorism.

The syndicate of terrorism, with intricate interconnections, comprising Al-Qaeda, elements of the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist groups that operate from within and outside Afghan borders are among the biggest threats from terrorism world-wide. These bonds have strengthened over the years.

**Mr. President,**

We have joined the consensus in favour of the resolutions adopted today to convey an unequivocal and resolute message from this Council of its steadfast determination in countering terrorism.

India fully supports an Afghan-led inclusive and transparent process of reconciliation, adhering to the redlines as enunciated by the Afghan Government in the London and Kabul communiqués. We respect the right of the Afghan people to decide their own destiny. The capacity of the Afghan Government and people to fight and overcome terrorism must be strengthened.

We also support the views and decisions of the Government and people of Afghanistan as they seek to build a more secure, stable and prosperous future and a strong democracy in their country.

We earnestly hope that the new sanctions regime on Afghanistan would contribute towards meeting these goals of political stability and economic reconstruction in a credible, inclusive and transparent manner. It is our expectation that this would enable the Afghan Government to have a greater say in confronting the challenges emanating from those constituting a threat to the peace, security and stability of Afghanistan.

It is critical that all sanctions regimes established by the Security Council are fair and transparent in their functioning. They must ensure due process in their working procedures and decision-making.

The enhancement of the powers of the Ombudsperson and reforms in de-listing procedures are important steps in this direction. We must ensure that these function in a manner that strengthens our counter-terrorism capacities and do not have implications on the functioning of other sanctions regimes.

**Mr. President,**

We have repeatedly expressed our concern in this Council that the functioning of the 1267 Sanctions Committee has been subject to political pulls and pressure. This is a scenario that we can ill-afford in our fight against terrorism.

Given the enormity and seriousness of the threat of terrorism, the international community should ensure that it does not in any way dilute or weaken the global legal regime to combat it. There is, in fact continuing urgency to strengthen and make it more comprehensive and effective.

The process of listings as well as de-listings needs to be guided by the same set of principles – fairness, credibility and transparency. Then only would it be ensured that the Sanctions Lists are really effective. We hope that as we move forward, we keep this critical requirement uppermost in our minds.

The work of the Monitoring team has documented the fact that there are linkages between Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. This is a serious matter and needs to be handled with the utmost vigilance. Taliban groups connected with Al Qaeda pose a continuous threat to peace and security in our region.

**Mr. President,**

Before I conclude, I would like to point out a discrepancy in the text of Al Qaida Sanctions Resolution as agreed to in the negotiations and what has been circulated today. The language in paragraph just before the operative part should read as:

Noting that, in some instances, certain individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities that meet the criteria for listing set forth in paragraph 3 of resolution XXXX (2011) may also meet the criteria for listing set forth in paragraph 4 of this resolution, instead of Noting that, in some instances, certain individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities that meet the criteria for listing set forth in paragraph 4 of this resolution may also meet the criteria for listing set forth in paragraph 3 of resolution XXXX (2011),

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reiterate India's steadfast commitment to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. To this end, it will be our endeavour to work for the effective implementation of these two regimes and their enhanced efficacy.



**730. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council briefing on the Sudan.**

**New York, June 20, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

At the outset, I would like to thank President Thabo Mbeki and SRSG Haile Menkerios for their briefings on the situation in Abyei and other areas in the Sudan. I also want to thank the PR of the Sudan and Representative of the Government of South Sudan, Mr Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, for their statements.

2. **Mr. President**, over the past month, we witnessed serious deterioration in the security and humanitarian situations in Abyei, Southern Kordofan and adjoining areas. More than one hundred thousand persons are reported to have been displaced. The UNMIS peacekeepers have been obstructed in implementation of their mandate and access of the humanitarian agencies is also restricted. These developments not only underline the fragile security situation but also lack of trust between the CPA parties. As the post-referendum transition period nears its end, the ongoing conflicts can have disastrous consequences for the people inhabiting the region as the parties will divert scarce resources from the urgently needed nation-building tasks.

3. It is, therefore, necessary to expeditiously resolve the stalemate. We commend the efforts of the African Union's High-level Implementation Panel, led by President Thabo Mbeki, and SRSG Haile Menkerios to facilitate dialogue between the parties and offer a package of agreements on outstanding CPA issues, including security arrangements for Abyei and border, sharing of oil wealth, etc. The negotiations that began last week have led to signing of an agreement on Abyei today. We support the continuing efforts by President Mbeki and SRSG Menkerios to mediate between the parties to resolve other issues and urge the parties to show a spirit of compromise, flexibility and political will to reach a comprehensive agreement on other outstanding issues. We also appreciate the role played by Prime Minister Zenawi of Ethiopia for security arrangements for Abyei.

4. **Mr. President**, a number of pending problems between the North and the South Sudan have long and complicated historical backgrounds. Their resolution requires patience and an approach that takes into consideration long-term interests of all the peoples inhabiting the region. Any attempt to put artificial deadlines and preconceived ideas will not be helpful to enhance mutual trust between the parties, nor for the long-term resolution of the pending issues.

5. We urge all the parties concerned with and interested in the issues between the North and the South to encourage the parties to abjure violence and rededicate themselves to the same spirit in which they have implemented the CPA over the last six years. Unilateral actions, particularly military operations, will not be in the interest of either party. The parties should act with utmost restraint and refrain from provocative actions and ensure freedom of movement and access to UNMIS. They should work towards long-term cooperative relationship that will benefit both the North and the South and help them undertake urgently needed development activities. The international community, including the Security Council, should stand ready to support the parties in implementation of the agreements that they may reach. We hope that the agreement on Abyei's security will be expeditiously endorsed by a resolution of this Council. To this end, we stand ready to work with the other members of the Council.

Thank you.



**731. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council briefing on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.**

**New York, June 21, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President.**

Let me begin by thanking USG Patricia O'Brien for briefing the Council on the report of the Secretary General submitted pursuant to Resolution 1976 on the modalities for the establishment of specialized Somali courts to try suspected pirates in Somalia and outside, including an extraterritorial Somali specialized anti-piracy court, and the possible participation of international personnel and other international support and assistance.

2. The international community is facing an unprecedented and growing threat from piracy. The SG's report presents a very alarming picture. Despite increased naval presence in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia have continued to increase, as have the geographical range of the attacks and the level of violence employed by the pirates. As of 14th June, 23 ships are held by pirates, with a total of 477 hostages. The geographical area of the attacks now stretches to 2.8 million

square miles, which is not easy for naval forces to patrol. The use of overwhelming force by pirates to overcome security personnel on board merchant ships and the use of hijacked crews as “human shields” is also a matter of serious concern. Piracy is not only a threat to the freedom of maritime navigation, it is causing destabilizing effects on global and regional trade and security, and jeopardizing the life of seafarers who are the lifeblood of international economy.

**Mr. President,**

3. To combat this menace this Council has adopted a multilateral and multidimensional approach that, as a first step, led to the establishment of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) in January 2009 of which India is a founder member. Though naval ships deployed in the Gulf of Aden have successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escorts to merchant marine in these waters, the growing scope and expanding coverage of the problem indicates that the naval operations alone may not be sufficient and there is an urgent need to adopt a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy.

4. In this connection, I would like to mention the issue of seafarers who are the lifeline of merchant shipping. India contributes around 7% of the world’s merchant mariners and thus has an abiding interest in their safety and security. So far the main focus of our concerted efforts has been to protect the ships from pirate attacks and on issues related to prosecution and punishment of pirates. Keeping in view the increasing incidents of seafarers being taken as hostages and the intensity of violence used against them, there is a need to pay special attention on the safety, security and wellbeing of seafarers taken as hostage and their quick release by whatever means appropriate.

**Mr. President,**

5. In addition to naval solution, this Council is also focusing its attention on ways and means to effectively apprehend, prosecute and punish those who are engaged in committing piracy. Capacity building not only of Somalia but also of other States in the region is an essential component of these mechanisms.

6. India has welcomed efforts for countering piracy by enhancement of regional cooperation and capacity building of states in the region. The international community needs to recognize that any effort for prosecution and imprisonment of pirates cannot succeed without the effective involvement of the States in the region. The issue of imprisonment of convicted persons can be best addressed by building prison infrastructure in the region, ideally in

Somalia. It is also important to ensure that sustained and predictable financing is available to the host States to handle the financial burden of prosecuting and imprisoning convicts over long durations.

7. Ensuring sound and prompt prosecution of piracy suspects and their imprisonment subsequent to trial is critical to prevent impunity and to deter further attacks. We fully support strengthening the ongoing assistance programmes of the United Nations extended to regional states to build capacities for prosecution and imprisonment of pirates. UN assistance could focus on the three main components of legal reform, capacity building for prosecution and trial of piracy cases, effective law enforcement, and improvement of prison infrastructure in Somalia and regional States.

8. We commend the efforts of UNODC which has significantly contributed in strengthening, in Puntland and Somaliland, the law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial capacity. We are very encouraged by the number of piracy cases successfully prosecuted in Somalia and urge UNODC to continue their good efforts.

9. We also appreciate the efforts of UNDP in increasing prison capacity and improving its safety and security in Somalia so that those held responsible for committing acts of piracy can undergo imprisonment in their own country. This would also help in the smooth rehabilitation of convicts once they are released after completing their sentences. Establishment of more such prisons will also enable of transfer of convicted persons from other countries for undergoing rest of their sentence in Somalia.

10. We welcome the States in the region who have volunteered to cooperate in the prosecution and punishment of suspected pirates. We support the establishment of any extra-territorial Somali Court outside Somalia in which Somalis have an ownership – the courts which are manned by the Somali Judges and prosecutors in accordance with Somali Law. We are happy to note from the SG's Report that the requisite expertise may be available in Somali diaspora and they are willing to contribute to the Somali cause.

**Mr. President,**

11. Participation of international component as judges and prosecutors in anti-piracy courts may not be a pragmatic and long term solution to the problem. Anti-piracy court cannot be equated with specialized international tribunals set up for dealing with cases of war crimes or crimes against humanity. Pirates belong to an ordinary class of criminals and they should be tried like any other criminal committing such offences on land.

12. Besides being cost effective, the approach with Somali ownership will be relatively easier to implement as it would utilize an existing jurisdiction with established crimes and procedures. The regional proximity would be useful for the purpose of the transfer of suspects by patrolling naval States, and the transfer of those convicted to third States for imprisonment.

**Mr. President,**

13. We fully support the finding in Annex IV of the Report that steps to disrupt land-based pirate activities and the associated financial flows are necessary in a multi-dimensional counter-piracy approach. Therefore, it is essential to investigate and prosecute individuals who provide the leadership and financial flows for the sustenance of piracy. This would require broader criminal legislation, including crimes of extortion, kidnapping, conspiracy, money laundering and financing of pirate activities. Given the limited capacity of Transitional Federal Government and other countries in the region, there is a strong need for capacity building in this area too with active collaboration of UNODC.

14. In conclusion, Mr President, we would like to emphasize that with the increased presence of international naval forces off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, pirates have moved to other areas and increased pirate activity has been witnessed in the larger Indian Ocean area outside IRTC). India has a strong and abiding interest in ensuring the security of maritime traffic off the Somali coast and the Gulf of Aden. We stand ready to contribute to any international efforts aimed at increasing effective cooperation among States to tackle the threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea and in safety and release of hostages taken by pirates.

Thank you.





**732. Statement by Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of India at the UN Vinay Kumar at the UN Security Council briefing on the UN Office to African Union (UNOAU).**

**New York, June 21, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

First of all, I would like to put on record our appreciation for your efforts in organizing this briefing today. I would also like to thank SRSG and Head of UNOAU Zachary Muburi-Muita for his comprehensive briefing.

2. Just last month, the Council visited Addis Ababa and had a very fruitful exchange of views with the members of the African Union Peace and Security Council and several other leaders in Africa. As much as two-third of the active items on the Council's agenda concern Africa. About three-fourth of the Council's time is spent on African issues. It would, therefore, be no exaggeration to say that the success of the efforts of this Council in Africa will significantly determine its overall effectiveness in maintaining international peace and security. In this connection, it is important for us to hear Africa's voice so that the Council's activities are not only based on Africa's needs but also complement those of African countries and organizations. Cooperation with Africa will also enable the Council act with better understanding of the situation, and establish Africa's ownership of the solutions and thereby promote lasting peace and security on the African continent.

3. Indeed, **Mr. President**, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter recognizes the importance of the regional organizations and their role in matters relating to international peace and security. The Charter also provides a broad framework for this Council's cooperation with the regional organizations. We, therefore, welcome the setting up of the UN Office to the African Union. The Office will assist the AU in developing more effective peace and security partnership with the Security Council, strengthen coordination and cooperation between the AU and the UN System, ensure an appropriate level of representation to enhance the strategic and operational partnership of UN with AU and sub-regional organizations, and help the UN deliver key outputs in Africa in an integrated manner.

4. We think that the Office should develop a long-term perspective of its mandate and focus on capacity-building of African Union's peace and security architecture so that AU becomes a more effective and capable partner of the UN system. To implement its mandate, the Office should be adequately staffed and resourced so that the constraints on its functioning are removed. The Office also needs active support of this Council to carry out its liaison work, particularly

in the field of peacekeeping. Simultaneously, the Office should expeditiously work on establishing formalized structure of interaction with different AU bodies and sub-regional organizations. This would not only ensure effective flow of information between the UN and the AU but also help in regular follow up. It is our view that the progress on implementation of UNOAU's mandate should be periodically reported to the Security Council. This is essential for understanding practical difficulties and gaining perspective of the Office operating in the field.

5. **Mr President**, for an effective and enduring cooperation between the UN and the AU, it is necessary that the Council not adopt a selective approach to this cooperation. While the Security Council has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the Council, as it is structured presently, needs to hear voices of other regions and countries not represented on permanent basis. Alongside the work on reforming the Council, it would add to the credibility of the Council's action if serious consideration is given to the views of the African Union, particularly when AU can help in expeditiously and peacefully resolving a crisis. In this context, we think that the Council needs to pay heed to the views of the African Union in resolving the Libyan crisis.

6. **Mr. President**, we hold this view being fully mindful of the demonstrated ability of the African Union to solve problems in Africa. In cooperation with this Council, the AU's high-level implementation panel for the Sudan has been instrumental in successful implementation of important aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The panel is also engaged in resolving outstanding CPA issues as well as the crisis in Darfur. The AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is the mainstay of the international efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. These are but some examples of AU's success in resolving African problems.

7. Conscious of AU's role in handling African issues concerning not only peace and security but also social and development-related, India has institutionalized its cooperation with the African Union. I would like to recall here the historic visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Addis Ababa last month to participate in second Africa-India Forum Summit signifying the importance of our relations with African states. Given the similarity of our objectives with those the AU, the summit will serve to further deepen development partnership between India and AU, as also in the field of peace and security. India is contributing US\$ 1.5 million to AU without any caveats for its AMISOM operations. India will also provide credit lines of US\$ 5 billion for the next three years to help Africa achieve its development goals. India will provide an additional US\$ 700 million for establishment of new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

India has also proposed 10,000 new scholarships under India-Africa Virtual University for African students after establishment of the University.

8. **Mr. President**, all these activities will enhance AU's institutional capacity and help this Council as well in dealing with African issues in partnership with AU.

Thank you.



**733. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Security Council Briefing on the Iranian Sanctions [1737] Committee.**

**New York, June 23, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

2. I would join other colleagues in thanking Ambassador Nester Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the 1737 Committee. We appreciate the work of the Committee under Ambassador Osorio's stewardship. We also note the Panel of Experts' report which is under consideration of the 1737 Committee.

3. **Mr. President**, as a country abiding by its obligations under international treaties and having strong credentials of non-proliferation, India has taken a consistent stand on the Iran nuclear issue. We support the right of all States, including Iran, to peaceful use of nuclear energy. Exercise of this right should, however, be consistent with their international obligations.

4. We believe that the International Atomic Energy Agency has a central role in resolution of technical issues concerning Iranian nuclear programme. Iran should cooperate fully with the IAEA to restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. We support intensification of efforts to address the Iranian nuclear issue by peaceful means, through dialogue and negotiation.

5. **Mr. President**, we call upon all sides to fully implement the resolutions this Council has adopted. All efforts should be made to ensure that legitimate trade and economic activities of Iran and other countries do not suffer while implementing the measures sanctioned by the relevant resolutions.

6. Earlier this month, the mandate of the Panel of Experts was extended

for another year. We support the Panel's work to assist the 1737 Committee in a fair and transparent manner. Like any other Panel, we expect that the work of the Panel will be in accordance with its mandate. On our part, we will continue to engage with other members of the Committee to enable its work effectively and efficiently.

Thank you.



**734. Statement by Minister for Commerce and Industries Anand Sharma on Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking as a threat to International Security at the UN Security Council.**

**New York, June 24, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to commence by thanking the Gabonese Presidency for organizing this session on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

I would also like to thank the Executive Director of the UNODC for his briefing.

**Mr. President,**

Transnational organized crime and drug trafficking does not exist in isolation. They belong to a malignant complex that includes terrorism, money laundering, illegal arms-trafficking and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials. This wider malignancy is destroying and destabilizing societies and nations.

Weak and fragile states, such as those on the agenda of this Council, are particularly vulnerable. Even as many parts of the world enjoy unprecedented peace, prosperity and technological advancement, they remain mired in unending conflict and misery. Some of these conflicts have lasted for decades, imposing a human cost that it is difficult to comprehend. Economies have been wrecked and human and material resources that could have fuelled progress have been diverted.

Non-state actors and criminal organizations are amongst the principal delinquents responsible for this state of affairs. They thrive in areas of conflict and in post-conflict situations. Their activities exploit the weaknesses of the nations they operate in and are designed to perpetuate these weaknesses.

Their success is evident from the fact that their organizational capacities and firepower match or even better those of many States. They have much in common with terrorists, with whom they ally, because they have the same objectives and use the same methods. Their motivations are also the same even as they attempt to mask these motivations with great sophistication.

One of the great tragedies of our times has been the inability of some States to see through the machinations of this criminal-terrorist nexus. Their short-sightedness has imposed a cost that the whole international community is bearing.

**Mr. President,**

The threat posed by drug trafficking deserves special mention.

More than 90% of the world's production of opium takes place in India's neighborhood. We are situated between the two large drug trafficking zones – the Golden Crescent centered around the Afghanistan area and the Golden Triangle in the Myanmar-Laos area. The illicit production and trafficking of drugs has spawned a huge network of criminal groups in our neighborhood with close links to various international terrorist networks. The money and resources generated from these activities are fuelling the growth of terrorism and funding extremist groups.

**Mr. President,**

It is evident that the threat posed by transnational organized crime, drug-trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, illegal arms-trafficking and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials requires a coordinated global response on the part of the international community.

We believe that the United Nations is the best mechanism for developing this coherent transnational response. India is committed to strengthening the international normative and legislative mechanisms that are required to create a framework for countering this threat.

In this connection, I am happy to inform you that India ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crimes and its three Protocols last month.

We are also strengthening this international framework by entering into several bilateral and pluri-lateral agreements and memoranda of understanding in this area.

**Mr. President,**

The UNODC also deals with corruption and I am glad to inform you that that the Government of India has ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption last month.

At the operational level, we are committed to strengthening the international structures that respond to these threats. We are committed to the sharing and exchange of information. We would also like to exchange best practices. We believe that assisting members states in training of law enforcement officials on a regular basis should receive priority in the international cooperation agenda.

We support UNODC efforts to assist in developing capacities, training and in creating the administrative, legal and institutional frameworks for fighting transnational organized crimes. Indian agencies are working in these fields with UNODC in some South Asian countries. We have contributed an amount of US \$ 200,000 to the Paris Pact Initiative of UNODC and will host the meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies this year.

**Mr. President,**

The late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, said, and I quote, "A nation's strength ultimately consists in what it can do on its own." We believe that determined national efforts are required. The cornerstone in this fight still is the supply reduction strategies by sustained alternative development programmes for the cultivators of drug-yielding crops as well as overall economic development of the concerned regions.

**Mr. President,**

India chairs the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Council. We have found that terrorists and criminals nourish each other. Terrorists, like criminals and drug- traffickers, recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others.

An effective international counter-terrorism strategy must complement and supplement an effective international strategy to combat transnational organized crime, drug-trafficking, money laundering, illegal arms-trafficking and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials.

There is a need for a new global compact to tackle terrorism and transnational crime. We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists and criminals to gain succor and even legitimacy.

We need an international mechanism to ensure accountability and justice. We need concerted international efforts to expose and destroy the linkages

that exist between terrorists and criminals and their State and non-State supporters. We need to expand the scope of the legal instruments and expand enforcement efforts to destroy their safe havens, their financial flows and their support networks.

We would also argue that the need to squarely face the complicity of states is a central requirement if we are to succeed.

**Mr. President,**

He, who does not prevent a crime when he can, encourages it.

India has been a targeted victim of crime and terrorism and has paid an enormous price over the years. Thousands of innocent victims have lost their lives. As we prepare to mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11, we should collectively resolve to confront and vanquish terror and the terror-crime nexus. We owe it to our future generations to give them a safe and secure world.

Thank you.



**735. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the First Annual Meeting of the Executive Board of the UN Women.**

**New York, June 27, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

I am happy to participate today in the first annual session of the Executive Board of UN Women. I would like to thank the Executive Director, Madam Bachelet for the presentation of the Strategic Plan of UN Women for the period 2011-13 including her report on her recent country visits. Madam President,

I have had the occasion to observe earlier that Madam Bachelet's appointment as Executive Director augured well for UN Women which got off to an excellent start. We now see the evidence. The first Strategic Plan of UN Women should be ambitious, achievable and results oriented. We believe that this document is a critical document as it sets out the right note for the rest of the work to follow.

We are pleased to note that this document further develops the vision as well as the strategy for UN Women, which Madam Bachelet had set forth in the January meeting of the Executive Board of UN Women.

We are satisfied with the elements of the Strategic Plan and are particularly happy that the Strategic Plan takes into account our priorities for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Strategic Plan which we have in front of us is comprehensive and has practical Management Results Framework (MRF) and Development Results Framework (DRF) with concrete and measurable results, targets, indicators and baselines.

UN Women has to play a strong leadership role globally as well as within the UN system on all women related issues. Needless to say, the elements of Strategic Plan have rightly captured all the major priorities of UN Women.

**Madam President,**

We are appreciative of the fact that the first core principle of the Strategic Plan is the issue of demand-driven support to national partners. This will ensure customizing the activities of UN Women in each country and guarantee, “to each, according to their needs”.

The gender issue, due to its cross-cutting nature, has resulted in engagement of multiplicity of UN actors in the field. We note that UN Women will develop coordination mechanisms that will enable the United Nations country team to “Deliver as One” in support of this issue. This is exactly the kind of coordination we seek to achieve.

We look forward to close cooperation with sub-regional office of UN Women in India in the coming days.

In addition, with the establishment of clear results based framework, we are confident that our own agencies in the field, as well as civil society will have better coordination and cooperation with the UN system.

**Madam President,**

Over the years, we have taken considerable steps to overcome traditional mindsets about women and gender stereotypes and ensure that women can play a more equitable role in all aspects of society. Today, we have made commendable progress, but challenges remain.

Our successes in the field of political empowerment are historic. We have more than a million women elected to local bodies, thereby enabling them to be the decision making authority in the mainstream discourse of development.



We have focused considerably on socio-economic empowerment of women, with focus on education, health, employment, micro-finance, access to agricultural land, social security measures and rural infrastructure.

This has inculcated the spirit of entrepreneurship in Indian women. They have been successful in breaking the "glass ceiling" in the corporate world and have come to occupy positions as top executives in banks and corporate board rooms, both in India as well as globally.

In addition, we are striving to provide a safe environment for women to enable them to live their lives and engage in livelihoods with respect and dignity.

We strongly condemn violence against women in all forms. India has enacted legislation against domestic violence, child marriage, and prenatal sex selection. More recently a Bill has been tabled in the Parliament for prevention of sexual harassment at the work place.

To address the problem of violence against women holistically, a multi-pronged strategy has been adopted including, legislation, advocacy and awareness raising as well as programs for socio-economic empowerment of women. We are happy that this important issue is being addressed in Development Results Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan.

The Government is also giving impetus to Gender Budgeting initiative for mainstreaming of gender concerns across sectors/schemes/programmes. While this is a continuing process, the budget allocation for women, as a percentage of the Union Budget, has increased from 4.5% in 2005-06 to 6.22% in 2011-12.

I must also mention that we are currently in the process of formulating our 12th National Five Year Plan. A multi-pronged approach to women's empowerment is the hallmark of the comprehensive strategy towards ensuring "more inclusive and sustainable growth".

We expect the UN Women to become a global knowledge hub with country-specific data on evidence-based and effective approaches on combating violence against women. We intend to draw from this the best practices for use and application in India.

**Madam President,**

I would like to touch upon one important aspect, which will largely determine the success of UN Women and to ensure that it does not meet the same fate of the former UNIFEM. That is the issue of financial resources.

Nearly 6 months after its operationalization, the actual contributions and pledges received are modest and only around US\$ 80 million. This is not commensurate with the aspiration and ambition assigned to UN Women.

We must not be oblivious of the fact that activities enumerated in the Strategic Plan need resources. The Strategic Plan envisages financial requirement of nearly US \$ 1.2 billion in 2011-13. If we have to ensure that UN Women stands for action, the donor community has to make generous contributions to UN Women.

India has made an actual contribution of US \$ 1 million to UN Women in April. We will also be making an additional substantial contribution in the near future. We will provide full political and financial support to UN Women and call on others to do likewise.

We hope that the donor community will not only demonstrate strong political commitment but also equally demonstrate strong financial support in the form of predictable core funding to UN Women.

**Madam President,**

It is critical at this juncture that we endorse this Strategic Plan so that UN Women could kick start its activities in the field swiftly. The expectation and anticipations are high, and we must stand up to that.

The establishment of UN Women is one of the truly transformative steps and important reforms which the United Nations has undertaken. It is up to us, members of the Executive Board, to ensure that Madam Bachelet and her team are given the necessary authority, mandate and resources to deliver. Let me take this opportunity to once again reiterate India's strong support for the Strategic Plan and its early implementation.

Thank you.



**736. Extempore Remarks by Permanent Representative at the UN Hardeep Singh Puri at the Informal Thematic debate on “the United Nations in Global Governance”.**

**New York, June 28, 2001.**

Thank you very much **Mr. President**.

I want to encourage my distinguished colleague from New Zealand to attend a few more interactive sessions on Security Council reform. There are indeed some interesting sessions which have taken place-interactive almost to the point where one of the participants said that you cannot change the outcome of the Second World War through Security Council reform! And these were not prepared speeches. This was emotion running riot.

Security Council reform certainly lies somewhere at the heart of this panel discussion. But I will come back to that in a minute.

Based on the inspiration that I have drawn from the very interesting, very incisive interventions of Ambassador Amorim and Professor Thakur, let me place before you four propositions. May be 'propositions' is not the correct word, because these are self-evident, so I would say these are truisms.

**One:** that organizational lethargy begets structural blind spots.

**Two:** the lessons of history will remain lessons of history if not properly learnt and understood.

**Three:** reform or step aside.

**Four:** denial is not a governance response.

And let me now start, Mr. President, by taking up one or two simple points which were made.

Why is ECOSOC not addressing the economic crisis in Greece?

ECOSOC could not even address the world economic and financial crisis, when it broke out in the last few months of 2008. The G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Sao Paolo, decided to convert the G20 to a Heads of State/ Government, a Summit level meeting in order to address the crisis. Lo and behold, what would have happened if ECOSOC had actually addressed the world economic and financial crisis? In some respects, I am very glad that it didn't. Otherwise, the total irrelevance of ECOSOC to that crisis would have stood out.

What do we do with ECOSOC?

I am not going to go into detail. ECOSOC had a certain utility when it was the electoral college and you needed it to get elected to the Human Rights Council. Now, that it is no longer the case. My recommendation to all those who are dealing with ECOSOC is: take a serious look, do some serious introspection and decide where you want to go with ECOSOC.

Now let me just say that in today's world, we have talked about the challenges of climate change, the scourge of terrorism, violent and vicious forces of intolerance, unresolved development gaps, so on and so forth.

In the coming days, the United Nations is going to be tested not only by the political upheavals in North Africa and West Asia, but by a number of other issues.

Therefore I admire you, Mr. President, for the choice of your theme: that is "How can the UN remain relevant in addressing tomorrow's global challenges". There is an optimistic streak here, a presumption there that the UN is relevant today. And that what we do here actually has a bearing on what happens in the world.

Let me take one example, the so-called political process in Libya.

Resolution 1973 is absolutely clear. It talks about cessation of hostilities. We cannot get a ceasefire in the Security Council.

Why?

Because those who sit in the Council and those who voted in favour of 1973 have decided, may be due to mission creep, that regime change is an essential requirement. So, their position is, first the current political dispensation must give way and then the political process can start. In other words, if the current dispensation is not removed physically or otherwise, the kind of devastation which is going on there on a large scale will continue.

And I was astounded in the Security Council yesterday to have to hear from a senior member of the Secretariat saying it seems that Gaddafi has killed more civilians than NATO. Which means that you are acknowledging that NATO's contribution to the killing of civilians-it was supposed to go in there for protection of civilians-is as significant.

These are very serious issues. If we cannot get action on a ceasefire in Libya in terms of our own resolution, Mr. President, we have a crisis on our hands and let us acknowledge that crisis.

We had the African Union High Level Panel in New York recently, they didn't come to the Council, but to some other meeting. They said they have a road map. If the Council is serious about a ceasefire it should be encouraging the African Union as the regional grouping there to take responsibility and we should be backing that up. But no, because there are differences in terms of the approach.

Let me come to the second truism.

The lessons of history will remain lessons of history. Everyone knows that the institutions of global governance do not reflect the shift that has taken place of global economic reality, the power, the economic activity from Europe and the Americas to Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Reform or step aside is my third truism.

The G20 arose as a response to a global reality. Because the current institutions did not have the wherewithal to address the challenges which the G20 was able to. But what did we do in this organization. And I am like Ambassador Amorim — I am neither for nor against the G20. To me the G20 was a response, a product of the times.

What did we do?

We didn't say, lets find out what we can do to deal with the macroeconomic issues that the G20 was addressing. And all the time we were carping on how the G20 does not have the legitimacy, the G20 must not do this; there must be a response. But nowhere did we say that the lessons learnt from the global economic and financial crisis must be utilized to reform the UN's economic governance structures.

Denial is not a governance response.

I keep asking myself Mr. President, whether we need something terrible or awful to happen again before we can put in place another appropriate international architecture to replace the current one. The current one clearly reflects the outcome of the Second World War and the thinking 'to the victor belong the spoils.' Do we remain blind to the fact that 70% of the Security Council's meeting have been on Africa in the last six months that I have been on it. And in terms of the amount of time spent, more than 90% of the Council's attention was on African issues. What more do we need to remind us on that. And yet there is there is not a single African country as a permanent member on the Council.

Where are we headed? And this is not the situation with the Security Council alone.

Recently, we had a large meeting of the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul. And there are 48 of them. Out of a total of 192 nations in the UN, a total of 48 are Least Developed Countries, and if you take the other categories-the small island developing states, the landlocked etc, and you remove the overlaps, you have a total of 90. There was not a single high-level representative of the G7 or the G8 in Istanbul. There was no new commitment on ODA. Existing commitments are sought to be reiterated where they can. Other countries, donors spoke of, you know resources not being available and a conscious attempt to divert attention from North-South commitments to South-South cooperation. Those of us who are active participants in South-South cooperation are very happy. But you know, South-South will take some time to bridge the gap between the flows from the North to the South. Some things are changing. There is more foreign direct investment from the South to the South than the ODA, which means that the market place is changing.

Let me conclude by saying that I find today's session to be extremely optimistic. But the question is how relevant the UN is today and whether it will remain relevant in 2025. I am not entirely sure about our relevance beyond those of us who are actually involved in the industry of the UN. I think the market place's perception of us is quite different.

Someone said that the Special Envoy of the SG is not being able to get an audience with a political leader here or there.

Why? There's a very clear explanation.

Because we are not viewed, you know, as wanting to go in there and actually resolve the issue in an impartial manner. Because the shots are being called from elsewhere.

So my submission is, in order to be relevant we have to make ourselves relevant. And unless we have the political will for that, I am afraid there is going to be a problem.

Thank you.



**737. Statement by Acting Permanent Representative at the UN  
Vinay Kumar at the UN Security Council debate on UNAMA.**

**New York, July 6, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council and commend the PR of Gabon and his team for steering the work of the Council in June. I also wish to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. I also thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, for his statement. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary General and are appreciative of the briefing by SRSR *Staffan de Mistura*.

**Mr. President,**

2. Afghanistan is amidst the beginning of a phase of implementation of the transition where the Afghan National Security Forces would start assuming security responsibility in seven key areas including Kabul. This is a critical phase for Afghanistan as well as the international community.

3. We are deeply concerned that the challenges confronting Afghanistan, particularly on the security front, do not appear to be receding. On the contrary, the overall security environment continues to deteriorate. The Secretary General's report notes that there has been a 51% increase in security incidents as compared to the same period in 2010, characterized by significant increase in suicide attacks, abductions and assassinations.

4. Terrorist attacks on the UNAMA compound in Mazar-e-Sharif and the Government buildings in Kandhar, the coordinated suicide attack at the highly secured Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul and on a hospital in Logar corroborate the change in tactics wherein the Taliban and other opposition groups are opting for soft civilian targets. As pointed out in our last statement on this subject on 17th March, these attacks point to a dangerous osmosis of ideologies, ambitions, training and operations among the syndicate of terrorism in the region with suicide terrorism as its main technique, and targets not limited to Afghanistan. This, the international community in its hurry to withdraw from a combat role in Afghanistan, will ignore at its peril.

5. It, therefore, becomes crucial that the transition must be linked to the ground realities rather than rigid timetable. A constant assessment and review of the evolving situation in coordination with the Afghan Government is essential in this regard.

6. We appreciate the enhanced collaboration among the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Building the requisite strength and capabilities of ANSF, along with adequate enablers, is imperative to the transition of security responsibilities. It is important that the transition must be Afghan owned, transition must be planned and implemented in a systematic manner, and transition must ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of all Afghans.

7. For security and stabilization of Afghanistan, it is important to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which include elements of the Al Qaida, Taliban, Laskar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders. These groups are ideologically and operationally fused and their bonds have strengthened over the years.

8. As the Secretary General's report points out, the insurgency in Afghanistan remains resilient, demonstrating capability to launch multiple complex attacks. The continued resilience of the insurgents, their changing tactics, their numbers and their spreading out to areas earlier considered safe are a grim reminder that the security gains would remain transient unless the international community is able to firmly deal with safe havens for terrorist groups outside Afghanistan's borders.

9. India fully supports an Afghan-led inclusive and transparent process of reconciliation, adhering to the redlines as enunciated by the Afghan Government in the London and Kabul communiqués. It must be accompanied by an inclusive political process and intra-Afghan dialogue. It is important that antecedents of those willing to reintegrate must be ascertained and it needs to be ensured that they are genuine reconciled.

10. We support the views and decisions of the Government and people of Afghanistan as they seek to build a more secure, stable and prosperous future and a strong democracy in their country. The Afghan people must be allowed to re-build their land in conditions of peace and security free from interference from their neighbours and they must be the arbiters of their own destiny.

11. It is our expectation that the new sanctions regime established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1988 would enable the Afghan Government to have a greater say in confronting the challenges from those constituting a threat to peace, security and stability of Afghanistan. Afghan ownership and leadership are also vital for development and reconstruction in Afghanistan. This also implies greater coherence, coordination and further streamlining of international community's development-related efforts including aligning of assistance with Afghan national priorities and increasingly working through Afghan institutions. We are happy to note that UNAMA continues to align its priorities with the Afghan government.

**Mr. President,**



12. India and Afghanistan share a strategic partnership based on the strong foundations of rich, historical and civilizational bonds and shared pursuit of regional peace and prosperity. India remains committed to partnering the Government and people of Afghanistan in the building of a peaceful, stable, democratic and pluralistic nation.

13. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social development activities. Assisting Afghanistan in its reconstruction efforts, in capacity building and skills for human resource development, and building Afghanistan's public institutions is a special area of priority for India.

14. As mentioned by Ambassador Tanin in his statement, during his last visit to Afghanistan on May 12-13, 2011, our Prime Minister announced an additional assistance of US \$ 500 million, over and above India's existing commitments of US \$ 1.5 billion.

15. Afghanistan's stability and economic development depend a lot on its neighbours and the region as a whole. Closer economic integration with India and other countries in the region is the key to Afghanistan's future and prosperity.

16. The area of Afghanistan south of the Hindu Kush all the way up to the Ganges Delta, form a part of a single geographical and economic basin, with the plains of India constituting the centre of its economic gravity. It is by far Afghanistan's largest regional market – a potential source of investment, skills, training, technology and expertise and a model of democracy and natural institution building in a culturally comfortable context.

17. Afghanistan has an immense potential as a land bridge linking Central, West and South Asia and emerging as a trade, transport and energy hub. The recent developments in regional cooperation including the signing of the agreement on Turkmenistan- Afghanistan- Pakistan- India gas pipeline project would provide added impetus to regional cooperation. Growing economic interdependence would catalyze peace and prosperity in the region at large and in Afghanistan, in particular. Afghanistan as a SAARC member since 2005 is increasingly becoming active as a fellow SAARC member. India, as a neighbour, will continue its efforts towards the greater integration of Afghanistan in the regional framework.

18. In conclusion, Mr. President, we commend the good work done by UNAMA. At this critical juncture, it is imperative that the international community continues to remain steadfast in its support to the Government of Afghanistan as per its priorities.

Thank you.



**738. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate of the UN Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict.**

**New York, July 12, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

Let me begin by welcoming you, Mr President, to New York. I thank you for chairing our open debate today. I also wish to welcome the honourable ministers from South Africa, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Portugal to the Security Council. I also would like to note with appreciation the presence of the Secretary General. This underlines the importance we all attach to the issue under consideration. I would also like to express our appreciation for Germany's able stewardship of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and for organizing this debate.

**Mr. President,**

2. Rabindranath Tagore, the national poet of India, said that "Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man." Children constitute a third of humanity – the most important third. They are also the weakest and, therefore, the most susceptible to suffering. If we are to be judged by how we treat the weakest amongst us, then we have a lot to account for.

3. Children continue to suffer appallingly from violence, from hunger, and from illness. What is perhaps more tragic is the manner in which millions of children are condemned to live life in the margins, bereft of opportunity, and sometimes of hope. They do so when other more fortunate children embark upon lives of unprecedented prosperity and promise.

4. **Mr. President**, President Nelson Mandela has said that "We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." This is in some ways, the primary responsibility of every government, the most important element of the social contract between governments and citizens. The work of the United Nations on Children in general and on Children and Armed Conflict in particular, is therefore amongst its most important activities.

5. India believes that the international community has the responsibility, and indeed the obligation, to do its utmost to provide succor to children affected by armed conflict. We have engaged constructively in the ongoing efforts to make the efforts of the United Nations more relevant and effective in this area. We strongly support the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. We have participated actively in its deliberations and will continue to contribute to

the strengthening of a regime which protects children in situations of armed conflict.

6. The work being done by the international community in this area is, in some ways, at the cutting edge of international politics and international law. We need to move forward with deliberation after taking into account the concerns and experiences of member states. India has a number of concerns about the manner in which Security Council resolutions in this area are being interpreted. Several delegations that have spoken before me have raised the same concerns.

7. My delegation believes that the provisions of the Charter of United Nations must be followed consistently and scrupulously. Member States should not outsource the exercise of their basic prerogatives and responsibilities to international civil servants. The actions of the international community that have legal and judicial characteristics must be in accordance with the doctrine of natural justice and separation of powers. The principle of *audi alteram partem* or "hear both sides" must be adhered to. "Mandate creep" must be checked and countered.

8. **Mr. President**, India deplores grave violations and crimes against children during war. We have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and are committed to the norms and practices that are associated with this international regime.

9. The Government of India accords the highest priority to ensuring that the rights of children in India are protected. 19% of the world's children are Indian and we have created a legal and institutional framework to protect and promote their rights and their well being. A National Charter for Children has been adopted. Free and compulsory education upto the age of 14 years has been declared a fundamental right. A National Commission for Protection of Children has also been set up. A National Plan of Action for Children has also been adopted. The Government of India is committed to creating, through these and other initiatives, a protective environment for children.

10. In this connection, I would also like to point out that civil society in India is an integral part of this framework. We consider civil society to be a valued partner in our national and international efforts on children's issues.

11. **Mr. President**, India has been at the forefront of converting this Council's word into deed through its peacekeeping mandates. More than 100,000 Indian troops and policemen have participated in peacekeeping operations over the past five decades. Based on our experience on the ground, we would like to emphasize that the central challenge in the implementation of this Council's mandates is the question of resources.

12. I am sure that SRSG Coomaraswamy, whose commitment to the job we greatly admire, will agree with me when I say that more Child Protection Advisors are required with more resources in peacekeeping missions. We would encourage the SRSG to work with national authorities in developing capacities to deal with children in armed conflict. We believe that support for efforts by national authorities to end impunity and ensure accountability should be a key focus area.

13. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism requires the involvement of Member States and close supervision by them in order to ensure veracity and credibility. We expect that the process of data collection and analysis and that of listing and de-listing will be carried out in a transparent and judicious manner under the close supervision of Member States.

14. **Mr. President**, vast numbers of children are affected and traumatized by armed conflict. However, we cannot lose sight of the economic and social marginalization of the poorest nations that is driving hundreds of millions more into the kind of childhood that could well make them part of tomorrow's problems rather than tomorrow's solutions. We need to address this broader picture, the destitution and desperation that claim even more lives than armed conflict, and that often pave the way for a fresh cycle of violence. This, unfortunately, does not attract the attention of the international media, nor can it be an issue on the mandate of the Security Council, but in our discussions here, we need to make sure that our focus is not distorted and that we do not lose sight of the larger emergency which faces us and which constitutes a global challenge.

15. In concluding, Mr. President, I would like to quote an English author who said that "Children begin by loving their parents; after a time, they judge them; rarely, if ever, do they forgive them." We must not be found lacking in our efforts if we have any chance of forgiveness from the children who are our future.

Thank you.



**739. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council meeting on the Sudan.**

**New York, July 13, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Vice President Dr Riek Machar and other members of his delegation to the Council on this historic occasion. I also wish to welcome the honourable ministers participating in today's session, yourself, Mr President, and those from Brazil, Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Africa, France, Portugal, Russian Federation and United Kingdom to the Security Council. Their presence in our midst today underlines the importance we all attach to this occasion. I would like to thank Under Secretary General and my distinguished colleague the Permanent Representative of the Sudan Mr Ali Osman for their statements.

2. **Mr. President**, sixty-four years ago India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had declared, "at the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

3. Today is one such moment of a tryst being kept with destiny when after a long struggle, the voice of the people of South Sudan has found expression. Let me, at the outset, convey the Government of India's warm welcome to the new state of South Sudan born on 9 July 2011, after a peaceful and transparent Referendum where the people of South Sudan voted to form a new State. Our Vice President H.E. Mr. Hameed Ansari participated in the joyous celebrations in Juba on 9 July.

4. **Mr. President**, the Government of India commends the leadership of both the Sudan and South Sudan who have shown exemplary patience and maturity to see the fulfillment of this important CPA landmark, which India has supported from its very beginning in 2005. We, therefore, convey our congratulations to both the parties for successfully marching to this day.

5. India and Sudan share the most cordial of relations. We are deeply committed to the development and to the peace and prosperity of Sudan. It is in this context that India welcomes the developments over the past year in the Sudan which have brought peace closer to this troubled land. In particular, we welcome the emergence of South Sudan as a new State and the newest member of the international community. As a member of the Security Council, it has

been our great pleasure to be associated with adoption of a resolution today that will lead to the General Assembly accepting the Council's recommendation on South Sudan's application for UN membership. We look forward to South Sudan joining the United Nations as a full fledged member tomorrow.

6. **Mr. President**, India and Sudan have deep-rooted ties. For over a hundred years, people of Indian origin have made Sudan their home. Nearly 10,000 persons of Indian origin live in Khartoum, Omdurman, Wad Madani and Port Sudan. The economic interaction between the two countries is substantial and our two-way trade is around US \$ 1 billion per annum. This is among the largest with the countries of Africa. India was one of the first Asian countries to open a consulate in Juba. This will soon be upgraded to an Embassy. We look forward to the continued growth and diversification of these relations as the two Sudans chart their independent destinies.

7. There have recently been exchanges of high level visits from both sides. These interactions have facilitated substantial exchange of views for chartering the course of action and future road map for intensifying our relations with both Khartoum and Juba. For India, the two entities of Sudan taken together remain a major force and partner in Africa. The recent India-Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa testifies to our commitment to working together with our African friends for the collective development of Africa.

8. **Mr. President**, India was witness to the Nivasha Agreement of January 2005 establishing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We have watched the progress made in its implementation with keen interest and are happy to see an important CPA landmark achieved with South Sudan's independence. We are sure that outstanding CPA issues, like status of Abyei etc. will also be dealt with by both sides in the same spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. In this regard, we deeply appreciate the work done by the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Haile Menkerios in overseeing the implementation of the CPA and in maintaining peace in the region. We are happy to note that the agreement between both sides to demilitarize Abyei, which demonstrates the will of the two sides to jointly move ahead towards a negotiated settlement. In keeping with this spirit of seeing a peaceful and prosperous region, we also support all ongoing efforts at achieving peace in Sudan, including the Darfur issue. We would like this issue to be resolved soon. Our appreciation is due to the State of Qatar and the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on Sudan, led by Mr. Thabo Mbeki who has played a very significant role in this regard.

9. India has been one of the largest troop contributors to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in addition to the notable contribution of Indian Police officers to both UNMIS and the Government of South Sudan. We have

recently pledged US\$ 5 million for development assistance to South Sudan as also other capacity building projects under our Aid to Africa and IAFS-II programme. Sudan is a major beneficiary under India's Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. To continue our engagement with South Sudan under this programme, 75 additional seats have recently been announced for South Sudan. The Pan-Africa E-Network Project undertaken by India in Africa has been a huge success. We are considering to extend the entire package of Pan-Africa E-Network, including its tele-medicine and tele-education components, to South Sudan. As already indicated by the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Brazil, India also intends to work along with Brazil and South Africa as part of the IBSA group and within the IBSA Fund on projects that benefit the peoples of both the Sudan and South Sudan.

10. **Mr. President**, we recognize that the Sudan and South Sudan will face enormous challenges in the years ahead as they chart their independent destinies. For its part, India is ready to assist this process, both on a bilateral basis and on the basis of its rapidly growing interaction with Africa. On behalf of the Government and the people of India, may I once again congratulate the leadership of both the Sudan and South Sudan for their statesmanship, their commitment to peace and to the welfare of their peoples. India stands ready to extend all possible assistance in their path to progress and prosperity.

Thank you.



**740. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council debate on “Impact of Climate Change”.**

**New York, July 20, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner for their statements.

**Mr. President**, the interest and participation that today’s open debate has evoked testifies to the importance that we all attach to the subject of climate change. I particularly want to acknowledge the presence of the President of Nauru and other dignitaries in our midst today and look forward to hearing their views on the issue under our consideration. Climate Change is a challenge that lies at the forefront of the global development agenda, and is close to the heart of Small Island States for whom it poses an existential threat.

Climate Change, in an overarching sense, is beginning to impact the security of the global community; in the same way as poverty, food security, and under-development continue to undermine international well-being. Sweeping generalisations about Climate change leading to droughts, floods, changes in weather patterns, water and food scarcity and violent conflicts are, however, yet to be fully tested against empirical and scientific analyses.

The 4th IPCC report and other scientific authorities unequivocally speak of this uncertainty. This is also corroborated by the Secretary General’s report A/64/350 on “Climate Change and its possible security implications”, which concludes that while climate modelling has made considerable advances in forecasting the future behaviour of natural systems, the science of climate change and its physical impacts still confront a number of uncertainties.

Sea-level rise, on the other hand, is happening. There is verifiable evidence to suggest sea-level increase of a metre or more by 2100 which could lead to disappearance of several Small Island States and submergence of low lying coastal areas in many littoral States. We are particularly aware of its gravity given the vulnerability of our own people living on island chains and in coastal areas. There are also issues of “Statelessness”, and displacement of people which are deeply worrisome. Faced with these challenges, what must the global community do? The answer quite clearly, first and foremost, lies in taking remedial action today rather than focussing on implications of such climate induced disasters in the distant future.

**Mr. President**,



The Concept Paper for this debate states that the purpose of today's engagement is to allow the Council to deliberate on security implications of climate change, consistent with its mandate, and advance the dialogue on this issue from the security perspective.

In this context, it is worth keeping in mind that while the Security Council can debate the issue and may recognise vulnerabilities and threats induced by climate change, it does not have the wherewithal to address the situation. The existential threat to Island States or food insecurity on account of climate change cannot be resolved or remedied by the Council under Article 39 of the UN Charter. Clearly, these issues need a broader approach anchored in development, adaptive capacity, risk assessment and institution build-up. We, therefore, have some difficulty in accepting the assertion made that the effects of climate change go beyond the mandate of the UNFCCC.

**Mr. President,**

If we are serious about addressing the vulnerabilities arising out of Climate Change, then our deliberations on climate change must focus on reducing GHG emissions and strengthening adaptive capacity of vulnerable countries.

Our agreed global goal for climate stabilisation by limiting the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels needs to be backed by mitigation commitments based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity. Preserving the structure of the Kyoto Protocol and its second commitment period, early disbursement of the Fast Start Finance agreed at Cancun and operationalization of the Green Climate Fund, Technology Mechanism and Adaptation Committee are vital to imparting a renewed momentum to the UNFCCC process.

Those who are historically responsible for climate change must come forward with firm GHG commitments and ensure that there is adequate resource and technology flow to developing countries, in particular the Small Island States to allow them to adapt to climate change.

**Mr. President,**

If we are successful in undertaking necessary mitigation and adaptation measures, our pre-occupations about security implications of climate change, which in any case are yet to be fully established, to a large extent would be put to rest. This would also lighten the burden of "preventive diplomacy", which has been so passionately argued for by some delegations.

In our view, what constitutes a bigger concern for international peace and security today is the threat that developing countries face from possible conflicts

arising out of inadequate resources for development and poverty eradication. Sustained economic growth and development must, therefore, be pursued to allow developing countries alleviate poverty and meet basic standards of living for all. This in itself will make them more resilient to climate change vulnerabilities.

**Mr. President,**

The Concept Paper also highlights the vulnerability of food security while postulating its veritable nexus with climate change impact. This may well be the case. Our recent experience of food scarcity, as it happened in 2008, and high food inflation this year, though point to the preponderance of factors far removed from climate change that are holding global food security to ransom. Agricultural protectionism, excessive speculation in food commodity trading and diversion of crops for non-food purposes are leading us to unsustainable global food situation. This calls for urgent global attention.

**Mr. President,**

Our efforts to deliberate on the possible security implications of climate change would bear fruit only if we realise where the centre of gravity on this issue lies. We must not confuse political motion with action. Climate Change needs collective understanding and support of all Member States. Action must, therefore, lie in the UNFCCC. When confronted with the question of existential threat of the Small Island States, I am reminded of the words of Mahatma Gandhi - "All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals." Lets us do our best for the Small Island States and for the humanity.

Thank you.



**741. Opening Remarks by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Ajay Maken while Co-Chairing the Thematic Panel on “Strengthening International Cooperation regarding Youth and Enhancing Dialogue, Mutual Understanding and Active Youth participation as indispensable elements of efforts towards achieving Social Integration, Full Employment and the Eradication of Poverty at the High Level Meeting on Youth at the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, July 25, 2011.**

Thank you Mr. Sanchez.

**Excellencies,**

**My dear young men and women,**

*NAMASHKAR*, Greetings from India

At the outset, I would like to join in expressing my condolences with the people and government of Norway and express solidarity with them at this hour.

Now coming back to the main topic, it is inspiring of that the UN has chosen dialogue and mutual understanding as the theme of the international year of youth and reinforced it by the slogan “our year, our voice”.

Dialogue accords space to divergent viewpoints and sensible arguments. This further enables ideas to emerge and ultimately lead to consensus and mutual understanding. This is the essence of any vibrant democracy. Needless to say, youth is the most vibrant, dynamic, positive and enthusiastic segment of the population and is potentially the most valuable human resource of the world.

**Excellencies,**

We, as part of the United Nations have reaffirmed the World Programme of Action for Youth fifteen years ago. Presently, we have focused on fifteen key areas which are of relevance to the youth of today. The aspirations are high, the challenges are daunting. But our resolve remains.

It is worth noting that every country has taken commendable steps to ensure that the youth are able to occupy their rightful place in the society.

The challenge of poverty eradication is still a very real problem which needs collective action. It is reported that over 200 million youth are in poverty. Poverty is a scourge, a curse and a human rights violation.

As the father of nation, Mahatma Gandhiji had said that nature can provide for

everyone's need but not for the greed. This is yet another issue which needs international cooperation.

The advancement in the field of information technology, with the considerable use of internet and mobile telephony among the youth, national boundaries are increasingly becoming irrelevant.

The global integration is such that a product sources its raw material from one country, manufactures its components in another, designs and develops somewhere else, assembles in yet another country and market elsewhere.

Globalization has resulted in creation of borderless world, with free movement of goods and services. But still there are hindrances for the smooth movement of youth across boundaries in pursuit of education and employment. This has resulted in the fruits of globalization not being equitably shared especially by the youth of today.

Youth, who are willing to move with this changing paradigm, unfortunately are confronted with the stark reality of obtuse and complicated procedures when it comes to international migration. We hope that this discussion and outcome today would stimulate further deliberation on the issue of international migration especially of the youth in the regional and international context.

Yet another area for international cooperation is the field of skill development of the youth. With skilled workers shortages affecting different regions of the world, it is expected that the demand for skilled workers from developing countries is likely to increase. This needs to be addressed by all of us. We also need to focus on greater cooperation so that youth are able to acquire the requisite knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values along with the technical and vocational education and training.

In India also, we have been focusing on skill development of the youth in a concerted manner so that no youth should remain unemployed or under employed.

India is on threshold of transformation in terms of skill development. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh had launched a National Skill Development Mission under his chairmanship.

In addition, National Skill Development Corporation has also been set up to expedite the skill development. It aims to achieve skilling and up-skilling of more than 500 million people in India by 2022. This would enable greater employability and enhance the productivity and quality of youth in the society they live.

Let us use this forum to share our experience and learn from the good practices

of each other. The youth of the world has tremendous potential. Let us appreciate it and capitalize it. The issues of international migration, skill development and focus on employability of youth are some of the more critical issues which need further deliberation in this forum.

Thank you, Mr. Sanchez.



**742. Statement by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports  
Ajay Maken at the Plenary of the High Level Meeting on Youth  
at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, July 26, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Let me begin by complimenting you for organizing this High Level Meeting on Youth. This meeting is a fitting tribute to the culmination of the "International Year of the Youth" at the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

Last time when the United Nations commemorated the International Year of the Youth in 1985, we had the good fortune for having late Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as our youngest Prime Minister. He was instrumental in capitalizing the international momentum for the development of youth and setting up of the Ministry for Human Resource Development for the holistic development of youth. Under his able leadership, the Parliament also took a historic decision to lower the voting age to 18 years to enable the youth to participate in the democratic processes of our country. He went on to announce the first National Youth Policy in 1988.

In order to further enhance the involvement of youth in the democratic process of governance, the minimum age for elected representatives in around 300,000 local bodies was lowered to 21 years.

I am glad that today, my delegation has three of India's young elected representatives, representing both Parliament and State Legislature, including the youngest Member of Parliament.

**Mr. President,**

The youth constitute the vibrant and dynamic segment of any society. They

are also the most valuable human resource in any country. Our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has rightly referred to the youth as “the building blocks of the nation”.

**Mr. President,**

840 million, which is nearly 70% of India’s population of around 1.2 billion is under 35 years of age. India is, therefore, the country with the largest young population in the world.

Our special efforts are to ensure a high degree of skills development. The Prime Minister heads a National Skills Development Mission which aims at reaching out to nearly 500 million people in the country by 2022. We have also launched a Youth Employability Skills Development Programme, YES. In its first phase we will carry out a mapping of skills gap assessment district-wise and then marry the aspirations of the youth with the needs of the community.

The two field arms of my Ministry are National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). They have been entrusted with the job of carrying on youth related development activities. NYKS operate through 125,000 voluntary youth clubs spread all over the country and NSS has a membership of more than 3.2 million students spread over 251 Universities covering 15,000 colleges and 8000 higher secondary schools.

We are also in the process of revising our National Youth Policy. A draft of which has already been put up in the public domain for comments and feedback.

**Mr. President,**

The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development is our professional resource agency and acts as a think-tank of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. On the occasion of this International Year of the Youth, we are upgrading its status to that of an institution of national importance. Legislation to this effect is being moved in Parliament in the coming weeks itself.

**Mr. President,**

We are eagerly awaiting the deliberations and outcome of this High Level Meeting on Youth. This will help us to enhance our national initiatives in the empowerment of youth.

In conclusion I would like to reaffirm India’s strong commitment to developing mutual understanding and dialogue and extend our support to the Declaration to be adopted shortly.

Thank you.



**743. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East.**

**New York, July 26, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

At the outset, I would like to welcome you, Mr. President, to New York and thank you for chairing this Open Debate. I would also like to thank Special Coordinator Robert Sherry for his comprehensive briefing and the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine for their statements which have carefully noted.

2. Since our last Open Debate in this Council, Mr. President, the Palestinian factions signed an agreement. The main elements of the agreement include reform of PLO, holding of election by May 2012, establishment of unified agencies, national reconciliation and joint committee to implement the agreement. The unity between the Palestinian parties should not only end the division between the West Bank and Gaza, but also create state institutions in Gaza. To this end, we hope that the Palestinian parties would succeed in speedy implementation of the reconciliation agreement. We also hope that Hamas will not only accept the State of Israel as a reality, but also cooperate with the Palestinian Authority to deal with Israel's security concerns.

4. Stalemate in peace talks, however, appears to be giving rise to a sense of desperation in the Palestinian territories. For more than four months now, the monthly debates on the Palestinian issue in this Council have hinged on a hope that the Quartet would put forward a set of practical steps, which could enable Palestinians and Israelis to resume talks. This hope was yet again belied when the Quartet meeting Washington on 11th July ended without any statement.

3. Over the last few years the Palestinian authority has made significant progress in building state institutions, improving the economy of the West Bank and rapprochement with various factions including Hamas. This progress has invited commendation from the international community at large. The state building efforts of the Palestinian Authority have, however, reached their geographical and institutional limits. Any further progress would require resumption of talks on final status issues.

4. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, remains a cause for serious concern. The blockade on Gaza is not only adversely affecting the population but also driving militant elements to vent their frustration through violence, thereby further complicating the situation on the ground and increasing Israel's vulnerability and security concerns.

5. The stalemate in peace talks and grim humanitarian situation can further complicate an already fragile situation. We concur with the sense of the international community that freezing of settlement activity in the Palestinian territories could enable the peace talks to resume. We, therefore, call upon Israel to implement Prime Minister Netanyahu's address to Knesset in May this year wherein he said that Israel could consider territorial compromise in return for security and recognition. Putting a stop to settlement activities should be the first step in this process.

6. Unless this essential step is taken and peace talks resume, the growing desperation may lead the parties to actions that can spiral out of control. As the month of September 2011 approaches, it is important to realize that there is limited time for Palestinians and Israeli to seize the opportunity.

7. Other issues relating to Arab lands that remain under Israeli occupation are equally important. Progress in the Lebanese and Syrian tracks constitute the essential core to achievement of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region. In a region witnessing protests movements all around, continuing impasse in peace talks could have destabilizing effect on a much larger area. In this context, events of 15 May and 5 June show how fragile the situation is and how easily violence can be incited on a larger scale, destabilizing the whole region. We are, therefore, afraid that if the peace talks do not recommence quickly, unilateral steps by the parties would ensue, which would increase the distance between them and make it more difficult to find a comprehensive settlement. We, therefore, call on the members of the Quartet to intensify their collective and individual efforts to break the stalemate.

8. **Mr. President**, India has a long-standing tradition of solidarity with the Palestinian people. India has supported the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Roadmap and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

9. India has been assisting in the capacity and institution building of the Palestinian people with its material and technical assistance programmes. India has extended assistance through IBSA forum. India is also contributing US \$ 1 million to UNRWA continuing our solidarity with the Palestinian people in their pursuit of legitimate goals and quest for development based on dignity and self-reliance. In addition, we have provided untied budgetary support of US\$ 10 million to the Palestinian Authority for each of the past two years.

10. In conclusion, **Mr. President**, let me reiterate our expectation that the parties will restart talks without further delay. These talks should lead to a final



and comprehensive resolution of the Middle East conflict. We owe it to ourselves and to the future generations of Israelis and Palestinians that they do not remain mired in a conflict but live in peace and security.

Thank you.



**744. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Follow-up meeting to the High Level Meeting on Revitalizing the work on the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward Multilateral Disarmament negotiations at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.**

**New York, July 28, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I join other colleagues in thanking you for convening this follow-up meeting to the High Level Meeting convened by the UN Secretary General which was attended by our External Affairs Minister His Excellency Shri S.M. Krishna on September 24, 2010.

India associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Mr. President,**

Almost one year has elapsed since the convening of the last HLM. The Conference on Disarmament is still unable to undertake its primary task of negotiating multilateral treaties. We share the disappointment among Member States on the continuing impasse in the CD. We believe that the CD or its rules of procedure are not to be blamed for this impasse. We believe that this meeting should send a strong message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral agenda, which includes early commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament adopted a consensus decision in May 2009 on its Programme of work, which included immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. The High Level Meeting of 24

September 2010 demonstrated a very broad measure of support for CD/1864. In fact the first recommendation of that meeting, reiterated subsequently by the UN Secretary General in his address to the CD on January 26 this year, was for the CD to adopt that or a similar programme of work in 2011. India will not stand in the way if consensus emerges on a Programme of Work picking up from where we were in terms of the consensus decision CD/1864, if such a decision facilitates the early commencement of substantive work in the Conference, including negotiation of an FMCT, on the basis of the mandate contained in CD/1299. This is without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament.

India has been steadfast in its support for global, non-discriminatory verifiable nuclear disarmament. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi presented a visionary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order. This Action Plan sets out a roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. It may be recalled that the Final Document of the First Special session on Disarmament accorded nuclear disarmament the highest priority. We believe that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to reaffirm our support for the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum, recognized as such by the international community. The CD continues to have the mandate, the membership, the credibility and the rules of procedure to discharge this responsibility. It is up to member states to make it work, by negotiating multilateral treaties which can be implemented universally. Proposals that question the viability or relevance of the CD or even suggest unrealistic alternatives will not lead to useful or productive results in taking forward the agreed multilateral agenda with the participation of all relevant countries. We hope that our discussions today will build a positive momentum for the disarmament agenda and reaffirm the critical role of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum for achieving our common goals.

Thank you.



**745. Statement by Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the Second Session of the Open Ended Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Human Rights of Older Person.**

**New York, August 4, 2011.**

**Madam Co facilitator,**

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I want to thank you and all the panelists for their presentations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have a written speech prepared by my colleague, but I thought let me try and address some of the issues which are of critical importance.

I come from a country which, of course, has the second largest population in the world and the second largest population of older people in the world.

We are also a country, which is grappling with a growing population of older people and the need to find ways and means to address issues of people who are living longer in our society, in our economy, in our systems, both governmentally as well as the non-governmentally.

People living longer are a good development, and they should be able to enjoy the benefits of developments, globalization, etc.

India has seen in the last 10 to 15 years, high level of economic development. We have done fairly well in the field of medical sciences with a fairly high rise in the life expectancy.

But we have also seen, along with this, rapid urbanization in our country and increasing number of shifts from rural areas to urban areas. In fact, when one was growing up, it was a sort of axiomatic thing to say that 70% of India lived in rural areas. Today the figure, if we include urban conglomerations also, the urban population is nearly half of the population.

Rapid urbanization, globalization, improvement in health systems, all have resulted improvement in life expectancy but have certainly brought forward newer challenges. These are the challenges of security, health care, need for care and maintenance.

Addressing them is critical to ensure that older persons are able to lead a life of dignity and productivity.

Traditional norms and values of the Indian society laid stress on showing respect

and providing care for the older persons. However, in recent times, society has witnessed a gradual but definite withering of joint family systems and such societal institutions especially in urban areas, where we talk of nuclear families and so on.

As a result of which, a large number of parents face the prospect of their families not really being in a position to care of them. This has also exposed them to lack of emotional, physical and financial support.

In India, we are also certainly coming to the realization that a productive life span i.e., up to 60 years of age is perhaps too early as one lives several years thereafter and has to provide for that. This may not be necessarily easy to cater to, in what have been the norms of society and of the economy in terms of paying employees and others.

We also have to reckon with the fact that people are living longer in rural areas and there is feminization of older persons as women live longer than men.

Our national effort has been to improve the quality of life of the older persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities. This has been done in a holistic manner by adopting multi-stakeholder approaches of involving not just governmental agencies but also the civil society.

I am very glad that we have a number of NGOs from India here, who are contributing valuably to the debate that we are having here.

**Madam Co facilitator, Mr. Chairman,**

There is a reference to the old age and need to provide opportunities and address their needs, in our Constitution. We also developed in 1999, a National Policy on Older Persons. We are currently reviewing this policy to make it comprehensive.

The National Policy reaffirms the commitment to ensure the well being of older persons. The policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their life.

Of course, like most of the countries in the world, we also have instituted systems of giving preferences to older persons. There are special exemptions for them in the Income Tax Act. Special reservation facilities have also been made for older persons in the railways and air travel, etc.

There are a number of programmatic schemes which have been undertaken by the Government of India. In particular, we have undertaken legislative action

which is the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. This act, in fact, provides the legal basis to ensure need based maintenance for parents and senior citizens and their welfare.

All this I am stating, basically, to say that there is awareness about the issue of older persons within government, within society, and certainly in large parts of the world.

I am, therefore, extremely appreciate of the work that you are doing here in this particular group. I would like to say that the discussion that has happened in the direction of whether we should have a Convention on the rights of older persons is something which has thrown up variety of views.

This is certainly important as we progress forward and think about it, and then try and come to a particular conclusion in which the global community can come together.

In our understanding, the most important thing is that we must strengthen our efforts in ensuring that older persons are able to live a life of dignity in the society.

I thank you very much Madam Co-facilitator and Mr. Chairman.



**746. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Open Debate on UN Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations Security Council.**

**New York, August 26, 2011.**

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank Secretary General His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his participation and statement in this Open Debate. I would also like to strongly condemn the terrorist attack on the UN office in Abuja and extend our condolences to the government and people of Nigeria and to the Secretary General and wider UN family.

2. Peacekeeping is a term that does not find mention in the UN charter. Yet, it has become the face of the United Nations. Consuming more resources, employing more people and occupying a greater share of the Security Council's

time than any single other issue, no other Council instrument has had a greater impact on the provenance and application of international law and international humanitarian law as its peacekeeping mandates. Peacekeeping has also generated, for the United Nations, a reputation for impartiality and fairness.

3. India is proud to have been associated with UN peacekeeping from its very inception. As a country that has contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to virtually every United Nations peacekeeping operation in the past six decades, we are also conscious that much has changed since the first peacekeeping missions were launched more than five decades ago. 4. The geo-political environment in which peacekeeping is conducted today is vastly different from those days. Global capabilities, economic, political and military, have also shifted most significantly. Moreover, Peacekeeping Missions today deal predominantly with intra-state issues rather than the classic role of interposing troops between warring states. The peacekeeping agenda has also added new dimensions in various civilian and policing domains and the UN's initiatives on peacebuilding demands a close examination into the entire enterprise of peacekeeping.

5. The challenge before the international community is to build on the legacy of peacekeeping and ensure that it remains relevant to current realities. Today UN Peacekeeping faces a number of challenges with the resource gap being the central one and peacekeepers being asked to do more with less. Ambitious agendas are not being backed with the financial, operational and logistical resources. This lack of resources tells on the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping and casts a shadow on the credibility of the Council's mandates. Mandates also need to be relevant to realities in the ground.

6. Suggestions that the Council adopt a two-stage mandate creation process that takes into account the complexities on the ground and matches these with resource requirements need to be seriously and urgently considered by the Council.

The need for in-depth consultations with troop and police contributing countries should be an integral part of the mandate generation process.

7. We also note the slow and cumbersome process of recruitment for key positions. This process will not only be speeded up by greater reliance on seconded capacities from governments of member-states but also benefit from their real experiences in nation-building. This holds true not only for field positions but also in the management structures of DPKO and DFS.

8. Given the importance of Africa on the UN's peacekeeping agenda, India supports the capacity building of the African Union's peace and security

architecture so that the AU becomes a more effective and capable partner of the UN system.

9. Peacekeeping is a partnership involving members of this Council, the General Assembly, TCCs and PCCs and the host country. It is critical that the guiding principles of consent, non-use of force except in self defence or defence of the mandate and impartiality are strenuously guarded. This is important to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping retains its credibility and universal acceptability. 10. Of late, several UN peacekeeping mandates have included tasks that raise questions on the fundamental tenet of consent. These place peacekeepers in difficult legal circumstances and thereby hamper effectiveness.

11. The principle of national ownership needs to occupy centre-stage in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities of the United Nations.

12. I would like to conclude by paying homage to those peacekeepers, including from my country, who laid down their lives while serving in UN Missions

Thank You.



**747. Extempore Remarks by Deputy Permanent Representative  
Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri at the UNDP Executive  
Board Second Regular Session.**

**New York, September 6, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

Let me begin, at the outset, by thanking Administrator Helen Clark for her statement which highlights the priorities and challenges that animate the UNDP agenda.

She very rightly drew attention to the famine and starvation situation in the Horn of Africa. The international community needs to act quickly with the UN in the lead. In this day and age, none of us should see something like this in any part of the world.

India has a large UN programme and a large UN country office. We have enjoyed good cooperation with the UN. It has stood us well for years and decades. As the largest contributor to the UNDP's regular budget among developing countries, India is unwaveringly committed to supporting and working

with UNDP to bring about genuine change and enduring development in programme countries.

I welcome the presentation of the UNDP institutional budget estimates for the biennium 2012-2013, and note the significant volume reduction of US\$ 120.1 million. We hope that this reduction will in no way put at risk the efficacy of programme activities in developing countries or dilute the focus of the strategic plan.

**Madam President,**

The development landscape today is in a difficult and challenging phase buffeted by the vagaries of global economic and financial developments. Food and fuel prices are at a peak and we are faced with looming challenges from environmental issues especially climate change. This is also the time that requires UNDP to be most responsive and receptive to the needs of vulnerable populations across the globe. As our delegation has often underscored, the only successful and sustainable interventions UNDP can make in programme countries are those that are aligned firmly with the priorities of national governments and on the principles of national ownership and leadership.

We support the intensification of focus on countries going through significant and fragile transitions, particularly in South Sudan and the Arab region. We are also in support of sustained attention on the special needs of LDCs in recognition of their unique challenges.

It is universally acknowledged that an adequate and predictable base of regular resources is a pre-requisite for UNDP to fulfill its mandate and face up to the core challenges in developing countries. We therefore view with concern the continual drop in the proportion of core resources as part of total contributions, as reaffirmed, by you Madam Administrator in your Report on Annual Review of the Financial Situation in 2010.

Without intending to sound alarmist, our apprehension is that lack of adequate funding could hold back or even reverse the development gains made so far in which UNDP has been playing a significant role. We urge the UNDP to redouble its efforts to gain enhanced access to funds, and in particular, core resources, so as to realize the goals set out in the strategic plan.

On the issue of the integrated budget, we appreciate the regular progress updates we have received. Our expectation is that the quest for harmonization of organization budgetary process among the UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF will ultimately lead to enhanced operational efficiency and reduce transaction costs in programme implementation at the country level. We also look forward to adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in January 2012 by UNDP.



**Madam President,**

I will now turn to the important question of South-South cooperation that is very close to our hearts. I reiterate what my delegation has said in the past and that is, that UNDP needs to do far more to match its stated commitment with resources and attention at the ground and throughout the organization flowing from the highest levels. We will continue our dialogue with UNDP on ways and means to not only strengthen this mode of cooperation but also improve existing efforts and rectify problems which have been discovered in the process of implementation, including in our case, in the IBSA Trust Fund which involves India, Brazil and South Africa with the UNDP.

Our expectation remains that UNDP will intensify its efforts, and become a partner to programme countries in meeting the most pressing challenges of poverty eradication, food security, and energy access. While realizing that the UNDP has evolved into a large bureaucracy with an extensive agenda of complex interconnected issues, we must ensure that the effort on the ground does not get diffused and the focus remains firmly on these fundamental challenges. Concerted international action, in particular through the MDG agenda, has enabled major gains on poverty eradication. But millions even now continue to remain mired in poverty. It is therefore imperative that poverty eradication remains the overarching priority of the UNDP.

I thank you, Madam President.



**748. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN and Chairman of the Counter Terrorism Committee Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at OSCE Workshop on Public-Private Partnership on Enhancing Tourism Security [8-9 September 2011].**

**Vienna, September 8, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished colleagues,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to the OSCE for organizing this Workshop on Public-Private Partnership on Enhancing Tourism Security in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in this magnificent and historic city.

I avail this opportunity to present before you some thoughts in my personal capacity as Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Terrorism is a global scourge and has emerged as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, their lethality and their enhanced sophistication continue to serve as a constant and grim reminder of our collective vulnerability to the terrorist threat.

2011 marks an important milestone in the global counter-terrorism efforts as it marks the 10th anniversary of 9/11 terrorist attacks, as well as the adoption of Resolution 1373 and the establishment of the Counter- Terrorism Committee (CTC).

The CTC will be organizing a Special Meeting open to the wider UN membership as well as international, regional and sub-regional organizations on September 28, 2011 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1373. The Committee will also adopt an Outcome Document highlighting the progress achieved in implementing Resolution 1373 during the last 10 years and providing a roadmap for the future. This will be a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of Member States in their counter terrorism efforts.

Over the last ten years, the CTC has maintained a regular dialogue with almost all Member States. We are assisted in this process by the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which has been conducting country visits in different parts of the world to assess implementation, and identify areas for improvement and best practices that could be shared with others.

We have also strengthened our cooperation with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and have improved our coordination with other bodies within the UN system.

The CTC has a close and cooperative relationship with the OSCE and we hope to deepen this cooperation further in the coming years. This February, the Committee has had the opportunity to be briefed by the Secretary General of the OSCE.

The Global Implementation Survey prepared by CTED in 2008, 2009 and the latest one to be made public soon, provides a snapshot of where we stand in terms of our implementation efforts and provides useful recommendations for areas that need further improvement.

The international community has made good progress in countering terrorism during the last decade. However, much more needs to be done. Gaps continue to exist in the international legal framework against terrorism and the level of preparedness varies in different parts of the world.

We need concerted global efforts and the necessary political will of member states to squarely face the challenge of terrorism. While combating terrorism, it is also important that the counter terrorism measures must comply with all obligations of Member States under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Tourism security is an important matter. Tourism remains vital due to its economic potential, as well as a means for promoting greater understanding, dialogue and appreciation about different cultures and peoples. It is closely related to global travel industry and employment generation. According to the World Tourism Organization, tourism is one of the top five export category for as many as 83% of countries and is the main source of foreign exchange earnings for at least 38% of the countries.

In 2010 itself, the international tourist arrivals were estimated at 940 million and contributed to US \$ 919 billion in export earnings. This is equivalent to 30% of the world's exports of commercial services and 6% of overall exports of goods and services. The impact of terrorist attacks on any tourist destination

therefore, cannot be under estimated. For instance, the terrorist attacks in Bali in 2002 and 2005 ravaged the local Balinese economy that drew its sustenance and support from the tourism industry. Any decline in tourism spending generates a magnified negative impact on economy and employment.

The tourism industry remains a vulnerable target for terrorists. I am glad that this workshop has offered us an opportunity to delve into this aspect in a holistic manner and would be helpful in identifying ways and means to protect this sector from the threat of terrorism. It is worthwhile to point out here that the United Nations has been advocating the need for promoting dialogue and understanding among different civilizations.

The Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) recognizes the importance of the support of local communities, private sector, civil society and media for increasing awareness about the threats of terrorism and more effectively tackling them. Moreover, the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy recognizes the importance of developing public-private partnerships in protecting vulnerable targets. The UN Global Compact has also provided useful guidelines for the UN agencies to work with the private sector.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to these important discussions. I look forward to learn from your experiences and to explore, we at the Counter Terrorism Committee, can contribute to your efforts.



**749. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the Security Council debate on Somalia.**

**New York, September 14, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President**.

At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking SRSG Augustine Mahiga for his comprehensive briefing on recent developments in Somalia and for the Secretary General's report. I would also like to welcome H.R. Dr Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, to the Council and thank him for his statement outlining his perspective on the situation in Somalia and the TFG's plans for the future. I would also thank AU's Special Representative for Somalia, Mr Boubacar Diarra and the EU's representative Mr Pedro Serrano for their statements.

2. The worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, caused by the famine, is a cause for serious concern. As the Secretary General's report has noted, more than half of the Somali population is in the grip of this humanitarian crisis. While the international community has undertaken emergency measures to provide aid to those in need, nearly 2.8 million people are living in the hardest hit areas controlled by Al Shabaab, where access of humanitarian agencies is severely restricted. We urge all the Somali groups to provide unfettered access to the humanitarian agencies and facilitate the delivery of aid to all those in need. India has decided to provide humanitarian assistance of US\$ 8 million to the countries afflicted with severe famine and drought in the Horn of Africa, i.e. Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti, through the World Food Programme (WFP). This is in addition to US\$ 1.5 million contributed by us to the AU Trust Fund for Somalia and US\$ 0.5 million to the UN Trust Fund, both for augmenting the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We appreciate the key role played by OCHA, WFP and other UN organizations in delivery of humanitarian assistance. We join others in calling upon member states to join the UN and AU efforts by responding positively to the humanitarian appeal.

3. **Mr. President**, while the international community is battling the humanitarian crisis, there have been some positive developments on the political and security fronts. The signing of the Kampala Accord and its subsequent approval by the Somali Parliament and formation of a new government have imparted a positive momentum to the political process that needs to be maintained in the extended transition period. We also welcome the holding of the High-Level Consultative Meeting on Ending the Transition in Somalia from 4-6 September in Mogadishu and the adoption of a roadmap as a result.

We reaffirm our support to this process and hope that the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) will implement the roadmap in a time bound manner and complete the pending transition tasks. This alone would enable a genuine, inclusive and comprehensive national reconciliation to take place in Somalia for ending two decades long instability and insecurity. In this connection, we appreciate the engagement of the President and the Speaker of Somalia with the international community. We also thank SRSG Mahiga for his persistent efforts and cooperation with the Somali leaders and with the AU, East African Community, IGAD and other stakeholders.

4. The opportunity presented by the withdrawal of Al Shabaab from Mogadishu should be utilized by the TFG to increase its effective presence all over Mogadishu through delivery of basic services. This will not only enhance TFG's legitimacy but also help the political process. There is an urgent need to bring the AMISOM's strength to 12,000 as mandated by the Security Council. In this connection, we commend the governments of Uganda and Burundi for their contributions to AMISOM and sacrifices made by their peacekeepers..

5. **Mr. President**, AMISOM is the mainstay of international efforts for re-establishing security in Somalia. It is, therefore, imperative for the international community to urgently bridge the resource gaps that adversely impact AMISOM's effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate. As the Secretary General has reported, without international support for equipping and outfitting additional troops, TCCs will continue to face difficulty in deploying peacekeepers in a timely manner. The member-states should contribute promptly to the UN and AU Trust Funds for AMISOM without caveats. As already mentioned, India has contributed US\$ 2 million for AMISOM operations through the AU and UN Trust Funds without any caveats. We also support the extension of the mandate of AMISOM.

6. There is also a need for expanding the TFG forces and strengthening their capacities for long-term stability and security in Somalia. New recruitments have to be undertaken as well as full training and proper equipment provided.

7. **Mr. President**, piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a serious problem facing the international community. As of 31 August 2011, the Somali pirates held 19 ships and 405 hostages. Combating maritime piracy is, therefore, an important issue intrinsically linked with security situation in Somalia. So far, TFIs have not paid adequate attention to this problem. We hope that in the extended transition period, the TFIs will fully implement the benchmarks concerning piracy in the roadmap adopted on 6 September, including adoption of a legal framework against piracy, hostage-taking, payment of ransom, demarcation of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), establishment of operational coastguard, appointment of a counter-piracy coordinator, etc. In addition to the

benchmarks in the roadmap, the TFIs should expeditiously implement the provisions contained in the relevant Security Council resolutions for restricting port revenues for Al Shabaab. In this connection, we will engage constructively with the members of the Security Council on the draft resolution on legal mechanism for prosecution and detention of pirates. We also stand ready to help in capacity building of the TFIs and the states in the region for effective measures against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

8. Further, given the growing scope and expanding coverage of the problem, the international community has to think about adopting a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy. In our view, such a strategy should involve:

- UN-led anti-piracy force to conduct naval operations. This would help in greater coordination in anti-piracy operations by various naval forces.
- Enactment of national laws on priority to criminalize piracy as defined in the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea.
- Effective sanitization of the Somali coastline along with identifying of safe corridors and buffer zones.

9. India has already taken several steps including anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since 2008 and has also deployed its ships in Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea. This has helped neutralize several attempts of piracy. While we will continue our counter-piracy operations, there is also an urgent need for the international community to address the serious problem of hostage-taking by pirates and consequent humanitarian problems faced by the hostages and their families. We hope that the Secretary General's report on piracy, due in October, will contain concrete recommendations on all aspects of the problem of piracy, including hostage-taking and plight of hostages.

Thank you.



**750. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri in the debate on Haiti at the Security Council.**

**New York, September 16, 2011.**

Thank you, **Mr. President.**

At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking SRSG Mariano Fernandez for his comprehensive briefing on the recent developments in Haiti and for the Secretary General's report.

2. Haiti is making steady but slow progress towards recovery since devastating earthquake that struck the country on 12 January 2010. Despite the death of an estimated 300,000 people, including civil servants and destruction of the capital Port-au-Prince, Haitians have shown tremendous resolve and determination to rebuild their country. Haitians need sustained support of the international community in this critical phase of recovery and reconstruction to improve the governance, create employment and undertake comprehensive reforms, including in police and judicial sectors.

3. The relatively peaceful conduct of the electoral process and transfer of power following the second round of presidential elections demonstrate the vibrancy of the Haitian society. The role played by regional organizations, particularly the Organization of American States (OAS), in the later stages of the elections also gave credibility to the entire process. We join others in congratulating the new President Michael Joseph Martelly on taking over from outgoing President Rene Garcia Preval and wish him success in his endeavours to restore political stability and undertake economic and social reconstruction.

4. The delay in formation of the new government has, however, slowed down the recovery efforts and could affect the fragile security situation as well. Nearly 634,000 IDPs are living in temporary shelters and depend on assistance for survival. The fact that only 47,000 have left these camps since March 2011 underscores the importance of effective administration and the need to accelerate efforts for creation of conducive environment to facilitate their return. The reduced donor funding is also affecting the reconstruction efforts. Clearly, the confidence of donor community has been eroded by political instability in the beginning of the year and the current stalemate in government formation. Together with the increasing food prices and unemployment, these developments make the affected population vulnerable to violence and exploitation.

5. If Haiti has to recover quickly from the effects of last year's disasters, the political leadership has to show resilience to achieve much needed reforms to



improve the living conditions of the Haitian population. It is, therefore, important that the political leaders of the country set aside their differences to reach a compromise on formation of the government as the first step.

6. MINUSTAH has played a commendable role from the beginning of its mandate in maintaining overall security and stability. The earthquake and resultant large-scale humanitarian efforts and the presidential and legislative elections threw up new challenges. MINUSTAH made sterling efforts along with other UN agencies in the immediate aftermath of the disastrous earthquake and also ensured peaceful elections this year. I also recall the contributions made by the Indian police officers deployed with MINUSTAH, presently numbering 470 in three contingents, two of which were deployed by India after the earthquake at the request of the United Nations.

7. While the role of MINUSTAH continues to be critical in the near future, it is a matter of satisfaction that the Haitian national institutions have gradually been assuming larger role with an objective to ultimately take over MINUSTAH's responsibilities. Against this backdrop, MINUSTAH should focus its efforts on supporting the political process, capacity building and consolidation of Haitian national institutions. We, therefore, agree with the Secretary General's recommendation of partial drawdown of the Mission's post-earthquake surge capabilities. We also support the extension of MINUSTAH's mandate for one more year as recommended by the Secretary General.

8. The outbreak of cholera epidemic which affected the population had also resulted in wild allegations about its origin. We are happy to note that the Independent Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary General has not found any substance in those allegations. While the efforts to combat cholera continue, there is a need to focus on providing clean drinking water and better sanitation conditions to the population to avoid regular occurrence of the epidemic.

9. Mr President, India made a modest contribution to the efforts of the Haitian authorities to deal with the situation there. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India made a cash contribution of US\$ 5 million to the Government of Haiti towards relief measures as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti. India also contributed US\$ 500,000 to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) that was put to good use in the earliest stages of recovery work in Haiti. We have also undertaken a waste management project under a joint IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) initiative. In addition, at the request of the President of Haiti, the Government of India will support construction of 500 low-cost housing units.

10. In conclusion, Mr President, the continuing support of the international

community coupled with stable and effective governance in Haiti would help the Haitians overcome the problems they are currently faced with. It is our hope that Haiti would soon emerge out of these problems and move towards stability and development.

Thank you.



**751. Statement by Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad at the High Level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.**

**New York, September 19, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.

I also thank you for convening this high level meeting on the extremely important and topical issue of Non-Communicable Diseases. These have emerged as the leading cause of disease, disability and death worldwide and are posing a mounting challenge to health care practitioners, administrators and policy makers world wide.

As far as India is concerned, we are faced with the triple burden of communicable diseases, new and re-emerging infections and the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases.

More than half of all deaths are now attributed to Non-Communicable Diseases. However, we must recognize that conditions such as mental and neurological disorders also require special attention.

In fact, alarmed by the rising incidence of the non-communicable diseases and their impact on the health care delivery, a national summit was held in India subsequent to the Global Health Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control in Moscow in April 2011.

Besides the Delhi Call for Action from the national meet, we now also have 10 key messages from the recently held WHO South-East Asia Regional meeting at Jaipur in India.

As India's Minister for Health, I am privileged to be here and believe that such a massive global effort will be very useful in sensitizing the policy makers at the highest level to the need to allocate sufficient resources to combat NCDs.

**Mr. President,**

We are conscious of the fact that Non Communicable Diseases are not only a health issue but also a development issue as they impact productivity and also impoverish the society due to high health expenditures.

The Government of India has launched a "National Programme for Prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVDs) and Stroke (NPCDCS)" and the "National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE)". This has been taken up for implementation as a pilot project covering 150 million population in 100 inaccessible and most backward districts during the current financial year (2011-2012) at a cost of USD 275 million.

**The program includes:**

Establishment of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) clinics at 100 district hospitals and 700 Community Health Centers (CHCs) for diagnosis and management of Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD), Diabetes & Stroke and separate Cardiac Care Unit in each district hospital.

Ensuring availability of life saving drugs through the provision of an additional USD 1,250 to each district hospital in 100 districts.

Provision of common diagnostic services at these 100 district hospitals for early detection of cancer. Provision is also being made for basic surgery, chemotherapy and palliative care at these hospitals.

Supporting chemotherapy through provision of drugs in these 100 district hospitals for 10,000 patients at the cost of USD 25 million.

Strengthening 65 centres as Tertiary Cancer Centres (TCCs) to provide comprehensive cancer care services at a cost of USD 1.5 million each.

**Mr. President,**

As I speak here today, screening of diabetes and hypertension is being carried out in these 100 identified Districts in 21 States and urban slums of 33 cities with more than 1 million population, where all adult males above 30 years of age and pregnant women of all age groups are being screened.

Our target is to screen 150 million people by March 2012 under this pilot project. This would be the largest such exercise attempted anywhere in the world. I am happy to state that this programme will be rolled out in the entire country in April 2012.

This national programme will also add to the many steps India has taken for the prevention and control of NCDs. A major health systems reform is underway in mission mode to re-vitalize primary health care since 2005. This platform is being used to integrate communicable and non-communicable diseases response at the cutting edge level.

Our commitment to tobacco control remains firm. India was one of the initial countries to sign and ratify the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. We have passed a very comprehensive Tobacco Products control Act which bans:

- i) smoking in public places,
- ii) sale of tobacco products to those below 18 years of age or within 100 yards of an educational institution, and
- iii) direct or indirect advertisement of tobacco products

**Mr. President,**

India's technology innovations have led to affordable health care not only for our population but also for many other countries in the world. Prominent among these are re-combinant human insulin, poly-pill for prevention of cardio-vascular and stroke events, clot buster to enhance efficiency and a heart valve for rheumatic heart disease.

This august gathering will agree with me that it is difficult enough to be sick, but it is devastating to be poor and sick. We must therefore address the issue of trade barriers which restrict access to affordable and newly developed medicines. It is vital to ensure universal access to medicines, including through the full use of the flexibilities contained in the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health.

This meeting provides us a historic opportunity in reaffirming our commitments, both financial and human resources, for combating the NCDs. We need to make concrete commitments on sharing global resources, technical expertise and best practices to build capacity to combat NCDs. In this regard, I would like to thank WHO in general and DG in particular for their continued support and assistance.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, let me reaffirm India's strong commitment to the outcome document and our firm resolve to prevent and combat NCDs by improving accessibility and affordability of health care in a concerted and more collaborative manner.

Thank you.



**752. Statement by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Dalip Sinha at the High Level meeting on Addressing Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication at the 66th Session of the General Assembly.**

**New York, September 20, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Excellencies and distinguished delegates,**

Allow me at the outset to deeply appreciate your leadership in conducting this High Level Meeting. The discussion in this Meeting on “Desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” is indeed topical, given the significance it holds for developing countries.

Desertification and degradation are critical environmental issues. In India, where over 60% of the land area is dry or arid, this issue has serious implications for the livelihood and food security of millions of our people. Desertification, Land degradation, drought and poverty are mutually reinforcing – high livelihood dependency of people on natural resources, often leads to progressive resource degradation, but this degradation impoverishes the people even further. This constitutes a vicious cycle linking deteriorating natural resources to deteriorating livelihoods as people need to encroach further on fragile soils, sparse vegetation and limited water resources to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and livelihood.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Land degradation is both a cause and consequence of poverty. To fight both the problems synergistically, the policies of Government of India aim at a convergence between sustainable land management and poverty alleviation programmes. These innovative approaches are aimed to restore ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water while providing sustainable livelihoods.

India's Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment programme, which is perhaps the world's largest cash-for-work programme, addresses the twin objectives of poverty reduction and ecosystem restoration. This scheme fosters conditions for inclusive growth including basic wage security, strengthening rural economy, capacity building of stakeholders, sustainable development of agro and natural resource based rural economy and poverty eradication.

In addition, Government of India's Integrated Watershed Management Programme takes a livelihood-based approach towards land management. Under this programme so far, over 46,000 watershed projects have been sanctioned, covering an area of over 24 million hectares generating 580 million person-days of employment.

India's National Afforestation Programme aims at restoring forests through plantation and natural regeneration for ecological security while meeting the fuel-wood, fodder and other needs of the rural communities. The project has resulted in the afforestation of 1.69 million hectares of land area so far.

In addition to these programmes, focused efforts are being made for highly degraded areas. Bundelkhand region, which is a highly degraded semi-arid region in Central India with a high incidence of poverty, has been provided with a special package. The package is being implemented under a multi-sectoral approach with primary focus on water resources and livelihood improvement.

India's strong technical and institutional capacity in remote sensing and GIS data for natural resources management is also being utilized for a systematic inventory of the natural resource availability in the country.

Furthermore, India's National Action Plan on Climate Change is a holistic programme for addressing various elements of environmental conservation and comprises of 8 Missions addressing land, energy, water, biodiversity and agriculture and is an important element of our efforts to fight desertification, land degradation and drought. The Mission on Sustainable Agriculture specifically focuses on dryland agriculture and risk management. The National Mission for a Green India focuses on environmental amelioration through climate mitigation, food security, water security, biodiversity conservation and livelihood security of forest dependent communities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Internationally, India is actively engaged in programmes of cooperation and support to other developing countries, particularly in Africa which face challenges of desertification and land degradation. Under the India-Africa Forum Summit, our total allocation for agricultural support to African countries amounts to US\$ 38.7 million. This includes over 300 new scholarships in agricultural sciences; customized training in water conservation and utilization, seed production, livestock management, farm mechanization and post-harvest processing; setting up of a new India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences; and the establishment of regional soil and water testing laboratories and farm centres in Africa to name a few.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Sustainable development in dry and arid lands is much more than just an environmental concern for developing countries; it is intrinsically linked to poverty eradication. As this issue straddles environmental conservation and livelihood and food security of people inhabiting these areas, it is necessary that our approach to curbing desertification and land degradation be holistic and people-centric, one that balances the requirements of science and sustainability of ecosystems with people's aspirations for better living conditions and poverty eradication.

Thank you.



**753. Intervention by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the meeting on New Silk Road in German House.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

His Excellency, Mr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

His Excellency, Mr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Federal Republic of Germany,

Her Excellency Mrs. Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State of United States of America,

And Fellow Ministers,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government and people of India, I would like to convey my deepest condolences on the tragic demise of Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, Chairman of the High Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan in a dastardly act of terrorism which we strongly condemn.

It was not so long ago, about two months back, in the month of July, that I had an opportunity to receive Prof. Rabbani in Delhi and exchange views with him on his mission to bring about peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

We welcome the initiative of the international community to support and assist Afghanistan in building a self-reliant and sustainable economy, at a time when the country seeks to take control of its own destiny. With the onset of the drawdown of foreign security forces and the transition process, it is all the more important for the international community, especially the regional countries, to remain committed in this crucial phase, when Afghan national institutions are still being developed and consolidated.

It is also important that Afghanistan's growth strategy is built upon the country's comparative advantage of abundant natural resources and its strategic geographical location. These would have to be the building blocks of our vision for Afghanistan as a hub linking Central and South Asia through pipelines, trade and transit routes for the common good of the people of our region and the world. In our opinion, the New Silk Road initiative is an important step in that direction and will receive our support.

We are already undertaking reconstruction and development activities in Afghanistan, with our total bilateral assistance commitment reaching US \$ 2 billion approximately. India has taken up projects in all parts of Afghanistan and in a wide range of sectors, which have been identified by the Afghan Government as priority areas.

We have laid special emphasis on capacity building and human resource development, which in our opinion would form the basis for a robust and self reliant economy. Indian companies have presented bid for the development of the Hajigak iron ore reserves to the Afghan Government and India is participating in the TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) gas pipeline project. These are projects which would call for large investments and express our resolve to cooperate with Afghanistan on plans involving regional integration for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders. SAARC, of which Afghanistan is a full member, is an important vehicle for regional economic cooperation within the South Asian region. We have always considered Afghanistan as a South Asian country with natural complementarities and synergies with other countries of South Asia and one which is uniquely placed to build bridges even beyond it. India's rapidly growing economy and its large market make it a natural destination for Afghan exports. Similarly, India can be a cost effective and efficient source for Afghan imports. In this regard, we welcome the operationalization of APTAA (Afghanistan Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement). This could serve as a start for trade and transit through the land route for other countries including India.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had succinctly articulated his vision for the region much before the idea of a New Silk Road initiative. I conclude by reiterating what he so eloquently stated: "I dream of a day, while retaining our respective identities, one can have breakfast in Amrtisar, lunch in Lahore, and dinner in Kabul. That is how my forefathers lived. That is how I want our grandchildren to live." The time has come for all of us to start the process of building a better future for the generations to come.

Thank you





**754. Statement by India at The High Level Event on Conflict Prevention Being Organised by Lebanon, Presidency of the Security Council.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

**Your Excellency, Mr. President (of Lebanon),**

I would like to begin by congratulating Lebanon on its Presidency of the Security Council this month and express my deep appreciation at your personally presiding over this very important event.

I am, indeed, honored to participate in the discussions today and bring to you the good wishes of my Government.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report and recommendations on the use of preventive diplomacy by the United Nations.

**Mr. President,**

If properly used, Preventive Diplomacy could become an essential element in the global community's response to some of the major challenges facing the international system today and help in conflict prevention.

The adoption of the Charter of United Nations was supposed to herald the beginning of a new chapter in international relations.

One of the purposes of the United Nations as elaborated in Article 1 (1) of the Charter was to "bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace."

The Charter therefore stresses the importance of adjustment or settlement of disputes by peaceful means which include negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements.

Over the last six decades, peaceful interventions by the United Nations have helped diffuse a number of conflict situations on a number of occasions.

These interventions, wherever undertaken with impartiality, fairness and equity, have earned for the United Nations a reputation for effective mediation.

The challenge before the international community is to build on this legacy and ensure that peaceful means for settlement of disputes remain relevant to current realities.

**Mr. President,**

Contemporary threats to international peace and security differ qualitatively

from those prevalent six decades ago. Conventional war has been overtaken by intra-state and even borderless violence.

Low-intensity conflict, non-state actors and the terrorist-criminal-drug trafficking nexus threaten international stability and progress. It is recognized that these conflicts are extremely complicated and need complex solutions.

Unfortunately, recent developments seem to indicate a worrying trend towards increased reliance on the use of force as a mechanism for resolving some of these conflicts.

The limitations of using force too frequently and too quickly are many. Any respite that coercion brings about in the absence of a political settlement is likely to be short-lived.

Efforts at peaceful settlement of disputes may also suffer if force is used prematurely and without adequate deliberation.

Very frequently, the demonstration of the lack of patience in persisting with peaceful efforts is also likely to play into the hands of those who want the conflict to persist.

The use of force also leads to collateral damage. Such damage, whether human or material, has unpredictable effects on political conflict resolution processes while creating moral or normative dilemmas.

In many places use of force has prolonged conflicts – a situation where the cure turned out to be worse than the disease. The international community must not show undue eagerness for coercive arrangements in its hurry to bring peace.

**Mr. President,**

We are often reminded of the shortcomings and limitations of diplomacy and the need to intervene.

It is important, however, to remember that the tragic events of the past that are sought to justify intervention took place not because dialogue was ineffective but because of the lack of will on the part of the international community to act.

These failures do not in any way detract from the soundness of the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes or its means mentioned in the Charter.

It, of course, goes without saying that the peaceful method is a more difficult one. The great Indian Emperor Ashoka noted three millennia ago that "To do good is difficult."

Preventive diplomacy takes time and commitment.

It requires a clear understanding of the nature and context of the conflict. It requires the ability to discern realistic solutions. It requires involvement of various stakeholders affected by conflict. It needs to incorporate the forces for stability and progress in a particular situation.

**Mr. President,**

Protection of their populations is the foremost responsibility of sovereign States. It is also their primary responsibility to prevent conflict.

As such, actions undertaken within the framework of conflict prevention by United Nations entities must be designed to support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments.

India has always opposed and will continue to oppose the use of force as the primary reaction to conflicts.

As the major Troop Contributing Country to United Nations peacekeeping operations we are more familiar than most with the limitations of force.

We note, however, that peacekeepers, who are also early peacebuilders are being asked to do more with less. This resource gap needs to be addressed.

The inability of the international community to match its mandates with resources ultimately affects the credibility of this Council and its authority in resolving disputes.

**Mr. President,**

There really is no sustainable alternative to political processes and that the primary focus of the United Nations should be the facilitation of a political settlement. Coercive measures should be avoided and used as a measure of last resort and implemented with extreme care and caution.

Decisions to use force should be free of political motives. The humanitarian imperative of providing succor to the suffering should not be used to further political objectives. This does humanitarianism and diplomacy a disservice.

Moreover, there are very good reasons why international law is based on the principle of consent. Efforts to circumvent this process are not prudent and cannot be expected to address the drivers of conflict on an enduring basis.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the time-tested principles of national consent, impartiality, fairness and equity in all conflict prevention activities that the United Nations may undertake.

Thank you



**755. Statement by Dilip Sinha, Additional Secretary (IO) at the High-level Meeting of the UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.**

**New York, September 22, 2011.**

Mr. Co-Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Durban Declaration and Programme for Action (DDPA) in 2001 was a reminder to the world that the challenge of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was far from over. Today, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of that historic meeting, we can count our successes, but the journey is not yet over.

Mr Co-Chair,

The notion of racial superiority was at the bedrock of colonialism. Millions suffered from it and bore the brunt of inhuman, violent and degrading treatment. The close of era of colonization and imperialism at the end of World War II brought to an end this historic exploitation and injustice of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Fortuitously, it also marked the advent of the peaceful mass movement pioneered by Mahatma Gandhi, who began his fight against colonialism with the struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa. His humiliating encounter with racial prejudice and discrimination as a young barrister in South Africa, when he was physically thrown out of the first class compartment of a train, merely because of skin colour, inspired him to fight against this abhorrent and intolerable practice.

It is a historic fact that millions joined Mahatma Gandhi in his epic struggle, which not only led to the dismantling of the colonial yoke in India, but also became an inspiration for many more struggles in the rest of the world.

It was, therefore, innate and instinctive for our founding fathers to build in adequate safeguards in our Constitution and the Indian Penal Code against racism and racial discrimination, and to enshrine the basic value of equality.

While Article 14 of the Constitution of India clearly states that the principle of equality cannot be denied, Article 15 expressly prohibits discrimination on the

grounds of race. These two articles are reflective of the fundamental principles and values that are an integral part of the fabric that binds together a diverse country like India.

Mr Co-Chair,

Though the era of colonialism and imperialism is well behind us, it was unfortunate that people's attitudes and their very deeply ingrained beliefs continued to fuel racial hatred, prejudices and discrimination. This was particularly exacerbated by globalization and the movement of people across borders.

Durban Declaration in 2001 gave us a comprehensive, action-oriented document with concrete proposals and measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

It emphasized that there should not be any state-sponsored and institutionalized discrimination against any individual citizen or group of citizens; and that States do not condone or encourage regressive social attitudes which fuel such discriminatory attitudes and practices.

This Declaration was further strengthened by the Durban Review Conference (DRC) of April 2009, which assessed the effectiveness of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms and other UN mechanisms dealing with racism and racial discrimination.

Mr Co-Chair,

At this 10th anniversary, regrettably, the challenge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continues to persist. Racial inequalities are widely evident in socio-economic indicators and patterns.

Moreover, political violence induced by these is on the rise in various parts of the world and has become more brutal and vicious. This has been accentuated by lack of effective social integration and the re-emergence of feeling of xenophobia.

We have to continue our battle. We have to create greater political will and momentum internationally to develop more effective measures to enhance its implementation. International campaign will bear fruits only when, we, in our own countries promulgate stringent national laws, strictly implement them and most importantly, ensure that attitudes of people are changed.

Perhaps the most definitive guarantee against racial prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia is development and nurturing of multi-cultural, democratic and pluralistic traditions with the inculcation of values of tolerance and respect for

diversity; and implementation of appropriate educational and legislative strategies.

Mr. Co-Chair,

We are happy that today we are adopting a concise outcome document of this commemorative event. It is important that our focus remains on eliminating the abhorrent practice of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance.

Mr Co-Chair,

As we work today towards a world free of the racial prejudices of the past, we have yet another opportunity to assess the successes and shortcomings in the implementation of DDPA and DRC. It is, yet another chance, to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to its effective implementation.

Thank you.



**756. Intervention by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Ravi Bangar on behalf of External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the Meeting of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) Ministers of Foreign Affairs.**

**New York, September 24, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I am pleased to participate in the Ministerial meeting of the Group of 15. This Group was set up to enhance cooperation among the countries of the South, and engage in meaningful dialogue with the North. More than two decades later, the rationale for founding the Group not only continues to be valid, but has become even more relevant. The global situation today makes South-South cooperation not only useful, but imperative.

2. In today's world, we are viewed as emerging leaders with the potential to resuscitate a sluggish global economy and contribute to global stability and well-being. Our individual strengths, competencies and global influence would be multiplied manifold if we pool our resources together and develop 'win-win' synergies and complementarities. In the UN and other fora, intra-South

cooperation has considerably strengthened our bargaining power and achieved favourable results on issues of common concern, in areas such as public health, intellectual property, biodiversity, etc. As the first and only such cross-regional grouping of influential developing countries, the Group of Fifteen has the potential to become a nodal hub for South-South cooperation.

3. For our Group to realize this potential, however, we will have to persist with the process of honest introspection that we embarked upon in the Tehran Summit. We have already demonstrated this resolve by acting upon the recommendations of the High-Level Task Force. The Group has established two Working Groups to consider concrete ways of revitalizing the Group's Sectoral cooperation Projects and its institutional mechanisms. We are encouraged that the Working Group on Sectoral cooperation is identifying best practices for technical cooperation among G-15 countries with a view to replicating them in other member countries. We hope that the revised guidelines for effective implementation and monitoring of G-15 projects recommended by the HLTF, are also operationalized and would contribute further to improving G-15 projects. On the institutional front, we look forward to meaningful recommendations by the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms aimed at streamlining the Technical Support Facility in order to enable it to contribute more directly and meaningfully to the Group's activities and its revitalized role.

4. We are happy to note that action has already been initiated on several other key recommendations of the High-Level Task Force, such as articulation of common G-15 positions on key development issues on the international agenda; convening regular meetings of the G-15 Permanent Representatives in Geneva to supervise the Group's activities; and strengthening of the G-15/G-8 dialogue. In this context, I wish to sincerely commend the outstanding leadership and commitment displayed by Sri Lanka, as the Chair of G-15, for carrying the Group together and leading these bold initiatives. We hope that the steps initiated in the Working Groups and elsewhere, will be further consolidated and institutionalized, leading to a refurbished and energized G-15.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. We must ensure that this process of reform that the Group has embarked upon, is not a static one, artificially confined to implementing the HLTF's recommendations. An organisation remains relevant and useful only as long as it adapts itself continually to changing realities and is responsive to shifting needs. We strongly believe that the G-15 must be 'alive' and constantly growing in response to the dynamic and fast-changing world we live in. The responsibility for ensuring this devolves upon all of us, both individually and collectively.

6. This includes responding to the fast-paced technological changes in the world, harnessing the tremendous reach and potential of information technologies, using the power of the media in its diverse platforms, identifying important global issues on the horizon and acting proactively on them, and involving our private sector partners more closely in the Group's activities. It is critical that the Chambers of Commerce of G-15 member countries have an integral role in promoting intra G-15 business, trade and investment. Such forward-looking measures will enable the Group to play a more significant role in the international arena, commensurate with the potential and capabilities of its member countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. On its part, India continues to remain fully committed to G-15. India has, in the past, actively participated in G-15 projects and has coordinated a number of them. We stand ready to share our development experiences and promote intra G-15 cooperation by collaborating in capacity-building, technical assistance and sectoral cooperation projects. We have a range of ongoing collaborative projects in developing countries in a variety of sectors and technical cooperation programs, that are demand-driven and result-oriented. We would be happy to replicate these templates and projects within the framework of G-15 cooperation. We also look forward to actively engaging with the Group on international development issues where we have shared concerns in areas such as reform of the international financial architecture, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in addressing the collective challenges we face.

8. Before concluding, I would like to reiterate our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sri Lanka, the current Chair of G-15, for their excellent stewardship of the Group at a critical time, and for taking the Group forward in the right direction.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.





**757. Statement by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Dalip Sinha at the 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the G – 77 Foreign Ministers.**

**New York, September 24, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by thanking you for your esteemed leadership of the Group of 77 this year.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Algeria who would be chairing the Group next year. As I do so, I am reminded of the Charter of Algiers adopted at the First G-77 Ministerial meeting in 1967 that set out our common vision, and has ever been a source of inspiration.

India welcomes Nauru as the newest member of the G-77.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The founding principles of the G-77 are rooted in the aspirations of our peoples to lead a life of dignity and respect.

In today's extremely uncertain global economic context, our development priorities, foremost of which is poverty eradication, face innumerable challenges. Developing countries are contending with a global environment that is least suited to pursue sustained economic growth.

The global economic and financial crisis was said to over in 2010, or at least that was what the developed world wanted us to believe. The G-77 was more perspective on the issue and kept reiterating that the crisis was far from over. Recent economic doldrums in developed countries stand to vindicate our position.

The precepts of development championed by the G-77 have stood the test of time, and give us added reasons to believe in our chosen path.

If only the world had taken note of our constant reminder that unsustainable pattern of consumption and production in the developed world needed urgent course correction, we could have avoided the unhealthy debt situation that plagues major economies today.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The collective strength of the Group must ensure that the limitations of the global financial crisis should not become an argument for shifting the focus of the global development agenda away from poverty eradication.

At the upcoming RIO plus 20 Conference, this must be our guiding parameter. We must seize the opportunity to bring back sustainable development to the forefront of global development agenda.

And while doing so, we must seek solutions to energy poverty, access to food, natural resource re-generation and the challenges of urbanisation in understanding “green economy”, a notion which in our opinion is subsumed in the existing framework of Sustainable Development.

Means of implementation supported by transfer of technology is fundamental to the success of RIO. The “generics” in medicines have shown how flexibility in the IPR regime could be used for greater public good. India would advocate a similar template to make Rio a success.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Financing for development is a critical issue today. The developed world is most reluctant to meet its ODA commitments. We saw this opposition most vividly during the Istanbul Conference for the LDCs. Arguments were made that globalisation had mainstreamed development where trade, FDI, remittance, innovative financing had become more important sources of development finance than ODA.

We must reject all such assertions which are based on convenience rather than any empirical understanding.

There is no substitute for ODA in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation can only complement and not replace North-South Cooperation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The G-77 has been the pillar of the UNFCCC negotiations on Climate Change. We must remain united in our pursuit of an outcome that is comprehensive, equitable and balanced based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility. A second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is imperative in this regard.

We must also push for an early implementation of the Cancun Agreements including the Green Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Committee so as to ensure credible action on all the four pillars of the UNFCCC process – mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. India is acutely aware of the existential threat that Climate Change poses to the Small Island Developing States and believes that adaptation needs of these countries must be met at the earliest.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is the bounden duty of the Group to support those who need our cooperation the most. India reiterates that the special needs of LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa must be given primacy in the Group's agenda. The Istanbul Programme, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, the Almaty Programme and the issues deliberated at the recently held UN General Assembly meeting on Desertification should receive our highest attention.

Last year, we finalised the Access and Benefit Sharing Protocol after years of labour. As repository of 80% of the world's biological diversity, we, the developing countries, must now concentrate on its implementation. Establishment of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to strengthen science-policy interface would be most rewarding in this pursuit.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The G-77 was conceived to seek equity and justice in the global economic order. In all these years, our steadfast unity and purpose have stood us in good stead. We shall continue to make tireless efforts for a better future for our peoples.

Thank you.



**758. Statement by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Dilip Sinha at the Second Ministerial Luncheon meeting of the Group of Friends at the United Against Human Trafficking.**

**New York, September 26, 2011.**

Allow me begin by thanking Foreign Minister of Belarus H.E. Mr. Sergei Martynov for organizing the luncheon meeting. I also commend the important coordinating and steering role played by delegation of Belarus in New York for the successful adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons.

It is heartening to see that for the first time an agreement of the international community has been reached to address the scourge of trafficking in persons in a more holistic and comprehensive manner so as to ensure that human trafficking policies are integrated, balanced, coherent, result-oriented and people centric,

We welcome the launch of the Global Plan of Action in 2010. This is an essential tool and yet another opportunity for the international community to recommit ourselves to fight this crime in a more coordinated and cooperative manner. The 4 Ps of preventing, protecting, prosecuting and partnership is a new clarion call in this fight, which needs to be adhered to and implemented.

The new element of partnership is crucial, as it points to be non-exclusiveness of Member States in this fight; instead it calls for an inclusive approach of all stakeholders, private sector and international organizations to work more closely in a cooperative and coordinated manner to tackle this menace.

**Friends,**

India is and will remain committed towards a world free of human trafficking, a heinous and abhorrent crime, our struggle against trafficking is well known. Our commitment to address the problem of trafficking in persons is well reflected in various national legislations and policies, including our obligation under regional and international mechanisms to which India is party to.

At the level of policy implementation, we have developed strategies which are holistic, participative and inclusive and are not restricted to direct intervention against trafficking only.

Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cells have been set up both at the Central and the provincial levels. We are adopting a victim-centric approach to these issues. We are working with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime for strengthening law

enforcement responses in India against trafficking in persons. Training and capacity building are being enhanced. A comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking, rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation is already in existence. India also seeks to eradicate the menace through empowering the vulnerable sections of our society, who are its potential victims. This is also one of the core objectives of this Global Plan.

We are concerned at the growing scale worldwide of tracking of persons and recognize the complexities involved in dealing with this issue. We will continue to work in close cooperation with Belarus and other members of the Group of Friends in any future activities of the Group of Friends in the United Nations.

Thanking you,



**759. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on the Situation in Afghanistan at the Security Council.**

**New York, September 29, 2011.**

At the outset, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. I welcome H.E. Mr. Zalmay Rassoul, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan for his presence in the Council and thank him for his statement. We are grateful for the latest report of the Secretary General and are appreciative of the briefing by SRSG Staffan de Mistura.

**Mr. President,**

We are deeply concerned that the overall security environment in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. The latest Secretary General's report notes that the average monthly number of security incidents is up 39% as compared to the same period in 2010. While the process of transition of security responsibilities to Afghan National Security Forces has commenced since July, 2011, it is indeed worrisome that there has been no let up in terrorist violence.

The Taliban has opted for attacking high-security targets, assassinations and launching complex suicide attacks in urban centres including Kabul. Important political figures and government officials had been killed in recent past including Ahmad Wali Karzai, the Chairman of the Kandahar Provincial Council and

Ghulam Haidar Hameedi, Mayor of the Kandahar. The Intercontinental Hotel, the British Council and the US Embassy in Kabul have also been targeted.

We unreservedly condemn the assassination of Chairman of the High Peace Council and former President of Afghanistan Professor Burhanudin Rabbani last week. Tragically, the forces of terror and hatred have silenced yet another powerful voice of reason and peace in Afghanistan.

As we have repeatedly stressed in this Council, these attacks point to a dangerous osmosis of ideologies, ambitions, training and operations among the syndicate of terrorism in the region with suicide terrorism as its main technique, and targets not limited to Afghanistan.

The resilience of insurgents and their ability to target areas otherwise considered safe and secure, is a grim reminder that the security gains are still tenuous.

**Mr. President,**

For peace, stability and security in Afghanistan, it is imperative that the ongoing transition must be linked to the ground realities rather than rigid timetables. This, the international community in its hurry to withdraw from a combat role in Afghanistan, will ignore at its own peril.

The Secretary General's latest report underscores that for success of transition, it is important that the Afghan National Security Forces continue to demonstrate enhanced independent capability and professionalism to assume an increasing level of responsibility and accountability.

We support further strengthening of the Afghan National Security Forces. This must go hand-in-hand with enhancement of their capabilities along with adequate enablers. It is important that the transition must be Afghan owned, the transition must be planned and implemented in a systematic manner, and the transition must ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of all Afghans.

For security and stabilization of Afghanistan, it is important to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al Qaida, Taliban, Laskar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders. These groups are ideologically and operationally fused and their bonds have strengthened over the years. It would not be possible to consolidate the gains on the security front unless the international community is able to firmly deal with safe havens for terrorist groups outside Afghanistan's borders.

We fully support an Afghan-led inclusive and transparent process of reconciliation, adhering to the redlines as enunciated by the Afghan Government

in the London and Kabul communiqués. As we have earlier stressed, it must be accompanied by an inclusive political process and intra-Afghan dialogue and include renunciation of violence, cutting of ties to terrorist groups, and respect for the Afghan constitution with its protections for human rights, including the rights of women.

**Mr. President,**

Afghan ownership and leadership is also vital for development and reconstruction in Afghanistan. This also implies greater coherence, coordination and further streamlining of international community's development-related efforts including aligning of assistance with Afghan national priorities and increasingly working through Afghan institutions. We are happy to note UNAMA's efforts in this regard.

With the onset of the drawdown of foreign security forces and the transition process, it is all the more important for the international community, especially the regional countries, to remain committed in this crucial phase, when Afghan national institutions are still being developed and consolidated.

It is also important that Afghanistan's growth strategy is built upon the country's comparative advantage of abundant natural resources and its strategic geographical location. These would have to be the building blocks of our vision for Afghanistan as a hub linking Central and South Asia through pipelines, trade and transit routes for the common good of the people of our region and the world. We support the New Silk Road initiative as this would be an important step in that direction.

India remains committed to partnering the Government and people of Afghanistan in the building of a peaceful, stable, democratic and pluralistic nation. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social development activities. We are undertaking reconstruction and development activities in Afghanistan, with our total bilateral assistance commitment reaching US \$ 2 billion approximately. We have laid special emphasis on capacity building and human resource development, which in our opinion are the building blocks for a robust and self reliant economy.

Indian companies have evinced interest in exploitation of Afghanistan's iron ore reserves and India is also participating in the TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) gas pipeline project. These are projects which would call for large investments and express our resolve to cooperate with Afghanistan on plans involving regional integration for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.

SAARC, of which Afghanistan is a full member, is an important vehicle for regional economic cooperation within the South Asian region. We have always considered Afghanistan as a South Asian country with natural complementarities and synergies with other countries of South Asia and one which is uniquely placed to build bridges even beyond it. India's rapidly growing economy and its large market make it a natural destination for Afghan exports. Similarly, India can be a cost effective and efficient source of Afghan imports.

**Mr. President,**

As the security transition moves forward, Afghanistan needs long-term commitment and support of the international community. We look forward to the forthcoming Istanbul and Bonn Conferences and the comprehensive review of UNAMA's mandated activities and UN support in Afghanistan by the end of this year. We hope that these would contribute to efforts towards lasting peace, stability, economic sustainability and regional integration of Afghanistan in the years ahead.

Thank you.



**760. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda item 109 – Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 3, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me join others in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you full cooperation and support of my delegation.

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his annual report on "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism". The report gives an account of the measures taken at the national and international levels to combat terrorism and international legal instruments adopted for this purpose. The report also provides valuable information on workshops and training programs conducted during the reporting period on countering international terrorism.



**Mr. Chairman,**

Terrorism is a scourge that undermines peace, democracy and freedom. It endangers the very foundations of the continued existence of democratic societies. Terrorism has affected the whole world. There is hardly any region in the world that has not been scarred by terrorism during the past decade. The heinous terrorist attacks in New York, Abuja, Baghdad, Bali, Kabul, London, Madrid, Moscow, and Mumbai, repeatedly, - to name a few - are but the footnotes to the ugly imprints of terrorism.

Terrorists have become truly globalized. To give effect to their sinister plans, they recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others. Terrorists advocate their own ideologies. They have developed global logistical supply chains and transnational financial support systems; terrorists use the latest and most sophisticated technologies to their advantage and have command and control mechanisms in place that enable them to operate across continents on a real time basis. All these complexities have posed enormous challenges in countering terrorism. International community has no option but confront these challenges unshakably and decisively.

As the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh has said on 24th September 2011 during the General debate of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly, the fight against terrorism must be unrelenting. There cannot be selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or the infrastructure of terrorism. Terrorism has to be fought across all fronts.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Terrorism is a global problem that requires global solutions. International community has invested considerable time and resources in developing a normative framework for countering terrorism.

The Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism adopted by UNGA Resolution 49/60 condemns international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Declaration also unequivocally condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, whenever and by whoever committed whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them. States are also obliged to refrain from organizing, acquiescing in or encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts.

States are also obliged to ensure that their territories are not used for terrorist establishments or training camps or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens. This general framework is backed by 12 international conventions and five

protocols adopted under the auspices of the United Nations. So far the United Nations has adopted a sectoral approach in these international instruments. These remain fundamental tools in the fight against terrorism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India is a party to 13 international conventions and protocols. India is fully committed to its obligations under these conventions. Presently India, serving as a non-permanent member on the Security Council, is also Chairing the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Security Council and contributing to the work of all other sanctions regimes, including the Al Qaida Sanctions Committee. We are very satisfied that the Counter Terrorism Committee is making good progress in its work under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri and we congratulate him and other members of the CTC for their hard work. We also congratulate CTED for their excellent support.

At the National level, India has taken several steps to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism. Apart from strengthening our strategic and operational framework to combat terrorism effectively, we have also amended and strengthened our domestic legislation entitled Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 which has integrated the sanctions regime of the Al Qaida Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 and 1989.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act incorporates provisions dealing with all aspects of terrorism including conspiracy and incitement to terrorism. The Act criminalizes raising of funds for terrorist activities, holding of proceeds of terrorism, harbouring of terrorists, unauthorized possession or use of any bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapons. The Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention) Act, 2005 provides detailed measures preventing the falling of weapons of mass destruction or dual use materials in the hands of terrorists and non-state actors.

To enhance international cooperation for the investigation, prosecution and extradition of persons involved in terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, terrorist financing and illicit drug trafficking, India has concluded forty bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. In the absence of a bilateral treaty, India can also cooperate under the relevant international conventions and on the basis of reciprocity. To effectively monitor and cooperate with international partners we have set up a Financial Intelligence Unit. India is also an active member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

**Mr. Chairman,**

A lot has been accomplished but more remains to be done. We fully support the outcome document adopted by the Special Meeting of the Counter Terrorism

Committee of the Security Council held on 28 September 2011. The Special Meeting was held to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1373 which was adopted in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 on this very City. We fully endorse the two consensus benchmarks that have been reflected in the outcome document that – the international community supports zero tolerance towards terrorism, and no cause or grievance, whatsoever, can justify terrorism. The General Debate of the 66th UNGA session also reflected that, over and above, the international community is willing to pursue its crusade against terrorism with an unquestionable political will to squarely face the challenge of terrorism and face it decisively.

International community should focus on further strengthening anti terrorism legal framework. At the same time States are required to implement the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner. I would like to draw the attention of this Committee to the assertion made by the Secretary General that the comprehensiveness of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) is at an advance stage of its consideration before this Committee. We strongly urge all States to give due consideration to what the Secretary General expects us to do and make all efforts to conclude the CCIT during this Session.

Thank you.



**761. Statement by Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN K. R. Rahman Khan on Agenda Item 110 – Report of the Secretary General on the Work of the Organization at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 4, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, permit me to extend my warm felicitations to you on your assumption of the important post of President of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly. You can count on the full cooperation and constructive support of my delegation as you steer our work over the next year.

**Mr. President,**

Less than a week has passed since our leaders assembled here in this very same hall to share their perspective and vision on the current international system.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressed this august assembly on 24 September, 2011 and spelled out some of the daunting challenges confronting the international community in this time of flux and uncertainty.

**Mr. President,**

Terrorism is a scourge of humanity. It is a global problem that requires global solutions. It has spared no country or region in the world, be it New York, London, Abuja, or Mumbai, to name but a few places.

I am happy that the Counter Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, which India has the honour of chairing, adopted an outcome document on the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1373 which contains the two consensus benchmarks, namely that the international community has zero tolerance towards terrorism, and no cause or grievance, whatsoever, can justify it.

India believes that the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism would provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism. In our view, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is incomplete in the absence of such a Comprehensive Convention.

**Mr. President,**

On the important issue of reforming the Security Council, the negotiations during the 65th session have demonstrated, without a shred of doubt, the strong support extended by the membership for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of Security Council.

We welcome the decision of the President of the General Assembly to re-appoint Ambassador Zahir Tanin as the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations. We urge Ambassador Tanin to immediately convene an informal plenary meeting to discuss Council reform.

**Mr. President,**

Last year, the United Nations played a significant role in helping the people of South Sudan realize their aspirations. It was with a sense of accomplishment that India along with the rest of the international community welcomed the new country into our fold. The path ahead is by no means easy, but we are confident that we can, with adequate resolve, patience, and perseverance help the newborn nation as it embarks on the task of nation-building.

This year, we have another opportunity to transform the dreams of the Palestinian people into reality. As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said to this Assembly on 24th September, "We look forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations."

**Mr. President,**

The population of our planet is set to cross the 7 billion mark this month. This is not a mere statistical milestone but is a reminder once again of the grinding poverty, inequality and deprivation that continue to be the fate for an unacceptably large cross-section of humanity. It also shines a spotlight on the many unfinished tasks ahead of us in the global development agenda.

Since the global community met in New York in September 2010 to review the progress on MDGs, we have registered some advances, though overall the picture is mixed. The high political commitment notwithstanding, the hard truth is that countries have done little to shore up Global Partnership- MDG 8. In this regard, the commitment made by developed countries of 0.7% of GNI ODA ought to be fulfilled at the earliest. Equally significant is the need for ensuring access to technology in an affordable manner and building capacity.

Poverty reduction, gender empowerment, maternal health and infant mortality figures continue to show variable trends with marked disparities between regions. Acute rural-urban divide in all the indicators make the progress lopsided. What is most worrisome is that despite significant reductions in extreme poverty in the developing world, the proportion of people who go hungry has remained static. This glaring disconnect calls for renewed attention to the mechanisms governing access to food in the developing world.

**Mr. President,**

We believe that it is important for the UN system to focus on the needs of the

most vulnerable populations in developing countries. Sustained priority must be given to the special needs of the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDs. Member-states and the UN system need to ensure timely action on the Istanbul commitments. We must also pay particular attention to Africa in recognition of its special needs.

The focus on women's issues in the UN system received a substantial boost through the transformative step member-states took last year in creating a unified gender entity - UN WOMEN. We are happy to note that the new entity has embarked on its important tasks with purpose and vigour even as it settles into its new structures and mandate.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation's efforts at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be to ensure that the negotiations move forward expeditiously leading to an ambitious, balanced and fair outcome. While doing so, we ought to be mindful that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility, and respective capabilities must be its defining features.

I also draw your attention to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro next year which holds strong promise for the global sustainable development agenda. We must seize the opportunity to bring back sustainable development, as defined by the Rio Principles, to the centre of the global development matrix.

**Mr. President,**

We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General in advocating the principles of promotion and protection of human rights, and the rule of law. We also recognize their synergistic link with human welfare and socio-economic development, including the achievement of the MDGs.

The review of the Human Rights Council last year was a welcome development.

**Mr. President,**

Peacekeeping constitutes the most visible enterprise of the United Nations. India has had the proud privilege of contributing more than 100,000 peacekeepers to peacekeeping operations in the past six decades. As one of the largest troop and resource contributors, India is acutely conscious of the dramatic changes in the peacekeeping landscape.

We remain supportive of all efforts by the Secretary-General to strengthen the capability of peacekeepers to keep peace in increasingly difficult and complex situations by taking into account changed realities. It is imperative to ensure

that any decision on peacekeeping mandates does not get isolated from the equally important decisions on resources and capacity to ensure satisfactory execution of such mandates.

Equally, India is conscious that peacekeeping cannot be a substitute for the task of nation-building and peace building. The Government of India is committed to the principle and practice of peace building.

**Mr. President,**

India attaches the highest priority to the goal of universal disarmament. We continue to be guided by the visionary action plan for a Nuclear- Weapons-Free and Non Violent World presented by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 and which sets out a road map for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner.

We further welcome the attention given to the issue of 'Nuclear Safety and Security'. We support international efforts under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance levels of safety and security.

In closing, Mr. President, we look forward to forging ahead on the crucial issues before us in the current session of the General Assembly and working towards meaningful and result-oriented outcomes.

I thank you.



**762. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN P. J. Kurien at the 2nd Committee General Debate of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 4, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on assuming the leadership of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

**Mr. Chairman,**

we meet at uncertain times. The global economic situation remains a matter of great concern. Many leading economies face structural impediments. The sovereign debt situation in Europe and jobless growth in other parts of the world pose a severe challenge.

If only the world had taken note of our constant reminder that unsustainable pattern of consumption and production in the developed world needed urgent course correction, we could have avoided the unhealthy debt situation that plagues major economies today.

It seems the path to global economic recovery would be long and winding. And the only way to beat this tepid pace of recovery is to pursue sustained economic growth. Enhancing economic growth is not an option but a necessity, especially for developing countries that have huge development challenges to meet, first and foremost being poverty eradication.

While the global economic situation may be fluid, we must not lower our ambition on the MDGs or Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals. Poverty eradication and Sustainable Development must continue to be at the forefront of the global development agenda. Promotion of universal access to food and energy ought to be the core elements of our development strategy.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are just four years away from the MDG target year. Our singular focus, therefore, must be on its implementation. Discussion on the future of MDGs should in no way dilute our efforts towards attainment of these goals.

The political commitment of the UN member states to do their best to achieve the MDGs by 2015 must see accelerated action. In this regard, the commitment made by developed countries of 0.7% of GNI ODA ought to be fulfilled at the earliest. Equally significant is the need for ensuring access to technology in an affordable manner and building capacity.



India, on its part, remains committed to sharing its development experience with fellow developing countries. Such promises by us and by other developing countries, as part of South- South Cooperation, however, cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

Similarly, innovative sources of financing cannot be equated with traditional sources of development finance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development next year in Brazil holds strong promise for the global sustainable development agenda. We must collectively work to renew our commitment to Sustainable Development as defined by the RIO Principles. While doing so, we must ensure that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility are at the very heart of the understanding we reach at RIO+20.

In the run up to the RIO conference, as we grapple with the concept of "Green Economy", India wishes to see sustainable solutions for food security, energy access, water stress, natural resource re-generation and rapid urbanisation to be its salient features. Poverty eradication ought to be the fundamental action point in the envisaged outcome from RIO+20.

Means of implementation supported by transfer of technology is fundamental to the success of RIO+20. The "generics" in medicine have shown how flexibility in the IPR regime could be used for greater public good. India would advocate a template which balances fair returns to innovators with larger public good to make Rio+20 a success.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the Durban UNFCCC meeting, India would push for an outcome that is comprehensive, equitable, balanced and based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility. A second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is imperative in this regard.

We would also seek an early implementation of the Cancun Agreements including the Green Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Framework so as to ensure credible action on all the four pillars of the UNFCCC process – mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. India is acutely aware of the existential threat that Climate Change poses to the Small Island Developing States and believes that adaptation needs of these countries must be met at the earliest.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa need enhanced support from the international community. The Istanbul Programme, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, the Almaty Programme and the issues deliberated at the recently held UN General Assembly meeting on Desertification should receive our highest attention.

Last year, we finalised the Access and Benefit Sharing Protocol after years of labour. We must now concentrate on its implementation to ensure equitable benefits to all, and especially to those who have so far been denied ownership of their biotic resources. Establishment of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to strengthen science-policy interface would be most rewarding in this pursuit.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In these uncertain times, the Second Committee has to assume a larger role in fashioning and guiding the global development agenda. Under your leadership, I am confident that it would meet all expectations. You can count on our delegation's full support in all your endeavours.

Thank You.



**763. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ram Gopal Yadav on Agenda Item 83 – ‘The Rule of Law at the National and International Level’ at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 5, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assuming the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of Bureau on their election.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The agenda item “Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” has been on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly since its Sixty-Second Session. The principal objective for inclusion of this agenda item was

to strengthen the United Nations attention to the Rule of Law at all levels.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General for his annual report entitled "Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities" (A/66/133) of 08 August 2011 presented pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 65/32 of 06 December 2010. Secretary-General's Report reflects in an excellent manner the United Nations approach towards the rule of law both at the national and international levels. The Report highlights both the achievements and challenges in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels over the past year, and gives an over-view of the continuing progress towards a more comprehensive and coordinated approach in support of national priorities and plans, by identifying critical gaps and challenges.

At the national level, the United Nations approach *inter alia* involves, strengthening national ownership of reform initiatives, providing support to national reform constituencies, developing strategic approaches aligned with national assessments and coordinating activities with key stakeholders including civil society. At the international level, the UN approach stresses the need for fostering the rule of law by codification, development, promotion and implementation of an international framework of norms and standards by analyzing the role and contribution of international courts, tribunals and non-judicial mechanisms.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We appreciate the issuance of a Guidance Note by the Secretary-General in May 2011, which provides the guiding principles and framework for the promotion of the rule of law in relations between States, between States and international organizations and between international organizations. The Guidance Note identifies the major legal instruments that guide the action of the United Nations in implementing the guiding principles including in specific areas of rule of law assistance at the international level.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We agree in entirety with the statement in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report that Rule of law at the international level is the very foundation of the United Nations Charter and that the Organization aims to establish conditions under which justice and the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law are respected. We consider the promotion of the rule of law as an essential tool for promoting harmony, and ensuring development, peaceful co-existence and cooperation among States and strengthening international peace and security.

India believes that the advancement of the rule of law at the national level is an essential tool for the protection of democracy, sustainable economic growth,

sustainable development, eradication of poverty and hunger and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The development and implementation of international legal norms have the key role in achieving the goal of international peace and stability and in bringing the discipline in human life. The statement in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's Report that the United Nations continued to assist in the development and implementation of international norms and standards related to the rule of law over the past year, including in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, is worth appreciation. In this context, I gladly recall India's action of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Corruption in May 2011.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 65/32, the focus of our debate in this session is on the sub-topic "Rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situations". I would like to mention that India is a strong believer in respect for the rule of law and the application thereof and related principles both in the internal affairs of a state and at the international level. The Indian Constitution is firmly rooted in the promotion of healthy democracy and peaceful co-existence. It provides for the law based and peaceful formation of governments. India strongly believes in the peaceful handling of any conflict situation in accordance with the applicable legal rules and principles without using force.

India is the largest democracy of the world with a lot of diversities. I feel proud while mentioning that India has always adhered to democratic principles in the formation and change of governments. At the international level, India do believe in avoiding any unauthorized intervention in a State's internal affairs or use of force in any conflict or post-conflict situation. In the case of any conflict situation and which requires political change, transition must be ensured in a peaceful manner ensuring full justice to the population of the state concerned.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India reiterates the call for strengthening the capacity of States, especially of developing States, as the rule of law assistance has sometimes been piecemeal and, in some instances, donor-driven and not in line with national priorities of the recipient countries. There is an urgent need to move towards approaches that are nationally-driven and sustainable, and approaches that can garner the requisite political and popular support.

I Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**764. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed, during the General Debate of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).**

**New York, October 6, 2011.**

Thank you **Madam Chairperson**

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Fourth Committee? I would also like to felicitate other members of the Bureau on their election.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe, Ambassador Chitsaka Chipaziwa for the way he conducted the work of this Committee during the 65th session. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support during this 66th session of the UN General Assembly. My delegation broadly aligns itself with the statement of the Chair of the NAM delivered on October 3, 2011.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Colonialism is not only anachronistic, archaic and outmoded. It also contravenes the fundamental tenets of democracy, freedom, human dignity and rights. Today, as we discuss decolonization, many countries of the world are witnessing major social and political upheavals. These developments clearly indicate that the time has come to get rid of all aspects of colonialism.

The General Assembly in 1960, under Resolution 1514 (XV), adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Declaration solemnly proclaimed the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end, colonialism in all its forms and manifestations. The right of peoples under alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development was recognized as a result of this declaration.

The following year, the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization was established to study, investigate and recommend action to bring an end to colonialism. India was in the forefront of these initiatives and was also the first Chairman of the Decolonization Committee.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Decolonization is in fact, one among the visible achievements of the United Nations since its formation in 1945. The fact that today, fewer than 2 Million

people live under colonial rule in the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories when compared to 750 Million in 1945 is a testimony to the efforts to this august body.

However, these 16 territories also serve as constant reminders that the process of decolonization is as yet incomplete and that more needs to be done if we are to move the people in the Territories closer to their legitimate political status options defined in the Declaration.

Now we are in the third international Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020). It is our hope that by the end of this decade, these 16 territories would overcome the vestiges of a bygone system.

**Madam Chairperson,**

The way ahead must be a judicious mix of urgency and activism on the one hand, and one of sensitivity and circumscription, on the other. It must take into account, first and foremost, the needs and aspirations of the people of the Territories and their special circumstances, particularly developmental issues in context of geographical location, remoteness and fragile ecosystem in some cases.

It should be our common endeavour to work with the people of the remaining non-self-governing territories to realize what they perceive to be in their best interest. They should be given an opportunity to determine this freely from a well-informed standpoint. Many of the 16 territories already have threshold to form functional institutions that can thrive on their own.

**Madam Chairperson,**

We welcome the efforts of Special Committee on Decolonization (Committee of 24) to engage the administering Powers in a positive and constructive manner to end colonialism. Their role is crucial in attaining the objectives that we have laid down for ourselves. Cooperation, and not confrontation, is the key to our work. We are happy to note that this spirit has imbued the ongoing dialogue with the administering Powers.

India also appreciates the efforts taken by the Special Committee on Decolonization in formulating the report (A/66/23) and its recommendations. We would like to assure the Chairman of the Committee of 24, Ambassador Francisco Carrion-Mena of our full support and involvement in his efforts to move the agenda ahead and successfully complete the mandate of the Special Committee.

The Committee under his stewardship has already taken many initiatives such as the Caribbean regional seminar organized in Saint Vincent and the

Grenadines on 31 May to 2 June 2011 on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Such seminars help to mobilize world opinion to support and assist the peoples of the Territories in speedily ending colonialism.

**Madam Chairperson,**

India-as always, is a strong believer in ideals of democracy, human rights, dignity and peaceful co-existence which are the corner stones of a civilized society. India has ceaselessly struggled for an end to colonialism since her independence in 1947 which was in itself was one of the most important milestones in the history of decolonization.

In conclusion, as a founding member of the UN and the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization, I would like to reaffirm India's unrelenting commitment to achieving the goal of complete decolonization.

Thank you.



**765. Statement by Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament Ambassador Sujata Mehta at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 6, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

May I begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Chair of the First Committee. I am confident that under your leadership we will accomplish our tasks efficiently and smoothly.

India aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India has been steadfast in its support for global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. The Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order was presented in 1988. As Prime

Minister Dr Manmohan Singh said in his address to the 66th UNGA, this Action Plan sets out a concrete roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner.

The goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. The progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons is essential to the goal of their complete elimination. India's Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament of 2006 contains specific proposals for consideration of the international community.

Without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, we support the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests. India is a nuclear weapon state and a responsible member of the world community, and would approach these negotiations as such.

While we share the disappointment among Member States on the continuing impasse in the CD, we believe that this is not due to the CD or its rules of procedure. The CD has the mandate, the membership and the rules of procedure to discharge its responsibilities. We believe that the First Committee should send a strong and clear signal of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and provide political impetus to the multilateral agenda, which includes early commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament on the basis of the agreed mandate. As an essential stakeholder in this process, India is prepared to work with other likeminded countries towards this end.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India subscribes to a policy of credible minimum nuclear deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. India has espoused a policy of no first-use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states and is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. We support negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. We also support a Global No-first Use Treaty.

India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.



There is a strong development rationale for the expansion of nuclear energy, which is indispensable also for energy security and addressing climate change concerns. Expansion of nuclear energy can and must be ensured in a manner that does not enhance proliferation risks and is based on enhanced nuclear safety or security standards evolved under the aegis of the IAEA. India has participated in the Nuclear Security Summit process and activities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This is an important year for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, one of the only two treaties banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. We view the upcoming 7th Review Conference as a valuable opportunity for States Parties to review and strengthen the Convention and improve its effective implementation, particularly in view of the new challenges facing the international community in the 21st century, including addressing the threat posed by bio-terrorism.

India is an original signatory to the CWC and has faithfully discharged all its obligations. As a responsible state party, we have demonstrated our commitment by destroying all our chemical weapon stockpiles under OPCW verification within the timeframe prescribed by the Convention. It is important to ensure the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention by all States party to the Convention. India believes that it is important to maintain the credibility and integrity of the Convention as a whole.

The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, including the safety of assets in space, continues to be a priority in light of the expanding uses of outer space and the spread and evolution of space technologies. India supports efforts to strengthen the international legal framework on the security of space assets to enhance space security for all space users and specifically to prevent the weaponization of outer space. While universal and non-discriminatory TCBMs can be useful complementary measures, they cannot substitute legally binding instruments in this field.

**Mr. Chairman,**

While we have participated actively in the preparatory meetings with regard to the proposed Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty in 2012, we believe that prospects for a viable and effective Treaty of universal acceptance would be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed in a consensus based process and outcome, without artificial deadlines.

As a party to the CCW and all its Protocols, India looks forward to a successful 4th Review Conference of the Convention next month. The CCW has proved to be a dynamic instrument in the field of international humanitarian law. India

has participated actively in negotiations in the Group of Government Experts on a protocol that seeks to address the humanitarian impact arising from the use of cluster munitions while striking a balance between humanitarian and legitimate security concerns.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As in previous years, India would be presenting three resolutions for action by the First Committee. These include a draft resolution on a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and a draft Resolution on Reducing Nuclear Danger. We would also be presenting a draft Resolution on Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The First Committee has a vital responsibility to help the international community forge a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Our work is also important in building public awareness and support for the international disarmament agenda, especially the cherished goal of a world without nuclear weapons. I assure you of the full cooperation of the Indian delegation in the discharge of your important responsibility.



**766. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav on Agenda Item 82 – ‘Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the strengthening of the Role of the Organization at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.’**

**New York, October 6, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I once again congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and also the other members of the Bureau on their election. Please be assured of full cooperation of my delegation in the work of the Committee. We are confident of good progress in the work of the Sixth Committee under your leadership.

My delegation attaches great significance to the work of the “Special Committee

on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization." All the specific proposals on the agenda of the Special Committee deserve due consideration. While my delegation will address the specific proposals as and when taken up, we would like to make some general remarks at this time with specific reference to maintenance of international peace and security: impact and application of sanctions; peaceful settlement of disputes and on the overall thrust of some of the proposals under consideration.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The impact of the application of sanctions in the context of maintenance of international peace and security is a significant issue for all. Maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the Security Council, which acts on behalf of all UN member States in the discharge of its duties. The Security Council, which mandates sanctions, has the nodal responsibility for finding solution to the problems of third States affected by the sanctions. Article 50 of the UN Charter confers the right on third States confronted with special economic problems, because of the Security Council sanctions, to consult the Security Council for solution to those problems. Article 50 cannot therefore be considered as merely procedural. It obliges the Security Council to find definitive solution to the problems of the affected third States.

India reiterates its position along with other NAM countries that the Security Council is obliged to directly focus upon the effects on third States of any sanction under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Further, it is necessary to ensure timely and adequate assistance to the affected third States giving consideration to 'humanitarian aspects.'

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the same time, we are happy over the shift of the Security Council from general sanctions against States to targeted sanctions against individuals and entities, especially in the global fight against terrorism. The Security Council has adopted both substantive as well as procedural safeguards to mitigate the adverse effects of sanctions on third states. These measures range from standardizing humanitarian exemptions to developing procedures and establishing a focal point. We consider that the proper implementation of targeted financial sanctions, focused arms embargoes and travel sanctions will minimize the economic, social and humanitarian impact in targeted as well as non-targeted States.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India believes that sanctions can only be further reinforced and made more acceptable by finding viable and predictable solutions to the problems of third

States that could be affected by sanctions. It requires the establishment of a mechanism for the assessment and evaluation of the impact of sanctions on third States and individuals and proper implementation thereof.

We thank the UN Secretary-General for his report A/66/213 of 29 July 2011 entitled "Implementation of the provisions of the UN Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions", submitted pursuant to resolution 65/31 of the UN General Assembly. We note with appreciation the information provided in the report that the shift from comprehensive to targeted sanctions has reduced the incidence of unintended harm to third States and that no official appeals have been received to monitor or evaluate special economic problems since 2003. It is worth mentioning that the Secretary-General's report provides information that in the case of economic sanctions against Libya, the Security Council has made exceptions for authorizing access to frozen funds for a variety of basic and extraordinary expenses to help mitigate economic burdens arising from the implementation of assets freezes.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The world community cannot over-emphasize the need for developing a universal consensus on the core issues concerning assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions and related issues. We consider that it is important to ensure that sanctions are issued in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter and do not violate the principles of international law. In this regard, we support the main findings of the ad-hoc expert group meeting contained in the document A/53/312.

India is supportive of proposals aimed to bring transparency in the functioning of the Security Council and support their consideration within the existing framework of the Charter.

The Outcome of the World Summit 2005 has reiterated commitment to multilateralism and the importance of acting strictly in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter in order to deal with threats to international peace and security. It has reiterated the obligation of all member States to refrain, in their international relations, from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the UN Charter.

In this context, India supports in principle, the proposal for an advisory opinion of the ICJ on the use of force by a state or a group of states without the express sanction of the Security Council. Such an advisory opinion will help clarify the legal principles governing the right to use of force under the Charter.

We support, in principle, the new topic being suggested for a study on the functional relationship between the different organs of the United Nations. However, the modality for the study involves the creation of an open-ended

working group, through which the States could raise the issues or proposals before the Special Committee. It is unclear that whether the working group or the Special Committee would be the final examining body. The rationale of the creation of the WG is also not clear as any proposal can directly be brought before the Special Committee itself without creating an additional stage.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Outcome of the World Summit, 2005 has reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the United Nations, by highlighting the role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN. The Summit has called for the strengthening of relationship between General Assembly and other principal organs of the UN and has stressed for the early reforms of the Security Council to make it more broadly representative.

India thus attaches significance to the reforms of the United Nations, including the revitalization of the General Assembly and democratization and expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent category of membership.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We the UN member States owe the responsibility to settle disputes by peaceful means, which is a fundamental principle under article 2, paragraph 3 of the UN Charter. Article 33 of the Charter further strengthens this duty and provides the means which the parties to a dispute can choose freely, including arbitration, enquiry, mediation and judicial settlement. The International Court of Justice, being the principal judicial organ of the United Nations plays an important role in the settlement of disputes.

India supports the continuous existence of the topic "Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States" on the agenda of the Special Committee, although currently there is no specific proposal before the Special Committee under this agenda item.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India commends all efforts of the Secretary General towards the continued publication and updating of the Repertory of Practice of the UN Organs and the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council, as these documents are very important sources of reference.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**767. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prof. P. J. Kurien on Agenda Item 78 – ‘Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission’ at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 7, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I congratulate you on your assuming the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election. I assure full cooperation of my delegation in the work of the Sixth Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We extend our sincere thanks to the UN Secretary General for his Report A/66/174 of 25 July 2011, presented pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 65/20 dated 06 December 2010. The Report outlines the information received from member States on the extent to which their national laws establish jurisdiction, particularly over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. It also provides information on cooperation among States and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and the facilitation of investigations and prosecution of such offenders.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We align with the NAM statement on this agenda item. We condemn the instances of serious crimes committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission in spite of clear code of conduct and a policy of zero tolerance by the United Nations. It is imperative that all UN officials and experts on mission perform their duties in a manner consistent with the UN Charter that promotes the image, credibility and integrity of the United Nations. India is committed to punish those who may be found guilty of any misconduct. We concur with the view that the officials and experts on mission should be

held accountable whenever they commit criminal acts not only because of the prejudice or harm caused to the victims but also because they undermine the work and image of the United Nations. It is essential to ensure that in no circumstance are any United Nations personnel exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed by them at their duty station.

The General Assembly resolution 65/20 strongly urges all States to consider establishing jurisdiction over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct of the person amounts to a crime both in the host country and the country of his nationality as well. We sincerely hope that the implementation of this Resolution would help fill the jurisdictional gap in respect of member States that do not assert extra-territorial jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals abroad.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Regarding India's position, the provisions of the Indian Penal Code do extend to extra-territorial offences committed by Indian nationals. Accordingly, the offences committed by Indian officials or experts on mission while serving abroad are subject to the jurisdiction of Indian courts and are thus punishable under the Indian law.

The Resolution further encourages all States to cooperate with each other in the conduct of investigation and prosecution of those who are alleged to have committed offences.

The Indian law has provisions for mutual assistance in criminal matters, which enables to seek from and extend to a foreign State assistance in criminal matters. These provisions are part of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. It inter-alia includes provisions on assistance concerning service of judicial processes; execution of orders of attachment or forfeiture of property identified as unlawfully acquired; management of property so seized or forfeited; taking of evidence and making a person available for that purpose. India has concluded bilateral treaties with about forty countries on mutual assistance in criminal matters. These treaties are designed to provide and seek assistance in criminal matters that are necessary for the investigation and prosecution of offences.

The Indian Extradition Act, 1962 deals with extradition of fugitive criminals. The Act allows for extradition in respect of extraditable offences in terms of an extradition treaty with another State. The Act also allows consideration of an international Convention as the legal basis for considering an extradition request in the absence of a bilateral extradition treaty.

Also, where there is no bilateral treaty on extradition or mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with a State, the Government of India can provide assistance on a reciprocal and case by case basis in accordance with the provisions of applicable national laws.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We note with appreciation the information in the Secretary General's report that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continued to pursue efforts to address sexual exploitation and that the training and awareness-raising on United Nations standards of conduct remained central. It is also praiseworthy that an induction training programme on conduct and discipline was developed and a regional workshop was held in November 2010 in Entebbe, Uganda, followed by a repeat session for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti in the Dominican Republic in June 2011 as a means to address conduct and discipline issues among the United Nations personnel in peacekeeping and special political missions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India considers it extremely important that any kind of violation of any national or international law by the UN officials and experts on mission by their indiscipline, misbehave, sexual abuse or other wrong doings are fully stopped. In our view, dealing with the wrongdoings of UN officials or experts on mission, does not require the development of an international convention. The member States need to ensure that their laws provide jurisdiction and have adequate provisions for prosecuting any such conduct of their nationals serving as the UN officials or experts abroad and that their laws also have provisions for international assistance for the investigation and prosecution of the crimes involved.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.





**768. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda Item 79 – Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its Forty-Fourth Session at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 10, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and also I congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (the Commission) is the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. The Commission has the mandate to remove legal obstacles in international trade by modernizing and harmonizing trade law. Through its working groups, the Commission is actively engaged in the negotiations and preparation of legal texts in a number of important areas such as international commercial dispute settlement, transport law, electronic commerce, insolvency, sale of goods and, procurement and infrastructure development. In the recent past, one of the major achievements of the Commission has been the adoption, by the General Assembly, of its Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea, in December 2008, which is known as the “Rotterdam Rules.”

**Mr. Chairman,**

We extend our gratitude to the Commission for its report A/66/17 on its work at the 44th session. During this session, the Commission dealt with a number of important issues related to subjects that are under consideration of its working groups. One of those is the adoption, by the Commission, of the Model Law on Public Procurement. The Model Law prescribes procedures and contains principles aimed at achieving value for money and avoiding abuses in the procurement process. The new Model law will replace the 1994 Model law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services. We are convinced that the new Model Law will be useful for States in updating their existing procurement laws and in formulating the procurement laws for those States which have not enacted the procurement laws so far. We are hopeful that it will lead to the development of harmonious international economic relations and increased economic development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Another important subject currently under consideration of the Commission is the preparation of legal standards on Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). The traditional judicial system, through the courts and tribunals is very complex, costly and time consuming, in particular when a dispute involves an international element. The Commission took up the topic of Online Dispute Resolution as a solution that could provide quick resolution and enforcement of disputes across borders, arising from small value, high volume business to business and business to consumer transactions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In the area of arbitration, we are hopeful that the Working Group-II will come out with the practically viable legal standards on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration.

The Commission has further undertaken work in the field of electronic transferable records. We share the view that the formulation of uniform legal standards in the field of electronic transferable records would be beneficial both for the generic promotion of electronic communications in international trade, and in the implementation of legal instruments having provisions on electronic records, including the "Rotterdam Rules" and aviation business.

In the field of insolvency, we welcome the consideration of the proposal concerning the responsibilities and liabilities of directors and officers of an enterprise solely in the context of insolvency, avoiding legislating on the criminal liability as such or on the core areas of company law.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, we reiterate the importance of technical cooperation and assistance to the developing countries, in particular on the adoption and use of texts, adopted by the Commission, at the national level. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to provide such assistance to the broadest extent possible and to improve its outreach to the developing countries, in particular.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**769. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda Item 143 – ‘Administration of Justice at the UN’ at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 10, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I, once again congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and also the other members of the Bureau on their election. We are confident of good progress in the work of the Sixth Committee under your leadership.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The agenda item “Administration of Justice at the United Nations” assigned to the Sixth Committee is of special importance. The establishment of a viable, transparent and principle based justice system within the Organization is not only a highly justifiable requirement for the protection of overall interests of the staff of the Organization, but it would also have positive impact over the overall functioning of the Organization.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General A/66/224 of 02 August 2011 on “Activities of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services.”

This Office delivers informal conflict resolution services to the staff of the Secretariat, and various United Nations agencies. We are happy to note that the decentralization of the informal conflict resolution services has provided the Office with better access to its constituencies and enabled it to provide in-person intervention at the field level, which is the most effective means for conflict resolution. It is encouraging that the Mediation Service has provided staff and managers an additional alternative tool to resolve workplace disputes.

The Secretary-General's report highlights the budgetary constraints and challenges that made it difficult for regional ombudsmen to travel to provide in-person intervention for the resolution of conflicts and to deploy rapid response ombudsmen and mediation teams as needed. To overcome these difficulties, the report contains a request for additional resources for the Office in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, which in our view deserve positive attention.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We thank the Secretary-General for his report A/66/275 of 08 August 2011 on "Administration of Justice at the United Nations", submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/251 of 24 December 2010. The report provides consolidated data and information on the functioning of the new justice system and related matters. The report describes the accomplishments of the new system during the past year including the data and information on requests for review received by the Management Evaluation Unit; resolution of cases by the Office of Staff Legal Assistance; handling of cases by the Office of Legal Affairs and; judgements rendered by the Tribunals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We note with satisfaction the averment in the report of the Internal Justice Council A/66/158 of 19 July 2011 that the new justice system is working well as a result of the dedication of the judges, Registrars, lawyers and staff. The Council has, inter-alia recommended for consideration of the Code of conduct for judges; additional appointments in Tribunals, Office of Staff Legal Assistance and Management Evaluation Unit; reporting system of the Office of Administration of Justice to ensure independence; resource requirements and; review of the statutes of the UN Dispute Tribunal and the UN Appeals Tribunal. In our view the recommendations deserve positive attention of ours.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We also thank the Secretary-General for his report A/66/86 of 01 June 2011 and Addendum thereto of 19 July 2011. The report has two annexes concerning amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and to the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. The amendments would further strengthen the procedural requirements of justice delivery and deserve positive attention of ours.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, we support all efforts towards the strengthening of the new system of administration of justice at the United Nations inter-alia by ensuring the availability of adequate human and financial resources to all associated offices and departments. We are hopeful that strengthening of the system would ensure access to justice to all members of the United Nations workforce, irrespective of the designation or nomenclature and that no one will be left out without recourse.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**



**770. Statement by Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN K. Rahman Khan, on agenda item 17 : Macroeconomic policy questions: b) International Financial System and Development , and c) External Debt Sustainability and Development, in the Second Committee of the 66th United National General Assembly.**

**New York, October 10, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to begin by expressing my appreciation for the detailed reports brought out by the Secretary General on important macroeconomic policy questions, some of which are being considered on the agenda today. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of G-77.

The world economy is in trouble. The shoots of recovery which were visible after the economic and financial crisis of 2008 have yet to blossom. In many respects the crisis has deepened even further. The traditional engines of the global economy such as the United States, Europe and Japan, which are also the sources of global economic and financial stability, are faced with continued economic slowdown. Recessionary trends in these countries are affecting confidence in world financial and capital markets.

These developments are bound to have a negative impact on developing countries which also have to bear the additional burden of inflationary pressures. Declining global demand and availability of capital, increasing barriers to free trade and mounting debt pose a threat to the international monetary and financial system. Questions are being asked about the efficacy of the Bretton Woods institutions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The hardest-hit by the crisis are people living in the developing world, especially in the Least Developed Countries. Developing countries have seen more than 100 million people slipping back into poverty last year, and their socio-economic situation continues to worsen.

It is ironical that those least responsible for the crisis must become the biggest victims of it. Quite clearly then, Mr. Chairman, the international financial and economic system is in need of urgent reform. Inequity in the system must make way for democracy, transparency, and accountability.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our foremost priority, however, must be to pursue sustained economic growth to bring the global economy firmly back on track. The development agenda

must be brought firmly back to the centre stage of the United Nations' priorities. We need a much more determined effort to ensure balanced, inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of vast sections of humanity. Many developing countries are not in a position to implement counter-cyclical measures. There is an urgent need for international assistance - be it ODA, concessional finance, debt relief and moratorium or FDI- to help such economies gather momentum.

**Mr. Chairman,**

A critical lesson from the crisis is that the unregulated capital flows are highly destabilizing in nature. The withdrawal of huge amounts of money has left developing countries without adequate coping mechanisms and in fact even more financially unstable than before.

On the other hand, the spurt in short-term capital flows to some developing countries has led to significant inflationary pressures on the host economies. While excessive capital flows in itself poses a risk, their volatility adds further complications. We call upon the Financial Stability board, the IMF and the Bank of International Settlements to further work on developing effective tools to mitigate the impact of excessive capital flows.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We should not allow the global economic slowdown to become a trigger for building walls around ourselves through protectionism or erecting barriers to movement of people, services and capital. Effective ways and means must be deployed to promote coordination of macro-economic policies of major economies. The reform of governance systems of international financial institutions ought to be pursued with speed and efficiency. Regulatory, surveillance and monitoring frameworks must be tailored to meet the highest standards of accountability and financial controls.

India supports the Basel-III framework for bank capital and liquidity regulation and calls for its early implementation. We also are fully supportive of the move to ensure that systemically important financial institutions have loss absorbing capacity beyond the general standards set by Basel-III rules.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India fully recognizes that the global economic and financial architecture, so overwhelmingly loaded against the developing world needs urgent reform. We call for early implementation of the two phase package of reforms of the World Bank to enhance voice and participation of developing countries. The decision to shift 6% quota shares in the IMF to developing countries must also be attended to in the right earnest.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The financial crisis has led to acute debt problems in the developing world. The LDCs are the worst affected. Despite significant debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries programme and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, the total debt service burden of LDCs in the year 2008 reached US\$ 7.5 billion. Many of the countries which are part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative have been classified as being prone to debt distress once again.

The sovereign debt crisis in Europe and its possible contagion effect is a matter of deep concern. We ought to put in place mechanisms to deal with such crisis and its overall consequences.

The external debt burden constrains the national policy space and policy independence of developing countries and their ability to play the role of a developmental State.

Debt sustainability analysis frameworks remain limited and subjective. We must work towards a debt structure which is linked to a country's ability to pay.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The international community must remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the affected countries. We should work to design policies that promote safer debt instruments, reduce destabilizing capital flows and limit solvency crisis by promoting responsible sovereign borrowing

The roadmap of our global economic and financial reform agenda is clear and unambiguous. Let us pursue it.

Thank you.



**771. Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs Mrs. Preneet Kaur at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 63[a] and [b], and 13: New Partnership for Africa's Development: Progress in Implementation and International Support; Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa: Report of the Secretary-General [A/66/202 and A/66/214]; and 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries at the 66th Session of the General Assembly.**

**New York, October 11, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

It gives me great pleasure to address today's Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the promotion of peace and development in Africa, including in its efforts to fight malaria.

In the immortal words of India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Africa is our "sister continent". India's links with Africa are civilizational. They are anchored in centuries of trade across the Indian Ocean; in the shared struggle against the yoke of colonialism; in our endeavour of post-colonial nation-building, and in our common quest to unshackle our people from the bondage of poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and apartheid.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to this great continent for being the political birthplace of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who first tested his central precepts of non-violence and peaceful resistance in South Africa.

**Mr. President,**

Ten years after the adoption of NEPAD, it is befitting to recognize the noteworthy progress made so far in pursuing sectoral priorities in agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, science, information technology, and environment. Nevertheless, this decadal milestone also offers an opportunity for sober reflection on the unfinished tasks ahead in fulfilling the vision of socio-economic growth and sustainable development that was envisaged when this framework was first conceived.

Particularly relevant to this discussion is the pivotal contribution of international cooperation in Africa's development, especially in its efforts to make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and in surmounting the difficult challenges confronting post-conflict and transitional societies in Africa.

As rightly emphasized by the Secretary-General in his Report, the international



community needs to step up its efforts and bridge the gap between promise and delivery. The shortfall of 18 billion US dollars in meeting ODA commitments to Africa is a cause of concern. In these times of political uncertainty and fragile transitions in many African countries, it is more incumbent than ever for the continent's development partners to stay the course and help African countries achieve their developmental goals.

**Mr. President,**

On India's part, we have together with our African partners transformed our age old and special engagement into an enduring and multi-dimensional relationship. After careful nurturing over successive years, today our partnership with Africa is aligned with the priorities integral to the developmental goals of Africa and is built on the foundations of mutual equality and common benefit. Sectoral areas of cooperation that have been accorded high priority include infrastructure development, capacity-building, agriculture, health, food security and technology cooperation.

Earlier this year, we reaffirmed our abiding commitment to working with our African partners at the second India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May 2011. At the Summit, India announced fresh lines of credit worth five billion US dollars over the next three years for Africa and an additional 700 million US dollars grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology, and building new institutions and training programmes, in consultation with the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and our African partners. In keeping with NEPAD's emphasis on infrastructure development, we have also decided to support the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway line at 300 million US dollars. We are also discussing with the African Union the augmentation of capacities for the development of regional structure in railways.

Building on the success of the Pan African E-network project that shares with all African countries our expertise in the fields of healthcare and education through satellite, fiber optics and wireless links, we are looking at setting up an India-Africa Virtual University. The proposed University will set aside 10,000 new scholarships for African students.

We are further going to significantly raise the number of African beneficiaries of our scholarships and training slots, including under our flagship technical and economic assistance initiative- the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). We have committed ourselves to offering more than 22,000 scholarships to African students over the next three years.

With a view to encouraging trade and investment flows, there is also a proposal to establish an India-Africa Business Council. India is already unilaterally making

available duty free and quota free market access for goods from 34 Least Developed Countries in Africa. This covers 94% of India's total tariff lines and provides preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5% of global exports of all LDCs.

India's private sector has played an increasingly important part in recent years in supporting trade and investment flows. Indian companies have made large investments in Africa in industry, agriculture, services, human resource development and infrastructure. The Indian conglomerate Tata has emerged as the second largest investor in Sub-Saharan Africa. New initiatives to establish an India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, an India-Africa Integrated Textiles Cluster, an India-Africa Civil Aviation Academy, an India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, and an India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development are on the anvil.

**Mr. President,**

India has also contributed actively in efforts to maintain peace and security on the African continent through our six decade long involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts. Our most substantial presence remains in Africa, including in the latest peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

Further, India will contribute 2 million US dollars for the African Union Mission in Somalia in line with our consistent support to the development of African capacities in the maintenance of peace and security. We have consistently held the position that the international community must further encourage regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa to play a more important role both in peacekeeping and peace-building issues within Africa.

**Mr. President,**

Before concluding, I would like to speak to the global anti-malaria campaign, particularly in Africa, dealt with in the WHO Report transmitted by the Secretary-General. The Report emphasizes the need to intensify efforts to reach the recently revised and more ambitious targets by 2015.

The analysis presented in the Report draws on empirical evidence to suggest a strong link between injection of significant funding and rise in the number of lives saved as a result of anti-malarial efforts. The fact that funding has stagnated in the past two years is therefore particularly worrisome. We would urge all donors to step up efforts at this critical juncture.

India's own cooperation agenda with Africa includes capacity building programmes for medical and health specialists to tackle pandemics like malaria, filarial polio, HIV and TB. India's private sector has been investing in establishing

pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in African countries. We are willing to do more.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, India's vision of the 21st century sees a great and dynamic role for Africa as an emerging growth pole of the world. We will offer our fullest cooperation to translate this vision into reality. We will take our partnership from pillar to pillar founded on mutual solidarity and kinship to harness the great potential of the more than 2.1 billion Indians and Africans.

I thank you, Mr. President.



**772. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dr. Ratna De on Agenda Item 65[A]: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Children at the 3rd Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 13, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, please allow me to thank the Secretary General, his Special Representatives and Special Rapporteur for their reports under agenda item 65. I would also like to thank the previous speakers for their useful and informative presentations under this agenda item.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Government of India accords the highest priority to ensuring that the rights of children in India are protected. Nineteen percent of the world's children are Indian. The age group 0-18 years constitutes 44% of our population. We have put in place a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to protect and promote their rights and their well being.

A National Charter for Children has been adopted. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years has been declared a fundamental right. As part of the public-private partnership, even private schools have to reserve 25% of seats to children from economically weaker sections of the society with budgetary support from the government. A National Plan of Action for Children

has also been adopted. One flagship programme, namely the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, focused on early childhood care and education caters annually to around 75 million children under 6 years of age. The Government of India is committed to creating, through these and other initiatives, a protective environment for children.

In this connection, I would also like to point out that civil society in India is an integral and active part of this framework. We consider civil society to be a valued partner in our national and international efforts on children's issues.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Violence against children must be strictly condemned and vigilantly and actively monitored. Ending exploitation and violence against children is fundamental to ensuring a healthy future for every child. In this regard, India has set up a National Commission for the Protection of Child's Rights in 2007 to provide speedy trial of offenders committing crimes against children and violating the rights of children.

We are encouraged to note that the Special Representative for Violence against Children will devote special attention in the forthcoming period, inter alia, to further consolidating regional mechanisms on violence against children and continuing the series of expert consultations on violence-related topics.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The eradication of child labour in all occupations and industries is one of the most important priorities of the Government of India. We are strictly enforcing a ban on employment of children under 14 years of age. Cognizant of the fact that this problem cannot be divorced from its social conditions, we are addressing this issue in a holistic manner by implementing measures to improve access to education, health and nutrition for children. The National Human Rights Commission and civil society, including non-Governmental organisations, have been supplementing the Government's efforts in the eradication of child labour in the country.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In 2009, the government of India launched a new scheme called the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to create a safe environment for children in need of care and protection, children in conflict and contact with law and any other vulnerable child. This scheme brought under one umbrella several existing schemes of child protection, namely, a) A Programme for Juvenile Justice; b) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and c) Scheme for Assistance to Homes to Promote In-country Adoption.

The primary focus of this new scheme is to provide quality and better accessible child protection services; to raise public awareness about child rights; to clearly articulate responsibilities and enforced accountability for child protection; and to establish functioning structures at all government levels for delivery of statutory and support services to children in difficult times.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Today, a special mention of the girl child deserves our attention. The girl child is one of the most vulnerable members of any society. A number of initiatives to enhance the status of the girl child have been initiated in India, such as effective policies to ban sex selective abortion and child marriage. Since 2009, every year, January 24 is marked as "National Girl Child Day" in India to highlight the different problems faced by the girl child and the need to spread gender sensitization amongst various sections of the society.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India is fully committed to the rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. India is a signatory to the six core human rights covenants, and also the two Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

India's commitment to children and their welfare and development is manifest in our commitment and ongoing efforts to meet the goals of the outcome document "A World fit for Children" and the related Millennium Development Goals. We have made much progress. Yet, a lot more needs to be accomplished.

Children are our future. India will continue to take measures to ensure that children are able to grow and develop in safe environments that will lead to healthy and productive adult lives. India will continue to strive to achieve the full realization of the potential and value in every child-boy and girl.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The child is an instrumental stakeholder in the social contract. Let us reaffirm our commitment to promotion and protection of the rights of our children.

Thank You.



**773. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Moinul Hassan Ahamed on Agenda Item 18 – Follow up to and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference at the Second Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 13, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to begin by thanking the Secretary General for his incisive reports on financing for development. India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

Development finance lies at the heart of the global development agenda. The global community must fulfil the commitments it made in Monterrey and Doha, if we have to see credible action on the attainment of the MDGs and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals.

The global economic downturn has made development financing even more critical. The crisis has had regressive impact on the capacity of countries to meet their development aspirations. Soaring energy and food prices coupled with limited growth continue to impose severe challenges on developing countries. In such a situation, these countries, in spite of their best efforts, are hardly in a position to mobilise higher domestic resources for development.

We must, therefore, ensure that economic growth is pursued as a priority for poverty eradication and development. Growth-promoting policies are central to raising public revenues.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Developing countries fully realise the benefits of relying on domestic resources for development as it enables them national ownership and to implement policies in line with their priorities. However, they have limited ability to exercise this option. Their dependence on external aid and support is not out of choice but compulsion.

We deeply appreciate the policy initiative undertaken by countries to pursue “financial inclusion” as an instrument of domestic mobilisation of resources and for promoting inclusive growth. In India, we have set ourselves a target of making all Indians bankable by 2012. A dedicated programme called ‘swabhimaan’ has been launched for the purpose.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Foreign Direct Investment and trade are important for financing development. However, on their own, they are not sufficient to tackle poverty, hunger and disease, especially in the current global economic order which is most unfavourable to developing countries. Lack of market access, aid-for-trade and a multilateral rule-based trading system severely restricts the growth opportunities of developing countries.

The debt situation in a large number of developing countries has been untenable for quite some time, with their ratio of external debt to GDP being as high as 21.6% in 2010. This fundamental economic weakness has further retarded their development process.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is clear that developing countries, especially the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa cannot meet the developmental challenges without external assistance. Official Development Assistance remains an important source of financing for them for which there is no substitute.

The gap in financing for development continues to widen. In 2010, only five donor countries had met their ODA commitment of 0.7%. The aid flow to developing countries last year stood at US\$ 129 billion, representing only 0.32% of the total GNI of the donor countries and well short of the 0.7% mark. It is deeply worrisome that the global crisis is being made an excuse for not meeting existing commitments.

A large share of ODA continues to be allocated to social sector. In 2009, aid to productive sectors represented only 8% of the total ODA disbursed. This situation must change if we are serious about meeting the MDGs. There is need to improve aid predictability and transparency as well.

The commitment that the international community made in Monterrey and Doha of ensuring predictable development assistance including ODA, concessional financing and debt relief to developing countries and supporting nationally owned development strategies need to be fulfilled urgently.

South-South financial and technical assistance may be expanding lately but it cannot be a substitute for the North-South commitment. Nor can developing countries, which are burdened with huge socio-economic challenges of their own, be expected to meet the obligations of the developed world.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Given the resource gap in financing for development, it is imperative that

innovative sources of financing are explored. We, however, see innovative sources as additional to and not a substitute for ODA.

There is also a need to have a common understanding on what constitutes innovative sources of financing. In the absence of a clear cut understanding, in many cases innovative financing is passed off as ODA. It is also important that these finances are disbursed in accordance with the priorities of countries and do not lay unfair burden on them.

We also note that while innovative financing may have worked in the health sector and in climate finance, it is yet to establish itself as an institutional support in other areas of development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

A comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture to address systemic issues is at the heart of general implementation of the financing for development process. India has been working closely with countries to ensure greater voice and participatory space for developing countries in the international financial institutions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The financing for development process, as embodied in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Review Conference, is crucial for attainment of our development aspirations. We must adhere to its principles in letter and spirit.

Thank you.





**774. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav on Agenda Item 51 – International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the General Debate of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee [4th Committee] of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 13, 2011.**

**Madam Chair**

The Indian Delegation is pleased to note the successful deliberations of the 54th session of UN-COPUOS, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu of Romania, and the substantial progress made during the session. The delegation notes with appreciation that UNCOUOS, under the mandate of the General Assembly, continues to contribute significantly towards capacity building for sustainable development, and strengthening international co-operation to utilise outer space for peaceful purposes towards serving the humanity. The Indian Delegation also expresses its full satisfaction at the work carried out by the two sub-committees of UNCOUOS, the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee at its 48th session and the Legal Sub-committee at its 50th session.

**Madam Chair**

While acknowledging the significant achievements of various member states in space endeavors during the last one year, the Indian delegation desires to brief the Assembly on the significant achievements made by India in the field of space since the last Session.

On April 20, 2011, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-16) precisely placed RESOURCESAT-2 and two auxiliary satellites namely YOUTHSAT and X-SAT into their intended orbits. RESOURCESAT-2 is augmenting the multispectral imaging capability of India as a follow-on mission to RESOURCESAT-1. YOUTHSAT is a small satellite built with participation of the Moscow State University; and X-SAT is a small satellite built by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) with ISRO's support.

On May 21, 2011, India's advanced communication satellite, GSAT-8, was successfully launched by Arianespace from Kourou, French Guiana. GSAT-8 carries 24 Ku-band transponders and a navigation payload "GAGAN".

An advanced communication satellite HYLAS (Highly Adaptable Satellite), built by ISRO on commercial basis in partnership with EADS-Astrium, was successfully launched on November 27, 2010.

On July 15, 2011, PSLV-C17, in its eighteenth successive successful flight,

precisely injected GSAT-12 communication satellite into an elliptical transfer orbit.

India has achieved significant progress in the last one year, in realizing GSLV Mk III, a heavier class launch vehicle, capable of launching 4-ton class communication satellites into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit.

**Madam Chair**

The Indian delegation is proud to inform this Assembly that the Indo-French joint satellite mission for monitoring tropical atmosphere, named 'Megha-Tropiques', has been launched from Sriharikota yesterday through PSLV-C18. This has been a good example of international cooperation and the data from this satellite is to be used by the global scientific community including NASA, NOAA and EUMETSAT. Megha Tropiques will be one of the eight satellites of the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) constellation, contributing to the global scientific community's research to study the dynamics of climate system. In the coming months, India plans to augment her constellation of remote sensing and communication satellites.

**Madam Chair**

The Indian space programme continues to integrate the advances in space technology and applications with national developmental goals. Many national and regional programmes of societal relevance are continuing, apart from newer initiatives to reach the space-based products and services to the society.

India places considerable importance on International Cooperation for peaceful use of outer space. Currently, formal instruments of cooperation are in place with more than 35 countries and international organizations.

**Madam Chair**

In the field of capacity building, India continues to share its expertise and services in the application of Space Technology. The Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, affiliated to the UN and operating from India, has so far benefitted 994 scholars from 31 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and 28 scholars from 17 countries outside the Asia-Pacific region.

**Madam Chair**

In conclusion, the Indian delegation greatly acknowledges the potential of space technology and the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. India fully supports UNCOPUOS in all its endeavours to increase awareness in this regard.

Thank you Madam Chair.



**775. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dr. Ratna De on Agenda Item 80 – United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 14, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

As I am speaking first time in this Committee, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assuming the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of Bureau on their election.

**Mr. Chairman,**

This agenda item, which is aimed to promote the international law, is of high importance given the fact that one of the principal goals of the international community remains establishing the sound international legal norms to govern the international relations. We are convinced that better knowledge of international law certainly serves as a means of strengthening peace and security and promotes friendly relations between States. We are happy that this topic is on the agenda of the Sixth Committee for consideration on annual basis.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General A/66/505 of 07 October 2011, presented on this agenda item pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 65/25 of 06 December 2010. The report provides information concerning the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law during the current year, in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations contained in Secretary-General's report presented at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The report provides information about the international law seminars and training courses conducted through the fellowship programme, especially to the lawyers from developing countries. It gives information about the Hague Academy lectures and the seminars organized by the Codification Division on a wide range of international law topics.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We agree, as stated in paragraph 15 of the report that the regional courses on

international law provide unique opportunity to participants to focus on contemporary issues of international law of common concern in the region. It makes the participants to understand the international legal system and functioning thereof that further develops the sense of co-existence and brotherhood.

We note with appreciation that a regional seminar on international law topics was organized in Addis Ababa in February 2011 for lawyers from the African countries. In addition to imparting the knowledge of international law to the lawyers of African region, this event gave an opportunity to the officials of the African Union to elaborate upon their approach towards the human rights and the peace and security, when the participants paid a visit to the Union. We welcome the offer of the government of Ethiopia indicating willingness to further host regional courses on international law including the one proposed in Addis Ababa in March 2012.

We also appreciate offers of Thailand and Mexico for hosting international law courses in the Asian and the Caribbean regions respectively. It is also encouraging to note that The Hague Academy of International Law has the interest in cooperating with the Codification Division with respect to the fellowship programme to include the regional courses on international law.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We have great appreciation for States who have voluntarily contributed to the Programme of Assistance and attach great value to even a small contribution toward this important task.

The Secretary-General's report has indicated about the resource constraints in pursuing the activities concerning the Programme of Assistance in the biennium 2012-2013. In that regard, we support the idea of exploring the possibilities of meeting the financial requirements of these activities from the regular budget, to ensure the continuation thereof. In our view, it serves the interest of the international community as a whole to encourage the continuation and further strengthening of international law programmes and training courses around the world.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, we express our appreciation for the Office of Legal Affairs, the Codification Division and other agencies and offices for their continued efforts towards the arrangements for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**776. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prakash Javadekar on agenda items: Culture of peace at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.**

**New York, October 17, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I am deeply honoured and privileged to participate in today's joint debate under the agenda items of Culture of Peace and express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports on inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue.

We note with deep satisfaction that celebration of the International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures (2010) and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) provided a unique opportunity for the UN system to reaffirm its fundamental commitment to the plurality of humanity, in which cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are mutually reinforcing. This is exactly what Indian ethos stands for.

**Mr. President,**

In today's world we are witnessing the rise of extremism and intolerance, outbreak of sectarian violence and increasing use of language of hatred and violence. These pose a serious challenge to the very foundations of our society. Here we must salute Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King who proved power of non-violence.

**Mr. President,**

We need to create an environment conducive to fostering a dialogue between diverse cultures, races, faiths and religions that inculcates the values that promote transition from force to reason, from conflict and violence to dialogue and peace.

Dialogue amongst different cultures and religions is also important because it is precisely in the absence of such a dialogue and understanding, that intolerance, bigotry and violence flourish.

**Mr. President,**

It is heartening to note that the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) which includes a Group of Friends with 128 members has now become one of the premier platforms for intercultural and interreligious dialogue within and between diverse societies.

We welcome the Doha Pre-Forum and support the initiative to establish and further explore the linkage between AOC's mission and aims and Millennium Development Goals during the Doha AOC Forum.

**Mr. President,**

We support the Department of Public Information in its endeavor to strengthen its voice on intercultural dialogue by organizing and covering a wide range of events.

It may be mentioned that the Indian Mission associated itself with DPI and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in organizing an Authors Colloquium on "Unlearning Intolerance" at UN headquarters on May 5. The Indian Mission also organized a function to mark the International Day of non-Violence at the UN on September 30 this year, in which the Secretary General was the Chief Guest. India's leading historian Dr Ramachandra Guha delivered the keynote address.

**Mr. President,**

India, the largest democracy in the world, a nation of unparalleled diversity with a population of over one billion, is the second most populous nation in the world.

While India, of course, has the largest Hindu population, we also have one of the largest Muslim populations in the world.

And India provides a home to very significant number of practitioners of practically every other major religion of the world, be it Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism or the Bahais. India is the birthplace of Jainism. Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon in Sarnath, an eminent centre of Indian philosophy, after he attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya. All this happened as our kings offered land and facilities to all religions.

The history of India, in essence, is a narrative of conversations between different civilizations and, indeed, conversation with nature itself. India is home to scores of languages, hundreds of dialects, thousands of cuisines, a medley of races, colours, landscapes and cultures. This assimilation and accommodation of diversity has contributed to the richness of our composite culture and durability of our civilization. This is "Unity in Diversity".

Our civilizational legacy treats nature as a source of nurture and there is high value placed on living in harmony with nature. The Vedas are a repository for holistic development of the human-being in full harmony with its surroundings. The continuous strand of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* i.e. "the entire world is one family" has guided our constant interaction and exchange of thoughts with the

outside world. The noble principles of life and spiritualism, including non-violence, have influenced successive generations of people worldwide.

**Mr. President,**

We, in India, understand the importance of building alliances between religions, cultures and ethnic groups and we have always supported all efforts to build bridges of understanding between nations, peoples, religions, cultures across the world.

It is our considered view that successful pluralism must be grounded on the basic tenets of mutual understanding and respect for diverse traditions. Indian ethos believes in tenet of *Ek Sat Vipra Bahudha Vandani* meaning that there are many ways to reach God. Indian ethos also treats believers and non-believers equally. This is also critical for harmonious development of all sections of the society, including gender equity and empowerment of women all over the world.

**Mr. President,**

The only way to achieve this goal is to move conceptually to a new dimension of dialogue and harmony among diverse cultures, races, faiths and religions so that all human beings can live in a sane and peaceful global society of our collective dreams.

Thank You.



**777. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Satpal Rawat on Agenda Item 11 – “Sport for Peace and Development: Building a Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal” at the 66th Session of the General Assembly.**

**New York, October 17, 2011.**

**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am privileged to participate in today’s discussion on “Sports for Peace and Development” and would like to thank this august house for providing me this opportunity.

**Mr. President,**

Sport is an important element in building character. It helps motivate young people, teaches them to work in a spirit of partnership with others, develops leadership skills and promotes a sense of team spirit, apart from ensuring fitness and a healthy life style.

Sport also helps foster peace and a feeling of equality and friendship among all people and nations. There can be no more powerful medium to inspire and bring people together for a common purpose.

**Mr. President,**

The intrinsic linkage between sports and games, and the human quest for excellence, was recognized at the very inception of human civilization. It reached its high point during the ancient Greek civilization, which was the beginning of the modern Olympic movement.

Sports, games and physical fitness have also been an integral part of the Indian heritage, evident even today in the highly evolved system of yoga, as well as the vast range of indigenous games and martial arts practiced in different parts of India since time immemorial.

After Indian independence in 1947, the first five-year plan gave due importance to physical education and sports, and emphasized its integration in the formal education system. As part of our efforts to broad-base sports and encourage creation of modern sports infrastructure, a National Sports Policy was also adopted by India in 2001.

Today in India, all sections of our society, including the media and business sector, are actively involved in the promotion of sports. We have also been encouraging the autonomous functioning of our national sports federations.



**Mr. President,**

Sport is also an effective tool to help achieve development objectives in the areas of health, education, child protection, and child development. Besides, it helps generate public awareness and inspires broad, inclusive and committed action in support of the developmental agenda. I am glad to note that there is today a good recognition of the value of sports to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and that many sports personalities have associated with the UN in creating public awareness and help in the understanding of various issues that affect the youth and society. In this context, I would like to draw attention to our national icon for cricket Sachin Tendulkar, who is a Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Environment Programme and our former tennis star, Vijay Amritraj, who was a UN Ambassador of Peace in 2001.

**Mr. President,**

India has in the recent past successfully held the 19th Commonwealth Games, an event that featured participation by 71 countries and over 7000 athletes, who celebrated sporting excellence, human skill and endurance, and above all courage and character. These games upheld and renewed the essential spirit of peace, equality and friendship among all people and nations.

Recognizing the importance of sports in building a peaceful and better world, India has co-sponsored the resolution "building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", which will be adopted today. We sincerely believe that all sporting events strengthen the cherished ties of goodwill and understanding that unite us as one family.

Thank you.



**778. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Santosh Chowdhary on the Thematic Debate on other Weapons of Mass Destruction at the First Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 17, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

India has been a consistent proponent of general and complete disarmament and remains committed to the goal of total elimination of all Weapons of Mass Destruction. We attach the highest importance to the two non-discriminatory and multilaterally negotiated treaties, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which ban two entire categories of weapons of mass destruction globally in a non-discriminatory fashion.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention is the first disarmament instrument that bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). India ratified the Convention in 1974. We believe that the prohibitions against biological weapons enshrined in the Convention must be upheld. We fully support initiatives to strengthen the Convention, ensure its full implementation by all States Parties and to make it universal. We believe that only a multilaterally agreed mechanism for verification of compliance can provide the assurance that all States Parties to the Convention are in compliance with their obligations under the BWC.

India has been participating constructively in the inter-sessional meetings of the BWC following the sixth Review Conference in 2006. This is an important year for the Convention and we thank Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel for his briefing on preparations for the 7th Review Conference. We assure him of our full cooperation for a successful Seventh Review Conference in December. We hope to reach positive results by consensus at the Review Conference taking into account scientific and technological developments in the field of biological sciences.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a unique disarmament treaty providing for the elimination of an entire category of WMDs through a multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable instrument. We believe that the primary objective of the Convention is the elimination of chemical weapons. We completed destruction of our chemical weapons stockpile in March 2009 within the deadline prescribed for India. It is important that all state parties uphold and fulfill their commitments under the treaty.

While recognizing the disarmament and non-proliferation aspects of both the BWC and the CWC, we must not lose sight of the promotional aspects of both these Conventions. The economic and technological development of developing countries through international cooperation is fundamental to the achievement of the object and purpose of these Conventions. It is important that developed countries ensure full, effective and balanced implementation of all provisions of these Conventions regarding international cooperation in transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The risk of WMDs falling into the hands of terrorists presents a grave security challenge to the international community. India is committed to supporting international efforts to prevent non-State actors and terrorists from acquiring WMDs and their means of delivery. We have a well-established and effective export control system which has worked well for over six decades. Our commitment to prevent terrorists and non-state actors from acquiring WMDs and related materials and technologies is enshrined in domestic law inter alia through the enactment of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2005.

Our First Committee resolution entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction", first adopted in 2002 has continued to command consensus and growing support both in the First Committee and the General Assembly. The resolution gives expression to the concerns of the international community and is a clear reaffirmation of the Member States to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. It underlines that the international response to the threat needs to be national as well as multilateral and global. As in previous years we are introducing our draft resolution this year and we hope that it will continue to elicit strong support of all countries.

Thank you.



**779. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 23[A] – Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty [2008 – 2017] at the Second Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 17, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by congratulating you on your leadership of the Second Committee.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

The subject matter of the debate today – Poverty eradication and other Development issues - is critical to the attainment of our cherished Millennium Development Goals.

Though we may take satisfaction in the number of global poor living on US\$ 1.25 a day to have come down from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005 and that global poverty level is projected to fall below 900 million by the MDG target year of 2015, we all recognise that the work at hand is still a daunting one. Poverty eradication, therefore, must continue to be the foremost priority of the global development agenda.

The ongoing impacts of the global economic and financial crisis, and the faltering recovery, pose persistent impediments to combating poverty. High and volatile food and energy prices continue to erode the policy space developing countries have to advance their development process. In 2009 and 2010, more than 160 million people slipped back into poverty, reversing years of development gains. What is of deeper concern is that many more people are at the risk of falling into the poverty trap.

Ensuring economic growth is, therefore, fundamental not only to strengthen the economic recovery but equally for eradicating poverty.

Sustained economic growth in developing countries has been the principal instrument of poverty alleviation. In India, we have been singularly successful on this, notwithstanding the turbulence of the 2008 crisis and its aftermath. In spite of the global economic slowdown, we are projected to grow at 7.5% this year. As per estimate, India would have taken out 188 million people out of the poverty net by 2015 compared to the 1990 level, but would still be home to the largest number of global poor.

We do, however, recognise that growth in itself is not sufficient to distribute opportunities and resources and have, therefore, adopted policies to ensure inclusive growth. This is the overarching objective of our Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) and without doubt would continue to be so for the future plans as well.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Recognising that poverty is multi-dimensional in nature, our Government has launched large scale socio-economic programmes and interventions to reduce poverty, fight malnutrition and hunger, reduce infant mortality and promote health and gender empowerment.

With a view to tackle poverty, enhance our food security and upgrade rural infrastructure, India has launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme, the largest cash for work programme in the world. The programme guarantees 100 days of work annually to those willing. This pro-job strategy of poverty eradication is of particular relevance at a time when the world is confronted with job-less growth.

The National Rural Health Mission to ensure better healthcare; School Lunch Programme to fight malnutrition; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan for universal education, Swabhimaan programme for financial inclusion for all, are some of the other targeted initiatives undertaken by India to combine equity with growth.

We have also kept women at the centre of all our development policies and programmes. We have been particularly successful in promoting participation of women in our local self governments. We have reserved 50% seats for women in our local bodies.

India deeply appreciates the work being done by UN-WOMEN to promote gender empowerment.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Strategies for poverty reduction in developing countries must necessarily focus on agriculture and rural development as majority of the people in these countries are dependent on agriculture and allied activities.

Countries must also adopt policies tailor made to their needs to spur job enhancing growth, undertake social protection measures to assist the poor and induce larger domestic mobilisation of resources through financial inclusion and other policies.

Fundamental to job-creation, especially in developing countries, is to pursue skill development and training. In India, we have launched the National Skill

Development Mission, a public-partnership initiative to build and upgrade employable skills with focus on the informal sector. The World Bank in 2008 initiated the Rural Migrant Skills Development and Employment Project to support transition of rural workers to urban areas. Such innovative programmes could be productive templates to follow.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Developing countries, constricted by the global economic slowdown, of which they have become the principal victims, need enhanced resources and policy space to pursue their development aspirations. With the MDG target year just four years away we need accelerated action by all stakeholders. The 0.7% ODA commitment of developed countries, with some honourable exceptions, still remains to be met. It is disconcerting that the global economic crisis is being made an excuse to get away from even the minimal commitment made.

Developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa are in urgent need of an enabling international environment that is conducive for meeting their foremost challenge- poverty eradication. In this context, it is imperative that we move forward on the Doha Development Round, on Climate Change Negotiations to seek an ambitious and comprehensive outcome and on a comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions for equitable participation of developing countries.

South-South Cooperation in recent years has complemented global resources targeted at development agenda, but it cannot be a substitute for North South Cooperation.

India has been privileged to share its development experience with fellow developing countries. We remain committed to doing more in the coming years with our partners in the South and stepping up our support to South-South Cooperation.

Let our actions to fight poverty be worthy of our commitment.

I thank you.



**780. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dushyant Singh on Agenda Item 69 – Promotion and Protection of Human Rights [A] Implementation of Human Rights Instruments, [D] Comprehensive Implementation of and Follow up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action at the Third Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 18, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

We thank the Secretary General for his reports under the agenda item Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and also the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the various treaty bodies for their reports.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The mission of the promotion and protection of human rights within the United Nations was put on a firm footing with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. We are proud of the part played by India's Hansa Mehta in drafting the UDHR, giving prominence in the Declaration for equal rights for women and men. The international community has since adopted several international human rights instruments in the last 60 years.

The Human Rights Council is an important body that the international community has carefully constructed to strengthen the protection of human rights around the globe. We are happy with the successful completion of the Review process in which India actively participated. We must consciously ensure that Council continues to function in a non-selective, non-politicized and transparent manner.

We consider the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to be a positive, indeed a unique mechanism that enhances our commitment to making a genuine difference to the improvement of human rights on ground. We must congratulate ourselves on the successful completion of the first UPR Cycle just last week when review of all the 192 States of the UN was completed. The UPR is truly a universal, transparent mechanism, a potent instrument for change where all stake holders participate directly or indirectly.

We acknowledge the important role played by treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of the treaty obligations by the state parties. Recommendations made by these bodies have greatly contributed to strengthening domestic legal regimes and best practices identified have assisted governments in finding new ways to promote and protect human rights of their citizens. We encourage them to uphold their independence in the performance of their functions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Every time a gross violation of human rights occurs in any part of the world, it shocks the conscience of the international community. The process of monitoring and protecting human rights is not easy and the international community must continue its endeavor to unify their forces in the fight against perpetrators who commit gross violations. In that context it is important to recognize that targeting countries for intrusive monitoring is only indicative of a bias and does not further the cause of human rights. There is no doubt that human rights abuses must be addressed but it should be done in a comprehensive manner through cooperation, dialogue and consultation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The international community took a major step in the promotion and protection of human rights by adopting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of action in 1993. It was explicitly recognized for the first time that gross violations of human rights anywhere is a matter of grave concern for the international community. The Programme of Action exhorted states to adopt policies and programmes to enhance human rights situation including introduction of human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and rule of law as subjects in the curricula of all learning institutions in formal and non-formal settings.

India attaches much importance to the Right to Development, and recognizes that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process. Lasting progress in this respect requires effective development policies at national level as well as equitable economic relations at the international level. A co-ordinated international effort is required to ensure that States establish, promote and sustain national and international arrangements that create an enabling environment for the realization of the Right to Development. The occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Right to development by the General Assembly provides the international community an opportunity to reiterate its commitment to make a global concerted effort to effectively translate the Right to Development into a reality for all.

As a State Party of the principal covenants on human rights, and of practically all other major human rights instruments, India has accorded equal importance to all rights. India has consistently promoted civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other. While the Constitution of India is the bedrock of our legal and political system, India's independent judiciary, a free and vibrant media and civil society have reinforced the safeguards in order to ensure that these human rights for our citizens are not denied.



India has made important strides in facilitating the enjoyment of human rights of its citizens in the last two decades. India established an Independent Human Rights Commission in 1993. India has also enacted the 'Right to Information Act' to ensure transparency and accountability of government's activities. The remedy of public interest litigations, was crafted by the judiciary, to ensure that even the most vulnerable sections of society who may not be able to approach courts otherwise, can seek justice via a public-spirited person or organization. This process of judicial redressal has been extremely effective in providing remedies to detainees, children and other vulnerable groups. A separate institutional mechanism in the form of National Commission for Women was also created to investigate and register complaints of violations of rights of women. Recently India began implementing the Right to education Act which applies to all schools whether private or public. Various laws relating to human rights are underway in parliament including the National food Security bill and the National rural employment guarantee bill.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**781. Statement by the First Secretary at the Permanent Mission at the UN Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma on Agenda Item 85 – The Law of Trans Boundary Aquifers at the 6th Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 18, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

As I am speaking for the first time in this Committee, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of this important Committee. I also congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It may be recalled that in resolution 63/124, the General Assembly took note of the recommendation of the International Law Commission (ILC) and commended the Draft Articles on Trans-boundary Aquifers to the attention of governments, without prejudice to the question of their future adoption or other appropriate action. The General Assembly also encouraged States to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their trans-boundary aquifers taking into account the draft articles.

Aquifers are important as life-supporting groundwater resources for mankind, particularly in view of the increasing demand for freshwater around the world. There is certainly a need to protect and manage the underground water ensuring availability of fresh water to all through proper utilization thereof. Draft article 3 expressly recognizes the sovereignty of an aquifer State over the portion of trans-boundary aquifers or aquifer system located within its territory.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The draft articles have tried to balance the equitable and reasonable utilization of aquifer systems with the obligation to prevent causing significant harm to other aquifer States and in cases where harm has been caused, to take measures to eliminate or mitigate such harm. The draft articles contain a number of useful provisions such as the factors relevant to equitable and reasonable utilization, the obligation to cooperate, regular exchange of data as well as the obligation of protection, preservation and management of aquifer system. We are convinced that the draft articles can serve as a useful guide for States in concluding their bilateral or regional arrangements on this subject.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We appreciate the efforts of the delegation of Japan in introducing the draft resolution on this important subject, with a view to examining the possibility of adopting the draft articles as a framework convention.

We note that the debates in the ILC as well as in the Sixth Committee have also highlighted the lack of adequate scientific knowledge in the field of management and protection of aquifers and that there was further need to study these aspects before coming to a firm conclusion on the nature of the outcome of the draft articles.

Given the complex nature of the subject, and the lack of state practice, it is necessary that States are provided with further scientific and technical assistance in understanding the complex issues associated with the management and protection of aquifer systems and based upon the state practice through bilateral and regional arrangements between states, the General Assembly will, at a later stage, be able to decide whether the time is ripe to develop a legally binding instrument, such as a convention, based on the draft articles adopted by the ILC.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**



**782. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Santosh Chowdhary on agenda item: Questions relating to information at the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of 66th General Assembly.**

**New York, October 19, 2011.**

**Madam Chair,**

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, let me congratulate you as well as the rest of the members of the Bureau, for the manner in which you have conducted the work of the Committee thus far. We wish you all the best of success.

**Madam Chair,**

We welcome the report of the Secretary General on the three-fold activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI), namely strategic communications, news and outreach services.

The DPI's role is pivotal in helping to fulfill the substantive purpose of the United Nations by strategically communicating the activities and concerns of the Organization with the greatest public impact in a situation where the UN confronts a variety of complex challenges and opportunities.

We note with satisfaction that the DPI has made some advances towards delivering its messages to the targeted audience in an effective way. The DPI's Strategic Communications Division, under its thematic campaigns, worked closely with the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) and produced 27 press releases and 1206 articles in English on peacekeeping matters for the UN web portal, during the period from July 2010 to February 2011. The UNifeed produced and disseminated 250 stories and UN Radio produced 120 stories on the subject during the same period to generate greater public support for peacekeeping operations.

**Madam Chair,**

We, however, reiterate that information being produced and disseminated has to be relevant and meaningful and, to the extent pertinent, it has to be spread in a manner that makes it not only interesting but also enjoyable for the target audience. This is not easy to achieve and those working on content management must be driven by a constant yearning for further improvement. DPI's programmes must seek to further deepen and strengthen their coverage and

projection of the most noteworthy activities of the UN, in particular, those that directly impact upon the lives of ordinary people. These include humanitarian activities as also the work performed, often under extremely demanding circumstances, by UN peacekeepers in strife-torn lands.

As regards the latter, we would like to see DPI, DPKO and DFS working more closely in highlighting UN peacekeeping success stories and providing accurate, impartial and timely information on the regular activities of UN peacekeepers, as also on the exceptional work that they often do that goes beyond the routine keeping of the peace and the call of duty.

**Madam Chair,**

The DPI needs to use the widest possible range of technologies in order to make its work as pertinent and accessible as possible to the largest number of users, making it an effective channel for the flow of information between the UN and the peoples of the world. However, as many countries simultaneously span several centuries in technological terms, it is essential that the end product offered by DPI is dispensed through a wide spectrum of media channels. Thus, while the selection employed should incorporate the latest technologies, such as webcasts and podcasts, a strong emphasis must also be retained on using traditional and very cost-effective means of communication, such as radio and print. These remain of tremendous importance in reaching out to ordinary people in many parts of the developing world and must constantly be kept in sight.

It is encouraging to note that social media followers of UN Radio have grown to 21 thousand, an increase of 275 percent over the second half of 2010. It is a testimony to DPI's efforts to address the need of varied audiences in different parts of the world, particularly in the developing countries, by maintaining a strong focus on traditional means of communication while, at the same time, capitalizing on new media platforms like internet and social networking sites.

**Madam Chair,**

We also fully support the effort to enable the emergence of a more linguistically equal world, in which information is disseminated not merely in the official languages of the UN, but also in other languages. We congratulate the DPI for now producing information in over 150 languages and note with satisfaction that among other

languages, UN radio programmes are also being made in Hindi, Bengali and Urdu. This promotion of multilingualism by the DPI in its activities needs to be further widened and intensified, including in particular parity between the six official languages in terms of content on the website.

There is also much value in raising the level of local content and local involvement in the production of DPI programme material. Doing so will also encourage local talent and creativity to involve itself in the work of the UN. In this regard, we consider the UN Information Centers (UNIC), which have the capacity to work in 48 languages and maintain websites in 29 languages, as crucial in enhancing the public image of the UN and in disseminating its message, particularly in the developing world. We would encourage the DPI to work closely with host countries in strengthening these information outposts of the UN. We would also support adequate budgetary resources being made available for UNICs.

**Madam Chair,**

India appreciates DPI's Outreach Division for its Academic Impact and Celebrity Advocacy programmes. We are pleased to mention that of more than seven hundred members Academic Impact initiative, institutions of India aggregate second largest number and that the University of Calcutta, one of our oldest and most renowned universities, is the Academic Impact's global hub for peace and conflict resolution. Our cricketing icon Sachin Tendulkar is a Goodwill Ambassador of UN Environment Programme.

Furthermore, the Indian Mission was associated actively with the DPI and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in organizing a symposium on the theme "Can literature effect change" with a panel of eminent Indian authors on May 5. The event was dedicated to our former President R. Venkataraman.

**Madam Chair,**

We would like to assure you of India's full support to the DPI in its endeavor to project the UN story and build support for the Organization and its noble aims.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



**783. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 9 – Debate on the Report of the Economic and Social Council and Integrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow up to the Outcome of the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields (Agenda Item 14) at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.**

**New York, October 19, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me begin by expressing my delegations full support in making the 66th UN General Assembly a success.

I wish to thank the President of the ECOSOC for presenting the report of the Council and for his encouraging leadership.

We have just heard the important steps and actions the ECOSOC has taken on the global development agenda.

The Council has an acknowledged role as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development. It has been singularly successful in promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of the commitments made in the major UN conferences and summits.

Through the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum, the Council has been able to review efforts to achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including MDGs. The focus of the AMR each year on one of the Millennium Development Goals has, indeed, helped to accelerate action on them.

The July 2011 ECOSOC AMR based on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education” helped us track the achievement on MDG 2 and the Dakar Declaration in a holistic manner. The ECOSOC session, in general, focused on promoting greater coherence between policy and development goals, and making development partnership more effective, participatory and transparent.

We welcome the oversight role of the Council of its commissions and committees and appreciate its recent decisions to take corrective actions in maintaining the sanctity of this global body.

We deeply appreciate the high level policy dialogue the Council has been promoting with the international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy. This is of particular relevance in the present uncertain global economic scenario.

There is a clear recognition that global economic governance needs a wider participation from developing countries, especially in the decision making structures of the BWIs, and we are hopeful that the Council will play a proactive role in achieving this objective.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The United Nations conferences and summits held since the 1990s have generated an unprecedented global consensus on the need to pursue sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and development.

Without sharing prosperity there can be no just and equitable world.

This imperative was emphatically reiterated at the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Turkey this year. The 10 year Istanbul Programme, which though an ambitious document seeks only a minimal commitment from the global community. If we are able to give the LDCs a helping hand, they would be more than willing to run the finish line.

The global economic crisis has not borne well for the MDGs. Reverses on poverty alleviation and other development goals need accelerated action to neutralize the regression. The Least Developed Countries which are the biggest laggards on the MDGs need stepped up external support including ODA, FDI and trade.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Inter-linkages between the various UN development summits and conferences are strong, and their synergies must be tapped.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation would derive immense benefits from a comprehensive, ambitious and equitable outcome of the Climate Change negotiations. Similarly, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Access and Benefit Sharing Protocol through protecting biodiversity has an important role to play in poverty eradication.

Multiple UN conferences and summits focused on attainment of Internationally Agreed Development Goals must, therefore, have a seamless, holistic and integrated working relationship with each other. The role of ECOSOC in providing this important interface cannot be over emphasized.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With just four years to go for the MDG target year, follow-up action on all UN Summits and Conference need to be pushed. The global economic uncertainties should not become an excuse for inaction on our development agenda, more so when the economic recovery itself would get a boost from addressing the development deficit.

Follow up on the Monterrey Consensus and the DOHA review Conference on Financing for Development is fundamental to ensuring resources and the required policy space for developing countries to meet their socio-economic challenges. The 0.7% ODA commitment must be met at the earliest. Equally important is the need to ensure technology transfer and capacity building to developing countries.

We need to give a renewed push to the DOHA Development round. At the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development, we must ensure that the opportunity to bring back the sustainable development agenda to the center stage is fully harnessed.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Over the years, ECOSOC has played an important role in advancing a holistic and coordinated approach to global economic and social development taking into account the inter-relatedness of the different goals and targets of major UN conferences.

We must work to make ECOSOC even more meaningful than what was originally envisaged by the UN Charter and subsequently strengthened by the various UN resolutions, particularly resolution 61/16.

I thank you.





**784. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 22 – Groups of Countries in Special Situations [A] Follow up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries [B] Specification Actions related to the particular needs and problems of Landlocked Developing Countries; Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation at the Second Committee of the 66th Session of the General Assembly.**

**New York, October 20, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

At the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the world clearly recognized the acute development challenges faced by the LDCs. We saw high political commitment and expression of support to help the poorest and the most vulnerable of the international community.

The Istanbul Program of Action adopted at the conference spells out a clear roadmap to help the LDCs lift themselves out of hunger, poverty and disease. It specifically stresses on the need to build productive capacity, infrastructure, institutional base and strong domestic economy sustained and strengthened by international trade.

At Istanbul, the LDCs set themselves an ambitious target to bring 50% of the countries to the threshold of graduation by the end of the Program. In their aspiration, Mr. Chairman, they have legitimate expectations from us, and we must not belie them.

We believe that with a strong commitment from the global community combined with accelerated domestic action, the LDCs can achieve this target.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With the program clearly defined and targets visibly outlined, it is time now for action and implementation. The promises made in Istanbul must be fulfilled at the earliest.

Mobilization of adequate resources to fill the huge financing gap for development in LDCs should receive our highest attention. In this regard, we call upon the countries to fulfill the commitments made by them to provide 0.15-0.20 % of GNI as ODA to LDCs. Transfer of technology, capacity building and strengthening economic support measures are equally crucial to strengthen their resource base.

Integrating and enhancing the participation of LDCs in the global trading network through full implementation of the duty free and quota free market access needs urgent action.

We must also push for a balanced and development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round to create greater trade policy space for the LDCs

The global financial and economic crisis has worsened the debt situation of LDCs. We call upon the international financial institutions and developed countries to provide immediate debt relief and make available concessional finance to spur economic growth and investment in the LDCs.

Climate Change poses a serious challenge to development in these countries. They need immediate financial and technology support to undertake adaptation strategies.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India remains fully committed to the needs of the LDCs. As part of South-South Cooperation, we are pleased that India-LDC partnership has gone beyond technical assistance to include trade, investment and humanitarian assistance.

In keeping with our WTO commitment, we have extended duty free tariff preference scheme to all LDCs. Our Lines of Credit worth 4.8 billion US Dollars to LDCs since 2003 and Aid for Trade programs have led to expansion in India-LDC trade from 16.7 billion US Dollars in 2008-09 to 20.5 billion US Dollars in 2009-10, with the balance of trade being in favour of the LDCs.

We have separately announced US Dollars 1 billion as Lines of Credit in support of the Istanbul Program. We urge the LDCs to make productive use of it. The additional 250 training slot for capacity building announced at the India-LDC Ministerial Meeting in Delhi has already been implemented. We have also kept a grant of US dollar 5 million for follow up activities of the Istanbul Program.

South-South Cooperation no doubt will play an important part in supporting the LDCs but it cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The inherent geographical difficulties of landlocked developing countries have placed them at a distinct disadvantage as far as international trade and economic linkages are concerned.

The global economic crisis has hit the LLDCs hard. They need external support to help them overcome their development challenges including building resilience against external shocks.

The Almaty Programme of Action has resulted in a clear acknowledgement of the special needs of landlocked developing countries, Equally important is the understanding that any effective solution must address the constraints and challenges faced by the transit developing countries that neighbour landlocked developing countries.

We must work to provide efficient transportation and communication services to LLDCs including reliable logistic chain to offset transit and access difficulties and costs. According to UNCTAD, LLDCs, on an average, spent two times more on payment of transport and insurance services for their exports in comparison to other developing countries and three times more than the developed economies.

India has special bilateral cooperation agreements with its landlocked neighbours for easy transit of their goods through India. We accord the highest priority to further strengthening our ties with these countries including through regional initiatives. We will continue to contribute economic and technical support to their development efforts as well as of other landlocked and transit developing countries, as part of South-South cooperation.

We would also urge cooperation for meeting special transit requirements of landlocked regions within a country, which due to geography or political boundaries have similar difficulties in accessing international markets as LLDCs.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India, as always, remains fully committed to strengthening its partnership with LDCs and LLDCs.

Thank you



**785. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Prakash Javadekar on agenda item — 50: Effects of Atomic Radiation at the Fourth Committee of the 66th United Nations General Assembly.**

**New York, October 21, 2011.**

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, let me congratulate you Madam Chair and all members of the Bureau, for the manner in which you have conducted the work of the Committee. We also wish you all the best of success in future.

**Madam Chair,**

We also express our deep appreciation for the excellent work done by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) in analyzing the sources and effects of radiation exposure on man and the environment, world-wide. We commend the Committee's Draft Report to the General Assembly, which is evidence of its methodical approach on crucial issues of radiation exposure and its possible environmental impact.

India welcomes the Committee's proposal to prepare a scientific report on the radiological consequences of the nuclear accident in the Fukushima-Daiichi power plant, following the great earthquake and Tsunami in East Japan. Initial estimates of exposure and radioactive contamination are available, and need to be updated constantly. While we believe that the radiological consequences of this episode may not be as far-reaching or of a magnitude comparable to those of Chernobyl, however drawing upon the experience of Chernobyl, it is necessary to create a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional framework for collection and analysis of the voluminous data.

**Madam Chair,**

While welcoming the offer from the Member States to share their data with the scientific committee and appreciating the persistent demands to monitor the radioactive contamination in the wake of Fukushima, India recognizes that this is a difficult and demanding task in terms of availability of trained human resources.

**Madam Chair,**

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the Committee's efforts to develop a scientific document on 'Attributability of Health Effects to Ionizing Radiation' and 'Uncertainties in risk estimates for cancer due to radiation exposure'. We would like to underline that the Committee, in its report to the

65th General Assembly, has accepted that there is no epidemiological or experimental evidence for increased incidence of cancer for a dose of 100 mSv (millisievert). We therefore hope that the issue of Linear no Threshold (LNT) as a basis for stipulating the limits of radiation exposure to occupational workers and the general public, will be revisited.

**Madam Chair,**

The UNSCEAR also deserves to be complimented for undertaking the development of some other very relevant scientific annexes, namely the methodology for estimating radiation exposure due to discharges, biological effects of internal emitters and radiation exposure from different options for electricity generation. We hope that these documents, after their publication, would facilitate informed decision-making by UN Member States. As India is emerging as a major user of electricity generated from nuclear power plants, the safety of our citizens is our top priority.

The collection of reliable data, which requires support of different agencies in the Member States, is crucial to the Committee's work. In this regard, we would like to mention that the data collection format should not be too elaborate, and the form in which this information is conveyed to the public should be such that it does not create a fear psychosis.

**Madam Chair,**

India appreciates the Committee's initiative to prepare a scientific annexe on epidemiology related to the environmental sources at low doses. We are pleased to mention that the Committee will be taking note of the published work from India and China on cancer, as well as biological and genetic effects in high background radiation areas which do not show excessive positive risk. India shall be happy to share its data on the biological and genetic studies in high-level natural radiation areas of Kerala.

Medical radiation exposure is becoming a major source of exposure, depending on the healthcare level of a country. In this regard, we welcome the publication of UNSCEAR's 2008 report on Medical Radiation Exposures.

**Madam Chair,**

India believes that the UNSCEAR, with its present composition, is doing outstanding work in its mandated area. Therefore, while appreciating the demand for expansion of membership of the committee, we would like to emphasize that the membership of the committee should not exceed a practical limit, in view of financial and logistic considerations in organizing its sessions with a large membership.

**Madam Chair,**

Let me conclude by seconding the resolution on Effects of Atomic Radiation, while also strongly recommending that sufficient financial resources be made available to the UNSCEAR for its effective functioning.

Thank you Madam Chair.



**786. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UN Security Council's Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian Question.**

**New York, October 24, 2011.**

**Thank you, Madam President.**

I would like to express our deep condolences to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia on the passing away of His Royal Highness of Saudi Arabia Sultan bin Abdel Aziz Al Saud.

I would also like to express our solidarity with the Government and people of Turkey in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.

First of all, I would like to thank you for organizing this Open Debate on the Middle East, a region witnessing momentous transformation.

I would also like to thank Under Secretary General Lynn Pascoe for his comprehensive briefing on developments in the region.

**Madam President,**

Clearly, the issue of Palestine has taken a decisive turn in the history of the Middle East conflict after President Mahmoud Abbas filed an application with the Secretary General on 23 September 2011 for Palestine's full membership to the United Nations.

Speaking a day after President Abbas filed the application, my Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said in the General Assembly on 24 September 2011 that India has been steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders side by side and at peace with Israel, as per the relevant resolutions of this Organization, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap.

The Prime Minister added that we look forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations.

**Madam President,**

India recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1975 and its Office in New Delhi was accorded full diplomatic recognition in 1980.

India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the State of Palestine in 1988. We have maintained diplomatic relations with Palestine for over two decades now.

It is also pertinent to note that Palestine has been recognized by more than two-thirds of the membership of this Organization.

Obviously, the State of Palestine fulfills all criteria mentioned in Article 4 of the Charter for membership to this Organization.

We, therefore, support Palestine's application and hope that the process will be concluded expeditiously.

**Madam President,**

During my long political career, I have had the honour to work closely with the Palestinian leaders.

I had met the undisputed leader of the Palestinian people late President Yasser Arafat on 17 September 2004 at Ramallah, just a few months before he left his earthly abode.

At that meeting, I had the opportunity to reiterate India's solidarity with the Palestinian people and support for their cause.

He had warmly recalled his close relations with Indian leaders, particularly Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and appreciated India's unwavering support for the cause of the Palestinian people.

We have continued our interactions with the Palestinian leadership under President Abbas. He has paid state visits to India in 2008 and 2010.

**Madam President,**

As the world's largest democracy and arguably its most diverse country, India recognizes the democratic aspirations of all peoples, including in the Middle East.

The call of the international community for democracy and respect of

fundamental rights will sound hollow if the present impasse continues and Palestinians are denied their aspirations.

It is also our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force.

In this context, we have noted the Quartet Statement of 23 September and hope that the timelines indicated in the Statement would be realized.

The biggest stumbling block to direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians remains continuing settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

We call upon Israel to stop settlement activities. This will facilitate resumption of negotiations in which all Final Status issues should be addressed.

We cannot, however, make Palestine's membership to the United Nations conditional upon a peace agreement for that will be legally untenable, even while we support resumption of direct talks to resolve the outstanding issues.

**Madame President,**

We welcome the recent agreement between Israel and Hamas on exchange of prisoners. We hope this will ease tension and build confidence.

We also hope this would pave the way for an early and significant easing of restrictions on movement of goods and people into the Gaza Strip, thereby addressing the dire humanitarian situation there.

India on its part has continued its development support to the Palestinian Authority.

From the year 2009-10, we enhanced our annual contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] to US\$ 1 million, in addition to a special contribution of US \$ 1 million to UNRWA in response to a flash appeal in 2010.

During the last two years, India has also contributed US\$ 10 million annually as untied budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority.

We are offering 100 slots to the Palestinian Authority for capacity building and human resource development under our technical and economic cooperation programme.

We have also undertaken joint projects with our IBSA partners in Palestine with a sports complex having just been completed.



**Madam President,**

While the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the most serious one in the region, we need to be mindful that resolution of this conflict by itself may not result in achievement of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

Other issues relating to Arab lands that remain under occupation are equally important. Progress in the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the Middle East Peace Process is, therefore, necessary for comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Developments in the Middle East since February this year underline the need for reinvigorating the search for this comprehensive peace, while the countries in the region undertake inclusive political processes and implement reforms to meet the legitimate aspirations of their people.

It is important that the grievances of the people are addressed through dialogue and negotiations rather than resorting to arms.

It is the responsibility of all countries to create conditions that enable their people to freely determine their pathways to development. This is the essence of democracy and fundamental human freedoms.

No action should be taken from outside that exacerbates problems and gives space for the rise of extremism.

The international community should stand ready to assist the countries in these efforts while respecting sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries.

As my Prime Minister said in the General Assembly on 24 September, societies cannot be reordered from outside through military force.

Observance of the rule of law is as important in international affairs as it is within countries.

Guided by these principles, Madam President, India stands ready to play its role in our collective endeavours to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Thank you.



**787. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of Indian Delegation to the UN Ms. Santosh Chowdhary on Agenda Item 81 – Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Sixty-third Session — Chapters I – V at the Sixth Committee of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 24, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I thank Prof. Maurice Kamto, Chairman of the sixty-third session of the International Law Commission, for his detailed and informative introduction to the work of the Commission at its sixty-third Session on the first cluster of topics, and for guiding the work of the Commission at this session.

I also commend all members of the Commission on a very successful and productive session in which it has completed its work and adopted on second reading, sets of Draft Articles on three major topics on its agenda, namely, the Responsibility of International Organizations; the Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties; and Reservations to Treaties. The Commission has also made substantial progress in its consideration of the other topics on its agenda, including the identification of new topics. I also thank the Secretariat for their contribution to the work of the Commission.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On the topic “Reservations to Treaties”, we congratulate the Special Rapporteur, Prof. Alain Pellet, for the adoption by the Commission of the “Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties”, along with commentaries. Prof. Pellet submitted a total of 17 reports, beginning with his first report on the topic in 1995. The “Guide to Practice” is very detailed and exhaustive, and tries to cover all situations, and is based on an in-depth and exhaustive analysis of State practice and case law, and is sure to be an invaluable tool for government legal advisers as well as practitioners in resolving problems posed by reservations to treaties and interpretative declarations. We also appreciate the important contribution made by the Working Group chaired by Mr. Vasquez Bermudez to the Commission’s work on this topic.

In addition to the Guide to Practice, The Commission has also adopted an annex on the “reservations dialogue” as well as a recommendation on “mechanisms of assistance in relation to reservations”.

My delegation will comment on these proposals when the Sixth Committee decides to take up its detailed consideration of the Guide to Practice.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On the topic of "Responsibility of International Organizations", we commend the Special Rapporteur, Prof. Giorgia Gaja, for the adoption by the Commission, of a set of 67 draft articles together with Commentaries. We appreciate the work of the Special Rapporteur, Professor Giorgio Gaja of Italy, for his comprehensive eight Reports submitted from 2003-2009. The completion of the Commission's work on this topic is a significant achievement, as it has been engaged on the topic relating to the law of responsibility for more than 60 years.

We note that the draft articles essentially follow the pattern of the articles on Responsibility of States for International Wrongful Acts, with necessary adjustments taking into account the different nature, structure and functions of international organizations. The present version of the draft articles has some new developments which are to be welcomed. The draft articles lay down rules of attribution, circumstances precluding wrongfulness, effects of a breach, and the principle of reparation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Draft article 5 establishes that "the characterization of an act of an international organization as internationally wrongful is governed by international law". This provision would clarify that international law determines the fact whether or not an act of an international organization is wrongful. In this regard, we also welcome the provisions of Part Six which safeguard the application of special rules of international law that may be applicable, and the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

An internationally wrongful act may create direct liability, in the form of joint or several responsibilities, between an international organization and its member States. In addition, acts by a State that assists an international organization that commits an internationally wrongful act may trigger indirect responsibility, which needs to be examined carefully.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On the issue of countermeasures, we reiterate our view that disputes between an international organization and its members should be settled in accordance with the rules of the organization and through the internal procedures, and that there should be no question of countermeasures unless expressly provided for in the rules of the organization. In this regard, we welcome the detailed criteria and conditions added to the countermeasures regime (under draft articles 22,

51-57). These provisions, which lay down the conditions under which countermeasures can be resorted to by a state or intergovernmental organization, as well as the object and limits, and the requirement of proportionality, would ensure that countermeasures may be resorted to only in exceptional cases.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We support the recommendation of the Commission that the General Assembly take note of the draft articles in a resolution and annex them to the resolution, and to consider, at a later stage, the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In Chapter III of the Report, the Commission has listed a number of specific issues on which comments of States have been sought. We thank the Commission for having identified and listed out these issues in detail and would be providing our responses separately.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I once again congratulate the International Law Commission and, in particular, the Special Rapporteurs, for a very successful session.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**788. Speech by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UN General Assembly on the “Necessity of ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba”.**

**New York, October 25, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address the General Assembly.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Argentina on behalf of the G 77 and Egypt on behalf of the NAM.

**Mr. President,**

We meet yet again to deliberate on the agenda item: Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

In all these years, this Assembly has repeatedly rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extra-territorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures that hurt the progress and prosperity of people the world over.

The General Assembly has also called upon all States to respect their obligations under the United Nations Charter and international law, as well as repeal and invalidate laws and measures that have “extra-territorial effects” on other States.

It is unfortunate that in spite its rejection by this august Assembly, year after year, the US embargo on Cuba continues to remain in full force. We see this as a violation of the world opinion, and an act that severely undermines multilateralism and the credibility of the United Nations itself.

**Mr. President,** The nearly half a century old US embargo on Cuba has brought immense suffering for its people. It has severely undermined the progress and development of the country. The embargo, which perhaps, has no parallel in history, is a transgression of the right of a sovereign state to development and to enjoy freedom of trade, economy and navigation.

On the one hand we, the global community, make tall promises on Millennium Development Goals, of striving for human dignity and achieving equitable growth, but when it comes to action, we do the exact opposite. The embargo has denied a life of respect and basic standard to the people of Cuba. Action, Mr. President, must speak louder than words.

The embargo, particularly through its extraterritorial effects, has adversely affected the economic prosperity of the Cuban people. The global economic slowdown along with spiraling food and energy prices has made matters worse.

The embargo has denied Cuba access to US market, investment, technology, financial services and scientific, educational, cultural and sporting institutions. Cuba has had to pay enormous extra cost for sourcing products, technology and services from third countries located thousands of kilometers away.

The extra-territorial application of the US embargo has discouraged investment, technology transfer and sale and other forms of business collaborations between Cuba and third countries.

The denial of technology and related scientific support, particularly due to extra-territorial application of the embargo, has severely impacted health care, an MDG commitment, in Cuba. It has also undermined its ability to provide health assistance to developing countries as part of South-South cooperation

**Mr. President,**

The report of the Secretary General on the agenda item is illustrative of the detrimental impact the embargo has had on international efforts to undertake socio-economic advancement in Cuba. The UN Resident Coordinator in Havana has noted the high cost and negative impact of the embargo on humanitarian and development cooperation implemented by the UN system in Cuba.

**Mr. President,**

There is huge potential for strengthening economic and commercial ties between Cuba and the United States.

Taking advantage of limited openings under the US Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, the US has become the largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba.

Congressional efforts in the United States to relax or lift the embargo lend further credence to the UN annual resolutions calling for lifting of the US embargo against Cuba. People to people contact between the two countries remain severely curtailed.

The steps taken by the US Administration in January 2011 to reduce restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba are positive developments. However, it is far from making a fundamental change in the complex framework of laws and regulations which are part of the embargo against Cuba. Much more needs to be done.

India joins other nations in calling for an immediate end to the US embargo against Cuba. India supports the resolution moved by Cuba.

Thank you.



**789. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Viplove Thakur on Agenda item 69 (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and (c) Human Rights situations and reports of Special Rapporteurs and Representatives.**

**New York, October 26, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

We thank the Secretary General for his valuable reports on Agenda item 69 and the special rapporteurs for their informative reports as well.

Observance of human rights is at the core of any civilized society and has therefore been appropriately recognized as the third pillar of the United Nations. We welcome the report of the Secretary General on the Right to Development. The Right to Development is a fundamental link in the web of human rights that promotes social progress and better standards of life for every person.

We support the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in their continued endeavour to operationalize and mainstream the issue of promotion and protection of all human rights in policies and operational activities of relevant actors at the national, regional and international level, including multilateral financial, trade and development institutions. The changing global context has necessitated a well-coordinated approach to development cooperation and as stated in the Secretary- General's report on the right to development, a global partnership for development, underpinned by human rights-based policy coherence and coordination at all levels, is the best foundation for realizing the right to development.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Terrorism is one of the major threats to the full enjoyment of human rights. Terrorists violate the most fundamental human right of their victims - the right to life. By instilling fear and using tactics of intimidation, terrorists also infringe on several other human rights of innocent citizens. Terrorism is also an attack on democracy, human dignity, human rights and development.

While security of its people is the first responsibility of a Government, States must also be very mindful of their responsibility to protect human rights. The challenge lies in striking the right balance between the imperatives of effectively tackling terrorism on the one hand, and fully observing international law and human rights standards, on the other.

Terrorism has emerged as a truly global threat – one that no country should consider itself isolated from. Terrorism must be crushed if the concept of human rights is to retain any meaning for the common man. It should be our collective endeavour to ensure that the human rights debate is not misused for the pursuit of narrow political agendas, or to fulfill territorial ambitions as part of States with destructive foreign policy objectives. States must take unequivocal and resolute position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, has elaborated on contract farming and the constraints and risks associated with this model which also offers benefits in the realization of the right to food. States indeed play a key role in protecting individuals against the many risks involved and in ensuring that contract farming and other business models support the right to food of the smallest producer and the poorest of the population. The national efforts must be complimented by international cooperation in an environment of transparency and equity, which involves, transfer of technology and provision of financing.

International cooperation and solidarity between States are indeed indispensable for sharing the benefits and burdens of globalization. This concerns all spheres of cooperation, including aid, trade, investment, debt relief, transfer of technology, access to medicines, financing for development and climate change. In this regard, the reform of global economic governance is vital so as to ensure that all countries and peoples can benefit equally from globalization. Such reform must take into consideration the enhanced and effective participation of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and civil society in global decision-making, in order to create more favourable international conditions for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development respectful of all human rights.

The Special Rapporteur on Foreign Debt has highlighted that export credit agency-supported activities can have serious consequences on a country's debt burden and sustainable development and, consequently, on the lives of people. A number of countries owe more than 50 per cent of their total debt to export credit agencies, which very often add to the sovereign debt liability of governments, especially those of developing countries. This calls for a concerted international effort to bear in mind the unintended consequences that their good intentions or actions can have.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With its democratic, pluralistic and secular polity, an autonomous and impartial



judiciary, a vibrant civil society, a free media, and independent human rights institutions, India has been successful in ensuring effective guarantees for the protection and promotion of human rights. Our vibrant democratic polity also requires that we continuously pursue higher norms and standards, be it in the area of human rights or development. As the world's largest democracy, India considers it an honour to uphold and cherish the values of human rights and fundamental freedoms of each and every citizen. It will be our constant endeavour to continue to do so.

I thank you Mr. Chairman



**790. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Dushyant Singh on Agenda Item 16 – Information and Communication Technologies for Development at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 26, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, contained in document A/66/77, which provides a useful introduction to the discussions under this agenda item.

As a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and democratic society with an open economy and an abiding culture of pluralism, India emphasizes the importance that we attach to the strengthening of the Internet as a vehicle for openness, democracy, freedom of expression, human rights, diversity, inclusiveness, creativity, free and unhindered access to information and knowledge, global connectivity, innovation and socio-economic growth. We believe that the governance of such an unprecedented global medium that embodies the values of democracy, pluralism, inclusion, openness and transparency should also be similarly inclusive, democratic, participatory, multilateral and transparent in nature. Indeed, this was already recognized and mandated by the Tunis Agenda in 2005, as reflected in paragraphs 34, 35, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61 and 69 of the Agenda. Regrettably, in the six long years that have gone by, no substantial initiative has been taken by the global community to give effect to this mandate. Meanwhile, the internet has grown exponentially in its reach and scope, throwing up several new and rapidly

emerging challenges in the area of global internet governance that continue to remain inadequately addressed. It is becoming increasingly evident that the Internet as a rapidly-evolving and inherently global medium, needs quick-footed and timely global solutions and policies, not divergent and fragmented national policies. The range and criticality of these pressing global digital issues that continue to remain unaddressed, are growing rapidly with each passing day. It is, therefore, urgent and imperative that a multilateral, democratic participative and transparent global policy-making mechanism be urgently instituted, as mandated by the Tunis Agenda under the process of 'Enhanced Co-operation', to enable coherent and integrated global policy-making on all aspects of global Internet governance.

Operationalizing the Tunis mandate in this regard should not be viewed as an attempt by governments to "take over" or "regulate and circumscribe" the internet. Indeed, any such misguided attempt would be antithetical not only to the internet, but also to human welfare. As a democratic and open society that has historically welcomed outside influences and believes in openness to all views and ideas and is wedded to free dialogue, pluralism and diversity, India attaches great importance to the preservation of the Internet as an unrestricted, open and free global medium that flourishes through private innovation and individual creativity and serves as a vehicle for open communication, access to culture, knowledge, democratization and development. India recognizes the role played by various actors and stakeholders in the development and continued enrichment of the internet, and is firmly committed to multi-stakeholderism in internet governance, both at the national and global level. India believes that global internet governance can only be functional, effective and credible if all relevant stake-holders contribute to, and are consulted in, the process.

Bearing in mind the need for a transparent, democratic, and multilateral mechanism that enables all stakeholders to participate in their respective roles, to address the many cross-cutting international public policy issues that require attention and are not adequately addressed by current mechanisms and the need for enhanced cooperation to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, India proposes the establishment of a new institutional mechanism in the United Nations for global internet-related policies, to be called the United Nations Committee for Internet-Related Policies (CIRP). The intent behind proposing a multilateral and multi-stakeholder mechanism is not to "control the internet" or allow Governments to have the last word in regulating the internet, but to make sure that the Internet is governed not unilaterally, but

in an open, democratic, inclusive and participatory manner, with the participation of all stakeholders, so as to evolve universally acceptable, and globally harmonized policies in important areas and pave the way for a credible, constantly evolving, stable and well-functioning Internet that plays its due role in improving the quality of peoples' lives everywhere.

The CIRP shall be mandated to undertake the following tasks:

- i. Develop and establish international public policies with a view to ensuring coordination and coherence in cross-cutting Internet-related global issues;
- ii. Coordinate and oversee the bodies responsible for technical and operational functioning of the Internet, including global standards setting;
- iii. Facilitate negotiation of treaties, conventions and agreements on Internet-related public policies;
- iv. Address developmental issues related to the internet;
- v. Promote the promotion and protection of all human rights, namely, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including the Right to Development;
- vi. Undertake arbitration and dispute resolution, where necessary; and,
- vii. Crisis management in relation to the Internet.

The main features of CIRP are provided in the annex to this statement. In brief, the CIRP will comprise 50 Member States chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation, and will meet annually for two working weeks in Geneva. It will ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders by establishing four Advisory Groups, one each for civil society, the private sector, inter-governmental and international organizations, and the technical and academic community. The Advisory Groups will provide their inputs and recommendations to the CIRP. The meetings of CIRP and the advisory groups will be serviced by the UNCTAD Secretariat that also services the meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The Internet Governance Forum will provide inputs to CIRP in the spirit of complementarity between the two. CIRP will report directly to the General Assembly and present recommendations for consideration, adoption and dissemination among all relevant inter-governmental bodies and international organizations. CIRP will be supported by the regular budget of the United Nations; a separate Fund would be set up by drawing from the domain registration fees collected by

various bodies, in order to mainly finance the Research Wing to be established by CIRP to support its activities.

Those familiar with the discourse on global internet governance since the beginning of the WSIS process at the turn of the millennium, will recognize that neither the mandated tasks of the CIRP, nor its proposed modalities, are new. The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) set up by the UN Secretary-General had explicitly recognized the institutional gaps in global internet governance and had proposed four institutional models in its report to the UN General Assembly in 2005. The contours of the CIRP, as proposed above, reflect the common elements in the four WGIG institutional models. While the excellent report of the WGIG was much discussed and deliberated in 2005, unfortunately, no concrete follow-up action was taken to give effect to its recommendations on the institutional front. We hope that this anomaly will be redressed at least six years later, with the timely establishment of the CIRP.

In order to operationalize this proposal, India calls for the establishment of an open-ended working group under the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for drawing up the detailed terms of reference for CIRP, with a view to actualizing it within the next 18 months. We are open to the views and suggestions of all Member States, and stand ready to work with other delegations to carry forward this proposal, and thus seek to fill the serious gap in the implementation of the Tunis Agenda, by providing substance and content to the concept of Enhanced Co-operation enshrined in the Tunis Agenda.

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## ANNEX

### **The United Nations Committee for Internet-Related Policies (CIRP)**

The United Nations Committee for Internet-Related Policies (CIRP) will have the following features:

**Membership:** The CIRP will consist of 50 Member States of the United Nations, chosen/elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. It will provide for equitable representation of all UN Member States, in accordance with established UN principles and practices. It will have a Bureau consisting of one Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

**Meetings:** The CIRP will meet annually for two working weeks in Geneva, preferably in May/June, and convene additional meetings, as and when required. The UNCTAD Secretariat will provide substantive and logistical support to the CIRP by servicing these meetings.

**Multi-stakeholder participation:** Recognizing the need to involve all stakeholders in Global Internet Governance in their respective roles, the CIRP shall ensure the participation of all stakeholders recognized in the Tunis Agenda. Four **Advisory Groups** – one each for Civil Society, the Private Sector, Inter-Governmental and International Organisations, and the Technical and Academic Community - will be established, to assist and advise the CIRP. These Groups would be self-organized, as per agreed principles, to ensure transparency, representativity and inclusiveness. The Advisory Groups will meet annually in Geneva and in conjunction with any additional meetings of the CIRP. Their meetings will be held back-to-back with the meetings of the CIRP, so that they are able to provide their inputs and recommendations in a timely manner, to the CIRP.

**Reporting:** The CIRP will report directly to the UN General Assembly annually, on its meetings and present recommendations in the areas of policy and implementation for consideration, adoption and dissemination to all relevant inter-governmental bodies and international organizations. .

**Research Wing:** The Internet is a rapidly-evolving and dynamic medium that throws up urgent and rapidly-evolving challenges that need timely solutions. In order to deal effectively and prudently with these emerging issues in a timely manner, it would be vital to have a well-resourced Research Wing attached to the CIRP to provide ready and comprehensive background material, analysis and inputs to the CIRP, as required.

**Links with the IGF:** Recognizing the value of the Internet Governance Forum as an open, unique forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on Internet issues, the deliberations in the IGF along with any inputs, background information and analysis it may provide, will be taken as inputs for consideration of the CIRP. An improved and strengthened IGF that can serve as a purposeful body for policy consultations and provide meaningful policy inputs to the CIRP, will ensure a stronger and more effective complementarity between the CIRP and the IGF.

**Budget:** Like other UN bodies, the CIRP should be supported by the regular budget of the United Nations. In addition, keeping in view its unique multi-stakeholder format for inclusive participation, and the need for a well-resourced Research Wing and regular meetings, a separate Fund should also be set up drawing from the domain registration fees collected by various bodies involved in the technical functioning of the Internet, especially in terms of names and addresses.

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### Excerpts from the Tunis Agenda

**Paragraph 34** of the Tunis Agenda defines Internet Governance as “the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet”.

**Paragraph 35** reaffirms the respective roles of stakeholders as follows: “(a) Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues”. (b) The private sector has had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields. (c) Civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level, and should continue to play such a role. (d) Intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues. (e) International organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies.”

While delineating the respective roles of stakeholders,

**Paragraph 56** recognizes the need for an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach by affirming that “The Internet remains a highly dynamic medium and therefore any framework and mechanisms designed to deal with Internet governance should be inclusive and responsive to the exponential growth and fast evolution of the Internet as a common platform for the development of multiple applications”.

**Paragraph 58** recognizes “that Internet governance includes more than Internet naming and addressing. It also includes other significant public policy issues such as, inter alia, critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet”.

**Paragraph 59** further recognizes that “Internet governance includes social, economic and technical issues including affordability, reliability and quality of service”.

**Paragraph 60** further recognizes that “there are many cross-cutting international public policy issues that require attention and are not adequately addressed by the current mechanisms”.

**Paragraph 61** of the Tunis Agenda therefore concludes that “We are convinced that there is a need to initiate, and reinforce, as appropriate, a transparent,

democratic, and multilateral process, with the participation of governments, private sector, civil society and international organisations, in their respective roles. This process could envisage creation of a suitable framework or mechanisms, where justified, thus spurring the ongoing and active evolution of the current arrangements in order to synergize the efforts in this regard”.

**Paragraph 69** further recognizes “the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues”.



**791. Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed on Agenda Item 72 – Report of the International Court of Justice at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October, 26, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank Judge Hisashi Owada, President of the International Court of Justice, for his comprehensive and detailed report, covering the judicial activities of the Court over the last year. I also thank him and Vice-President Judge Tomka for their leadership of the Court over that period.

India attaches the highest importance to the Court as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The peaceful resolution of disputes is fundamental for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Court has fulfilled that task admirably since its establishment and has acquired a well deserved reputation as an impartial institution with the highest legal standards, in accordance with its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations.

The Court remains the only judicial body with legitimacy derived from the UN Charter and enjoying universal character with general jurisdiction, whereas other international judicial institutions have competence and jurisdiction in specific areas only. The Statute of the ICJ is an integral part of the UN Charter. This is a unique status enjoyed by the ICJ among the international courts or tribunals. One of the primary goals of the United Nations, as stated in the Preamble to the United Nations Charter, is to establish conditions under which

justice and respect for the obligations of international law can be maintained. The International Court of Justice, as the only international Court with general international law jurisdiction, is uniquely placed to fulfill that role.

The report of the Court clearly illustrates the confidence that States have in the Court, as shown by the number and scope of cases entrusted to it and the Court's growing specialization in complex aspects of public international law. This clearly illustrates the universality of the Court and the great importance that Member States attach to it. I am especially glad to see that the Court's docket of pending cases has grown consistently in recent years and now stand at 17 cases, involving more than 30 different States, as well as one request for an Advisory Opinion, as Judge Owada mentioned. The variety of the subject matter of recent cases, from territorial and maritime disputes to the obligation to prosecute or extradite, also demonstrates the significant role played by the Court in solving international disputes between States and providing its opinion on important questions of international law.

**Mr. President,**

The judgments delivered by the ICJ have played an important role in the interpretation and clarification of rules of international law as well as in the progressive development and codification of international law. In the performance of its judicial functions, the Court has remained highly sensitive in respecting political realities and sentiments of States, while acting within the provisions of the UN Charter, its own Statute and other applicable international law. The Court has contributed significantly towards settling legal disputes between Sovereign States, thus promoting the rule of law in international relations.

The Court has, since its inception, dealt with a variety of complex legal issues. It has pronounced judgments in areas covering territorial and maritime delimitation, diplomatic protection, environmental concerns, racial discrimination, violation of human rights and interpretation and application of international treaties and conventions.

The Court's second function, of providing advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, continues to fulfill the important role of clarifying key international law issues.

**Mr. President,**

It is praiseworthy to note that the Court has taken significant steps over recent years to enhance its efficiency to cope with the steady increase in its workload including inter-alia re-examination of its procedures and working methods, updating of its practice directions for use by the States appearing before it and,



setting a particularly demanding schedule of hearings and deliberations in order that the Court may consider several cases at the same time. As a result, we are happy to note that the Court has successfully cleared its backlog of cases, which has the effect of further strengthening the confidence of States in the Court's competency and efficiency.

**Mr. President,**

In concluding my remarks, I wish to reiterate the great importance the international community attaches to the work of the International Court of Justice and to draw the Assembly's attention to the importance of strengthening the functioning of the Court, including the provision of additional staff, as requested by the Court. India reaffirms its strong support for the International Court of Justice.

Thank You, Mr. President.



**792. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Mrs. Viplove Thakur on Agenda Item 17: Macro-Economic Policy Questions [A] International Trade and Development and [D] Commodities at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 27, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We thank the Secretary General and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the reports on "International Trade and Development".

India aligns itself with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The sharp and sudden decline in world trade from 2008 to 2009 was followed by a modest recovery in 2010. The overall global economic recovery, however, continues to be fragile and halting. The prospects for global trade do not appear to be too encouraging. We must work to boost global demand and growth to stimulate trade and the world economy.

The sovereign debt crisis in Europe and the recessionary trends in the traditional engines of the global economy – the United States, Europe and Japan are sending negative signals to the world financial and capital markets which are showing signs of acute distress.

Recessionary trends in these countries are affecting international trade. Developing countries cannot remain untouched by the negative impacts of these developments. Their ability to address their developmental challenges has been adversely affected.

We hope that effective and early steps will be taken by Europe and other advanced economies to calm the capital and financial markets and prevent the global economy from slipping into a double dip recession.

Declining global demand and availability of capital, increasing barriers to free trade and mounting debt pose a threat to the international trading and financial systems.

To act as an engine of development, the international trade framework should work towards removing barriers that prevent developing countries from fully participating in global trade. Eschewing protectionism and enhancing market access for developing countries are critical in this regard.

The UNCTAD report on trade and development, 2011 emphasizes on strict regulation of the financial sector, and focuses on policies that emphasize income growth as the basis for sustainable and balanced development worldwide. We are pleased to note that the G-20 is actively pursuing these policy suggestions.

Transforming trade dynamism into greater income opportunities through job creation remains a critical development challenge, more so in the present job-less growth scenario. The crisis has left a large worldwide pool of unemployed, totaling 205 million in 2010.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Commodities are key export products for a large number of developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and have a direct impact on their socio-economic advancement. Growing commodity price volatility is having a negative impact on global food and energy security. It has made commodity-dependent developing countries highly vulnerable to external shocks. Increasing financialization of the commodities market and excessive speculation, of late, have become a matter of deep concern for most developing countries.

We must also find solutions to adding value to the products of developing countries, in place of simply perpetuating the role of developing countries as providers of raw materials.

The UNCTAD report states that the burden of high and volatile food prices falls disproportionately on low-income developing countries. Innovative and coherent policies at national, regional and international levels are necessary to ensure that price volatility does not impede growth and poverty eradication efforts.

The G20 Agricultural Ministers released a Ministerial Declaration establishing an Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture. We welcome this timely action. India looks forward to the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), the focus of the Action Plan, which aims to address high and volatile food prices through tougher regulation on speculative investments in commodity markets, and on bio-fuels.

India is of the view that commodity dependent developing countries must pursue for a more diversified export basket, including high value processed agricultural commodities.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Due to their structural constraints, the LDCs are overwhelmingly dependent on trade as an engine of growth and development. In spite of this, their share in global trade in 2010 was less than 1%.

We ought to create an enabling international environment to address their limited trading options. In this regard, we call for early implementation of the Duty Free Quota Free market access for the LDCs.

The DOHA Development Round presents a valuable opportunity to make international trade a vehicle for growth and development, and we must push for an outcome that it is fair, balanced and equitable.

The reform of global financial and economic institutions lies at the heart of creating a more responsive, equitable and democratic global trading order. We look forward to working with the global community to achieve this objective.

I thank you.



**793. Statement by First Secretary at the Permanent Mission at the UN Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma on Agenda Item 81 – Report of the International Law Commission of the work of its sixty-third Session – Chapter VI, VIII and IX – at the Sixth Committee of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 28, 2011.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I extend my gratitude to the Chairman of the International Law Commission (ILC) Mr. Maurice Kamto for introduction of the Report of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the second cluster of topics.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Concerning the topic of “Effects of armed conflicts on treaties”, we commend the work of Special Rapporteur Mr. Lucius Caflisch on the topic and congratulate him for adoption, by the Commission, of the entire set of draft articles on this topic. We also recognize the scholarly work done on this topic by his predecessor Sir Ian Brownlie, as the first Special Rapporteur.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We support the general proposition of draft articles that the treaties are not automatically terminated or suspended as a result of an armed conflict. The termination, withdrawal or suspension of a treaty in the event of an armed

conflict would be determined in accordance with the law on treaties, taking into account all relevant factors including the nature of the treaty, its subject-matter, object and purpose, and the characteristics of the armed conflict. We welcome the provision under draft article 4 which preserves the operation of the provisions of existing treaties applicable in situations of armed conflict.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The set of 18 draft articles has an annex which contains an indicative list of treaties. We are of the view that all the 12 category of treaties cannot be combined into one list. The treaties listed out are different in nature and scope. Some are permanent in character such as treaties establishing land and maritime boundaries. The treaties of permanent character need to be listed separately from other treaties whose continued existence depends on the intention of the parties. In this regard, we take note of the statement by the Chairman of the ILC which he made during the introduction of work on this topic that the list of treaties is neither definitive nor exhaustive.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In our view, the scope of this topic should be limited to treaties concluded between States and should not include treaties concluded between international organizations. Further, the definition of 'armed conflict' should be limited to armed conflicts between States and should not include internal conflicts, as treaties are entered into by States, and internal conflicts do not directly affect treaty relationship.

As recommended by the Commission, we are in favour of taking note of the draft articles on the effects of armed conflicts on treaties in a resolution, and annexing them to the resolution for consideration at a later stage for the elaboration of a convention, which would depend upon the result of detailed examination by States and position thereupon.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turning to the topic of "Protection of persons in the event of disasters", we would like to congratulate the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, for his fourth report. We also express our appreciation for the members of Drafting Committee, as a result of whose work, the Commission was able to adopt at its sixty-third session, draft article 6-11 on this topic with commentaries.

We support in principle, the provision under draft article 10 recognizing the duty of the affected State to seek assistance from the other States and relevant international organizations including the NGOs. Draft article 9 clearly indicated the duty of the affected state to ensure the protection of persons and provision

of disaster relief and assistance on its territory. It recognizes the primary role of the affected state in direction, control, coordination, and supervision of such relief and assistance. This conforms to Resolution 46/182 of the General Assembly, which held that: Each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are in agreement with the notion in draft article 11 that external assistance requires the consent of the affected State. We stress that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the UN Charter while providing the assistance within the territory of the affected State.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Regarding the topic of "Expulsion of aliens", we recognize the importance of work done by the Special Rapporteur Mr. Maurice Kamto. We congratulate the Special Rapporteur on the presentation of his seventh report at the last session of the Commission. Seventh report provided an account of recent developments in relation to the topic and also proposed a restructured summary of the draft articles. Additionally, the Commission considered addendum 2 to the sixth report of the Special Rapporteur.

We support the general approach taken by the Special Rapporteur which deals with the right of a state to expel and the rights and remedies available to the person subject of expulsion, including the legal consequences of unlawful expulsion. Regarding the provision concerning extradition, although both expulsion and extradition have the effect of a person leaving the territory of one state for another, however, the legal basis and the laws governing the process and the procedure involved are altogether different and one cannot be used as an alternate for the other from the legal and technical stand point.

We are in favour of continued work by the ILC to come up with viable guidelines to be observed by states in cases of expulsion of aliens.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



**794. Statement by Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation to the UN Shatrughan Sinha on Agenda Item 27[B] – Meeting Devoted to the Launch of the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, October 31, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to address the General Assembly.

As we gather here to mark 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives, it is most befitting that the United Nations is taking leadership to raise awareness about Cooperatives as a progressive model of socio-economic advancement. Considering the role that Cooperatives have played the world over in bringing about social change, rural development and raising economic productivity, this global recognition has been long overdue.

The Cooperative model of development has met with remarkable success in varied socio-economic contexts in both developed and developing countries. Yet, its true potential as a means of socio-economic organization remains to be fully harnessed, and the model itself to be better understood by the larger global development community.

Its space in global development discourse, thus far, has been limited. In fact, the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) have really not focused on this people-centric development option.

**Mr. President,**

They say in every crisis lies an opportunity. There is a strengthened push for financial inclusion, promoting social protection and empowering small and medium enterprises and marginal farmers to act as levers against economic shocks. This has pitched forth Cooperatives as a viable choice for social and economic action. We must fully capitalize on the situation.

India calls upon Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector to strongly advocate for Cooperative Movement. This would be most timely, as the global community prepares to renew its commitment to Sustainable Development at the RIO+20 Conference next year.

The decentralized nature of Cooperative structure based on popular participation and bottom-up approach makes it an ideal platform for local action. Cooperatives

have contributed significantly in ensuring economic productivity, rural development; promoting social empowerment and cohesion; opening marketing channels for village and artisanal produce; and providing credit and input support to farmers, consumers and workers. Their catalytic role in national advancement, both in developed and developing countries has been well recognized.

**Mr. President,**

India's experience with Cooperatives has been singularly successful. This has been duly noted by the Secretary General in his report. Given that almost 70% of our people are dependent on agriculture, it is natural for our Cooperative Movement to have an agricultural bias, both in credit and non-credit segments. Our national priority for poverty eradication, inclusive growth, women empowerment and promoting self-reliance underpins the fundamentals of the Indian Cooperative Movement. In the process, we have constantly drawn inspiration from the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who desired to see village societies and cooperative farming at the center of his idea of GRAM SWARAJ or Rural Independence.

A unique feature of the Cooperative Movement in India has been that the State has played an active role in it. We believe such responsibilities are part of a developmental State, especially in the early years of its existence. With the Cooperative Movement having gathered strength of its own, the Government now is largely playing a facilitator's role.

Cooperatives have been the lifeline of India's white revolution or milk production, and have made us the largest producer of milk in the world. Milk Cooperatives have been most successful in the dry parts of India, not the most ideal setting for dairy, making cooperative action even more note-worthy. A Milk Cooperative, AMUL is a household name in India with its products available through-out the length and breadth of the country. Behind the brand AMUL, stands a milk marketing federation, a union of 15,712 village milk cooperatives comprising 3 million milk producers, with a daily milk collection of 12 million liters and supported by one million retailers. Milk Cooperative under the brand name SUDHA has contributed significantly to ensuring healthy, nutritive and affordable food to the people in our State of BIHAR- the land of Lord Buddha

The Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited [IFFCO], the largest fertiliser producing cooperative in Asia is another stellar example of cooperative success in India. It has a membership base of more than 39,000 agricultural cooperatives throughout the country. It has recently diversified itself in insurance, IT services and other developmental activities in rural areas, establishing new networks of group action to empower people.



There are a large number of other such success stories from the cooperative sector in India. Our cooperatives have shown impressive results in banking, sugarcane farming, urban housing, fishery, poultry, home-based economic activities, marketing of village produce and social welfare. India's cooperative action in providing affordable housing in the urban areas has been instrumental in making progress on slum development, an MDG commitment.

**Mr. President,**

Given India's success in Cooperatives, we have taken steps to integrate it fully into our planning and development process. We have established the National Cooperative Union of India, an apex body to guide and strengthen the movement. To support its growth and professional needs, we have established a network of Cooperative Management institutes. In order to improve the functioning of the Cooperatives, we are placing greater emphasis on consolidation, internal resource mobilization, meeting their training needs and re-orienting the role of Government as a facilitator.

**Mr. President,**

We are living in uncertain times. New and emerging challenges of food security, energy access, rapid pace of urbanization, degeneration of natural resources, and growing rural-urban inequality seek an enhanced collective action. We are compelled to do more with less resource. How do we do it? One of the answers, Mr. President, lies in the Cooperative Movement. Let's do our best to project, protect and promote it.

I thank you.



**795. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at UNSC on “Post-Conflict Peace-building”.**

**New York, October 31, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing this timely debate.

Your initiative will not only be significant in determining the relevance and effectiveness of this Council but also of the larger United Nations system in the decades to come.

I would like to thank ASG Judy Cheng-Hopkins and Chair of Peacebuilding Configuration for Guinea Ambassador Sylvie Lucas for their useful briefings.

Our sincere appreciations are also for Ambassador Gasana for his able stewardship of the Peace-building Commission.

**Madam President,**

The idea of peace-building essentially emanates from experience of peacekeeping distilled over decades.

The United Nations has made enormous investments of manpower and resources in “multidimensional” PKOs.

In such a scenario, the Council would do well to effectively consult major troop and police contributing countries, both individually and through the instrumentality of the PBC, while formulating and revising mandates of UN missions.

India’s excellence in peacekeeping is a result of our long partnership with the UN missions wherein our consolidated contributions outsize the magnitude of the current peacekeeping operations.

Our peacekeepers have invariably also been early peace-builders.

India has also shared its experience and expertise with a range of countries that have embarked onto the path of transition from conflict to peace.

We will happily continue to make available our capacities to societies emerging from post-conflict situations and will partner UN in its peace-building endeavours.

As a member of its Organisational Committee, India has partnered PBC actively, since its inception in December 2005, and has made contributions to the Peace Building Fund.

**Madam President,**

Peace-building is a cooperative and coordinated venture.

Peace-building strategies need to be harmonized within the UN system first. The existing structures and networks of strength need to be consolidated as we explore alternatives elsewhere.

Harnessing capacities from the global South will energize our peace-building enterprise.

It is also important to keep in mind that national ownership is the critical determinant of success in peace-building.

It is the duty of the international community to ensure assistance for capacity building to national authorities.

**Madam President,**

Security is, of course, the key pillar for peace-building.

It is, however, equally important that we focus on economic opportunity, particularly for the youth in tandem with political and social stability.

This demands a holistic approach.

It is also important that there is an effective two-way dialogue between countries on the Agenda of the PBC and the Commission itself through all phases.

Let us also acknowledge the fact that lack of funding constitutes a major impediment to the success of peace-building initiatives.

It goes without saying that other elements such as human resource, technical assistance, managerial assistance, assistance in kind and other programmes of assistance through provision of appropriate technologies are also important.

Predictable and appropriate level of resources over an extended period will guarantee sustainability of peace-building initiatives.

**Madam President,**

Enhancing civilian capacity will have a major impact on staffing, resourcing and the peacekeeping missions themselves.

These are essential but should neither dilute nor detract from the requirements of peacekeeping.

It is also important that the civilian capacities are sourced with the requisite measure of ground experience. In this context priority should be given to obtain

capacities on secondment from Governments of developing countries.

My delegation is hopeful of constructive and meaningful discussions on the substance of the Secretary-General's report on civilian capacities.

It is essential that these discussions take place in inter-governmental settings and involve the C-34 and the Fifth Committee.

Thank you, Madam President.



**796. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the First Exchange of the Eighth Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council.**

**New York, November 28, 2011.**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on being re-appointed as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform.

As we stated in the formal plenary meeting in the General Assembly on 8 November, you are a highly experienced and wise Chair and we believe that the PGA could not have chosen a better person for this important task. In fact your letter of 10 November which outlined your general approach towards the issue in the current General Assembly session reiterates our assessment about your skills and abilities.

At the outset, I would like to place on record my delegation's willingness and determination to continue to participate actively in these negotiations.

We also align ourselves with the statement made by Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica on behalf of the L69 Group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Your letter rightly mentioned that in the course of the 66th General debate, world leaders once again highlighted the importance of the reform of the United Nations and the Security Council in particular.

In our count, around 100 world leaders articulated their views on the matter.

Some leaders were particularly forthright and frank in their comments.

For instance, His Excellency, the President of Nigeria told the Assembly on 24 September and I quote, "A reformed UN Security Council is the only way to demonstrate that all nations have equal stake in the UN."

My own Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said, "The reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues."

**Mr. Chairman,**

The entire international community is aware of the far-reaching impact of the outreach undertaken by a wide coalition of member-states on a short resolution that calls for reform comprising expansion of the Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improvement in its working methods.

As Ambassador Wolfe rightly pointed out, the outreach initiative took as its starting point your own assessment in September 2009 that the reform model seeking an expansion in both categories "commanded the most support from the delegations taking the floor." And these Mr. Chairman are your words. Further, the initiative is completely in accordance with the parameters laid down in GA decision 62/557, which established the intergovernmental negotiations, and other relevant resolutions.

The results of the outreach indicate that this proposition enjoys broad support from delegations across various regions. To date, an overwhelming majority of delegations have signaled their support for this proposition, including 80 or more that have done so in writing.

Again at the formal plenary meeting held on 8 and 9 November, two out of every three speakers called for a reform model based on expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. In fact, my distinguished colleagues from Australia, Hungary and the Netherlands who was also speaking on behalf of Belgium went so far as to state that the short resolution should be put on the agenda of the intergovernmental negotiations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The principles captured in the short resolution are simple and straightforward. These principles enjoy strong support among the UN membership. In our view, therefore, the intergovernmental negotiations should continue its work on the basis of these principles.

We could even adopt this as a GA resolution. It does not necessitate any Charter amendment and it does not exclude any other model. In fact, its adoption will articulate the general membership's resolve to engage in good faith negotiations on the basis of the said principles.

Delegations with other points of view should feel encouraged to likewise put forward their principles and seek the support of the rest of the UN membership. Such efforts are par for the course in all intergovernmental negotiations.

The elements of the short resolution could also be appropriately reflected in the Rev3 along with the degree of wide support that it enjoys.

In addition, as regards the size of an expanded Council, the area of convergence seems to be in the mid-20s. Further, the great amount of numerical support for what we have been loosely calling the 'veto restraint agreement' is writ large in Rev3. So is the case with the overwhelming support for "equitable geographical distribution" as selection criteria for new members. All these aspects could be articulated in the negotiation text without repeating different formulations of the same principles. This will in one swoop considerably reduce the length of the negotiation text.

And let me add, lest I am misunderstood, all original proposals remain on the table!

**Mr. Chairman,**

My distinguished colleague from Egypt has made several comments regarding the ideas of the L69, including on the rights and obligations of new permanent members. Even though he spoke after Ambassador Wolfe, who spoke on behalf of L69, it would appear that he did not really hear the L69, which was clear that these rights and obligations must be the same as those of current permanent members.

I must also mention that the L69 and the Chair of the C-10 of the AU are in close contact given that the two Groups are on the same page with common goals on Security Council reform.

Maybe my distinguished colleague from Egypt whose activism and political maturity I personally greatly admire, is not on the same page as our distinguished colleague from Sierra Leone. And I would like to quote from the statement of our colleague from Sierra Leone where he says in the penultimate paragraph, in the second half, "At this stage, all of us must bear the responsibility to be flexible if we are truly committed to reforming the Council as resolved by our leaders at the 2005 World Summit, to make it more inclusive, democratic, transparent, accountable, legitimate, efficient and effective."

**Mr. Chairman,**

India is a member of two groupings devoted to early reform of the Security Council, namely the G4 and the L69. The positions of these two groups have a number of common elements with other groups and member-states who have made proposals on the subject. We are keen to enhance our convergences with such other like-minded groups during this General Assembly session, in particular with the African Group whose aspirations we support.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is useful when we are immersed in any process to take a step back and reflect on the big picture.

We, the Indian delegation, see a mosaic that is neither appealing nor sustainable. The moot questions that are being asked the world over are: What is the alternative to the current Security Council?; How long should the world be subject to the mercies of a woefully inadequate system erected in 1945?; What prevents the international community from replacing an outdated governing architecture based on a selective interpretation of the dictum 'to the victor belong the spoils'?

There are two propositions that can help us unlock these mysteries, if you will.

First, there is a growing recognition of the fact that the widespread feeling of marginalization among the un-represented and under-represented is now leading to a sharp sense of frustration which carries with it the potential to unravel the existing system.

Second, the established order should hasten to acknowledge the frustration and act credibly on it by ensuring a managed and orderly transformation so as to make it reflective of contemporary realities. Those who swear by the status quo and therefore latch on to their national positions risk contributing to a process that could endanger the entire edifice of international relations as it is presently structured and as we know it.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Change should usher in a new order. The new order has to assume responsibility. Once such responsibility is effectively discharged the Security Council will be taken seriously on all issues, and not merely on those in which by a conspiracy of factors unrelated to the maintenance of international peace and security some of the powerful are able to agree!

I am sure that you will agree with me when I say that we can witness more effective and efficient functioning of the Security Council if and when the Council

is able to utilize the energies and resources of its most willing and most capable member-states on a permanent basis.

Along with membership will have to come responsibility, along with responsibility will come the willingness of burden sharing including where the costs are beginning to pinch and hurt the permanent members.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that India is of the view that reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed vigour and urgently enacted.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**797. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 120: Implementation of the Resolution of the United Nations & Agenda Item 121: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, December 1, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of my country at today's joint debate.

We believe that the issue of General Assembly revitalization has assumed particular significance in recent years. This is quite vividly captured in the emphasis that PGA has placed on UN reform, including the revitalization of the General Assembly and reform of the Security Council which are among the four priorities for the new PGA.

I am happy to place on record our appreciation for the good work done by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group last year, H.E. Mr. Camillo Gonsalves, the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Mr. Dalius Cekoulis, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania.

Equally, I would like to place on record my delegation's appreciation for the



work done by the Algerian delegation as the NAM Chair on this issue as well as for the other negotiating partners who worked in a spirit of cooperation during the last session.

Let me also welcome the appointments of the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and United Republic of Tanzania as co-Chairs of the ad-hoc Working Group for this Session. The Indian Delegation will support you in your task this Session.

Before I proceed to articulate our position, permit me to use some modern-day analogy to elaborate our basic approach to the two agenda items at hand.

**Mr. President,**

Whenever Face book users want to express themselves through a post, they get feedback from their friends who in turn express themselves through three basic options: "Like", "Comment" and "Share." The best posts usually get large number of "Likes" and are "Shared" repeatedly, but the good ones get an equally large number of "Comment" because there is still scope for further improvement.

Spoken in face book terminology, at present, GA revitalization is highly "commented" upon, much "liked" but rarely "shared." There is even the danger that if not acted upon quickly, the only function that would be applied to GA revitalization is that it would be consigned to the "event" category with its 'status' updated once a year!

**Mr. President,**

UN reform is a process that has to evolve with the evolving international situation.

An illustrative case in point is the extremely useful role that the major troop contributing countries could play in the UN, but are not being allowed to do so merely because we have not yet reformed the UN to make it reflect contemporary global realities.

Starker still is the stubborn refusal to implement the obvious, such as the commitment by world leaders in 2005 to bring about early reform of the Security Council.

The perpetuation of this state of affairs, sometimes with the active connivance of delegations purely out of narrow-minded national positions emanating from limited ambitions, is a travesty of the Assembly's prerogatives.

Such state of affairs is the most appalling disservice to Article 10 of the UN Charter which vests in the Assembly the power to discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council,

the ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat, save those expressly excluded.

The starting point of my delegation's position on the issue of General Assembly revitalization is the firm belief that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and in spirit.

The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues.

In keeping with these guidelines, my delegation participated actively in the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on General Assembly revitalization in the 65th session. We provided a number of inputs at the meetings during the last session. These inputs were provided in a spirit of constructive engagement and we are pleased that they were taken on board in the negotiations leading to the adoption of Resolution 65/315.

While we are generally happy that Resolution 65/315 has been able to highlight some of the important steps required on our collective journey towards a revitalized General Assembly, we firmly believe, Mr. President that we have some distance still to travel.

**Mr. President,**

Without prejudging the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Working Group that should start soon, I would like to place on record the Indian delegation's considered views on some of the important aspects of the issue which concern General Assembly Revitalization.

First of all, it is critical that we establish a proper relationship of respect for respective mandates between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the spirit of the Charter. In this it is particularly important that the Council not encroach upon the mandate of the General Assembly through extremely wide and permissive interpretations of what constitutes a threat to international peace and security, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and to the situations under which it can take action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

It is clear that the Council's agenda is, to say the least, overburdened because it has anointed itself with the responsibility of dealing with issues, which though seemingly important, leave it with less time to deal with the real hotspots that constitute the real threats to international peace and security. The balance between the General Assembly and the Council is only one of the dimensions of what needs to be addressed. We propose to raise these issues in the Ad Hoc Working Group.

The Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. The continued circumscribing of the Assembly's role and responsibilities in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General needs to change in the interests of the United Nations system in general and the Assembly's prerogatives in particular. And, as it was the General Assembly which limited its own role, it will have to be the General Assembly that claws back its rightful place in the process of selecting the Secretary-General.

The Assembly and the other entities that form part of the UN system must reflect diplomatic best practices in its day to day functioning. And it has a lot to learn from member-states in this regard.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body of the international community.

The General Assembly can expect India's constructive support and participation in these efforts.

I thank you.



**798. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri at the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board of the UN on Women.**

**New York, December 5, 2011.**

**Madam President,**

Permit me at the outset to thank the Executive Director and Under Secretary-General, Madam Michelle Bachelet for her statement and for introducing the first biennial institutional budget of UN Women.

We would also like to thank the UN Women Secretariat for the timely issuance of documents and for engaging member-states in a transparent and consultative fashion throughout the preparation for this Session.

As we draw close to the end of the first operational year of UN Women, my delegation is satisfied to note the progress achieved in laying the foundation of the new entity as it scales up its operations and embarks on its important work.

While we are fully conscious that the task at hand is enormous, my delegation is encouraged by the beginning made to reinstate the leading role of the United Nations in pursuing gender equality and the empowerment of women under the able leadership of Madam Bachelet.

The creation of UN Women flows from the firm conviction of the international community that undiluted focus on women's issues is central to addressing many of the challenges that the world faces today.

As the entity settles into its new structures and mandates, it is imperative that the initial enthusiasm and good will is not allowed to dissipate so that UN Women is best placed to fulfill the high expectations that member-states have entrusted to it.

**Madam President,**

I belong to a country that is home to more than 500 million women. In India, we are firmly convinced that ensuring the rightful place of women in society is not only a moral imperative but an essential pre-requisite for achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

This acknowledgement is reflected in the priorities and policies that we have pursued at the national level. Over the years, we have implemented a raft of measures that focus on the socio-economic upliftment of women, with special emphasis on education, health, employment, micro-finance, access to agricultural land, social security measures and rural infrastructure.

Our well-recognized success in the political empowerment of women is transforming the traditional and entrenched power dynamic in both rural and urban India. Women are finding their place in all walks of professional and political life from corporate empires to the bureaucracy. Women adorn the highest offices in India including, at present, that of the President of the country, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, and Leader of the Opposition. Further, today, more than a million women are represented on local bodies where they exercise decision making authority almost on a daily basis.

In the realm of legislative action, India has enacted laws against domestic violence, child marriage, and prenatal sex selection. More recently, a Bill has been tabled in the Parliament for prevention of sexual harassment at the work place.

**Madam President,**

Let me now turn to the institutional budget that is the main agenda for this session of the Executive Board. My delegation recognizes that it is a foundational budget and sets the tone for what will follow. This budget is important from our perspective in laying a sound basis for implementing the strategic plan approved earlier in the year by the Board.

The budget proposal addresses the need to deploy a strengthened field presence critical in accomplishing the vision championed by UN Women and member-states. As ultimately, UN Women will be judged by what and how it delivers in the field.

We look forward to the findings of the regional architecture review and the organizational efficiency initiative that will take further the work of establishing UN Women's global presence and the effective and efficient delivery of its mandate.

**Madam President,**

We are also aware that the ability of UN Women to marshal adequate resources will play a crucial role in its capacity to fulfill the aspiration and ambition bestowed on it by the international community.

In this regard, we have noted that UN Women has scaled down its resource mobilization targets to US\$ 700 million for the biennium 2012-2013 keeping in mind the constrained global financial environment. Nevertheless, we urge donors to not let contributions flag, particularly in today's difficult development landscape where women as a vulnerable section are more adversely impacted than otherwise, and need all the support they can get.

I would like to inform you that the Government of India has already pledged five million US dollars to UN Women as part of its commitment to provide core

predictable funding to the best of its capacity. In April this year, my delegation handed over the first one million dollars.

I am happy to take this opportunity to announce that India will contribute another one million US dollars to UN Women in the coming days.

Let me conclude, Madam President, by reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the global, regional and national effort to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. We assure you that India will not be found wanting in our support and cooperation to realizing the shared vision envisaged in the creation of UN Women.



**799. Statement by Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri on Agenda Item 18 – Follow up and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 review Conference at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**New York, December 7, 2011.**

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to begin by thanking you for organising this high-level dialogue on Financing for Development.

We are just four years away from the MDG target year. While there has been progress in several areas, it is clear that many of the targets will remain unmet. A key element in our not being able to realize even the minimum goals that were set for those in the greatest need is the gap in development financing. While gap in aid delivery and external finance has undermined the capacity of the developing world to meet their development aspirations, the global economic crisis has further burdened them with limited growth, higher unemployment and increasing poverty resulting in lower domestic resources targeted at development.

With global output continuing to show a downward trend in 2011, the prospect of developing countries increasing their exports, managing external debt and attracting foreign direct investments appear to be less encouraging. It is, therefore, essential that growth-promoting policies are pursued to strengthen

global economic recovery which in turn would allow countries to raise higher public revenues. In this regard, it is imperative that countries work towards financial inclusion and progressive tax policies but it is equally important to strengthen and democratise international tax cooperation and policy making.

**Mr. President,**

Foreign Direct Investment is important for financing development. However, its quantum, especially in the adverse economic circumstances of today, cannot be expected on its own to tackle poverty, hunger and disease in developing countries. FDI must also forge productive linkages with the wider local economy and be consistent with the broader objectives of Sustainable Development to have a meaningful impact.

International trade has long been seen as an engine of development, especially by developing countries that are dependent on exports. In recent times, however, significant risk factors including rising food and energy prices, increasing tariff and non-tariff barriers and other forms of export restrictions have negatively impacted trade prospects for developing countries.

Lack of market access, aid-for-trade and a skewed multilateral rule-based trading system continues to deny a level playing field to developing countries. If we wish to make trade a credible engine of inclusive growth, there is no getting away from a balanced and development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round. And while doing so, we must ensure that trade distorting factors including agricultural subsidies in developed countries are comprehensively addressed.

The debt situation in a large number of developing countries remains untenable, with their ratio of external debt to GDP being over 20% in some cases. This fundamental economic weakness has further retarded their development process. Much remains to be done on debt relief and debt sustainability.

**Mr. President,**

It is clear that developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries in Africa cannot meet their developmental challenges without external assistance. Official Development Assistance remains an important source of development financing for them for which there is no substitute.

Meanwhile, the gap in ODA financing continues to widen. In 2010, only five donor countries had met their ODA commitment of 0.7%. The aid flow to developing countries last year stood at US\$ 129 billion, representing 0.32% of the total GNI of the donor countries and well short of the 0.7% mark. It is deeply worrisome that the global crisis is being made an excuse for not meeting existing commitments.

The commitment that the international community made in Monterrey and Doha of ensuring predictable development assistance including ODA, concessional financing and debt relief to developing countries and supporting nationally owned development strategies need to be fulfilled urgently. India, on its part, is privileged and committed to share its development expertise with fellow developing countries. Under our flagship development cooperation platform, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, we are extending capacity building and technical support to 161 developing countries with around 7400 vocational training slots on an annual basis.

Our development partnership in recent years has expanded to include lines of credit and grants to boost economic and trade partnerships. India has committed 1 billion US Dollars in lines of credit for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs, in addition to 250 new training slots annually. We have also committed 5 billion US Dollars in lines of credit to Africa over the next three years and an additional 700 million US dollars grant assistance for human resource development, transfer of technology and building new institutions in consultation with the African Union.

**Mr. President,**

South-South financial and technical assistance may be expanding but we need to be clear that it can neither be a substitute for the North-South aid nor dilute those aid commitments. It is also important to recognize that developing countries, which are burdened with huge socio-economic challenges of their own, cannot be expected to meet the obligations of the developed world.

What is acutely worrisome is that the discourse on global aid architecture these days is increasingly focused on drawing developing countries into the North-South aid paradigm. South-South Cooperation cannot be viewed through the traditional "donor-recipient" prism of North-South development cooperation. It also cannot be subjected to the demand for harmonization of aid by donors, given its distinct paradigm and particularities. In this context it is noteworthy that the recently concluded High Level Meeting on Aid Effectiveness in Busan has accepted that South-South Cooperation is different from North-South aid.

**Mr. President,**

Given the resource gap in financing for development, it is imperative that innovative sources of financing be explored. We, however, see innovative sources as additional to and not a substitute for ODA. There is, therefore, a need to have a common understanding on what constitutes innovative sources of financing. It is also important that these finances are disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and do not place an unfair burden on them.



**Mr. President,**

A comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture to address systemic issues lies at the heart of general implementation of the financing for development process. India has been working closely with like-minded countries to ensure greater voice and participatory space for developing countries in the international financial institutions. Much work, however, remains to be done to ensure that global economic governance and the development agenda complement each other.

The financing for development process, as embodied in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Review Conference, is crucial for attainment of our development aspirations. We must adhere to its principles in letter and spirit.

Thank you.

